

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST JANUARY 18

MINES OF MILLIONS.

The "Corona" Arrives With Much Treasure From the Golden North.

Richest Treasure Ship That Has Yet Arrived Here With Dawson Passengers.

A Woman Crosses the Mountains—The "Big Swede" and His Big Nugget.

Nineteen men and one courageous young woman arriving here from Dawson on the steamer Corona yesterday, had among them in gold-dust and drafts a million dollars, or thereabouts—the largest amount of treasure for the number of owners that has ever come out of any mining camp to this city in the memory of Victorians. Practically all the new arrivals have become wealthy during their brief residence in the North, and probably half were among the original claim owners on Bonanza and El Dorado, who have recently sold out their claims at six figure prices.

The first party to leave Dawson was that headed by the "Big Swede," Andrew Olson, starting on the evening of December 14; and the list of those who crossed the mountains in time to catch the Corona at Dyes or Skagway is given as below: Mr. Baker, buyer for the Alaska Commercial Company; Joseph Fox, Andrew Olson, Daniel Campbell, Leonard Sedgwick, Charles Brostino, William Kaufman, H. L. Burt, H. L. Moly, Ed. Mather, Matterson, L. T. Grady, Henry Willett, W. H. Welch, H. T. Coffin, J. E. Currier, William Kerr, Gus Johnston, Neil Johnston, S. Mallette, and Miss Lou Keller, who paid the A. C. Co. \$1,200 in good yellow dog sleds for the passage from Dawson to the Coast on a dog sled.

Campbell and Sedgwick had just sold their claims for \$125,000 each to the A. C. Co., and the smallest amount that any of the passengers named brought through was \$5,000; while the "Big Swede," from \$250,000 to \$300,000, was probably the wealthiest man in the wealthy little company. The news brought by these men is important chiefly in that it is confirmatory of the discovery of the great mother lode as reported by W. J. Jones, but subsequently discredited by more recent arrivals who had not heard of it.

This denial was given chiefly by James Macaulay of this city, who left Dawson on the 12th December; W. H. Welch, H. T. Coffin and L. Burt, who left Dawson the same day as the returned Victorian, had heard of the discovery, however, and were informed that the original strike was made at the upper end of claim 80 El Dorado, while two stringers, one at No. 27 and another yet lower down, were subsequently located. Throughout the district the discovery of this immense lode is becoming more and more assured of the permanency of the district as a rich gold mining field.

As to the placer diggings, they continue rich as dreams have painted them. Fowler creek, an affluent of Quartz creek, having a bonanza of gold since pans of \$3.75 and \$4 became a common thing. Of course the stream was located from source to mouth as soon as the first important discovery was made. The gold creek is showing pans of \$10 to \$100, while the miners, Hunter, Henderson, Dominion, the Big Salmon and the Stewart all declare themselves abundantly satisfied with the prospects.

L. T. Grady, one of the Corona's passengers, is a claim-owner on Hunker creek, and comes down to interest scientific men in the question of ground thawing, being satisfied that some process can be adopted that will materially lessen the labor necessary as well as save time in the operation of preparing the ground for working. He will return with a party in March or early April, and would be glad in the meantime to hear from anyone having an invention calculated to suit his purposes. As to the worth of Hunker creek, Mr. W. H. Welch appeared to share the sentiments of the entire party when he said yesterday: "There is no use in telling people the sober truth about it, for if you do they will set you down a liar. For instance, what would you think if I were to tell you that the paystreak on Hunker is two hundred feet wide and six feet deep? And yet that is the fact. Hunker creek is the greatest treasure bearer ever discovered in that or any other country. Claims are not to be had for any money—in fact the entire district contains scarcely one valuable claim. But if buyers are infinitely more plentiful than owners who can be tempted into selling."

E. J. Livernash, of the Journal-Examiner, who is bound for Ottawa as a miner's delegate, was passed by the Olson party at Little Salmon, having been lost in the mountains for eight days through the incompetency of his guide, French Pete. Olson and others of the Corona's company think it very probable that Livernash and his fellow delegates will turn back when they meet Major Walsh—who is still at Big Salmon—and learn how elastic his powers are with reference to the mining regulations. Olson's party, as reported by the just-arrived Dawsonians as recovering rapidly from his recent terrible journey—a journey which, considering the poet's age and consequent infirmities, goes down on record as one of the most remarkable in the history of the golden North.

J. McCready and Joe Fox, two of those who returned yesterday by the Corona, remained in Victoria, and are now registered at the Victoria hotel. Mr. McCready had returned from St. Louis, and has been in the Yukon country several months. His trip from Dawson to the coast took thirty-four days, as he travelled in company with Mr. Brady, an ex-banker in Fairfax, Minnesota, who was ill, and had to go slowly. Mr. McCready was in time to made a good location on Hunker creek, and he thinks that the recent discovery will prove in time as rich as either Bonanza or Eldorado. At the point where Major Walsh is now camped, Big Salmon, McCready remained a day in order to give his charge a rest. The Major upon learning that he might possibly return to the Yukon country by way of the Stickeen, gave him a letter to Mr. Duchesne, chief engineer of the C.P.R., who will come over the route, and who will give Mr. McCready certain information he requires regarding it. Mr. McCready says the trip from Dawson to the coast was by no means hard, although the weather was very cold. He is on his way to Chicago, and intended going through to Seattle on the Corona yesterday. His object in getting off at Victoria was, he says, to cook into the prices of outfits here. This only 23 days to the day, and when he returns here in March, he will buy all his provisions etc. here. He informed a Colonist reporter that of the nineteen Dawsonites who came down on the Corona only one expressed the intention of remaining in civilization in the spring. Most of those who will return will, they say, come over to Victoria to outfit, although nearly all are Americans.

Mr. Fox, the other Dawsonite who remained over in this city, is from California. He went North early last summer and located and purchased several claims on Bonanza creek. He left Dawson on Dec. 13, took him and his party to the mining centre there was no danger of starvation, although certain lines of provisions were rather scarce. Mine owners were then paying \$1 to \$1.50 an hour for help, but were only employing men very cheaply. Mr. Fox said that his trip out was rather pleasant, and that the journey is not nearly so hard or difficult as it has been described. Several who came down on the Corona left Dawson on the 12th, and he did, and from these men Mr. Fox learned of the very rich quartz discovery, supposed to be the mother lode, had been made a few miles out of Dawson City. About the same time Mr. Fox says, leave Dawson for the month. Speaking of the claims on Bonanza and El Dorado creeks, Mr. Fox says that owners are holding them at prices ranging from \$50,000 to \$70,000. "Some of these claims," he said, "are too rich to talk about almost. They literally pick up the pure gold in some cases when they reach bedrock."

Mr. Fox will return to Dawson about March 1. He thinks the present time of the year is the most favorable to establish, especially if a man is taking in a big outfit. Mr. Fox will purchase his outfit in Victoria in March. His principal object in remaining here was to look into the matter, and he says these suits him so well that he will make all his purchases for the month in Victoria.

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"I can, I see, buy goods as cheap, if not cheaper, here than in Seattle or any American city, and in addition I am saving the duty of 30 per cent. Your merchants are thoroughly acquainted with outfitting, and a miner can get everything he requires here, and the best quality too. I understand that it does not seem to be necessary to take an inspector over the Chilkoot pass at a cost of \$6 a day, and if this is the case a tremendous outfitting trade is assured your merchants. Just before I started to receive my information regarding the doing away with the inspector business. Nearly all the people who came down on the Corona with me will come to Victoria to outfit.

A PIONEER OF EL DORADO.

Andrew Olson, "The Big Swede," of the Record Nugget Fame.

One of the first men to stake ground on the El Dorado and the very last man out of the Klondyke country, is Andrew Olson, known even among those who came down here on the Corona by no other title than his own name, "The Big Swede." He is notable, too, as being owner of the claim on which the biggest Klondyke nugget has yet been found, valued at \$58,000—and as being the only one of the returned miners who has been able to get back to his old home in the North before summer, it is because he has multifarious interests there demanding his presence, not because he has his fortune yet to make.

His present intention is to revisit familiar scenes in California and renew old acquaintanceships there. He has spent four arduous years in the Upper Yukon country earning this holiday; having made a fortune of a million in ready cash while his party has not afforded to enjoy his rest and recreation. It was on the 14th of December that the Big Swede left Dawson accompanied by William Kaufman and a third miner who remained at Dyes. They had two dog teams and were able to bring through a large quantity of dust—about \$125,000 according to the testimony of other Corona passengers, one of whom declares that Olson's contribution to the ship's treasure weighed a quarter of a ton avoirdupois.

The money is in great part the proceeds of a sale of claim 37 El Dorado, on which the great nugget was found, to the last purchaser for \$1,175,000. It is said to have been the price paid, while the Swede still holds claim 36, although Baker has offered a similar sum to become possessed of it also.

Olson's report on the matter led to the discovery of the "mother lode," but it is certain that an apparently continuous ledge of good quartz has been uncovered, cutting El Dorado at claim 31 or thereabouts, as stated by Jones, and following the general trend outlined by him.

"Mother lode" is only a relative term at best, and it remains for the future to disclose whether or not the quartz ledge in question is the most valuable body of gold-impregnated rock yet discovered, or contains only stringers that it would not pay to work. Olson is inclined to believe it will prove of incalculable value, for he has every confidence in the country, and has interests on almost every creek, not excluding Henderson, which he speaks of as one of the most promising of all.

ONE WOMAN'S EXPERIENCE. Lou Keller, Discounts Her Honey-moon and "Coming to Be Married."

There is a little romance in connection with the home-coming of Leonard Sedgwick, remained at Victoria, and is now registered at the Victoria hotel. Mr. McCready had returned from St. Louis, and has been in the Yukon country several months. His trip from Dawson to the coast took thirty-four days, as he travelled in company with Mr. Brady, an ex-banker in Fairfax, Minnesota, who was ill, and had to go slowly. Mr. McCready was in time to made a good location on Hunker creek, and he thinks that the recent discovery will prove in time as rich as either Bonanza or Eldorado. At the point where Major Walsh is now camped, Big Salmon, McCready remained a day in order to give his charge a rest. The Major upon learning that he might possibly return to the Yukon country by way of the Stickeen, gave him a letter to Mr. Duchesne, chief engineer of the C.P.R., who will come over the route, and who will give Mr. McCready certain information he requires regarding it. Mr. McCready says the trip from Dawson to the coast was by no means hard, although the weather was very cold. He is on his way to Chicago, and intended going through to Seattle on the Corona yesterday. His object in getting off at Victoria was, he says, to cook into the prices of outfits here. This only 23 days to the day, and when he returns here in March, he will buy all his provisions etc. here. He informed a Colonist reporter that of the nineteen Dawsonites who came down on the Corona only one expressed the intention of remaining in civilization in the spring. Most of those who will return will, they say, come over to Victoria to outfit, although nearly all are Americans.

VICTORIA THE PLACE.

Further Testimony by Men Who Have Compared Prices Here and on the Sound.

Canny American Citizens Send Authoritative Advice to Eastern Friends.

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Many of these parties are composed of Americans, who stated in very plain terms that if they could have outfitted advantageously in Seattle they would have done so. They thought in Victoria, they said, because they could get a better class of goods at lower prices than those ruling in Seattle, and above all because they could effect a saving of 30 per cent. in the duty alone. The case of Mr. Lee Stanley, of Rochester, N.Y., is perhaps the best object lesson as to Victoria's advantages to an outfitting party that has yet been brought before the notice of the public. Mr. Stanley said that in purchasing an outfit here valued at about \$900, and taking into consideration the 30 per cent. duty, and transportation charges to Skagway, he saved over \$200. He had made a careful investigation of prices in Seattle prior to coming here, and was prepared to speak with authority.

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CLAIMS DISCOVERER'S HONORS.

S. Berlinger Tells How He Found the Lode and How He Found It.

S. Berlinger, who arrived down from Dawson City about ten days ago, and is now in Seattle, claims the honor of discovering what is now believed to be the mother lode of the Klondyke. He says: "Frank Slavin and I are near neighbors on El Dorado creek, and some two months since I showed him where I had previously located the quartz. From my cabin on the night of November 23, when I exhibited a piece of the rock I found in the wall of quartz. At the time I did not pay particular attention to it, as the quartz was not of the best quality. 'Quartz mines are of no good, as we can get no machinery to work them.' 'The ledge I discovered looks like a bare wall of brilliant white granite. It is the best place at which to outfit with advantage. One of these parties, headed by Mr. G. C. Bunker, of North Columbus, Mass. He purchased an outfit for six men for two years, and said that he was at least saving twenty per cent. on his outfit by purchasing here. The other Boston party, composed of Mr. John Dorgan, H. M. Chase and W. J. Griffiths, bought a large outfit here, and immediately sent word back to it, as the cost of outfitting in Seattle is the cheapest and best place on the coast at which to outfit.

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My cabin where I have my placer mining is about ten feet from the Klondyke river. Back of the cabin is a clear space of about fifty feet, after which this great ledge of granite commences to rise to the level of the Klondyke. From my knowledge of mining I should say it would assay \$50,000 per ton. My claim is number 43 on the El Dorado and is between Dawson City and Fort Reliance, twenty-one miles from Dawson City. I located and put in a claim for both ends of the claim about October 1. This gives me forty feet front and clear through the ledge to the farther end, whatever distance that may be.

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VICTORIA THE PLACE.

Further Testimony by Men Who Have Compared Prices Here and on the Sound.

Canny American Citizens Send Authoritative Advice to Eastern Friends.

It is a matter of daily occurrence now to meet parties in Victoria who in purchasing their outfits for the northern gold fields, have first visited Seattle and other American cities, carefully looked into prices, and finally decided to outfit here.

Many of these parties are composed of Americans, who stated in very plain terms that if they could have outfitted advantageously in Seattle they would have done so. They thought in Victoria, they said, because they could get a better class of goods at lower prices than those ruling in Seattle, and above all because they could effect a saving of 30 per cent. in the duty alone. The case of Mr. Lee Stanley, of Rochester, N.Y., is perhaps the best object lesson as to Victoria's advantages to an outfitting party that has yet been brought before the notice of the public. Mr. Stanley said that in purchasing an outfit here valued at about \$900, and taking into consideration the 30 per cent. duty, and transportation charges to Skagway, he saved over \$200. He had made a careful investigation of prices in Seattle prior to coming here, and was prepared to speak with authority.

Two Boston parties bound for the north have also outfitted here recently. In interviews published in the Colonist these gentlemen have stated in the plainest of terms that Victoria is the best place at which to outfit with advantage. One of these parties, headed by Mr. G. C. Bunker, of North Columbus, Mass. He purchased an outfit for six men for two years, and said that he was at least saving twenty per cent. on his outfit by purchasing here. The other Boston party, composed of Mr. John Dorgan, H. M. Chase and W. J. Griffiths, bought a large outfit here, and immediately sent word back to it, as the cost of outfitting in Seattle is the cheapest and best place on the coast at which to outfit.

CLAIMS DISCOVERER'S HONORS.

S. Berlinger Tells How He Found the Lode and How He Found It.

S. Berlinger, who arrived down from Dawson City about ten days ago, and is now in Seattle, claims the honor of discovering what is now believed to be the mother lode of the Klondyke. He says: "Frank Slavin and I are near neighbors on El Dorado creek, and some two months since I showed him where I had previously located the quartz. From my cabin on the night of November 23, when I exhibited a piece of the rock I found in the wall of quartz. At the time I did not pay particular attention to it, as the quartz was not of the best quality. 'Quartz mines are of no good, as we can get no machinery to work them.' 'The ledge I discovered looks like a bare wall of brilliant white granite. It is the best place at which to outfit with advantage. One of these parties, headed by Mr. G. C. Bunker, of North Columbus, Mass. He purchased an outfit for six men for two years, and said that he was at least saving twenty per cent. on his outfit by purchasing here. The other Boston party, composed of Mr. John Dorgan, H. M. Chase and W. J. Griffiths, bought a large outfit here, and immediately sent word back to it, as the cost of outfitting in Seattle is the cheapest and best place on the coast at which to outfit.

"When I discovered it I was working about my claim and was thoughtlessly tapping the wall of rock when the outer shell of a portion of it came off and a piece of quartz dropped into my hand which was a mass of brilliant white granite. I do not know where it begins or ends. It is practically the foothills of the mountains, commonly called glaciers. No one has ever been over the hill, and we do not know how far back it extends."

Letters of inquiry are being received daily by city hotel-keepers from parties living on the other side as to the cost of outfitting in Seattle. From my knowledge of mining I should say it would assay \$50,000 per ton. My claim is number 43 on the El Dorado and is between Dawson City and Fort Reliance, twenty-one miles from Dawson City. I located and put in a claim for both ends of the claim about October 1. This gives me forty feet front and clear through the ledge to the farther end, whatever distance that may be.

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