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LATE NEWS FROM ALASKA.

On Friday, June 15th, the steamer "Cutch," came into port early this morning from Skagway, says the Vancouver World. She made the trip down in 66 hours, which is the quickest time ever made from Skagway to Vancouver. Vancouver people are getting along well up north and will have some large clean-ups. The "Cutch" brought 25 passengers, most of them being from Dawson, and had in all \$100,000 worth of gold dust on board, and left for Seattle with the majority of her passengers, who were Americans. A Seattle despatch of 18th said: Steamer "Dirigo," has arrived from Lynn Canal, having on board 85 passengers, who brought down about \$300,000 in gold dust. The passengers all declare that this summer's output from the Klondyke will be much larger than last and estimates are made all the way from \$25,000,000 to \$40,000,000. Mr. A. H. B. Macgowan reports that the last spike of the railroad between Cariboo and White Horse was driven by Mrs. (Major) Wood on the 8th inst., the first through train arriving on that day with 100 passengers. The reports about the congested state of freight at Bennett have been, he says, greatly exaggerated.

There is great enthusiasm over the present state of operations upon the White Horse copper properties, which are now admitted to be amongst the great ones of the world. Generally speaking, there is an era of prosperity and activity all over this northern country, and great results may be confidently expected from this immensely rich section at an early date.

TRADE ENQUIRIES.

The following were among the enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the office of the High Commissioner in London during the week ending 8th June:

1. Enquiry has come from a firm in Sydney, New South Wales, respecting Canadian maple sugar and syrup, which they are anxious to introduce to the Australian market.

2. The names of gauge glass buyers in Canada are asked for by a manufacturer of these goods.

3. A firm buying box boards from time to time will be glad to send specifications of their requirements to Canadian houses able to meet them.

4. A large Canadian firm of boot and shoe manufacturers are desirous of extending their trade with the United Kingdom, and ask for assistance in this respect.

The following trade enquiries have been received by Mr. Harrison Watson, Imperial Institute:

1. A firm of produce brokers and commission merchants dealing in beans, peas and seeds; honey, beeswax, tallow, grease, hair, skins, etc., asks to be placed in communication with Canadian shippers of these lines. Goods purchased or received on consignment. References given and required.

2. A manufacturer of high-class cutlery and electro plate is prepared to appoint responsible Canadian resident agent. United Kingdom references asked for.

DEPARTMENTAL STORES AND SMALLER SHOPS.

According to figures collected by the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor, with the view of testing the influence of the department store upon the single-line dealer, there were 1,659 grocery stores in Boston in the year 1898, against 1,105 in 1874. The average number of people to each grocery store was 357 in 1875, and 360 in 1895; thus showing that the department stores had not interfered in the slightest degree with the normal development of the grocery business in Boston; and similar results having recently been shown by New York figures it is assumed the same is the case with other large cities, while in places of less population of course the influence of the department store is far less. We are told by Mr. Kelly, the president of the Retail Grocers' Association of this city, that in 1899 it was ascertained by actual count that there were at the close of last year 565 grocers in Toronto. This census included, we understand, only grocers who had shops for their business, not those who peddled their wares around town or had mere stands on street corners. It would be interesting to know how other years compared with 1899 in this respect, as indicating what has been the effect of the department stores here.

It is now announced that the Toronto firm of Charles Reid & Co., have arranged a settlement with their creditors on the basis of 75 cents on the dollar, the British creditors having, it appears, declined to accept the offer we mentioned in last issue. The claims of New York and Canadian houses amount to \$7,571.

JUDGE CHOQUET, of Montreal, in a recent decision in a lead pipe case of theft referred to the careless manner in which junk dealers are allowed to keep their books, and asked: "Why are the junk dealers not forced to keep a proper register of everything they buy or sell?"

Ontario Government Annuities

Tenders are invited by the undersigned for two books of Province of Ontario Annuities running for 39½ years, each book containing 79 half-yearly certificates of \$466.40, payable First January and July.

Tenders received up to Wednesday, 4th July, at 3 p.m.

No tender necessarily accepted.

E. R. C. CLARKSON,

Trustee,

Scott Street, Toronto.