

NEWS FROM COLDFOOT

Mr. Allan R. Joy Writes of Koyukuk

Expresses Belief That Country is Rich and Has a Prosperous Future in Store.

The following interesting letter was received by the Nugget from Mr. Allan R. Joy, one of the pioneers of Dawson and a man whose opinion is of considerable worth:

Coldfoot, July 22.
The passengers on the Rock Island, leaving Dawson June 5th, 1902, were a representative as well as a very merry group of Dawsonites. In 8 days we were 80 miles from Bergman, and encountering there a shoal bar were obliged to unload 100 tons of freight to lighten the ship, then on the same evening after proceeding to within 12 miles of Bergman, we were thrown hopelessly aground on a bar. We went up river for another steamer to transfer us to Bergman, where we arrived safely on the 9th day out from Dawson.

The little steam yacht Nina plies between Bergman and Bettles, and on the evening of our arrival at Bergman the Nina sailed with a full load—9 men and one woman—with no sleeping accommodations whatsoever on a trip lasting 3 days.

From Bettles to Coldfoot, transportation is confined to poling boats, although this year a new feature has been introduced in the form of scows drawn by mules. Two mules pull a scow up river against the swift current with 5 tons and upwards on board. There are two such scows now in active operation between Bettles and Coldfoot and have proved to be a great help in supplying the miners on the faraway creeks, for by the old method a ton of goods was a big load for three men to pole up stream.

The water in the Koyukuk river is lower this year than was ever known before, some of the creeks have been obliged to suspend work for lack of water. This is particularly the case on Gold Creek, which is one of the richest creeks in this country, and has yielded thus far better than Eldorado creek ever did.

On Vermont creek C. F. Crouse and Harmon Smith are among the lucky ones, and although short of water just now are handling gravel which runs from 25 cents to \$1.50 to the pan. They have both winter and summer diggings, and have plenty of the golden fruit on exhibition in their cabin, where all old friends are always welcome. In fact all of Vermont has winter work, and this will be a lively creek this winter.

Hammond river is constantly enlarging its producing area. A new strike has been made above the Canyon, so it is now demonstrated that Hammond has pay for a distance of over 40 miles, and many prospectors are now far above that point, ex-

pecting to find pay for the entire length of the river, some 120 miles.

Hammond river contains a large percentage of winter work and the benches so far as prospected have shown rich, although the real merit of the Hammond benches will not be known until winter as they cannot be worked to advantage in the summer season on account of surface water. Messrs. Dow and Smith on 5 and 6 above discovery are now at work and have made better than wages shoveling gravel out of 18 inches of water. They will soon have a dam completed which will turn the creek and give them dry work.

Emma creek and Myrtle creek have heretofore produced more gold than any other two creeks. Pans running from \$10 to \$20 are seen daily on either of these creeks and nuggets ranging in value from \$20 to several hundred dollars are shown by every owner on the creek. On the day of our circuit Mr. Garrish cleaned up one piece that weighed \$90. Some good benches have recently been discovered on Emma creek. Mr. McNamara will this winter work the bench adjoining his creek claim.

Myrtle creek has several claims now working, among them being the celebrated Morrison claim at 10 above discovery, which will produce at least 50,000 this season. All the gold from the Koyukuk runs from \$19 to \$19.25 at the mint in Seattle, consequently the mine owners bring in the currency to pay for their labor, and take the gold to the government assay office, thereby saving \$2 or more on each ounce. The Dawson troubles over the value of gold dust will never arise here.

There are now between 600 and 800 men engaged in mining and prospecting on the upper Koyukuk, and all seem satisfied with their prospects. No one has ever spoken disparagingly of the country except that class who came here to make easy money "about town" and were unable to do so. What this country needs is more men who really want to work a good piece of mining property and take a competence out of the ground by their own energy. For such people there is both room and reward—keep the loafers back.

The people here have taken up in earnest, the question of establishing a short trail to the Yukon river, the distance in a air line being 96 miles, and reliable men say a good trail can be made at a distance of 120 miles, which will give us a winter and summer trail and source of supply, thus avoiding the long and useless river-haul which then lands goods at Bergman, 147 miles distant from Coldfoot, to be gotten up river as best they can be. This trail will reach the Yukon somewhere in the vicinity of Dahl river, and enterprising capital should place a stock of goods there this fall to supply the camp this winter.

A new and rich strike is reported today on Summit Hill a tributary of Hammond river, and lying between Vermont creek and Buckeye creek. The report is that an ancient channel has been discovered on this hill.

Coldfoot held its first 4th of July celebration this year and really surprised itself with its enthusiasm. The miners came down from the creeks and entered heartily into the sports with which the day was filled—running, jumping, throwing the hammer, tug of war, etc., being among the features. A highly appreciated oration was delivered by

the writer, which, with the reading of the Declaration of Independence, interspersed with songs under the leadership of George Noble, gave us a day equal to many outside cities.

In the evening the ladies of Coldfoot gave a ball in Mr. James' new building, with a fine luncheon of cake and ice cream. Mr. Gandolfo of Dawson was with us on that occasion and very kindly furnished a half case of lemons for the event.

On July 12th a very sad accident occurred which resulted in the death by drowning of one of our best and most highly respected young men, Mr. ——. He was engaged in driving one of the mules for one of the freight boats managed by Dr. Cleveland, and in some unaccountable manner was tripped into the swift current at a point where no aid could reach him, and he soon passed out of sight. On Wednesday, July 9th, Mr. Edward Kreber, engaged in a similar occupation on the Brazill boat, met his death by drowning in much the same manner. No two men in this community could hardly be more missed or mourned. Neither of the bodies have yet been recovered.

The writer has opened an office here and is already interested in some good properties. He is of the opinion that this camp is richer than the Klondike. Judge John F. Bernard has located here, and since making a tour of the creeks declares that this is the place for quick fortunes. Much credit is due to Judge D. A. McKenzie for the fact that in no other mining camp is better law and order observed, or property better protected than at Coldfoot.

We need regular sessions of the U. S. court here, for to compel litigants to travel by regular route a distance of fourteen hundred miles and take their witnesses to attend court, and return by same route and distance, thereby consuming the entire summer when they should be taking advantage of the working season, is an outrage as to which nothing is or can be offered in justification. The U. S. congress would do well by following some of the liberal policies of Canada for the settling and development of the remote mining regions of Alaska.

Tom Rockwell and George Noble own and operate the best saloon in town. They are also engaged in freighting goods to the creeks.

Mr. J. R. Gandolfo of Dawson has spent several weeks looking over the mines on the several creeks, and as a result of his personal investigations has become interested in some very good properties. He says we have as good mines here as are to be found anywhere.

Not a General War

The fact that the White Pass Company is sending out the Columbian at cut rates does not indicate that a general rate war is on. The fight is between the combine and the Tyrrell only. The latter boat is the only one which is not included in the agreement which subsists between the White Pass and the independent boats. All the parties to the agreement have therefore joined in backing the Tyrrell. Whenever the latter makes a cut rate trip the combined opposition will place a boat against her at lower rates. Otherwise the regular rates will maintain.

Job Printing at Nugget office.

WE'RE GOING TO MOVE!



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to our new store on First Avenue,
3 Doors North of Queen St.



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1st Ave.

COMMITTEE IS NAMED

To Inquire Into Condi-
tion of Late War.

Many Important Changes Made
in British Cabinet by Pre-
mier Balfour.

London, Aug. 8.—Premier A. J. Balfour today announced the appointment of the following commissioners of inquiry into the condition of the Boer war: The Earl of Elgin, chairman; Mr. Henry Norman, Sir John Hopkins; Lord Escher and Sir John Edge.

Changes made in British cabinet are: Austin Chamberlain, appointed

Postmaster general, succeeding Londonderry.

Although official announcement will not be made until tonight, the Earl of Dudley has been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Thomson Ritchie chancellor of the exchequer, and A. Akers Douglas home secretary.

Job Printing at Nugget office.

Smart Leaves Vancouver

Special to the Daily Nugget.
Vancouver, Aug. 8.—Deputy minister of the interior James A. Smart leaves here for the Yukon tonight.

Assisted Over.

Special to the Daily Nugget.
Magnolia, Ark., Aug. 7.—A negro named Lemmoth was hanged here today for outrage.

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