

HARDSHIPS IN ALASKA.

Victims of Edmonton Trail Relate Many Hair Breadth Escapes from Death—Five Men's Terrible Journey Through Unexplored Wilds Without a Guide.

(Seattle Post Intelligence.)

SEVENTY-MILE RIVER, Alaska, Dec. 30, 1898.—There is a story of hardship, characteristic of Alaska, with incidents of cold and semi-starvation, a perilous journey for help through an unexplored wilderness, and a prompt and heroic attempt at rescue.

J. A. Ritchie, of Montreal; D. A. Moffat, of Winnipeg; Roy Moffat, of Pembroke, Ont.; Philip Billneau, French Canadian, of Dalnuth; and "Alec" Holmes, of Fresno, Cal., were five victims of the much-lauded Edmonton route, who found themselves on the headwaters of the Porcupine river this season too late to attempt the descent of that river by boat.

With no other guide than one of Ollivier's charts, they started, sometime after winter had set in, to make a southward cross-country trip of about 200 miles to reach the Yukon.

Ritchie and Moffat left the others October 31. They crossed the three little lakes at the extreme headwaters of the Porcupine, till, over a low mountain range, with snow about two feet deep, traversed a wide and uneven valley drained by three tributaries of the mysterious Ogishie river, climbed over another low range, and found themselves on the head of the Left Fork of Big Sheep creek, which pours into the Yukon six or seven miles below here, or about 130 miles below Dawson.

They had seen some game on the way, but as is the proverbial case with starving men, they were unable to get any of it. They were followed by a pack of wolves, a band of the huge Alaska timber wolves.

These were so threatening that the young men saved their remaining ammunition to protect themselves in case of attack. Alaska wolves, by the way, though of the largest size, have rarely, if ever, been known to attack man, but instances are not rare of their boldness in attack on a dog team on the road.

Over six weeks passed and no word was heard from them. The people of Seventy Mile and Sher began to talk of sending a relief party after them. Finally yesterday the Post-Intelligencer correspondent made the trip to the cabin on Sheep creek, and there found the party had just returned. They had been six days practically without food, but, as they expressed it, were "all right now," having eaten frequently and generally since getting home.

THEY LEFT A NOTE.

Unfortunately, they had not found the party whom they had gone to relieve. They had found the camp at Salmon hole, near Fish Branch, and had there found a note left by Moffat, saying that the party had been unable to replenish their supply of game or fish, and, fearing that assistance might be delayed in reaching them, had decided to attempt the return trip to La Pierre house, some 200 miles down the Porcupine, on the Bell river, the terminus of the portage from Fort McPherson, on the Peel river. La Pierre house is an old abandoned trading post, but a few Indians usually winter in that vicinity, and from there the men might get help. Otherwise, they might be able to make the "portage" to Fort McPherson, 80 miles further where some of the party had a large amount of provisions cached. Though the notes did not so state, it was evident that Holmes was able to travel, though doubtless with some aid from the dogs, of which they had seven.

Ritchie thinks they were doubtless able to make the trip, though they started with so little food that they would probably have to eat some of the dogs, a necessity to which more than one Alaska

traveller has been driven in times past. They were not, however, very warmly clothed to withstand cold on short rations.

"It is to be regretted," said Mr. Pate, "that they did not come on their way, instead of turning back to cover 200 miles further north. Had they done so, they would have met us about half way, and both parties of us would have probably been saved a considerable hardship. However, they knew their way back over the trail they had come and were ignorant of the country thence. They had no means of knowing if their partners had reached the Yukon or had not been lost, and perished in the mountains, a fate which might overtake another such attempt."

The members of the relief party were glad to go into "harrowing details" of their experiences; they had no desire to pose as heroes of remarkable adventures and were disposed to make light of their hardships, jokingly remarking that they had discovered the needlessness of carrying provisions in an Alaskan winter. "I was a little weaker all the time, but I had the little tea and tobacco we had helped out wonderfully. The worst feature about going without food is that it makes you more susceptible to cold, more apt to freeze. We were unable to sleep the last two nights—had to stay up and keep a roaring fire going. Yes, of course, we had the dogs, and had we not known that we could probably hold out until we reached home, one or two of the animals might have gone the way of the fish."

That they had gone without food almost a long week was evidenced to them shortly after their arrival, when they attempted to eat. Sternberg fainted outright, and considerable effort was required to bring him around. The others experienced more or less inconvenience, as nausea, vertigo, etc., but with a little rest they were able to eat heartily. On the trip they had but one opportunity for a shot at game. A moose was seen, and Sternberg, the hardest of the party, and a man of some reputation as a hunter who did not "miss," attempted to secure the animal, and "missed."

"That worried Jules said one of the party, "but a really hungry man can never hit anything any way."

The men were able to work yesterday repairing sleds and snowshoes, sacrificed on the trip, while the other two men pushed on with four. All the party were rather poorly provided with clothing for cold weather, but they were stout young fellows, ranging in age from 25 to 35.

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ASSOCIATED CHARITIES.

ORGANIZING THE SOCIETIES OF THE CITY FOR THE PREVENTION OF FRAUD IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF.

The citizens of St. John, particularly those interested in charitable work, were invited to assemble at the mayor's office, Friday afternoon, and consider the advisability of organizing the charities of the city for the benefit of the poor and the prevention of fraud. In response to the invitation, a large number of citizens gathered at the office of the chief magistrate.

The mayor acted as chairman, and opened it by stating that the meeting was the result of a number of gatherings held at the residence of Mrs. J. V. Ellis. Great interest had been taken in these meetings by Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Stetson, Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Ritchie, Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. MacMichael, Miss Leavitt and Miss Murray.

Minutes of these meetings were read showing how the matter had been developed by the ladies who had during the later meetings had called upon a number of experienced gentlemen to assist them in working out the details.

Mrs. Skinner was on motion appointed secretary of the meeting. A statement of the situation of the organization was read by Mrs. Ellis, which showed the intention of organizing Associated Charities of the City, and had been brought to the attention of the Women's Council by the King's Daughters. Information had been given by Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Stetson, Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Ritchie, Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. MacMichael, Miss Leavitt and Miss Murray.

The objects of the society shall be to secure the concurrent and unanimous action of the different charities of St. John; in order to reduce the needy above the need of relief; prevent begging and imposture, and diminish pauperism; to encourage thrift, self-dependence and industry through financial instruction; to give aid in the form of knowledge and sympathy; and to aid the poor to help themselves; to prevent children growing up as paupers; to aid in the education of knowledge and subjects connected with the relief of the poor.

Behind every great man you will find a great mother. Behind every great woman you will find a healthy child. A child's physical and mental well-being depends upon the mother's health. A woman's health is the foundation upon which the child's health is built. During the period of gestation, the mother's health is of the greatest importance. It affects directly the health of the child. It is the mother's duty to take proper care of herself and to give her child the best possible start in life.

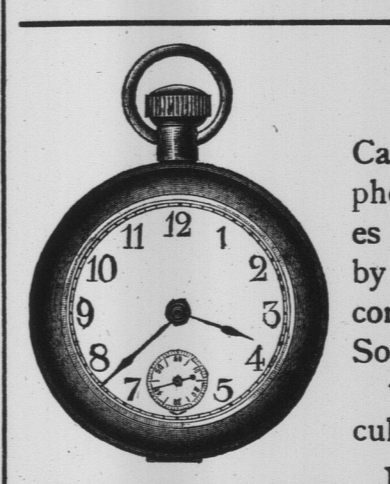
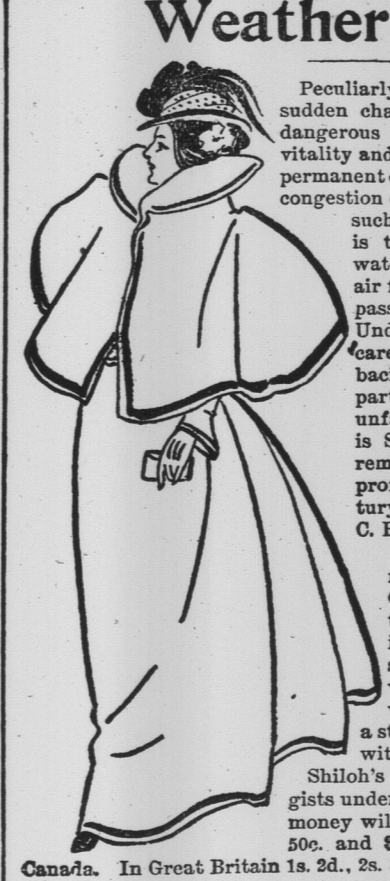
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Weather Changes

Peculiarly weakening to the human system are sudden changes of weather. Taking cold is as dangerous as taking a fever. Colds impair the vitality and if allowed to run result in general and permanent debility. Every cough brings on a slight congestion of the lungs and a sufficient number of such congestions injure the structure. This is the invitation which consumption is watching for. The germs which float in the air find ready lodgment in the inflamed air passages and begin their work of destruction. Under proper treatment and with proper care for the general health the tubercular bacilli may be thrown off and the affected parts healed like any ordinary wound. The unfailing specific for incipient consumption is Shiloh's Consumption Cure, a standard remedy which has been used in successful professional practice for nearly half a century. The following testimonial from Mrs. C. H. West, of Farina, Ill., is one of many:

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THESE ARE ALWAYS HOPE. Bright's Disease and Kindred Kidney Troubles Have Lost Their Terror—South American Kidney Care Wages a Successful War.

Carlists in Spain. MADRID, March 5.—The Carlists are showing signs of reviving activity. A band of two thousand deserters from the Spanish army is now gathered near the French frontier, refusing to return to Spain, although the men have been pardoned. Carlist demonstrations, it is reported, have taken place at Valencia, but no details are procurable here.

THE DOCTOR'S CONSOLATION. Told Mr. Hill He Was a Dying Man, But South American Nerve Cared When Hope Was Abandoned.

DEATH'S CLOSE NEIGHBOR. For Twenty Years Mrs. Roadhouse Was a Subject of Dread Heart Disease—Dr. Agnew's Cure for the Heart Gave Her Relief in Less Than Half an Hour.

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