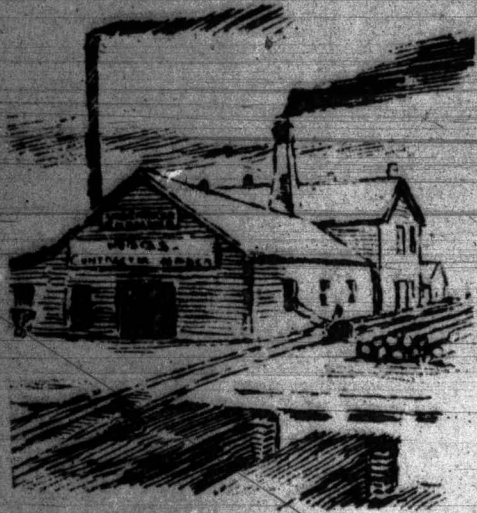


nection with his sawmill, Mr. Hobbs operates a large planing mill and wood working department in which is manufactured a variety of articles that range in quality from a dressed board to a roller top office desk. He also carries for sale a full line of builders' hardware, wall and tar paper. His undertaking establishment is the best in the territory, and it contains the only assortment of burial cloths and casket trimmings north of Juneau. This department is managed by an expert in the art of embalming bodies.

Last summer Mr. Hobbs directed his attention to the production of brick and lime, in addition to his other interests. His brick kiln is located a short distance from Dawson, up the Yukon. A



O. W. Hobbs' Sawmill.

splendid bed of clay has been uncovered, from which there has been made already 150,000 of fine building brick. The capacity of the kiln is 1,000 brick per day. The lime is secured about ten miles this side of Sixtymile. The deposit is extensive, and the product is of excellent quality and well adapted for building purposes. The success of Mr. O. W. Hobbs is well deserved.

### WILLIAM FOSTER.

As is well known among all residents of the Yukon territory, the bars on Stewart river had yielded good returns long before the Klondike gold fields were known or even thought of. Among the early prospectors on the first named stream was William Foster, the subject of this sketch. Mr. Foster, like many others of our successful men, had been a miner by occupation long before he came into the Yukon country. It was in the year 1886 that he first located on the Stewart. After 12 months spent in



William Foster.

bar digging and prospecting with varying results he went to the Fortymile district in which camp he remained for another year.

At the expiration of that time he returned to the outside and accepted a position with the Treadwell Mining Company, with whom he remained for a period of nine years.

He still retained, however, a lingering feeling that there was gold in the Yukon and when the strike of '97 was reported outside, he left immediately for Dawson.

His years of experience, both in placer and quartz mining, made his services at once in demand and he was engaged

by Messrs. Blake and Conrad to superintend the development of their property, No. 15 above discovery on Bonanza creek, with whom he has remained ever since. He will work a crew of about 20 men during the approaching winter. Mr. Foster understands thoroughly the handling of men and the methods which he has applied in the working of No. 15 have resulted most satisfactorily.

### J. H. SUTTON.

is one of the pioneers who has largely aided in the development of this country. He is a native of New Castle, New Brunswick, and after many years spent on the frontier of the Northwestern country, emigrated to Alaska in 1897.

Here he engaged largely in freighting for the Canadian government, packing immense quantities of government provisions over the passes when the trip was the most hazardous. After a very successful season, in the spring of '98 he continued on to Dawson, bringing in with him a consignment of provisions, which he sold at an immense profit. He then became interested largely in

made the past summer with an enviable dispatch. When navigation opened in 1899 hundreds of men started for the outside. Let it be known that when they arrived in Seattle, Messenger W. P. Allen was found already there with the first treasure shipment from the Klondike for that year. Starting from Dawson May 25th with the balance of the outward-bound, by the courteous assistance of Major Woods, of the N. W. M. P., he was enabled to break through the ice of Lake Marsh and reach the outside world ahead of all.

It is most interesting to note the development of the Nugget Express from one department and one man to its present position of momentous importance and host of employees. There are now the present departments: Nugget Express regular service to every creek of the Klondike district, in conjunction with the Nugget Express purchasing department.

Nugget Express to Fortymile.  
Nugget Express to the outside.  
Money order department.  
Letter department.  
Deposit department.  
Commission department.  
Telegraph department.

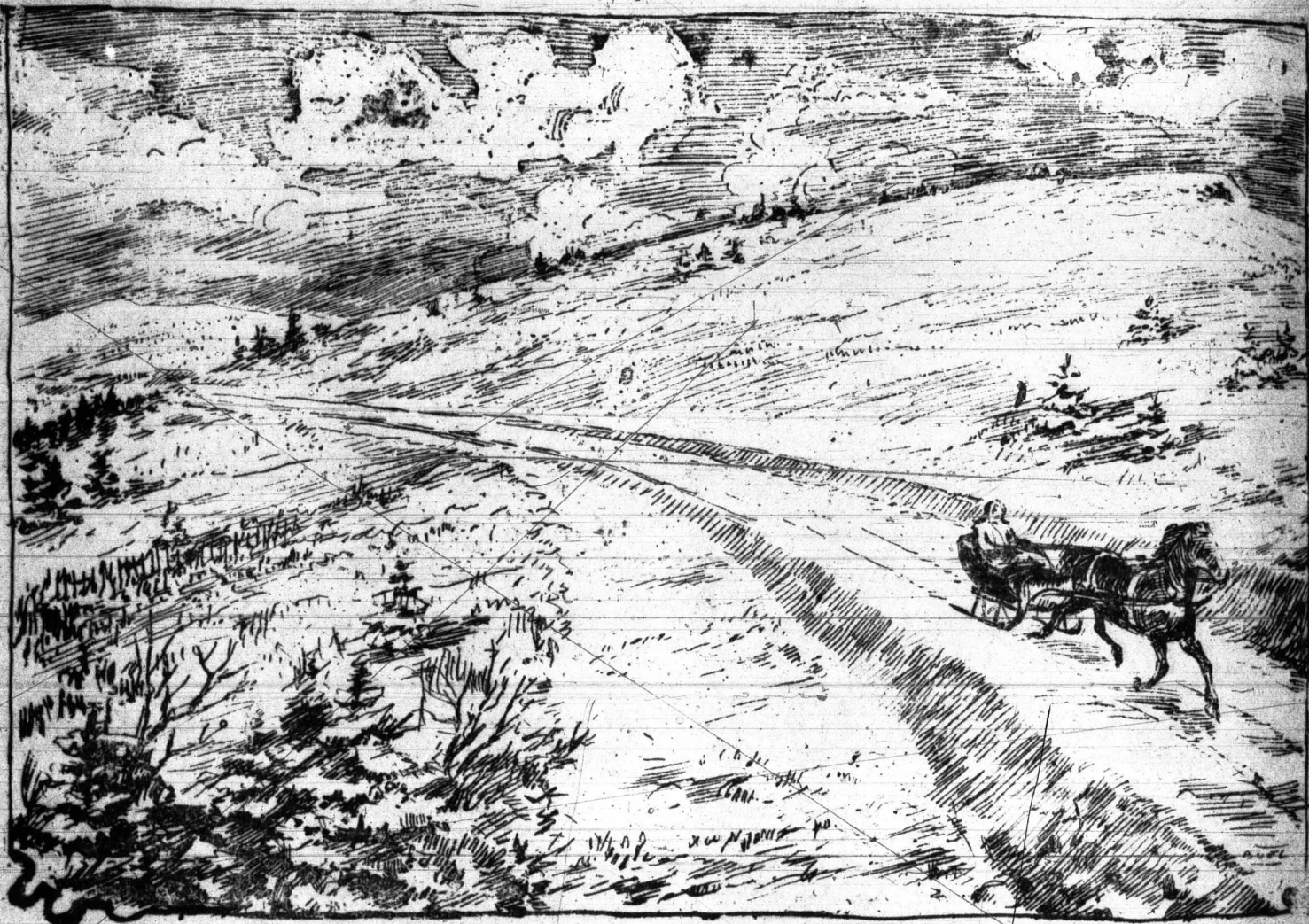
money and the securing of the very best men to be found for carrying out this important commission. As stated, the result is that every pound was carried through the blockade and landed four miles above Dawson, just as the flow of ice stopped for the season, viz., on October 23d.

During the past summer the Express business to Fortymile included a regular weekly service both ways, the Express company being the regular carriers of the Canadian government mail, the little steamer Burpee being secured for the service.

Like other express companies, the Nugget Express was early in its existence confronted by a strong public demand for a money order department, and the demand has been filled, the Nugget Express money orders being good in any part of America.

To many miners the letter department of the Nugget Express is its most important function. Nearly every miner of importance on the creeks has listed his name with the Nugget Express and immediately upon the arrival of his mail in Dawson it is rushed out to his claim and delivered.

Nugget Express rate sheets are to



The ridge road. J. H. Sutton, contractor and builder.

mining properties, and in the fall of '98 received from the Canadian government a contract to build a public road along the ridge.

As the contract was given late in the fall, it necessitated the employment of a large force of men to complete it before winter interfered with its progress, and Mr. Sutton rushed it through with the utmost expedition, paying for labor the sum of \$8 per day to each laborer, probably the highest wages ever paid for unskilled labor on any road in the history of this country. The road is in splendid condition, and the satisfaction it merits from all who have traveled over it, is an evidence of the ability of its builder.

### THE NUGGET EXPRESS

The Nugget Express is not a creation but a growth. Starting with small beginnings to supply a creek demand, its ramifications, departments and offices have in one year of growth covered the entire territory from the Klondike to California. From November 1, 1898, to November 1, 1899, it has grown from one man and a dog team delivering light packages, to a half a hundred men handling hundreds of tons of express matter.

Five thousand commissions have been executed by the Nugget Express in its one year of life, without the loss of a single package.

Nine shipments of treasure have been

Passenger department.  
Storage department.

Under the first head we may mention an office on Dominion and at Grand Forks, with the general office at Dawson. It was no unusual thing to see eight and twelve laden Nugget Express dog teams leave Dawson in one day last winter, the loads consisting of butter for Jones, sugar for Brown, fruit for Smith, there being hardly a pup or gulch in the territory which was not reached. Miners on their claims caught the passing express messengers, gave their orders and the following day the goods had been purchased and were delivered without the loss of a moment's time to the miner, and at the lowest Dawson prices which could be obtained.

Under the second head of "Nugget Express to the Outside," we may mention agents at Whitehorse, Miles canyon, Bennett, Skagway, Juneau, and a large general office at 112 Yesler way, Seattle. The ability of the express company to push matter through a freight blockade, which has left nearly a million dollars of merchandise stranded on the upper river for the winter, is demonstrated by the fact that the last pound of upwards of 50 tons of express matter has arrived safely in Dawson, much of it leaving the outside long after freight companies were refusing to accept any more goods for transportation to Dawson. This was not accomplished by accident nor good fortune, but by the unlimited use of

be found in every Wells, Fargo office in America. Nugget Express for American interior points is turned over to the Wells, Fargo Co., at Seattle. The arrangement has brought many and large packages of money via the Nugget Express to Dawson. This particular feature of the express company business has proven of the utmost value to its patrons. Many of them who had waited vainly for remittances through the post-office have received them safely via Nugget Express. The commission department has filled one of the most crying needs of this strange land. Taxes are paid on the outside for inside owners. Representation is arranged for by outside miners at the Seattle office. Miners have been put into communication with relatives in Canada and America when all track of one another was thought to be lost. Relatives have been hunted up through the Nugget Express by fortunate Klondikers, who from their far away Dawson home were thus enabled to relieve financial distress. Commissions have been received and faithfully executed to bring in miners' wives and children, the waybills on file at the Nugget Express office showing the delivery of the important "packages" to anxious husbands and fathers. Miners have bought mining machinery in Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, San Francisco and Chicago and had it safely delivered at their cabin doors without themselves once leaving their claims. In fact nearly everything a miner could do for himself outside has been faith-

fully performed for Express, without a commission.

In Dawson it was patrons of the Nugget Express who prepared for immigrants and caring for them. The storage of Nugget Express was furnished and 'Boyle' for that purpose. The foundation for rafting department.

Throughout it all a multiplicity of details such a varied business our readers in receipt delivered to the Postmaster Hartman. A distant creek, goes waybills, entry and lotely prevent its tracer at any time. The whereabout article in process and signed receipts from the time over to the Nugget Francisco, through and messengers to hands of messenger minion creek, into signee, and finally

### THE ALASKA

One of the great son and at the same most importance the unsatisfactory in this country for Lotta Talbot, the Meat Company. concern brought middle of the ho



a whole boat loaded Puget sound in best condition. zen before starting and reached Daw