

COUNTRY NOT PROSPECTED.

That is What A. J. Paxton Says of Fortymile District.

Military Road to Be Built This Year From Valdes to Fort Egbert Will Open It Up.

(From Friday's Daily.) Mr. A. J. Paxton, who at one time was editor and proprietor of the Friday Harbor (Wash.) Islander, the only newspaper in San Juan county, is in the city, having arrived a few days ago from the Fortymile country, where he has been for the past 20 months. While here Mr. Paxton is the guest of his cousin, Joseph Green, the well-known waterworks man.

Mr. Paxton's experience in the far northland has been extensive and varied. In the fall of '96, a full year before there was any excitement over or rush to the Copper river country, he landed with his partner at Port Valdez and pushed into the interior of the country. When they had reached a point 75 miles up the river, having packed their outfits that distance of a hard, laborious and formerly untrodden route, they were overtaken by winter, and the snow being of such depth as to preclude further traveling, they erected a cabin in which they lived for five long months without gazing on the face of a human being except that of each other. With the advent of the spring, 1897, they got out and for several months prospected the Copper river and many of its tributaries but were not rewarded for their labors by the discovery of any paying property. In the fall their stock of supplies having run low, they returned to the Sound country.

The hunt for gold, like an incoming tide, is hard to stem; and before Paxton had been one month on the Sound, he had secured a second outfit and was ready to start for Dawson. He arrived here early in '98, but stayed for only a few days, pushing on down the river to the Fortymile country where he has since been. Most of his time there has been spent at 100 miles back from the Yukon and but little farther from the Alaskan coast. He has done considerable prospecting, but is reticent as to details of his discoveries.

In a general way, however, he speaks very favorably of the entire district, but says on Jack Wade are the best paying properties yet discovered; but he says that is due to the fact that Wade has been more thoroughly prospected than the other creeks on which shallow holes only have been sunk, and that at irregular intervals. Three or four claims on Chicken creek are being worked and are yielding high grade gravel. Pay has also been struck on the Hutchison creek, but the latter has been but little prospected.

Although but a very few holes have been put down on the hillsides on Jack Wade, good pay has been found and there is every indication that there is an abundance of gold on that stream both in the creek and hillside claims. Mr. Paxton gives it as his opinion that the history of Sulphur creek in the Klondike district will be repeated in the case of Jack Wade, in that the more it is developed and worked the better and more extensive in gold-bearing gravel it will prove to be. No prospecting has yet been done on hillsides and benches of Chicken, Hutchison or any other of the tributary streams.

Mr. Paxton sees a brilliant future for the Fortymile district from the fact that a military road over which it will be possible to freight supplies and machinery from either Valdez or the Yukon to intermediate points is to be constructed by the U. S. government this season. Col. Ray, commanding the U. S. troops of Fort Egbert has received orders from the war department to put men to work on the construction of the road as soon as the weather will permit, which time will be within the next 30 days.

By the use of this road it will be possible to transport mining machinery into a large area of country where the hydraulic process can be worked with profit. Two hydraulic plants are now lying at Valdez awaiting transportation to the Chitcheina country, where there are excellent hydraulic propositions, the gravel being low grade but very easy of access when once the machinery is on the ground.

Danish West Indies.

The resignation of the Danish cabinet means two things of importance to the United States, says a Washington dispatch to the World. First, it is improbable that this country will be able to buy the Danish West Indies for \$4,

000,000, as provided for in the Gardner bill now before the foreign relations committee of the house, or for any other sum. Second, by the time this congress adjourns the German flag will be flying over the islands of St. John and St. Thomas, of the Danish West Indies group, by right of lease from the Danish government to the Emperor of Germany.

Negotiations between this government and Denmark for the purchase of the islands were practically terminated yesterday by the resignation of the ministry, headed by Prime Minister Hoerling. The cabinet resigned because of the great popular movement against the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States. The new cabinet will be made up of Danish politicians in favor of retaining the islands.

Bicycling in 1900.

Last fall, when the outlook for bicycle racing in America this season was especially black, all the best professional speed merchants began to make arrangements to go abroad this spring and spend their summer racing in Europe.

Since the cycle show was held in New York last month, however, the atmosphere has cleared somewhat, so that now the indications are that 1900 will be one of the banner years as far as racing is concerned. Several of the big manufacturers have said that they will go back to the old plan of supporting racing teams. This made the professionals think that there was a probability of the bonanza times of 1895 and 1896 being again seen, and plans to go abroad were thrown overboard in a hurry.

Of course a few Americans will race in Europe this season, for some of them have already signed contracts to appear on Parisian and other tracks. Harry Elkes, the middle distance champion, is already over there, and Arthur Zimmerman and Eddie Bald are to ride in a match race next summer, while one or two others may go over for some of the big races.

Instead of a big exodus of American cyclists to Europe this year it now looks as though several European would cross over to race on this side. In a private letter recently received by a Boston man it was stated that Johnny Walters, the crack British racing man, would shortly come over to America, and several of the Frenchmen who were over here during the winter expressed a desire to return. Altogether the outlook for cycling next summer is very bright.

In Old Kentucky.

To the person familiar with Kentucky and the habits of her people, the outcome of the present party strife there is awaited with no small degree of interest. It is not an unusual thing in Kentucky to "adjuhn cot" for 15 minutes to enable "his honah" to repair to some "bah" for that which to the average Kentuckian takes the place of bread, in that it is the staff of life.

Those familiar with the characteristics of the Blue Grass state can well imagine the intensity of feeling which prevails as a result of the recent assassination of Gov. Goebel by his political enemies, followed by the trial of the alleged assassins and accomplices, which trial was in progress when the last news from the seat of war was received. An Associated Press telegram of March 27th, the day the trial of the prisoners began, says: "A squad of 70 extra police and deputy sheriffs guarded the outer entrance to the court while a file of soldiers stood at the doors and passed on the credentials of persons entering the room when the hearing of the men charged with complicity in the murder of Governor Goebel was called today.

"The general public was excluded by an order of Judge Moore. Those admitted, however, soon filled the court on the second floor of the building. The Lexington and Winchester companies, armed with Winchesters, were stationed through various rooms. Not much more than ordinary crowds were on the streets, and there was no excitement.

"Judge Moore convened court at 10 o'clock, when the prisoners, Republican Secretary of State Caleb Powers, W. H. Culton and John Davis, were brought into the court room. The commonwealth witnesses were called, numbering 40.

"County Attorney Polsgrove announced that he was ready for the trial of the case.

"The ex-Governor read the warrant against Powers, charging him with being an accessory to the murder of William Goebel, and asked for the dismissal of the defendant on the ground that the warrant was fatally defective in not alleging that the crime was committed in Franklin county, and that it did not even show the offence to have been committed in Kentucky, which motion the court overruled."

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

TWO NOSES COME TO GRIEF

And Are Now Held in Position by Court Plaster.

How a Judas Betrayed His Make-Believe Friend While the Latter Snoozed.

It is doubtful if at any time during the past two years Dawson has been without from one to a half dozen men within her confines who were sticking plaster on some spot or other of their faces. The explanation, "a stick of wood flew up and hit me," is heard from the Everglades of Florida to Fort Yukon, and is, therefore, heard in Dawson.

But there are now two noses here that are being held in form and position with courtplaster that the "stick of wood" explanation will not stand for. The two noses are worn by men of convivial habits and on one occasion recently conviviality on the part of the nose owners led to a dispute in which one of the contestants hit the other in such a way as to cause his nose to crack open like a frozen egg.

Seeing the damage he had done, the man who had administered the blow felt sorry for his antagonist and had the manhood to tell him so. A reconciliation followed; the injured nasal appendage was patched up with court plaster until it looked like a checker board; the late enemies became effusive friends; they looked upon several "fingers" of red hooten, all the time expressing, the one for the other, undying love and admiration. Friends persuaded them to get a room and sleep off the effects of their jollification; they did so, each going to the same room and retiring in the same bed. Both soon fell asleep, but after a short time the man with the checkered face went to turn over and, of course, hurt his nose. This awoke him and he decided to get up and take a look at himself in a glass; he did so. What he saw reflected in the glass caused his Hibernian blood to boil; he looked towards the bed; there lay the despoiler of his face in profound slumber; satan tempted him and he did yield; for picking up a heavy water pitcher he smashed his room-mate on the nose with such telling effect as to cause the member to flatten out all over. The face it had formerly adorned.

The injured man sprang from the bed, rushed from the room and started in quest of friends and courtplaster; he found both, and the fragments of his nose, after being corralled and put back in position were fastened there with long strips of plaster which run transversely across his face from whither to thence, something on the plan of a spider's web.

And now the hard-hearted friends of the two men in speaking of them singly say: "He 'nose' more than he did a week ago;" while the men themselves are scared half to death lest they should sneeze, knowing that if they do, it will be off with them.

Still Hunting Bodies.

From parties who are just in over the ice it is learned that the police and a number of men, among the latter being Detective McGuire, are still working on the river above Minto in search of the bodies of Clayton, Reife and Olsen, whom, there is no doubt, were murdered there on Christmas day. The spot back from the bank of the river and where the three men were certainly killed, is still yielding silent evidence as the snow disappears. The latest discovery is several empty rifle shells and a small piece of human skull, the latter supposed to have been blown from the head of one of the victims by a close-range rifle shot.

Satisfied that the bodies were taken from the scene of the struggle in the brush and dropped into an opening in the river which at that particular point did not freeze, but remained open the entire winter, those in charge of the search are now cutting down to a point a few hundred feet below and where there is known to be a shallow bar on which it is confidently believed the bodies will be found lodged. All the ice cut loose is being skillfully piloted out of the way and into the current where it will be carried away instead of lodging on the bar where the bodies are supposed to be. In case the bodies are where the natural course of the water from the opening would indicate them to be, they will be discovered in the very near future as there only remained a few days' work on the chopping and sawing out of the ice to be done when our informant passed that place on his way to Dawson five days ago.

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER) ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY. ALLEN BROS. Publishers

THE LAY SYSTEM.

There will, in all probability, be more money made by laymen this season than has been the case in any previous year. This is due to several causes.

Two years ago men could be found to take lays, and even to pay for the privilege of getting them, upon any of the creeks where good discoveries had been made. They did not wait to examine the ground or inquire into the character of claims in the vicinity which might have been prospected previously. They simply jumped at the chance to work upon the usual percentage basis, under the belief that all the creeks were underlaid with an inexhaustible supply of the glittering dust.

Two years' experience, however, has taught the layman several valuable lessons. He has learned that it costs money to prospect a claim, and he has also learned that the very best creeks have claims which are total blanks. In consequence, men who are working lays this season, as a general thing, were acquainted with their ground, and had a clear idea ahead of them as to what they might expect.

On the other hand, claim owners, whose property has justified being worked on lays, have been particularly careful in selecting men in whose care to entrust the development of their ground. Many good claims were given a "black eye" last year by reason of the fact that men who lacked in grit and stick-to-itiveness were given lays upon them.

The care which has been exercised this year, both by claim owners and laymen, will prove mutually beneficial, and both will be better satisfied with results.

MOST EXTRAORDINARY.

The announcement of Assistant Gold Commissioner Bell that records of transfers and similar information of a public nature will no longer be given to the press is most extraordinary. The reason assigned by him for this action, viz., that parties who record transfers of claims complain that their secret business is made public, is, if anything, more extraordinary.

Mr. Bell should know that it was not until these records were given out for publication that the cloud of suspicion which formerly hung over the gold commissioner's office began to disappear.

The Nugget regrets any action that will tend to renew that cloud. We will, however, refrain from further comment until the assistant commissioner's superiors have confirmed his action or the order is revoked.

Generally speaking, parties who have freighted goods in over the ice for sale in the Dawson market have failed to realize expectations. The cost of transporting goods a distance of 500 miles over the ice is so great, and the loss or damage of goods so probable, that an enormous profit must be realized in order that such speculations can in any way be justified. In most cases, however, the demand has not been equal to the supply. There have been very few articles in which there has been any great scarcity, and these must have been in the nature of luxuries and commodities, of which a very small supply would effect a glut in the market. In consequence, fancy prices have not prevailed, and the man who has

freighted a few tons of goods from Bennett has been fortunate if he has made a fair percentage on his investment.

When the war with the Transvaal is brought to a successful conclusion, the last formidable obstacle in the way of the construction of the Cape to Cairo railroad will have been removed.

This road is the one great ambition which Cecil Rhodes desires and fully intends to carry out. With the troublesome Boers eliminated as an influential political factor in the affairs of South Africa, Rhodes will be in a position to place his magnificent ideas in practical operation. The country through which the road will run includes some of the most splendid agricultural land in the world, and is capable of sustaining an immense population. The realization of Rhodes' railway scheme will be the entering wedge for the establishment of a great African empire.

The various craft which are being fitted up to go down the river to Nome upon the opening of navigation would form a striking flotilla if all could be arranged in a single fleet before starting. As a matter of accommodation to the public of Dawson, who never again will be able to witness a similar occurrence, we suggest to the managers of the various boats, barges, etc., that a naval parade in front of Dawson immediately after the break-up would be a splendid idea, both from an advertising and an amusement standpoint.

The English papers are raising another great clamor over the carelessness which they allege has been shown by Lord Roberts in conducting affairs since the capture of Bloemfontein. It does appear remarkable, after the statement published far and wide that the Orange Free State was entirely conquered, that one thousand British troops should be killed or captured almost within sight of Roberts' headquarters. The staying qualities of the Boers appear to have been very sadly underestimated.

The narrow escape of the Prince of Wales from death at the hands of a crazy would-be assassin has caused letters of congratulation to be sent to the Prince from every corner of the civilized world. Whatever rivalries may exist between Great Britain and other nations, none of the latter would have rejoiced had the anarchist been successful in his nefarious attempt at the life of the Prince.

Today is Good Friday, upon which most of the world and his brother closes up shop and indulges in a well-earned rest. The poor, down-trodden newspaper man, however, who wouldn't know what to do with a holiday if he had one, is, per force, compelled to sit at his desk and slave as usual.

With the opening of the sewer boxes, which is now being rapidly accomplished, the water now accumulating in the streets and on the flat back of town will quickly be drained off into the river. With all stagnant water thus taken care of, danger from typhoid will be materially lessened.

Dawson begins again to assume her wonted appearance of business prosperity. The volume of business transacted in the course of a day is steadily on the increase, and a perceptible change for the better is noticeable in all lines of trade.

What We Can Do for the Way of

Clothing
Hats
Furnishing Goods
Footwear

Opposite Tom Chisholm's

E. CO.

Transportation Co.

"Eldorado"

NELSON PETERSON, Owner

Sunday

Apples
Oranges

BALD

Dawson Sawmill & Building Co.

Contractors & Builders

ARRIVED FROM SEATTLE

Oil Cups, Gauge Glasses, Wrenches, Twist Drills, Brass Faucets, Pipe Stock and Dies, Yale Drawer Locks, etc.

HOSPITAL.

Freight Rates

British Columbia

Warehouse, of the

ment Co. Ltd.