

EVERYTHING IS NOME

Seattle Steamship Offices Besieged for Tickets.

MEN ARE GOING FROM EVERY STATE

First Steamers Are Sure to Be Crowded.

How the Great Rush Is Affecting the Metropolis of Puget Sound—The Advance Guard Is Already in Seattle—Hotels Are Crowded.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]

Seattle, Jan. 1.—Inquiries are pouring into the transportation offices from all over the country. Not a state or territory in the Union but is represented in the list of applicants for transportation to the district. But this is to be said, however, the fortune seekers in this rush will, if the present indications may be taken as a criterion, come from that great land lying west of the Mississippi. New England, owing, perhaps, to generally improved commercial conditions, will not send as many men in quest of gold as she contributed to the Klondike excitement. This seems particularly true of the manufacturing centers, whose populations find readier remunerative employment at home.

But the mining states, such as Colorado, Montana, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Washington, if the letters of inquiry from their citizens may be taken as an indication, are already well inoculated with the Cape Nome fever. California, too, will send many to the new Eldorado by way of Seattle. Aside from Washington, that state will doubtless dispatch a proportionately greater gold seeking brigade than any other commonwealth. And all sections west of the Rockies will be well represented. Far off Florida sends many letters of inquiry, and the northern tier of states, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, including, of course, many Canadian provinces, give signs of material contributions. Both the Dakotas make a splendid showing, and Minnesota is preparing to send as many fortune seekers, perhaps, as she contributed two years ago. Illinois is heard from frequently, as also Ohio and Indiana. The Southern states, with the exception of Florida and Texas, do not appear much concerned. Nor is agricultural Kansas overenthusiased. Missouri, Michigan and Wisconsin are more or less indifferent.

While local lines have been booming passengers for more than 60 days, two or three of the leading companies have as yet declined to give rates. At this time the prevailing fare is \$100 for first class passage from Seattle to Cape Nome, with freight at the rate of \$40 per ton. These are the rates quoted now, and with the sailing dates running all the way from May 20 to June 10. A majority of the vessels calculate on making their first sailing May 25, though the larger vessels in many cases will not get away before June 1. San Francisco is asking higher rates. Numerous telegrams received in this city during the week state that the Alaska Commercial Company and the Alaska Exploration Company, the two principal lines operating from the California metropolis, are demanding \$175 and \$200 for first-class passage and \$125 for second class accommodations. These rates contemplate a departure of some of the vessels late in April and during the first days of May, and were no doubt fixed with the idea in view of the fact that the operating companies will have to board their passengers from 10 days to two weeks before the ships can reach their destination.

It may be that the Seattle charges

will go no higher than the rates quoted; \$100 and \$200—though the probabilities are that the larger steamers will try for a better figure, possibly one or two as high as \$150 first class.

A local company that is quoting \$100 per ticket from day to day took in an average of \$1000 per day deposit money for the first two weeks of December. This represented more fractional fares paid in the shape of deposits for the purpose of holding tickets; but it gives a good idea of the volume of Cape Nome business that is being done.

A single steamship, one of the larger vessels, has had 600 applications for passage on the first sailing vessel. While over 400 of these have proposed paying a deposit the management has in every instance declined to bind itself to any given price for passage. It is one of the most commodious vessels of the entire fleet and the management will no doubt, to a certain extent be able to dictate its own terms.

FROM CAPETOWN.

Advices from Capetown say there is great dissatisfaction there at the action of British insurance companies, who are retarding volunteering by making policy holders pay war risk premiums, while the agencies of leading American companies allow perfect freedom for naval and military service.

The government has accepted 166 Ceylon volunteers, mostly planters, and has also accepted the offer of Indian princes to supply horses.

The non-arrival of the Majestic, due at Capetown on Thursday, is causing some surprise among the public, who expected she would maintain her usual transatlantic speed. In shipping circles, however, it is explained that this is due to the conditions imposed by coaling en route, the necessity of economizing her supplies and of traversing the tropics, all of which, they add, combine heavily to discount her usual rate of speed.

RESERVES ALL OUT.

New York, Dec. 29.—Winston Churchill, cabling to the World, says that although the Boers are confident, they want to return to their farms, and complain bitterly of hardships in the field.

Although the total Boer loss probably does not exceed 2000, batches of deserters from the commands are daily brought back to the front by the police. The last reserves have been called out, and the only burghers remaining on the farms are those who are unfit or have bribed the officials.

The food supplies are not large and latterly the corps have suffered terribly from locusts. The tight British grip on Delagoa bay must be felt also.

Reviewing the general situation he says it is foolish not to recognize that the British are fighting a formidable and terrible adversary of high qualities. The burghers increase their efficiency and their overmunity, although vilely corrupt, devotes its whole energy to military operations. Time is, however, on the British side, and must eventually weaken the Republic.

AROUND LADYSMITH.

London, Jan. 2.—The reported sortie from Ladysmith, resulting in the capture of a Boer position, is not confirmed.

A Chieveley dispatch, dated December 29th, makes no mention of it, and the same message shows renewed activity upon the part of the British apparently preparatory to some action.

The Boer position eastward of the camp was thoroughly reconnoitered on December 28th, without drawing the enemy.

The naval guns engage in daily practice, and it is said on good authority that 30 or 40 Boers have been killed by the firing during two days.

A dispatch from Durban predicts that Ladysmith will be relieved on or about January 7th, while there is nothing to bear out this forecast.

There is some disposition to believe Gen. Buller is preparing another attempt to advance, this time by an attack on the Boer position in Inhlawe mountains.

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)

ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

ALLEN BROS. Publishers

UNCERTAINTY.

Business has no greater foe than uncertainty and lack of confidence. This fact is always made manifest preceding and during the time of a general election, when the determination of national politics is hanging in the balance. Men who have money available for investment prefer during such times to place the same safely away in safe deposit rather than invest in securities which might be affected by the result of the pending political struggle.

A similar condition now confronts the city of Dawson, though for very dissimilar reasons and on a comparatively modest scale.

The determination on the part of a very considerable portion of the inhabitants of the Yukon territory to betake themselves to Nome at the opening of navigation has led many men to inquire as to the ultimate effect upon Dawson which this exodus will have.

The result has been that, as suggested above, a feeling of uncertainty has been created with the very natural consequence that business has suffered from a depression.

We are unable, however, to agree with the opinions we have heard expressed that Dawson will suffer permanently from the Nome stampede. The foundation upon which the Yukon's metropolis have been reared are altogether too broad and substantial to be injured in any particular by a temporary outpouring of people. Dawson and the territory in general have survived in the face of legislation passed with an apparent view to killing both. It may be expected, therefore, that when the time arrives for a change in existing laws and that time is now but shortly deferred, our little city of the north will take giant strides forward.

The most practical demonstration that possibly could be made of the confidence which men of wealth hold in the future of Dawson is the fact that the district recently destroyed by fire is rapidly being rebuilt, at a time when, as noted above, a general feeling of uncertainty is abroad in the town. When men back their faith with their dollars, the said faith has the unmistakable ring of soundness about it. Such is the case with the city of Dawson today.

STILL GROWING.

The service which the Nugget has perfected for furnishing its creek patrons with the news of the week is resulting in a continual increase in circulation on every creek in the district.

On Thursday the Nugget's Semi-Weekly, again increased to eight pages, contains all the important news of Monday's and Tuesday's issues and everything that appeared in Wednesday's daily. The Sunday issue of the Semi-Weekly contains all news matter for the preceding three days up to and including Saturday afternoon. The advantage which this service has over the weekly paper is at once obvious. A weekly paper issued, for instance, on Friday, must contain, if it fulfills its proper function, all the news for the preceding six days, beginning with Saturday. The news of that day, however, has already appeared in the Semi-Weekly

Nugget, distributed on the creeks on Sunday. The news of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday appears in Thursday's Semi-Weekly, which is distributed on every creek on the same day. When, therefore, our staid weekly contemplates a foray issued on Friday, finally gets around on the creeks it discovers that everything it contains aside from "boiler plate" has been a matter of public knowledge on the creeks for some time. Hence it is that the Semi-Weekly Nugget occupies the strongest position on the creeks of any paper published in Dawson. That strength has been a matter of growth and development. It has required time and persistent effort to build up a patronage that would justify the excellent service given, but the work has been accomplished, and on the strength of the accomplishment of that work we are able to assure our advertising patrons that in the Daily and Semi-Weekly Nugget their advertisements reach a larger number of people who are readers and buyers than can be reached through any or all other mediums in Dawson.

A GRIEVANCE.

The ex-organ edited by the man who "might have been a major" has a grievance. This grievance has its origin in a sort of headachy feeling which the embryo major experienced after being badly scooped by the Nugget in an important piece of news matter. In its telegraphic dispatches of Jan. 17 the Nugget published the statement that 8000 men had met death in the war up to date. The dispatch contained few particulars and was published just as received. The man who came so near being a major now comes forward and says that the Nugget had "one cypher too many." That instead of being 8000 it should have been 800. "In any event," continues the major (to be perhaps) it would not amount to more than 7000. There is such a large degree of pure and undefiled humor in this journalistic gem that comment upon it would be superfluous.

With plenty of boiler plates, a strong imagination and a good pair of shears, newspaper may be published in the Klondike during the cold weather without requiring editor or reporter to leave the office. The Nugget, having no boiler plate, possessing but slight powers of imagination and having loaned the office shears, is compelled to "hustle" for news even when it is 50 below zero. This condition involves lots of hard work on the part of the staff, but results in the Nugget's readers getting all the news while it is fresh. The manner in which the sales of the Daily Nugget continue to increase leads us to imagine that people are rapidly finding out that all the news is in the Daily Nugget.

The columns of "personal abuse" which the ex-organ is filled serve merely as a gauge whereby to measure the mental and moral depth of the man who is their author. Egotism and ignorance are written over the Sun in letters so large that even he who runs may read without stopping.

Management Changes Hands.

The dining room at the Hotel McDonald is closed for today. Mr. H. W. Leonard retires from the management and tomorrow morning the restaurant will resume business under the direction of Messrs. Thomas Chisholm and Harry T. Edwards, the proprietors of the McDonald hotel.

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