

BALLOU'S EXPRESS 1858

Comp. BARNARD'S ^{BRITISH COLUMBIA} ~~CARIBOO~~ EXPRESS
DIETZ & NELSON'S BRITISH COLUMBIA & VICTORIA EXPRESS

The Express business was established by Wm. Dallon in British Columbia during the year 1858. He was a pioneer in the express business and carried letters and newspapers to the miners along the Fraser River. The newspapers were largely purchased along the route at One Dollar per copy; they were chiefly the Victoria "Colonist" and "Chronicle" and the San Francisco "Bulletin".

Early in 1862 Frank J. Barnard succeeded Mr Dallon and during that year established the British Columbia Express Company; he and his messengers travelled at foot with letters and papers, bringing back gold dust and nuggets. At this time there were no roads connecting the different Camps and the messengers used the old trails. In 1864 a wagon road was opened from Yale to Lillooet and Soda Creek.

In 1865 Barnard established his Express Service under contract with the Government and put on the usual stages. This service was ~~usually~~ known as BARNARD'S EXPRESS, and nearly all packages of either mail or express matter were stamped "B. X" with brass stamp. The charge for express letters was \$1.00 each; newspapers 50cts.

In 1866 the road was completed to BANKERVILLE, a distance of 400 miles. The fare over this line was \$125, for express matter the rate was \$1.00 per pound; later on these rates were reduced to \$85 and 50cts respectively.

The British Columbia Express Company was chartered under an act of the British Columbia Legislature in 1871, Mr Barnard being the founder and General Manager.

The "B. X" not only carried mail and express matter over the main line, but over numerous side lines, such as to CARIBOO and Lillooet, and later extended to lines as new districts became settled; one of its most distinguished lines being from Cache Creek to O'Keefe's in the Okanagan...

Over certain of the branch lines the Company did business under the name of BARNARD & NELSON'S EXPRESS, and

DIETZ & NELSON'S B.C. & V. EXPRESS.

Henry C. Woodham The Phil. Rec. Apr. 1915.