

some of our groceries by the Queen--a sack of flour and our tea--escaping the heavy loss experienced by many; and two more sacks of flour were stolen on the trail--a very common occurrence.

At Dyea and Sheep Camp, finding that we had not money enough to get us through with all our outfit, we had to sell flour and other groceries, expecting to find plenty at Dawson City, brought by the Yukon steamers. It left us short of everything, especially flour. We came upon a scow belonging to Mr. Sullivan, who I hope will call upon you this winter, and tell you more than I can write you. He is going out soon. We had a partly pleasant and partly tedious trip, being caught in the ice after we reached the Polly and experiencing much discomfort and hard work and some danger. But the hardships of the Dyea trail and the river trip seemed light to me. I have undergone worse experiences in Alaska.

On arriving I set to work vigorously to find a place of worship. The winter was already upon us, and we must have a warm house. I tried for every large house in Dawson, not omitting the dance halls. I thought that we would have to build temporary quarters, late as it was and expensive as such a building would be. The crowds of boats arriving with eager passengers every day had run up prices and rents to an enormous figure. I got the promise of the use of the "Opera House" for our first service, but it was reconsidered and broken. It was on Friday, October 8, that we arrived, and we did not get our goods ashore till Saturday p.m., at Klondike City, commonly called Louse Town, two miles from Dawson. It was impossible to get a preaching place for the 10th.

The next Thursday, after trying hard every day to get a building, I found a new one-story and a half house, 25 x 30 feet, built of logs chinked with moss, the lower story one room with front and back doors and three windows, one of them boarded up for lack of glass. The upstairs was divided into six rooms, separated by rough board partitions, each 10 x 10 feet, with hall running through the centre. Each had a window frame without sash. The owner was a French saloon-keeper named Napoleon Dupres. He was planning to go out on the first ice, and wished to raise all the ready money he could. He offered me the lower room for one month for \$100, and the whole house till May 15 for \$850, in advance. He gave me only five days to decide in.

I got the \$100 at once and secured the hall

for a month, and then "hustled" for roomers. By Saturday I had rented all the rooms at \$20 per month, and secured about \$200 advance rent. Over forty men applied to me for rooms. Then on Tuesday I borrowed the balance, giving my personal note, and paid down the remaining \$750, and thus secured a place of worship till spring. Dr. McEwen signed with me one of the notes--from Mr. Fowest, our Christian gold commissioner -- \$300. The other notes, amounting to \$350, I gave myself, having already good credit with many responsible men interested in our success. The rents were good security.

We placarded the town for our first service, held October 17. I borrowed a piece of broom from the Stickine Indian, Jimmie Jackson, patched it up, and swept out the moss and sawdust. Then I got the loan of some blocks sawed for wood, borrowed some planks to lay upon them, advertised for hymn books and we had services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. They were quite well attended and much interest manifested, over fifty attending the evening service. The collection, partly in gold dust, was \$40. We organized a Bible class, an Endeavor Society, and a choir the next Sabbath.

Mr. Bowen, the young minister of the Church of England, has shown a most liberal spirit, and at his invitation (he having some kerosene and we having none) we have been holding our Wednesday evening prayer meeting in his church, just completed on our arrival.

The 24th of October was a red-letter day with us, for two fine men came to a decision for Christ, and have ever since been showing their faith by earnest works. Others have expressed a determination to seek until they find.

Our services continued to increase in interest and attendance. We got the loan of sixteen planed boards (no lumber could be bought), purchased forty blocks for \$35; made some tables and stools and got our house comfortably seated. Mr. Dupres had loaned us a square stove.

It cost me \$200 to fit up the church and the rooms. Some of the items were twelve joints of stove-pipe at \$1.50 apiece, two elbows at \$3 each, four ten-cent hasps at \$2 each, six roofplates at \$3.50 each, etc. Muslin for lining cost thirty-five cents per yard and tacks fifty cents a paper. This will give you some idea of Klondike prices. The last rough lumber sawed here sold at \$400 per thousand feet. Mr. Dupres procured sashes for the windows, paying an ounce of gold for each half sash.