

AN EXCEEDINGLY HARD TRIP.

Railroad Blockaded and Snow at Summit 12 Feet Deep.

Three Men Arrive, Footsore and Weary, 20 Days From Bennett—Dog Feed 60 Cents Per Pound.

Three men—Nugget Express Messenger H. Buckhols, and Messrs. Young and Seaver, the latter two claim owners of 14 and 15, Eldorado—arrived yesterday, 20 days from Bennett, the three previous days having been required to make the trip from Skagway to Bennett. Owing to the heavy snows which is badly drifted in places, the White Pass & Yukon road was temporarily out of business so far as its operating department was concerned when the trio started on their long trip, with the result that the journey to Bennett had to be made on foot and by breaking a trail for the dogs and sled over every mile of the 40. Mr. Buckhols, when seen by a Daily Nugget representative last night, said the snow at the summit when his party crossed was from 10 to 12 feet deep and the wind was blowing as it usually does there, at the rate of 400 miles an hour, and mercury 40 degrees below zero. Two entire days were consumed in traveling from the summit to Bennett, a distance of only 20 miles.

From Bennett down this way the first six miles of the lake is very bad on account of drifted and drifting snow, but from there on to Dawson the only drawbacks experienced were from the unusually cold weather and strong head winds which blew incessantly. Mr. Buckhols says the men endured the winds much better than did the dogs, three of the five dogs with which the party started giving out, necessitating their being left behind at various stations along the trail. Fresh dogs were provided, however, and the journey continued to a successful termination. At Lebarge, owing to the unusual severity of the wind, the party laid up for 48 hours and when a start was finally made it was in the face of a howling hurricane.

In speaking of the cutoffs, Mr. Buckhols describes them as being a great improvement over the old all-river route, and this being his sixth trip over the ice, he is certainly in a position to speak knowingly on the situation, but regarding the treatment of travelers over the cutoffs with dogs, he can not speak so flatteringly.

"Aside from the cutoff," said he, "there is an established rate for dog feed all along the route from Bennett to Dawson. The price is 30 cents per pound for dry dog feed, but on cutoff trail they won't sell you dry dog feed. They will not allow a man to cook dog feed for his dogs, but cook it themselves and charge 30 cents for it cooked. Now, eight pounds of dry feed make 19 pounds when it is cooked, and that is what I call the rankest kind of graft. One roadhouse on the first cutoff coming down charged men 60 cents per pound for cooked dog feed, and I advise all travelers to stock up before reaching that part of the route."

Buckhols heard nothing new regarding the disappearance of the Clayson party, further than that six men have been arrested and are being held, four at Tagish and two at Lebarge, on suspicion of being implicated in the mystery.

The Crown Woodpile.

One of the busiest places in the city is the crown woodpile, where a score or more of men and four horses are kept busy "all the livelong day" at the work of converting long wood into suitable stove sizes. Aside from the horse power supplied for the saw, the labor is all performed by prisoners who are all doing time for offenses of one sort and another, each man having a date to which he anxiously looks forward. Some of the dates may be only a few

days, others several months in the future. The men are not oppressed in any way. If physically able, they must work steadily and regularly, they are well fed and warmly clothed, and in many cases, so far as they are physically concerned, they are in better condition while "doing time" than when bumping around outside and striving to exist by their wits and petty theft. For Dawson, the crown woodpile is a good institution and cases are indeed rare in which innocent men are employed on it.

Buckets of Gold.

Dr. L. O. Wilcoxon returned yesterday from a short trip with his partner, Humboldt Gates, to their claims, 8 and 18 on Sulphur. At the latter mine work has been resumed after a short delay caused by the breaking of the thawing machinery. Work on both their Sulphur claims is now progressing rapidly with the most satisfactory results, the paystreak growing very much richer as they get further in, the dirt hoisted on Friday running 20 cents to the pan, while by Saturday afternoon the general average of several pans washed out was 30 cents. Gates and Wilcoxon are increasing their forces and from now on the work will be pushed to the full capacity.

Dr. Wilcoxon visited Gold Hill on Sunday where he asserts that Dr. D. S. Carper has on his claim the most perfectly systematized mode of mining in the entire district. His machinery appliances are so arranged that one man at the mouth of the shaft can easily handle the 600 buckets of dirt which are taken out daily, being hoisted 80 feet. Dr. Carper's claim is a very rich one, as much as \$100 having been washed from one pan.

Dr. Wilcoxon says the aggregate amount of gold washed out on the various creeks at the cleanup will be very much in excess of the general estimate.

A Bear Story.

Only four years ago this winter, according to the annals of an old timer who was here at that time, it was not uncommon to see bears in what is now a portion of the city of Dawson, and the few prospectors who were here at that time had to keep close watch on their caches to prevent their being raided by Bruin. The old timer related an incident that happened that winter to a man who had a cache on the top of the hill above Klondike City. He had built it on posts to prevent dogs from getting at his stock, but had not thought to take the precaution to make it bear proof. Among other things the cache contained several sides of bacon and upwards of a bushel of dried apples. On returning from a trip up the creek one day about the middle of the afternoon he was surprised to find two large bears lying on the ground under his cache, and it took but a glance to convince him that a heavy raid had been made on his winter's supply of provisions. A later invoice of the stock showed that the bears had eaten two sides of bacon and the entire stock of dried apples. The after effects of such a repast were such as to produce drowsiness on the part of the animals with the result that they did not care to return to their lairs in the hills, but stayed on the scene of their late glutinous meal. Not being armed and deciding that discretion was the better part of valor, the victim of the daylight robbery hid himself up into the branches of a tree and called lustily for help. His cries were heard by a brother miner, who repaired towards the prisoner in the tree, who yelled to the rescuer to go back and bring a gun. It took several balls from a Winchester to dispatch the shaggy brutes, but even when wounded they did not appear to recover from their stupidity and resume their normal bear habits. The bacon and dried apples had been too much for them and they died victims of their own greed.

Record of Transfers.

J. C. Peterson to P. Anderson, four forty-fifths interest in No. 1 Monte Cristo.

O. Merton to S. T. Prather, hillside

claim opposite upper half, left limit, No. 8 Boulder.

A. J. Williams to J. R. Reed et al, half interest in bench, left limit, opposite 52 below on Bonanza.

French Exploration Company to C. A. Chapman six-eighths interest in the 75 foot fraction at the upper end of No. 17 Eldorado.

Tabor and Hume to R. Fraser and J. P. Pike, eighth interest in hillside opposite upper half, left limit, of No. 2 on a pup at No. 1 below on Bear.

Miss M. Gates to R. Fraser and J. P. Pike, three eighths interest in hillside opposite upper half, left limit, of No. 2 on a pup at No. 1 below on Bear.

D. Kennedy to W. A. Rystrom, a bench on the 10th tier, left limit, off of No. 30 hydraulic reserve, Hunker.

P. B. Tyler to E. Smith, hillside opposite lower half, left limit of No. 46 below on Hunker.

D. Kennedy to C. S. Rogers, half interest in a bench on the eighth tier, left limit, off of No. 30, hydraulic reserve, Hunker.

F. Banta to C. J. Cunningham et al, third interest of the bench opposite the upper half, left limit, of No. 5 above the mouth of Last Chance.

M. Golobich to M. Malesich, fourth interest in hillside opposite upper half, right limit of No. 79 below on Bonanza.

F. Nichols to D. Doig, third interest in No. 11 above on Gold Bottom.

P. B. Tyler to E. Smith, half interest in hillside opposite lower half of No. 1 above upper discovery on Dominion.

J. Goebel to E. Smith, half of hillside, left limit, opposite 26 above on Sulphur.

G. W. Powell to E. Smith, half interest of hillside, left limit, opposite lower half of 32 above on Sulphur.

W. Ripley to E. Smith, half of hillside, left limit, opposite upper half of 25 above on Sulphur.

W. C. Gates to W. Thorburn, half interest of No. 2 on a pup at No. 13 Eldorado.

A. Murray to W. Austin, half of hillside opposite upper half of No. 7 above on Quartz.

J. H. Goebel to E. Smith, half of hillside, left limit, opposite upper half of No. 68 below on Hunker.

J. J. Wilson to E. M. Sullivan, half of hillside, left limit, opposite No. 35a below on Hunker.

B. F. Laughlin et al to P. D. Carper, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 American gulch.

H. Te Roller to A. Williams, No. 58b below on Sulphur.

T. Renard to W. M. Heron, lower half of No. 4 Gay Gulch.

Asa Wyman to F. D. Stevens, quarter interest in the upper half of No. 241 below lower discovery on Dominion.

G. Gates to W. G. Baird third of bench, No. 12, on 49 group, opposite No. 49 below on Bonanza.

T. E. Williams to F. C. Williams, three-quarter of No. 86 below on Sulphur.

T. E. Williams to J. Le Mar, quarter of No. 86 below on Sulphur.

A. W. Robinson to S. Harkness, hillside, right limit, opposite upper half of No. 33 below upper on Dominion.

C. J. Mulkey to C. W. Green et al, quarter of the lower half of No. 13 Gay Gulch.

H. Marshall to W. Privets, half of bench, right limit, opposite No. 30 Bonanza.

M. Kennedy et al to F. H. Hicks et al, No. 6 O'Neil Gulch.

W. H. P. Clement to M. Williams, half of bench, left limit off of lower half of No. 42 below on Bonanza.

W. H. P. Clement to M. Williams, hillside, right limit, opposite upper half of No. 29 Eldorado.

C. Scheck to P. L. Lewis, third of hillside, right limit, opposite upper half of No. 17 above on Hunker.

M. B. Stark to H. R. Walker, three-eighths of hillside, right limit, opposite No. 1, Throldike.

T. Dwyer to D. E. Griffith, hillside, right limit, opposite lower half of No. 15 below on Canon.

E. Norman to E. Boltes, bench on second tier, right limit, opposite lower half of No. 5 below on Hunker.

E. Coulombe to A. Bonchard et al, hillside, left limit, opposite upper half of No. 3 above the mouth of Last Chance.

J. E. Smith to D. J. Bell, half of hillside, right limit, opposite upper half of No. 172b below upper on Dominion.

J. Peirano to F. Vendett et al, half of bench on fifth tier, left limit, opposite 33 on the hydraulic reserve, Hunker.

J. Patterson to R. Henry, third of bench, right limit, opposite No. 15 below on Bonanza.

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A patent was issued on the 20th of December last by the department at Ottawa to Mr. J. H. Holme, of Dawson, for the steam drill which is in common use by mine owners using steam hoisting machinery. Mr. Holme will in future have entire control of the manufacture and sale of the drills. He has already instructed that legal proceedings be taken against all persons infringing upon his patent.

Nugget Express Daily Stage

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