

HELP NEEDED FOR THE POOR

A Meeting Considers the Advisability of Applying to Washington.

Many Cases of Absolute Destitution are Already Known and Others are Coming to Light Every Day.

There is a strong movement on foot to send a representative to Washington for the purpose of enlisting the United States government in the good cause of aiding in remedying the great distress which prevails among the miners of the Yukon territory. No one who has made it his personal business to find out has but a faint conception of the amount of destitution in and about Dawson. Our citizens are proud and conceal their poverty until sickness or death attracts public attention. We have no mendicants in our midst and it takes the direst distress to make even the hungriest declare himself. Still, the hospitals are overcrowded with indigents and the finances of those worthy institutions will not allow of any more wholesale charity. The Yukon council has tried to take the matter in hand and declares itself already out of funds to care for the indigent sick. Donations for the care of the sick come in regularly but in small amounts, while at this present moment nothing less than \$5,000 per month will come anywhere near taking ordinary care of the poor fellows without money or property. This \$5,000 per month covers the bare expense of those patients already there, and there are now, or will be presently, double as many helpless men outside. The dreaded scourge has made its appearance and none but those acquainted with the hospitals know of its extent. A man named Charles Schmidt, 75 years of age, actually lay in his cabin on Bonanza creek for nine days without wood or water, a victim of a bad attack of scurvy, until he was unable to even put a foot to the ground. Day and night he called vainly for help, but for nine days none heard his heart-rending cries, and he remained without assistance. His condition became known, finally, and he was brought to the barracks and the police turned him over to the hospital. In typical fashion a man can, if necessary, keep on his feet to the last and make his wants and conditions known. Not so with the scurvy which will take a strong man's feet from under him as completely as if snuffed by a railroad train.

Another man lay on his back three days on the outskirts of town with nothing within his reach but dry flour. A well-dressed man named Hillman laid helpless on Dominon creek until healed to town by sympathizing miners. Were he on the outside there is no place in America where he would not at once be taken care of. In Dawson the Yukon government is without funds to do anything for him, and financial distress ties the hands of even the good Father Judge. That gentleman can be depended upon to do all in his power to relieve the needy, but how can he go further than the whole public charity of Dawson. The fact is that the amount of distress here has outgrown the total charity of the place, and nothing less than \$200,000 will relieve the distress of this winter. Food is here in plenty but it takes money to buy it. The foregoing and much more was all brought out at the meeting of Americans on Tuesday night last at the office of Consul McCook. Col. O. V. Davis was put in the chair and the following committees appointed: Committee to draw up a memorial—L. Seiffert, T. A. McGowan, Ensign McGill and Dr. M. W. Bruner. Committee on resolutions—H. Teroller, G. A. Sible and N. W. Belster. Finance committee—W. E. Bard, G. Seiffert, A. Bartlett, Falcon Joslyn and Dr. Merriman. H. Teroller said he was going out for his company and volunteered his services to carry the memorial personally to congress.

For the Outside.

Mr. E. M. Bruce and Mr. W. A. Dawkins left Dawson on Thursday for London, England, via Dux and Victoria, and expect to return in ten days. Mr. Bruce made the trip up from St. Michaels in his own little steamer and made an extensive study of all the known gold creeks in the interest of his London patrons. The gentleman is a well-faught mineralogist besides being a special correspondent to the London Star, and takes back with him a firm and abiding faith in this country as a great gold producer for a considerable time to come. The two gentlemen left with a dog team each and expect to be among the very first to reach the coast.

Private Trails.

If it were not for the competition of the various road-houses in the Hunker, Dominion and Sulphur districts, the miner who has to navigate his own grub up the creeks, would have a much harder time. In a great many places they have not only kept the trail in good repair, but actually built new ones.

On Hunker the various road-houses have kept one or two men at work on the trail most of the time, one firm has built a trail across country, striking Klondike a mile or so from the mouth of Hunker, and making the distance to Dawson a couple of miles less. This cuts several road-houses off the line of travel, but the "sled musser" will have a shorter and better road.

The Dominion and Upper Hunker people have built a switch-back trail from the left fork of Hunker to the summit and a trail thence down to Lombard creek.

Perhaps the best work in this line has been done by J. L. Green who has a road-house at the head of Gold Bottom. He has built a trail

from 10 above discovery to the summit. This trail has a gradual slope and a man can easily haul 450 pounds up at a trip. From the summit a trail has been built down to 75 above on Sulphur. Mr. Green is considering the proposition of building a like trail down to Dominion, cutting the hill this side of the dome. Joe Cook has his tramway in operation and is pulling sleds up over the divide between Gold Bottom and Sulphur.

If the government will not do their part business competition must keep the trails fairly passable.

There is one good thing about it though, a man is not held up on these trails and made to "dig up." He is simply invited by the builder and erstwhile host of the road house to step in and partake.

GOOD WORDS FROM FORTY-MILE.

Many Men at Work—Trails Hot With Travel—Fires on Every Claim in Canyon.

[Special to the Nugget.] I have the pleasure of submitting the following information concerning prospects and development in Forty-Mile, based on personal information during a trip recently made through a large portion of the district.

So far as the post is concerned things are very different from what they were last season, when the town was practically deserted. Now, every cabin in and out of town, as well as in Cadahay, is occupied—headquarters of men who are out on the creeks hunting for gold. The companies stores and the saloons have been doing a rattling good business; while the scarcity of provisions at Eagle City makes Forty-Mile the supply point for the new town over the border.

The trail up Forty-Mile is easily the finest in the land, level and smooth as the floor for more than 30 miles. Roadhouses are numerous, being located every 12 or 15 miles as far as Chicken creek, and as they furnish good accommodations are doing a flourishing trade. Both going and coming we met great numbers of men moving outfits up the creek, and it is safe to say there are now more than 2,000 men at work in the district. With the opening of winter travel on the Yukon this number will be greatly increased by the arrival from Dawson of the many men who are interested here; so there is a certainty that some sections, at least, of Forty-Mile will receive a pretty fair prospecting this winter.

The bulk of the travel seemed to be up the north fork to Hutchinson creek, the trail crossing the divide at the head of Granite and dropping down into Hutchinson at discovery.

Hutchinson creek resembles Bonanza in many respects, having about the same length, with formation and other characteristics. There is no doubt that rich gravel has been discovered here, but as to its extent, though the miners swear it will prove another Bonanza this winter's work will tell that story. Some 250 men are busy on the first chapter. On Chicken creek about 250 men are at work; many of them on 50 per cent. lays. Several good strikes were made during the past two months on the main creek and also on Myers and Stonehouse forks. We counted 17 cabins on discovery alone. Joe Dyer declares he will take out \$100,000.00 this winter. Walker's Fork, with room and to spare for 2,000, has only 250 men at work, but they are doggers and will give a good account of themselves next spring. Claims on this creek are 1,000 feet in length. On Napoleon creek, the N. A. T. & C. Co. have had a force of men at work all summer and will continue the same during the winter. We did not see many on Buckskin, but it will receive a thorough prospecting this winter. On Butte creek about 55 men are developing promising claims located last summer, while Dome and O'Brien will have 200 workers sinking when the ground gets in condition.

Fires are burning on almost every claim on Upper Canyon, and including its tributaries, Camp Woods, Hall, Iles and Squaw, about 150 men are opening up claims. The most important strike of late was made on No. 7 above discovery on Squaw, owned by Roy M. P. Ke.

Here we found 12 to 15 inches of gravel that showed from 20 to 60 cents by actual weight, no guessing, to the pan; and this without touching bedrock. Out of a dozen no pan had less than 20 cents. Bedrock is 10 to 12 feet from the surface on this claim; about the average depth on the creek. All the foregoing creeks are in American territory, where claims are large and miners' law prevails. On the Canadian side of the line not much is being done, except on Miller and Glacier creeks where perhaps 50 men are at work.

Taking it all in all, as one of the old miners said "if Forty-Mile keeps up her lick, she'll boom in the spring." But boom or no boom we have good reason to believe that Forty-Mile will make a heavy contribution to the output of the Yukon country in '99. Yours truly,

THOS. H. PIKE.

FORTY-MILE, Y. T., Nov. 27, 1898.

In From Selkirk.

Major Bliss, of the Yukon field forces, arrived in town last Wednesday with the official mail sack from Selkirk. He was accompanied down by Private Docherty. It is the major's first trip "mushing" dogs and he refers to it as a pleasant incident in his experience of life on the Yukon. When he left Selkirk the mail was to follow in two or three days. It would have been sent on here this but the Yukon field force was handicapped for teams, the dogs having been sent up the river to bring down the outfit of the new gold commissioner and his party stuck in the ice some 16 or 17 miles above. The major thinks it quite possible the mail may accompany the new gold commissioner's party to Dawson.

For Sale.

A limited number of Japanese cash boxes with strong locks. Newarr office.

LATE NEWS FROM CIRCLE CITY.

A Good Trail Nearly All the Way Down the River.

Charley River Open at the Mouth—The Diggings Back of Circle Showing up Well—Circle Begins to Look Like Old Times.

J. C. Mather, a merchant of Circle City arrived over the ice in Dawson on Saturday last. He, with several companions made the trip from Circle in 26 days, six of which they spent in camp. Mr. Mather reports that the trail for the most part is exceptionally fine. With the exception of the first 51 miles this side of Circle the very best time can be made. In that particular stretch of river, however, travelling is most difficult. Great jams of ice, piled higher than a house, occur at frequent intervals, and often two immense blocks will be found jammed together in the shape of a letter Y, leaving the traveler to pick his way through or around as best he may.

Four or five miles a day is considered very good progress under such circumstances. Mather advises no one to participate in stampedes to Charley river. He says that, as a result of an almost continuous flow of hot water, it is very hard to pass across the mouth of Charley river and much more difficult to ascend the stream to the diggings which are located 21 miles from the mouth.

Prospects at Circle City are looking much brighter than at any previous time since the stampede to Dawson nearly depopulated the town. There are, probably 700 people living in the town and scarcely an unoccupied cabin is to be found. An equally large number of men are at work on the diggings. There is every evidence being shown that a handsome yield will be had next spring. There have been few rich strikes found in the season that the expression is understood in Dawson, but on the other hand there has yet failed to be recorded a single claim where thorough prospecting did not show pay rich enough to work. On Bonanza creek it is no uncommon thing for one man to take out \$30 in a day.

Among the newer creeks that are commanding attention at Circle are Hoggum, Butte and Sam. On all of these good prospects have been located.

There is plenty of grub at Circle. In fact, more than there is any probability will be needed. The main diggings are 50 or 70 miles from town and are reached by a trail which is none of the best. In summer it is well-nigh impassable. Business in the town is good and everyone seems to be satisfied with the present condition and future outlook of the place.

St. Mary's.

The report for the week ending, November 20th, shows the number of inmates to be gradually decreasing, owing probably to the difficulty of getting sick people to town from the gulches through the bitter cold we have lately been having. Twenty new patients were received during the week, and 26 discharged, which with three deaths left 99 inmates in the hospital. The deaths were: Robert H. Byers, aged 30, from Toronto, Can., on November 24th. Sam Hainhi, aged 29, a native of Finland, on November 25th. R. F. Davis, aged 44, from Oregon City, Oregon on November 20th.

Road House Licenses.

The Yukon council met on Monday evening. It was decided to devote a portion of the Good Samaritan hospital to the use of indigent patients in a mild state of acclimature. The amending of the fire ordinance was referred to the fire commissioners.

It was decided that the license for road houses should be \$250 for the balance of the year; the license year ending June 1, 1899.

A petition was received and read from the heads of families representing some 40 children of school age, praying that Dawson and vicinity be made a school district. The matter was referred to Judge Dugas to be taken up at some future meeting.

A Suggestion.

I have often looked at the ground upon which the city of Dawson is built, and think that good pay dirt would be found if prospected to bed rock. Now, what is the matter with the officials, who are to a great extent responsible for the health of the inhabitants of Dawson, sinking a shaft or two for bed rock and at the same time locating run-of-river drifts on bed rock from the back end of the townsite, connect them with the river, and use these drifts as sewers? Then when spring comes they can sluice the gravel onto the different streets and have a good roadway instead of billing in sawdust. In this manner they could get revenue out of some of the prisoners. Yours truly,

J. SLOAN JOHNSON.

[Something like the foregoing has been suggested before to this paper, but the idea of connecting the drifts with the river and utilizing them as sewers is novel to say the least. Would not the warm water of the river cause those drifts to cave? Or would not bed rock be too far below the level of the river to give any fall to these novel sewers?—Ed.]

A Good Map for 50 Cents.

The Mine Exchange Map of the Klondike Gold Fields should be in the hands of every miner. For sale at the Nugget office. Price 50 cents.

Notice.

All births, death and marriages must be reported to Captain Batcher, registrar of births, deaths and marriages. Non-compliance with this order will subject the offender to penalty.

Every Wednesday and Saturday the Nugget is delivered to subscribers. \$2.00 per month.

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