

ABOUT VALDES

And the Copper Deposits in the Vicinity of Copper River's Source.

WHY THEY ARE OF SMALL VALUE

And Not in any way Likely to Prove Detrimental To

DAWSON AND ITS INTERESTS.

Harry Edwards Tells About Valdes and the Probable Route to be Followed by the R. R.

Of late there has been considerable talk about fabulous riches having been unearthed at some point just a little vaguely referred to as "below the boundary line," which present indications seem to point out as somewhere in the vicinity of Mt. Wrangel, where there seems to be no good reason for denying the fact that some immense copper bodies have been discovered and that the ore found there is of surprising richness, but when all this is admitted, there yet remains other things to be considered which will be shown to be equally worthy of the attention of intended stampedees.

No matter what the richness or extent of these deposits are, it can be successfully shown that they are at present of little value.

The present average price of copper is 19 cents, and when it is considered that the present discoveries are some 200 miles from tide water, that the great distance even after this point has been reached which the product would still have to be transported before the scene of manufacture could be reached, that the rate of wages which would have to be paid to miners would have to be higher than what is paid by any of the larger copper mines, such as the Hecla, the Anaconda or the Arizona mines, that the ore or mats if smelters were erected on the site of mining, would have to be handled several times before reaching a market, it will be seen that the cost of production may reasonably be expected to so nearly equal the market value that it could not be hoped or expected that there would be any balance left in favor of the mine owner.

That is looking at the matter in the most favorable light, leaving out another phase which would very soon have to be considered.

There is a combine in the copper industry which holds the price to its present high grade by limiting the output of the mines.

Let another large producer enter the field independently, however, and it follows that there will be a slump in the price of copper from 19 to about 9 cents, which would instantly wreck and ruin every house interested in its production except the very strongest financial concerns known, and the handicap already on the shoulders of the Alaskan copper miner would soon put him out of business.

Concerning gold mining in the section named, there have been various reports of a vague nature in circulation, mostly the result of letters which have purported to come from some point, interior from Valdes, but these, so far, have never shown anything valid enough to cause any level headed business man to sacrifice business interests in a place like Dawson to investigate.

Regarding the town of Valdes, something definite may be said as the situation and surroundings are well known here.

In 1898 Harry Edwards landed at Valdes, and crossed the country from there to Eagle, after remaining for a time at the point of landing, he began his trip, but before doing so platted the present townsite of Valdes, which he describes as follows:

"To begin with the inlet or as it should almost be termed the inland sea of Valdes, is a splendid harbor, running inland as it does 18 miles, and being eight miles in width, with an entrance only about a 130 yards wide.

This harbor can only be entered by shipping at flood tide because of its shallowness, but at flood tide little motive power is required as the tide makes a very strong current. You can imagine what it is like when the tide runs out there, when it is known that the June tide is a little matter of 17 feet. Take the volume of water confined in a space 8x18 miles and pour it through an outlet 130 yards wide, and its force will be found to be terrific.

"The townsite of Valdes is on the right hand side or rather between two small streams emptying into the inlet on the left and is about three-quarters of a mile square.

"These streams between which the town lies, come down from Valdes glacier, which lies six miles back from tide water. They have brought down in their course great quantities of gravel which have effectually killed all vegetation between them so that the present site is a barren waste; on each side of this, however, there are clumps of cotton wood, and some little soil. The government reserve forms the base line of the townsite on the left.

"The way I came from Valdes was by traveling along the great Valdes glacier which extends from a point six miles back of town, for a distance of 28 miles inland.

"This route is, of course, impracticable for a railroad, which is now being talked of considerably. To my mind the only practical route for a railroad would be to follow the Lowe river, whose junction with the inlet is the most inland point reached by salt water, to its junction with the great Copper river, thence to the vicinity of Mt. Wrangel near which head all the principal streams whose courses lie in opposite directions.

"The divide could be crossed here over to the head water of the Tanana and thence the course would lie down this valley to a point parallel to Eagle City which would be the natural terminus of the road, being easy of access for both upper and lower river points, and its line easily tapped farther back by branch lines from adjacent districts.

"From what I have seen of the country I believe the line would be not only feasible, but a paying proposition and it would certainly be a good thing for Dawson—one of the best things that could happen to it—as it would give us a competing transportation line, and the good results to be expected from such a consummation are too numerous to be detailed."

Jim Hill Was Fooled.

An amusing story is told of an incident of railroad construction in the west in which Jim Hill the present railroad magnate and a Norwegian are the principal actors.

The Norwegian had been dissatisfied for some time with his job on the railroad, but did not like to quit because the company had a fashion of making hands who quit between paydays wait till the end of the month for their money.

The Norwegian hit on a plan to get himself fired before the month was up so as to get his money upon the issuing of his time check. In pursuance of this plan he began a systematic soldering. He put in a large part of the time leaning on his shovel handle and the balance tying up his shoes.

Jim Hill was a boss on the job at the time and was not slow to notice the delinquency, and remonstrated accordingly. This did no good, so the soldier was bounced and conducted to the pay car where he got his time check cashed at once.

In remonstrating with him Hill had repeatedly referred to him as a Swede, to which no reply was made, but after he had his money securely laid away in his pocket, he commenced to laugh, and said:

"Mr. Hill, I ben fool you. You tank I was a Swede, and I ben a Norwegian all my life."

Looking Backward.

"By George," said the big man with the heavy, dark mustache, who had just got back from Australia, "how time flies. Just think! I used to be the smart kid who tried to scare you out when you came to see my sister. What a little runt I was in those days."

"Yes," wearily replied the one he addressed, "you were a little runt, indeed. If you had only been big and strong like you are now!"—Rx.

Salinas Valley potatoes for sale at Lancaster & Calderhead's.

The Pacific Cold Storage Company paid the collector of customs in Dawson \$10,000 duty on the cargo of fine meats they are now offering to the trade.

Shoff, the Dawson Dog Doctor, Pioneer Drug Store.

Goods sold on commission at Meeker's.

Eastern oysters at the Postoffice market.

When in want of laundry work call up 'phone 52. Cascade Laundry.

ALASKA COMMERCIAL CO.

Immense Reduction Sale

Read the Prices Quoted Below

Bargains For Men and Women

After these goods are disposed of we will be prepared to handle our Spring Shipments now on the way in over the ice.

Dress Goods

All Wool Dress Goods, fancy mixtures.....	41 in. wide.....	Reduced from \$1.75 to \$.75
All Wool Dress Goods, fancy mixtures.....	42 in. wide.....	Reduced from 2.00 to 1.00
All Wool Dress Goods, fancy mixtures.....	42 in. wide.....	Reduced from 2.25 to 1.25
All Wool Dress Goods, fancy mixtures.....	42 in. wide.....	Reduced from 3.00 to 1.50
All Wool California Flannels, fancy mixtures.....	30 in. wide.....	Reduced from 1.25 to .75
All Wool California Flannels, fancy mixtures.....	30 in. wide.....	Reduced from 1.50 to 1.00
All Silk Striped Shirting Flannels.....	30 in. wide.....	Reduced from .50 to .25
All Wool Eiderdown Flannels.....	45 in. wide.....	Reduced from 2.50 to 1.50
Outing Flannels, assorted colors.....	30 in. wide.....	Reduced from .25 to .15
Dark Mixtures Cycle Cloth.....	30 in. wide.....	Reduced from .35 to .15

Ladies' Underwear

Ladies' Silk Night Gowns and Chemise.....	Reduced from \$12.50 to \$ 5.00
Ladies' Muslin Night Gowns and Chemise.....	Reduced from 8.00 to 4.00
Ladies' all wool underwear in natural black & white, suit.....	Reduced from 9.00 to 6.00

Ladies' Suits and Jackets

Ladies' Tailor Made Suits.....	ONE THIRD OFF
Ladies' Jackets.....	ONE THIRD OFF
Ladies' Fur Coats.....	Reduced from \$40.00 to \$20.00

Ladies' Boots and Shoes

Ladies' Felt Shoes.....	Reduced from \$6 to \$4.00
Ladies' Black Oxfords, kid lined.....	Reduced from 5 to 3.50
Ladies' Tan Oxfords.....	Reduced from 6 to 3.50
Ladies' High Button Shoes.....	Reduced from 8 to 4.50
Ladies' Black Kid Shoes.....	Reduced from 8 to 4.50

Clothing, Furnishings, Etc.

Men's Corduroy Suits, light and dark colors.....	Reduced from 30 to \$17.50
Men's Scotch Tweeds and Worsted.....	Reduced from 40 to 25.00
Men's Heavy Frieze Pants.....	Reduced from 10 to 5.00
Men's Canadian Frieze Suits, brown & grey, water proof.....	Reduced from 25 to 12.50
Boy's All Wool Suits, short and long pants.....	Reduced from 15 to 9.00
Men's Short Fur Coats.....	Reduced from 30 to 15.00
Men's Fancy Vests, all sizes, new, neat patterns.....	Reduced from 12 to 7.50
Men's Heavy Gray All Wool Underwear.....	Reduced from 5 to 2.50
Men's Heavy Gray Undershirts [only].....	Reduced from 3 to 1.50
Men's Heavy Gray All Wool Socks.....	Reduced from 50c to .25
Men's Moosehide Moccasins, sizes 7 to 10.....	Reduced from 4 to 1.00

Alaska Commercial Co.