

AN UNBIASED OPINION.

The American Consul Gives an Official Account of Facts Bearing on Yukon Trade.

Relative Value of Claims in United States Territory and the Canadian Northwest.

The United States consul at Victoria has made the following official report to his government on the "Klondyke Gold Fields."

Victoria is directly on the route to the gold regions, and the news from the Northwest is more profitable than in Canada, and he has worked in both, and knows this from personal experience.

All the advice that reach here indicates that the rush to California, and, later, to South Africa, will be eclipsed by the rush of gold-seekers headed for the Yukon in the early months of 1893.

The steamship Warrimoo, two weeks ago, brought nearly a hundred from Australia to this port, on their way to the New Territories.

Even beyond the sealing question, the people of British Columbia are interested in this trade, and it is in response to their demands that Hon. Clifford Sifton, the Canadian Minister of the Interior, recently made a trip to the Northwest.

The desire is to give the Canadian government the right to open the Yukon to the gold fields and to enact such tariff laws as will make it to the interest of miners to purchase their outfits in Canada.

Mr. Sifton, naturally desirous of pleasing his constituents, has drawn a boundary line between Alaska and British Columbia, when rightly settled, would include some important posts now in possession of the United States.

Having met several who have spent some time in the newly-discovered gold fields, perhaps it might be well to give a synopsis of the views given by two of the most prominent and intelligent men on Vancouver Island.

Mr. Wm. Ogilvie, the Dominion surveyor and police commissioner, who accompanied Mr. Sifton, also delivered a lecture on the subject of the gold fields, which was largely attended.

Under the new companies act the following extra-provincial companies have during the past few days been granted licenses to do business in British Columbia.

A well known citizen of Victoria, who obtained \$130,000, in addition to an interest in some fifteen rich claims, at the result of two years' labor in the Northwest region, says that, contrary to the general impression, the best time for mining is in the winter.

When the snow has melted, the surface water does not inconvenience the miner, and the water runs down into the hole and extinguishes the fire, thus stopping the work.

hauled up in buckets. At intervals of a few days, a pan of dirt is washed to ascertain its yield.

There are five principal routes followed by miners in going to the different diggings, which are distanced from Victoria as follows: To Wrangell, 501 miles; Skagway, 1,024 miles; Fort Selkirk, 1,024 miles; Selkirk, 1,418 miles.

ABRAHAM E. SMITH, Consul. Victoria, November 23, 1892.

FROM THE DAILY COLONIST, JANUARY 8. THE CITY.

Mr. THOMAS BRADBEY has decided to withdraw as an aldermanic candidate for North Ward.

One of the Victorians who went north on the Corona was T. F. Geiger, who goes to Lake Bennett for the purpose of putting up a line to catch the trade of the passing gold seekers.

The preliminary hearing of Somyer, the Indian accused of attempting to kill Francis Jones, the Hall's crossing storekeeper, opened on Wednesday before Justice of the Peace Magistrate and W. J. Dunsmuir, M. J. Dallas Helmcken appearing for the defence.

Last night Deputy Grand Master A. Henderson, assisted by the Grand Lodge staff, installed the officers of Dominion Lodge, No. 4, I.O.O.F.

The members of the Orchestral Society and the orchestra of the Giorra's, a Mass and a grand orchestra, will give a Jubilee hospital on Saturday next at 3 p. m.

There are twelve extra-provincial companies who have registered their head offices in British Columbia during the past week as required by the Companies Act.

A well pleased audience filled the A. O. U. W. hall last evening, to witness the entertainment given in aid of the Christ Church cathedral Sunday school.

The Extravaganza "Babes in the Wood" was a grand success from beginning to end.

Mr. Littler, of Vancouver, one of the men from Dawson who arrived in the city yesterday morning by the Seattle, is a guest at the Queen's.

Waterproof mackinaws with or without hood. B. Williams & Co.

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THE SEATTLE ARRIVES

Reaches the Outer Wharf This Morning With Another Party From Dawson.

Two Lucky Frenchmen Bring Each a Fortune Back From the Mines.

The steamer City of Seattle touched at the outer wharf at 2 o'clock this morning, bringing among her passengers another batch of some forty-five men from Dawson City.

There was fun, excitement and rare sport furnished the great audience who attended the assault-at-arms in the drill hall last night.

The splendid manner in which the blueshirts, X.M.S. Imperieuse went through the disabled and maimed drill and outlast exercise made a tremendous hit, and round after round of applause was bestowed on the Jack tars.

Another party of prospective gold hunters bound for the North, arrived in the city yesterday and registered at the Dominion hotel.

The party is composed of J. H. Ingram, Sonora, Cal.; H. A. Varring, and J. H. McIntosh, of Denver, Col.; and George F. Stewart, late of Oregon, who is a prospector.

Mr. John St. Clair and Mr. de Malchin, great skill in exhibition, both contestants but the decision went to Mr. de Malchin by 7 points to 5.

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Little fairies were simply bewitching. Their delightful fairy dance, with waving scarfs and flying draperies, was most beautifully executed.

The pianist was Mr. Carl Lowenberg, whose skillful playing contributed much to the success of the play.

ASSAULT-AT-ARMS. Stirring Sports Amuse a Great Crowd of People at the Drill Hall.

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DURRANT'S EXECUTION

California's Notorious Murderer at Last Pays the Penalty of His Cowardly Crimes.

He Maintains His Air of Injured Innocence and Accepts the Consolation of the Church.

SAN QUENTIN, Cal., Jan. 7.—Theodore Durrant was executed at 10:35 this morning at the state penitentiary.

He remained on the scaffold calmly, following Father Lagan, who administered to him spiritual wants. He made a brief speech in quiet tones, forgiving those who "persecuted" him.

With eyes riveted on Washington, figuratively speaking, the father and mother of Theodore Durrant spent last night at a little inn outside the prison walls.

The vigilance of the death watch had increased with the passing of every day and hour. Always fearful of an attempt at suicide in the case of the condemned prisoner, they have been doubly cautious.

He passed his waking hours in prayer and when, last night, the prison physician, who had also been called, he would come to him in the morning to give him stimulants, his smile and easy tone told, if he had not said a word, that he would scorn such support or comfort.

By request of the prison physician, the Associated Press correspondent was brought last night to the cage-like structure surrounded by a close wire netting in which the condemned man was confined.

All members of the party speak in glowing terms of the immense wealth of the Kootenay, but say that it requires large capital to develop the mines in that country.

Mr. Littler, of Vancouver, one of the men from Dawson who arrived in the city yesterday morning by the Seattle, is a guest at the Queen's.

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man shortly after 7 o'clock. He found Durrant in an apparently perfect physical condition. His pulse was unusually normal.

Durrant surprised his guards when his breakfast was brought in by eating heartily, and it was evident that he relished the steak, toast and fruit.

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NEWS OF THE CAPITAL

Forced Holiday for Government Printers While Favorites in Toronto Do Public Work.

Spain Too Included in the Preferential Tariff—Mr. Blair's Railway Schemes.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) OTTAWA, Jan. 6.—After conference with the home government, he had been decided to admit the tariff to the benefits of the reciprocity act.

Canadian goods for Klondyke will be allowed to pass through the disputed territory without paying customs charges under regulations soon to be put in force by the customs authorities at Dyea.

When it was finally decided that Durrant should accept the Catholic faith, the parents met Father Lagan in the wardens' office and accompanied him to the death chamber, where the prisoner given extreme unction and the Catholic service performed.

On the arrival of the first train from San Francisco the open space in front of the prison gate was nearly filled with people, including many of those who held invitations to the execution, while others were attracted by curiosity.

So many persons pressed for admission that Warden Hale found it necessary to publicly announce that under no circumstances would anyone without a proper card be admitted.

THE FOOD AND SHELTER. TO THE EDITOR.—Some years ago a wise-hearted and far-seeing man started in England and then throughout the Empire, shelters, farms and woodyards, where those in want of something to do or overworked by the time by the stress of circumstances might earn bread and board without further loss.

What I wish with your leave to bring before you is that free tickets should only be given on one condition, either of age or illness (and in the latter upon a medical certificate shown). It is an unheard of thing that those for whom this shelter was meant should have their place made next to unbearable filth by the scouring of the lowest scoundrels of the city and finished beggars because the city clergy and men of means, who have the hearts of their own men in their castles, can be taken in by a glib story.

It should be understood this is in no wise written against the officers in charge of the shelter and woodyard, who do their best under most trying circumstances, but as to those citizens with whom the dialke of saying no is more powerful than the will to put into play that knowledge of mankind which those of us have.

Believing that all religions, including Christianity, are superstitions; that the basic doctrine of the Christian religion, 'the fall of man,' is utterly and absolutely false and that its opposite, the rise of man from the lower orders, is a scientific fact; that belief in the existence of hallucinations of the brain and never had the slightest existence in fact; that the chief characteristics of what is termed the 'Word of God' are, in fact, untruthfulness and obscenity; that the effect of orthodox Christian teaching is to encourage ignorance, selfishness, narrow mindedness, acrimony and avarice, wrong and mental slavery; that Christianity, so called, is not the religion of Christ; that it supplants ethical culture and true morality with meaningless theology and unbelievable dogmas; that it puts an unknowable (and probably unknowable) imaginary being in the place of nature; that it gives a name and a personality to evil—an equally unknowable imaginary being; that it so works upon the credulity of its adherents as to invite in them a fear of (that most horrible of doctrines) eternal punishment; that by believing all these, and in all kindness and sincerity, they are in quest that over my remains there be no religious services of any kind, nature or description whatever.

It is also requested that my body be cremated at Fresh Pond, or some other crematory, and that all my ashes be left there.

VANCOUVER EVENTS. VANCOUVER, Jan. 6.—(Special)—The Channe company held its annual meeting of shareholders yesterday in the Board Room. Directors were appointed as follows: Messrs. William Sheagren, Shirley, Atkins and Benwell. G. W. Willis was chosen president and J. A. Fraser secretary. It was decided to advertise in the British Columbia Gazette that another meeting would be called to consider the advisability of reducing the capital of the company from \$1,000,000 to \$250,000. All those present, representing more than two-thirds of the issued stock, agreed to pool their stock when the per capita is reduced. In fact there is little doubt but that a very close pool can be arranged in this event. Sufficient treasury stock will be set apart to operate the present properties of the Channe company in Kootenay, and the proceeds of the 25,000 £1 guaranteed shares of the Gold Fields of British Columbia stock owned by the Channe company, now being placed on the British market, will be disposed of in the shape of dividends to the Channe shareholders.

A great many properties owned by Vancouver parties or operated by companies located here are being examined at present by English experts.

Leather coats with sheepskin lining, made specially for the Yukon country. B. Williams & Co.

Waterproof mackinaws with or without hood. B. Williams & Co.