

THEY RETURN DISGUSTED

With Lower River Diggings and Stampedes in General.

One Miner Says Koyukuk Has Not One Claim That Will Pay \$10 a Day.

From Tuesday's Daily.

Diametrically opposed to the conditions existing at Eagle City are the reports brought up the river from the Tanana and Koyukuk districts, to say nothing of the doleful wail which comes from Nome.

N. Sager, a miner who left here early this spring and went to the Koyukuk, was a passenger on the Rock Island arriving yesterday, and if anyone asks him if he is going back he looks disgusted and says, "Not for gold and precious stones."

"There is not a claim in the district that will pay \$10 a day to the man," says Mr. Sager, "and those that will pay \$5 and board are like hens teeth. All wages are paid on bedrock, and if a man goes to work expecting to get fair wages after a cleanup he can consider himself lucky if he gets \$2 and board for his work."

"The reason is that the claims are not rich in the first place, and then there are so many who have to be paid and yet do not work. There is the owner who is superintendent, a book-keeper, a day boss and a night boss, and all the rest of them, and so, when the miner comes to get his pay he is mighty lucky if there is anything coming to him."

"No, sir, the Koyukuk is a frost—a dream of the night that is burst and gone."

O. Vek is another Dawson miner who, this spring, allowed himself in an unguarded moment to become infected with the deadly Nome disease and, while so infected went in search of green fields and pastures new. The pastures he found were new all right, but, as he says, just a trifle shy in the matter of sustenance.

Vek went to Nome, and from there he followed up all the principal stampedes religiously, and wore out many pairs of nice new shoes as a result. His summing up of the whole situation is contained in a few brief remarks on the subject of stampedes in general, and the great Nome rush in particular. He says if a miner has the capital to go out and bring in plenty of machinery for pumping, etc., and is naturally very lucky, he might get miners wages out of the beach. Mr. Vek stopped at Circle City on his way up and started for the Tanana diggings going, in company with others, about 50 miles back on the trail where so many people were met coming out, and who all had the same tale of woe to unfold, that the ingoing party turned and came back.

U. S. Marshal N. J. Trodo, of Circle City, was also a passenger on the Rock Island, and while he says that Circle is very quiet, and that the mines of the Tanana are wholly in an undeveloped condition, still he has much faith in their ultimate productiveness.

Marshal Trodo came from Rampart to Circle with the prisoner, Chas. Hubbard, who shot and killed Tom McNamee in May last, and who is to be tried on a charge of murder at the next sitting of the court at Circle, which will commence on the 3d of next month.

A Jack Wade Nugget.

Mr. F. T. Hope, who arrived Sunday from the Jack Wade country, brought with him a 35 ounce nugget which was found on the claim of Wm. Chappelle, which is a fraction between 11 and 12 above lower discovery. This gold is worth \$18.50 to the ounce and is distinctly different in color from that of the Klondike district. Mr. Hope says a large amount of gold is being taken out of the Jack Wade country.

Regarding the Tanana.

Mr. Thos. Cale, who but lately returned from a nearly two months' visit and prospecting trip through the Tanana, gives a very intelligent account of that country, and, being an experienced miner, what he says is doubtless accurate. He says there is a vast country there which, so far as it has been prospected, shows a tight run of gold nearly everywhere, but that so far nothing to justify a stampede.

Only two claims in the entire district, both on Homestake, have been thoroughly developed, and only one of these two pays above the expense of operating. The best day's work on the richest of the two claims was \$18 to the man shoveling in, four men being engaged in the work. And at the price of labor and provisions there but little profit exists even at \$18 to the man.

Mr. Cale says that it is yet impossible to form an intelligent opinion of

the country, as it has not been developed and only superficially prospected. Much of the country is staked, having been located by parties, 75 per cent of whom have come out and left the country probably never to return; but their having staked will serve to practically tie up the country until the first of the year 1902, when, unless the original locators turn up to develop their property it will be subject to relocation.

Personally Mr. Cale has faith in the future of the Tanana, but he says many have gone there this season and come back disgusted, satisfied in their own minds that the country is of no value as a mining region.

At present there are, says Mr. Cale, not to exceed 100 prospectors in the district, although many more have visited it this season. The trail in from Circle is in fairly good condition now, and previous to the fall rains which have made it muddy in some places was an exceptionally good trail for this country, there being no steep hills and only two low ridges to cross in the entire distance of about 120 miles.

Mr. Cale says considerable stuff will be sledged in this winter by those who contemplate work next season, as he says it is an ideal winter trail.

Two different classes, says Mr. Cale, are circulating stories regarding the Tanana. The practical miners tell of the country as they find it, while many who are out more for speculation than for legitimate mining, and who have located without any prospecting whatever, tell rose-hued stories of the country for the purpose of booming it.

The Newsboy's Passengers.

The story of the passengers from Nome on the Newsboy has taken legal shape. Libel was filed in the United States court today against the steamer by R. E. Gibbons, of Ballard; Thomas Seucier, of Lewiston, Me.; Davis W. Reeve, and Joseph W. Baum, of New York; W. H. Graham, H. F. Winnes and J. Whiting, of Redlands, Cal.; and the following from Seattle: J. W. Knapp, R. Fitzpatrick, J. Fitzpatrick, A. S. Allen, O. J. Thompson, R. F. Garner, Ralph Simon, Richard Grant and R. W. Brookfield.

The story of the libellants as told in the legal documents is about as follows: When the Newsboy was advertised to sail from Nome for Seattle last month, her agents there, J. G. McCall and H. M. Haines, represented her to be in first-class condition and a fast sailer, well equipped and supplied, and that only first-class tickets would be sold. These tickets were sold at \$75, and in a few instances \$100. When the passengers went aboard the vessel, they did not like her looks, and wanted their money back. They say that they found the vessel short of hands; that the bedding was so scant as to cause sickness; that it was impossible to keep clean; that 81 passengers were crowded into a cabin suitable for less than 20, where good ventilation was impossible; that they were denied the promised luxury of a social hall; that their baggage became water-soaked; that the food was not fit to eat, and the water for drinking was black, foul and tainted; that they had to use salt water for bathing; that the passengers had to buy their own provisions at Dutch Harbor. The libellants ask damages in the sum of \$800 each.—Seattle Times, Aug. 8.

A Pronounced Preference.

Some amusing stories have been told of the inability of many English people to pronounce the letter H. This peculiarity is by no means confined to the "cockneys" of London. We have known professional men who possess the same perverse inclination.

Here is a confirming anecdote from the Youth's Companion. The subject is the honored and aged English grandmother in a Massachusetts household.

She has two granddaughters, twins, named—although their mother now admits that she ought to have known better—Hannah and Anna.

The old lady is extremely attached to them, but there is seldom a day in which her bright old eyes do not snap, and her pretty, white curls quiver with wrath, at what she calls with spirit, "the 'opeless haggardness" of trying to make them understand which she is talking to.

"I didn't call 'Anna; I called Hannah," she will protest indignantly, when the wrong one responds to a summons. "Why don't Hannah come 'erself, instead of sending 'Annah, when she wasn't harked for?"

Nothing makes her angrier than to suggest, no matter how carefully and delicately, that any confusion of Hs might be responsible for the difficulty. "I'm Henglish, I own," she says, with frigid dignity, "but I 'ope I know 'ow to pronounce my Hatches! It's only the bignorant Henglish who say 'ouse for 'ouse and 'orse for 'orse, Hannah! What are you laughing at? I saiu 'ouse 'ouse and 'orse 'hexactly

as you do! 'Ark now, and 'ear me.' Then very slowly and with deep impressiveness: "'Orse! 'orse! 'ouse! 'ouse! 'ouse. And I 'ope you're satisfied!"

A Wonderful Story.

The following account of the Florence S. disaster was published in the Toronto Mail and Express, having been telegraphed from Vancouver.

The steamship Cottage City, arriving this afternoon from Skagway, brought news of a terrible accident by which 40 lives are said to have been lost.

The Lake Lebarge steamer Florence S., a top-heavy river boat, it is said, overturned while going through the rapids at Thirty mile. She had 110 passengers on board, and of these 40 met death in the swirling waters of the Upper Yukon.

The barest statement of the accident was brought today by the Cottage City. She called at Juneau, Alaska, on Tuesday at noon, and the story has just arrived here. The statement lacked confirmation, however, and until other boats come down the news cannot be given in detail.

The steamer Humboldt, which arrived yesterday from Skagway, brought the story of an accident which occurred at Lebarge last Friday. The Humboldt's passengers coming through from Dawson said that the Florence S. ran into a sailboat and the occupants of the latter, an unknown man and Mrs. Alexander Stewart, of Bennett, and her daughter, were all drowned.

The steamer was at that time coming up Lake Lebarge. According to the story brought by the Cottage City, which left Juneau several hours after the Humboldt, the Florence S. was on her way down on the trip on Sunday afternoon. She was in the rapids, and became unmanageable. She was always known as a top-heavy boat, and had an exceedingly large number of passengers and much freight on her upper deck for steamer drawing only 26 inches of water.

She capsized in the middle of the rapids, and the people who managed to get ashore did so on pieces of the upper works of the vessel which were torn away. No further details could be learned at Juneau.

There were undoubtedly two separate accidents, but further than the story generally circulated at Juneau, there was no authoritative account of how many lives were lost.

Something Must Be Done.

It may not be generally known, but all the same there is a business industry in Dawson that stands on anything but a sound financial basis and that industry is 'the dog pound. A batch of dogs, having been impounded for a period of 30 days, during which time they grew fat and "sassy," was sold yesterday at an actual loss to the poundmaster of \$169.50. As dogs have to be kept and fed for 30 days before being sold, it is not an unusual thing for a common cur, to use an agricultural expression, to "eat his head off" six or seven times. In order that a dog may pay all the expenses of his keep he must sell for at least \$25, and even at that price the contributions of the poundmaster to the cause of either home or foreign missions will be correspondingly meagre. But this is not all.

If the dog pound industry runs behind \$169.50 every 30 days, how long will it take the poundmaster to "salt down" a competency?

If the dog pound runs behind \$169.50 every 30 days, where is the poundmaster to get the \$100 necessary to file with his nomination as candidate for election to the Yukon council?

If the dog pound runs behind \$169.50 every 30 days how long will it be before the poundmaster says, in the language of North Carolina's immortal governor, "It is a — long time between drinks!"

All these are questions of the present and not of the impenetrable depths of the misty future. These are living issues that must be solved. No poundmaster can be expected to wear a "sang froid and happy, smiling countenance when he is losing \$169.50 every 30 days. That is more cash than many Kansas farmers who raise their own potatoes see in five years.

The question of the day and hour is simply this: Is Dawson going to lie supinely on her back and hug the delusive phantom of hope while her dog pound goes down to perdition for lack of good legitimate patronage? If not, give the dog-catcher a chance; tear the muzzles from your household pets, your thoroughbred majamutes and full dress huskies and shove them under the eyes of his ribs; otherwise, weeds will grow rampant and owls will hoot at midnight where once flourished a proud and noble institution.

One hundred and sixty-nine dollars and fifty cents in 30 days! Think of it!

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

Sour Dough Letter Heads for sale at the Nugget office.

The Klondike Nugget

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AN ASSAY OFFICE.

The intention of the government to establish an assay office in Dawson seems now to be settled beyond doubt. The advantages which will accrue from such action are many. Gold dust as a circulating medium is far from being satisfactory. The of custom of mixing commercial dust with sand has become so prevalent that in accepting dust in exchange for his merchandise the vendor rarely gets value received. To equalize matters he must charge a proportionately higher rate for his goods. In the end the burden falls upon the consumer. If the town were on a currency basis, business generally could be estimated with far more accuracy and prices in many lines of trade would soon be lowered to where they properly belong. The present status of affairs is little less than deplorable. Currency is always at a premium and, following a law as well established as the force of gravity, is constantly being driven from circulation by the cheaper medium of exchange against which it is thrown in competition.

Anyone will naturally pay out gold dust when he has that option and place his currency in bank. This custom has become so firmly established that as a result currency gains circulation only through artificial means.

The volume of circulating medium should accommodate itself naturally to the amount of business transacted. This can never occur as long as the present makeshift arrangement is pursued. We welcome, therefore, the statement that the government intends establishing an assay office in Dawson as an indication that one unsatisfactory problem will soon be pretty well settled.

INCORPORATE.

As soon as possible after the coming election for members of the Yukon council is held arrangements should be made for incorporating Dawson. If it is necessary to raise money for purposes of local improvement it should be done in the manner ordinarily followed by municipalities.

A legitimate amount of taxation assessed by a representative municipal assembly should not and probably will not meet with any considerable degree of opposition. The council's "turn over" basis of taxation was such a remarkable proposition as almost to pass beyond human comprehension. There is small wonder that it met with general remonstrance and that legal means have been sought to procure a stay of proceedings.

We do not apprehend that a representative body of local men would consider a measure of taxation along such lines as were proposed by the council. When the proper time arrives there should be no difficulty in framing a revenue ordinance which will meet all requirements and at the same time possess some measure of equity.

After the election for members of the council is held no further delay should ensue until incorporation becomes an accomplished fact. The government of the town will never be satisfactory to the public at large until it is vested in a representative body of citizens elected by popular vote.

Apparently there will be no bluffing about the approaching election. Every contestant must post a forfeit of \$100, and unless he lasts the required number of rounds, he must bid the \$100 a fond and lasting farewell. One objection to the proceeding which we would make is the fact that the purse instead of being divided among the winners is—to make use of the language of the mining regulations—to revert to the crown. The election ordinance certainly furnishes a striking example of Legal Adviser Clement's well known thrift.

In the supplementary estimates provided for at the close of the last session of parliament the following Yukon provisions were included: Public buildings (revote), \$75,000; telegraph

lines, Quesnelle to Atlin, B. C. (revote), \$110,000; Dawson to Fort Cadahy, \$12,000; trails, roads and bridges (revote), \$50,000; rents, fuel, lighting, \$19,500; witness and jury fees in criminal trials, \$7000; law books, etc., \$6000; living expenses of sheriff and clerk, \$2400; working expenses Yukon telegraph lines, \$47,500; Quesnelle-Atlin telegraph line, \$40,000.

The unusually heavy rains which have prevailed during the past 30 days have not added in any way to the attractions of the summer in town, but have proven a very important factor on the creeks. It is generally conceded that more summer work has been successfully carried out this year than during the three preceding years.

From the way in which the ordinance governing the coming election reads, we are inclined to think that Legal Adviser Clement had his mind on the rules laid down by the Marquis of Queensberry for the government of prize ring contests.

New Boundary Line Theory.

As business at Skagway is quiet these times, the people there have considerable time to devote to such subjects as boundary lines, bonding privileges, etc. The latest on the boundary line subject has just been perpetrated by the Alaskan as follows:

Hon. Richard Mansfield White, of New York, an explorer, mine owner, and life member of the Historical Society of New Mexico and of the Historical Society of Alaska, who is in Skagway on his way to the interior, makes a new point in regard to the Alaskan boundary dispute. He maintains that the line ten marine leagues from the sea is crossed by numerous streams, and therefore cannot be the summit of a range of mountains, and therefore cannot be the boundary which it is sought to locate. Mr. White last evening said:

"Being the son of Richard Grant White, of New York, and having had at hand in earlier days large library, I looked into the matters of boundaries, and in particular that of Alaska. My father also studied the matter, and being a friend of William Seward, who bought Alaska, he naturally took an interest in the matter."

"Of late I have also looked into the matter, and I find that a line between Alaska and Canada at a distance of ten marine leagues from the winding of the coast is crossed by more than 13 rivers or streams emptying into the Pacific ocean, between Portland canal and the 141st meridian, and that from that fact alone there cannot be a summit or divide of drainage nearer than the said ten marine leagues, and therefore the contention of the British that the boundary should approach nearer to the coast than the said ten marine leagues is not tenable."

"Also the summits of the White pass and Chilkoot pass cannot be taken as the summit of a range of mountains which extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude, for those summits are not continuous for that length but are only the summits of passes between mountains, locally, and not the summit of such an extensive range of mountains as the treaty contemplates. If there are any ranges of mountains at all between and separate the rivers running into the Pacific ocean and are not parallel to the coast, but at almost right angles to the coast."

Information Wanted.

Patrick McGee, San Francisco, Cal.; John T. Burns, Saginaw, Mich.; Henry Tinney, Goldenville; Oscar J. Wright, Portland, Or.; Geo. L. Graham, Bay City, Mich.; Orin H. Pangburn, Bay City, Mich.; Enoch L. Hammer, Pueblo, Colo.; Joseph A. Richardson, San Francisco, Cal.; William Andrew Gray, Victoria, Australia.

Found, on 80 below on Sulphur creek, three miners' certificates, two receipts, three letters and some stamps, belonging to J. R. Hogarth. Apply to N. W. M. P., Dawson.

News From Nome.

Word comes from Nome that Postmaster Geo. N. Wright formerly of Skagway has been removed. What the cause for his removal is had not been stated. The information is simply to the effect that Inspector John P. Clum had asked for his immediate resignation, which was forthwith delivered. Joe Wright, brother of the removed official was at once installed as acting postmaster.

The position of poundmaster at Nome is not a profitable one. A nigger was appointed to the position and when he had succeeded in getting all the dogs in town corralled the citizens broke down his enclosure, turned out all the dogs and warned his conship to leave town on the next boat.