

BUSINESS NOT AFFECTED

By the Rush to the Alaskan Gold Fields.

Opinions of Prominent Local Merchants—The Nome Excitement Has Subsided Considerably.

The business men of Dawson evince much interest in the probable effects of next spring's stampede to Cape Nome. During the winter a thousand people have left here for the Alaskan camp; many thousands of dollars have been taken down the river by adventurous men and women. But the arrivals from the outside during the same period of time equal in number those who have undertaken the journey to Nome.

It is unquestionably true that the excitement which prevailed so generally a few months ago respecting the new camp, has subsided considerably. The reports which have been received recently are somewhat conflicting, and men who have profitable interests or positions here do not feel justified in abandoning them for the doubtful opportunities of Cape Nome. The season is now so far advanced that to make the trip to the Behring coast over the ice is impracticable. The sun during the long days in the latter end of this month and during all of next, will render sledding very difficult and dangerous. A few weeks hence and one's daily time for traveling will be confined to the hours of early morning and to a little while after sundown. No doubt many will leave here immediately after the opening of navigation. The great rush from the outside to Nome will certainly make it a good camp, irrespective of whether or not the beach is exhausted, and hundreds of Dawson residents who have nothing to detain them will go to the new district for the reason that they will have all to gain and nothing to lose.

Generally speaking, the local merchants anticipate a dull season next summer, but all of them have great confidence in the future of Dawson, and none of the principal ones contemplate discontinuing their business here. The recent determination of the government at Ottawa to dispose at public auction in Dawson of all the crown claims and fractions will have a tendency to increase confidence in business and mining circles.

A representative of the Daily Nugget called on several of the prominent commercial concerns to ascertain the opinions entertained by the business men.

Mr. Milne, manager of the Parsons Produce Company, said:

"I do not think that the stampede to Nome will seriously affect business in Dawson. As a matter of fact, I believe that trade will be better this spring than last, for the reason that immense quantities of goods will be sold to parties who will go down the river behind the ice in small boats and scows. Next summer business will be dull, but it always is at that particular season of the year. Many small merchandising concerns will go to Nome at the opening of navigation, and this fact will tend to lessen competition. There is plenty of gold in this district, and there will always be enough men to mine it. The trade of our company is confined almost exclusively to the consumer, and I do not think that people who have vested interests here will participate in the rush to Nome. The Parsons Produce Company is a Canadian institution, and we shall not establish a branch concern in the Alaskan camp. The boom days of Dawson are past; henceforth business will be conducted here as elsewhere on a strictly legitimate basis and at a moderate profit."

Mr. Delaney of the N. A. T. & T. Co., when questioned respecting the matter, replied:

"I believe that our business for the present year will be better than for any previous year. Many people will go to

Nome; but mine owners will remain, and more than enough miners to develop the properties in this district. Perhaps most of the small concerns will discontinue business; but next fall they will be replaced by others. I anticipate an excellent summer trade, for the reason that a great deal of summer work will be done on the various creeks. Of course, the passenger traffic to St. Michaels will greatly exceed that of last year. Our company is prepared for the rush. Immediately after the ice goes out, we shall start a steambot and barge with accommodations for 500 persons, to the new gold fields. The N. A. T. & T. Co. has a large store and a complete stock at Cape Nome."

Mr. E. W. Brown, acting manager of the A. E. Co., said: "Next spring's rush will not effect local business much. Trade may be dull during the summer, but that will be nothing unusual. We have steamboats on the lower Yukon route, and we expect to secure our share of the passenger traffic. Our company is established at Nome and is heavily interested in mining properties there."

The manager of the Ames Mercantile Company said: "It is difficult to calculate what effect the rush to Nome will have on the Dawson merchants. However, we expect to transact more business this year than we did last. Mr. Ames is now outside, and he may conclude to establish a branch store at the new camp, and may secure a few steamboats for the lower river run."

Mr. Pinska, of Sargent & Pinska, answered: "We will continue in business here; and may decide to start a branch at Nome. Next summer's trade will be dull, but that is to be expected."

Mr. Orr, of Orr & Tukey, the freighters, said: "We shall not go to Nome. We have built up a prosperous business here and do not feel disposed to abandon it. Just now we are engaged in freighting 50 tons of machinery and supplies from the mouth of Indian river to 23 below discovery on Quartz creek, for W. C. Gates. Recently we freighted a five ton boiler to the same claim. I have confidence in the future of this country, and we shall remain with it."

Mr. Mohr, of Mohr & Wilkins said: "The stampede to Nome will not materially affect our business interests. The recent instructions from Ottawa respecting crown claims is good news, and will establish greater confidence in the future of the district. We shall not start a branch concern at Nome; but will devote ourselves to the accommodation of our local customers."

As Seen by a Participant.

A recent issue of the Toronto Globe contains the following letter written by Lieut. Woodburn Osborne, of the Canadian contingent. It is a realistic portrayal of the kind of warfare now in progress in South Africa. Before the letter was received at its destination the Lieutenant had been killed.

My Dear Father: I was delighted this morning to get letters from you and also some papers. They were all dated Nov. 5th, so they are pretty old. You can't imagine how delightful it is to get letters in camp. My letters to you are for everyone, as it is usually hard to write in camp. The papers are also very acceptable, and I hope you will continue to send them. I wrote you a day or two ago after the battle of Colenso. It was a very hot day and I was awfully tired, so possibly the letter wasn't very lucid. You will have heard about it probably before now, but I will go over parts of what I said before again.

Buller came up through Natal, so we at once saw that this was going to be the main force. This position they have taken up at Colenso is, they say, the the strongest in South Africa, stronger even than Laing's Neck. Buller's plan of attack was this: Hart's brigade was to attack the left opposite a drift across the Tugela river. Hill yard's brigade the center, opposite Colenso and the bidge, and Barton's brigade on the right. Lyttleton's brigade was in reserve to help either Hart or Hillyard and confirm the success and force the passage of the river.

Hart was pushed back, or rather his losses were so heavy that he had to retire, and Hillyard little better. Barton did very little. We were extended across the entire position, company B being on the extreme right across the railway.

The battle started with a terrific artillery duel, which was kept up from start to finish. We could see the Boer entrenchments clearly, but they themselves were invisible. The battle of the musketry was terrific. Our artillery was apparently doing great execution, especially the naval brigade, as I could see the shells bursting apparently, right in their entrenchment. Their shells were dropping all around us. Every shell seemed to be making straight for everyone; it is most extraordinary. You hear the hissing noise coming closer and closer, until it appears just above your head, and then you hear the thing burst and see it, sometimes 20 and sometimes 300 yards away. However, one soon gets used to it, and I don't think anyone paid any attention to them after the first few minutes. We were not close enough to be effected by the musketry, and to me it seemed like an Aldershot field day. The heat was almost unbearable, and we all suffered greatly from thirst. Eventually about 2 o'clock the order was given to retire, and the long thin lines began coming back through us. We were left to the last, covering their retirement. Hart's brigade suffered most. They were fired into when in brigade mass of quarter column. The Dublin Fusiliers lost 216 killed, wounded and prisoners. The Connaught Rangers and Enniskillen Fusiliers also suffered greatly. Two field batteries had an awfully bad time of it. One lost all its guns and the other four. They were so anxious to get into action that they galloped into infantry fire range without sending out scouts. Most of the gunners and horses were instantly killed and wounded. Congreve, a friend of mine and a captain in the Rifle Brigade, Roberts, a son of Lord Roberts, and Schofield, another staff officer, attempted to bring off some of the guns—the horses were unmanageable, and those that were not hit could not be harnessed to the guns. Schofield, strange to say, was unhurt. Roberts was shot and is now dead. Congreve could have got away, but he stayed with Roberts, who was wounded, and was hit seven times, three times in the legs and body and four times through his clothes. He is chirpy, however, and will recover. He ought to get a Victoria Cross, and I think he will. The next day they tried to recover the guns, but the Boers had crossed the river and carried them off. An armistice was declared the next day to collect and bury the dead. Today our losses are reported to be 1147, and the Boers 2000.

Good Luck, Old Man.

W. H. Cribbs, of the firm of Cribbs & Rogers, left for the outside yesterday. He was accompanied by McRae and Nagle, the two men who recently arrived from down the river. As they continued their journey with their remarkable team of nine malamutes, which are now completely rested from their long trip from Nome, it is expected that a fast trip will be made.

Mr. Cribbs has made many friends here and they receive with regret the news of his departure and all join in a hearty wish for his safe journey and a quick return.

Weather Report.

The minimum temperature last night was 40 degrees below zero. At 9 o'clock this morning the thermometer registered 38 degrees below. At noon the instrument registered 8 degrees below.

Shoff's Cough Balsam; sure cure

Private dining rooms at the Holborn.

Best Canadian rye at the Regina.

Notice.

There will be a meeting of the K. of P. Social Club at McDonald hall on Thursday night. All members are re-

quested to be present to hear the report of the executive committee.
F. W. CLAYTON, Sec'y.

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