A ROMANCE OF GOLD.

Story of a Pure Streak Found in Crater Near Head Waters of Tanana.

Treasure Jealously Guarded by Indians Who Attemptcd Life of the White Locators.

The first part of the following story from the Dawson Midnight Sun appeared in yesterday's issue, but as by inadvertence the latter half was omitted, the tale is now given in its complete form, that he who reads may estimate for himself the probability of the at least interesting narrative:

Arthur Golden, of Stillwater, Minn., and partner, John Grant, of Jackson, Mich., are responsible for a story that, if published in detail, would put our modern writers of fiction to shame. They have either rehearsed the story in all its details until they have thoroughly committed it to memory, or, as they positively assert, it actually occurred. As evidence they exhibited to a Midnight Sun reporter a beautiful specimen of rose quartz, studded with virgin gold. They have not submitted it to an assayer as yet, and will not do so until they reach the States. In their possession was a buckskin pouch containing nearly $2,000 in gold, which they claim they chipped from the ledge with the point of their hunting knife.

The story in substance is as follows: Messrs. Golden and Grant left their respective homes early in May of last year. Each was backed by a syndicate and were outfitted in Seattle. They sailed from Seattle for St. Michael the first day of June and proceeded coming to Dawson, but a complication of accidents so delayed them en route that by the time they reached Fort Yukon winter had set in, and with other passengers they proceeded to fix up their winter quarters. About the middle of December they heard of Minook, and in company with others they journeyed over the ice to that point. Here they engaged in prospecting with various results, and finally located on a pup about 60 miles up the creek from its mouth. They put up a cabin and prepared to spend the balance of the winter in determining the value of their discovery. They were in an isolated locality, their nearest neighbors being nearly 40 miles distant.

One night in February they were awakened by the howling of a dog outside their door, and hastily throwing on their clothes, they made an investigation. By the light of the moon a poor, half-starved dog was discerned on the top of a small rise about 100 yards distant. The dog was acting in a peculiar manner, and as soon as the men approached would stop howling and run back into the woods. His actions were so expressive as to almost say "Come on," and, retracing their steps to the cabin, candles were procured, and Grant and Golden set out to follow the strange animal. The dog would wait for them to nearly reach him and then run on ahead a short distance and wait for them to come up, when the performance would be repeated. This was kept up for nearly three hours, when the faint glimmer of a light could be seen through the forest. Rushing on with increased speed, they soon reached the spot, and there discovered an old Indian nearly dead with exposure and starvation. He was in a half crazed condition and busily engaged chewing the buckskin thongs used to fasten on his snowshoes.

A litter of Pine boughs was made, the old Indian placed thereon and the return journey commenced. Frequent stops were made for rest, and it was early morning before the cabin was reached. The Indian was carefully cared for, but made little sign of life for nearly a week. The boys were confident he was dying, and did all in their power to relieve his suffering. About ten days after his admission to the cabin, he beckoned the boys to his side, and by means of signs asked for a buckskin pouch which he had suspended to his belt when found. Opening this, he exhibited several nuggets, amounting to a couple of hundred dollars, and urged the boys to accept. It was easily seen that he had something he wished to communicate, but the sign language was too limited to fully convey his meaning. The boys were finally given to understand that several days' travel would take them to the crater of an extinct volcano, on the other side of which a trail would be found blazed by the Indian, and following this for nearly 100 miles would bring them to the ledge from which the gold had been extracted. The boys were also given to understand that this locality had long been held in reverence by the natives, and considerable danger would be incurred in visiting the spot.

The old Indian lingered for a few days longer, when death came to his relief, and his remains were buried near the cabin.

Messrs. Grant and Golden were inclined to doubt the truth of the story, but believing no harm but the loss of a little time could come of investigation, they prepared for the journey.

The old volcano was reached and the trail discovered just as the Indian had described, lending the semblance of truth to the tale, and encouraging the boys to make careful search. For five weeks they followed the trail, sometimes wandering away from it, and always returning to find the now welcome signs where the trees had been blazed with a hunting knife.

After incurring a great many hardships, they reached a plateau where all signs of the trail vanished, and several days' research failed to reveal any more indications. Taking it for granted that this must be the vicinity in which the gold was to be found, they commenced a systematic search, and were rewarded towards evening of the second day in locating a ledge of quartz, having the appearance of rich material. The vein was uncovered for about four feet, and here the rock was found of which the specimen shown is claimed to be a part, and from which the gold was extracted. A thin streak of virgin gold extended along and apparently through the rock, and from this streak was taken the gold Messrs. Grant and Golden had in a sack.

Several days were spent in obtaining this, and the ledge was then covered with moss. Their supply of provisions was nearly exhausted, so that further prospecting was out of the question.

When but two days' travel on the return journey, they became aware that they were being followed, and a close watch was maintained. Shortly after they camped at night a solitary Indian came up and made them understand he wanted something to eat. This was given him, but the silent visitor continued to sit near the camp fire and watch his unwilling hosts. During the whole of the next day the Indian kept them company, and at night was joined by two more. The boys became suspicious, and endeavored during the night to elude their pursuers, for such they evidently were, but without avail. Worn out with worry and fatigue, they threatened the Indians with their rifles, upon which they took their departure. About noon of the next day, as they were making their way through a dense growth of underbrush, a shot was fired, the bullet striking the limb of a tree overhead. A running fight of several miles then ensued, during which the boys are sure they wounded at least one Indian, but escaped injury themselves. Darkness and a heavy snowstorm coming on, they made their escape, and nothing more was seen of the Indians during the balance of the return trip. They reached their cabin without further mishap, and thankful to have escaped with their lives.

Messrs. Grant and Golden have been in town a little over a week, and will take the first up-river steamer. It was only after hard work on the part of the Midnight Sun reporter that they would tell their story, and the location is fixed as somewhere near the headwaters of the Tanana river. They will go at once to their respective homes, and will return in about a month with a party of friends and lead them over the ice to the spot where the gold was found.

THE RETAIL MARKETS.

First Eastern Apples Make Their Appearance—Heavy Receipts of Venison.

Quotations are unchanged this week in the local markets and with grocers there is a little quiet at present. A small consignment of eastern apples is now on sale but being the first bring fancy prices. More are expected daily and with other varieties should leave the market well provided. Another fruit soon expected is the Japanese orange, none of which have as yet arrived. There continues a very strong demand for fresh eggs and prices have stiffened, though the 90-cent mark has not yet been passed. Venison, at no time since the season opened has been as plentiful as it is now. During the past few days it was not uncommon to see deer brought in wagon loads, piled up like frozen porkers coming in from the country. Current retail quotations are as follows:

Flour—Ogilvie's	6.00
Lake of the Woods (Hungarian)	6 00
H. B. (Hungarian)	6.00
Three Star	5.25
Premier	5.00
Snowflake	5.25
Hungarian (Armstrong)	6 00
XXXX (Armstrong)	6 00
Graham, per 10 lbs.	35
Wheat, per ton	20@30
Buckwheat, per 10 lbs.	40
Straw, per bale	60@75
Onions, per lb.	2½
Oats, per ton	20@23
Barley, per ton	28.00@30.00
Bran	18@20
Middlings, per ton	19@22
Ground feed, California, per ton	28@30
Chop feed, B & K.	23@25
Corn, whole, per ton	26.00@28.00
Corn, cracked, per ton	27.00@28.00
Cornmeal, per 10 lbs.	35
Oatmeal, per 10 lbs.	40@45
Rolled oats, 7 lbs.	35
Citrons, per lb.	3
Cabbage, per lb.	2@3
Potatoes, per cwt.	90
Tomatoes, per lb.	04
Cheese, per lb.	15@20
Red peppers, per lb.	15
Hay, baled, per ton	12@14
Eggs, Island, per doz., strictly fresh	60
Eggs, imported, per doz.	20@25
Butter, fresh per lb.	20@25
" Dairy (Rossland) per lb.	20@25
" B. C. Creamery, per lb.	35
Hams, Canadian, per lb.	16
Hams, American, per lb.	15@18
Bacon, American	16@18
" Rolled, per lb.	14@16
" Long clear, per lb.	12½
" Canadian, per lb.	14@16
Shoulders, hams, per lb.	12½
Meats—Beef, per lb.	8@15
Sides, per lb.	7½@8
Veal, per lb.	10@15
Mutton, per lb.	10@15
Mutton, carcase, per lb.	9½
Pork, fresh, per lb.	2@12½
Venison, per lb.	08@10
Grouse, per brace	$1.25
Ducks, Mallard, per pair	75
" Teal, per pair	40
" Brant, per pair	1.50
Fruits—Apples, per box	65@1.00
Apples, island, per box	1.00@1.50
Lemons, California, per doz.	25@35
Oranges	20@35
Pears, per lb.	5
Bananas, per doz	25@30
Salmon, per lb	12½
Halibut, per lb	12½
Bananas, per doz.	25@35
Rock cod, per lb	5@8
Smelts, per lb.	8@10
Flounders, per lb.	8@10
Ling Cod	8@10

AMERICAN SOLDIERS RIOTING.

Santiago de Cuba, Nov. 15.—An incident occurred last night at San Luis, about 25 miles north of Santiago, that caused a good deal of feeling among the Cubans and considerable annoyance among the United States military officials here. All the colored regiments are encamped in the neighborhood of San Luis. They were sent there virtually to get them out of the way, because of the difficulty experienced in managing them. The colored officers seem to have little or no control over their men, and officers and privates are often seen drinking together, with arms around each other's neck, and behaving in other ways not calculated to inspire respect for the American troops among the Cubans. It was not expected that the colored soldiers could do much harm in San Luis district, which was chosen on that principle.

The trouble began last evening in an attempt to arrest two soldiers for abusing a Cuban workman and stealing his hog. The outrage was committed on the Normas sugar plantation. Lieut. Jose Ferrara, chief of General Wood's gendarmerie in that section, a Spaniard, but a Cuban sympathizer, and a man whom General Wood knew to be able and courageous, attempted to make the arrest. The soldiers, who belonged to the Ninth immunes, escaped. Soon after thirty colored men, wearing the uniform of the United States army, attacked the house where Lieut. Farrara was and kept up a regular fusillade, killing Lieut. Farrara, Antonio Roman, an old man; Emilie Betteran, a boy of 17, and a baby, and wounding several others. Two soldiers were killed in the affray.

When the news reached Santiago General Wood was at dinner. He immediately went to the signal office, where Chief Signal Officer Brady took charge of the key. For four hour despatches were sent and received. The colored officers all denied that their men were implicated in the affair, in spite of all the evidence to the contrary. After an unsatisfactory attempt to get at the facts of the case over the wire, General Wood adjourned his inquiry until this morning, when he left on a special train for San Luis. The American officials here passed the day with no little anxiety. At 8 o'clock he returned, reporting that after a long investigation he had come to the conclusion that all the colored regiments were more or less mixed up in the affray. He has offered $1,000 reward for the names of the men who did the shooting, and before leaving San Luis he read the colored officers a severe lecture for denying last night that their men were implicated.

Eye witnesses of the affair who arrived here during the course of the day say that the gendarmerie who were wounded are expected to die. The expression among them is that all the soldiers belonged to the Ninth immunes. Lieut. Farrara behaved most pluckily, and even when dying he ordered his men to defend themselves. He was shot while outside the house and trying to persuade the crowd to disperse. It seems that the soldiers had been drinking in the town and that a crowd of them was easily gotten together to make the attack.

As the night approached the popular feeling of indignation here intensified and General Wood's arrival was eagerly awaited.

NEWS OF THE PROVINCE

Gas Overcomes Another Miner—Busy Half Year of British America Corporation.

Banking Enterprise in the Kootenay—Col. Scott Saves His Stock.

COL. SCOTT'S STOCK—Snugly tucked away with the funds in charge of Fred Schofield, registrar of the Supreme court, is a certified check for $7,975.57. It was deposited there by McLeod & Whiteside, the consul for Robert Scott, in the now celebrated action of Clabon v. Scott for a commission in getting Mr. Scott placed on the directorate of a local mining company. As is pretty well known, Sheriff Robinson was to sell several bunches of Mr. Scott's stock to satisfy the judgment secured against him by Clabon. Preparations for the sale were going ahead without delay when the solicitors for the defence appeared and produced a certified check for $7,795.57, thea mount of the judgment and costs. The check was deposited with the registrar as security and the sale was stopped. Now Mr. Scott expects a rehearing of the case. He was enabled to do so by depositing the check with the registrar. Otherwise the sale would have gone ahead as advertised.

A BUSY HALF YEAR.—On the 1st of November the British America Corporation finished its first half year of development on its Rossland properties. Some little surface work was done in the latter part of April, but actual underground mining was not undertaken until the 1st of May. In the six months just ended, the company has done 6,500 feet of development work, equal to a mile and a quarter. The development includes all sorts of mining, from drifting to sinking, and from raising to the driving of winzes. During the month of October the corporation employed altogether 13 machines, in the various work which it has under way in its properties. With the 13 machines 1,570 feet of work of all sorts was accomplished, which is equal to an average of four feet per day.

MINER KILLED BY GAS.—A fatal accident occurred in the Porto Rico mine at Ymir on the 10th. Albert Knowlton, a miner, who was employed in driving an upraise for No. 3 to No. 2 tunnel was found lying face down in a pool of water in the upraise. His partner was found near a ladder at the foot of the upraise in an insensible condition. He was taken to the surface, and by means of artificial respiration was brought back to his senses. A similar attempt was made with Knowlton, but it was unsuccessful. The presumption is that the cause of the accident was the gas resulting from blasts in giant powder. It was a case similar to that which occurred in Rossland in the Sunset No. 2, wherein two miners lost their lives. Knowlton leaves a wife and three children. He was formerly a coal miner and worker for a long time at Lethbridge, where he was well known.

THE SHUSWAP ACCIDENT.—From a gentleman who went out on the wrecking train which left here at one o'clock and arrived at the scene of the wreck, the following particulars were obtained: When he arrived at the scene of the accident, Reid was dead and his body had been placed in the station house. Little was alive but from appearances he had been severely injured internally. Little lingered on until about twenty minutes past five, but was only conscious for a few minutes. The disaster is supposed to have been caused by the boiler of the engine exploding owing to the boiler plate not having been thick enough. The boiler was lying end up, about twenty yards from the cars which, with two exceptions, were left standing on the rails. The top of the cab was blown up among the telegraph wires. The three injured men were found lying a short distance from the wrecked engine on the north side of the track. George was able to rise and with assistance walked to the caboose. The two cars next the engine were badly damaged. Conductor Powers had charge of the wrecked freight train, which was coming west after No. 1. Foreman George Middleton and crew are at present clearing away the wreckage. Little and Reid both reside at Revelstoke. Little, who is a brother of David Little, of Kamloops, leaves a widow and one child, while Reid leaves a widow and three children. J. George, who is a single man, resides in town. Messrs. Little and Reid were well known in town and much sympathy is felt for the widows and children of the two men. Coroner Clarke went up on No. 2 to hold an inquest.—Kamloops Sentinel.

KAMLOOPS HOSPITAL.—At the last meeting of directors of this institution the question of appointing a successor to the late Dr. Furrer came up and after discussion it was decided to leave the matter over until the directors had an opportunity of conferring with General Superintendent Marpole. Mr. J. A. Mara said he thought the C. P. R. were going to appoint two men and if that was the case it would be to the advantage of the hospital to work in harmony with them and appoint either or both for the hospital. After some discussion it was decided that the secretary write to General Superintendent Marpole asking when it would be convenient for him to be in Kamloops and meet the hospital board to discuss the matter of appointing a medical officer for the hospital in connection with the C. P. R. service, and that a meeting be called for the date he names. Dr. Proctor was requested to remain in charge of the hospital until a permanent appointment is made.

A STINGY DEPARTMENT.—At a public meeting in Lillooet recently, Mr. Bostock, M. P., made a speech extolling the Dominion government, at the close of which he was loudly cheered. Several gentlemen then addressed the chair, advocating a postal service to Bridge river and from Lillooet to Lytton, these being the burning questions of the hour, and to which Mr. Bostock lent an attentive ear and promised his earnest attention. A. W. Smith, M. P. P., in course of a speech called the attention of Mr. Bostock to the extreme low rate of pay allowed by the Dominion authorities to its postmasters, and the necessity of some different treatment to suit the living rate in the province, particularly calling attention of all present to the miserable stipend paid to the Lillooet postmaster. This speech was loudly applauded, as everyone was in sympathy with the speaker's views. Mr. Bostock related some of the difficulties in the way of dealing with Dominion rates, but promised to do all in his power for the postmaster.

BRIDGE RIVER CLAIMS.—We are informed that C. F. Law, who passed through Ashcroft on Monday, is now at Lillooet closing the deal in behalf of an English syndicate for the Lorne group of claims on Bridge river. The owners of this very promising property are Nat Coughlan, John R. Williams and Wm. Young. The price is said to be $45,000, of which $8,000 is cash, $8,000 in thirty days, and on the balance some months is given. The Lorne group is one of the best properties in the Bridge river section. At least this seems to be the concensus of opinion of the many mining men who have visited Lillooet and Bridge river. The fortunate owners are to be congratulated on their sale and the purchasers on their securing so promising a property as the Lorne group.—Ashcroft Mining Journal.

DUNDEE MINE.—A meeting of the Dundee Gold Mining company was held recently at Rossland for the purpose of devising ways and means for paying for the aerial tramway, the concentrator and hoisting and drilling plant. The shares of the Dundee company have been placed principally in the London market, and owing to the dullness there at present it was deemed inexpedient to place the treasury on sale there. It was decided that each should take shares at the prevailing market price to the extent of $2,000 each. There are eight directors, and this will give the company $16,000. With this sum it is calculated that the plant can be paid for and the mine placed on a paying basis. The directors are William Galliher, Charles Dundee, Ernest Kennedy, J. L. Parker, C. F. Conybeare, N. D. Barclay, Donald Kennedy and Col. Robert Scott.

PRIZES AT OMAHA.—At the Trans-Mississippi Exposition just closed at Omaha, British Columbia received the following prizes: The province of British Columbia, for the exhibit of gold, silver, copper and lead commercial ores, a silver medal; the Reco Mining company, of Sandon, for argentiferous lead ores, a bronze medal; the Lemon Gold Mining company of British Columbia, for gold ores, a bronze medal. The medals are now being struck. The British Columbia exhibit at the exposition was under the management of L. K. Armstrong. It was well designed and attracted a great many visitors.

A POPULAR BANKER.—It is given out that a few men to receive such a reception as was tendered this morning by the people of Rossland to J. S. C. Fraser, the manager of the Bank of Montreal. A month ago Mr. Fraser, who had been suffering with a very severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism, left for Halcyon Hot Springs in search of relief. This morning at 1 o'clock Mr. Fraser returned home, somewhat the paler and slightly the weaker for his long siege of illness, but nevertheless the same hearty, whole-souled man as of old. As on the occasion of his departure, there was at an insensible station this morning to meet him a delegation of friends that numbered the greater part of the business men of the city. There was a band, too, in attendance, and there were torches without number, borne aloft by the enthusiastic friends of "Rossland's most popular man." Mr. Fraser was accompanied by a carriage, and, accompanied by Hon. Charles H. Mackintosh, Mayor Wallace and Ross Thompson, he was driven up town like a king coming back to his loyal subjects.—Rossland Miner.

WINTER AT ROSSLAND—It seems as though winter has set in in earnest at Rossland. With a few inches of snow on the ground and the temperature below zero, the members of the different curling, hockey and skating clubs are figuring how soon the ice will be completed for them to indulge in their favorite game. The superstructure of this rink, being built on Second avenue, is rapidly going up, and it is confidently expected that it will be completed by the 15th of next month.

BANKING ENTERPRISE.—A Rossland despatch says: "It is said on the best of authority that the Bank of British Columbia will shortly open a branch office here in the Steen block, on Washington street. The offices of the Bank of Toronto, in the Stone block, on Columbia avenue, are nearing completion, so that it will be only a short time before Rossland will have five banks running. This will certainly make the town a banking and financial centre of no little importance, and will also have the desired effect of making money easier."

MURDERED AND BURNED.

Murderers Try to Conceal Their Crime by Fire.

The Japan Times gives the following particulars of the fire which occurred at Yanagicho, Tokyo, by which a whole family consisting of eight persons were burned to death. About 2:50 in the morning a passerby observed black volumes of smoke and flame issuing forth from the kitchen of the house occupied by a sake merchant, and immediately reported the matter at the police box situated in the same street. Thereupon a police constable hurried to the place and attempted to rouse the family by knocking violently at the front door; but it was of no avail, for the fire had by this time attacked every part of the house. Meanwhile a clerk of the Ward Office, residing next door, roused from his sleep, loudly gave the alarm. Instantly many neighbors rushed to the rescue. But they were too late. The firemen and police officials who had arrived at the spot by this time, made every effort to extinguish the flames, which at length subsided at 3:30, after having destroyed three neighboring houses. An inquiry has been held as to the origin of the fire, but as none of the family of the sake merchant were seen to issue from the house it is suspected that the whole family had been murdered by thieves who had resorted to incendiarism with a view to conceal their crime. A careful search was instituted by removing the burning cinders and debris, under which eight corpses were at last found. The corpse of the merchant's employee had a crescent shaped wound extending from the chin to the throat.

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IN THE ASSIZE COURT

Indian Koshonicham Put on Trial for the Murder of His Companion Sachat.

Grand Jury in Their Presentment Strongly Advocate Much Needed Reformatory Improvements.

The Indian murder case opened in the assize court yesterday but progress was naturally slow as the majority of the witnesses were Indians, and their evidence had to be obtained through an interpreter. The circumstances are too fresh in the public mind for their recital to be necessary. Koshonicham, the prisoner, is accused of murdering a companion named Sachet, by drowning him in a fight a little inside of Macaulay point. The two men had come to town in a canoe for whiskey, and returning to their camp they got into a fight and falling into the water Koshonicham was seen by an Indian woman named Mary to hold Sachet's head under water till the unfortunate was drowned. Mr. A. L. Belyea prosecuted for the crown, and Mr. H. Dallas Helmcken appeared for the defence.

During the afternoon the jury were taken out to the scene of the killing, in steam launches so that they might get a better idea of the surroundings than they otherwise could have.

Joe, one of the Indian witnesses, illustrated his evidence so realistically by pantomime that it hardly needed his words sometimes to make clear his meaning. For instance in describing himself and several others running to the scene he moved his left hand rapidly forward with fingers extended and rapidly worked one of his right hand fingers underneath, giving the idea of five people moving with all celerity.

The murder trial was adjourned yesterday evening, and goes on this morning at 10 o'clock.

The grand jury in the forenoon handed in their presentment which dealt principally with the necessity of improving the reformatory and of providing an act for compelling bridge inspection and making annual returns to the government. The presentment in full was as follows:

Victoria, Nov. 17, 1898.

We, the grand jury respectfully present the following:

It is advisable in the interests of the public safety that the attention of the Dominion and Provincial governments be directed to the necessity of passing acts for the inspection annually or oftener by competent parties of all bridges used by the public on highways, railways and other means of communication and for an annual return to be made to the government (Dominion and Provincial) of all such inspection and of the condition in which the bridges were found and for reports on the condition of the bridges being promptly sent to the parties responsible for their maintenance.

"Farther having received the report of our visiting committee we adopted the same and attach it hereto as a part of our presentment and urge on the government the advisability of making provision for a proper reformatory with ample accommodation and suitable ground, removed from the vicinity of the prison, believing that such an institution will save many lads from becoming hardened criminals, and as many of these boys have become law breakers through the absence of proper parental control, we hope some means may be devised of making such parents contribute towards the maintenance of their sons while confined therein.

"All of which is respectfully submitted.

"On behalf of the grand jury,

"ROBERT S. DAY,
"Fortman."

The committee's report referred to in the above document reads:

"We, your committee appointed to visit the prisons in this city, beg to report as follows:

"City Lock-up and Police Station.—We visited the city lock-up and found it properly kept and in good order. Our inspection of the adjoining barracks revealed a condition of things which call for some comment. The walls and ceilings are smoke begrimed and dirty to a most unpleasant degree, and do not appear to have been painted, whitened or cleaned for a very long time. The floors were well scrubbed, and we do not attach any blame to the members of the force for the unsatisfactory condition of the building, which should be remedied at once.

"Provincial Gaol.—This institution is in excellent condition—clean and well-kept. We found several Indians, men and women, detained by the crown, being tried as witnesses during the present assize. These people are practically prisoners, under prison regulations and on prison diet. They complained bitterly of the unsuitable nature of their food, a diet to which they are not accustomed, and of the confinement within the walls and yards of the gaol. The women complained of pains in the head and the chest, which they attributed to the close warm air of the cells, and the want of the outdoor life to which they are accustomed. Also that they are not allowed to see their friends and are in ignorance of their condition. We have reason to believe that some considerable degree of suffering has resulted to these witnesses and their friends through this enforced detention. We believe this treatment of Indian witnesses will in the long run result in defeating the ends of justice, as parties will conceal crimes of which they may be cognizant sooner than be locked up in prison for months as these people have been. If it is necessary to detain them for the purposes of the crown, we consider they ought to get their customary food, be allowed some of their small creature comforts and free access to fresh air (reasonable precautions being taken against escape) and that they should get adequate compensation for their time.

"The Reformatory.—This institution is housed in a wing of the gaol, and from the information we elicited as well as from our personal observations, we believe it is practically only a reformatory in name. It is needless to point out the ameliorative conditions attached to the lot of the boys. We found it contained thirteen prisoners ranging from eight years upwards, many of them bright intelligent lads capable of being made good citizens. The longest term being served is two years, while some are there for three months. The present superintendent appears to have the boys in admirable control, the buildings clean and tidy, kept so by the boys who are taught the rudiments of education, getting two hours every day for recreation, and are kept apart from the other prisoners, except in chapel, when they sit in the front row, and "are not allowed to look behind." The accommodation for the boys consists of one small room, which is used as a school and playroom, and the cell room proper in which they sleep in regular prison cells. There are three beds in each cell and the ventilation is insufficient and in some instances faulty. Meals are served on a table in the lobby of the cells under the stairway and so limited is the accommodation that the boys have to eat in relays, as only five can sit at the table at one time. There is one bedroom for the superintendent. The playroom is small and is only a prison yard, without any provision for outside recreation for wet weather. There is no provision for gardening or the teaching of any trades, nor is there any means of doing so with the present limited accommodation. No library is provided and the few books sent by kind-hearted people have been read again and again. The management is vested in one man—the superintendent—who is on duty from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day of the week without intermission, and as he has to sleep in the building he is practically on duty for twenty hours every day. From 6 p.m. when the boys are locked in their cells until his own bed time he can go out, but until his return the boys are only visited by one of the gaolers on his rounds. Considering the risks of fire, sudden illness and other mishaps which all are liable, we consider that some responsible person should always be in the reformatory.

"Generally, we found the officers in the various institutions most courteous and obliging.

"All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) "ROBERT S. DAY,
"J. E. CHURCH,
"H. ELLA,
"THOMAS HOOPER."

Mr. Justice Walkem after the presentment was read said it was a most practical one and the community should be thankful for the careful investigations made by the grand jury.

ATLIN'S BRIGHT FUTURE.

Spring Will Witness a Great Rush to These British Columbia Gold Fields.

From the Seattle Times.

In a letter to Mr. L. H. Gray, general traffic manager of the White Pass & Yukon railroad, Mr. H. A. Boswell, now of Juneau and a former Seattle man, who was one of the first at the new Atlin diggings, states that it is the opinion of the majority now at or near Atlin, and who have excellent opportunities of estimating the output from the claims there this season, that the rush in the spring to that country has been greatly underestimated.

He himself has returned to Juneau to procure necessary appliances for the proper working of his claims in that district, among which may be mentioned claims on Pine, Spruce, Wright and Musket creeks, besides many claims on lesser discoveries. He intends to return at once to Atlin for an active season at his claims.

With him came some samples of the gold procured from his claims in the prospect work. In the first pan from his claim on Wright creek, at about two feet from the surface, he took a nugget worth $23.25. From another in a prospect hole at a depth of about six feet the pans returned about 25 cents to the pan.

He is firm in the belief that Atlin has a bright future before it, and says that while no large fortunes are made there, a man who will take his opportunities as they come, and work with the rest, is sure to make enough to make him independent for the rest of his life. He also confirms the new strike on McKee creek, but cannot state how it will turn out, for he had but very little time in which to investigate it. He states that quite a few good quartz propositions have been found in and around the Atlin district, and looks for them to attract attention shortly as good paying properties.

Mr. Edwin Hall Warner, an engineer for the White Pass & Yukon railroad, recently was engaged on the British side of the passes for that company in surveys, and his impressions of that country will prove of interest to readers of Klondike, as he was a well known figure in Seattle, before he left to take a position with the White Pass & Yukon Railroad Company.

In a letter to Seattle friends he says:

"I have in my possession two curiosities, one a potato costing 20 cents a pound, the other a potato raised on Lake Tagish. Hay grows well, and I have seen meadows of a thousand acres in extent, knee-deep in good grass, within two miles of a trail along which hay at $200 a ton was being packed.

"The Atlin country will come to the front in the spring. I saw something of the first rush and I am not surprised at the contradictory reports of the district. Men went in with three days' grub, looked at Pine creek from the lake and came out. They expected to find claims already prospected for them, ready to stake out."

COUNTY COURT.

A Batch of Cases Heard Before Mr. Justice Martin.

There was a busy time in the County court yesterday, Mr. Justice Martin presiding, and adjournment not being reached until long after six o'clock.

Warner v. Knott was a suit brought for overtime and time not allowed in overseeing the construction for defendant of a steamer on Lake Bennett. Judgment was allowed plaintiff for some $92 and costs. Mr. Frank Higgins appeared for plaintff; Mr. Prior for defendant.

Richards v. Beaven and Yates was a suit brought by plaintiff, Frank G. Richards, to recover from them as trustees of the Green, Worlock estate a note of Charles Spring made in favor of plaintiff for $260. The note came into the possession of defendants when they as trustees took charge of the Green, Worlock estate. Plaintiff claims that it was placed by him with the bank for collection before the failure.

There is a companion suit to this, Beaven and Yates v. Richards, in which the plaintiffs as trustrees are suing Richards in the Supreme court for $20,000. Judgment in this last suit has not yet been given and the trustees claim a lien on the note till this is settled. Mr. Justice Martin granted an adjournment in the County court suit, pending the conclusion of the Supreme court action. Mr. J. P. Walls for plaintiff; Mr. L. P. Duff for defendants.

Nicholas v. Cassiar Central Railway Co. was a suit brought by plaintiff for $230 which he claimed was due him for prospecting in the North for the company during the past season. Plaintiff was under contract to prospect for defendants and claims that he was discharged before the prospecting season was finished. Defendants claim that the contract did not bind them to keep plaintiff longer in their employ than they required him. Judgment was given for the defendants. Mr. W. H. Langley appearing for the defendants stated that they would not press for the costs of the action. Mr. N. F. Hagel, Q.C., for the plaintiff.

EDMONTON TO SELKIRK

Inspector Moodie Returns After His Long Trip Through Northern Wilds.

He Tells of the Riches of Northern British Columbia and His Experiences.

Inspector Moodie, of the Northwest Mounted Police, who was sent out by the Dominion government to find a route from Edmonton to Pelly banks at the time that almost every city, town and hamlet from Winnipeg to Victoria was being put forward as the best starting point for the horde of miners who were crowding to the Yukon gold fields, reached Victoria last evening on the steamer Dirigo, thus scoring one more point for this city in the race for the control of the Northern outfitting business. For men going right through to the Yukon country, said Inspector Moodie last evening, the Edmonton route is not to be compared with the coast route, but it would open up a country which is richer even than the Yukon valley. Every creek in Northern British Columbia contains gold, and although the Inspector makes no pretensions of being a mining expert, he saw enough to convice him that the country is rich beyond compare, and mining men whom he met en route told him that the prospects for quartz mining were excellent.

But the country is not an easy one to travel through, or at least it was not when the Inspector and his little party of five men crossed it in advance of the miners who followed them, cutting trails through solid bush, climbing mountains and fording swift-running rivers. The wonder is that they came through so well, for not a mishap occurred, nor did any of them suffer from illness. The party had to travel almost entirely by compass, as the Indians are utterly unreliable, and when a guide is obtained he knows very little of the country beyond the narrow hunting grounds of his tribe.

It was on September 12, 1897, that Inspector Moodie started from Edmonton, going in by the way of Athabasca landing, McLeod and Sturgeon lake to Dunvagen on the Peace river. Here they found that they could not get through the mountains with horses, and consequently sent back for dog teams. These arriving they pushed on to St. John, where a month was spent making snow shoes and sleighs and waiting for a guide. A start was made with the sleighs on December 4, the horses being hitched to them for the first part of the journey, and the dogs being allowed to run to save them for the harder part of the journey to follow. Reaching the summit of the Rockies most of the horses were killed and the meat dried for dog food.

To make matters worse, at this stage the Indian guide deserted the party and they were left to find their way to Fort Graham on the Findley river. As it turned out, however, it was just as well that the Indian did leave them, for they found a new and good pass from the Peace to the Findley river, arriving at Fort Graham on January 18. They had cached their provisions fifteen days' travel from the fort, and when they arrived there their stock of eatables was a very scant one, and the best part of it, the bacon, they had to feed to the dogs. Their arrival at Fort Graham did not improve their condition as far as the food supply was concerned, the only article of food to be had there being flour.

The Indians were themselves in a half-starving condition, and could not go out hunting; the members of the party could find little or no game, and the snow being soft and deep, it was impossible to go back to get the provisions cached. They remained at Fort Graham until March 1, keeping themselves and the dogs alive on the scant supply of flour and fish that they caught through the ice. A crust having by this time formed on the snow some members of the party went back and secured the provisions from the cache, and the Indians were able to get out and secure some moose.

Now well provided they went down the Findley river and up the Parsnip river to McLeod lake to obtain a new pack train. Then they had a 90-mile trip to Stewart lake for a fresh supply of provisions, but being unable to secure them there had to go down to Quesnelle. They got back to Stewart lake on May 14, but had to wait until the end of the month for the grass to grow along the route they proposed to follow back to Fort Graham, via Manson creek. A trail had to be cut through thick bush from Manson creek to Fort Graham to allow the pack train to pass. The fort was finally reached after considerable hard work and rough travelling, and was left again on July 18, the party following up the east side of the Findley river and having to twice cross that turbulent stream. From the Findley river they went through the Divide to the Black river, which they followed down to near Sylvester's outposts. From here they proceeded to Sylvester's Landing, on Dease river, and after resting the horses proceeded to Liard post. This latter place they left on September 1, close on a year from the time they had started on their long journey, proceeding by the way of Frances lake to Pelly banks, which they reached on October 4.

Here their journey was ended, as far as the government was concerned, the commission being to find a route from Edmonton to Pelly banks, but they still had some distance to go before reaching home, and it looked as though they might have to spend another winter away from civilization. Ice was already running in the river, so they did not lose any time in launching a little canvas canoe, which they had purchased at Frances lake and carried to the Pelly river. They started down the river on Thursday morning, October 4, and it took them until Friday night to make Hool canyon, a distance of 43 miles. Three men who intended to winter on the Pelly were found here and from them Inspector Moodie bought a Peterboro canoe, with the aid of which they succeeded in making their way to within thirty miles of the mouth of the river, where theye was an eight-mile ice jam. Being unable to pack the canoes over it, they and everything with the exception of what was actually needed for the balance of the trip, were left behind and the party walked to Fort Selkirk, arriving there on October 18. Two days later the Oro, the last boat to come up from Dawson, arrived and on her Inspector Moodie and three of his men took their first comfortable ride for over a year, the other two going to Dawson to winter.

Inspector Moodie says the distance from Edmonton to Fort Selkirk is just 2,000 miles. They had many thrilling and exciting experiences, and much hard work, but being picked men do not look much the worst for it.