

THE EDMONTON ROUTE

Northern Explorers Who Started Over It in September Still on Finlay River.

Consolidated Omineca Company's Property Secured by British Capitalists.

John Roberts, Formerly of Victoria, Killed on Manson Creek.

Better evidence of the impracticability of the route from Edmonton as a high way to the Yukon cannot be given than the story of the trip of Inspector Moody and his party of Mounted Police. They left Edmonton in September of last year and a few weeks ago they were still camped on the Finlay river, in the Omineca district of this province. Here they were met by Capt. Black, of the Consolidated Omineca company, who reached Victoria on Thursday evening, after a visit to the properties in which his company is interested.

Capt. Black left Victoria in February, six months after Inspector Moody left Edmonton, and going to Quesnelle struck off across the country, a distance of 800 miles on snowshoes, having as companions two Indian boys, one of whom went through to Germanen and Manson creek, where the Consolidated Omineca company's property is situated. This property, which consists of eighteen locations on the two creeks, a complete hydroelectric plant and nine miles of ditching, is valued at \$1,250,000. The representative of this syndicate will return to Omineca with Capt. Black in a few weeks, and it is expected that the transfer of the property, no work has recently been done. Last year, however, water was turned on some of the ground and the prospects proved very good. The Consolidated Omineca company is composed almost entirely of Victorians.

On the way out Capt. Black visited the Nation, Peace, Parsnip and Finlay rivers, on which other syndicates in which he is interested have claims. These claims have not yet been worked to any extent. It was on his way home that Capt. Black met Inspector Moody and the members of the Northwest Mounted Police, they having been camped on the Finlay river since December. They started from Edmonton, as previously stated, in September, taking horses for the first part of the journey, but very early in the season had to take to snow shoes. The snowshoeing was very heavy and upon their arrival at Finlay river they decided that it was impracticable to continue the journey into camp. They are still there and will await the return of Capt. Black before proceeding. They are well provided with provisions and are in comfortable quarters.

There are a very large number of men going into the Omineca and Peace river countries, some of whom have been there before and are prepared to meet the difficulties, and others who have not the least idea of what they are to have to put up with. The country, Capt. Black says, is no place for poor men. It is far harder to reach than Klondike and provisions are consequently scarce. To make a success of a prospecting trip a man must have about a thousand dollars and be prepared to remain in the country for two years, and then have a chance of striking something just as good as Klondike.

All the way from Ashcroft in parties were seen pushing slowly on their feet, waiting for the spring to melt the snow. Many propose remaining in British Columbia, and some are going to Klondike by this long overland route. They may succeed, "but," says Capt. Black, "they have a long tramp before them."

At Quesnelle there is a party who appear to have before them difficulties very similar to those that broke up the Grider expedition. They are being held by the same river, the Nation, which Grider told his party, contained untold wealth. "The party at Quesnelle is under the leadership of a Mr. Henry, of Vancouver, to whom it is said each member paid a good large sum to be taken to this mysterious El Dorado, where they were held out all winter."

"They may do so; everything is possible," said Capt. Black, "but it is not probable. The members of the party, or a large majority of them, are lawyers and doctors from North Carolina, who have been out of civilization, and are already getting tired of roughing it, having been at Quesnelle since last fall. In striking contract to this party is one from California, composed entirely of practical miners, who also are bound for the Nation river. They are not expecting anything big and will therefore not be disappointed. The Italian Count and his companion, who started last winter intending to explore the northern interior of the province, are also still at Quesnelle, in company with a score of other adventurers bound northwards."

Capt. Black has great confidence in the future of the great northern interior of the province, which he has proved by the time he has spent there prospecting and exploring, a work which will prove of untold benefit to the province and for which the Captain is about to earn a well deserved reward, through the interest capitalists are taking in the country. There is some splendid agricultural land in the valley of the Finlay and Parsnip rivers and the winters are not nearly as severe as they are around Quesnelle. On the Finlay river last winter there were but a few inches of frost and very little snow, so that it is favorable for both the miner and farmer. However, they have to pass through a rough country to reach these more favorable districts. John Roberts, a former Victorian, lost his life on Manson creek last winter, falling from one of the fumes on Col. Wright's mine and breaking his neck. His companion, a man named Smith, was in a terrible way over the accident and at his request Capt. Black held an investigation, arriving at the conclusion that the fatality was purely accidental. Roberts was a native of London, Eng. He was formerly a sealer, a member of the crew of a Victoria schooner. Capt. Black is desirous of communicating with Roberts' friends.

At Fort George, Capt. Black was again called upon to investigate the case of a magistrate. An Indian had been arrested for robbing the Hudson's Bay company's store at Quesnelle and had been followed to Fort George. As he returned the stolen money and the company did not wish to prosecute, the charge was dismissed. Capt. Black denies the report published some weeks ago that he was in some way connected with the Grider expedition. He says he knows nothing of Grider or his schemes.

WHAT ABOUT DEWEY?

Washington Puzzled by the Long Silence, but Confident of His Safety.

Spain at Last Has Not Triumphed or the World Would Be So Informed.

Sampson's Atlantic Squadron Expected to Achieve Something Within Few Days.

Washington, May 6.—After another day of waiting in the navy and state departments the doors again were closed this evening without a word from Commodore Dewey or other reliable source as to what happened at Manila after the cable broke. During the course of the day, there were rumors that the cable communication had been restored, but these were soon found to be baseless and the excitement subsided. One less and the officials take in the situation, although it is of a negative character, is that the lack of communication is a probable evidence that the Spaniards at least are not in control at Manila, else they would speedily communicate that fact to the rest of the world through the cable. If the silence means anything it is believed not to be more serious than that Commodore Dewey had been delayed in carrying out his plans for the occupation of the Philippines. It is possible that he may not have been possible for the Commodore within the short space of two days to effect the destruction of the Spanish fleet, the seizure of the forts at Cavite, the capture of Corregidor island, the capture of Manila and finally the restoration of cable communication. If he has been beyond Tuesday or Wednesday in carrying out this extensive programme it is not at all surprising that he has not been heard from through a dispatch boat.

The state department is in close touch with Consul Wideman at Hongkong, who is expected to supply the earliest possible news from the Philippines. The only message received from the consul to-day was one informing the department that a number of refugees from the Philippines had petitioned for admission to United States citizenship, something manifestly impossible for the consul to grant under the naturalization laws. It is barely possible that the first news to come may be through British sources, but very early in the morning the cables contain a clause giving to the British government precedence in an emergency.

Respecting Admiral Sampson's movements, the department is still mute, although it is apparent that interesting news is expected on this subject within the next few days. Therefore, it is quite certain that the rumor which originated in London to the effect that Sampson has been dismissed without attracting attention at the hands of the officials, since it would be manifestly impossible for the news to arrive at the Canaries within so short a space of time as three days. Again the monitors in his fleet could not carry coal enough to make the trip, and the navy department is not sending out notifications of contemplated strategic movements. A leading diplomat in Washington since the days of the civil war, Official and unofficial Washington was in a ferment and few of the employees of the government could maintain their composure sufficiently to go on with their routine work. They were in an explosive state at the state, and the navy department reports that the excitement was contagious and senators and representatives mixed in the crowds that gathered before the navy headquarters and gazed wistfully at the big doors of the navigation bureau, behind which the cipher experts under lock and key were busy deciphering the conveyed Dewey's glorious messages to the American people.

Senator Hanna aroused the crowd at one time by his remark, "Big, big, hurrah" for Dewey; and later three stentorian cheers from Theodore Roosevelt gathered everybody in the vast building to witness the departure of the eastern contingent of the mounted riflemen. Mr. Roosevelt's dispatch to Manila, which the McCulloch cannot get back to Hongkong until to-morrow, when she is expected to have most important news.

PARIS TAKES OFFENSE. London, May 7.—The Paris correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: The effect upon Paris of the seizure of the steamship Lafayette is clear enough. Already a rather bitter feeling against the United States arises, and this incident will certainly not tend to diminish it. It is demonstrated eventually that there was nothing to justify the seizure, the government may be expected to make the very strongest protest. Some angry expressions are to be heard and the United States may be expected to be greeted by the police for the efficient protection of the United States embassy. The place is well guarded by policemen and in view of any possible hostile demonstrations.

CANNONADING HEARD. Port Au Prince, Hayti, May 6.—The German steamer Valdivia, from Hamburg on March 21 for St. Thomas, where she arrived on April 15, has put into Aux Cayes, on the south coast of Hayti. She reports having met a British warship escorting westward six barques, nationality unknown, apparently laden with coal. On April 26 cannonading was heard seaward from Jeremie, the Haytian seaport situated about 125 miles west of this place.

SENOR POLO'S DEPARTURE. London, May 7.—According to a dispatch to the Standard from Toronto, it is believed that Senor Polo de Bermejo's departure was due to representations from Lord Salisbury based on the report from the British ambassador at Washington, Sir Julian Pauncefote, that American opinion was opposed to Senor Polo remaining in Canada.

SHORT DISPATCHES. There were renewed bread riots at Pavia, Italy, yesterday. The streets were strewn with chains across the streets in order to prevent cavalry charges. Several soldiers and civilians were injured. A riotous mob surrounded a detachment of troops at Sesto Florantino and the soldiers fired a volley, killing three of their assailants and wounding four others. The bulletin issued at Hawarden yesterday says that Mr. Gladstone's condition is unchanged. He has advanced ten per cent. at Buenos Ayres.

Madrid, May 7.—(8 p.m.)—An official despatch, from General Augusta, governor-general of the Philippines, sent by way of the island of Luban, says: "The enemy has seized Cavite and the arsenal owing to the destruction of the Spanish squadron, and established a close blockade. It is said that at the request of the Spanish fleet the enemy will not bombard Manila for the present provided I do not open fire upon the enemy's squadron, which is out of the range of our guns. Therefore I cannot fire until they come nearer."

A thousand sailors arrived here yesterday evening from our destroyed squadron, the losses of which number 618. It is said that it will be decided to send influential emissaries to the provinces to raise the spirits of the people, especially those provided with arms, and endeavor to induce them to abandon the insurrection."

COMMODORE DEWEY'S REPORT. Washington, May 7.—At six days' suspense the navy department has received the first advice from Admiral Dewey as to his operations at Manila. His most important message read thus: "Cavite, May 4.—I have taken possession of the naval station at Cavite, Philippine Islands, have destroyed the fortifications at the bay entrance, paroling the garrison. I control the bay completely and can take the city at any time. The squadron's force is in excellent health and spirits. The Spanish loss is not fully known, but very heavy, 150 being killed, including an captain in the Spanish fleet, and another in protecting the Spanish sick and wounded. Two hundred and fifty sick and wounded are in the hospital here. There is much excitement at Manila. I will protect the foreign residents."

Hongkong, May 7.—The order of battle assumed by the Spanish at Manila was with all the small craft inside the harbor, behind the heavy breakwaters and the larger ships cruising off Cavite and Manila. No patrol was established on the deck of the Batavia. Then a few shots were exchanged with Corregidor Island, but the fleet never stopped or slowed down. The Spanish ships were given the order to retire to Cavite forts. The McCulloch remained at some distance and the enemy's shells passed but did not touch her. The Spanish fleet suffered the most of any American ships. Five or ten shots took effect on her, but none of her officers or crew were seriously hurt. Only a few slight injuries were inflicted on the American fleet, the worst of which resulted from an explosion of ammunition on the deck of the Batavia. The other ships of the fleet were practically unhurt.

SURRENDER ADVISED. Paris, May 7.—The Temps this evening commenting upon the situation of Spain, says: "When the moment comes, and the Canaries are completely manfully make up her mind to inevitable sacrifices and seek directly through the United States or by recourse to the good offices of the United States, as she is so compatible with her laws of honor."

THE NEWS IN WASHINGTON. Washington, May 7.—A day of excitement in Washington since the days of the civil war. Official and unofficial Washington was in a ferment and few of the employees of the government could maintain their composure sufficiently to go on with their routine work. They were in an explosive state at the state, and the navy department reports that the excitement was contagious and senators and representatives mixed in the crowds that gathered before the navy headquarters and gazed wistfully at the big doors of the navigation bureau, behind which the cipher experts under lock and key were busy deciphering the conveyed Dewey's glorious messages to the American people.

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The Supreme court delivered a number of judgments to-day but none of Western interest. The union of the First and Sixth battalions at Montreal gives them a total strength of 608. The interior department claims that over ten thousand settlers have arrived since January 1. The Commons spent nearly the entire annual call of respect to the new secretary.

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Reported Great Strike at Harrison Lake—Government Candidate Chosen in Westminster.

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WESTMINSTER'S MAY DAY.

The May Day celebration opened at Westminster at 1 o'clock to-day with the grand procession, which started from the Crescent, headed by the city band and three companies, the Boys' Brigade. The royal carriage contained Her Majesty the Queen, Miss Ethel C. Ross, and her maids of honor, Miss A. Houdry and Miss Dorothy A. Thompson, and the ex-Queen, Miss Maggie Gifford, and her maids of honor, Miss I. Rankin and Miss M. Macdonald. The carriage followed the lords in waiting, which was followed by many others. The principal streets on the route of the procession were lined with people. At the coronation of the May Queen addresses were delivered by the Queen and ex-Queen and the dance around the Maypole followed. Games and sports are proceeding and the evening will be taken up with dancing. The May Queen, Miss Ethel C. Ross, passed through the city, opened the ball. A large number of people from Vancouver are over enjoying the fête.

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Canadian Officers as Spectators of the War—Mr. Fraser for Chief Justice.

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THREE IN A DAY.

The Tartar, Tees and Ningschow Return From the Golden Northland.

An Indian Arrival From Klondike via Lake Teslin and the River.

Something Like a Fairy Tale—Horseflesh Breakfasts at Bennett Lake.

That elusive quantity—the Northern record—stands in very great danger of demolition if the C.P.R. steamer Tartar makes much improvement on the speed she developed on her first round trip to Wrangell, Skagway and Dyea, completed yesterday. On the evening of Friday week and taking the ocean passage both going and returning, she was back in the Straits again within the week, and tied up at the outer wharf early yesterday morning.

Her downward passengers numbered 57 all told and included two from Dawson City, neither of whom, however, have very recent intelligence to relate. Wild Crow, one of the crew, is returning to the celebrated Great Auk—brought through Mounted Police advice under date of February 15, but has no news of his own to either perchance in the fact that he is the first man from the interior to make his way out via Teslin Lake and the Canadian water highway.

J. C. Buzessie, of Seattle, the other arrival claiming to be from the interior, is just as full of news as Crow is reticent. He denies indignantly that his fellow-passengers are correct in saying that he has been acting as pianist in a Skagway winter hall; he declares that at the precise time he is said to have been so employed, he was making his toilsome way out to the Coast from the interior.

To give his own account of his experiences, leaving the reader to form his own opinion of the man's veracity, he states that he left Dawson late in February, with a thousand-dollar dog team, 150 pounds of food and two companions whose names he did not know, who had between them \$51,000 in gold dust and Commercial Co. drafts. One of these men fell through the ice and was drowned in the Yukon; the other perished in a snowstorm on Lake Lebarge.

At this point the hero of the tale declares he wandered in the snow for three days and nights, until he was rescued by his way to a rude cabin, only to find on forcing the door, the frozen bodies of a man and a woman, whose names he does not remember. He had only got through to the Coast, still having in his possession the treasure of his departed companions, although not the drafts which would have solved the question of their identity.

Neil Keith, the foreman of the MacKenzie & Mann company, reached Wrangell just before the Tartar's arrival, having come down the river in three days by canoe from Telegraph Creek, passing the up-bound Romona loaded to the limit of her capacity. He had loved up by the C.P.R. steamer Hamlin on Wednesday next.

Mr. Keith has just returned from the capture of a hard chase, by Captain McLean of the Mounted Police, of Frank Claws, the Norwegian who is charged with the murder of Hendrickson and Burgess on the Stikine river one month ago. Claws on finding himself baffled in his scheme to escape, determined to make a last dash for it, confessed to the killing of his two partners in cold blood for revenge and for their money and outfits. He is now held at Telegraph Creek.

From Skagway the chief news brought by the Tartar is that 74 bodies in all have to date been taken out of the Chilcotin and the Yukon, and that the same number remain beneath the accumulation of sand and snow. In celebration of the initiation of the Tartar's service the passengers during the trip were in town on occasion to present to the captain and officers the following very complimentary address:

"We, the undersigned, passengers of both classes on board the steamer Tartar on her first voyage from Vancouver to Skagway, hereby desire to express our appreciation of the enterprise of the Canadian Pacific Railway company in providing a service and the best of accommodation for both first and second class travellers to the Yukon and other points in the Golden North. We agree that the accommodation provided for the second class is better than that provided for the first class in other steamers running North from Vancouver, and we are ever in every respect to that of any steamship service on the Atlantic. We wish to express our sincere appreciation of the great care and attention displayed by Commander Archibald Blair and his officers in the navigation of the ship through waters so little known, and in the provision of a comfortable and generous service of so large a tonnage. We feel that we are indeed in luck in having taken our passage with officers who are at once both capable and courteous and hereby do congratulate them on the success of the voyage."

COL. D. MACGREGOR, Chairman. WALTER G. LYON, M. A., Secretary. The big steamer Ningschow, operated by F. C. Davidge & Co., Ltd., returned from the North early this morning with a list of 82 passengers from Dyea, Skagway and Wrangell, and no news of gold from the Klondike. There is in fact no communication at present between the Lynn Canal towns and Dawson, only an occasional straggler now makes his way to the Coast, the majority preferring to wait for comfortable travel by way of the river. The steamer Romona had started on her great trip up the river before the Ningschow left Wrangell and although the water was still low in the Stikine it was anticipated that she would complete her journey without delay.

On the downward voyage of the Ningschow the United States gunboat Wheeling was passed at Mary Island, having been recalled to Port Townsend, probably on account of the war. She may be expected to call at either Nanaimo or Victoria some time this week. The C.P.N. steamer Tees, also just back from the North, brings fifty passengers from Victoria and Puget Sound, all from Skagway and the trail. Among the number is Hon. Alexander Boyle, a brother of the Earl of Glasgow, who had brought to dispel the rumors of a possible life by trying his best at rocking a miner's cradle in the heart of the Klondike.

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The meeting to nominate a candidate to represent Richmond as supporter of the provincial government has been adjourned till next week. At a meeting of supporters of the provincial government at Westminster last evening, Mr. T. J. Trapp was appointed permanent chairman. Alexander Henderson was chosen secretary of the Liberal association there, was nominated as the candidate on the government side, and unanimously chosen amidst applause.

WESTMINSTER'S MAY DAY.

The May Day celebration opened at Westminster at 1 o'clock to-day with the grand procession, which started from the Crescent, headed by the city band and three companies, the Boys' Brigade. The royal carriage contained Her Majesty the Queen, Miss Ethel C. Ross, and her maids of honor, Miss A. Houdry and Miss Dorothy A. Thompson, and the ex-Queen, Miss Maggie Gifford, and her maids of honor, Miss I. Rankin and Miss M. Macdonald. The carriage followed the lords in waiting, which was followed by many others. The principal streets on the route of the procession were lined with people. At the coronation of the May Queen addresses were delivered by the Queen and ex-Queen and the dance around the Maypole followed. Games and sports are proceeding and the evening will be taken up with dancing. The May Queen, Miss Ethel C. Ross, passed through the city, opened the ball. A large number of people from Vancouver are over enjoying the fête.

NOTES FROM THE CAPITAL.

Canadian Officers as Spectators of the War—Mr. Fraser for Chief Justice.

Ottawa, May 7.—Col. McKinnon, assistant adjutant general of London, England, district, is likely to be offered the appointment of commandant of the Canadian militia.

It is said that the chances of D. C. Fraser, M. P., for the chief justiceship of British Columbia, have brightened during the past few days, despite the fact that Messrs. Templeman, Bostock, Maxwell and McInnes recommend Mr. Martin. At any rate Mr. Fraser is very confident that he will secure the position. The revenue for April shows a decrease of \$900,000, greatly cutting down the surplus which existed up to a month ago. The minister of militia will send four officers, two from the permanent corps and two from the volunteers to watch the military movements in the Spanish-American war.

SPAIN DRAWS BLOOD.

But Only to Philippine Savages at Headquarters of Their Insurrection.

PRESBYTERIAN Steady and Indicated the Ju Rev. Dr. C. Eloquent line of The rapid the Presbyterians Canada abundantly ev sented during Synod just church here, formed in 1882 Assembly, it series of Kams ter and Victo in all; last year teries was fi their jurisdiction and stations a missionaries, being 55 clergy 34 students of was held at V MacRae, past West, as mode ately unable to the quarantine against the sm Snyod was for set of its fo Klondike. The following and Rev. Thon in St. Andrew's ter, was elect then agreed that be held across cordingly the S gary, when Rev was chosen Mo Nainaimo was Rev. A. Lee, E. being the choice west again to McLaren, B.D., being elected. Last year the Westminster at Rev. Dr. Camp of this year week in this ch the next place Knox Wright, chosen for the 1898 Synod Hands." Rev. from this text and polity of the speaking of at the short pendium of chu The Presbyter of the church, Assembly being other form. T tion was descr tion was not th of the church the Old Testam who might be in the church, the eld synagoge would the Christian chu of the church byterian church in its form of at the short might be summe viz.: 1. The party members of the Presbyter and the This was held in stand for a vari and accept the gul between the Episcopal church and the Presbyter in the church we ate capacity of 3. The several Sunday school, church and cong terms. There w in the one chur of the Presbyr the pastor, and tie. In apostolic in the congreg and accepting in ruling the chu In this resp and elasticity in the church we vented unseem that allowed of congregations w concerned the G Justice—he posse From the lower courts. It was Sunday school, people's league, one session. M scribed to the of this was n bership. The rot require of a and accept the quired them me mental doctrine Another advan and elasticity in church. It rec other sects—the minister in sprinkling, etc. minister to pro HONOR Most men a leas among men that make true We have succes thousands of cations, have adva edies and appl been accepted. Our treatmen shrunken parts to remove imp stop unnatural feelings and Free 1 We will send any honest man pleased with th If he is disatis ances and medi tion without at of any nature. If you want to famous free book, please order from