

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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NOME CREEK AN UNCERTAIN QUANTITY

Lots of People There, But Little Gold in Sight.

New Strike Reported From Golovin Bay—News Arrives on a Steamer From St. Michael—Stampede On From the States.

(The report as to the situation at Cape Nome given below is as accurate and conservative a statement as the NUGGET is at this time able to give. To sum the whole matter up it appears that a strike as yet uncertain in extent or richness has been made. The entire adjoining country has been staked and recorded, leaving little or no inducement for any continued stampede.

Should the strike prove as valuable as reported there will be plenty of time for those seeking investment to reach the scene of the strike later on when what at present are merely rumors have been more fully verified. Beyond question disappointment awaits those who are now hurrying in to get in on the ground floor.

A special representative of this paper was dispatched on the first boat which left Dawson for St. Michael with instructions to proceed immediately to the new diggings and report as to the exact conditions. This report is expected to arrive at any time. Mean while it is the opinion of the NUGGET that there will be no harm in delaying.)

The first through steamboat from St. Michael for the season arrived in port on Saturday morning and, peculiarly enough, it proved to be the Sybil, a boat direct from Vancouver, which had never before seen the Yukon. How it came to beat the sourdough boats of the commercial companies and old-time lines has not been learned, but the achievement has given the boat a record which will be envied by all the steamboat men on the river. The Sybil left Vancouver before the ice had left the Bering sea, and was forced to retire 160 miles and lay up for 10 days. It then continued on its way, touching at Cape Nome, and arrived at St. Michael in 14 days' actual traveling time. At St. Michael the Sybil was joined by the Garonne, from Seattle, and arranged to bring her Dawson cargo through, consisting of about 170 tons of freight. The Sybil is the property of A. S. Reed, who is also its purser. She is 130 feet long, 28 feet beam, with 16-inch cylinders, a 6-foot stroke, and draws but 19 inches on an even keel. That she is one of the swiftest steamers, as well as one of the most powerful of her size on the river, is evidenced by the fact that she made her initial trip up the river in 11 days. Captains Cox and Takabury have charge of the nautical department.

THE NOME STRIKE.

Mr. Reed admitted that it was yet too early to learn of the spring's developments in the new gold fields, but he had much of interest to say about it. The whole surrounding country, including St. Michael, is afire with excitement over the strike, and everything is given up to it. Steamboats are still having difficulties in getting crews, and men are very scarce for any class of labor. St. Michael is almost deserted. The vanguard of the stampede from the states had already arrived, the steamers Garonne and Roanoke having brought about 500 persons from Seattle. Nome City was already a thriving, populous camp, and it was estimated that the number of people in the country had already reached 6,000.

Mr. Reed spent a day at Nome City, but he did not go into the gulches. However, he heard enough to satisfy him that the country promises to prove a rich one. "Indeed," said he to the NUGGET man, "if half the statements made by the prospectors, including miners of life-long experience, are true, then they have a veritable Klondike there."

A SECOND STRIKE.

Among the few passengers aboard the Sybil was a Mr. Lombard, who also talked with the NUGGET man. He confirmed the report that the greatest excitement exists in the lower country. He also said it was a little too early to look for reliable news, though he believed Nome would prove a wonderful country.

The most important statement by Mr. Lombard and Mr. Reed was that another promising strike had been reported from Golovin bay, where a Mr. McDonald told Mr. Lombard he had "struck it rich."

Reports Grow Better.

Just 24 hours after the arrival of the Sybil the A. C. Co.'s palatial steamer Susie arrived up from St. Michael, and the Nome news brought in by her officers and passengers was such as to throw a large portion of Dawson's population into a state of high excitement. The boat's people were questioned and followed about until the attention paid them had become irksome and they had to seek relief in flight. All of them agreed that the strike is a rich one, and the stories told by them quite convince one of the fact.

The best narrative was told by Mr. Alex. Hudson, who personally visited the new gold field and secured property there "on the ground floor," having been the fifth man to stake. He was thrown much in contact with the prospectors, and was in a position to form a good idea of the country. The discovery was made, he said, by two men who had deserted from a whaling vessel, and they took into partnership an old California miner,

named Abner Price, who, by the way, is well known by some of Dawson's citizens. The three men mined for 13 days, Mr. Hudson says, and the ground proved so rich that they cleaned up over \$10,000. That was this spring, though the discovery was made last fall, and the men were only able then to satisfy themselves that they had a good thing. They let their secret out when one of them went to St. Michael for food.

The country was immediately staked for many miles, as has heretofore been shown, though practically no prospecting other than that of the discoverers was done until spring. As soon as it became possible to operate, however, people began to flock to the Snake river, and there is now a scene of much activity there, while it has been possible to secure some idea of the extent of the deposit. Several claims, Mr. Hudson says, have shown an average of \$250 to the pan, while others have gone as high as \$10. The most successful men were the three discoverers. They had heard Mr. Shepard, agent at St. Michael for the N. A. T. & T. Co., quoted as saying that he would ship outside, free of cost, the first \$10,000 taken from the Snake river country. Accordingly, they gathered up that amount and took it to St. Michael and "called" Mr. Shepard. The latter was as good as his word, and took charge of the gold.

One man said that Anvil creek resembles Bonanza very much, and that there is much slate and schist there. Golovin bay has also developed some promising quartz deposits, and a

thing to encourage me to go over to Nome, so I turned around and came back. If there is any gold at Nome, I failed to find anybody who knew it. We heard the story at St. Michael about somebody taking out \$10,000, but we could not verify it. It seemed to us that a strike couldn't amount to much if, after nearly a year, it had not turned out something more than rumors. Very few people, comparatively, have gone over to the cape. Most of them leave for the outside. The steamer Roanoke left for the states while we were there, and she was so crowded that first-class passengers had to sleep on the floor. The soldiers don't want to see the great crowd of disappointed people, many of them without means, settle down there, so they order them out. They have posted up notices that idle people must hush. It is a difficult matter to land people at Cape Nome, owing to the high surf."

American Officials Here.

Dawson had for its guests this week a party of American government officials, one of whom is known to nearly everybody in the Klondike. This gentleman is J. W. Ivey, collector of customs for the territory of Alaska, while his companions are D. B. May, special agent for the interior department, and John Shevortzer, special agent for the treasury department. The party put up at the Regina hotel, where they were met by a NUGGET man; later, the NUGGET office enjoyed a pleasant call from Mr. Ivey. The gentleman explained that he and his companions were on a tour of inspection and would pass



fine-looking piece was exhibited to the reporter by a man who claimed to have discovered it himself. The Susie's people did not appear to think the discovery of placer gold at Golovin bay would prove very rich, though there was much excitement there and considerable claim jumping.

By the time the Susie left St. Michael the number of ocean steamers in from the states was five, namely, the Garonne, Roanoke, Bertha, Excelsior and Portland. It was estimated that they carried 1,500 passengers. The Bertha had a large number of capitalists aboard, whom it took over to Nome. Upon the arrival of the boat there the crew deserted in a body to go to the new diggings, and it looked as if the craft would have to be towed back to St. Michael by a more fortunate boat. There were already about 6,000 people in the Nome country when the Susie left, and the number was expected to reach fully 30,000 during the season. Much money was being taken to Nome City for investment, and a scene of the greatest liveliness in business circles is already presented. A Dawson man is reported to have gone there with \$30,000 in cash.

Among the arrivals from Nome is Jack Hays, well known at Dawson, Seventy-Mile and other places, who went down to investigate for local capitalists. He brought back a small pocketful of Nome gold, and left a few ounces of it at the Bank Cafe for exhibition.

Don't Believe in It.

When the steamer Cudaby came in on Tuesday the excitement prevailing received a serious set back, for the stories she brought up were anything but encouraging. A NUGGET man talked with various people aboard and they talked in the same strain. George O'Toole, formerly a bartender at the Monte Carlo, was one of these.

"I left Dawson on the Cudaby," said Mr. O'Toole, "intending to go to Cape Nome; but upon arriving at St. Michael I didn't find any-

down the river to St. Michael. At Forty-mile the collector will establish two deputies to collect duties on any goods taken into the American territory by that route, and he may establish a customs office at Nome. The collector is one of the men who got in on the ground floor at Nome, having sent a couple of men there several months ago.

Mr. Ivey reports that his party will be following in a few days by another, made up of Judge C. S. Johnson, Clerk Elliott, Marshal Shoop and Deputy District Attorney Daly of the United States district court for the territory of Alaska, who will hold court at several places along the Yukon for the convenience of the miners.

Mr. Ivey said that Alaska is just now trying to conform to the provisions of the new license law, and things are somewhat torn up in consequence. The people are generally in favor of the license system, as against the old plan of prohibition; but they believe that \$500 is too high.

For the first time in the history of the United States, too, the government has imposed what is known as an occupation license, and its operation is being watched with a great deal of interest. It embraces nearly every known class of business, and the licenses range from \$30 to \$500. The collector says it will be rigidly enforced throughout the territory.

Mr. Ivey is a man of middle age, good looking and very engaging in manner. That he has force of character, too, and is a strong man in a new country everybody knows who has any knowledge of his career in Alaska.

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THE FIRST MAN BACK FROM NOME.

His Report is Anything But Flattering to the Country.

Prospected For Five Days and Got Only Colors—Believes the Stories of Big Finds Are Only Lies.

The first Klondike miner to visit the Cape Nome diggings and return from there is James Collins, and he is the most disgusted individual the NUGGET has seen for some days. He arrived home at noon, and it was not long before the NUGGET had his story, which he was not loth to tell. Mr. Collins left Dawson on the Monarch on or about June 17, and at once went over to Snake river, accompanied by three friends. They stayed there five days, visiting Anvil, Snow and other creeks. On Snow they did a little prospecting, putting one hole down to bedrock. A few other men did the same thing, though the number was very limited. They did not find anything but light colors, and knew of no one who fared better. Colors are plentiful enough, but they do not make pay. They did not pay any attention to discovery claim, because there was no one working there. In fact, there was no regular work being done except at one place on Snow creek.

Mr. Collins became convinced that there is no paying gold in the country except it be found on Snow creek, and he is satisfied that will not be extensive. He was greatly disgusted with the country and advises people not to go there. One of his partners on the journey went to the outside after their return to St. Michael, and Mr. Collins confirms the report that hundreds of others are doing the same thing.

He says he heard the stories of the \$10,000 clean-up and other big finds, but he could learn nothing definite about them and believe they are lies.

It is true that the time devoted to the new diggings by Mr. Collins was extremely short, but he appears to be a man of veracity, as he certainly is one of experience, having mined for many years on the outside, besides holding positions with Dick Lowe, Ed. McConnell, Stanley & Worden and others in the Klondike.

POLICE COURT.

Henry Kees, proprietor of the Bremer brewery, pleaded guilty to a charge of selling a quantity of the amber-need fluid without a license, and was fined \$50 and costs.

The inquiry into the Bremer murder developed sufficient evidence to warrant the holding of the festive battle wedding, and he was sent to jail to await trial before the territorial court.

Vera Holmes tried hard to sustain her place of residence on Third street by a timely worded explanation of how it all was, but the colonel couldn't be easily misled, and Vera was given 24 hours in which to get back on Fourth avenue.

Bob Ainsley's wife complained that he had again used threatening language towards her, this time while he was under the presumed restraint of a bond to keep the peace. Bob will be given an opportunity to explain away the charge on Thursday at 10 o'clock.

Another dog that was in two places widely apart at one and the same time was a bone of contention. Louis Crikshank bought him from a man who came from Copper river to sixty-mile and he called her "Rose." G. M. Lepine, the defendant, brought the animal from St. Michael on the Yukoner and called her "Prek Me Up." There was no doubt about the matter, for several witnesses confirmed each. Col. Steele did the only thing possible under the circumstances, awarded the canine wonder to the plaintiff and recommended the defendant to the civil courts if he wasn't satisfied.

Where northern bre skies gleam,
Where suns at midnight beam,
Down where old Yukon's stream
Makes many a curve and epine;
Where infant mines are mined,
And thousand hopes are burst,
There Sifton's laws are carved,
From Skaguay to St. Michael.

What is the miner's lot?
It is to emigrate
Down to Alaska's stints,
In freer fields to revel;
And leave this Dawson fair,
Its rented streets and air,
To that God-mated pair—
Cliff, Sifton and the devil.

Doctors, when you collect,
His carcass to dissect,
His meagre brain inspect,
And view his organs all—
Give every miner bold
Out here in search of gold
(Tis a large one I am told)
A piece of Sifton's "gall."

Where Are the Pates?

A report has been current for several days to the effect that Lee and Al Pate, two well known young men who had been operating a free ferry and roadhouse opposite the mouth of Bonanza, had shipped out for American territory, taking their dogs and most of their stock and leaving many creditors in mourning. Jack Rittel was left in charge of the hotel; it is said, but on Monday he left in the wake of the others. The Pates are reported to own many hundreds of dollars, principally for supplies.

Next Nugget Express messenger leaves for Seattle Monday July 24—orders for merchandise and delivery promptly executed. No commission charged on purchases.

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