

## CALIFORNIANS FOR NOME.

### Steamer Excelsior Has Already Sailed From 'Frisco.

#### Party Expects to Reach the Golden Beach by March 10th—950 Miles Overland.

The following which appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle of January 26th is an indication of the extent of the Nome excitement and the desire to be early on the ground on the outside:

The steamer Excelsior sailed yesterday afternoon with a party of men which proposes to make the first dash for Nome this year. The Excelsior is the vessel that was the first to leave here two and one-half years ago at the beginning of the Klondike excitement. At that time there were thousands of people on the wharf to see the prospectors depart and to wish them Godspeed. Yesterday there were perhaps fifty on Fremont street when the little steamer pulled out.

The Excelsior goes from here to Seattle where she will take on about 75 passengers bound for various points in Alaska. She took away from here 11 passengers, one of them being a woman, Mrs. P. Nelson, who is going to Unga to join her husband.

The Cape Nome party includes E. O. Lindblom, one of the early settlers in the new diggings, who has large interests there; Frank Sanders, a mail carrier; J. H. Franklyn, E. A. Norman, J. Pierce, Irwin Brown, G. A. Cushing, J. Pierson, P. McGonigal and D. J. Sullivan.

The scheme originated in the brain of Sanders and the trip into Nome will be made overland from Katmaio. Sanders started out to collect mail to be delivered at the rate of \$2 a letter. He secured the backing of Lindblom, and got together the party, each member of which pays him for his services as guide.

The trip will be one of the most hazardous ever made over the snows and ice of that wild portion of Alaska. Sanders has never been over it himself, but he has every confidence in his ability to get through.

The end of the Excelsior's voyage will be at Kodiak island. From there the adventurers will proceed to Katmaio on the mainland. If a steamer is to be had at Kodiak it will be chartered for the voyage, which is about 62 miles. Then the perilous trip will begin. The party is provided with sleds and a few dogs. It is expected that there will be no trouble getting all the animals necessary at Katmaio.

The coast line will be followed as closely as possible, to avoid the mountainous country, and the drive will be a bleak and lonely one. Travel will be made only in the daytime, the party sleeping in tents at night. Sanders has a light sled about 16 feet long, in which is packed his tent, stove, mail, newspapers and provisions. He carries about 400 pounds of provisions. He has files of the Examiner upon which he expects to realize big profits.

The route mapped out by the men is from Katmaio to Fort Alexander, Nushagak river, Kuskokwim river, Holy Cross Mission, on the Yukon; Andreafski, St. Michael, Ungalalik, Norton bay, Golovin bay, Council City, Cape Nome, Cape York, Cape Prince of Wales.

"I expect to reach Nome by March 10th," said Mail Carrier Sanders; "and be ready to start for San Francisco again by April 10th. The distance overland is 950 miles, and we will make all the short cuts possible. I have never been over that part of the country below the Yukon before, but I can get through without a doubt. I know it will be cold, snowing and windy, but we are well prepared for whatever may come."

D. J. Sullivan, backed by a syndicate, is one of the party who has every

confidence in the successful outcome of the trip. He has blazed many a trail through isolated and inhospitable territory and is reputed to be a man who knows no fear. He has prospected from Mexico to the Yukon and west from the Colorado river. He is familiar with all sorts of minerals.

#### Dawson Harbors a Traitor.

Editor Daily Nugget: While on the street near the postoffice a few days ago I picked up an envelope which I found to contain two letters, one being an answer to the former, which bore the postmark, "Spionkop, South Africa," and was signed, "Yours in the Lord, Oom Paul Kruger."

While I plead guilty to a mean trick, in that I read both letters, yet by doing so I learned that there is in Dawson a traitor to the country whose soil he treads and to the people whose hospitality and leniency he enjoys. I will withhold his name for the reason that I do not desire to be instrumental in having him rended limb from limb as a lion would rend a kid.

The letter from Kruger was of a confidential nature, the writer being desirous of learning if any danger is to be apprehended from this quarter. He said that it has come to his ears that there is in Dawson a modern Goliath of Gath who had never fled but once in his entire life, and that time he had been impelled by a sense of modesty to flee in order that he might escape being a major Oom's letter further said: "It having come to the ears of my people that Cincinnatus, who left his oxen in the furrow where they stood for 12 years, while he, at the head of the Roman army, lead the triumphal march to victory, is not a marker as compared with this warrior of yours, and the result is that their blood is chilled within their veins. Even my Kaffir servants have become so chilled at the news that I have been put to the expense of providing clothes for them, a thing formerly unknown in my household. Please answer at once and send all information important and bearing on our cause. If there is imminent danger of Goliath of Dawson starting at once, address me through my secret agent at Victoria in order that he may cable me that I may make my trenches deeper and my bulwarks higher."

The reply was not couched in biblical language like the letter that inspired it, but its writer, unlike Kruger, is not a preacher. It reads:

"Dear Oom: Your's of Dec. 29 just received. In reply will say that it gives me much pleasure to know that you are still holding out with no intentions of receding from the position you hold to be right. The terror of whom you speak and whom you do well to dread is still here, and is impatiently champing the bit, as like the historic warhorse he scents the battle from afar." But oh, Oom! If he ever starts to your country, pray without ceasing that an earthquake may swallow up you and yours, or that you may all die of fever, dog mange—any old thing, so you die before he reaches your diamond strewn shores. In his case the pen and sword are equals, side partners, so to speak, and after tearing all South Africa into shreds with the sword he will draw his pen and make an editorial note that will wither the grass on your grave."

Following this the local Boer sympathizer and traitor to his country mentions that several young and valiant men have already left Dawson intending to go on to the scene of battle, but adds that they are only ordinary men and not of the Sampson variety. He closes with: "Now, Oomie, old boy, take to heart the warning I have given you and on receipt of a cable from me that the 'promotion escaper' has started, get yourself off the map. I enclose a dose of Rough on Rates so that you may have it at hand in case this letter reaches you in advance of the cable which I trust I may never be called upon to send. Yours in fear and trembling,

The above, Mr. Editor, is a portion

of the contents of the two letters in the envelope picked up by me, and I withhold the name of the resident party to the correspondence for the reason that, being an American, my country has decided to maintain a neutral position as to the trouble in which our sister nation is now engaged.

FOND MOTHER.

#### POLICE COURT.

George Asken closed the past week by loading up with more of "oil of joy" than was conducive to his well being, and at the Palace Grand about ten o'clock Saturday night he became very obstreperous; so much so, in fact, that an officer of the law deemed it best to take him in charge. In Major Perry's court this morning George paid \$10 and costs for his Saturday night's escapade.

Chas. Cunningham and Foy Coleman, who are employed at a faro table in the Dominion were, up on the charge of running their game at ten minutes past 12 o'clock Sunday morning. They plead guilty to the charge but said they thought the officer should have come around and notified them of the arrival of midnight. The court replied: "I will have you distinctly understand that gamblers have no right in Dawson; that the officers have something more to do than go around and notify you when the closing hour arrives; and you are therefore convicted; but this being your first offence sentence will be deferred and if you are again brought before me on a similar charge you will not be given the option of paying a fine. You may go." And Cunningham and Coleman each drawing a breath of relief as long as a rake handle, departed from the temple of justice.

W. A. Sheehan, laborer, was in court with an account of \$245 against Miller & Lee for work performed on claim No. 17 on Gold Reef. The amount claimed was admitted by the defendants. Sheehan's testimony was that it was verbally understood that he was to work until the cleanup at which time he was to receive his pay; but that he had decided to go to Nome and had given his employers two weeks notice of his intentions to quit. His own testimony settled the case which was dismissed, the costs being charged to the plaintiff.

John Johnson also had a claim against Miller & Lee, the amount being \$500, which was admitted. But the circumstances and conditions being similar to those of the Sheehan case, this, too, was dismissed at plaintiff's costs. Sheehan persisted in convering with the court after the rendering of the verdicts, nor would he cease when told to do so, with the result that the son of the Emerald isle had to be lead to a seat by the court constable and even then deep guttural mutterings were heard to emanate from beneath his vest. The plaintiffs had secured their dogs and were in readiness to start at once for Nome, which trip will now probably be postponed until after the cleanup.

#### Shipment of Beef Stopped.

Upon ascertaining that Mr. Gustavson, who is at Skagway, had started a shipment of beef to Dawson, Fred Geisman, proprietor of the Grand Forks Meat Market, telegraphed to the former gentleman and advised him to stop the beef in transit and sell it at the first opportunity. Mr. Gustavson was informed by his friend here that the local market was overstocked, and that parties who attempt to drive or ship beef on the trail at this season, will lose money by the venture. Messrs. Gustavson and Geisman have been associated in business together, though some time ago they severed their commercial relations.

#### Saturday Night's Dance.

A social dance was held at the McDonaid hall on Saturday evening. A large number of persons attended and all enjoyed a pleasant time. There were eighteen dances on the program. The affair was under the management of Prof. James Duffy. Excellent music was rendered by Mr. Thomas Majny's orchestra.

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