

on spoiled bacon, but in future they will have to live on what scraps they can pick up. A large amount of dog feed, consisting of tallow and damaged flour, was shipped from St. Michael's by the companies but their steamers are frozen in at Circle City. Should we require to make any trips it will be a case of carrying a pack and sufficient food to live on. Most of the miners pull their sleds with from 150 to 200 lbs. on them, hard and killing work, but their only way of getting supplies to their diggings.

It is to be hoped that the government will take some steps in the liquor question.

Last year permits were given to a person who simply sold the liquor, and took the money out, and moreover used this country as a base to smuggle it into the territory of Alaska. In my judgment if the permit system is to be continued permits should only be issued to the companies or firms doing a legitimate business in the country. The general feeling is for a high license. The reputable dealers would be quite willing to pay a high one, the only objectors are the low class of saloons. As I have before stated parties applying for license should have them recommended by the officer in command of the subdistrict in which the applicant lives, and his recommendation or otherwise should be final.

The territory about the mouth of the Mackenzie River and Herschel Island is one that the attention of the government is called to. Twelve whalers, steam and sailing, wintered there last winter. The crews number from 1,000 to 1,200, these vessels do not leave winter quarters till about the middle or end of July. Each year a vessel is loaded at and despatched from San Francisco with supplies for this fleet, of which cargo liquor forms a large share. This liquor is sold or traded to the natives for furs, walrus ivory bone and their young girls who are purchased by the officers of the ships for their own foul purposes. The natives have also learnt to make liquor from dried fruit, sugar or molasses. They are very violent and dangerous when in liquor. Last winter, it is reported, that one had tied up his daughter by the heels, and whipped her to death, Mr. Whittaker (a missionary) and the ships' captains tied up the man, and whipped him. The result was that the native threatened to make the missionary leave the island, if not worse.

There is no wood on Herschel Island, nor is there any for 50 miles from the Arctic coast except drift wood, which is said to be plentiful. Many men desert from the whalers each season, and having heard of the rich placer mines of the Yukon make their way here, i.e. the Yukon district, some being now at Circle City, 200 miles north of this down the river, one was cook on the steamer "P. B. Weare." These men come across country to Rampart House on the Porcupine River, a distance of 10 days' travel over a rolling country and, for this territory, fairly easy travelling, thence down the Porcupine to Fort Yukon and from there up the river. One of these men by some means got word to the vessels, giving an account of the country here which induced a number more to leave and many wished to but were unable for various reasons. In some instances where men had succeeded in getting away for some distance they were overtaken by the ships' officers, and stripped of all they had, hoping they would then return. The Indians as a rule will help them through which causes trouble with the ship's men which may get to be serious. Many of these men on arrival at Rampart House Mission demand food and clothing, which if not given they will take by force.

In one case there was a fight between the ship's people and a party of deserters in which one of the pursuing party was killed and another wounded. None of the deserters were hurt.

The presence of an armed government vessel, with a strong and disciplined crew, would do much good service in putting an end to the traffic in liquor to the natives as well as protecting the revenue, and more especially the fisheries which must be valuable or so many ships would not be in these waters.

Herschel Island is in the Yukon District situated in latitude 69° 40' longitude 139°, two degrees east of the international boundary line, and close to the coast. Pearl Cove is the harbour on the south side of the island, which is between 6 and 7 miles long from east to west, and 3 to 4 wide, being about 80 miles from the westerly mouth of the McKenzie. The easterly mouth of the river is the main one about 130