

THINGS THEY'LL DO AT NOME

Each Person Has a Scheme in Case Mining Fails.

Specialists in all Pursuits See Golden Wealth Beckoning Them on—Confidence Principal Stock in Trade.

"The fact that I have decided to not go to Nome over the ice does not by any means imply that I have given up the idea of going altogether, for I expect to get away on the first boat that leaves after navigation opens."

The above expression or its substance is now heard twenty times or more every day in Dawson around the loafer's haunts. The truth is that when it comes to the test of starting on the long trip over the ice, a trip that none can expect to complete short of 50 days of steady travel it takes a much larger supply of grit than in found in a great many people, and the result is that many of them have decided or are deciding to forego the venture and take chances with the common herd after the melting away of the ice. Besides many say "as for me, I do not expect to do much mining after I reach Nome. I can make more money at something else." Along this latter line a Nugget man held a series of interviews until he had obtained expressions from 25 people, 16 men and nine women, who announced their intention of going to Nome. The majority of the men and four of the women said they want to try beach mining for a time until they can wash out sufficient gold to enable them to start in some business or other.

One man has already ordered a stock of cigars and smokers' articles from Seattle to be shipped up by the time he arrives there which he says will be by the middle of June. Another expects to go to Skagway over the ice in March and go on below and take a half dozen milch cows to Nome. "Why," said he, "milk will bring any price a fellow asks for it there next summer." Two men are going in partnership in a cider stand. Their outfit will consist principally of dried apples, brown sugar and a water bucket.

A fellow for whom the royal wood pie has long yearned, but who works just enough to stand off being pulled on the charge of vagrancy, says he has written to his wife in Portland to meet him at Nome in the spring, where, he informed the reporter "we will start a laundry."

A young man whom 12 years ago his parents thought would break into the White House in the capacity of president long before this time, says if he can't do well at mining a friend of his who went down last fall will give him a job at dealing black jack. Four of the men interviewed thought there is big money to be made in the brokerage and mining exchange business. One man who has a wife and eight grown children in Vancouver has written them to meet him in Nome with a restaurant outfit. He said "there is enough of us to do our own work and we will cop lots of dough." And thus it is all down the line. Each man has selected some particular business, a sort of specialty, at which he is confident he can make a fortune, or if not a fortune enough to put him in easy circumstances for the balance of his life.

The women, too, are ambitious to get a share of Nome's reputed golden wealth. One said she had tried the lunch counter business in every mining camp west of the Black Hills and believes that a fortune yet awaits her and that Nome is where she will earn it.

A dance hall "bat" said "I have been dancing all over the West since the days of '49 and haven't made a stake yet, and if I can't do something at Nome it'll be off with your baby."

A little woman who means well, but

whose only attainment in the line of the culinary art is that she knows how to boil water said "I just know I can make money at Nome running a big eating house. Besides doing the cooking I think I can also wait on the tables and do the cashier work. I am going to save all my money and when we get back to our old home in Kentucky I'll buy a three-minute horse and one of those cute little phaetons with basket work on it."

There are probably 3000 people in Dawson who, if asked today, would tell you "Oh, yes, I, or we, will surely go to Nome in the spring," and if asked what they expected to do on reaching there a very large majority would tell you they expect to mine, but in case they are crowded out on that lay, they will invariably hint that they have another scheme which they know will be a money maker.

Perhaps 25 per cent of those who now say they are going will really make the trip, but unless something is discovered in the Nome district than is now in sight, Dawson will be a live, active mining town when owls hoot at midnight in the garrets of what next summer will be Nome's monuments to Yankee push and Yankee enterprise in the way of imposing buildings.

Seward Territory.

A movement is on foot to divide the district of Alaska into two or more territories, making the Southwestern portion, everything below Mount St. Elias, Seward territory. This would include nine tenths of Alaska's population, aside from those who are located at Nome. A late Washington City telegram says:

"The senate committee on territories considered a bill creating three judicial districts for Alaska, and for revision of the laws of the United States, applying to territories. A number of Alaska men were present and made suggestions which they desired to be incorporated in the law. They were asked if there was any sentiment in favor of dividing the territory at Mount St. Elias, making the southeastern portion the territory of Seward. Their reply was that the people believed that such a division would be necessary at some future time. The judicial bill was referred to a sub-committee."

Captain Rickett's Pastime.

New York, Feb. 5.—Captain Basil Ricketts, a hero of the Spanish war, is in receipt of an offer from the Transvaal government to go to South Africa and accept a Colonel's commission in the Boer army.

He is an American and a resident of New York city. Two months ago it was announced that he was drilling men nightly in Union square, New York, when most of the inhabitants of the town were asleep. Each night the drill master was accompanied by a number of prominent young clubmen who offered these sarcrows, who were taken from the long line which waits each dawn to get free bread from a bakery at Tenth street. It was rumored then that this drilling was in preparation for the serious business of transplanting these unfortunates in South Africa to aid the Boers.

Mr. Ricketts made a remarkable record in the war with Spain, and returned an invalid, covered with wounds and glory. He had any quantity of the latter and eleven of the former, and he is not altogether a well man yet, although he still retains his war-spirit. This is said to be the real reason for the ghostly drilling in Union square. The pain of his old wounds kept Mr. Ricketts awake of nights, and nothing relieved him so much as to get out and forget it all in the excitement of putting a lot of men, though poorly dressed, through their paces. It also gave him just enough exercise to make him sleep well.

It seems that the story found its way to some official of the Boer republic. The result is a most flattering offer for Captain Ricketts to take service under the red, white, blue and green flag. Not only would he get a colonel's com-

mission, but with it would go the pay of a general of brigade and a percentage of whatever of value his command might capture.

This command was to be made up after the manner of the Rough Riders, but with only English-speaking recruits in its ranks. They were to be detailed for quick raids on British depots of supplies, towns, gold mines and the diamond fields.

Mr. Ricketts does not look upon the proposition with favor it is said. He does not altogether sympathize with the Boer end of the game, and even if he did he thinks the war might be ended before he got to the Transvaal and had his command thoroughly organized and drilled. Also his wounds still continue to pain him and, altogether, he finds life in New York more to his mind just at just at present. It is also certain that not one of the clubmen who helped him drill the "scarecrow regiment" in Union square would go with him, as they all sympathize with Britain.

Theosophical Club.

The local interest created by the Yukon Theosophical Club in occultism and kindred subjects demands fuller expression than has thus far been given them. The next meeting will be devoted to a comprehensive lecture by a theosophical student and ex-F. T. S., on theosophy in the 20th century and its relation to other philosophies and religions from the earliest times to the present age. The meeting convenes at 7:30 p. m., over the Juneau Hardware store on Second ave, on Wednesday, Feb. 21. Meetings open and free to all.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Fred Cord is in town. R. Butler is a visitor in the city. William Hoy came to the city yesterday.

D. Bettinger is a guest at the Fairview hotel.

P. W. Doyle of Grand Forks is in town on business.

Miss Doran of Dominion creek, is a visitor to the city.

A. J. Macdonald of Sulphur is in town for a few days.

E. B. Steadman and party left for the outside this morning.

F. C. Jackson of Grand Forks is registered at the Fairview.

John Sullivan and A. Lane are in Dawson on a visit from the creeks.

Mrs. C. J. O'Donnell of Magnet gulch, is visiting friends in Dawson.

J. C. Shafe, proprietor of a Gold Bottom roadhouse, is in the city on business.

James Campbell and Tom Fiske, two Dawson sports, are recent arrivals from the outside.

Myrtle and Maud Drummond two well known variety artists returned to Dawson recently.

Doctor Richardson, an old time resident of Dawson, arrived from Skagway Sunday afternoon.

L. Scheffere, John Ryley and Joe Bradreck are shaking hands with their Dawson acquaintances.

Mr and Mrs. G. K. French of Fort Egbert, arrived in Dawson yesterday. They are registered at the Regina.

Dr. Richardson, Alex Prudhomme, William E. Burrit and the Keys Brothers arrived from Bennett yesterday.

Capt. J. J. Healy has given up making the trip over the ice to the outside and has sold his ten fine malamute dogs to parties who will take them to Nome.

J. E. McAlpine, who left for the outside with Col. Evans on Nov. 28 returned to Dawson Sunday. Mr. McAlpine visited the different coast cities including San Francisco, which city he left on the 23d of January on his return trip. Mac made a good trip in coming from Cariboo in 14 days. He will proceed in a few days to his claim, No. 5 below upper discovery on Dominion with the expectation of proceeding immediately with the work of developing his claim. His partner, C. W. F. Johnson will be in next spring. Mac reports a fine trip and looks the picture of health.

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