

## AFTER NOME 'TIS SIBERIA.

### Russia May Open Her Great Plateaus to Yankees.

#### Gold Known to Exist in That Yet Unexplored Country—It Can Be Easily Reached From Nome.

A stampede to Siberia is not one of the improbabilities of the near future, if there is a semblance of truth in the recent dispatches stating that Russia was about to throw open for mining purposes a part of the Siberian coast where auriferous deposits are known to exist.

Russia has always shown a good-will to the great American republic, and at this time, when the statesmen of Europe are playing hide and seek in diplomatic circles, and as much as she was reported to be unfriendly to the United States during the recent war, this may be construed as further evidence of her striving to square herself and of her present friendly feeling for the United States.

So it may come to pass that Cape Nome, now considered the "jumping off" place, may be passed, and the "far east" invaded by the irrepressible prospector, who certainly may have envious sighs at the rich undiscovered, but known to exist, hills behind the hitherto impassable frontiers of cold, bleak Siberia. The mineral wealth of Siberia is considerable. Gold is found in almost all the regions fringing the great plateaus, where, clay slates, talc slates and dioritic slates, intersected by quartz veins, make up the bulk of the mountains. The chief gold mining regions in these tracts are the Altai, the upper and lower Tairgas and in the Olekma regions. Gold in quantities is found on the high plateau in the basin of the upper Vitim, on the lower plateaus in the Nerchinsk district and on the upper tributaries of the Amur and the maritime provinces. Mining has only been carried on to any considerable extent of late years, a right formerly reserved for the imperial government, and now work is only by old methods. Miners who have ventured into the interior have always reported that Siberia's riches would yet startle the world. This seems to be verified by the report of the director of the United States mints, which places Russia fourth on the list of gold producing countries, with an output of \$23,275,700, which with the exception of a very small amount comes from Siberia, principally the Amur.

But gold mines, unlike other resources, do not lie undeveloped awaiting the slow advance of transportation facilities before becoming valuable, and no sooner does the hesitating whisper of a new strike fall upon the ear of the prospector than he becomes a victim to that most contagious of all epidemics, the gold craze.

In Dawson today are men who are making preparations for an invasion of that part of Siberia opposite Cape Prince of Wales—men who have built up theories that the beach gold found at Nome is but the upper level of part of Siberia's submerged auriferous plateaus. From Cape Prince of Wales to Siberia's shore is but 28 miles. Three islands named the Diomedes rise at intervals between shores and the water is shallow, hence there is plausible foundation for this theory.

#### Skagway a Wholesale Point.

A letter just received at the Nugget office from a prominent merchant in Skagway reports the local business of that city as being remarkably dull. Many people are preparing to leave there in the spring for Nome, but the element that will leave is what is termed the floating population. All the old established business firms will stay with Skagway. The letter states that extensive preparations for wholesaling

to the interior during the coming season are being made. Large stocks of goods have been ordered from below and will be received and on sale by the time navigation opens, at which time it will be possible for the Dawson trade to order a stock by telegraph and receive it within six days. Many outfits for this country were purchased at Skagway last season at a great saving of both time and money as compared with Seattle and other lower points.

As a wholesale town Skagway will be of great profit to Dawson and to the entire interior country.

#### From Wade Creek.

W. G. Brien, formerly a well known turf celebrity on the outside, but now a "sou' dough," has just returned from a three months' siege on Jack Wade creek.

Mr. Brien reports that now famous creek as being spotted, but rich. He says that a great deal of work was being done on the creek until about three months ago, when the pay streak was finally struck by the lawyers with their injunctions. Since that time little work has been done as the creek is so much in litigation that no one cares to do any work, especially those interested near lower discovery. Mr. Brien has several good interests there.

#### Ferocious Klondike Wolves.

C. D. Shafer, who runs a roadhouse on Dominion, near Gold Bottom, came to Dawson with the rush in the fall of '97 and has since, with varied success, been a resident of the country. During the first fall and early winter of his arrival here Mr. Shafer devoted considerable time to hunting wild game in the country adjacent to the headwaters of the Klondike, considerably over 100 miles back from Dawson. Besides being profitable, from a financial point, the occupation afforded good opportunity for acquiring information relative to the wild animals which frequent that section of the then practically unexplored country.

In the course of a recent conversation with a representative of the Daily Nugget, and in detailing some of his experiences as a nimrod, Mr. Shafer said:

"I was away up the Klondike early in the winter of '97, and was looking for moose. Now in moose hunting it is foolish to attempt to track a moose and expect to get close enough to shoot him, for it is almost impossible. Moose are about as smart animals as exist in any country and about the only way to kill them is for the hunter to appear suddenly before he is either seen, heard or scented and fire away. If his aim is steady, well and good, he probably downed a moose, but if he missed, there is no use to follow the fleeing game, for moose are too smart to be slipped up on twice in close succession."

"One morning, long before daylight I left my camp and struck out across a ridge for another valley, where I hoped to find some game. Considerable snow had fallen the day before, but had ceased about 9 o'clock the previous night. After walking perhaps a mile I came upon the footprints of a moose, and judging from the size of the tracks, it had been a very large one. As the wind was favorable to my coming up with the animal, I followed the tracks, but had gone but a short distance until I found that several wolf tracks were leading in the same pathway through the snow. When I first noticed the latter tracks there were but two, but they were as soon joined by others which struck the trail from all directions and by the time I had traveled three miles the path looked as though a flock of sheep had passed that way. Every here and there I could see where the moose had stopped and turned about and around several times, and at these places the wolves had always scattered out some distance on both sides. On following the trail from the ridge down into a little gulley I came to the silent sequel of the last journey of that moose; for there on the ground in the center of a large area in which the snow was trampled down as flat and

hard as a traveled street, lay all that was left of what had been a very noble animal, and all that was left was the contents of the intestine—a mere handful of brush, buds and twigs—and the horns still attached to that thick skull or crown of the head from which they grow, and which is as hard as steel. Every hair and bone of that moose, aside from the remnants mentioned, had been eaten by that ferocious pack of wolves, and so ravenous had they been that they had eaten the snow upon which the noble bull's life blood had flowed.

"So far as I am informed," said Mr. Shafer in conclusion, "these wolves have never been known to attack a man. They are very cowardly in daylight, but I would not care to take chances with them at night, especially when the snow is deep and the weather severely cold."

#### A Good Entertainment.

The musical entertainment given at the Palace Grand theater on Sunday night, was exceedingly good. There were six orchestral selections, taken from the classical authors. The execution by the musicians evidenced patient and frequent practice in rehearsals, and merited the applause of their appreciative audience.

Two vocal numbers were well rendered by Mr. Ed Shank, who has a base voice of richness and good range.

Miss Cecil Marion, prettily gowned, essayed two operatic selections.

The affair was given under the auspices of the Dawson Philharmonic orchestra, Mr. Carl Leuders, director, and under the management of Mr. C. N. Pring. No liquors were sold, nor smoking tolerated, and the entertainment was patronized by the better class of the city.

#### Labor and Demand.

Now that the mining season is fully opened and as many men are employed on the creeks as are needed or as will be employed at any time between now and time of cleanup, a glance around in the resorts of the city is only necessary to conclusively show that there are a few hundred too many men here to occupy the positions that exist. It is true, however, that a very large percentage of the men who are really anxious to work are now employed. There are exceptions, however, where men have striven most assiduously to find employment and have signally failed in every attempt. To the certain knowledge of the writer one of these particularly unfortunate men left today for Dominion creek for the purpose of hauling wood from a ridge down to a claim, his recompense to be his board and a place to sleep, he to furnish his own blankets. And yet, like hundreds of his fellows, that man probably came to this country expecting to return to his home a rich man. So far as labor is concerned in this country the supply is greatly in excess of the demand, and under existing mining laws the increase in the supply is apt to be greater in proportion than the increase in demand.

#### Notice.

Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the Parliament of Canada at its next session for an act to incorporate a company with power to construct and operate a line of railway from a point at or near Pyramid Harbour, on the Chilkat inlet near the head of Lynn Canal, or from the International Boundary line at or near the village of Kluckwan, northerly to Dalton's Post on the Dalton trail, and following the Dalton trail to Fort Selkirk, thence continuing by the most feasible route to Dawson City, with powers to construct and operate telegraph and telephone lines; to mine and deal in mines; to crush, smelt and work ores and minerals of all descriptions; erect smelters and other works and carry on a general mining business; to construct roads, tramways, wharves, mills and all necessary works; to own and operate steam and other vessels in the Yukon and all its tributaries and upon all inland waters in the Yukon district; to erect and operate all electrical works for the use and transmission of electrical power and to acquire and use water power for that purpose. Also to erect and maintain trading posts and carry on a general trading business in all merchandise in the Territory, and to acquire all other necessary rights and privileges, and to do all necessary things in connection with the business of the company.

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