

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

DAWSON, Y. T., SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1899

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CAPE NOME DIGGINGS ALL RIGHT.

So Says a Man Who Was There as Late as April.

Declares That the Country is Known to Be Good for Six to Eight Cents, Though Practically Unprospected—Meeting Held.

True to its promise of getting and publishing the latest news from the new gold fields near St. Michael, the Nugget secured an interview Friday with another gentleman who personally visited the place and talks from actual experience. The gentleman is Mr. H. F. Young, a pilot on the steamer Leah, and he gave every necessary evidence of truthfulness and a desire to avoid exaggeration.

Like Mate Walker of the Yukoner and others quoted in previous issues, Mr. Young says the stampeders from the lower river country and St. Michael has been immense, everybody going over who could get away. As an illustration of this, he says that thirty-five of the eighty odd A. C. Co. employees at St. Michael went to the diggings.

As a result of the big rush and the capacity of the stampeders, the country was staked for miles, a large share of it being by power of attorney. This spirit was carried to such an extent that one person would stake on several creeks on one stream, both personally and by power of attorney. In many cases men staked for people who are living in the states.

Things went on so during the winter, as there were not more than 250 people living in the country, and as they were nearly all at Anvil City, on the coast, nothing could be done to regulate the staking. As spring advanced, however, the miners decided to take action, and at a mass meeting held in Anvil City on March 29 regulations for staking and recording were adopted. Among other things, it was decided that a man could record but one claim on any certain stream, and that only one power of attorney could be used by a man in one district.

The miners also did a sensible thing in regard to town lots at Anvil City. Originally they had been staked out 100x300 feet by dimensions, but this was cut down to 50x140 feet, which will more than double the landed accommodations of the place. Mr. Young thinks that the town will grow so fast and large that it will soon connect with Nome, which is now three miles distant. A recorder and surveyor were also appointed.

Only the most superficial prospecting had been done up to last winter, Mr. Young says, and the resources of the country were not then known. In company with another, he had done some prospecting himself, and on the strength of this, together with reliable reports received by him from others, he is satisfied the country is all right. Six to eight cent dirt can be secured almost anywhere, and as it is all shallow digging the country promises to be a profitable one for the miner.

At one point Mr. Young and his partner uncovered a couple of nuggets worth over \$2, which they took to St. Michael with them. He also met some men who had prospected 60 miles back from the coast on the waters of the Penny river, and they claimed to have found 17 cents to the pan. Mr. Young says he has confidence in their statement, and that prospectors generally are of the opinion that the Penny river will prove a better country than the Snake, as the prospects found there have been uniformly good. Like all others, Mr. Young has heard the reports of rich discoveries, but he was unable to verify any of them. The absence of fuel, except for the driftwood on the seashore, was also touched on by Mr. Young, who also said that the miners are carrying it inland to use as kindling with which to burn the alder bushes, the only wood to be found there. Snow is abundant in the country, ranging in depth from 5 to 20 feet. On account of this, many people who staked in the snow during the winter were disappointed when their claims were exposed this spring.

Captain Looney, of the Sarah, who spent the winter at St. Michael, says he knows little of the country except from hearsay, but that most of the people thereabouts have great faith in it. He thinks that by the time the Sarah reaches St. Michael something definite will have been developed by this spring's work.

FROM ANOTHER SOURCE.

The Aurora Borealis is the name of a newspaper published at St. Michael. The printing press which furnishes the Aurora to the world is nothing more nor less than a typewriter. However, the paper is a newsy one and well worth perusal. The issue of Dec. 1 contains an account of the Cape Nome discovery, which account, however, the general reader would accept along with a grain or two of salt. According to the Aurora's story, which the paper says is vouched for by Dr. A. N. Kittleson, the original discovery at Cape Nome was made in September. On October 15 the Cape Nome mining district was organized. The article states further that three hours' labor netted \$76, and in one day three men reeked out \$163. On October 31, in five hours' work, \$620 was taken out in five hours, one rocker being used on Snow creek and one on Anvil creek. On Snow creek one man shoveled out the creek and three others panned. Owing to the intense cold it then became necessary to abandon

work and return to St. Michael. The gold was all coarse, but the largest nugget weighed but \$1.65. Bedrock was only found on one creek—Snow creek. The Aurora Borealis says further that Dr. Kittleson has made an affidavit to the truth of the foregoing statements.

In another part of the paper the Aurora Borealis describes the stampeders out of St. Michael when the news was brought in, and the following are a few extracts from the article:

To Dr. Kittleson belongs the honor of establishing November 30 as one of the red letter days of the winter of '98-'99. He certainly caused the hearts of the citizens of this community to beat with joy when he told the story of how he "struck it rich" at Cape Nome. It is difficult for a man to alkify the fever when he has made his expedition, but he dug out \$620 a day for three hundred miles away.

The gold craze became epidemic and the stampeders were ready at once to stampede for the new diggings. Had there been means of transportation at hand more than seven hundred of the idle prospectors on the island would have pushed forward immediately.

There was an unprecedented demand for dogs. Dogs of all nationalities and size both recruits and veterans, were bought, hired or stolen to complete the outfit that did make an attempt to reach the Snake River. There is no possibility of working the Snake River, but to attempt to reach it that was the cry. A number of expeditions were equipped and left at the rate of one or more per day for about 10 days.

A company was formed among the employees of the North American Transportation & Trading Co. Capt. Polte was well provisioned and set out with a fine team of eight dogs in the interest of the company. The longshoremen were also represented by two men in the field.

The A. C. Co. employees are well to the front with a company under the direction of Mr. Hudson. There are many private enterprises already in or about for the new district. May good luck fall to all the hearty wish of the Aurora.

Dr. Kittleson's assertions, together with the fact that he was brought with him—and no greater proof could possibly be given no matter from whence it came—are verified facts and not the hallucinations of a disordered brain.

Calls It "Nome."

SEATTLE, June 9.—"Nome, Alaska." This is the way letters should be addressed to those at the new gold diggings in what is known as the Cape Nome district. The government has so designated the camp which, even this early, bids fair to be a formidable rival of the famous Klondike. The local postal authorities were notified yesterday by the department at Washington that the new settlement had been named "Nome." At least that is the appellation given to the office whose postmaster will be George N. Wright of this city. Mr. Wright was formerly connected with the postoffice at Skagway.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

The crazy Indian who ran amuck through the streets some days ago was taken down the river on the Cadacy.

The roof of Pat Galvin's establishment took fire Thursday from the stovepipe, and gave the fire boys a little exercise. There was no damage.

Three brass bands playing nightly before the amusement resorts on First avenue is a sight which does not fail to interest the newcomers.

A detail of soldiers and a policeman were dispatched to Dominion Wednesday to act as an escort for a large consignment of gold dust from the claims.

An outside paper states that the Ottawa authorities have at last consented to send newspapers through the mails to the people of the Klondike. The said people think it about time.

The sportively inclined will be interested in learning that articles of agreement for a 20-round prize fight between Alvin and Dick Agnew. The date and place have not yet been decided upon.

Mr. Steven Coulson was treated to an impromptu bath on No. 4 below lower on Monday last week. He was riding a horse above the dam, when suddenly a cave-in occurred, and both man and horse were bounding in eight feet of water.

Mrs. McNaught of San Francisco, who was a passenger on the Yukoner, will sue for damages for the boat's failure to properly land her at her destination. As heretofore described, the vessel had one of her boilers damaged and was obliged to lay up near Russian mission for the winter.

It is understood that no more licenses to sell goods by retail from snows will be issued. As a result of this a large quantity of goods will be thrown into the snow, at cheap values, while a number of men who do not wish to make the sacrifice will go into business in town. Corporal Wilson has served his final notice to the snow men to vacate the water front, and they are now, it is understood, threatened with action from the sheriff's office.

Hotel Dewey in Danger.

Edwin B. Hill of the Hotel Dewey, Grand Forks, has been forced to the courts for relief against the mining operations of Messrs. Fred Hutchinson and Gus Hultgreen. The hotel was built on its present site with the approval of the original owner, but Messrs. Hutchinson and Hultgreen, who purchased the claim later, did not renew the welcome, and a sluicing ditch which they dug close to the hotel and began to operate soon threatened to undermine and destroy the edifice. Mr. Hill thereupon appealed to the territorial court for relief and Judge Dugas granted an order temporarily restraining the defendants from operating the sluicing ditch. On Tuesday Mr. Wade, for the plaintiff, and Mr. Burritt, for the defendant, argued a motion for a permanent injunction, and Judge Dugas now has the matter under advisement.

Another case is pending wherein one Mallory sues Mr. Chute, a business partner, for an accounting on two promissory notes. The interesting feature of the case is that the notes were held in escrow by the N. A. T. & T. Co., and de-

pendant Chute contends that they were not to become operative except under certain conditions which have not yet existed. The escrow was ordered broken and the contents exposed several weeks ago by Judge Dugas. At the last hearing of the case an order was made for the examination of Mallory by a court commissioner in the states, where the plaintiff is.

Judge Dugas has now entered upon his annual vacation, which will extend from July 1 to September 15, but he will hold a series of sessions in chambers to hear motions, and on Saturday next, at 10 o'clock, he will try the attempted murder case of the Queen vs. Otto P. Frank, the fellow who made the murderous assault upon Mr. Sandison.

DOINGS ON THE YUKON.

The First Boat Arrives From St. Michael Friday.

The A. C. Co.'s handsome steamer Sarah, the first boat to make the trip from St. Michael this season, arrived in port on Friday morning, under the command of Captain Morrell Looney, of La Crosse, Wis. She was heavily laden with provisions. Among the passengers is a tame raven that keeps its presence continually known by a constant croaking.

The steamer Tyrrell pulled in from White Horse rapids on Friday morning, with a fair passenger list and 16 sacks of mail. Her officers report no more ill luck than attends the boats usually, and that the delay in arrival was occasioned by laying up. On board was new machinery for the steamer Light.

The steamer Evans left Dumb river for Dawson this spring, but at Circle City the trip was abandoned, owing to lack of sufficient power, and the cargo was turned over to another boat. The Evans then left for St. Michael, but when last sighted by the Sarah she was fast aground on the flats.

Tom O'Brien, who came up from Circle City on the Sarah, is quoted as saying that the steamer Pilgrim was fast aground on the flats and that her passengers were taken aboard an A. C. boat bound for St. Michael.

The Rideout has been taken off the up-river service and dispatched to St. Michael.

The Leah left on Friday for St. Michael.

The little steamer Joe Closser made her first trip down from White Horse for the season on Friday, Captain J. B. Marsh is the commander, and he is accompanied by E. A. Merk, the manager and principal owner.

The handsome steamer Canadian made a fine record for traveling when she arrived in port Wednesday afternoon, having made the round trip to the White Horse rapids in eight days. Besides a mixed cargo, which included some hogs and cattle, there was a fair passenger list, as follows: A. Mayling, R. Bumpkin, Mr. De Ronlatz, Corporal Allegier, Walter Moore, J. O. Johnston, A. Meiss, J. Kelley, Mrs. G. N. Williams, F. G. Cooks, Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Millette, A. Parker, E. C. Parker, T. A. Gilchrist, Mrs. P. Storah, E. B. Brigham, B. W. Litt, Mrs. H. B. Litt, M. Levy, S. C. Dunham, Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Desmond, Dora Bennett, Ben Holmes, E. Jones, Timothy Donovan.

A few minutes after the arrival of the Canadian the steamer Ora pulled in, having left the rapids a short time after the other. On board was Mr. H. C. Flockton, manager for the B. L. & K. N. Co., who will make a short sojourn in the city; J. H. Johnson, who brought in a complete brewery plant; Miss Ruth Howard, Dawson's lady barber; A. Simpson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tibbitts, Mrs. Hahn, Mrs. Hoff and son, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Hubrick, A. East and C. S. Bluckett. The last four named were wrecked on a snow while coming down the river near the float landing, and lost everything they had. The Ora made the trip down in less than two days.

The A. C. steamer Bella arrived in port Wednesday, under command of Captain James Newcomb, a veteran pilot from the Mississippi river. His officers are as follows: Mate Harry Claxton; chief engineer, Harry Moller; second engineer, John Johnson; purser, Mr. Egan. The Bella wintered at Andreofsky, near the mouth of the river, and her officers confirm the statement, made several times in this paper, that nothing positive is known of the richness of the Nome country. On board were a number of men who had prospected the Koyukuk river and Kotzebue sound countries; and they united in declaring that there is not an ounce of gold in either.

The Merwin left for White Horse rapids and the F. C. Power for St. Michael on Wednesday. Each had a fair passenger list.

On Thursday evening the Leah, another A. C. Co. steamer, pulled into port, also from Andreofsky. Captain O. E. McGinley, another veteran navigator of the Mississippi, is the commander, with W. C. Stetson as purser, H. F. Young chief mate, Charles Bassett chief engineer, Charles Allen second mate and A. Hill steward. There was a large cargo of provisions aboard a covered scow which the boat had in tow. Purser Stetson, when asked about the Cape Nome country, said that no news had yet come out concerning the results of the spring's work, but that the best or worst should be known within a fortnight.

The John C. Barr, of the N. A. T. & T. Co.'s line, cleared for St. Michael on Thursday.

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THE KLONDIKE'S FIRST ELOPEMENT.

Young People Leave in an Open Boat for Cape Nome.

The Girl But 16 Years of Age—Father Will Pursue—Young Lochinvar Was Once a Cowboy on the Montana Prairies.

The stampeders from Dawson to Cape Nome is not without the elements of sentiment and sensationalism. Already there has developed a young Lochinvar, together with his lady love, a pursuing father, a sorrowing mother and all the other essential features of a first-class elopement.

The hero in this melo-drama in Arctic real life is one John Orton, lately a prospector in the gold-laden gulches of the Klondike, but formerly a cowboy from the wilds of the state of Montana. Whether it is necessary to be wicked in order to be a cowboy is a mooted question; but in this instance the fact is made to apply to the prejudice of the young man.

The heroine of the romance is Miss Mabel Nummellin, a young lady who has seen but 16 summers pass over her tender head. She is of Norwegian extraction, but a native born American. Her parents have been keeping a road house on one of the creeks.

The story of the affair was first brought out through the inquiries of the father, Alfred Nummellin, at the levee, where he learned that a young couple, tallying with the description of the ones he sought, had passed down the river in an open boat. He then repaired to the justice court, where he asked for a warrant for the arrest of his daughter's abductor on a serious charge. He explained that a few days ago his daughter and young Orton suddenly disappeared, leaving behind a note informing them that they were about to leave for Cape Nome.

He was terribly angered by the disclosure, as he loves his daughter dearly, and he was the more incensed when investigation disclosed the fact that Orton had carried away other property belonging to him. He is determined to bring Orton to justice if he can, and will invoke the courts below to assist him.

Steamboat Office Robbed.

The office of the B. L. & K. N. Co., which is in the Rochester Bar on Second street, was the scene of a robbery on Thursday night.

The articles taken were \$1,400 in gold dust, \$300 in currency and two gold watches. These were contained in a box which was not open until a knife.

All the circumstances would seem to indicate that the robber was thoroughly acquainted with the place and knew where his booty would be found. The robbery was not discovered until morning, when the agent arrived at the office. There are no clues.

Died on the Ora.

A note from E. A. Hering, who left on the steamer Ora on Thursday, contains the following: "A man on the Ora's list of passengers known as Charles Eschwege, bound for Vancouver, died in his stateroom this (Thursday) evening, a few hours after leaving Dawson. His berthmate, Mr. F. A. Morrow, was in bed when he came in, and hearing him breathing heavily a few moments afterward asked if he needed anything and found he was insensible. In five minutes he was dead. Everything possible was done to restore him, but in vain. The body will be left with the police at Indian river, together with his baggage, etc."

The Grand.

On another page of this issue appears a cut of Charley Meadow's Grand theatre, now under process of construction. The building, when completed, will be a most creditable affair both to the city and the enterprise of the promoters.

POLICE COURT NOTES.

A. A. Starring missed in case of officers from his scow load of goods near the mouth of Hood-Aliquam, and caused the arrest of W. J. Stewart on suspicion that he is responsible for their disappearance. The case is pending.

Fred Warren, the man who attempted to commit suicide at the Pavilion, is probably sorry he didn't succeed now. He was arraigned before Colonel Steele for trial on Thursday, and things look black for him. An adjournment was taken to Monday, after the evidence of two witnesses had been taken.

George Danola, the fellow who escaped from his guards a few days ago and was recaptured, found that he had "put his foot in it," metaphorically speaking, as he was remanded to the territorial court for trial, and will likely have a material period added to his original sentence. He will be a veteran sour-dough when he gets out. Henry Furr, another prisoner, is suspected of having given him counsel that aided in the escape, and he may also be punished.

Loiterers in Col. Steele's court were amused on Thursday by a typical specimen of the genus Siwash walk up to the magistrate's court and address him as follows: "Injun loan white man money. White man no pay. Always say, 'Next month.' How much does he owe you?" "Next month," replied the colonel. "Two hundred asked, me loan him money?" was the answer. "What country do you come from?" was next asked. "Forty-mile," was the innocent, but self-satisfactory answer. "Man has been property, but he no pay." The colonel told Mr. Lo he would have to employ a lawyer, and sent him on his way with a note to a legal firm. Lo said he didn't know what a lawyer is, whereat one of the spectators was heard to mutter indignantly, "Happy man."

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