

### HAS MADE HIS LAST STAKE

**Fred Erdmann Quits Mining After Many Years.**

**Takes His Poke to the Outside and Will Proceed to Enjoy High Life.**

"That's my last stake," said Fred Erdmann yesterday as he handed over to Agent Miles of the Alaska Express Company for transportation to the outside a poke containing nearly \$3000. "I'm going out on the same boat," he continued, "and I guess I've done my last mining."

The speaker was a little, dried up, wizened old man, with hair unkempt, a grizzled gray beard, and his eyes surrounded by a thousand wrinkles. He confesses to 70 years of age, but does it with a Wise Mike look and is likely to be as near 80 as he is 70. The old man is hale and hearty, and as he sat on a pile of freight yesterday afternoon outside the express office, a short black pipe tightly gripped between his teeth, he became quite reminiscent.

"Yes," said he, "I guess I'll lay aside the pick and pan now and let some of you younger bucks take my place. I've been mining over 50 years and have seen some pretty hot camps in my time, but it's time I am taking a little rest. I'm going outside with pretty near 200 ounces and that will keep me for a while. No, it is not much of a stake, that's true, and I've seen the time when that would not last a week, but you see I'm not as peppery as I used to be and I guess I can string it out until I get ready to cash in. You don't know where I got that poke of dust, do you. Well, sir, I got that sniping on discovery on Bonanza and it didn't take very long, either. But it will be my last. I've quit."

There was a sort of far-away look in the old man's keen gray eyes as he sat vigorously puffing at his stub of a pipe and it required but little imagination to picture him two score years ago when he was in all the prime and vigor of his manhood, foremost of those intrepid adventurers who were all ways far in advance of civilization carving the way for future empires. The reporter pressed the old man for a short resume of his life on the frontier, and after a little hesitation, he said:

"Well, sir, the first I ever heard about gold was in the summer of '50. I was workin' on a farm down in York state. We didn't have very many papers then days and the country wasn't as thickly settled as it is now, but it did bear all how the strike made the year afore in California did travel. I was sick of workin' on the farm and it didn't take me long to make up my mind to take my chances with a couple of neighbors boys who had got the fever as bad as I had. I had a few dollars saved up in shin plasters and these I sewed up in a belt and with two friends we put out for New York city. When we got there we found the town half crazy about the gold discovery and ships were gettin' ready to pull out nearly every day, some of 'em goin' around the Horn and others droppin' their passengers off at the Isthmus. We sailed on an old tub for the latter point, workin' our way so as to save our money. Gee, what a crowd there was on that boat. When we got to the isthmus we had to walk across there bein' niggers there to pack our kits across. Hot? Well, sir, I'm tellin' you it was hotter'n seventeen kinds of hell put together. And those fellows and some women, too, just died off like sheep from the fever. We finally got across and it was a mighty sick looking outfit that climbed aboard a brig that was to take us north. When we got to where Frisco now stands we were dumped out on a sand hill and there was the rip roarin' est town I ever see. There was only one of my partners left, the other havin' died on the isthmus, and we soon put out for the mountains. It didn't take us long to learn how to mine and almost before we knewed it we was stampedin' here and there just like the rest on 'em. At different times I had some crackin' good claims, but I always kept lookin' for better ground; kept wanderin' about. Long in the '60's I drifted up to Montana and I saw 'em take gold out of Alder gulch by the shovelful. Then when they made the strike in the Cassiar me and my partner took that in, afterward mining for several years in the Omineca country. 'Bout ten or a dozen years ago I went back to California and staid there till they made this strike up here and I got the fever agin. I come up in the spring of '98 and have managed to get along right ever since, but this is my last stampede. I've said that before but I mean it now for sure. I've always had a bankerin' to do some prospectin' in Siberia and I believe if the Russians ever throw that country open so the Yankees can git in there and prospect there will be some mighty good camps spring up, but I don't suppose that will happen in my time. I'm gettin' most too old now to think of doin'

any more stampedin'. I'm goin' back to California and build me a little cabin somewhere up in the foothills and enjoy life the best I can for the rest of my days."

Mr. Erdmann is a typical frontiersman, a character which in a few more years will be known in history only. His life for the past half century has been full of excitement and adventure, he has known want and has possessed an abundance, and it is gratifying to know that his declining days will be spent in a manner befitting his long and active career.

### BONDS ISSUED.

(Continued from page 1.)

talists, and William Chappelle as president and Falcon Joslin as secretary. In June of the following year the company entered into a five year contract with J. A. Williams to purchase power from him to operate its dynamo and run its lighting system. Under that contract Mr. Williams installed one of the finest modern plants anywhere in the west.

It was thought the rapid growth of the city would warrant such a plant, and that the company would sell a sufficient amount of light to make it profitable. But they had overlooked the fact that for four months in the year there was practically no lighting necessary—a condition such as prevails on no other city in the world. This resulted in the operations of the plant during the summer being carried on at a heavy loss.

To meet this Mr. Williams undertook to create a summer demand for power at the mines, and with great boldness, and what now proves to be wise forethought, established his transmission line from Dawson to Grand Forks.

The electric light company was the first stock company organized in the Yukon territory, and this transmission line was the first line for the transmission of electric power established north of British Columbia.

When the line to Grand Forks was first established, the miners were incredulous as to its possibilities; the old-timers shook their heads and declared the enterprise to be altogether impracticable. Therefore the use of the power was at first taken very slowly but in a short time its practicability was well demonstrated; it showed itself to be the most economical and the most practical method of working. At present there are fifteen motors, of capacities from five to fifty horse power delivering at the creeks, power generated in Dawson. In two or three places they hit sluice heads upwards of 300 feet, making it possible to work ground that could not have been worked by any other method and driving out steam pumping plants put in to do the same work.

This great service gave the company a revenue during the summer which more than made up its loss in lighting operations. The management of the transmission line, which was wholly the property of Mr. Williams, and that of the electric light company controlling the lighting of the town, were two separate concerns; the company having no engines or boilers and paying a large royalty to Mr. Williams for his power. This dual management was of course expensive, and hence this consolidation.

The property Mr. Williams yesterday transferred to the company was placed at a valuation of \$175,000, part of which was paid in bonds and part in stock. This will result in Mr. Williams becoming the president of the company, from the fact of his being the largest stockholder. The deal was brought about by Mr. Joslyn who has been secretary of the Electric Light Co. since its organization.

The whole of the mortgage-bonds, as before stated, have already been taken up.

#### Outward Bound.

Among the passengers on the outgoing steamer Dawson last evening was Harry K. Stevenson and wife who are en route to Philadelphia where Mr. Stevenson intends to take up his studies in dentistry. Mr. Stevenson is one of the best known young men in Dawson, having been connected with the Yukon Iron Works as bookkeeper and afterwards as bookkeeper for the Electric Light & Power Co. He severed his connection with the latter firm some time ago to work his claims, Nos. 11 and 12 on Victoria gulch, from which he takes with him a comfortable home stake.

#### Special Service.

Tom Bell is running a pony express to Sulphur and Quartz creeks. He delivers the Semi-Weekly Nugget and carries mail and parcels. He will make two trips a week leaving Dawson on Tuesday and Friday nights.

Kodak films developed, 50 cents per roll. Kodak photos 12 1/2 cents each. Goetzman's.

See the big thing at the New Savoy Friday night; Leednam vs. Walker; admission \$1, reserved seats \$2 and \$5.

Wanted—10,000 gunny sacks. Highest price paid. N. A. T. & T. Co.

Fresh Lowney's candies. Kelly & Co., druggists.

Any kind of wine \$5 per bottle at the Regina Club hotel.

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Is Restocked and All the Famous Makers of America Are Represented in This Department. A Full Line of SLATER'S SHOES Received. All Styles, Widths and Sizes.

# ...NORTHERN COMMERCIAL COMPANY...

### OVER THE DIVIDE.

Summer work on the outer creeks is at its best at present, the recent rains having made good sluicing and most claims are working night and day.

The rich pay on 30 hillsides of lower Dominion continues to hold out. Mrs. Weisman and her manager, F. W. Morrison are wearing a big smile. A recent cleanup resulting from four men shoveling 26 hours cleaned up \$4302.

Mr. Morrison has managed so successfully that his services as manager for the adjoining claims have been secured by Messrs. Stentz and Charleton.

P. E. Lars, the popular Dawson photographer has moved onto lower Dominion as a claim owner. He has bought and is operating hillside 30 below lower formerly owned by Frank Jaccard.

Jim Smith a well known Dominion miner has bought 27 below upper and will work it the coming winter after his hillside 10 above lower is closed down.

The new hotel on 27 Gold Run was opened last Tuesday by Messrs. Chute and Wills, proprietors. The hotel is a splendid one and excelled by none in Dawson. It is a log building over 60 feet long and two stories high with an ell built in addition. The furnishings are complete in every detail embracing a well stocked and nicely decorated bar

### room, a card room, dining hall with hard wood furnishings, a barber shop, two parlors, twelve bedrooms and a suite of rooms fitted as dental parlors for Dr. Rhystrom. The entire house is papered and carpeted. Charlie Jamison well and popularly known on all of the creeks is in charge of the hotel and is assisted by Alex Hadden, a thorough mixologist and good fellow known to every man in the Indian river district. George Jesse, an Eastern chef, and a staff of assistants places the dining room service equal to the best and excelled by none north of Seattle.

### Fire On Upper Bonanza.

Two cabins on No. 2 above on Bonanza were burned to the ground last night. The fire is supposed to have started from a spark falling from the stove pipe onto the roof and had gained considerable headway before being discovered. It spread to the cabin adjoining and all efforts to save them were unavailing. The cabins were occupied by men working on the claim and the greater part of the contents were saved. The loss will not amount to a very large sum.

Send a copy of Goetzman's Souvenir to your outside friends. A complete pictorial history of the Klondike. For sale at all news stands.

Wanted—10,000 gunny sacks. Highest price paid. N. A. T. & T. Co.

We fit glasses. Pioneer drug store.

### The Clara-Monarch expects to leave for the Koyukuk tomorrow and will doubtless be the last boat to make the trip from Dawson this season. The manager of the boat hopes to arrive in time to take advantage of the fall rains and thinks he will have no difficulty in reaching Coldfoot, 50 miles above Bettles and 25 miles beyond the point reached by the Gold Star several months ago. With 150 tons aboard the Monarch draws but 13 inches of water and being equipped with very powerful machinery the rifles and swift water encountered will have little or no terrors for her. The number of passengers is being limited to 100.

Three cases are being heard before Gold Commissioner Sankler today, Freedman vs. Cantley, et al., Thomson vs. Cantley et al., and Lindstrom vs. Cantley et al. The litigation never the title to bench claims on the right limit adjoining 230 below lower Dominion.

Kodak films developed, 50 cents per roll. Kodak photos 12 1/2 cents each. Goetzman's.

Cecil Marion, the songstress, rounded on the Sarah from a short stop at Nome.

Next Friday night at 9 p. m. at the Savoy; Leednam-Walker, ten and 10. Case goods 25c, Sideboard, 11) For 25.

### Before Gold Commissioner.

Send a copy of Goetzman's Souvenir to your outside friends. A complete pictorial history of the Klondike. For sale at all news stands.

## Dawson Dental Parlors

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### ...OFFICE FEES...

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2. Teeth Extracted, painless.....	7. Bridge Work, per tooth.....	1.00
3. Teeth Cleaned.....	8. Gold Crown.....	2.00
4. Silver Fillings.....	9. Full Set Teeth, Rubber.....	2.00
5. Gold Fillings.....	10. Full Set Teeth, Gold.....	2.00

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- The Pittsburgh "SILVER DOLLAR SHOVEL",
- Verona PICKS,
- Giant Steam Hose,
- McClary's Stoves, Ranges and Graniteware,
- Studebaker Bros' Wagons,
- Columbus Scrapers.