

MID-SNOW AND ICE

Capt. William Moore Returns With the Canadian Mail from Fort Cadahay.

Numerous Difficulties Encountered in Making the Journey to the Coast.

Provisions are Very Scarce in Mining Camps Along the Yukon River.

Captain William Moore, the veteran Yukon explorer and carrier of Her Majesty's mails to and from the Yukon district, arrived from the Sound by the steamer Evangeline Saturday evening.

Since leaving Victoria with the third mail for the Yukon in August last, Captain Moore has had some experience that would be trying to a young man, but despite the fact he faced the difficulties of the trip as bravely as the others of his party.

The trip inwards from Juneau to Fort Cadahay was made in 19 days.

The steamer not arriving at the port as scheduled, the captain fearing that some accident had caused the delay, he started down the river in a small boat for Circle City, where he expected to meet the Arctic and the Bella.

On arrival there he found that neither of these boats had yet come, nor were there any tidings from them. One hundred and fifty men, anxious to get out by way of St. Michael, Sunday next, the coming of some river steamer which could take them down to Behring Sea.

The short summer season was drawing to a close and the delay was growing ominous. Mr. McQuestion, merchant and agent for the Alaska Commercial Company at Circle City, assured the men that the Bella would be there soon and would make the down trip in ample time to catch the steamer Bella at St. Michael, which he said would be sure to wait for the Bella until October 15.

Captain Moore chafed under the anxiety, for he felt that the mail must come out, if not one way, the other, so on September 21 he commenced preparations for going down the river in a small boat, and on September 25, with four men, started on the long journey.

The river was clear, but that night it began to snow and freeze. Winter was coming on. The next morning, when camp was broken it was snowing and blowing so hard that they had hardly gotten started before they were obliged to make a landing and wait for the storm to subside.

The following morning another start was made, although it was still storming, and at 10 o'clock the Arctic was passed. Capt. Becker hailed them, telling them the Bella was two days behind.

Camp was made that night a little above Fort Yukon. The next morning they met the Bella a little below. Capt. Mayo informed them that it was useless to go down the river, as the Bella was to sail from St. Michael October 4, and that he had orders to put his boat into winter quarters and not try to return to the coast.

They then decided to continue down the river to Nulato and come across country to Nushagak, but as this region is filled with swamps and gullies it was exceedingly dangerous to make the attempt. His companions were unwilling to undertake anything so formidable and persuaded him to return and come out by way of St. Michael.

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with Captain Moore and party. The party encountered many hardships and the cost of the trip was enormous, moose meat being purchased in some places at \$1 per pound. The party reached the coast on January 23, or 37 days after leaving Fort Cadahay.

Capt. Moore took good care of his party during the long hard journey, giving them plenty of food and rest. He looks well, notwithstanding the thousands of miles of rough travelling he has done during the past year, and is ready for the next trip to the Canadian Yukon.

One of the Alki left Juneau Mr. Gillis and party, carrying the U. S. mail, arrived there from the Yukon. They left Circle City on November 18 and had a pleasant trip out, the weather being severe for a few days.

Mr. Gillis reported a shortage of supplies at Circle City, and the companies were restricting sales. It is believed, however, that they have enough food to last a month.

There was plenty of nothing but sugar. Flour had sold as high as \$50 per hundredweight; there were no canned meats nor caught fish. The miners were very discontented. At Forty Mile the party found that flour was scarce, one hundred pounds being the greatest amount sold to any one.

Some of the miners were compelled to eat without flour. Meat was plentiful, however, and it was expected that the people could ward off starvation until spring. The same conditions prevail at Clondyke river, where, during the winter, the weather was considerably exciting because of the discovery of gold.

This river empties into the Yukon about 55 miles above Forty Mile Creek. Gold has been found in the bed of the river and in the numerous tributaries. Work can only be carried on in winter, sinking and drifting being only practicable when the gravel is frozen.

In this district nearly 600 claims have been located. Claims are allowed to extend 500 feet along the stream, and the Canadian authorities demand a fee of \$15 from the locator of each claim. At the mouth of the Clondyke the Canadian authorities have established a government reservation, comprising 40 acres. Adjoining this is the townsite of Dawson City, owned by private individuals.

The gold in this section is coarse and dark, many of the nuggets being worth \$10 to \$15 each. Several of the miners did well during the short season. One named Constable Perdue and Palmer gave evidence regarding their visit to the place at the time of the arrest. Constable Perdue examined the cards used by the miners and found no marks. By looking at the backs of several he was able to tell their denomination.

Mr. Thornton Fell, who appeared for the defence, objected to the report, charged with bringing before the court this morning, which did not state the facts correctly. Poulto was committed to stand his trial before the first court of criminal jurisdiction.

His trial was set for next week and he himself and two securities of \$125 each. The eleven sailors of the four-masted ship Lyderhorn, now lying in the Royal Roads, were again brought before Police Magistrate Macrae this morning, charged with refusing to obey orders.

A meeting was held and a jury selected, the young man arraigned, tried and found guilty. Two sentences were agreed upon, of which Tommy was allowed to take his choice: He was given three months, the other was to pay the girl \$2000 and go to jail for one year, jail to be provided by the citizens of Circle City.

LOCAL NEWS. From Friday's Daily. Mr. C. J. Sim has resigned his position on the Matsqui Dyking Commission and accepted a position as clerk of the Matsqui dyking district.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Richardson took place from the family residence at Victoria West this afternoon. Rev. J. P. Hicks conducted the funeral services. The pallbearers were Messrs. B. Duck, G. Goddard, H. G. Hall, J. H. Meldrum, A. B. Oldershaw and Mr. Garrow.

A general meeting of the shareholders of the British Columbia Coal, Petroleum and Mineral Company will be held on March 1st at their offices on Fort Street. The purpose is to authorize a resolution to authorize the company to take up assets to the Crown's New Coal Company, accepting fully paid-up shares in that company as payment.

Rev. Dr. Campbell officiated at the funeral of the late James Tyson yesterday afternoon. The pall bearers were Messrs. J. Russell, J. Plett and R. King. Deceased, who was a member of Court Barford, I. O. F., of Vancouver, leaves a widow and a family of nine children to mourn his loss.

W. K. Leighton, one of the promoters of the Nanaimo-Alberni railway, is at the Drift. His company do not have any difficulty in passing their bill for a charter, and when they get the charter they will set to work to finance the scheme.

The Yukon opera house was partially destroyed by fire about two weeks ago. The loss is about \$2000 worth of insurance. The firemen had a difficult task saving the rest of the city. The Alaska Searchlight says that the U. S. S. Pinta made one of her noble little efforts to reach Juneau on Thursday morning, and had proceeded only a short distance when one of her boilers ripped open, severely scalding two men.

Circle City does not propose to be outdone even by San Francisco in the matter of scandals in high life and senseless loss of human life. Tommy Ashby, well known in Juneau, made love to a fair damsel in the household of one of the traders. The young lady charged him with breach of promise and demanded the money.

Constable Beaven, of the provincial police, returned on Saturday evening from the last of several trips to the Lake District, bringing with him Mrs. Ellis on her boat which he purchased on charge of stealing provisions to the value of \$40 from Mr. William Foote. Foote is an old man, who has been bed-ridden for the past seven or eight years, and has been looking after his property some years ago in Lake District.

Superintendent Sheppard this morning received further evidence of the fact, for such it undoubtedly is, that Frank La Rochelle was drowned in the harbor on Wednesday morning, Feb. 10. The superintendent has received a letter from the Alaskan coast, of the sloop Aileen, of Vesuvius Bay, Salt Spring Island. On the morning that La Rochelle disappeared the Aileen was lying at Munn, Holland & Co.'s wharf, just under the railway bridge.

Late on Saturday night the body of James McArthur, the well known engineer, was found at the corner of Broad and Johnson streets. Dr. Fraser, the city health officer, decided that McArthur had been stricken with heart disease and ordered the body to be moved to John Street Burial Office.

The tug Vancouver, with Lieut. Col. Prior, M.P., and Mr. Blewett on board, returned from Texas Island today. Mr. Blewett reports that all the mines on the island appear more promising as development work proceeds. Col. Prior was well pleased with what he saw.

Rev. Canon Beaudouin on Wednesday evening visited the fortunes of Mr. Duncey James McDonald and Miss Annie Winter, daughter of George Winter, who was married on Friday last. The ceremony was performed at Christ church cathedral. The bride carried a large bouquet of chrysanthemums, dahlias, henners and orange blossoms. The hap-

py couple received a large number of presents from their many friends. The pioneers of the city turned out in force this afternoon, despite the inclemency of the weather, to attend the funeral of Charles Pagden, which took place at 2:30 from his late residence, Fort Street.

The funeral of the late Mrs. Marshall, who died suddenly last week at her home on the old Esquimaux road, took place this afternoon from Hayward's undertaking parlors.

As Mr. Tomlinson, teacher of the Sidney school, has resigned, Mr. W. H. M. May, late of the school at Departure Bay, has been appointed to the vacancy. Mr. May takes charge on the first day of March.

One of the victims of the gripe epidemic, which has been raging in Ottawa, was Norris Venning, the 19-year-old son of R. U. Venning, of the marine and fisheries department, who was here in connection with the Behring Sea claims commission.

Arthur W. Churton, who for years past has been following his occupation as a furrier on Humboldt street, died on Saturday at St. Joseph's hospital. Death came as a result of pneumonia, he was 56 years of age. The funeral will take place to-morrow afternoon at 2:30 from the Reformed Episcopal church.

The city health authorities paid their quarterly visit to Darcy Island with provisions for the lepers. The seven Chinese were all found to be in good spirits, there being no change for the worse in their condition. Those who went up were: Ald. Partridge, Hall and Stewart; Dr. Fraser, R. Chipchase, sanitary officer; Dr. Richardson and A. F. Wing, official interpreter.

William Booth, the pioneer of pioneers, who died on Friday, was yesterday buried in the Victoria cemetery. A number of his old friends, and young ones too, attending the services at the Reformed Episcopal church, and also assisting at the interment. Rt. Rev. Bishop Oridge and Rev. Dr. Wilson conducted the services. The pallbearers were Messrs. W. M. Clarke, J. Pearce, Geo. Wynne, F. Carne, Sr., and Wm. Humphrey.

The riflemen and the Chinese farmer have been driven from Clover Point by a company of miners who have located a strike out by post in the latter claim. The claim was located several weeks ago by Mr. Henley, of the Cliff House, who was on a wood chopping expedition on the beach there. Happening to reach the place, he found it rich in itself to be rich in mineral, and he immediately called his friends, who as soon as they saw his specimen of rock immediately began driving stakes and working the claim.

The delegates to the Grand Lodge of the Royal Templars of Tempilers, together with Mr. W. H. Buchanan, the editor of the Templar, who is coming from Hamilton, Ontario, to take part in the meeting of the delegates, are expected to arrive in the city by to-morrow evening's Charmer. The Royal Templars of the city, together with a guard of honor furnished by the Cadet Templars, will meet the delegates at the boat and escort them to the Sir William Wallace Hall, where a supper will be tendered to them.

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Body of James McArthur Found on the Street. Late on Saturday night the body of James McArthur, the well known engineer, was found at the corner of Broad and Johnson streets.

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THE SPEKE RETURNS

Came Back to Es-qui-mat, Where a Survey of Her Cargo Will be Made.

Another Cutter Starts Out in Search of the Schooner Alida.

The unprecedented salmon pack of the northern canneries last season has attracted the attention of capitalists and as a result several new canneries will be operated on the rivers and inlets of the northern coast during the coming summer.

The British ship Speke is at Esquimaux, where she has put in to have her cargo surveyed. She was a few miles out from Cape Flattery when she was driven back by stress of weather.

The sealing schooner Dora Siewerd leaves to-morrow, if there is a favorable wind, for Diskieit, where a crew of Indian hunters will be shipped. Captain Siewerd says he has got a crew at \$2 per skin, and no bonus or boss money is to be paid.

A recent dispatch announces that the British ship Spass of Balambah, which is a very large cutter, has sailed to Victoria with a general cargo consigned to Messrs. Turner, Beeton & Co., put into the Falkland Islands, some of her rigging having been damaged while entering one of the harbors of the islands she grounded.

The British bark Providence, 1,806 tons, Capt. Jones, was towed to sea from Moodyville on Saturday. Her cargo is a very large one, consisting of 1,393,492 feet of rough lumber, and 1,227 bundles of laths, the whole valued at \$11,467. The Province is bound for Fremantle, West Australia.

As Mr. Newman, when he returned from Port Townsend, did not bring his books with him, the case of the eleven sailors of the Lyderhorn, charged with refusing duty, was again remanded until to-morrow morning at 11:30.

Writing from Circle City, Alaska, to Mr. James E. Fell, of Victoria, Mr. John Rees says: "As to my experience in this country, about which I promised to write you, I worked for wages the first summer and the following fall bought into a claim. I have done fairly well, and if it continues to hold out as well next summer I will have a very nice stake by next fall.

The wash is very fine, and the gold is mostly in fine sand, of which there is a great deal. It seems to be of a placer formation. The gulch I am located on is called Mastodon, and it is about 60 miles from the Yukon, and about the same distance from Circle City, which is on the river, and which is the headquarters of the district.

The gulch is six miles long. At the lower end the gold is fine and is found from six to nine feet deep. The first three feet is coarse gravel and the rest fine sand. The upper end is drifting diggings, that is from No. 10 up. Claims are numbered from the discovery claim up and down.

The gulch from No. 10 up is 12 to 25 feet deep, and is worked in the winter months only. The ground freezes to within four or five feet of bedrock, where all the pay seems to lie. All the water comes to the surface and leaves the unfrozen dirt nice and dry, although in other places it freezes clear down to bedrock and burning has to be resorted to. In this portion of the gulch the gold is very coarse.

The next best gulch is Deadwood, about 15 miles from Mastodon. It is ten miles long and is of a coarse wash. Many thousand dollars in nuggets and coarse pieces have been taken out. Nearly all the miners there have done well and a number of the miners have taken out quite large stakes.

MINING FOR TURQUOISES

Is Carried on in Persia in a Very Profitable Manner.

The famous turquoise mines of Nishapur, in Northern Persia, are believed to be the only turquoise mines in the world which have been worked extensively, or in perfect shape or color. One of the mines from Nishapur, after ascending the low hills and gradually ascending by the miners, which was an approach of about 5,000 feet above the level.

Work has been commenced on the buildings of the English Bay Company at Esquimaux, which is a new building, 80 by 100 feet already up. The canneries, which will be in operation this year, will be capable of packing 30,000 cases a season. The buildings will be completed in about two weeks.

While the chain gang was working clearing lots on Granville street, Tuesday one of the prisoners named Brown escaped. He ran down the street towards the park and was factually followed by Officer No. 6 Brown was in for vagrancy and nearly served his term, so that he would have been discharged in a few days.

NEW WESTMINSTER. Wednesday night, about one o'clock, as the old steamer Gypsy, owned by Royal City Mills, was steaming down the river, and when she was about a mile from Steveston, she ran aground. This was a sunken log stump, about 1 1/2 feet below the surface, which breaking the planks in the steamer's bottom, held her fast.

It is reported that a vegetable can will be built in the neighborhood of Circle City in the near future. Gold mining occupies the attention of the majority of the city at the present time. Harrison Lake and Pitt Lake claims are the object of much interest, and a great strike will be made in these districts during the coming months.

Harrison Lake report that both of these claims are lined with prospectors and at night time it has the appearance of a populated district owing to camp fires and lights. Rich looking is being brought into town daily and that is now wanted to make the district almost as busy a town as some of the mining locations up country is, which will without doubt be coming very shortly, as the rich ore is just as sure as that it is in Kootenay.

Pedestrians on Columbia street surprised Wednesday afternoon to find the sound of a pistol shot, and following this an excitement was created. It was learned that two of Vancouver's smartest detectives, Messrs. Hayward and McLean, were over after two members of the Bruce-Crichton gang, who had been hiding in the Territory and have also committed several depredations in Washington. The names of the prisoners are Dubeau and McLean, and were taken without consideration of the fact that they were in the district almost as busy a town as some of the mining locations up country is, which will without doubt be coming very shortly, as the rich ore is just as sure as that it is in Kootenay.

At a meeting of the board of trustees of the importance, in view of the migration of the Harrison Lake, and in view of the fact that the Harrison river improved at a certain point, it could be done permanently at little cost so as to enable this city to secure trade for that point, the following resolution was passed: That the board of trustees be authorized to employ a committee to investigate the matter of the improvement of the navigation of the Harrison river, and to take steps to have the same attended to without delay.

The election of officers for the coming year resulted as follows: President, John McNab; Vice-President, G. D. Brynner; Secretary, Treasurer, D. Robson; Council, C. G. Macdonald, R. L. Reid, F. J. Coulthard, J. A. B. Johnston, and J. Trapp. John P. Pearson, John Henry, M. S. Scott, George Kennedy, T. Macdonald, R. L. Reid, F. J. Coulthard, J. A. B. Johnston, and J. Trapp. John P. Pearson, John Henry, M. S. Scott, George Kennedy, T. Macdonald, R. L. Reid, F. J. Coulthard, J. A. B. Johnston, and J. Trapp.

Mr. E. B. Cook, one of the oldest residents of the city, died at his residence yesterday. He was 82 years of age, and had been in the city for many years. He was a prominent citizen and had been a member of the Victoria Club for many years. He is survived by a wife and several children.

British Columbia.

The amount remaining from the proceeds of Dr. DeKamner's lectures, all expenses had been paid, nets a sum of \$170, which is to be expended in forming the nucleus of a library for high school.

A letter was received yesterday at the office of the Golden Cache Mines, Ltd., from Mr. Arthur Noel, the financial manager, Lillooet. The letter contained fuller particulars of the lands, and also stated that samples forwarded. It said that the tunnel was now in 80 feet and the shaft was sunk to strike the vein, but they were now down 130 feet and had gone through solid quartz, finding free gold in place throughout. There was no sign of a foot wall. It is being continued on the shaft.

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