

THE BIG STAMPEDE

For Crown Placer Claims Is Now on and the Town Emptied.

BEGAN LEAVING LAST EVENING.

Gold Run and Eureka Attracting the Most Attention.

SOME LITIGATION EXPECTED

To Follow as a Result of the Stampede—A Few of Those Who Have Gone.

From Monday and Tuesday's Daily. When the sun looked down into the valley from behind the hilltops this morning he looked upon a city fast being depleted of the flower of its stampeding mushers.

They have gone and are going, not by twos and threes, silently and noiselessly fading away in the dim shadows of the night as upon former occasions, but by scores, by dog team, bicycles, on horse back and in sleigh load lots they are hurrying out of town, and by tomorrow morning, only those of little faith such as Homer Bean, and others whose business will not permit of their leaving will be left in town. The others will have gone, and Dawson, till they commence to return, will be largely deserted.

A very large number who have had their eagle optics on "good things" made available by the opening for relocation of government ground tomorrow, left the city last night, and more departed in the cold gray of this morning's dawn.

Last night at Williams' roadhouse at the Dome, the bunk beds were all full of tired stampedees, and about 25 laid their weary bones upon the hospitable, though hard planks of the floor, to sleep and dream of fortunes yet to be gathered from the gravel.

A great many who do not care to be absent from town for the necessary length of time, or who cannot leave for various reasons, are sending others to stake on shares, the one staying at home paying the expenses of the trip and recording fees, and receiving a half interest in the ground staked. Some will acquire a great many interests in this way.

The bulk of the stampede is directed to Gold Run and Eureka creeks in search of stakable fractions, of long supposed richness. Besides by a recent survey on Gold Run some hillside fractions of supposed value are made available tomorrow.

Regarding creek fractions it is thought at the gold commissioner's office that there is likely to be a great deal of friction which can only be lubricated by future action of the courts, as many fractions have been and more will be staked, where there is no ground really open for location, or, in other words, the ground is already taken. One or two cases of this nature have already been brought to light by the filing of suits, and many more legal contests are inevitable.

Another thing about creek fractions which it is well for stampedees to bear in mind, is the fact that the base line of the creek upon which a claim has been staked has absolutely nothing to do with the base line of the claim itself.

The minister of the interior has declared that the base line of the claim is established by the location stakes, and that the side lines must run at right angles to this base line so established and not at right angles to the base line of the creek unless the two coincide.

This decision throws open to location a very large number of small gore-shaped fractions on creeks long since staked and supposedly vacant of all ground open to location.

Eureka creek is largely an objective point for a large number of stampedees who are under the impression that the creek was rightly named, and that good things are waiting for those who are fleet of foot and have a sharp ax. No. 57 Gold Run was among the claims re-

cently thrown open for location and would have been looked upon with eyes of covetousness by several hundred stampedees had it not been reserved at the eleventh hour, so to speak, by reason of an application for compensation by some one who knew a good thing, and took advantage of his right under the law which allows those who have bought ground at government sales, for which, owing to errors, or other good and sufficient causes, the government cannot give a title to, to apply for other ground by way of compensation for his loss. Under that law the gold commissioner has no choice but to withdraw from location privileges, such ground as is applied for under that section. That privilege of compensation will cease when the hands of the clock point to the midnight hour tonight, however, and no further compensation in that way, at least, can be made.

It does not by any means follow that because a compensation applicant files an application for a certain piece of ground in lieu of the one he purchased, but did not get, that he will be granted the claim asked for. That is a matter which has to be looked into and decided upon later. Stampedees upon returning from the present excursion must not become filled with bitterness of spirit or wax wroth if grants are not forthcoming upon the filing of applications, because, as a Nugget representative was informed at the gold commissioner's office this morning, there will be no time to issue these grants at the time on account of the great number.

The applications will be taken and the grants will be issued later if everything is in regular form and the applicants are entitled to them.

In accordance with the great number of stampedees, and the number of claims for which grants will be asked, there is very little doubt but what the number of legal entanglements which will arise will be in proportion to and keep pace with the applications.

To such a fine point of nice calculation has the matter of time been reduced by intending stampedees that during the past ten days, hundreds have been keeping a very close watch on the barracks 12 o'clock gun, and watches have been nicely regulated to correspond with it to the second.

A few days since there was a case in the gold commissioner's court, where six men told the truth when they swore to having staked a claim, each for himself during a certain hour, and each of the six produced his watch to prove the truth of his assertions with respect to the time. The watches corresponded to the gun time exactly.

That the race is not always to the swift may be demonstrated in the coming race for the recorder's window, where, of course, cognizance can not be taken of seconds of time, and through this there is a very good chance that much litigation may be started.

The awarding of a claim to one out of several applicants who each swear to having staked the ground at a certain time, is a matter requiring very nice discrimination in which other circumstances besides the exact time will almost surely have to be taken into account.

There is another stampede on today besides the one for crown lands purchased at the recent sales, and this morning lined up before the recorder's window there were about 30 tired but determined stampedees all awaiting an opportunity of paying the recording fee and acquiring there the right to "have and to hold," the fruits of their labor in claim staking on a Hunker tributary Saturday.

This tributary is known as Eighty pup, and will be remembered as being the scene of the discovery of the mastodon and uncouth remains now being exhibited in the city, and while the stampedees who applied for grants today designate their prospective property as placer mining claims, there is a faint suspicion in the minds of many that the real intent is to mine for relics of a forgotten age, in the form of mastodon bones.

At all events, Eighty pup has been stampeded, and it is said not a piece of ground big enough to bury a dog with rabies is left for those who come after the stampedees.

All the means of conveyance which the city affords have been exhausted and they are supposedly inadequate to the demands.

Teams have hired for as much as \$60 for a day, and the man who owns a bicycle is having no lack of opportunity to loan it to friends who are ambitious to become claim owners by right of successful stampeding.

Many familiar faces from about town are missing today, and while it is not definitely known that their destination is an unclaimed patch of ground supposed to conceal within its frozen depths gold in large quantities, such is

the information somewhat loudly whispered when questions concerning their whereabouts are asked.

The handsome faces of Jim Post and Messrs. O'Brien and Jackson are missing from the precincts of the Savoy today, likewise the genial mixer of stimulating drinks is absent from his usual place behind the bar, and it is said of them about town that they have gone to plant initial stakes where they will do the most good.

A. P. Matteson is also far from the maddening crowd.

O. S. Lanning, the obliging accountant of the A. C. Co.'s office, accompanied by Wm. King of the same institution has gone to gather in what he can find that looks good to him, and there is a peculiar springiness to the step of many other of the boys in the store which seems to confirm in a manner that they have been doing some speed practicing on their bicycles of late with this emergency in view, and the chances seem good that some of them will disappear temporarily this evening.

B. Sheppard of the A. E. Co.'s hardware department is missing, and Peter Vashon has not been seen today and it is averred that they are taking a little much needed exercise on the hills.

B. Baldwin, of the A. E. store, has been heard to remark that he will stampede this evening about the time the curfew should ring, on condition that some one will loan him a mule. So anxious is he to do this thing by the aid of a long eared quadruped, that he don't even restrict the mule as to kicking.

Mr. Visared of the same store is expected to swell the stampeding multitude by his presence this evening.

Homer Bean, the well known sour dough who up to the present time has always fallen a victim to the staking habit on slight provocation, shakes his head decidedly when asked concerning his intentions in the present outlook, and says: "Nit. I know where there is a piece of ground 15 minutes walk from the Forks that is open to location, and I could have had it if I had been a mind to stake, but I won't."

"There is gold on all sides of this piece of ground, and on a bright day by the aid of a magnifying glass you can see gold in the air above it, but its use to me. If I staked it the gold would evaporate from the air above it, and slide off the bedrock onto an adjoining claim the first time I struck a pick in the ground, but whoever stakes it will get a good thing. I have staked and grub-staked and stampeded for years, and the best I ever got was the worst of it."

The employees of the Ames Mercantile Co., are admittedly conservative in their ideas regarding stampedees, and it was said this morning that no one had gone nor was going, but it is known of Jack Chisholm that he harbors a dog team which he has refused to lend, and his friends are keeping an eye on him, fearing the worst.

So the story of the stampede goes on, and might be told of nearly every house in town, as every one who can possibly get away has gone, or will go during the next 12 hours, and tonight it is thought there will be many hundred people less in town than there were last night.

PLAYED CARDS ON SUNDAY.

Police Court Crowded This Morning.

It was a full house that greeted Magistrate Rutledge on the opening of police court this morning, and the crowd present revived recollections of the balcyon days when from 80 to 100 knights of the green cloth appeared each month, said "guilty" and paid \$50 and costs per. However, the complaints this morning were of gaming on Sunday in cigar stores and hotels, from 28 to 30 men having indulged in that pastime yesterday when they should have been out basking in the God-given sunlight. In the crowd were a number of members of the sporting fraternity, business men and one noted dealer in limburger-tainted hams. The attorney that the crowd "chipped in" and retained asked that the cases be continued until this afternoon, which request was granted.

The case of John Curry, charged with having at the Savoy theater, where he is employed as a waiter, Saturday night stolen a purse containing \$150, was continued until tomorrow afternoon. Curry is out on bonds, with Druggist Reed and John Dougherty as sureties.

W. G. Baird, proprietor of the Rochester saloon, sold liquor yesterday and was detected in the act by an officer. This morning Baird pleaded guilty to the charge and paid a \$50 fine with \$20 trimmings in preference to spending one month in the reduction works.

STEAMERS WINTERING HERE

Sixteen of the Yukon Fleet Comprise the List.

Many Are Tied Up Both on Upper and Lower Rivers—Busy Season Will Be Witnessed.

From Tuesday's Daily. There are 16 steamers wintering in and near Dawson, the slough opposite Klondike City presenting in the distance an appearance similar to that of a small manufacturing town, owing to the number of smoke stacks pointing heavenward from nine steamers, which are laid away there until Boreas releases his grasp on the Yukon in the gentle springtime.

Of the steamers at that place, two—the Susie and Louise—are owned by the A. C. Co., and operated between Dawson and St. Michael. This company also has several large barges at the same place.

The Dawson & Whitehorse Navigation Company's steamers Tyrrell and J. P. Light are also there. It is possible that, as the water on the upper river will not be at its best before July, these steamers may make a trip to St. Michael before going on their regular season's run. However, owing to the unusually heavy snow fall this winter there will probably be plenty of water to enable them to engage in the upper river trade as soon as the ice goes out.

Next comes the Rock Island which is operated on the lower river, being one of the fleet owned by the S.-Y. T. Co.

The other steamers there are the Bonanza King, Monarch, Gold Star, Aquilla and a number of barges. Of these steamers all will be operated on the upper river except, perhaps, the Monarch, which may return down the river. On the water front of the city is the large refrigerator steamer Robert Kerr which is owned by the Pacific Cold Storage Co., and which will operate between Dawson and St. Michael in the meat carrying trade, this season. The little steamers Clara and Emma Knott are on the water front as is also the Michigan. The Clara and Emma Knott will likely be operated on the Stewart river run from Dawson as soon as navigation opens.

Only two of the C. D. Co.'s steamers—Victorian and Mary E. Graff—are wintering at that company's ways across the river and below West Dawson. The remainder of the fleet is up the river, some near the mouth of the Hootalinqua and others at or near Whitehorse.

Only two of the N. A. T. & T. Co.'s steamers are here—the John C. Barr and Chas. H. Hamilton—the others being down the river.

The A. E. Co. has none of its fleet here, but at various points on the lower river.

The Ora, Nora and Flora, owned and operated by the Klondike Navigation Company are all on the upper river.

As many new steamers are to be added to the local fleet on the opening of the season, business on the river is destined to be very brisk.

His Words Were Prophetic.

"Making a photograph of James Harper was the most startling experience of my life," says George G. Rockwood, the New York photographer. "In the year 1869 it transpired that no good picture existed of the four Harper brothers, and it was determined that they should sit to the same photographer and have a uniform series of pictures made. A very successful photograph of Fletcher brought them all."

"James Harper was the second to sit for me, and as he was passing out of the door of my studio he saw a portrait of Rev. Dr. Muhlenburgh, the founder of St. Luke's hospital. We entered into a brief discussion of the mighty results of the well and wisely directed efforts of one man as illustrated in the establishment of this beneficent institution. He said, 'If anything should happen to me, I believe I should like to be taken to St. Luke's hospital, for there organized, practiced skill would perhaps be paramount to even the tender care and love one gets at home.'"

"His words were prophetic. After declining his warm invitation for me to ride with him, he left the gallery, I think, near 2 o'clock in the afternoon. About 5 o'clock a gentleman rushed into the reception room and asked, 'Was James Harper here today?' 'Yes.' 'Did he sit for a photograph?' 'Yes, and here is the negative—a superb one.' 'Thank God! He was thrown from his carriage this afternoon and now lies dying in St. Luke's hospital.'"—N. Y. Sun.

RECEIVED BY WIRE. W. P. & Y. R. EXPANDS

And Buys all Property of Canadian Development Company

WHICH IT TAKES OVER APRIL FIRST.

Nine New Steamers Will Put on Upper River.

SUBSTITUTE OIL FOR WOOD.

All Freight Traffic Will Be by Weight—Lots of Nutton—Skagway Votes Today.

Skagway, Feb. 25.—General Manager E. C. Hawkins of the White Pass & Yukon Route, has received notification from London that his company has purchased all the property of the Canadian Development Company and will take possession and control of the same on April first.

The purchase includes ten steamers which are yet on the outside. These will steam to Skagway where they will be taken apart and shipped by rail, nine of them to Whitehorse and one to Bennett, the latter to go on the Atlin run on which the railroad company now practically has no competition.

Mr. Hawkins says it is the object of his company to control the entire transportation business of the interior. The nine new steamers to be put on the Yukon will be operated in connection with the other eight or ten C. D. boats already on the river and now owned by the W. P. & Y. R. There will be a complete reorganization of the service and everything will be done to secure the greatest efficiency at a minimum cost.

New tariff sheets are now in course of preparation with the view of putting all traffic on a strictly weight basis.

Another important matter now in contemplation by the company is the substitution of oil for wood as fuel on its steamers. If found practical, it is believed the trip from Dawson to Whitehorse will be shortened by from 12 to 24 hours, and a corresponding gain in time made on the down river trip.

Hi-Yu Nutton Coming.

Skagway, Feb. 25.—William Waechter is here Dawson-bound with 500 sheep and 16 horses. He will ship to Whitehorse and drive from there over the ice. The horses will be used for hauling feed.

Skagway Voting Today.

Skagway, Feb. 25.—An election is in progress here today for the selection of two councilmen. E. R. People's job was appointed mayor to succeed John Hislop who resigned to go to Valdez. Has also resigned and W. L. Green has been appointed by the council to fill the position. A. A. Anderson has been appointed city treasurer vice W. A. Peterson resigned. John W. Troy, city clerk, is dangerously sick and will be taken to his old home, Port Angeles, Wash.

News has been received here from J. G. Price who is in Washington, that the secretary of the interior will carefully consider any new evidence that may be brought forward in the Skagway townsite case and that there is every reason for believing that a hearing will be granted.

Billy Leak and seven others will go away tomorrow for Nome. They take three teams of the best dogs to be purchased with money and go well provided with clothing and provisions.