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NEWS OF CLONDYKE

Letter Received From Dawson City Dated June 18.

LIFE AT THE YUKON MINES

Hart Humber Tells of His Experiences—Digging the Richest Ever Discovered—Money Spent Like Water for Whiskey and at Gambling.

That the reports concerning the great strikes on the Clondyke have not been exaggerated is proved by the letter printed below, which was written from Dawson City on June 18 to Charles Colles of this city, by Hart Humber, who left Rossland for the Yukon last April, in company with Dan O'Brien. Mr. Colles received the letter Monday and is looking seriously of joining his quest at Dawson City. Humber evidently has the greatest faith in the Clondyke placer fields. Judging from his statements it would seem that getting into the country was not so difficult as it has been represented.

His friends of a party of 30 that were going out about the time he was writing. They were the same to that came down in a scow with a ton of gold two weeks ago and whose arrival started the excitement that is now so prevalent concerning the Clondyke.

Humber worked for Columbia & Western Railway, but is perhaps better known to the Rossland public as a sprinter. Dan O'Brien was one of the locators of the Union mine and sold his interest in it for a large sum of money to the Walters company. It was this money which enabled him and Humber to go to Clondyke.

The following is the letter complete as it was received, with a few personal references omitted:

ON THE CLONDYKE,
DAWSON CITY, N. W. T., Canada,
June 18, 1897.

FRIEND CHARLIE—As I promised to write to you after I got into this country, I will now do so, and will try to give you some idea of the condition of things in this region. After leaving Dyea we had a trip full of hairbreadth escapes and arrived at Dawson on the Clondyke

Mile last year," said Picotte, "we considered seriously the possibility of securing aid from the Canadian government to build a railway into the district, and secured data and forwarded it to Ottawa. Finally an appropriation of \$5,000 was passed by parliament and surveyors were ordered to take the field this year.

"There are two practical routes by which the country might be reached by a railway. One of these is from a point on the Canadian Pacific, the other from Dyea. So far as ascertained neither presents many difficulties. That from Dyea would be shortest for the reason that only some 80 miles of road would have to be built, the rest of the route to the mines being by means of the river. Of course during the winter season this route would be closed as a means of communication with San Francisco, and for that reason it is not likely to be favored by the Canadian government, and the other route is about 500 miles longer, but being entirely within the Dominion is likely to receive the earnest consideration of the government. The moneyed men of that section are willing to assist in any enterprise of this character which tends to develop the country.

"The attention of the world is being called to our country and the idea that might but fairy tales had been written about its wealth is being quickly dispelled."

TO TREAT LOWGRADE ORE

L. H. Webber's Company Will Erect a Mill Near the O. K.

Though No Contract Has Been Made With the Le Roi, a Large Business is Assured.

Many people in Rossland have been wondering what sort of an industry was to be established on Little Sheep creek, a short distance below the O. K. mine, where a force of men is now engaged in clearing up a site. Tenders for this work were advertised in THE MINER, but we were requested to make no reference to the matter, as the plans of the company were not perfected. A week ago L. H. Webber, manager of the British Columbia Bullion Extracting company, made a proposition to the Le Roi company to treat a 10,000 ton lot of its low grade ore, and he expected to have been awarded the contract on Monday evening last. At that time, however, according to the Spectator-Review, no con-

SOUTH FORK MINES

Kaalo Properties Bonded By Frank Sherwood and C. W. Callahan.

BISMARCK COSTS \$35,000

Price of Florence L. is \$15,000—Wagon Roads in the Slocan—Ibex Resumes Shipping—J. L. Pierce Has the Clondyke Fever.

KARLO, July 26.—(Special.)—Charles Sampson, Joe Cassara, John Sampson, Otto Wallman and Alexander Ruffolo have bonded their mineral claims Bismarck, Humming Bird and Mountain Goat, situated on the South Fork of Franklin Pratt Sherwood, for the sum of \$35,000, of which sum \$1,000 in cash, \$2,500 are payable on or before the 1st day of October, 1897, and the balance by the 30th of September, 1898. He is to have possession and develop the mine, and to place the net proceeds of ore shipments to the credit of the vendors in the Bank of British Columbia. The vendors are to have the right of inspecting the work.

C. W. Callahan, for the British Columbia General Exploration company, has secured an option from Angus McInnis, Chas. Sandison and Frank Pymon, for the purchase of the claim Florence L., on the south fork of Karlo creek. It is reported he is to pay \$1,000 on the 1st of September, \$1,500 on the 1st of December, and \$12,000 on the 1st of June, 1898. The deal was made at New Denver.

G. O. Foss of the contracting firm of Foss & McInnis was in the city on Monday. He reports the firm as busily engaged in constructing roads to various mines. They have a contract for the construction of the Payne tramway, and will before long commence work on a wagon road from Silverton to the Fisher Maiden and other properties in the same vicinity.

The first carload of ore from the Ibex, under the new contract with Bartlett Brothers for packing from the mine, has been received. A new pack train consisting of twenty-five mules has been imported for the service, and the contractors have bound themselves to bring down 100 tons per month.

HOT SPRINGS CAMP

Old Town of Ainsworth Has Entered on a New Boom.

LOTS OF MINERS AT WORK

Black Diamond Group Alone Employs 118 Men—Highlander Building a Concentrator and Tramway—Hotels All Full and No Idle Men.

W. W. Eggert, who has been making a tour through the Slocan and Kootenay lake countries in the interest of The Mission, returned last evening. He reports very good times in all the camps he visited, but was especially impressed with the condition of affairs in Ainsworth, about which camp less is heard in Rossland than of many of its neighbors.

"At the Black Diamond group," said Mr. Eggert, "there were 118 miners working when I was there, and ore was being shipped as fast as it could be hauled from the mine. The Highlander is building a concentrator at Mile Point, and is also putting in a tramway from the mine. I heard it said that there was enough ore blocked out in the mine to keep the mill running a year. At the Farif mine 30 men are employed on development work, and it will soon be a shipping on a large scale.

"All the hotels are full and there is not an idle man in town. Now that the First Day festival is to resume, several new properties will begin shipping, and I expect that Ainsworth will be one of the most prosperous towns in the province from now on."

ROSSLAND'S SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

Contract Awarded to W. B. Davy at Price of \$33,744.

The contract for the construction of a system of sewerage in Rossland, as recommended by Expert David Morris, and in accordance with the plans and specifications drawn up by City Engineer Long, omitting the pipe on St. Paul street from Columbia to First avenue and on Washington street from First to Second avenue and the flume from the

tion and city use; a sewerage system will be built, and a number of other equally important improvements made.

The site for the Reco concentrator has been selected and the contract for its erection let. It will be built near the present C. P. R. depot, and work will be commenced upon that and the 9,000-foot aerial tramway within a few days.

A meeting was held here Monday evening and a brass band of 14 pieces organized. Quite a number of those who joined are good players, which insures Sandon a band at a very early date.

It is reported on good authority that a daily paper will be started here soon by Patterson Bros. of Oregon. Gus Patterson visited Sandon a few weeks ago and expressed himself as being satisfied to make the venture, and has since stated positively that he will be here for business within six weeks.

The Noble Five concentrator has started operations again after an enforced delay of three weeks.

The C. P. R. will build a large new depot here this fall. The increase in traffic at this point is so large that the present quarters are entirely inadequate. The new church building is nearing completion. It is a credit to the city.

AMERICAN EAGLE JUMPED.

A Quarrel Between Old Partners Seems to Have Led Up to It.

GRAND FORKS, July 25.—(Special.)—The American Eagle, one of the principal claims on Hardy mountain, six miles northwest of Grand Forks, was jumped on July 22 by Henry Blair. Mr. Blair, when interviewed by your correspondent, stated that his grounds for jumping the claim were that the stakes had been moved after the location was recorded, and further, that the party who wrote the location notice had no license at the time.

According to Mr. Blair, the American Eagle was located about the 22nd of July, 1895 by John Holmes, but that Hugh McGuire, who at that time had no miner's license, wrote Holmes' notice for him, and later Holmes deeded him a half interest in the claim. Blair also says that the Iron King, adjoining the American Eagle on the north was, when the latter was located, 1,800 feet long, and when the error was corrected it left a space 300 feet in width between the Iron King and the American Eagle. Blair claims that Hugh McGuire moved the stakes on the American Eagle so as to take in this fraction.

It is understood that Blair and McGuire at one time had a number of interests in common but that they had a falling out and that it was through this

A NELSON BONANZA

Poorman Company's Mill to Start Up Again Right Away.

SHOWING ON THE WHITE

Company Will Turn Its Attention to the Development of the New Vein—Nelson Hydraulic Company Makes a Strike—Local News Notes.

NELSON, July 26.—[Special.]—The Poorman mill on Eagle creek will start up once more in a few days and will clean up 400 or 500 tons of ore that is on the dump. The mill has been shut down since last fall as the water power was not sufficient to run both the mill and the drills in the tunnel where the dead work has been prosecuted. The tunnel is now in 410 feet on the Poorman and it may be necessary to run 150 feet more before the ledge is tapped.

While the power is being used in the mill to crush the ore now on the dump, the men will be transferred to the White claim, which is showing up so well that the management desires to do more development work on it. The vein on the White is about four feet wide and is very rich. When the mill has disposed of the ore now on hand, the power will once again be shifted to the drills in the tunnel and the work vigorously prosecuted until the ledge has been reached. The properties are looking very fine and are being put in first class working order.

Forty-Nine Creek Placers.

The Nelson Hydraulic company has evidently made a good strike on its property on Forty-Nine creek, and Mr. McGuire, the principal owner, is very happy. He states that after running through about one mile of channel, about 30 feet wide, that they came suddenly upon a large basin which appears to be a natural catch for gold and which pans well. They got the rim rock on one side of it and then commenced stripping across it. They have gone 150 feet but have not yet reached the rim on the opposite side. The recent rains have kept a big supply of water on hand and everything is working as well as could be wished. A clean up will be made in about 10 days and good results are looked