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Today, I want to talk about the Cariboo gold rush of 1858, which began when gold was discovered in the frontier town of Quesnel Forks in the Canadian province of British Columbia.

今天，我想谈谈关于1858年Cariboo淘金热，它开始于黄金在加拿大英属哥伦比亚省的边境小镇Quesnel Forks被发现时。

By 1861 thousands of men had flocked to the region hoping to strike it rich.

到1861年，成千上万的人涌到这个地区，希望大发横财。

Naturally, as the town grew, supplies had to be brought in, and this was done with mules.

自然，随着镇子的成长，供应品必须被带进来，这是由骡子来做的。

Now the mules were quite reliable, but there were some drawbacks.

骡子是很可靠的，但却有些缺点。

For example, a mule carrying a heavy load could travel only 15 miles in a day, meaning that a typical trip into Quesnel could take as long as 20 days.

比如，一头负重的骡子一天只能走15英里，（这）意味着一段到Quesnel的典型的旅程会花上长达20天。

So, as the demand for supplies continued to grow, a group of merchants and packers decided to try a new approach, believe it or not, they shipped in a herd of camels.

因此，随着对供应品的需求持续增长，一群商人和赶牲口运货的人决定尝试一种新方法，信不信由你，他们用一群骆驼运货。

I know that sounds strange, but camel trains had been used quite effectively during the California gold rush some 10 years earlier.

我知道这听起来很奇怪，但是驼队在大约10年前的California淘金热期间使用的非常有效。

But the results in the Cariboo region weren't quite the same.

但是在Cariboo地区的结果并不完全一样。

In fact it was a disaster.

事实上这是个灾难。

The camels couldn't carry the heavier loads the merchants expected them to.

骆驼不像商人希望它们那般的能够负重。

Their two-toed feet were perfect for desert travel, but they weren't suited for Cariboo's rugged mountain terrain.

它们的双趾足对于沙漠行走来说是完美的，但是它们不能适应Cariboo崎岖的山岭地区。

To make matters worse, the mules became very agitated whenever they came across a camel and that caused a lot of accidents on the treacherous mountain trails.

更糟糕的是，骡子会变得非常暴躁，不论何时他们遇见骆驼，这在危险的山道上造成了很多事故。

The mulepackers went so far as to threaten the camel owners with a lawsuit.

赶骡子送货的人甚至用诉讼威胁骆驼主人。

But the reason the merchants finally got rid of the camels is because these animals simply weren't cut out for the job.

但是商人最终放弃骆驼的原因是因为这些动物胜任不了工作而已。