

MAMMOTH PROSPECTS

Well Known Creek on American Side

Eldorado Operators Putting in a Large Plant to Handle Low Grade Dirt.

More and more every year are the diggings about Circle City and vicinity, that were all but abandoned when the Klondike stampede took place in '96, being worked and next season they will receive a greater impetus than ever before, according to the statements made this morning by Billy Leake, the well known Eldorado operator. Seven or eight years ago the comparatively few miners then in the interior were about equally divided between Fortymile and the Birch creek diggings, though at the time the latter were struck the older of the two camps was about depleted. Nearly all of the Birch creek tributaries upon which pay has been struck are shallow and specially fitted for summer work. It is true that with very few exceptions none of them ever paid much more than a grub stake, but it is only recently that adequate machinery for the proper and economical working of the ground has been available. The gold bearing creeks are sixty miles back in the hills from Circle and the transportation of provisions that distance has been an item of expense that made a big hole in the cleanups of each year. Then, too, only the most primitive methods were employed. If the ground was deep enough to drift wood firs solely were employed, steam thaws being unknown, and if it was a shoveling proposition dependence was placed entirely in manual labor. Scrapers, steam shovels and dredgers were the same as unheard of. For years and years ground that would pay fabulously if worked with proper machinery and on a large scale has lain idle waiting for the arrival of a man sufficiently long headed to see the possibilities of such when properly handled. Experience in the Klondike where labor saving machinery is now the rule instead of the exception has taught a valuable lesson to many of the old timers of Circle and Fortymile and at least two of them propose next season to put into practice in the lower country the information and knowledge they have acquired in this.

At the time of the Klondike strike Billy Leake was in business in Circle. The information received there was so meagre that at first but little confidence was placed in it and it was not until November that Mr. Leake arrived here. Then everything worth anything had been staked except at the head of a moose pasture (Eldorado) and on 31 Mr. Leake planted his stakes. It is needless to speak of the fortune running up into six figures that 31 has since produced.

Two of the old timers at Circle refused to desert the old camp for the new and have persistently held on to their claims ever since. They are Pat Kennally and his partner Gregor. They were more or less interested in every creek upon which pay had been struck, among their holdings being a two mile stretch consisting of eight claims on Mammoth creek. Mammoth is formed by the junction of Mastodon and Independence creeks and the first half mile below the forks is the property of the N. A. T. & T. Co. Then comes the eight claims of Gregor & Kennally which are to be extensively worked next season. Some time ago Gregor bought out his partner and later sold an interest to Billy Leake and Charley Lamb and together they are putting in the largest plant ever operated in the Birch creek country. Last fall Messrs. Leake & Lamb shipped to Circle for use on the claims some boilers and other machinery that had formerly been service here and a shipment of 45 tons for the same firm arrived via the mouth of the river. Ten acres on one of the claims was plowed up with a team of horses and a plow and is ready to be run through the boxes this summer and during the present winter 100 cords of wood has been landed on the ground.

A steam shovel is to be employed in operating the ground and is now on the claims ready to be set up. At no place in the two mile stretch of territory bedrock deeper than seven feet and the pay, though low grade, is found from the grass roots down. It runs less than two cents to the pan, \$1.80 to the yard to be accurate, and while it would not prove remunerative handled in the old way yet with the assistance of a steam shovel the ground is expected to pay enormously. In the old days operated by the shoveling in process the claims yielded from \$7 to \$11 a day to the shovel.

In all the years that the claims have been held by Gregor & his partner they have been represented and kept alive by them and at a cost of not one copper in wages paid out. The old time miners are familiar with the ground and when the time

for representation work fell due there were always several who were broke and looking for a grub stake. To such Gregor would allow them to work the ground and keep all they took out. In that way he had his claims represented, old friends would secure the coveted grub stake and he would be out nothing in pocket. Each year when such was done he would compel the grub stake men to sink in a new place and in that manner he has had the entire eight claims thoroughly prospected. It will take 25 years to work out the ground.

Other sections of the Birch creek country are also coming to the front. Mr. Gregor still owns a number of claims on Mastodon which are being worked this winter on lays. But a few days ago representatives of his laymen came in to Circle and paid him \$150 in dust, his share of the panning taken out so far this winter.

Asked concerning his opinion of the reported strike on the Tanana, Mr. Leake places but little confidence in it. He said: "I received a letter yesterday from a teamster who is in our employ hauling wood on Mammoth dated the latter part of last month. He said not a word about the Tanana strike and I am sure if there was anything big in sight he would have written something about it. Circle is the closest of any of the river camps to the Tanana and they would be the most likely to be the first to hear of any new discovery of any consequence being made."

Mr. Leake will not go down to the Birch creek country this summer but will be represented there by Mr. Lamb who intends spending the summer managing the operations. Most of Mr. Leake's time this coming season will be devoted to 12 below on Bonanza which it is intended to operate on a large scale. A quantity of warm springs in that vicinity has heretofore given a great deal of trouble both in winter as well as in summer, and this season there will be installed a large centrifugal pump which it is thought will be sufficient to cope with the difficulty.

Queer Matrimonial Facts
London, Jan. 3.—More queer things happen in Norfolk than in any other shire of its size in England. Londoners have gotten over being surprised over any state of things said to exist in that extraordinary place. There have just been reported statistics on Norfolk's matrimonial condition which make interesting reading. First, the shire contains 71,249 persons over twenty years of age who are unmarried. There are 5,598 wives living apart from their husbands, and 3,589 husbands who have moved their baggage out of the houses occupied by their wives. Of the 80,155 married couples, 36,098 are of the same age. The exceptions to this rule are somewhat remarkable. One man aged 75 has a wife of 25. The husband of a woman of 75 is not yet 30. The youngest husband is 18, the youngest wife 15. There are 10,612 widows and 9,150 widowers.

New York Assessment
New York, Jan. 3.—Real estate assessments in this city, according to the tax commissioners, have been increased nearly \$1,500,000,000 under the new system of taxation adopted by the fusion administration. In last year's assessment real estate was valued at about \$3,330,000,000 and this year the assessments will reach a total of \$4,750,000,000. While this tremendous increase in real estate valuations is being effected, the administration is also increasing by \$2,000,000,000 the "tentative assessments" on personal property. By these increases, the tax commissioners believe the city tax rate for the current year can be cut in half. Instead of continuing the present rate of \$2.27, a tax of \$1.13 is predicted.

Test is Fatal
Paris, Jan. 3.—Albert Guelle, of Mendon, had studied occult science, and he became convinced that if a body were made to sleep for a long time the soul would be at liberty to wander gloriously through space. He constructed an apparatus like a diver's head mask with a chloroform mixture dropping on the lips. The first experiment made him ill for a week. He tried again, leaving a notice to wake him 10 days later, but when found by friends and a doctor he was stone dead.

Mr. Greatman—I wish you'd stop printing my portrait every time any little thing happens to me, or else get a new one. You've had that old block in seventeen times.
Editor—All right, my dear sir. Anything to oblige.
Assistant Foreman (a week later) I can't find that picture of Sam the pickpocket anywhere.
Editor—Well, dump in that old picture of Mr. Greatman. It isn't good to be used for him any more.

Maudie—Why should you think I'm engaged to him? If you had seen us together you would at once have seen there was nothing between us.
Frank—I did see you together, and not seeing anything between you, at once concluded you were engaged.

A syndicate of New York interests has been formed for the purpose of buying the Brockville, Westport and Sault Ste. Marie railroad in Canada at the receivers' sale on January 30. The road, which was put in operation in 1892 is forty-five miles long.

Best hot drinks in town—The Sideboard.

SOCIAL DOINGS

While Away Time on the Creeks

The People of Lower Dominion Enjoy a Successful Dance

At Grant's roadhouse, No. 144 Dominion on Friday evening, 23rd inst., a very successful social dance was held. Superb music, a sumptuous repast, and unalloyed harmony throughout were conspicuous features of the event. Messrs. Leroux and Douglas, as floor managers, gave entire satisfaction. The names of the guests are as follows:—Messdames Ingebrigtsen, Brown, Moore, Gourley, Cosby, Beal, and Browne. Messrs. Curry, Renaud, Foley, Waechta, Ross, Dalby, Mahan, Dougal, Tephel, Myers, Delage, Chiniquy, Lushbaugh, A. Brown, R. Brown, Gouley, Tinsley, McDonald, McLeod, Martin, Bradley, Beal, Brocher, Nelson, A. Morris, Crosby, Fogarty, J. T. Morris, Ingebrigtsen, Linderman, Taylor, Lee, Abbott, Lefleur, Oligny and Crossman.

The Tanana excitement has aroused the mettle of some of the old-souled rough warhorses whose stampeding proclivities have been dormant for at least two years past, and they are sniffing the battle afar off. Mr. Roberts of No. 28, who claims to have received reliable information of the reported discovery, is outfitting stampedeurs for the new fields, also Mr. Lane, a well known pioneer, who has been with Chute & Willig for a long time, has taken his departure, determined to reach the Tanana well in the van.

Mr. Ed. Orr was a visitor on Gold on last Friday.
On Friday evening, Feb. 6th, Miss Ella Hall of the Dale roadhouse, No. 1 below on Sulphur, will give a social dance, which it is expected will eclipse anything of the kind ever held on that ambitious creek.

Mob Non-Union Men
London, Jan. 3.—Active participation in strikes by the wives, sisters and other female relatives of workmen hereafter will not be encouraged at Denaby Main, where a miners' strike is still in progress after twenty-five weeks.

The strike went along smoothly, and there were no acts of violence until about a hundred women, many of them with small children in their arms, held a meeting in the open air, and then proceeded in a body to the pit mouth, where a few men were working. The women, shrieking like savages, stoned the non-strikers, forcing them to quit work. Then they returned to the village and smashed the windows of several workmen who had not joined the strikers. One of these they assaulted, injuring him to such an extent that he had to be taken to a hospital.

Purely on account of the actions of these women the police had to be summoned, and the strikers suffer from the charge of using violent measures.

Nip the glars
Quincy, Ill., Jan. 3.—Two of the five men who this morning dynamited the First National bank at Abingdon and stole \$4,800, were arrested here on the arrival of the last mail on the Burlington from Galesburg.

Both men carried enormous pipes, and tried to draw them on the officers who made the arrest, but were overpowered and disarmed. Officers were on the lookout for the men and spotted them instantly on the arrival of the train.

The men were captured on the same spot where Prince and Good, leaders of a famous band of bank robbers, were killed here three years ago. The captured men gave the names of Edward Raymond and J. A. Raines.

Raymond had a card bearing the name of R. A. Vance of the government secret service. He admitted that he himself had been in the secret service department.

Raines had the name of Quinn on his shirt and also a matchbox with "Q" on it. Each man had a grip filled with loose money and also berglar tools and explosives. The money on them amounted to \$1,752. It is believed there were five burglars.

In "My Life" George Francis Train tells the following on the abolitionist lecturer, Wendell Phillips: "Phillips was once in Charleston, and returned to his hotel late for dinner. As he approached the door it was held open by a negro slave. Phillips said haughtily that he had never permitted a slave to wait on him, and he would not do so now. How long have you been a slave?" he asked. The negro replied, "I ain't got no time to talk about dat now, wid only five minutes fur dinner." Mr. Phillips told him to leave the room, but he would not let him serve at the table; he would wait on himself. "I can't do dat, sub; I is sponisible for de silber on de table, sub."

Send a copy of the Nugget's Christmas edition to your outside friends.

DRUNKARDS CRIMINALS

England's New Law is Now in Effect

Drunkenness for the First Time is Declared a Crime—Went into Effect Jan. 1st.

London, Jan. 3.—For the first time in history England is making an earnest effort to prevent and restrain drunkenness, which many distinguished Englishmen declare "the curse of the country."

A new liquor law became effective on New Year's Day. Its radical and comprehensive provisions are arousing interest and comment in all circles of society, from the highest to the lowest, because the law affects all the fashionable clubs in Pall Mall, as well as the dirtiest "pub" in Whitechapel.

Until this act was passed mere drunkenness had not been a crime. This act declares it to be such. "Drunkenness among women in England has increased alarmingly during the last two decades. The new law, for the first time, enables a husband to obtain legal separation from a habitually drunk wife and a wife from a drunken husband."

Under this clause Sir Charles Lawson has already applied for separation from his wife, who is an habitual drunkard. Under the new act the sale of liquor is prohibited to an habitual drunkard for a period of three years after conviction. So that there may not be any doubt as to the identity of such drunkards the law has provided that particulars shall be sent by the court to the police authorities concerned in each case.

The drunkard himself is informed of these particulars being sent to the police, and the police are compelled to notify all saloon keepers in the drunkard's neighborhood of his conviction as an habitual drunkard. The police are preparing to obtain photos of habitual drunkards, copies of which will be privately circulated by the Saloon Keepers' Association to all saloons in order to protect saloon keepers against the penalties for the violation of the law.

If the habitual drunk attempts within three years to obtain intoxicants anywhere he is liable to a heavy fine, while anybody who assists an habitual drunk directly or indirectly to obtain liquor will be heavily fined.

The law makes it a fine offense for anybody to treat a drunkard. Briefly, the provisions of the new act, which is the most sweeping ever promulgated in Parliament, are as follows:

"Any one found drunk in a public place may be arrested; persons drunk while in charge of a child under 7 may be arrested and are liable to a fine or imprisonment; convicted drunks may be required to give bond for future good behavior. A habitual drunk list is to be supplied to saloon keepers by the police; a drunk may be fined for purchasing or attempting to purchase intoxicants from retailers within three years of his conviction; the sale of liquor to such habituals subjects the saloon keepers to a fine of £10 for the first offense and £20 for the second offense; those who keep unlicensed premises and attempt to secure liquor for drunken persons are punishable by fine or imprisonment; habitual drunkenness on the part of husband or wife constitutes grounds for an application for judicial separation."

Clubs do not escape the drastic provisions of the law. Every club must be registered. Drunkards cannot be served at clubs any more than in saloons. By enforcing the registration law the idea that a club is a private house and the members' assets is exploded. Magistrates may grant search warrants for clubs and clubs where there is frequent drunkenness may be suppressed summarily.

Raines Law clubs are impossible, for the law imposes a stiff fine or imprisonment for serving liquor to a person not a member for 48 hours. Clubs are not permitted to sell liquor to be drunk off their premises, which makes it impossible for clubmen to buy wines or liquors in clubs for home consumption.

The new law marks an epoch in the history of temperance legislation in England. Police magistrates already manifest a disposition to enforce the law literally. The law affects England and Wales only.

Clarence O'Brien, familiarly known to his convives in New York society as "Paddy the pig," was locked up in the station-house in the Tenderloin district a few days ago, for some little indiscretion. His normal weight is 400 pounds and he could barely squeeze through the door of the cell. Since then he has gained twenty pounds and neither a writ of habeas corpus nor a black and tacker can get him through the cell door again. Captain Walsh is greatly perplexed by the situation and is about consulting the services of a wrecking company to provide a way out.

Uncle Sam—Gentlemen, America asks no credit. She's got the cold cash to put up.

MAX O'RELL SAYS: ATLIN MEN IN VICTORIA

Miners to Hold a Convention

To Ask for Abolition of Duty on American Machinery and to Discuss Other Matters.

Victoria, Jan. 13.—A party of Atlin miners are expected here for the purpose of holding a convention in this city at which a considerable budget of important business will be taken up. The questions to be dealt with are both numerous and varied, but are all thought to be of the utmost importance by those who have at heart the prosperity of the Atlin country.

Among the questions to come up for discussion, Mr. Canavan says, will be the taxes, wages, transportation facilities, rates, the scarcity of labor, the improvement of roads and tracks, and some alterations in the placer mining act. When a line of action has been decided upon in every matter an interview with the government will be arranged and the necessity of immediate steps along the lines suggested by the convention will be urged.

One of the most important matters to receive attention will be the scarcity of labor. Since the Atlin district has recovered from the effects of litigations and continual dispute among the miners every man in the district who cares to work has been receiving between \$5 and \$6 a day, and there is employment for an additional large number of laborers. There are in Atlin at present few more than 500 people, and there are no less than ten large hydraulic companies in operation. About \$1,000,000 has been expended by these companies in purely preliminary work since '99, last year being really the first time there has been a regular output. But already the returns have equalled about half the total expenditure, and those interested in the district have every confidence in its finally giving good returns.

It is also the desire of Atlin miners to have the tax on imported American machinery abolished. It is held that in many cases the complete outfit of necessary machinery cannot be procured in Canada, and that part of it has to be purchased from American companies. They think, therefore, that in the interests of the mining industry of the country this duty should be removed.

There are a number of clauses in the placer mining act which are not clearly defined, and have thus caused considerable friction at times among the miners. It is the purpose of the convention to recommend some changes to the act calculated to do away with the possibility of differences of opinion in the future.

The roads and trails throughout the Atlin country are in many localities in a bad state of repair, and the government will be asked to put them in good condition. Some of the trails are in a very dangerous condition, as is shown by the recent misfortunes of the two mail carriers, who, although well acquainted with the country, lost their way.

A complete list of those who will attend the forthcoming convention follows:

R. D. Featherstonebaugh, representing the Atlin Mining Company, operating McKee creek.
J. M. Ruffner, representing Pine Creek Power Company, and also large quartz interests.
Ed. Bannan, representing quartz interests.
J. H. Brownlee, representing the Other Hydraulic Company.
J. Deeks, representing an eastern group of leases on Pine creek.
F. Fall, representing the Boulder Creek Hydraulic Company.
Charles D. Newton, who will represent the Upper Boulder creek lease, Dr. Mitchell, representing hydraulic leases on Pine creek.
Frank W. Brackett, representing the Atlin Willow Hydraulic Company conjointly with R. B. Skinner, of Vancouver.
Mr. Jackson, representing the Birch Creek Hydraulic Company.
H. W. Canavan, representing the British-American Prolonging Company on Pine creek.
I. H. Griffiths, of Seattle, and Supt. Lovridge, of Victoria, will also be in attendance, representing the Pine Creek Company in conjunction with J. M. Ruffner.

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