

DOGS FOR THE KLONDIKE.

A shipment of 70 dogs is expected to arrive in Vancouver in a few days. They are from Belgium, and arrived at New York the other day in charge G. R. Davies, who is described as a "tall Englishman of cosmopolitan habits." He has been nearly everywhere else except the Klondike, where he is going to take the pack. He was a soldier in the Chinese service against the rebellious Black Flags, and just missed filling a grave in China. Two of his English comrades were killed. Mr. Davies is somewhat of a speculator. He observed, while in Belgium, that much of the drawing of light vehicles was done by dogs of the mixed breeds that he has brought to America. Mr. Davies says that most of the dogs can easily draw a cart which, with its contents, weighs about half a ton. Farmers in Belgium, especially in the neighborhood of Antwerp, raise the dogs, as a breeder of draught horses in Normandy raises horses. The dogs sell in Belgium for \$20 each. Mr. Davies says that, with the cost of transportation, they will be worth about \$50 each when they reach the neighborhood of the Klondike gold region. Each of the dogs was chained in its little stall very much like a pony. Dogs of mixed breed, and of no breed at all, do not agree when they are permitted to run around as they please. Mr. Davies says that if he had let these 70 dogs loose on the ship there would have been only a few of them alive. They are not a bit savage toward men, but they are not fond of each other. The keepers of the pack are Julius Berhelst, a Belgian, and Henry Love, a cowboy of the Southwest. The dogs have not quite caught on to orders in the American language, and that is the reason the Belgian was brought over with them. They understand Flemish, or the kind of Flemish that the farmers around Antwerp speak, and Berhelst, who knows a little English, hopes to have them respond to orders in his version of that language after a little training and practice. Three of the wildst of the pack slipped their collars on a stormy day in midocean and began prancing about the ship. The sailors and the returning cattlemen made a vain effort to catch the dogs. They would not be caught. Then Love, the cowboy, got after them with his lariat. The rope whizzed through the air and fell over the ample neck of a dog. The dog had never felt a lasso before, and did not like it. There was a struggle which ended in less than two minutes in the unconditional surrender of the dog. Mr. Davies will take the dogs from Montreal to Ottawa, where he will meet Warburton Pike, the author of Lone Lands of the North, who knows much more about the Klondike than Mr. Davies. We will utilize half-breeds and Indians of the Canadian Northwest as guides," says Mr. Davies. "We intend to carry provisions to the Klondike on large

sleds. Each sled will be drawn by four dogs, two abreast. We believe that the dogs will be better for the service than the Eskimo dogs."

AN IMPORTANT PRONOUNCEMENT.

In a paper recently read at Montreal by Mr. Van Horne, a son of the noted C. P. R. president, it was stated, as a result of the writer's personal observation and other sufficient knowledge, that the Crow's Nest coalfields are conveniently situated, about 50 miles from the proposed smelter site. The new smelters will moreover be placed so well down grade from the coal and mining centers that will supply them, as to make their situation exceptionally serviceable not only for the treatment of the bulk of the ore of East Kootenay, but also for a goodly portion of the ore of West Kootenay.

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