

A HORNED TOAD UNPACKED

By a Customs Official After It Had Made a Long Trip

By Mail—Lots of Packages Awaiting Claimants in the Dawson Customs Office.

In the customs office there is quite an accumulation of packages, the bulk of which arrived by the more recent mails, but there are many which have been there for some time. These packages come by mail, and are sent through the customs office because they contain in many instances dutiable matter. On the receipt of a package a printed postal card is mailed to the party whose name appears thereon, notifying him of its arrival and where he can get it. In many instances, however, these postal cards never reach the person addressed, and the package likewise fails in delivery. So if you have any reason to suppose that a package has been sent you, it would be well to call at the customs office and inquire if your name is on the list. You will find an accommodating official there who will give you the desired information, and if you have a package there he will untie the cords and help you to ascertain what has been sent you, and if it is not of intrinsic value you may take it away without more expense than if it came through the postoffice direct.

"If these things were all opened up and spread out where they could be seen," said one of the officials this morning, "you would be surprised at the variety of goods these packages contain. The contents of many of these parcels are very valuable, as it is not only the things that are sent as presents from home to friends and relatives here, that are represented, but much merchandise is shipped in this way. Jewelry for instance, is often sent in this way, which is fully as safe a means of shipping as any other.

"The regulations demanded that this class of matter shall be held for a month, but under the conditions prevailing here it would in many cases work a hardship if this rule were strictly adhered to, so we carry them on for a much longer time.

"Some of the things sent in this way are of a nature to startle one a bit when first seen. I have seen some very strange things uncovered, so strange in fact that I don't believe I should be surprised at anything any more.

"Once there was a man came into the office with a notification card which he presented and asked for his package. I delivered it, and asked him what it contained and he said he had no idea. It was sent by a friend of his in San Francisco, but he had no notion what he could have sent him.

"Together we untied the strings, and removed the paper, disclosing a small wooden box with a sliding top, such as is used for the shipment of jewelry. The top was provided with a thumb hold at one end, and as the lid worked pretty tight I had to hold it in such a manner that I could not see what was inside as the top slipped slowly back.

"It didn't matter though whether I could see or not. I could feel, and that answered my purpose just as well, because I was in a hurry. As the lid went back something cold and clammy reached up from the interior of the box and fastened itself about one of my fingers, filling my mind on the instant with all the stories I had ever heard or read about infernal machines, diabolical contrivances shipped through the mails to work death and destruction to anyone unfortunate enough to handle them. I also thought of snakes and reptiles and all the deadly and venomous things which creep and crawl about decimating the population, and I did all this thinking without the aid of any brain stimulus other than the thing holding my finger, and I do not wear an electric belt. I just fired the thing whatever it might be, as far from me as I could get it, box and all, and got as far away from it as possible. Then the man who owned it came and investigated, and what do you suppose it was. A horned toad!

"Now, can you conceive of anything more peculiar than this reptile to find its way into a country through the agency of the mail?"

"In places where the production of honey and the culture of the honey bee forms one of the industries, queen bees are very often received by mail from Italy.

"Ever since I got that horned toad I have expected to see a rattle snake poke his head out at me every time I open a package."

It is understood that arrangements

have been completed for the delivery of parcel mail this winter which will be a great aid to commerce and a benefit to the public.

River News.

The N. A. T. & T. Co.'s steamer Chas. H. Hamilton arrived last night, 20 days out from St. Michael, with 32 passengers and 223 tons of freight. With the exception of a couple of heavy snow storms which were encountered at the mouth of the Dall river and near Fort Yukon, the trip was pleasant and uneventful. They met the first ice of the season flowing from Sheep creek on October 5. The following steamers were passed on their way down: Weare and Leah near Pymute on the 21st, D. E. Campbell at Blackburn the 22d; Alice 60 miles below Fort Yukon, September 30. The Hamilton's passenger list included Mr. Neil, a United States railway mail clerk, Rev. John B. Rene, Rev. Fathers Cunningham, Raine, Camille and Tewie; and 28 steers passengers. Bishop Rowe made the trip with them from St. Michael to the Mission four miles above Weare.

The water front presents a very lively appearance this morning. From Boyle's wharf to a point opposite the engine-house near the barracks the river shore is lined with scows, rafts and small boats, several numbers deep.

Messrs. Coleman & Carroll arrived lately with four scows heavily laden with general merchandise and perishable goods approximating 80 tons. They are veteran scow navigators, having made four previous trips, and say they have never been passed on the river. They passed over 40 scows, 20 of which were hung up on bars. Judging from the fact that they have been in town for a week it would appear that a greater number than that are stranded, as only a few have arrived since that date.

Dobb & Shannon represent another firm which arrived in charge of a scow on the 5th with 25 tons of general merchandise, groceries, dry goods, etc.

Mrs. Simpson, the Bennett hotel-keeper, arrived on the same date, the 5th, with a scow load of 20 tons.

Scows are reported as selling at Bennett from \$400 up, and at Whitehorse from \$700 to \$1000.

The supply of men for scow navigation by no means equals the demand and labor is therefore commanding good wages, \$5 to \$6 per day, including board. Men are being engaged at Skagway and draw salaries from the time of reaching Bennett.

Steamers City of Seattle and City of Topeka are at Skagway today. The former sails at 6 this evening for Seattle direct, while the latter goes by way of Sitka.

Steamer Monarch has run up against it again, this time on a bar opposite the telegraph office at Selkirk. Her agent, L. W. Craden, is very much exercised over her misadventures coming down stream, as he had sold a large number of tickets for nother run to Whitehorse.

The Gold Star left Whitehorse Friday night, but has not been reported since her departure from that point. The least that could have happened to the boat is her being tied up on a bar. It is hoped that such will prove the case.

Mate Drowned.

J. S. Williams, manager of the steamer Clifford Sifton received a telegram this morning from the captain of the boat stating that W. Stone, the mate, had fallen into the river and drowned.

It appears that Stone was in a small boat, engaged in carrying a line ashore. In some manner as yet unexplained the boat swamped and the unfortunate man lost his life in spite of efforts made on the part of the Sifton's crew to save him. His body was recovered after drifting, some distance down stream. He has a brother Ed Stone in Dawson.

The Sifton passed Five Fingers this morning. She will sail from Dawson tomorrow.

Getting Foxy.

"The country is full of would be miners and prospectors," said a sour dough yesterday after returning from Moosehide. "A lot of wise gizays went down there and covered the surrounding landscape with initial posts, and yesterday when I went down there to do a little digging round, I found a whole raft of them leaning on picks and shovels working hard to find out what they had staked. I went at it and began sinking a hole, and the whole blamed outfit came and sat down to give me a chance to do the developing for the whole stampede."

An Innovation.

Among the things which were familiar to most of Dawson's citizens at home, before they came to the Klondike, but which have never been seen here there is something in the office of L. R. Fulda, of the A. E. Co., which comes upon one like the sight of a ragtime fiend. This is nothing more nor less than a very neatly tiled grate, upon the bars of which burns a cheerful coal fire, glow and crackle makes one rub one's eyes to see if he is dreaming of home or if the familiar scene is a reality.

POLICE COURT NEWS.

Magistrate Starnes presided over the temporary destinies of law violators in the police court this morning.

Arthur Fields, one of the partners in the Northern Annex saloon and gambling house, was up on the charge of selling liquor during unlawful hours, to wit, 1:15 Sunday morning, at which time Constable Piper had taken him in the act. Field said a "colored gentleman" had called at that hour and ordered a case of wine delivered Monday morning to Miss Elliott, of the Jewell, and asked to be permitted to take six bottles from the case for immediate consumption, and "as Miss Elliott is one of our best customers," the request was granted. Ike Rosenthal, Fields' partner, endeavored to explain away the alleged infraction of the law. In answer to a question from Corporal McPhail, he said he is conversant with the law regarding prohibited hours, but had paid for a permit to sell "goods" at wholesale and did not think his partner had violated the law. The court did not look at the matter in the same light and imposed a fine of \$50 and costs and which was paid.

W. McCanenny, a Hunker miner, had, after filling up on Hunker whisky in a Hunker saloon, resisted arrest at the hands of a Hunker constable. William's left eye bore the appearance of having been in contact with the bumper of a coal car. He entered a plea of guilty and was assessed \$20 and costs after being told by the magistrate to hush his hole the next time he gets drunk.

Thomas Evans is another Hunker miner who was brought down from that creek to have his case treated. The charge against Thomas was that he had on Saturday been "d and d," which in most cases means drunk and disorderly; but in the case of Thomas "d and d" meant drunk and disrobed. Ten dollars and costs squared the bill, and hereafter Thomas will, to use a Biblical expression, be clothed and in his right mind.

There Is Yet Time.

Under date of September 27th the Skagway Alaskan publishes the following statistical article regarding the closing of Yukon navigation:

Every indication points to at least another month of open river between Whitehorse and Dawson. Close observers and those who have made it a point in connection with their business to watch the conditions say that there is much more water in the Yukon and the lakes now than at this time last year. Another straw pointing in the same direction is the absence of snow on the mountain tops. A year ago there was snow in Skagway, while as yet there has been no snow fall in this locality lower than 5000 feet above the sea level.

Last year the Yukon closed up between Skagway and Dawson on October 22, and on the next day it closed at Dawson. There was open water at places in the river after this date but it did not last long. The Stratton went down on October 24, having been caught in an ice jam, and scows that were frozen hard on October 22, went down the river many miles before they were finally caught for the winter, the ice having partially broken up to close again in a few days.

The close last year was 11 days earlier than that of 1898, and 15 days earlier than 1897.

In 1898, the river was frozen hard at Dawson on November 3d. It had closed south of Dawson on October 23, but on the 27th it opened up again and navigation lasted another week. The last steamers to reach Dawson from Whitehorse, two years ago, arrived there on October 30.

Fortune seems to have favored the advance guard of the great Klondike stampede in more ways than one, for it was not until the 7th of November that the northern winter fastened itself upon the great golden highway in 1897.

Judging from these facts old timers in the north estimate that there will be open water for at least a month, and probably until after the 1st of November. However, they are unanimous in advising shippers of freight not to waste any time, as a cold wave might sweep from the north at any time after the middle of October.

TO THE LADIES OF DAWSON.

A Grand Opening on Wednesday October 10.

In the stand formerly occupied by Mrs. Lueters, hair dresser, Second avenue. We have just arrived from the East with a \$25,000 stock of fur garments in seal, ermine, Russia sable, chinchilla, mix, stone marten, Persian lamb, grey lamb, etc. All made up in the latest Paris and New York designs. Pronounced to be the finest goods ever coming to this country. Also a line of ladies' tailor made costumes, walking skirts and silk waists. We have also a full line of men's fur goods and tailor made suits in sacks, evening dress, Prince Alberts and overcoats. We cordially extend an invitation to the people of Dawson to inspect this stock. Don't forget the location, next to the S. Y. T. Co., second avenue. A. H. Loughheed & Co., high class tailors and furriers of Toronto, Canada. D. C. MACKENZIE, Mgr.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

School tablets 25c; Nugget office.

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CLEAR AS A BELL
DRY AS A BONE
CHEAP AS DIRTY

For Interior Finish: Puget Sound Fir and Cedar Shelving and Wall Finishing Lumber. Flooring and Ceiling.

S-Y. T. CO., Second Avenue.



DON'T FRET ABOUT THIS BOY

He'll get through all right.
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Front Street, Opp. S-Y. T. Co. Dock

Red Line Transportation Company's COMPLETE OUTFIT FOR SALE

AT YOUR OWN PRICE

Owing to the completion of the White Pass Railroad 300 Tons of Railroad and Camp Material will be sold at extremely low prices

A Chance For The Miner To Outfit Complete

...THE SHIPMENT CONSISTS OF...

Railroad Rails, Groceries, Hardware,	Forges, Anvils, Harnesses, Large Tools,
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Plows, Striking Hammers, Crowbars,	Shoes, Engines and Boilers, also 2
Pinchbars, Clawbars, Car Wheels,	Tons of Tobaccos.

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....Goods on Sale at....

Dawson Transfer and Storage Co's. Warehouse

Telephone 9 Near SECOND STREET

Clothing, mitts, felt shoes, underwear at Hammell's, Grand Forks.

The liquors are the best to be had, at the Regina.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND—A pocket book containing valuable papers. Owner can have same by applying at this office and proving property. p 10.

WANTED.

WANTED—As bell-boy, boy 12 to 14 years of age. Apply at Regina Club Hotel.

WANTED—Position to take charge of hotel or rooming house by thoroughly competent lady. Address "M," Nugget Office. p 9.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

PHYSICIANS.

DR. J. W. GOOD, Physician and Surgeon; special attention given to diseases of the eye and ear. Rooms 14 and 15, Chisholm's Aurora, 2nd st. and 1st ave.; hours 10 to 12 a. m., 3 to 6 and 7 to 8 p. m. Telephone 32.

DENTISTS.

DR. HALLVARD LEE—Crown and bridge work. Gold, aluminum or rubber plates. All work guaranteed. Room 7, Au. ora. No. 2 Building.

LAWYERS

BURRITT & MEKAY—Advocates, Solicitors, Notaries, etc.; Commissioners for Ontario and British Columbia. Aurora No. 2 Building, Front street, Dawson.

ALEX. HOWDEN—Barrister, Solicitor, Advocate, etc. Criminal and Mining Law. Room 21 A. C. Co's Office Block.

MACKINNON & NOEL, Advocates, Second st., near Bank of B. N. A.

PATTULLO & RIDLEY—Advocates, Notaries, Conveyancers, etc. Offices, First avenue

HENRY BLEECKER FERNAND DE JOURNAL BLEECKER & DE JOURNAL Attorneys at Law, Offices—Second street, in the Joslin Building. Residence—Third avenue, opp. Metropole hotel Dawson.

WADE & AIKMAN—Advocates, Notaries, etc. Offices, A. C. Office Building.

TABOR & HULME—Barristers and Solicitors, Advocates, Notaries Public, Conveyancers. Telephone No. 48 Offices, Rooms 1, 2, 3, Orpheum Building.

N. F. HAGEL, Q. C. Barrister, Notary, etc., over McLennan, McFeely & Co., hardware store, First avenue.

ASSAYERS.

JOHN B. WARDEN, F. I. C.—Assayer for Bank of British North America. Gold dust melted and assayed. Assays made of quartz and black sand. Analyses of ores and coal.

MINING ENGINEERS.

J. B. TYRRELL, mining engineer, has removed to Mission st., next door to public school.

DOMINION LAND SURVEYORS.

T. D. GREEN, B. Sc., Dominion Land Surveyor. McLennan, McFeely & Co.'s Block, Dawson.

Guard Against Smallpox....

We have an anti-contagion formula which has proven most efficacious in infected districts. A Powerful Preventative. FULL STOCK OF FRESH DRUGS.

W. R. Dockrill & Co.

Near Electric Light Plant

Private dining rooms at The Hobnob.

Stamp Out The Plague

The old law, "an ounce of prevention etc." is particularly appropriate for the conditions prevailing here at present.

PASTUER'S SMALLPOX DISINFECTANT

A Guaranteed Preventative
The reward of a life's study and experiments.

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...LISTER'S...

Anti-Smallpox

TAKEN INTERNALLY.
Used exclusively by the U. S. Government during the epidemic of 1863-64.

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FRESH VACCINE

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"NITA'S FIRST"

Under direction of All. Layne New mechanical and scenic effects.

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THE POETICAL TRAMP

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PLACE ORDERS NOW. NO STORAGE CHARGED. LANCASTER & CALDERHEAD WAREHOUSE