

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Splendid Work of the N. W. M. P. Handling the Mail.

What Will Be Done for Them in the Way of Extra Compensation?—Now Doing Work Not Theirs on Small Pay.

GOAING'S, Y. T., Feb. 7, 1900. Sixteen miles further along and we will be at the famous Five Fingers, and half-way on our long tramp to the coast will have been accomplished.

The men wearing the yellow stripes have been singularly free from public scandal as regards efficiency, discipline and honesty; yet, when one regards the salary of a constable in the territories at 75 cents per day per man, corporals 85 cents and sergeants \$1.25, while in the Yukon 10 to the above is added 50 cents per day each, one could almost overlook the fact of human nature which could close the hand upon that which it had been extended to receive particularly when it is brought before personal observation the work now being put upon the sturdy boys, sworn in to serve in the Yukon district for two consecutive years, having volunteered to come here from their service in the territories.

As intimated in our previous letter we have met three mails on their way into Dawson since last Monday, January 30th, and this led us to investigate the manner of handling the same.

First of all, it has been practically demonstrated that the mail can be handled, and that with dispatch; for the remarkable record has been established by the police department, of landing official mail taken from Dawson to Bennett in nine days. This was done, as we understand it, not from orders from Colonel Steele, but the request that dispatch be given it, and the boys along the trail took hold of the matter in that spirit which produced the record above stated.

The lack of mail facilities has caused much suffering. Deals for properties involving large sums were hung up in the balance of uncertainty, options expiring, and the receipts of news from families and friends completely obliterated because of somebody's bungling. The police were here to carry official mail from post to post or to pass it along to the steamers at Skaguay, but that could all be carried readily in the usual mail sack of the department strung from the man's shoulder. The Skaguay postoffice, or arriving steamers there were rapidly congesting that end of the line with matter for the Yukon.

Colonel Steele is, as all know, a military man, a man of method and of stern discipline. He realized the situation, and to realize the necessity of something to be done was, with him, but the incentive to act.

With only 190 men at his command from Skaguay to Forty-Mile, covering a distance of nearly 700 miles, leaves, outside of the force necessary in Dawson, one man in charge of each post and two constables, with a dog driver attached to each post. Blanks were prepared and the service of handling postoffice mail was put into effect in the most systematic manner—and when one sees the sturdy boys handling 400 to 600 pounds on a sledge, in their endeavor to get the long-looked-for letters into Dawson, one cannot help but entertain a higher respect for a department which is a credit to the government and to the individuals composing the force. All Yukon mail is taken from the steamers at Skaguay direct, immediately loaded upon sleds and rushed to the summit, thence to Log Cabin and thence on to Bennett. Blanks are made out headed "North West Mounted Police—Yukon Mail Why BHM." These show date, with a list of all posts between Bennett and Dawson, hour of departure, hour of arrival, A. M. or P. M., name of officer carrying same, each receipting to the previous carrier for the number of sacks carried, weight, number of dogs, rations, forage, etc., and a space for remarks, in which must be noted all delays, their causes, etc., and this is finally filed at headquarters in Dawson for future reference.

Surely these men should receive extra compensation for their extra labor. The contract was let for \$20,000 per annum, to a party whose principal occupation since receiving the contract has been sitting around a crap table in Skaguay rolling the ironies, or with boasting about a comfortable stove fire, relating his terrible experiences on the Yukon trail conjured in his imagination.

It must also be remembered that the men carrying mail are never on detached service for this special purpose, they never lose their duties as policemen, but must be ready to obey orders in the preservation of the peace, serving of summons, etc.

Arrivals and Departures.

Messrs. Sidney Hansard, Robert Webb, L. W. Heile and Dury Brick arrived from the outside on Saturday, and took up quarters at the Regina Club hotel. They left Skaguay on January 15th, and made a slow trip because of a heavy load of merchandise they carried. Mr. Hansard, who is an old-time Klondiker, reports having met several of the "regular" express teams while en route, and that all were making excellent time.

Jack Patterson, one of Dawson's best known residents, left for the outside on Sunday, and will probably relocate at Seattle, where he is interested in the New England hotel. Jack was burned out in the fire of last fall, and had not since re-engaged in business.

E. B. Eames arrived down from Stewart river on Saturday, and was a guest at the Yukon hotel for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Shaw arrived from Circle City on Saturday, and purposes establishing a restaurant here.

James Tinto has returned to Dawson from Forty-mile, mining affairs being too tame for him there.

Captain Cates, Captain McLain and George Clancy departed Saturday afternoon for Vancouver and other outside points. They were accompanied by Captain Cates' handsome team of huskies, which has already been sold to outside parties for a return trip.

Thomas Tritton, who will be remembered as the mate of the steamer Sovereign, arrived on Sunday from the outside, whither he left in November, bringing 600 pounds of machinery for his boat. He was a guest here of the Pat. Galvin meat company until Tuesday, when he left for Circle City, where the Sovereign is tied up.

Mr. J. B. Woods, who has been the St. Michaels representative of the Columbia Navigation company, arrived in from the south by dog team on Sunday, and will make this his base of operations for the future. His company, it will be remembered, own the Sovereign and Mounarch, and Mr. Wood says arrangements have been made for connection at St. Michaels with the Morgan City, which plies between that point and the states.

Charles Kelly, the druggist, returned on Sunday from the outside, after a quick trip from the coast. He is already making arrangements to go out again over the ice.

Harry Gilpin came up from Circle City on Sunday, and is a guest at the Yukon hotel.

Another Mill Arranged.

A grievance has been arranged to occur two weeks from Monday last, between Tom Austal and Pat Rooney. Austal is an Australian, who has appeared several times to advantage before the California club, and is known as a good man; Rooney has already won several victories in Dawson, and so the interested ones will look for a good "go."

American Camps Dull.

Frank Malone arrived on Saturday from Minook, and expects to make Dawson the scene of his future mining operations. He paints a description of most of the lower camps in most sombre hues. Minook, he says, is practically dead; there are 1,500 people there, but only one single mine is paying; there is little business, and people are only awaiting a more favorable time to get away, the "sour doughs" generally having their eyes on the upper Koyukuk. Gold has been found there as high as fifty cents to the pan, and already a stampeded of respectable proportions has taken place from points on the Yukon. Circle City is very dull, but there is considerable activity about Eagle, Seventy-Mile and Forty-Mile. Of the fifteen saloons formerly at Minook, Mr. Malone says that only three are now in operation, and one of these is conducted by Capt. Mayo, who represented the A.C. there.

Wanted, A Husband.

The following unique and interesting letter is post marked in New York, December 6th, and in a dashing feminine hand on tinted note paper:

NEW YORK CITY, Dec. 6th, 1898. Editor KLONDIKE NUGGET, Dawson City, Alaska.

Dear Sir: I have just read a very bright article about your paper in yesterday's New York World.

Now I don't want to apply for a position on your valuable paper, but I do want to apply for a rich husband through your paper. Will you kindly insert the "ad." on back of enclosed photo, which is my own.

Have the first man that calls to see the photo pay for this "ad."

Please mail me one of your papers with "ad" in to address below.

And oblige, Yours sincerely,

Lock box No. 8th Ave., New York.

The enclosed picture is of a pretty girl about twenty years of age, and may be seen upon application at this office, together with the letter and the address. The "ad." is not published, because the letter is more to the point. Now then, you Hunker princes and Eldorado kings, come and see the photo see the letter, get the address and pay for the "ad."

50 Cent Pans on Koyukuk.

Reports from below are to the effect that a stampede to the Koyukuk country has taken place in consequence of the favorable nature of rather late reports from that district. A gentleman lately arrived from there says that pans of 50 cents have been found at several points. Mr. J. E. Booge, who was for a long time associated with P. B. Weare, has also received a letter concerning the country from his old partner, from which we are permitted to make the following extract: "We get good news from the Koyukuk river from a party who went in there for us. He says there are about 1,200 men there and that they have found gold there in a good many places in paying quantities."

Old Mail Now Afloat.

The balance of the old mail, eldetracked by Contractor Richardson and for several weeks working down the lakes and rivers at a slow pace, arrived in on Saturday in charge of Mr. Sigel. It consisted of 80 sacks, carried on three sleds, and was at once put into the hands of Postmaster Hartman for distribution. The

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In conjunction with our mercantile auction and stock exchange, and will conduct sales at regular intervals of all kinds of mining properties. List your claims with us early for auction or private sale.

Money Loaned, Transfers Negotiated, Syndicates Formed, etc. We want your patronage and will do you justice. Give us a call. VERNON & STORRY, Mining-Brokers &c.

mail received the previous day had not all been distributed, so that this old mail will not all be ready for delivery, probably, before the last of this week, notwithstanding the postoffice force being worked to their utmost. Mr. Sigel left at once with the mail for the American side.

Saturday also saw the arrival of three sacks of mail from below in charge of E. Gauthier, who accompanied it from Circle City. It is made up from points all along the lower river and two sacks consist of letters for the outside, the third being for distribution here. Mr. Gauthier, who left Circle City on February 16th, says that he encountered a terrific snow storm that left the trail in an exceedingly heavy condition.

Married in 'Frisco.

A notice from the Howard street Methodist Episcopal church, San Francisco, advises us of the marriage there on January 21st, of Peter Edward Currie to Miss Emma Cordelia Brown. Currie lately made a trip to the outside from Dawson, and this is what comes of it.

Where Are They?

The mail brings the Negro a number of pitiful appeals for lost husbands, sons and brothers of whom the last heard was when they left for the golden Klondike.

Halvor Knutson, of Dodgeville, Iowa county, Wisconsin, begs for information of his son, Henry Knutson, who left British Columbia for the inside in May, '97.

Gust Lindquist, 119 Park ave., W. Duluth, Minn., is very anxious about his brother, John Lindquist, as a Chicago paper had contained an account of the death of someone of a similar name who was said to have been found a corpse on some mountain wilds.

Edward J. Hobbs, of 285 Bainbridge street, Brooklyn, N. Y., is anxious about the fate of a brother, Augustus W. Hobbs, whose family has not heard a word from him since he left for the inside three years ago.

If any of our readers know anything of the fate of the whereabouts of the foregoing they will be only doing their duty by letting it be known either to the NUGGET or the addresses given.

The Klondike Mails.

The following from the British Columbia Review shows that once more the mail carrying is to be lifted from the shoulders of the police and given to contractors:

Sealed tenders addressed to the postmaster-general will be received at Ottawa until noon on the first day of February, 1900, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's mails between Dawson and Bennett in the Yukon district at least once per week during the season of 1899. Tenders may be on the following alternative plans: 1. For a bulk sum per trip during said season for the conveyance of mails from Bennett to Dawson and return, including mail for all intermediate points, and the service of the intervening offices and posts along the route. 2. At a stated sum per pound for mail from Bennett to Dawson (a distance computed for the purpose of this contract at 600 miles) and return (mail delivered at, or received from, offices or posts en route to be paid for pro rata at the amount per pound for the full length of the route trip). Like tenders are also invited for performance during the season of navigation of 1899 of any portion or portions of such mail service between Bennett and Dawson. Sealed tenders of similar nature will also be received at the same time and place for the conveyance of Her Majesty's mails from Bennett to Atlin Lake, B.C., and return. A certified cheque, payable to the order of the postmaster-general, for the sum of \$2,500 must accompany each tender as security that the tenderer will sign the contract if called upon to do so. The successful tenderer, in addition to this deposit, will be required to deposit with the postmaster-general the further sum of \$2,000 as security for the performance of the contract.

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The "Monte Carlo". FINEST BAR IN DAWSON. QUANTITY OF WINES AND LIQUORS THE HIGHEST. Mixed Drinks a Specialty. HIGHEST GRADES OF CIGARS

THE NORTHERN. HARRY ASK & Co. Choicest Wines, Liquors and Cigars. Export Mixologists. MINING HEADQUARTERS. FRONT STREET, DAWSON

Alaska Exploration Co. Operating the elegant river steamers LEON, LINDA AND ARNOLD. Connecting with Pacific Ocean Steamers at St. Michael, Direct for San Francisco, Cal. We are in the field for business. Our stores and warehouses are now in course of construction at Dawson and other points along the Yukon river. L. R. FULDA, Agent.

YUKON SAW MILL CO. MANUFACTURERS OF First Quality Matched, Dressed, Rustic, Roofing, and Rough Lumber. House Logs Furnished, Cordwood &c. Orders filled promptly.

so on, and let that be free to the public, and then the difficulty from November 10th

CHANGE. is devoting a great many days to the NUGGET against Mr. Fawcett, solely at the behest of concern. It is astonishing amount of government characterless. A free pass over a son of a railroad has been to lend a weakly interest of a monopoly.

to witness a news-out as "The Miner's only stultifying itself its first six months minds us of a certain years endeavored man's friend, and disapproved by every en in the country.

y detected the ass in, and never put it pay them. He after-paid hiring of the led out a miserable limbs which fell from a men he served, and utter as did the end came "unmourn-unsung," neglected served at the expense ate of the Miner-Sun as the outcome of blem. Refused the of the public, it chief droppings from table, and by-and-ah will ascend the y not Joseph." Dis-ide and disacknow-but one end a waits chery—an unmon-wit oblivion.

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