

An Adventure in the North.

Among the visitors in the city is Mr. Mitchell, customs broker, Montreal, who is on his return from an attempt to reach Yukon via the Edmonton water route. Mr. Mitchell stated to a Free Press representative that he was one of a party of nine who left Montreal last March with two years' provisions, intending, if possible, to enter Dawson City from the east side of the mountains. They started from Edmonton early in April and arriving at Athabasca Landing made a number of boats in which they sailed down the river to Lake Athabasca and on down Slave river to Great Slave lake. The rapids on these streams are very troublesome. Crossing Slave lake is dangerous work, as high winds generally prevail, so the party skirted the shore for 170 miles to the source of the Mackenzie river. They then decided to go to the delta and up the Peel river. Mr. Mitchell, however, was taken ill after getting beyond the Peel and returned with a companion, an old California miner, to Fort Macpherson. "The rest of the party continued on," said Mr. Mitchell, "but the route is one that only the hardiest traveller can undertake. The flies and mosquitoes are terrible pests, and for twenty-seven miles at one part of that journey we waded through water and tracked our boats over rapids. Our party will not get through the mountains this year; they will spend the winter in getting their supplies across the divide. In the light of the present day facts our expedition seems absurd. We endeavored to reach the Yukon by a long overland route. Before the party reach Dawson City they will have been travelling or recuperating during a period of 15 months; yet one can go from this city to Yukon in about two weeks' time. But we never realized that such an advance were possible in the facilities for reaching the gold fields."

Mr. Mitchell arrived at Fort Macpherson, where he met Rev. Mr. Stringer, missionary in the Mackenzie river district, and accompanied him to Herschell Island, the headquarters of the whaling fleet operating in the Arctic ocean, the Hudson's Bay company's steamer having previously left for up river points.

"I endeavored for some days to obtain passage on one of the boats of the fleet, but the captain would only take me on condition I shipped before the mast, which I did. This fleet had been locked in the ice all last winter, having remained in the bay too late to get out by the channel around Point Barrow. They had put in a severe winter and despatched one of the crew by the name of Walker to Edmonton to inform the company who owned the boats to send up a relief steamer early in the spring. Walker, as you are aware, arrived safely, but his trip cost the company thousands of dollars. We cruised around for a few weeks and the total catch was satisfactory. Whales are valued at \$10,000 each and only the bones are taken, thousands of dollars' worth of blubber being thrown away. The process by which the blubber is placed in barrels and its value retained is now considered too tedious an undertaking in comparison with the easy manner in which the whalebone is secured and packed safely away. Some of the steamers in the fleet captured 36 whales, but the sailing vessels do not secure nearly as many. The sailors can tell the species of whale that has the most value to the company by

its 'spout.' All whales are not equal in bone value. When the look-out discovered the right kind, the boats were lowered and the sails set. No rowing is done, as the whales can hear at a great distance and when disturbed they immediately disappear beneath the water. But a crew can sail right over the whale's neck, sight not being his 'long suit.' When the crew is over the whale's neck a harpoon is thrown into him with a bomb attached, which explodes in eight seconds. If this does not kill the Leviathan a bomb is fired from a small brass cannon in the boat at a distance of fifteen feet, which generally finishes him. The chase is exciting, as there are generally ice bergs around. When he dashes away with a harpoon in him, the rope attached is played out, and away the boat goes, drawn by the whale at a terrible rate of speed, and sometimes the boats come in contact with an ice berg and are stove in. Then, the whale's call is his dangerous part, and when he lashes his hind end all boats scatter. We cruised around the early part of the summer, and finally, towards the end of

neath it, immediately over the door, is the word "office" in handsome letters. On entering one is immediately impressed with the splendid light over the entire office, furnished through handsome plate glass windows on three sides of the building. A massive solid oak counter three feet six inches in width extends the whole length of the general office, while the interior throughout is handsomely finished in British Columbia cedar. The ceiling is beautifully finished in steel panels. The private office of Manager F. W. Thompson, is a handsome room, 14x24, with oak furnishings. All partitions are of crystalline plate glass. Everything has been planned with a view to the comfort, convenience and health of the employees. There are cashier's room, telephone room, stationery room, stenographers' private room, complete lavatory in the basement and commodious vaults. Taken altogether, they make the handsomest and best arranged offices in Winnipeg, and it is doubtful if outside of some of the large financial institutions in the east they are excelled in these particulars in the Dominion.



New Office Building of the Ogilvie Milling Co., Winnipeg

July, made for Point Barrow, where the relief steamer was met. San Francisco was reached about two weeks ago, where we received news of the war with Spain and other important events that had transpired during our absence."

Mr. Mitchell is a brother of the chief clerk in the Indian department, and leaves for home to-morrow.

Handsome Offices.

The new offices of the Ogilvie Milling company in Winnipeg are about as handsome and complete as it is possible to make them. In fact since the remodelling of their building on the corner of King and Alexander streets, the company has undoubtedly the finest strictly office building in the city. The exterior is finished in handsome Philadelphia red pressed brick which is without doubt the finest in finish and most uniform in color of any in the city. Over the entrance is a large dome from the centre of which rises a flag staff, floating the union jack. The dome carries the name "Ogilvie," while under-

Crow's Nest Pass.

Messrs. W. Whyte and Robt. Kerr returned on Saturday from Macleod. They have been over the Crow's Nest Pass railway and formally took it over from the contractors on Tuesday last. To a Free Press reporter Mr. Whyte said on Saturday that passenger trains were now running from Lethbridge to Cranbrook, and that a regular service would be given over the whole line as far as Kootenay Landing as soon as a time bill could be prepared. One train will be run from the eastern terminal to Cranbrook, and back again the next day, and another train will do the same from Cranbrook to Kootenay Landing. Not much passenger traffic, he said, was anticipated for the winter months, but there would be a very heavy freight traffic, principally in coal, timber and ore.

It is not expected that much of the bituminous coal of this region will be sent east, owing to the competition it would be subjected to against American anthracite and bituminous coal and Canadian anthracite. It is, however, an excellent coking coal and it is expected that a very large quantity