

HOW FROST AFFECTS WIRE.

Must Have Six Feet of Slack in Cold Countries.

Bennett-Dawson Line Hung too Tight Which Accounts for Various Breaks During the Past Winter.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]
Sup. J. B. Charlson thus explains the very plausible cause of the intermittent breakings of the telegraph line between here and Bennett during the winter just closing. He also gives interesting information regarding the construction of the Quesnell line. The Skagway Daily Alaskan in a late issue reports Mr. Charlson as saying:

"I care little for the aid of a surveyor or engineer," says Mr. Charlson, "in the construction of a telegraph line. I can usually survey a good commonplace route with my eyes pretty well."

"In building the Atlin Quesnell line we shall, in traversing a forest country, cut a swath 12 feet wide. Large trees and small will be slashed, and nothing will be left standing that will prove a menace to the line. Whenever possible good standing trees will be utilized for telegraph poles."

"The wire to be used is No. 8 galvanized steel, the same as is used in the Bennett Atlin system. It is a good wire, and the breaks that have occurred in the system have not been the result of using poor wire, but having too little slack in the line at some places. The fault for the little slack lies on the shoulders of the subordinates. I instructed them to give six feet of slack to every mile of wire. They did not follow instructions and the result was the line was too tight at places to stand the extreme tension under the great cold. The giving of more slack would have meant the hanging of a trifle more wire and therefore the carrying of a few more coils of wire on the part of some one who evidently eliminated the trouble."

"In the construction of the Atlin branch my orders for the hanging of wire with six feet of slack were strictly observed, and not a break occurred on that branch this winter."

"The severe cold weather and the frequent intermittent warm and damp weather of the Yukon basin keeps the very fabric of the wire working in the process of contraction and expansion so that it becomes crystallized and brittle under the cold and far more liable to snap. The wire contracts two and a half feet per mile in the Yukon basin. I recently had a letter from Capt. Abercrombie, U. S. A., who is to build the Veldez Eagle line, inquiring as to the contraction and expansion of wires in our Yukon system."

"Our wires near Minto were cut several times presumably by the murderers of the Clayton party. In one instance six feet of wire was taken out. Had it not happened that we had just left an extra coil of wire in one of the nearby stations we would have been in serious need of a piece for making the repairs."

Light Change His Luck.

Jim Donaldson is a sport and one whom has never been accused of being other than "on the dead square," and his winnings are due to skill rather than luck. But sometimes, as is the history of all sporting men, the fickle goddess declines even the advances of James. Saturday night was one of these occasions, and half an hour before the time arrived for the glove contest at the Palace Grand Donaldson arose loser. As he walked away from the table he remarked to a friend:

"'Tis settles it. I had a half notion to not referee that nigger scrap; but now I'll do it; maybe it will change my luck."

Partners Fight.

Ed Holden, Sam Nichols and Jack Smith are partners in the ownership of claim No. 2 above upper on Dominion. During the former part of the winter when Holden was burdened with the care incident to the management of the Mouffe Carlo theater, bar and gambling rooms he had but little time to devote to the management of the claim which was then being looked after by Nichols. But when the disastrous fire came and swept away all that was near and dear to him on Front street, he hid himself out to his claim to see as to how his interests were faring there. Evidently what he found did not suit him, for he had been there out a short time when he and Nichols had a "hitch," with the result that had blood was engendered. This strained condition of affairs continued until last Thursday night when, as the story goes, Holden found Nichols down in the shaft panning out when Holden, who in the

meantime had assumed management of the claim and the work thereon, had expressly forbidden such acts as the one in which Nichols was detected. The result was a physical encounter between the partners. Miss Rose Blumkin who was at the claim as a guest, attempted the role of peacemaker, but her efforts were not crowned with success. The two men "fit and fust" for some time, and in the melee it is said Holden bit a mouthful of flesh from Nichols' shoulder. It is also reported that Holden got the best of the scrap. As to whether or not the angel of peace has spread her white wings over claim 2 above upper on Dominion, the Nugget is not informed.

Entertained His Friend.

Mr. Chas. Sperry and Dr. J. Ailan Jornsby, both at present in Dawson, were former citizens of Skagway and intimate friends. The former came to Dawson on one of the last steamers to come down the river last fall, and has been here ever since; therefore, he feels that he is an old timer and in position to show his newly arrived friends the wonders of the city.

Dr. Hornsby arrived a week ago and was here two or three days before meeting his friend Sperry, since which time they have been very much together, the latter acting in the capacity of pilot and trail blazer. While escorting the medical man along Front street one bright afternoon Sperry

chanced to see a fine specimen of mountain sheep hanging by the heels in front of a Dawson restaurant.

"Here," said Sperry to himself, "is where I will shine and show my friend that during the five months of my residence here I have acquired a large stock of knowledge." And leading the doctor close up to the sheep he began: "This, sir, is one of the greatest products of this far northland. These noble animals, sir, are indigenous to the high mountain country 200 miles to the eastward, where they are found in great numbers by hunters of sufficient trepidation to penetrate the mountain fastnesses and wilds which they inhabit. When once frightened it is impossible to pursue them for that they flee to the nearest high precipice and drop head first down, down, down perhaps a hundred feet or more through the air to a bench or shelf below on which they alight with a crash that can be heard a mile or more. Sometime the solid rock on which they strike is shivered to atoms, but the sheep's head appears to be in no manner affected by the collision. Why just look at those horns (and the speaker swung the body of the animal outward), those horns are harder than the rock of Gibraltar."

Then he left the heavy body swing back, and in proof of his statement the horns and head crashed through the glass of a large show window in which pipes, doughnuts and other rubber goods are displayed.

Hastily reaching for his sack, Sperry entered the restaurant before the proprietor, who was washing dishes, could get his hands out of the water and said "I'm the fellow that did it; what is the bill?"

The hasher was so taken back at the stranger's readiness to settle for the unfortunate accident that he dropped \$12 worth of dishes on the floor and gasped "Oh, gimme \$5."

Sperry paid the money as readily as he ever paid a bill in his life and has been congratulating himself ever since on getting off so easily. Yesterday the writer saw him expatiating the wonders of the mountain sheep to another new arrival, but he was standing back 20 feet and pointing at it with his finger.

Large Mining Plants.

One thousand tons of hydraulic machinery are to be shipped into the interior just as soon as navigation opens, says the Skagway Alaskan, for use in the Hootalinqua and Stewart river countries. This statement comes from a man who is in the city enroute to the interior in connection with another big enterprise and who says further:

"Big companies are to make these shipments, and they will go by the way of St. Michael and up the river. Some of the machinery is in Vancouver awaiting shipment. A Mr. Goodman is one of the men interested in one of the concerns."

"The big dredger which was sent in last season for use on the Lewis river, will be operated there this season."

Claims Recorded.

Elmer McKinley recorded this morning the hillside claim, left limit, opposite the upper half of No. 72 below on Sulphur.

A grant was issued today to J. V. Vaillancourt for the hillside claim, right limit, opposite the lower half of 48 below on Sulphur.

William E. Turner has recorded a quartz claim, located on Henry creek, a tributary of Hunker.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

DELIGHTFUL SUMMER TRIP.

From Closeleigh Down the Yukon to St. Michaels.

Dawson Will Be the Mecca of Many Pleasure Seekers and Tourists This Year.

Anyone who has seen a good collection of views taken along the water ways of the interior from Bennett to St. Michael longs to take the trip and enjoy the famous scenery and the exciting scenes of the mining camps. Of course, in winter the journey over the ice is not such as would attract the adventurous tourist but in summer time when daylight is almost continuous, the trip is an ideal one and one that is beginning to draw the attention of easterners accustomed to spending an extended outing in the west. It is only in the last two years that the southeastern Alaska excursion business has assumed any importance, and now that a trip to Skagway, and return via the glacier, has become commonplace the more venturesome of the tourists are planning to take the trip by steamer to Skagway by rail to Bennett or Closeleigh and thence down the Yukon river for its entire length and by ocean steamer from St. Michael back to Puget sound again. The trip will necessarily be an expensive one and will not be extensively patronized until a through rate is given for the round trip. The cost of transportation alone during the coming season will be about as follows: Puget Sound to Skagway, \$25; Skagway to Bennett, \$10; Bennett to Dawson, \$75; Dawson to St. Michaels, \$75; St. Michaels to Seattle, \$75; total, \$260. The up river rates will doubtless fall considerably below the figure given above. The W. P. & Y. railroad will be completed to Closeleigh or Whitehorse before the season is well advanced and there will be keen competition between steamers plying on the upper lakes and river and the railroad, which will result in the Bennett Dawson rate being cut in two.

The lower river boats running down from Dawson will probably drop to a \$ 0 rate.

Such a trip is within the means of but few, but many others propose to combine business with pleasure and float down the river in an open boat, built or purchased at Bennett, stopping when convenient or when opportunity to earn money is offered. It is by such means that wonderful scenes of the Yukon may be seen at their best. The attraction of spending one's vacation among the richest mining camps, or the world is a good one indeed, and the Yukon bids fair to bear other craft next season beside those guided by Nome ward bound argonauts.—Skagway News.

Water Rights.

Allan R. Joy has received a 10-years' grant for 200 inches of water to be diverted from the upper end of 3 below on Bonanza, and to be used on the benches and hillsides of Cheechako hill.

A grant for four years has been issued to E. B. Newman for 60 inches of water to be diverted by running a ditch a half of a mile in length to the rear of his bench claim on the left limit, second tier, opposite 7 below on Bonanza. aid water to be used on said bench claim.

Norris Laugen has applied for a five years' grant for 200 inches of water to be diverted 2000 feet from the mouth of the pup entering Last Chance at 8 above discovery. Said water to be used on the bench claim, left limit, third tier, opposite 8 above on Last Chance.

Court-Martialed.

Hon. Dr. Borden, minister, received a report from Col. Otter giving details of the court-martial of three members of the Royal Canadian regiment at Modder river for having been asleep while on sentry duty. The sergeant in charge of the post, who was one of the culprits, was severely reprimanded, one of the privates was admonished, and the third was sentenced to eight days' confinement.

The Creek Road.

Mr. J. C. Shafer, of Gold Bottom, arrived in the city between 8 and 9 o'clock this morning, having left his home at 3 o'clock in order to get over the road before today's thaw set in. As he brought a horse and sled for the purpose of taking back a load of freight he will start on the return some time after midnight in order to reach home tomorrow morning before King Sol gets high. The sudden breaking up of the creek roads has overtaken many who were wholly unprepared for it and who entertained the belief that travel would be good yet for a month or more.

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BROS., Publishers

ADMIRABLE COURAGE.

Kruger has withdrawn all the Transvaal forces from Natal and the Orange Free State, and now is preparing to continue the struggle beneath the shelter of his own vine and fig tree as long as he shall have the resources left with which to fight.

However much one's sympathies may be aroused in favor of the Outlander, in behalf of whose rights the Transvaal war was undertaken, we cannot suppress a feeling of admiration for the calm courage manifested by the Boers, even though that courage be born of religious fanaticism.

The Boers have retired within the confines of the Transvaal, and are merely awaiting the fate which must inevitably overtake them in the long run.

There is no doubt as to the result of the war. Britain will win; she must win. Her future as the dominant power in South Africa, and, in fact, her future as the great colonial power of the world, has been staked upon the outcome of the Boer war. None realize this more truly than England's statesmen.

Lord Roseberry, in the course of an address in the House of Commons, said:

"If Great Britain were to lose South Africa, she would lose the most important base outside of the United Kingdom, and she would lose that colonial support which has been given, because the colonies have believed that they were associating themselves with a powerful empire, and thus the empire would break away from us. If this be not a life and death crisis, I don't know what is."

The war has been conducted upon a scale which has left no doubt that a full realization of its importance has been felt by the government. The possibility of defeat has never been considered. Success is necessary, and success must come.

The inevitable has swept down upon the Boers. Their race as a power has been run. They realize what the outcome will be, but, like brave men, they will fight as long as it is possible for them to carry on the contest.

Courage is a quality which commands respect under any and all circumstances. The Boers have demonstrated that they possess this quality beyond all doubt. They have proven themselves an enemy worthy the steel of their opponents, which is the highest compliment possible to pay them.

TAKING ACTION.

The American government is calling for bids for the construction of sixty military and telegraphic posts along the line of the Yukon river. It is estimated, according to the dispatches, that the cost of construction will exceed \$100,000. Uncle Sam is going at the Alaska question in dead earnest. He begins to realize that the big northern peninsula is an important possession and worth caring for. It will be only a question of another year until a continuous line of telegraphic communication is established from the mouth of the Yukon along the entire course of the river and extending down into British Columbia, and so connecting with all the great commercial systems on the outside.

When completed, this system will be one of the achievements to which both the Canadian and American governments can point with pride. With the completion of through telegraphic communication, such as is proposed, the

development of the Yukon country may be said to be well under way.

GENERALLY APPROVED.

It will be noticed in the interviews published elsewhere in this issue that the position assumed by this paper with reference to allowing reporters to be present at the legislative sessions of the Yukon Council is generally approved by leading Canadian citizens of Dawson.

We are quite willing to concede that occasions will arise when executive sessions of the Council must be held, from which it is but right and proper that the press and public alike should be excluded. We do not believe that any objection would arise on the part of the newspapers if they were not allowed to be represented at such meetings. But for ordinary sessions, when the passage of ordinances and the transaction of other routine business is in progress, the press should by all means be admitted.

We are unable to see how the Council can fly in the face of public opinion in this matter. Just so long as it continues to hold its sessions behind closed doors and maintains its present censorship over the reports as given out by the clerk, just so long will it fail to receive the confidence of the public. Secrecy always begets suspicion, whether there be good ground for it or not.

In this particular instance we have not found a legitimate reason advanced in support of the position taken by the Council. The Council room is small, but we not believe that the public would insist upon admission, provided it should be generally known that full reports of all proceedings would appear in the newspapers. In justice to itself, the Council should throw open the doors of its session chamber and establish itself in the confidence of the community.

Despite the threats of the rush for Nome, the coming summer gives promise of witnessing a substantial revival in building in Dawson. Notwithstanding the enormous sums which the big companies have already invested in their various plants, several of them will make very extensive improvements. Other smaller concerns have announced their intention of enlarging their store rooms, and new enterprises are coming into the field, all of which will add their quota to the improvements which will be made. Altogether, the outlook for a building boom is quite favorable.

Some hitch in the preparation of the specifications has caused a delay in the construction of the new postoffice building—to be. It is understood now that further instructions must be received from Ottawa before work on the building can be started. Meanwhile, people who bought property in the vicinity of the postoffice site when the tip was given out concerning its location are beginning to wonder where they are at. This government red tape is a fearful and wonderful thing.

Another concert will be given at the Palace Grand Theater on Sunday night next. The Nugget hopes that the coming entertainment will receive better patronage than has been tendered the former efforts of the concert managers. Lovers of wholesome amusement should patronize these Sunday night entertainments. They are essentially along the line of an improvement in the standard of public entertainments, which in Dawson has never been exceedingly high.

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ay to Whitehorse

RAILWAY will be completed by June 1st, 1900, after which the route between Skagway and Dawson

AIR

Commercial Agent, Dawson

OR NOME

son, and will be ready to leave on delay or transfer at St. Michael

ank J. Kinghorn, Agent

il departure of boat.

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