

WISH THEMSELVES BACK

Says Judge Morford of Many Who Go to Nome.

Fortymile Country Rich in Gold Deposits, But Awaits Prospectors—Concerning Jack Wade.

Judge Morford was in a communicative frame of mind yesterday evening when met by a Daily Nugget representative. He said, however, that he had not then closed a deal with Captain Benis for the latter's claim, No. 4 on Jack Wade, but there is a whole lot of fine property on Jack Wade.

Judge Morford has spent many years in mining countries, but he is not a Nome enthusiast. He believes the Nome country to be rich in mineral deposit to a limited extent, but he can not reconcile himself to the belief that there is a fortune there for all who may go, or, in fact, for one in every ten who are now making that wind swept terminal their Mecca.

"Mark my words" continued the judge, "there are many persons—yes, hundreds of them—now sacrificing holdings elsewhere to go to Nome who will wish themselves back, or in any other place except Nome before snow flies next fall. In my opinion, the man who owns property in this country will do well to stay with it and develop it. There is lots of gold here which has never yet seen the light of day and it will remain where it is until some enterprising man goes after it by delving into the bowels of the earth. I have unbounded faith in the richness of the Fortymile country and there are creeks there other than Jack Wade, but they have not yet been prospected. In fact, Jack Wade has not been prospected yet. A few holes have been sunk from which good pay was taken, but litigation arose and everything was stopped short. Colors indicating immense wealth were found on the benches and hills, and everybody rushed out to them, but owing to the lateness of the season it was impossible to even intelligently prospect the benches and hills.

And yet, the Fortymile country will be practically depopulated owing to the fact that everybody in that district is confidently of the opinion that a fortune awaits them at Nome. I hope they may all do well, but in my opinion, the man who is now in the Fortymile country will do well to stay there, but if he feels that he must go to Nome, and if he now has any interests in the Fortymile district, he will be wise if he holds on to those interests, for after a few months' experience at Nome he will be glad to come back to them."

At the Palace Grand.

A very good entertainment is being given this week at the Palace Grand theater. The performance opened last night with a comical skit entitled, "Doctor Tanner Outdone," in which Messrs. Leo, Gardner, and Mr. and Mrs. Estey, succeeded in amusing the audience. The program will be changed tonight, respecting the opening act, and for the balance of this week the curtain will raise on the farce comedy, "McGee's Picnick," in which all of the members of the stock company will participate.

Among others who appeared creditably in the olio were Conchita and the O'Brien family.

Conchita sang remarkably well several popular songs.

The O'Brien family appeared in an amusing skit, which introduced Annie in negro songs and buck and wing dancing. Eddie O'Brien in the character of a tramp actor, was comical in his make-up and acting.

The feature of the evening was the production of the five-act comedy, "Barnes of New York," George L. Hilyer as Mr. Barnes, and Conchita as Marina Paolia, assumed the leading roles. Hilyer can act when he is so inclined, and last night, though some-

what indisposed, he played his part excellently well. Conchita's role offered her an opportunity to display legitimate work, and, as a heroine, she evidenced that she was a talented artist. The duel scene of the first act, in which Eddie O'Brien appeared as Antonio Paolia and Frank Gardner as Gerard Austruther, was dramatic and well staged. William Mullen in the role of second to Paolia and Leo, acting in a similar capacity for Austruther, lost no opportunity to enhance the details of the situation. Harry O'Brien portrayed Dawnella in a satisfactory manner. Lucy Lovell acted exceedingly well the part of Enid Austruther. Mrs. Estey, as Lady Chartaris, Annie O'Brien as Maud Chartaris and Evelyn as La Belle Blackwood, were good in their respective roles.

The theater was crowded with spectators and no doubt that this week's performance will draw good audiences every evening.

Julian Ralph on the War.

Julian Ralph writes the London Daily Mail from Capetown as follows: "On every ship that arrives in Capetown from London are many British army officers.

"Some ships bring a dozen or twenty; others as many as fifty. They are the pick and flower of Englishmen. Most of them are young men, in the late twenties and early thirties, bearing distinguished names, exhibiting the long slender faces of the British aristocracy, carrying themselves at once like dandies and like athletes."

"The one strange thing about them is that nobody is sending them here, and they do not know to what part of the seat of war they are going or what they are going to do. They only know that they could not keep away. They are here to see what they call 'the fun.' It is war against bushwhackers, guerillas, and sharpshooters, in which a far greater proportion of officers than men are certain to be killed, but that does not matter to them. The first accounts of skirmishes they read after they have landed tell of the deaths of officers and the wounding of others. Apparently the manner in which the enemy reveals its presence among the hills out Natal way is by the dropping of an officer from his saddle or in his tracks as he rushes ahead of his men. What of that? It is part of 'the fun,' they say."

Not All Going to Nome.

A close canvas of Dawson today would reveal the fact that not one half of the people who six weeks ago confidently asserted that they would start to Nome over the ice within two months are yet of the same mind. Comparatively speaking, but a very small percentage of last fall's Nome enthusiasts have started thus far. In fact the average for the past 30 days would not amount to but little over one person per day. "I have about concluded to wait until navigation opens," is an expression now heard several times each day on every corner and in every "joint" in Dawson. A few go further and say "I have almost decided to not go to Nome, but to stay with Dawson another year."

In addition to those above mentioned, a large number will go to the outside via the upper river as soon as navigation opens. A few will go to remain, while the majority will go only on business and return to Dawson in the fall as has been the custom of previous years. It is confidently expected that with the completion of the White Pass & Yukon railroad to Whitehorse, travel by the upper river route will be much heavier this season than ever before, as people will prefer that means of ingress in preference to the long water route around by St. Michael. However, an immense lower river traffic may be expected towards the latter end of the season, for thousands upon thousands will go to Nome, and, in accord with the history of every mining camp the world has ever known, they will be disappointed; they will not get anything and will flock up the river to Dawson in the belief that labor will be abundant

next winter for the reason as given last fall "everybody has gone to Nome," but they will find on their arrival that "everybody" did not go to Nome. Of course many will go in the spring and many will return in the fall, and hundreds will arrive here in the fall who will then see Dawson for the first time. It is safe to assert that the next winter will see fully as many people here as are in the city and surrounding country at present.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

R. J. Hilts is engaged in making alterations on the ground floor of his building on Second street. He will conduct a restaurant in connection with his lodging house.

Public notices have been posted around town by Dr. J. W. Good, the health officer, which state that all ice harvested during the present season must be cut south of the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon rivers. Parties will not be permitted to cut ice later than April 5th.

The person who stirs around in Dawson these days between the hours of 8 and 10 o'clock in the morning has a monopoly of the streets and bar room stoves. But by the middle of the afternoon the stand-around population of the city is out en masse and the wonder then is where do they all sleep and from whence do they come?

The new Dominion wears the same old smile as of yore. Once inside the house it becomes a matter of difficulty to believe that any fire has occurred. With the exception of the new paper, the house appears almost exactly as it did before. The quality of the wines, liquors and cigars which are dispensed across the bar is, if anything, better than ever.

There is a dispute respecting the boundaries of the fraction of the St. George claim on Monte Cristo gulch. Capt. Norwood recently alleged that Judge Davis was working the ground of an adjoining claim, which is reserved to the crown. The matter was before Commissioner Senkler on Monday, but the final determination of the case was deferred until additional evidence could be secured.

C. P. McClellan, who started from Skagway too late to get a scow load of provisions nearer Dawson than Selwyn, and who has devoted the past two months to sizing up the situation as he finds it here, has concluded that Dawson looks good to him and that instead of joining the everlasting throng on the rush to Nome he will go outside and bring in a few good draught horses and engage in the freighting business on the creeks next season.

POLICE COURT.

One sitting as police magistrate sufficed for Inspector Primrose, and yesterday afternoon and this morning the regular magistrate, Major Perry, still being absent, Captain C. Starnes wore the judicial mantle and filled the judge's chair. Captain Starnes has been there before as is evidenced by the free and natural manner in which he disposes of the court business.

In the case of the crown vs the name-sake of the man whom history tells us was saved from death by an Indian maiden, Pocahontas, throwing her arms "huffy gee," over his head, Captain John Smith, charged with the theft of a stick of wood valued at 25 cents, the thief was sentenced to execute hard labor for a period of one day. Thus was the name of John Smith brought low, but outraged justice is no respecter of names.

In the case of Cassells vs. Sola for wages, decision was reserved until Thursday.

This morning J. F. Peno, said to be distantly related to 11-12 Keno, was up on the charge of committing a nuisance on a public street of the city of Dawson. Mr. Peno's indiscretion cost him \$1 and costs, in all \$6.

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