

### YUKON BREAKS ITS IGY FETTERS.

Dawson's Big Gala Day Dawned on Wednesday, the 17th.

Thousands of People Cheer in Unison With the Tooting of Steam Whistles and the Baying of Malamutes—Shake All Around.

Dawson's big gala day came on Wednesday, the 17th day of May, when, after weary waiting and heart-burning anxiety, the great mass of ice which had held her bound from intercourse with all the world broke its moorings and started, carrying its load of noisome filth for the open sea below. It was a day that no one will forget, and the date will be enshrined in every heart as commemorating the release from a thralldom that had almost reached the limit of endurance.

It came at 4:15 in the afternoon; so quietly at first as not to attract attention. Then, as momentum was gathered, and the dark spots of dirt-seeking its surface were seen to move, a steamboat's triumphant whistle rent the air and a great shout went up simultaneously from a hundred throats. "She's going! The ice is moving!" were the cries which resounded up and down the street, and in the twinkling of an eye people were seen hurrying from store and shop and home, all bent on satisfying themselves that the good news was true, and to witness one of the greatest spectacles of earth.

As far as the eye could see, both up and down and from shore to shore, the great river was filled with rapidly moving ice that, as it increased in speed, began to grind, and tumble and rear and plunge like mad, living things. Huge pieces of ice, weighing tons and as big as houses, were pushed high in air, trees and logs, and ever and anon a belated skiff, were crushed and broken as they came between the dancing masses, and the sound which came up out of the whole to the thousands of watchers on the bank was like the sound of death.

With the moving of the ice came a rise in the stage of water, first but slowly, then faster and faster, until it divided the attention of the watchers. Inch by inch it grew, sometimes receding and now gaining, until within half an hour it had risen no less than three feet. The great steamer New York, which rested on the ground nearly opposite the Nugget office, was raised from her muddly moorings and carried toward the bank. The Willie Irving stood high upon her ways a short distance above, and the water only touched her side; but a mass of ice was carried with irresistible force to her stern, and in a moment the cracking of timbers told that her wheel was crushed.

The scene grew from grandeur to majesty as the minutes spread, and a sense of thankfulness was felt by all. The weary waiting is over at last, the boats will soon be here with their loads of priceless freight, the letters from loved ones at home, so long and patiently awaited, will not longer be delayed; a thousand other thoughts were framed as the fields of ice sped by. But "look down there," some one was heard to say, and the eager eyes turned down the river, saw a choking of the gorge, a trembling of the moving mass, a halt and then a stop. The ice had jammed.

At first it was only on the home shore, which was strewn high at the end of town with blocks and tons of ice; then it reached out from the edge into the current until it had crossed to the other shore. In half an hour from the time when the ice began to move the river was again closed, and more tightly than before. It was a bitter disappointment, only alleviated by the thought that the jam could not hold out long against the tremendous strain.

The hopeful view proved correct, for a few minutes after ten in the evening a movement in the ice opposite Klondike City was observed. As it drew nearer the watchers could see that a great field of ice had been thrown on top of the other and was being forced along the surface by the pressure behind. A grinding, crackling sound accompanied the moving mass, and the front of the great body was ground to pieces as it moved along over the jagged surface. There was just light enough to enable the watchers to see the sight, which was the most impressive of the day. When the wall of ice reached a point opposite the foot of Third street the pressure must have been terrific, for all the ice in the river suddenly gave way and started off, amid the hurrahs of the watching thousands. Everybody seemed to know instinctively that it was off for good that time, and the greatest satisfaction was felt.

**CAUGHT FROM THE DRIFT.**  
Last year, the ice went out on May 8, the year before on the 14th and the year before that on the 17th, the same date as this year. Wednesday was Norway's independence day—the 55th anniversary of the adoption of the constitution of freedom—and the patriotic sons of that country who saw the ice go out may have been justified in the claim that there was something significant in the connection of the day and event.

It was a great day for the cheecharkos, for it marked their graduation into the ranks of the venerable sour doughs.

West Dawsonites celebrated the event by firing guns and running the scale on gun barrels. Now for the first steamer and the revival of business. The first passage of the river after the breaking of the ice was accomplished on Thursday by W. H. B. Lyons, of the Ladue sawmill, Frank J. Hemen, a representative of the Nugget, and Pat Coffey, who rowed over and back in a skiff. The trip was comparatively easy, owing to the fact that a jam somewhere above had left the river here almost free from ice. While paying a friendly visit to the West Dawsonites, the Nugget man learned that the fire seen there some nights ago was only caused by the burning of a brush heap. Two hours after the return of the party the accomplishment of their feat would have been an impossibility, as the river was again bank full of ice.

**Little Gold in Copper River.**  
SEATTLE, April 9.—The epidemic of scurvy reported some time since in the Copper River and Valdes districts is at an end, and the panic it caused during the winter, when fresh meat and vegetables were scarce, has abated.

This good news, along with recovering patients and the story of a physician's heroic devotion to duty, was brought by the steamer Excelsior, which arrived last night from Copper river and Valdes. She had fine weather and made a very quick trip down, making the run from Valdes to Seattle in seven days. When the steamer left Valdes, March 31, there were nineteen men sick with the scurvy in the hospital at Copper Center, and ten in cabins around the hospital, but it is said that none of the sick are in any danger.

The Excelsior brought back fifteen men who are recovering. As fast as they are fit to leave the hospital they are being put on sleds and dragged across the glacier to the steamer landing. Frank S. Washburn, formerly of Massachusetts, says there is not much gold around Copper river, but other returned miners are favorably impressed with the Slayna river and Quartz river, and intend to go back with provisions this summer. On Quartz river the most important strikes have been made, and it is thought that considerable gold will be brought down this summer. J. Higgins also says the outlook is good, and is down here for the purpose of securing machinery and provisions to commence dredging out the Valdes river.

**A "Fresh" Soldier.**  
WASHINGTON, CITY, April 6.—Secretary Alger is in receipt of a remarkable report from Gen. G. V. Henry, in command of our forces in Porto Rico. The communication describes the action of Lieut. Col. Charles C. Hood, Nineteenth Infantry, who forcibly removed Jose R. Becarra, president of the Criminal court at Ponce, from his court-room and brought him to Henry's headquarters. The incident created much comment at Ponce, and the president of the court protested vigorously against what he deemed an outrage. Col. Hood has been called on for an explanation, and if it is unsatisfactory he is liable to be tried by court-martial. Judge Becarra has received a letter of explanation and apology from General Henry, while Col. Hood was given a reprimand. The position in which Col. Hood finds himself is that of one who has been guilty of disobeying orders and of unwarrantably degrading a civil official. The incident has a serious aspect, for the reason that Gen. Henry's reprimand was printed and circulated in Porto Rico, and Hood was punished without the formality of a court-martial.

**English are Optimistic.**  
MANILA, April 5.—The proclamation of the United States Philippine commission was posted in the streets, printed in English, Spanish and Tagalog, today. It was also distributed in the outside towns as far as Malolos, and has been received with marked attention by the natives generally, and has been approved by a number of representatives of the Philippine Islands. English bankers who have been interviewed on the subject are optimistic upon the attitude of the Americans, assuming that it indicates that a decisive policy will undoubtedly be successful.

**Dawson's Telegraph Line.**  
SEATTLE, April 8.—Before the severe Arctic winter again settles down on Dawson City a line of wire will probably connect the famous gold camp with the gateway city of Skagway. It is not impossible that Skagway will by that time have electric connection with the outside world and Seattle. There is nothing to be done now but to cut and place the poles and string the wires. The men and material to build the line will go north in a few days and the money for its construction has all been secured. The success of the enterprise does not depend on the sale of stock. The Canadian government has ordered the line built, and capital for the purpose has been quickly raised.

For a time the Dominion government was considering an all-Canadian route from Ashcroft to the interior. The failure of prospecting parties to get over that trail, however, has resulted in a change of plans. The application for a franchise have been numerous, but the Dominion government considers the enterprise too important to be let out of government hands. The line will commence at Lake Bennett, where connection with Skagway can be made over the wires of the White Pass & Yukon railway. The estimated cost of the line between Bennett and Dawson is \$250,000. The entire cost at this rate would be \$150,000. It is expected that the line will be in operation by November 15.

**Memorial Meeting.**  
At a meeting of the members of the G. A. R., held at Fireman's hall, on Sunday last, the following resolutions were adopted. The meeting was called to order by Capt. Jack Crawford, and Wm. T. Reeve was appointed secretary pro tem. After a brief statement of the business of the preceding meeting by the captain, Col. O. V. Davis was appointed permanent chairman of the committee.

Resolved, That a special invitation be extended to Col. Steele, the commander of the military forces of the Yukon, and Commissioner Ogilvie, to be present at the Memorial exercises, May 30. Also, that a cordial invitation be extended all military and civic organizations to take a part; That Comrades Lenahan and Reeve be added to the general committee; That the patriotic ladies of Dawson be extended an invitation through the press to join and assist us in our exercises; That a special invitation be extended to the W. R. C. and Sons of Veterans, to all ex-confederates, their wives, sons and daughters, to meet and take part in the cordial invitation for all to meet with at Fireman's Hall, the meeting adjourned until Sunday, May 21, at two o'clock p. m.

**Pleasant Evening Party.**  
Dr. Mary Mosher gave a very pleasant party on Monday evening to a score or so of friends, the occasion taking on somewhat the nature of a musicale, as nearly all the guests contributed to a musical program of much merit, in addition to which Mrs. West's gramophone lent no small aid. In addition to the musical numbers Commissioner Ogilvie contributed some reminiscences and stories, and Miss Ross recited very nicely. Refreshments were served at about midnight, after which dancing was indulged in for a short time. Those present were: The Misses Mosher, Ross and Payson, Mrs. West, Mrs. Hill, Dr. Scott, Dr. Edwards, Commissioner Ogilvie, Messrs. Whitton, Kal-lenborn, Bleber, Hanbury, Yachan, Gillespie.

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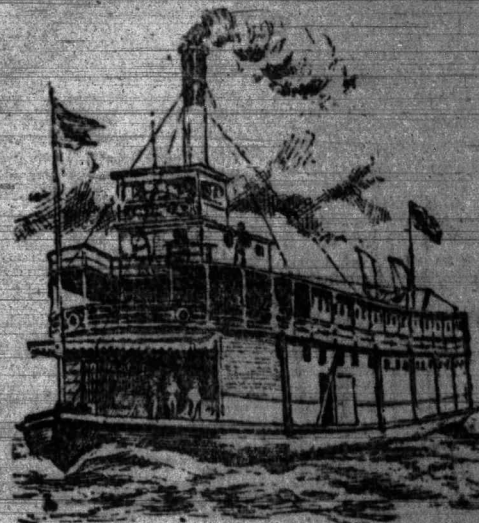
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