BACK WITH GOLD!

Five Parties Straight From Dawson.

MINERS ARE RESTIVE.

Mass Meeting Sends a Delegate to Ottawa.

Huge Royalty Causes the Indignation—Several Returned Victorians Tell of Their Northern Experiences.

Three steamers fr[illegible] North—the Farallon, the Ros[illegible] the Tees—have just arrived, [illegible] latter with five separate p[illegible] [illegible]om Dawson among their pass[illegible], one of which had left the Klon[illegible] capital as recently as November 16, and is the first to come through to the Coast with dogs, the river having only very lately been sufficiently cleared to permit of travel other than pedestrian. Many of the newcomers have gold in abundance, and none of them apprehend danger of starvation for the citizens of the Yukon country.

The flying brigade of which Richard Shaw of Victoria, was a member, and which made Skagway in 32 days from Dawson, would have got through even sooner but for the fact that they first tried the Dalton trial after leaving the river, and finding it blocked by recent heavy snowfalls were obliged to retrace their steps.

On the way down, at the Five Finger Rapids, they picked up an unfortunate young man who had laid himself down to die. Both of his feet were so badly frozen that he was helpless and his heartless companions had abandoned him to his fate.

The miners at Dawson, according to these latest arrivals, are offering $2 a pound for flour, and none purchaseable at this figure, while many are coming up the river and buying outfits in their entirety from such of the inbound prospectors who will sell, at $1.25 per pound.

The party on the Tees are credited with having upwards of $5,000 amongst them, but exhibit all the customary reticence of the returning lucky ones, and refuse to give figures when discussing their own affairs. They are for the most part short residents in the country, who have done a little profitable speculating and returned for fresh supplies. Between 400 and 500 men are following them out, they say, and bringing plenty of gold with them.

None of these visitors from the North are flying from famine, but their exodus for the winter will go a very long way toward relieving the necessities of those remaining, as there will be fewer mouths to feed, and their supplies added to the general store. The object of the majority of the Coast-bound travellers is to see friends, make spring purchases, and let the outside world know what the Klondyke thinks of the new mining regulations particularly affecting that district.

In this latter connection it is stated that a crowded miners' mass meeting was held at Dawson on Oct. 28, at which resolutions were adopted again protesting against the royalty and crown reserve clauses; and afterwards a deputation was named headed by a miner named Sullivan, to proceed at once to Ottawa and lay the grievance of the miners before Premier Laurier and his colleagues.

As to the danger of famine at Dawson, and the proclamation in early November by the officers of the mounted police that they are quite capable of dealing with any emergency that may arise — these new arrivals say the police have none too plentiful stores for their own consumption, and their method of meeting the crisis will be simply putting the population on short rations and seeing that the well-supplied share their goods with the less provident should a real pinch come. As a fact the miners throughout the district are all fairly well supplied for the winter—it is the gambling and sporting element only that is likely to need relief.

Regarding the mining regulations, so keenly do the miners feel their alleged injustice in certain particulars, that hundreds speak of moving to Manook or some other diggings on American soil as soon as spring comes—even if these gold grounds be less profitable.

Another cause of growing discontent is the dual collection of duty at the passes on inbound goods. If bought in the United States, outfits of course pay tribute to the Canadian authorities as soon as they cross the passes; if Canadian goods, the outfits have been hampered with charges while passing through American territory in bond, and the new arrivals say that the recent arrangement whereby this will be stopped will prevent much disappointment and irritation.

MINERS' GRIEVANCES.

A Bonanza Claim Owner Speaks of the Difficulty at the Passes and the Obnoxious Regulations.

A returned resident of the Klondyke district whose views count for something when the Yukon country is the subject of consideration, is Mr. Thomas Storey, a Bonanza Creek claim owner who arrived down by the Rosalie on Sunday, and came to Victoria from Fort Townsend yesterday morning. He formed one of a party of four coming out by Skagway pass, his companions being Robert Gwynn, J. Lindsay and Frank Bellaine. As soon as he has renewed old acquaintanceships in Vancouver, and bought his spring supplies he will return to his northern home by the same route.

Parties bound into the Yukon with Canadian goods have, he says, suffered from the sharp practice—since discontenanced at Washington—of the United States customs officers at Dyea and Skagway, who have needlessly compelled them to employ American customs officials to accompany the goods while they are going through in bond—these officials charging $6 a day for the pleasure of their company. As it usually takes from a week to a fortnight to take a complete outfit through to the summit—this being fourteen miles from Dyea or twenty from Skagway—it means in the end that as much has been paid in fees and othe red tape expenses as the American duties would have amounted to.

"I have heard it said," he continued, "that Great Britain claims quite as much right to the territory on which Dyea stands as the United States. Then why has American occupation been tacitly agreed to? The Canadian officials do indeed show some disposition to move up into the disputed territory, but they have been a long time about it. Some of them are, I understand, at Lake Lindeman now, and made an endeavor not long ago to collect duties from some Americans who were going no farther. They refused to pay, and that was the end of it.

"Of course the miners have brought the chief difficulties as to the passage through in bond upon themselves, taking Canadian goods in ostensibly with the purpose of going right through and then disposing of or using them in American territory.

"At the time I left Dawson there was no immediate danger of anyone starving, but there was undoubted shortage of provisions. The principal relief I think will come through the large number who are coming out to the Coast for a few months. They will not be there to feed, and they are disposing of their stocks of provisions, so that it will be that much addition to the general supply.

"The police can do very little toward providing for the hungry, as I understand they will be pinched a little themselves. Their methods of preventing famine will be to see that the stocks in hand are used intelligently, and a fair division made if the necessity arises. The miners as a rule are not the ones that are short. They have laid in their stores for the winter and to carry them along until June or July. There is, however, a large non-productive class, of which the gamblers and city men form the proportion, and these are the ones who will require assistance if anyone does.

"The miners all through the Klondyke country are still very indignant with regard to the proposed collection of 20 per cent. on the output of the mines. The biggest miners' meeting ever held in the country discussed this subject on the night of the 28th of October, passing resolutions of protest, and I understand naming a delegation of which Sullivan is one to go to Ottawa, and lay the grievance before the government.

"They feel the pressure of this royalty clause so keenly that many are making preparation for a move to American territory in the spring. They will for the most part try the Manook country probably, or else work on the Forty-Mile. It is true the Manook has not been proven as yet, but it may turn out very well; in any event the miners are willing to work in a less profitable country rather than pay this royalty. The Stewart river has at present a hundred or more men working at its mouth while half as many more are prospecting up stream. No finds have been reported as yet to amount to anything, but the spring may bring something good in this quarter.

"Greenbacks, contrary to the general rule, are at a premium over gold in the Klondyke country. We have to pay a $17 ounce for $15.25 in paper money, for of course everyone who thinks of coming out wants the paper money. I brought down all that I could get at a reasonable price, and also a few pounds of gold, which I have sold to the Bank of Montreal at $15.50. It was Bonanza gold, the finest standard of all, and I was rather disappointed in the price paid here."

Storey and his companions met Major Walsh at Salmon river. The administrator was complaining of short supplies at the time, but anticipating receipts of provisions from the lakes. He was as comfortably fixed as possible, with the thermometer at 72 below zero, and if not required to change his plans proposed starting for Dawson with his dogs in early March. At this time the river had been impossible for dogs and sleds, but as the miners are now coming through by this means it is likely that Major Walsh's party will push on to their destination as soon as their supplies are reinforced.

KLONDYKE MINERS STRIKE.

Refuse to Accept Anything Less Than $15 a Day for Their Services—"Dick" Shaw at Home.

After a journey of thirty-two days to Dyea, Mr. Richard Shaw, of this city, arrived by the steamer Tees from the North yesterday evening, having just come through from Dawson.

He left that famous city on the Yukon river on the 16th November, and, in company with Mr. Shede, of Juneau, came through to Dyea without a single delay, only stopping at Fort Selkirk for a couple of hours for the purpose of having dinner; and also at McCormack's Post for the same reason. The two came up the river on the ice to Lake Bennett, and thence over the Skagway trail to the Coast. They dragged 600 pounds altogether up the river, of which 300 was food for themselves and a considerable quantity of the balance for their dogs.

The weather at Dawson has been very cold, in the neighborhood of 70 below zero, for some time past, but it got milder as they went up stream, Thirty Mile river not being frozen at all. At Five Finger rapids they came across a young fellow whose feet and legs were frozen like blocks of ice right up to the knees, and who, of course, was given all assistance possible.

Mr. Shaw says that Dave Spencer has had a very close call, having been given up twice before taking a final turn for the better. He lay in the hospital at Dawson for six weeks' hovering between life and death, best thanks to the untiring efforts of Dr. W. A. Richardson and his own splendid constitution, he managed to pull through all right, although for three weeks he was not allowed to be seen by anyone. He is now living at a cabin with one of the other Victorians who succeeded in getting through, and when Mr. Shaw left was getting about and seemed to be quite himself again. He intends coming out with Hubert Macaulay in January. He wrote and forwarded a letter to his father in November, but the party bringing it out for him was passed by Mr. Shaw at McCormack's post, and it will probably be a month yet before the letter reaches its destination.

There is a very good hospital at Dawson, which is managed by a Catholic priest, Father Judge, three ounces of gold per year entitles anyone to free nursing when sick, but if not a subscriber to this fund, the rate is $5 per day, which is considered very reasonable, and in every case is paid without a murmur. There is a great deal of typhoid prevalent in the town, owing to the bad sanitary arrangements and the amount of squalid debris on the streets. During the summer the deaths for about three months averaged five persons a day.

For a town of its kind, Dawson is remarkably free from lawlessness of all descriptions, but the place is full of Mounted Police, which no doubt explains the fact. There is at present a shortage of provisions but no actual fear of starvation. About five hundred men started out for the coast prior to Mr. Shaw's departure, but a greater number went to Fort Yukon, where there is plenty of food, one hundred leaving for the latter place in one day on the steamers Bella and Weare. The Shaw party was overtaken by Mr. McKay, who left Dawson after they had started. Mr. McKay brings out about $50,000 in company orders, with an owner of No. 13, El Dorado. This party, however, did not come down on the Tees, but are waiting at Dyea to come to Victoria on the Alki.

On the 27th of October the mine owners attempted to make a cut in the miners' wages by reducing them to $10 per day. As a result the men all went on strike and had not returned to work up to the time of Mr. Shaw's departure. A number of them say they are willing to leave it to the decision of a committee, but the majority refused to work for anything less than $1.50 per hour or $15 per day. On November 16 there was a large meeting held for the purpose of petitioning the Dominion government to revise the laws governing mining in that district, but Mr. Shaw left before being able to get any information as to what was done.

Messrs. Shaw and Shede met a number of parties going in on Tagish lake, all of them having their outfits with them.

Among the Victorians who got in, Mike Conlin is working on one of the Eldorado claims; Bush and Behnsen have built a log cabin and are doing nothing as yet, and Gilbert is working at his trade of tinsmith and making good money. Pettigrew and Rendall have staked out a claim on Moosehide creek and say they have a very good prospect about five miles from Dawson. A number of the parties who left here in the summer reached Dawson, selling their outfits for $1.25 per pound and then came out again, having made a good profit on the transaction.

Mr. Perry, another Victorian, got jammed in the ice and floated down the river to Dawson landing without any mishap. Mr. Perdue, a cattle dealer, sent two rafts of meat down the river but they were drifted down the ice past Dawson, with that gentleman on board. The third raft was stranded 135 miles above Dawson but the meat had not been brought down and was lying there when Mr. Shaw passed.

There were no fresh strikes made lately with the exception of one on Hunker creek, which yielded $300 to five feet.

Mr. Shede has some valuable properties on Hunker creek but brought no money out with him.

When the two reached Dyea they had five pounds of flour and three pounds of bacon, but they were forced to bup some meat for their dogs and some fresh goat meat at Lake Le Barge from the Indians, for which they were paid $1 per pound.

SOMETHING BIG COMING.

Klondyke Scheme on a Mammoth Scale by American and British Capitalists.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—J. Bruce Ismael, of the White Star Line, announced yesterday that H. M. Kersey, the American agent of the line, decided two months ago to resign and would cease to represent the company on Friday. Mr. Kersey will be associated with a syndicate of American and British capitalists in the Klondyke scheme on an unprecedented scale.

DYEA TOWNSITE.

Claim of Healy and Wilson Thrown Out by United States Commissioner.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—A decision of much importance has been made by Commissioner Herman, of the general land office, affecting the town of Dyea, Alaska. The townsite is claimed by Healy and Wilson under the general law allowing 160 acres in Alaska for manufacturing and trading purposes. These parties claim to have made their location long prior to any adverse rights. The commissioner rejected the application for a patent on a number of grounds, and says that the survey of the claim was not regularly made. He says that a new survey is therefore necessitated, and that the case will come up on its merits.

Waterproof mackinaws with or without hood. B. Williams & Co.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

CANCER CAN BE CURED.

Cancer is the severest known form of blood disease. BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS is the most powerful blood medicine known. It cures cancer and all skin diseases. Proof: "My husband had two cancers taken off his face, and another was coming on his lip. He took two bottles of BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS and it disappeared. I know this medicine is an excellent blood purifier." MRS. WM. KIRBY, Akron, Erie Co., New York.

NEWS OF THE PASSES.

A Recent Arrival From Pyramid Harbor Relates Experiences of Life on the Trail.

The Procession of Pilgrims Slowly Making Its Way Over the Mountains.

SS. FARALLON, off Nanaimo, B.C., Christmas Day, 1897.

Before leaving Victoria on 15th October, by the City of Seattle steamship, in the first party of the Humbert Yukon expedition, I promised to send the COLONIST details of our movements, and have now to write that we arrived safely at Pyramid Harbor on the 20th. We were busily employed in securing and packing stores, pitching tents and arranging for the coming of our large party of 65 men, 275 horses, 150 cattle and 30 dogs, which reached Pyramid harbor on board the Colorado bark, towed by the tug Pioneer from Seattle, and which came at the same time as the steamship City of Seattle's second trip with cattle. All came in excellent condition. On the 6th November, I regret to say, our chief, Col. Smith, was unfortunately unable through serious indisposition to take personal command. The whole responsibility in consequence was deputed to the Colonel's brother, Mr. E. S. Smith, who has daily gained the confidence of all his subordinates by his unceasing energy and kind consideration to all.

Owing to unforeseen and weather causes there was some little delay in moving this large outfit, and it was 17th November when the first party, under the packmaster, Mr. Cameron's direction, with 125 horses, with 23 packers, left the first camp to form an advance camp and depot six miles nearer the summit, and named Watson's Camp, from the fact of my being the first settler there, and where I remained in charge. Each packer had one saddle and six pack horses to lead, and I also took a pack team. The trail was for some distance across immense boulders covered with ice, and the rough and irregular trail, almost impassable at times, caused many of our horses to fall, although we were fortunate in surmounting the difficulties without much loss. In some places we led our horses over the frozen sea or along the rocky beach, and horses were constantly in trouble. One of my pack horses broke through the ice into a creek, and should have certainly lost it but for the timely aid of two of our cowboys. We reached our destination—Watson's camp—in darkness. We took no tents with us but sleeping bags, and built our fire and made supper. Thermometer 15 below zero.

The next morning, 18th November, our men and horses went on with stores to the surveyors' camp, of the Humbert Yukon railroad survey, ten miles further than Watson's camp, and to remove their outfit to the summit. I may mention here that the survey is now completed to the summit. I remained in charge alone.

The next day, 19th November, some Indians came and kept me company all night around the camp fire. They told me white men were coming back, having failed to get through Chilkat pass.

On the 20th five Klondykers 57 days from Dawson City came into camp and stayed all night, having supper with me. They had all done well, and showed me some very fine nuggets; but were obliged to come out for food, and were going in again soon. One was a Nanaimo man.

On the 22nd Jack Dalton, Mr. Boyle, Swiftwater Bill and four others, with two Indian guides, came out via Dalton trail. Mr. Boyle is F. Slavin's partner, and they are doing well at Copper Creek, I hear. They came over Dalton's trail. On 24th one of the surveyors came in on horseback from their camp near Summit a bit scared having met a big grizzly.

On 25th J. W. Heyward, special correspondent London Daily Mail, with Ben Stone and Going from Victoria, camped alongside me and started two days later with six dogs on Dalton trail to cross the Chilcat pass. On 24th Mr. Killie, the new packmaster came in with a quantity of stores from Pyramid harbor, and I heard for the first time Mr. Cameron had left the expedition. On Dec. 1st, left Hackley in charge of Watson's camp and started over sea ice on horse sled to new camp two and a half miles from Haynes Mission. The expedition has now found it necessary and advisable to remain here until the snow on Chilcat pass will be frozen hard to permit the horses and cattle sleds to get through. It is in places ten to fifteen feet deep—soft snow and impassable at present. All the men are well and in excellent spirits and the animals, horses, cattle and dogs, are strong. I took, on 12th instant, a dog team to Haynes Mission, Chilcat, and back to camp. The dogs gave me great satisfaction going strong and well. Both at Pyramid harbor and Haynes Mission every available plot of land has been pegged out and recorded in anticipation of the rush next year.

Thorpe party lost 15 horses near the Summit and returned with oxen to Pyramid harbor where I saw them Oct. 22nd in fine condition. They took them to Lake Bennett via. Skagway and slaughtered them and will take them to Klondyke on the ice when the lake is frozen over. The Thrope boys are coming out from Dawson City and their father is going to meet them with provisions and four oxen as his boys are on their last sack of flour. Willis Thorpe starts in from Skagway, Dec. 19, Skagway is rapidly becoming a large and important town. There are three piers, two 1,500 feet, and one pier 1,800 feet for landing freight and passengers. Skagway News is a newspaper ten weeks old. Electric lighting is general, and there are now about 800 stores, dwellings and other buildings. Gambling is being carried on day and night openly.

People are going over the summit on an average of six a day, in fact it is better now than at any former time, although many give Dyea the preference, which town is also booming.

A sad death occurred to a young man named Samuel Wyckoff, aged twenty-six years. He was one of a party of five men. G. I. Klindt, Andrew Holm, William Hiltburn and Christ Rosenvend. They arrived at Skagway on the Willamette, August 14, bound for the interior. The men packed all their goods, consisting of 1,500 pounds each, to Lake Bennett on their backs, and were called the Tacoma pack train because of their untiring energy and ability to pack from 100 to 150 pounds each. They reached Lake Bennett with their entire outfit, where they were waiting for the lake to freeze to go ahead. Afterwards they came back over the Dyea trail, where Wyckoff died of congestion of the brain, caused by an accident. Deceased was an Odd Fellow, Ranier lodge No. 11, Tacoma, and has many sympathizers. He was shortly to have been married to a young lady in Tacoma, to which city his corpse is being taken on board the Farallon, under the charge of his friend George Klindt, who has the unpleasant duty to break the sad news to the widowed mother at Christmastide.

Skagway wages are keeping high, packers getting six dollars a day and board. Laborers unloading the Farallon were paid 50 cents an hour, and the captain of the scow paid many of his men $48 for last week's work.

Many persons are now going in from Fort Wrangel to Stickeen Island, where stores and accommodation can be supplied. Stickeen Island is only seven miles from Wrangel and the Alaskan is to run there, and those going in can take the ice straight from the north end of the island, which is now frozen, and commence their journey with sleds, on the ice, to Telegraph Creek. Three small parties have already started from the island. I hear the Yorke party are now making great progress at Teslin Lake and en route. Reed & Sylvester are building a three story hotel containing 100 rooms, which will soon be completed, at Wrangel. Mr. McIntyre, of Victoria, is manager. News received from Dawson City as late as November 3 is to the effect that there will be no famine in the Klondyke this winter if precautions be taken to husband the food supply already there. This is the opinion of Joe Kastner, of Helena, Montana, who left Dawson City November 3 in company with McLaughlin. They made the entire distance to Skagway on foot in 37 days—weather extremely cold at Big Salmon river, 52 degrees below, and 65 degrees for several days afterwards. Eight hundred people left Dawson for Fort Yukon, where there is plenty of food. Fully 6,000 persons remain in Dawson. The stores have few provisions to sell, but parties, who had taken in larger supplies than they required, were selling at one dollar a pound, whether bacon, beans, flour, sugar, etc., or anything they had to dispose of. Major Walsh was met at Big Salmon. His party being short of provisions, Captain Norwood and seven men were sent to the Hootalinqua.

Candles are very scarce, fetching 75 cents apiece. Coal oil $45 per gallon. Meat 75 cents per lb. Wages $1 to $1.50 per hour. Dr. A. McLaren of Montreal has returned by steamship Farallon after thoroughly investigating the trails, and will shortly lecture in the principal cities with lime light views taken of the most interesting features of the country and all the most reliable information gathered from his personal observation, and also what best to take and where to purchase, for the benefit of those about to enter the trail either at Skagway, Dyea, Dalton or Stickeen. The steamship Farallon is going to lay up for some time to enable alterations to be made to accommodate 250 passengers.

I am staying at the Dominion hotel in this city whilst on business for my company, and shall be happy to give anyone information likely to assist them during the time, before returning to my camp.

LOUIS WATSON,
Humbert Yukon Expedition Co.

THE RELIEF ARRANGEMENTS.

Canada Will Permit the Passage of the United States Military Party.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—Upon the advice of the Canadians now here it appears likely that Skaway will be chosen instead of Dyea as the terminal point of the relief expeditions. The reason for this choice is said to be the fact that Skaway has wharves at which ships can discharge cargoes directly, while at Dyea there are nothing but lighters to land the goods. Mr. Sifton said to-night that he hoped to conclude his visit within the next two days, and there was no doubt that the two governments could make arrangements which would be mutually beneficial in extending relief to the Klondykers.

The minister's attention was called to reports that Canada might not be willing to co-operate in the use of the military arrangement of the government as provided by the bill which recently became law. He said, however, that he apprehended no difficulty in that direction, as the only purpose of the two governments was to effect the relief in the most feasible way possible.

There appears to be no desire on the part of the Canadian officials to interpose any technical obstacles to the execution of relief measures, and for this reason it is expected a satisfactory arrangement will be reached within the next two days.

HEART PAIN.

Dr Agnew's Cure for the Heart Defies the Most Intense Pains—No Matter How LongStanding the Trouble, it Masters Disease in Half an Hour, and in the case of John Crow Five Bottles Cured Heart Disease of Ten Years' Standing—Here's His Testimony Un-solicited:—

John Crow son of Mr. George Crow, farmer, near the village of Tara, Ont., writes: alarmingly afflictsd with palpition and enlargement of the heart for nearly ten years. I doctored with best physicians and tried numerous remedies with very little benefit. In our local papers I noticed Dr. Agnew's Cure for the heart advertised, and I determined to give it a trial. Inside of half an hour I had relief. I have taken about five bottles, and feel to-day that I am as well as ever I was. I am completely cured."

For sale by Dean & Hiscocks and Hall & Co.

French Boodlers.

PARIS, Dec. 27.—At to-day's trial of the deputies and others accused of participation in the Panama canal intrigues the public prosecutor announced the abandonment of the charges against Gallard, Rigaud, Laissant and Boyer, and asked that an adequate sentence be imposed on Arton, Saint Martin, Maret and Planteau.

FOR THE CHILDREN.

When coughs and colds distress the children NORWAY PINE SYRUP comes to the rescue. It soothes and heals the throat, removes the phlegm, and is pleasant and easy to take.

THE MINERS' STRIKE.

The Employers Apparently Have a "Cinch" on the Gold Diggers of Klondyke.

Ten Dollars a Day at the Present Prices of Provisions a Bagatelle.

A Settlement of the Regulations Difficulty Looked For Prior to the Clean-Up.

How the miners' strike will end, is a question upon which as great a diversity of opinion appears to be prevail at Dawson as upon the prospect of provisions running out before the spring receipts reach the supply stores. Mr. Richard Shaw and the other Victorians who have just arrived with him from the North, having left Dawson on November 16, were not sufficiently affected personally to go into the issue thoroughly, but from the surface view they had of the situation, they gather that the mine owners have the cinch on the working miners, and are likely to remain masters.

The reduction of general mining wages from $15 a day to $10 has been in contemplation for several months, during which time the claim owners have perfected their organization—which the miners sadly lack. They then announced on the 27th of October that from that date $1 per hour or $10 per day would be the standard wage—the miners could take it or not as they pleased.

"With provisions quoted at from $1.25 to $2 per pound, the miners do not regard $10 a day as living wages; and of course, says Mr. Shaw, they have held many meetings and entered many vigorous protests, although the outlook for a settlement is the reverse of favorable. A third mass meeting of working miners to consider the position, was convened for the evening of November 15, on which date Mr. Shaw and his companions left for Victoria. Although he is thus unable to speak of the outcome, Mr. Shaw anticipates that it will prove as futile in results as previous similar gatherings.

The mine owners are welded together and confident, especially as the fear of hunger is ever before the miners, and they have only two alternatives—of working for the wages offered them and thereby earning enough to remain in the country, or of facing the terrors of a trip to the coast on short provisions. A large number of miners, says Mr. Shaw, sealed themselves to stand or fall by the outcome of the meeting of the 16th of November, returning to work on the understanding that if that meeting accepted $10 as the standard wage they will offer no further objections; but if the meeting says $15 they will receive the higher figure.

The great weakness of the workmen is their utter lack of organization, and thus, although more than 3,000 strong at the most conservative calculation, they have nothing like the power of the few united claim-owners.

With regard to the new mining regulations as they affect the Klondyke country, Mr. Shaw inclines to the opinion that work on the northern creeks will not be materially retarded at present through the enforcement of the law, although to all the miners these regulations are most objectionable. The general clean-up is not until June, and there is a strong feeling in the district that before then the government, in response to the representations being made, will take some steps in the direction of the much desired modifications.

On the way out to the Coast Mr. Shaw's party made a flying trip, passing no fewer than fifty-five people en route and also coming Coastward. They learned en route that the barge-load of mutton sent in by Miller, of Juneau, had been caught in the ice, and there appropriated by the wolves of the wilderness.

NEWS OF THE ABSENT ONES.

Bassett Will Carry Light to Klondyke—Letters From Victorians in Dawson.

George Bassett, one of the Victorians just down from Dawson City, will soon be on his way back to the Yukon. The lack of oil and candles for mining purposes at Dawson decided him to make an attempt to get a supply into the Yukon. He, therefore, with his companions sold out their supplies for $1.25 a pound and travelled to the coast light. By the next steamer, if he can make his preparations by then, he will return North with a supply of nut oil and wicks for miners lamps, and also will take with him a stock of candles. Horses will be used for packing to the summit of the White Pass, and from there with a dog train Bassett will push on as rapidly as possible to Dawson. The oil for convenience in packing will be put up in rubber bags.

A private letter to Thomas Hodges states that Thomas Tugwell and J. Delahanty, who left Victoria last August, are in good luck without going as far as Dawson City. Tugwell and his partner, after crossing over the White pass, made their way to Lake Lebarge and as the police saying goes, "on information received," determined to prospect before trying for Klondyke. The result is that they have struck some very promising prospects, and now Tugwell is staying by the claims and preparing to work them.

VICTORIANS RETURN.

Charles Steele and Party Make a Fast Trip From Dawson.

John Hookar, Charles Steele and George Bassett left Dawson City in company and reached Skagway eight days ago, after a thirty-five-day tramp. They came out over the ice to Lake Bennett and through the White pass afoot, packing their outfits on their backs. When they left Dawson City they were told by many that it was simply suicidal to leave there at that time of year without pack animals, but the men had every confidence in their strength and came through all well, although for a great part of the journey they endured extreme hardships from exposure and from the cold weather. From the time they left Fort Selkirk until they reached the Hootalinqua the thermometer ran from 42 to 70 below zero.

"Our noses," said Steele last evening, "were frozen from two to three times a day in the coldest of the weather, which was experienced at Five Finger rapids. Snow was encountered knee deep in some places, and we could only know we were on the trail by the manner in which we would sink in diverging a little from the proper path. On Middle lake we got very bad weather and for some considerable time it stormed so severely that we could not see five feet ahead of us. George H. Hanbury, who came down with us and who belongs to Seattle, we picked up, in company with two others now at Skagway, ten miles above the Stewart river. They had left Dawson City about two weeks before we did, and were getting pretty short of provisions when we overtook them. We had lynx and wild cat to eat part of the time coming out, and I can tell you it didn't taste bad. Wild cat went pretty good for the first meal, but after that I did not want any more of it. When McCormack's Post was reached we renewed our supplies of meat, and then came on with little delay. In starting out we threw away everything save our grub and one blanket apiece, and took rest by giving four men sleep at a time while two kept watch, to renew the fires to prevent us from freezing to death."

In reference to the general condition of affairs at Dawson, Steele has nothing additional to add to the reports recently published to the effect that there is no prospect of famine. He says the country is good and that he expects to return North early in the spring. Before he left Dawson there was a miners' strike on, and he had no idea as to its settlement. The day he came away on his homeward trip a mass meeting was called to discuss the grievances. The mine owners wanted to pay their employees to work for them at $1 an hour. The miners objected to this as too low, as there are only six hours to the day, and they could not make living wages at this rate. Steele says it was cheaper for him to come out than to stay in Dawson for the winter. He and his two partners had 1,000 pounds of provisions, which he says they sold out before leaving the Yukon, though for what prices he does not care to state. He reports that Henderson creek is now all surveyed off and that [illegible] one hundred men are there [illegible]ing. Several shafts had been sun[illegible] up to the time he left [illegible] no results. On the way to [illegible] Walsh and party were met at [illegible] and Judge Macguire and [illegible] Inspector Wade just one mile [illegible] Salmon. There were encamped at [illegible] of the Stewart river about [illegible] who will await spring before further progress, and these [illegible] well provided for with provisions [illegible] trail coming out he met some [illegible] had passed as he went in and [illegible] many of these will not reach Dawson [illegible] year. They have had trouble in [illegible] their outfits over the passes, and [illegible] than lose anything are making [illegible] progress. It is now only five [illegible] since Steele and his party left here for Klondyke. They took no pack animals along, but packed all their effects on their backs, thus accomplishing one of the hardest undertakings in connection with the northern travel. They now bring out with them considerable mail from Dawson City, and also bring news of some Victorians. Dave Spencer, when they left Dawson City, was still in the hospital suffering from fever. The Behnsen party were making preparations to erect log cabins. Speed was well provisioned for the winter but had not yet started in for himself, while among other Victorians spoken and reported well were Sharp, Chas. Ross, Ned Clyde, Thos. McManus and Joseph Hunter. The last two mentioned expect to come out this winter.

THE VOYAGE OF THE "TEES."

Rough Weather the Rule for the Greater Part of the Trip—Stickeen Route in Good Condition.

The steamer Tees, of the Canadian Pacific Navigation fleet, has now fairly inaugurated the service to be maintained by this home company between Victoria and the ports forming the gateways to the Upper Yukon, during the approaching spring. Arriving back in port Monday evening, her master, Captain Meyer, reports that on the up run calls were made at all the mail landings in British Columbia waters.

At Wrangel several passengers were landed who intended going up the Stickeen river. The ice was reported in good condition from a point about six miles above the river mouth, and on the return of the steamer to Wrangel it was found that the late passengers had gone on their way up river without delay.

At Skagway a number of passengers took the Tees who had just come out from Dawson, among them Mr. Richard Shaw, one of the very latest from the Klondyke country. A number of others were reported to be close to Skagway and anxious to catch a steamer. For this reason the Tees waited about two days, but the weather being very boisterous at the time it no doubt prevented the coast-bound miners from getting over the passes, as no new arrivals were reported on Wednesday that when the Tees sailed.

The weather up North during the entire trip was most tempestuous—wet and mild, but stormy. At Port Simpson on the homeward trip several passengers joined who had started from Skagway on the Rosalie. That steamer had taken over five days to this point, and the passengers preferred landing to taking any further chances with the little craft.

W. H. Thompson, of Nanaimo, who has been engaged in packing from Skagway to Lake Bennett for the last five months, was one of the Tees' passengers last night from Skagway. Chatting about his experiences as he sat in the Oriental, he said that he had left Bennett at the end of November, and at that time about 150 people were camped near the lake, but by now no doubt some had moved further on when the ice formed. He had made five trips over the trail and a good deal of his time was taken up in packing for the mounted police. Of their supplies he thought the police now had sixty tons through, and there were forty tons near the summit ready to be packed over. It appeared to him that it would be a very difficult thing for supplies to be taken down the Yukon this winter, when one understands that at the summit the thermometer registered 26 degrees below zero with a strong wind blowing and further in the cold got much more intense.

With him Mr. Thompson brought a very fine specimen of peacock copper ore which a man found this season in the Stickeen district. The finder had told Mr. Thompson that there was a three foot ledge of the stuff, which is certainly as nice copper rock as anyone would wish to see. What amount of gold it carries can only be decided by assay.

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Sick Headache and relieve all the troubles incident to a bilious state of the system, such as Dizziness, Nausea, Drowsiness, Distress after eating, Pain in the Side, &c. While their most remarkable success has been shown in curing

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