# Newspapers 1800s

# Deliberate murder by an Indian at Pitt River–The murderer takes to the woods.

(From our own correspondent.)

Westminster B.C., Sept. 9.—A deliberate murder was committed at Pitt River yesterday by an old Indian named Slumach, who, while fishing with other Indians, picked up a gun and shot Louis Bee, a half-breed, through the breast, killing him instantly. After the killing, Slumach reloaded the gun and went into the woods where he is now. The other Indians present were too frightened to detain him. Word was immediately brought to the city, and today Mr. Moresby and Capt. Pittendrigh went to the scene of the tragedy. Slumach will make a fight before he is captured, but Mr. Moresby is not the sort of man to let possible risk interfere, and will bring him in dead or alive.

## An Unsuccessful Hunt–The Murderer Slumach Still in the Woods. He is Credited With Another Murder Committed Years Ago.

Slumach, the murderer of Louis Bee, is still at large, and there is no immediate prospect of his capture, unless he is driven by starvation into the haunts of men. Mr. Moresby went to Pitt Lake yesterday and continued to search for him, but with no success. Just before Mr. Moresby arrived, the Indians saw Slumach at his cabin, but he quickly plunged into the bush again, and was not visible during the remainder of the day. On examining the cabin, Mr. Moresby found a can of powder and a large quantity of provisions, which he destroyed and then, to prevent Slumach returning there for shelter, the shack was burned to the ground. His canoe was also destroyed.

Slumach will now have to keep to the woods until cold weather and starvation drives him in. Mr. Moresby left for Pitt Lake again this morning and may not return to the city for several days. He is determined to bring him to justice, and will, if he can, obtain the assistance required.

The Indians are all afraid of the murderer, and decline to assist in beating the bush for him, as he is armed and has lots of ammunition. Slumach is a desperate character and is credited by the Indians for another murder, committed years ago and under similar circumstances. Although a few of the murderer's friends say he is insane, dozens of Indians say otherwise and declare he is only a bloodthirsty old villain.

#### Deliberate murder by an Indian at Pitt River-The murderer takes to the woods.

Colonist, Victoria, 10 September 1890

### An Unsuccesful Hunt

Colonist, Victoria 16 September 1890

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A despatch received last night says Constable Anderson had a brush with Slumach, the murderer, at Pitt Lake yesterday, firing four shots at him. A number of Indians, relatives of Slumach, have been assisting him and acted very ugly to Mr. Moresby yesterday, who finally carried them away to the Coquitlam reserve, threatening them with dire punishment if they returned to Pitt Lake.

Preparing to Meet His Fate

Slumach, the murderer of Louis Bee, is getting along nicely and is good spirits. He enquired a few days ago which of the keepers was going to hang him. During the last day or two he has been rather more anxious about his fate, and is beginning to pay more attention to the ministrations of the priest who is looking after his spiritual welfare. *Truth* 

At 8 o'clock this morning Slumach, the Indian murderer, is to be hanged in the jail yard at New Westminster. The doomed man's age is over 80, and his hair and beard are snow-white. Despite his four score years, he is strong and hearty, and fully prepared to meet his death. It is stated that, in his younger years, before the whites settled on the mainland of B. C., Slumach killed ten men.

### Slumach Hanged—At Westminster Yesterday Morning for the murder of Louis Bee.

Westminster, B.C., Jan. 16.—Slumach, the murderer of Louis Bee was hanged at 8 o'clock this morning in the jail yard here. The crime for which he suffered the extreme penalty of the law was committed on September 8th last, on Lillooet slough, near Pitt River. Bee and some friends were trout fishing and Slumach appeared on the scene with his gun, and Bee said, "Well you devil and pagan, what are you shooting here?" Without a moment's hesitation Slumach raised his gun and emptied the content into the half-breed's breast and he fell dead. Slumach then carried the body to his canoe, and sunk it in the middle of the river. He then took to the mountains and was not captured for several weeks.

Slumach slept well last night and eat a hearty breakfast this morning. He was cheerful to the last and walked to the scaffold without a tremor. Rev. Father Morgan, who had been in constant attendance on the condemned man ever since his sentence, and had succeeded in converting him to Christian-

#### Preparing to Meet His Fate

Colonist, Victoria, 24 December 1890

### The Death Penalty

Colonist, Victoria January 1891

#### Slumach Hanged— At Westminster Yesterday Morning for the murder of Louis Bee.

Colonist, Victoria, 17 January 1891

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ity, baptized him before 8 o'clock. Slumach faced the crowd, and quietly allowed the noose and cap to be adjusted. At 8 o'clock sharp the bolt was drawn and the drop fell. The drop was 8 feet and 5 inches and the neck was broken in the fall. No struggle was noticeable at any time, and in 3 minutes and 58 seconds the doctors announced life to be extinct. After hanging for 20 minutes the body was cut down and buried.