

THE DANUBE SAILS

Wharves Thronged Yesterday Evening With Spectators—Thousands Were Present.

Several Parties Who Are Well Outfitted Went from This City.

From Masada's Daily.

The scenes enacted on the wharves when the Islander sailed with her contingent of prospectors were re-enacted yesterday evening, when the steamer Danube sailed for Dya. She was advertised to sail at 8 o'clock, and as early as two hours before that time long lines of people were to be seen flocking through the streets, all with the same objective point in view, the waterfront. By 8 o'clock thousands had assembled along the wharves and on Wharf street to watch her departure. The scene, if it had not in so many instances been so pathetic, would have been quite gay, for the crowd had something of a holiday appearance. It was a scene very seldom witnessed on the waterfront, the wharf generally being given over to the shipping men and their cohorts.

In the freight shed the noise was deafening; longshoremen were rushing their trucks to and fro, others were trying to push obstinate live stock up the gangplank and all were doing something to add to the din. It was nearly 10 o'clock before the freight was all on board and the gangplanks were hauled up. Then Capt. Meyers mounted the bridge and the whistle spoke, warning dulatory passengers that it was time they were on board. The lingering embraces then took place, and amid the laughter of those whose sole object was to see the steamer sail, "just to say we saw it go, you know," "Frank Casey's friends and relations were about to depart stood and wept. The goodbyes over, the whistle spoke again and all the fever-stricken miners rushed aboard saving one who wanted to stay to the very last minute. He did not seem to hear the whistle, but Capt. Meyers' "break away there!" brought his thoughts back to the situation and he was just on board before the gangplank went in.

It was then about 10 o'clock, and amid the cheering of the onlookers, the Danube was slipping and the Danube was off with her gold seekers.

ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING.

Nanaimo, Aug. 2.—The first shooting accident with the opening of the season for game took place yesterday. As a steamer was getting over a log in the bush back of East Wellington station, which he was dragging after him, went off, discharging the whole of its contents into the chest, tearing the head in its passage. He dropped dead at once. The aperture caused by the shot was two and a half inches in diameter. He was a married man with two children and 32 years of age. He was a native of France and worked at the Nanaimo colliery. Two weeks ago he made preparations to go to the Yukon, but backed out.

British Columbia.

VANCOUVER.

Last Sunday, whilst a resident of this city and his son, minus a head, of which he found apparently an Indian woman, what was the first island of the Bird's Nest. Nearly all the flock was gone, and the remains were evidently not been eaten. The birds were in good condition, and a shawl were in good condition, and a shawl states that he heard that an Indian had recently done away with two women, and thinks that the discovery of the body may lead to the murder being unravelled.

KASLO.

Kaslo, July 26.—Charles Sampson, Joe Cassaza, John Sampson, Otto Williams and Alexander Buehler, Humming Bird mineral claimant, situated on the South Fork, to Franklin Pratt Sherman and for the sum of \$53,000, of which \$30,000 in cash, \$2,500 in payable sum \$1,000 in cash, \$2,500 in payable sum on or before the 1st day of October, 1897, and the balance by the 20th September, 1898. He is to have possession and to develop the mine, and to place the net proceeds of the sale, shipped to the credit of the vendors in the Bank of British Columbia. The vendors are to have the right of inspecting the work.

C. W. Callahan, for the British Columbia General Exploration Company, has secured an option from Angus McInnes, Chas. Sandison and Frank Pyman for the purchase of the claim Florence L. of the south fork of Kaslo creek. If bonded he is to pay \$1,500 on the 7th of September, \$1,500 on the 7th of December and \$12,000 on the 7th of June, 1898. The deal was made at New Denver.

A considerable number of new residences are being built in McDonald addition and in other residential portions of the city. The sand flats, which were swept at the end of the last season, are now being occupied after some years of disuse.

A number of prospectors came down from the Duncan on Monday evening, and report satisfactory results. Some report rich strikes, the different substances of the Duncan.

NELSON.

Nelson, July 26.—The Poorman mill, or Eagle creek, will start up once more in a few days, and will clean up 3,000 tons of ore that is on the dump. The mill has been shut down since last fall, as the water power was not sufficient to run both the mill and the drills in the tunnel where the dead work was being presented. The tunnel is now in 410 feet on the Poorman, and it may be necessary to run 150 feet more before the ledge is tapped. While the power is being used in the mill to crush the ore on the dump, the men will be transferring the mill to the White claim, which is showing up so well that the management desires to do more development work on it. The vein on the White is about four feet wide, and is very rich. It shows up in the form of a red ore on hand, the power will once again be shifted to the drills in the tunnel, and the work vigorously prosecuted until the ledge has been reached. The properties are looking very fine, and are being put in first class working order.

The Nelson Hydraulic Company has evidently made a good strike on its property on Forty-Nine creek, and Mr. McVicar, the principal owner, is very busy with the machinery. The tunnel, which is about one mile long, is being driven about 30 feet wide, that they came suddenly upon a large basin, which appears to be a natural catch for gold, and which has been very fine. The rock on the west side of it and they commenced stripping across it. They have gone 150 feet, but have not yet reached the rim on the opposite side. The recent rains have kept a big supply of water on hand, and everything is working as well as could be wished. A clean-up will be made in about 10 days and good results are looked for.

Tom Woods, Louis Bronlien and John Bouchette report a find of considerable extent on Perry creek near Fort Steele, the two former having just returned from there with some fine looking specimens that appear to be rich in gold and copper. The ore is thought to be free-milling, and two claims showing ledges from six to eight feet are staked.

YMR.

Unit, July 26.—Tom Flynn and Charles Dunlop, the locators of the famous Dundee mine, are in luck again. While they located the Evening Star situated about 1,000 feet above the Dundee mine on Bear creek. Recently they put some men on to do the assessment work and at a depth of six feet a magnificent strike of rich ore was made. Some of the rock brought into town is pronounced on all sides to be the finest seen here. The value is principally in galena and a large lump of almost solid galena was on exhibition in the Kootenai hotel in striking great attraction. Between one and two tons of good shipping ore are already available, although the depth at present is only six feet. Several experts have already arrived in town for the purpose of examining it.

KAMLOOPS.

Kamloops Standard. Mr. Viers and Mr. Johnston killed a large rattlesnake with eight rattles over in Roper's meadow, another about six feet long, however, escaped them. We are informed that a party of Seattle men who are negotiating for the purchase of a group of claims situated on the north side of the Thompson are now at work prospecting the claims themselves. On the results of their investigations the deal depends. Mr. R. E. Smith returned on Monday morning with some fine looking quartz from the west bank of the North Thompson river, to which he was conveyed by some Indians who had previously found quartz in the vicinity beyond the falls of the Tranquille river. The appearance of

is well worth spending time to thoroughly prospect.

MIDWAY. Midway Advance. Ore is being hauled to Penton for shipment to Tacoma over the C. P. R., which are situated in Washington Territory some few miles south of the boundary line. It is understood that returns from a car-load of this ore recently shipped netted about \$200 per ton. Upon good authority we are advised that the most extensive development of any property in the Boundary creek district will be carried out this coming winter, as it has been decided by Messrs. Fazel and Midgeon, the smelter men of Butte, to install a large plant upon the Steanvader claim in Greenwood camp, and prospect the property to a depth of 500 feet.

REVELSTOKE. Revelstoke Herald. The C.P.R. have granted a through right on butter from Alberta with stop-over privileges at the cold storage here. The rate from Revelstoke to the lower country is put down to two cents per 100 pounds.

The Hotel Revelstoke was turned over to the proprietor by the contractor, Mr. T. Tompkins, on Monday, and the first visit to the new house convinced a local man that nothing had been spared to make the place worthy of this important railway centre.

A man named Johnson, who was left in charge at Boyd's ranch by Mr. J. D. Boyd, when he left for Montreal, has been missing for about two weeks. He took two cheques belonging to Mr. Boyd, one for \$30 and one for \$20, which he cashed in town, and then took the train for parts unknown. He is stated to have forged Mr. Boyd's signature to the cheques.

Sunday evening about 11 o'clock there was a serious affray in the tenderfoot district in which one man was stabbed in the neck and shoulder and twice on the arm, and another received a thrust in the groin, which very fortunately for him glided upwards. The whole affair is shrouded in mystery, which is a great deal owing to a very natural desire on the part of the injured man to avoid publicity.

One of the biggest discoveries yet made in British Columbia is just reported from the Upper Arrow Lake country. Alexander McMaster returned yesterday from Lexington creek, a small stream running into Fish creek, which flows into the northeast arm of the Upper Arrow lake, not far from Arrowhead, and brought with him several large samples of ore from the Katsum, a claim bonded a year ago by Mr. McMaster, C. A. Belliveau, W. R. Miles and S. C. Chisholm, all of Rossland. Mr. McMaster says a solid body of galena seven feet wide has been opened and that the hanging wall had not been reached when he came away. The foot wall is slate and is terms are has not been made public, except that when negotiations were first opened only a half interest in the property was being disposed of by Mr. Belliveau, whereas now the whole of the interest is involved.

Evidence is forthcoming that the merchants of Boundary Creek are preparing to give the C.P.R. an object lesson, as they are entering upon a mutual agreement to boycott that company in the instance of freight and passenger traffic. With the object of killing two birds with one stone they will endeavor to let the C.P.R. see that if they would wish to retain the trade of Boundary Creek they must reach out for it by constructing a railway from the mouth of the river to the farther object of giving Mr. Corbin encouragement and an idea of the true proportion of the carrying trade of Boundary Creek even at the present time, they will ship all fall freight over the road, which will be their own business, and will be brought nearer to the Boundary Creek country before snow flies. Such course of action will cost the merchants nothing, and will have the effect of stimulating the public mind to the belief that they are striving to retain a trade which is daily increasing in bulk and of corresponding importance.

VERNON. Vernon News. The new hop kilns on the Coldstream ranch are now being completed. There are six of these in all, and judging from the splendid appearance of the hop yards this year, their capacity will be taxed to the utmost to cure the large crop of this year.

Harvesting is now in full swing throughout the district, and from all quarters come the most gratifying reports of the nature of the grain crop. The wheat is splendidly headed out, and the yield will be even larger than was anticipated before cutting was commenced.

KEHEMBOS. Messrs. Mangott, Kootenay, and Thatford are engaged in the development of the Keremess on their group. They propose to ship ore to Tacoma.

Messrs. C. Richter and Y. Allison refused \$20,000 for their claims "Something Good" and "Something Better," from Victoria capitalists. As sales have been made to a Chicago company and they are now at work taking out ore and will haul it in wagons to the Wyandotte mill just across the line below Keremess. The rock assays \$1082 per ton. Keremess is not a low grade ore, as a great many assays from different claims will prove.

ROSSLAND. Rossland News. John O'Brien and Maurice Hurley, two War Eagle miners possessing this world's wealth to the amount of \$1,000 each, have become infected with the Clondyke fever and have concluded to leave Rossland this morning and embark for the new Eldorado. They have already secured berths on the Queen, which sails from Seattle on August 8.

Some important work is being done on the Cliff. An open crosscut is being run on the big showing on the west end of the property and a large mass of fine copper ore has been opened up. It is fully thirty feet from one side of the ore body to the other, but it is evident that the ledge has been thinned over and that the vein proper is not so wide as it was. The crosscut will show the exact location and width of the vein, and if it looks as well as indicated at the present time, a shaft may be sunk on it to connect with the main tunnel being

driven on the vein from a point further down the hill.

The contract for the construction of a system of sewerage in Rossland, as placed should make rapid progress, particularly if a good water supply and good drainage are provided early. Some are of the opinion that we can offer here a good terminal point for the Coast-Kootenay railway. Some efforts in that direction may be made after we get a local council to give voice to our needs and advantages. Already a citizens' protective association is organized, but its officers are all so busy fishing and catching that they have had to lay over work for a time.

Our school trustees have at last secured a grant for a school site, as well as a school building. Tenders are in the hands of the department for the erection of the building, and the contractor will likely start work next week. The building is to accommodate 80 pupils. Appearances are that it will soon be far too small, but the site is large enough—about 2 acres—and additions can be made. The trustees have not yet announced what they are to do about opening school next month. It is expected that the young folks will need to get another month as a number of them are engaged in the canneries they will be glad of this.

Sockeyes still come in abundance, and it is evident that another Sabbath day will be spent in canneries work. Thousands of fish are going to waste, as there is no means of handling them. Quite a number of the canneries have put up their pack already, and we are only at the end of July. It is estimated that ten more good sized canneries could have been kept going by the fishing fleet that has turned out. The weather has been exceedingly good for the work. On the whole, though dry, it has not been very hot and occasional mild showers have prevented dust from rising. The cool, clear atmosphere has been a very valuable element in the canner's experience, as can readily be understood when we state that at each cannery wharf there will be from each morning from 10,000 to 25,000 fish.

NEW DENVER.

New Denver Ledger. Taylor and Murphy have a group of claims on the north fork of Ten Mile that give assays of over 400 ounces in silver. They have a bond in sight on the property.

The balance of the bond, \$30,000, due in September on the Thompson group, will be paid next week. The property will be staked and placed on the market in London, England.

A payment of \$10,000 was made this week on the Alpine group. The group is owned by Stege, Clever, Heakman, Crawford and Fass, and is under bond to A. Dick and A. B. Mackenzie for \$30,000. Development work is proving the property to be rich in free milling ore.

Engineer Perry and a corps of surveyors were engaged the past week in making a survey of a line from Three Forks to Bear Lake, it being the intention of the C.P.R. to build a road between these points. It is also quite probable that the road will be pushed on from Bear Lake to Whitewater. The road will be built at an early date, it being the real intention of the company to get into the rich mineral section as early as possible and participate in the handling of the great ore output. The proposed road will give better access to the property than what is in running order it will bring most of the travel and freight this way instead of going out by way of Kaslo.

On Saturday Wm. Taylor and Amos Thompson took a stroll up the mountain back of New Denver. Near a little lake, and about a mile from the town is a claim called the Queen City, located in April by Amos Thompson. It was nothing of any richness has been discovered. Taylor and Thompson ran upon a ledge in place on this claim which shows 12 to 18 inches on the surface of good ore. They immediately returned to town and bought the claim, along with the Albion, on Fidelity bluff, for \$150. On Monday they staked several extensions, and it looks as though New Denver would yet have mines at its back door.

GOLDEN.

Golden Era. The Donald Mining Co. have taken an option on O. Baines' property at Bald Mountain.

On Saturday a party of prospectors arrived from the other side of the divide, having come through the Simpson's Pass. They located some claims on the Calgary side, and now intend prospecting in the Columbia Valley.

Mr. Kirk, of London, Ont., who is interested in the Mineral King claim on Toby Creek, returned to Golden by the Diggins on Sunday, and reports discovery to be an important discovery on the divide between Vermont and Copper Creeks. The vein they found is between 12 and 14 feet in thickness and appears to be heavily mineralized throughout. It is a copper ore carrying gold.

Mr. G. Neilson, manager of the Beaver mills, returned a few days ago from McLeod, where he has been to see Mr. Haney, manager of construction, regarding the timber supply for the Crow's Nest road. Mr. Neilson secured the supply of the piling required on the work, and will probably ship about three million feet of timber for the line. He has made vigorous arrangements for getting the timber out, having secured 50 men from Winnipeg, and having brought a number of horses from Calgary for haulage purposes.

Mr. Kirk brought to Golden with him some very magnificent samples of this week some magnificent samples of ore from the Mineral King and Swansea claims. Those from the former appear rich in copper and galena, while the Swansea specimens are oxides and carbonates of copper with some grey copper. Mr. Kirk has also some fine specimens of galena and copper ore from the Mineral King. Mr. Neilson in the vicinity of the Mineral King. Other good claims in Mr. Kirk's opinion, which have been located on Toby Creek are the

Binemallist, recorded by Mr. Brown, and a new claim staked by Mr. McIvor, and showing very fine grey copper and galena.

These popular mining investors in East Kootenay, Messrs. G. and H. Mitchell-Innes, returned to Golden on Thursday. In conversation with Mr. G. Mitchell-Innes, who has been on a visit to the home country in connection with the mining development of East Kootenay, that gentlemen informed us that it is the firm's intention to proceed vigorously with development work on the Mitchell group at Quartz Creek, the Edinburgh group on Prairie Mountain, the St. George, Vulcan and Dragon, on Toby Creek, and the pretty girl on Horse Thief Creek. During his stay in the home country Mr. G. Mitchell-Innes found capitalists very much interested in British Columbia as a field for mining investment, but what they want are bona fide developed properties, and it is no use putting undeveloped prospects before them. He has great faith in East Kootenay, and believes that only solid development work is required to put it to a condition which will bring into it the capital that is required. Mr. Mitchell-Innes succeeded in enlisting the cooperation of several good capitalists, and believes that the faith which he has himself shown in the country is about to be realized.

LETTERS FROM DAWSON.

Some Interesting Particulars of the Clondyke District. Mr. Alexander R. Bannerman, of Kildonan, who arrived at the Yukon gold fields some time ago, has written a letter to his sister, under date of June 22nd, from Dawson City, N.W.T., in which he gives some interesting particulars of the Clondyke district, which is now attracting such wide attention throughout America. By the kind permission of Miss Bannerman the Free Press is enabled to present to its readers the following extracts from the letter:

"We arranged our partners this morning at 3 o'clock to get started on a prospecting trip. Night is the only time one can travel here owing to the intensity of the heat during the day. Yesterday the thermometer was 90 degrees Felt, yet there is only six inches of frost out of the ground, and it will be winter again by the middle of August. Daylight is now continuous, and so much light is by no means agreeable. We have had a terrible trip. It is an experience of a life time to come down those terribly swift waters. The Yukon is over a quarter of a mile wide here, and all along there are islands, where the river is in many places two miles in width. The water is high now, and the river overflows the island, around which the water rushes with such force that one boat was pulled right among the trees. However, we got down without accident after some exceedingly hard work. One of my partners and I are going to work in town for a few days. Carpenters are paid \$10 a day, and helpers \$10 to \$15. In the mining camp the prevailing wage is \$15 a day without board. We have an offer to go on claims on Bonanza creek, receiving one-half of what gold we take out. This creek is in the richest part of the Clondyke. Two of us will undertake to work 50 feet of the land on a claim, or in other words, 100 feet between the foot of us. The digging is from 25 to 25 feet deep before we strike the pay foot, which runs from three to five feet of gravel. Remember, we have to clear across a claim before we strike the paystreak; and even then we might not get anything—that we will not know until the first of next June, when we will have to have our wash-up completed. Perhaps we will make a fortune, but the chances of not doing so are equal to our chances of making a rich strike. The claims I speak of are supposed to be just as rich as any in the district.

"One man came to town this morning with six five gallon oil cans full of gold, the result of his wash-up. In some places the dirt goes over \$1,000 to the ton. On the last boat, or rather the first boat that has gone down to St. Michaels, leaving here on the 19th inst., there were nearly two tons of gold. Men left for their homes worth from \$5,000 to \$100,000. Just last year's work. There are new diggings all over, but the claims are grabbed up in a day as soon as they are discovered. We have five claims between eleven of us on Henderson's rich all in the district supposed to be rich. We do not intend to sell or work them until we have to, provided all turns out right.

"Elorado Creek, just beside Bonanza Creek, is particularly rich, so much so that having washed up as much as \$800 to a pan. Wages will probably be \$15 or \$20 a day all winter. The season for digging commences about December 1st. The work is made doubly hard by having to draw wood for fires to thaw the earth, as daylight is short and the cold intense. The cost of living is very high. Meals, consisting of bread, bacon, coffee, or tea, cost from \$1.50 to \$2. Bacon is worth 75 cents a pound, and 25 cents a pound extra to have it packed and brought 18 miles to the mines. Flour per sack of 100 pounds is worth \$12.

"Mantobans have no idea of the diggers' rich all in the district. The Alaskan rivers with their ten and twelve mile currents. This afternoon as five miners were coming back to camp after having staked some claims on the opposite side of the Clondyke river, their boat was caught in an eddy and capsized, and one man who, strangely enough, was the best swimmer, was drowned instantly. The scarcity of provisions one of the most serious objections to the country. Many of the richest men have lived on dog meat, for money cannot buy provisions where there are none to buy. If we can stand the food and climate we expect to go out next summer with good big piles of gold.

"This is a gay town. There are as many women in the place as men, and dance houses are numerous, and nothing but daylight for night."

Winnipeg, July 31.—A Banff dispatch to the Free Press says: Professor Charles E. Fay and Arthur Michael, of Boston, have gone to Lagrange to try and locate Mount Lewis. The party has Swiss Alpine guides with it. This is the mountain which Professor Fay, with others, tried last summer to reach the summit of, and on which one of the party, a Mr. Abbott, was killed.