

990.20.100 Corporation of the City of Kaslo
Correspondence 1946-1947

Box 6 File 19

Q90. 20.100 Corporation of the City of Kaslo
Correspondence 1946-1947

March 4th, 1947

Mr. H. I. Robinson,
76 Springfield Rd.
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:-

I was pleased to receive your enquiry as to Kaslo and the surrounding country, also to get a little information as to the present location of my good friend Corporal Farrar.

Kaslo itself as you probably know was at first a mining "boom town" of the late 80's, and then settled back to a rather steady mining town until the crash of 1928. Like many of the older mining towns the buildings were thrown up in a great rush, with a few of these still remaining.

Kaslo is the Sixth oldest city in the Province having been incorporated in 1893, and, at that time had a population of about 3,000 with the prospects of growing even larger. The decline of the price of base metals, and the discovery of a process to mill the ore from the Sullivan (C. M. & S. Co.) mine at Kimberely hastened the ~~downfall~~ ~~of this~~ ~~small~~ centre. At the beginning of the last Great War the population had shurnk to about 450, as the crash of 1928 had closed the majority of the mines. After Pearl Harbour the Federal Government moved approximately 1250 Japanese from the Pacific Coast, and the town once more came to life. The Japanese have been removed with the exception of about 40, who are British Subjects, and on a self-supporting basis.

At the present time I estimate our population to be around 1250 (based on our electric light connections) and with a few lumbering companies going on with operations, and the mines once more coming to life it appears that from a commerical standpoint Kaslo is once more due for a period of prosperity, and it will be on a more solid basis than in the past.

From a senic standpoint Kaslo has much to offer, and while I may be taking a selfish standpoint I personally think it is one of the most beautiful spots that I have seen. We have a sporty nine hole golf course,

990.20.100 Corporation of the City of Kaslo
Correspondence 1946-1947

(2)

Mr. Robinson:

tennis courts, and of course the lake with fishing, boating swimming etc, twelve miles distant is the Ainsworth Hot Springs which is quite an attraction, the closest to the Kananine Glacier is thru Kaslo and up the South Fork of Kaslo Creek. We are also quite famous for cherries, they having taken a number of prizes at various exhibitions.

In regard to the Lardo country, which is 18 miles distant and at the head of Kootenay Lake, this is at the present reached by C. P. R. boat on a semi-weekly schedule. The lower part of the valley is being rapidly settled, and at Duncan Lake a lumber company is carrying on operations. The local C. P. R. Agent has informed me that he recently completed a survey for his Superintendent, and in the communities of Lardo, Argenta, Johnson's Landing, Meadow Creek and Howser, there are 328 people, which is an increase of about 210 in the past two years.

The Lardo and Duncan Vallies are a sportsman's paradise, I personally have only been as far as Gerrard up the Lardo Valley and to Howser on the Duncan Lake. I have however talked to many who have been up there, and they are all very enthusiastic, and many come back for a second and third time.

It is quite difficult for me to picture the country to you, not knowing from what standpoint you would be interested. I have tried to give you my personal version of this district, and regret that I do not have any recent folders to send, however I am enclosing a map of the West Kootenay that was prepared last year by the Associated Rod and Gun Clubs, and I trust it will help in some small way.

I might add in closing that the Hotel accomodation while adequate is not on a par with Banff, or those points which are highly commercialized, and should you come to this part you might be dissapointed in comparison with Eastern resorts.

I trust I have given some of the information your were seeking, and will be only to pleased if I can be of any further assistance to you. Should you again come into contact with Corporal Farrar, kindly convey my personal greetings, and we hope to have him once more back in Kaslo.

Yours very truly,

R. D. Gardner
City Clerk.

RDG:NH

76 Springfield Rd.
Ottawa - 21 Feb. 1947.

Mr. Gardner, City Clerk
Kaslo, B.C.

Dear Sir:-

Recently Cpl. Farrar RCMP had occasion to show us some films taken in your area. Their beauty caused me to ask him some questions about that part of the country & he suggested I write to you for further information.

Any publications describing the Kootenay district, the Lardo country or contiguous areas would be appreciated.

Truly yours

A. J. Robinson

Q90.20.100 Corporation of the City of Kaslo
Correspondence 1946-1947