

**Rossland "Ball of Fire"**

**August 12, 1897**

**(48) Victoria, B.C. Semi-Weekly Colonist 16 Aug. 1897**

**Loren E. Gross: Charles Fort, the Fortean Society, & Unidentified Flying  
Objects, p. 18-19**

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**Probably the best sighting of the series came out of Rossland, British Columbia, near the American border, far to the east of Victoria:**

**Rossland, Aug. 12 - A luminous ball of fire that glowed amidst a halo of variegated colors, hovered over Rossland for a time last evening and was seen by several well known citizens, among whom were: Major Cooper, J. Wilson, Magistrate Jordon, Andy Revabeck, Alderman Fraser, Inspector Barr and others. When first observed it was hull down on the horizon, but approached with the swiftness of light [?], and after hovering for over a quarter of an hour poised in mid-air, surrounding itself the while with flashes of colors, it streaked, off in a southerly direction and soon faded from sight. At first it was supposed to be a shooting star, but as it approached nearer it gleamed like a great ball of fire and poised itself directly above Red Mountain, although the moon shone quite brightly it did not seem to dull the luster of the stranger. Those who were watching saw a weird sight. Little particles of fire seemed to shoot out from the main ball and then a flash of red followed. It looked for all the world like a lighthouse with a revolving flashlight of colors. No doubt if it had been dark enough the thing could have been observed more closely, but as it was, it was a sight never to be forgotten.**

**After showing its respects to Rossland, the wonder made several wide circles, like a bird undecided what course to pursue, and then struck an air line and passed rapidly away towards the south. (48)**