

On the Way to Klondike

When we arrived at Nanaimo on the other side of the straits a train was waiting to take us on to the capital. But having to transfer both passengers and luggage caused a further delay, and we did not arrive at Victoria until the small hours of the morning. Under these circumstances Lou's suggestion that we should sleep at the Dominion Hotel and go on board the Dolphin next day was promptly acted upon. We had a comfortable room and slept like tops in spite of the bustle which goes on almost continually at such a place during a mining boom.

When we were just finishing breakfast Lou informed me that he had some good news to communicate. He said he had been keeping it till then so as not to over-excite me and prevent my having a good night's sleep and a hearty feed, as I should need all my strength for what had to be done that day and the following.

'I should not have supposed you were capable of keeping any sort of news to yourself so long,' I said. 'What is it?'

'Well, about ten days ago,' began Lou, without deigning to notice my aspersion, 'old Watson received a cablegram from my father as representing the firm, cancelling his previous instructions and telling him to take a cargo of