

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

A Resume of the Trail for Benefit of Travelers.

Complete List of Road Houses—Distances and Ratings—The Latest News of the Day Up to Arrival at Skaguay.

SKAGUAY, Feb. 19, 1899.

While it is a pleasant thing to note that our long overland journey of 600 miles has been completed; yet it is not without some faint regret that the consummation thereof has been attained.

While it is pleasant, also, to feel that one's once more, to use an everyday expression, upon the threshold of civilization, surrounded with such luxuries as a comfortable modern hostelry can furnish, and we begin to see upon the table fruits, etc., of pot over-abundance in the Yukon. Nevertheless there is a lingering feeling that the ignominious "mushing" along has not been devoid of its pleasures, even amidst petty annoyances of ill-kept houses. We miss tonight even the kind companionship of the faithful, intelligent dogs which have these many days plodded along, and, despite a hard day, approach you with that animal affection so true and real that has been manifested by the four noble fellows who have never shirked and to whom we had become attached. As they are left behind and leave again for Dawson on Tuesday we shall, at least, in mind follow them along on their return trip. We miss their glances of recognition and contented wag of the tail.

Since writing that our trip has neither been particularly eventful nor uneventful. Our best days' run was on Thursday last from Miles Canyon to English Post (Staples) and that over Lake Marsh in a drifted trail, a port on water, and severe wind. Between English Post and crossing we met Nat Lyons, assistant chief of the Dawson Fire Department, and his way in, and on Bennett, Billy Thomas, Joe Barrett and others. At Bennett city was Wm. McPhee just starting out for the Yukon and looking well. The trail over the White pass, is undoubtedly, in good weather, one that is perfect; but passing that point we experienced a perfect blizzard and blinding snow storm, compelling putting into rescue camp for shelter during the night, and the morning following showing no signs of abating we proceeded in the wake of the railroad teams and finally came down through the White pass, leaving the clear cold, packed trail below Bennett for one of slash and water and on arrival here in mud, and over barren ground, with cold-few winds.

For the benefit of intending passengers or travelers over the ice route, we append here the list of stations, distances from Dawson, distances apart and comment as to accommodations:

Table with columns: MILES FROM DAWSON, ROAD HOUSES, MILES APART, FEEDBACK. Lists various road houses and their conditions.

In commenting upon the above the NEGOTIATOR has no desire other than to furnish the most reliable information to its readers and for the guidance of travelers. At some places noted above, in our estimation, as others, there may be reasons for not being up to the standard of others; but at such places as English Post, there can be no reason for the miserable table and the still more miserable service, while on the island in Lake LaBarge and middle of Lake Bennett the proprietors are just getting their houses ready. The contrast between Heydon's place, at the head of Lake LaBarge and English Post is so great that the comparison might be realized between an elephant and an ant, and yet the post has the facilities, Heydon the necessities. So much for the information.

About the trail and the trip, while all, of course, cannot make the winter trip over the ice, yet it is an experience we think none that could possibly do so, should ever miss. Think of it—running along day after day, almost the entire distance in shirt sleeves, in the clear, cold weather. And this is the honors of the trail! How the mighty and large mouthed bear of the Yukon has been hunted down by

the persistent infidel—the "chocchaco" never can a more beautiful variation of scenery be seen. Such gorgeous sunrises were never surpassed amidst the towering peaks of grand Switzerland; the barren heads of Ben Nevis and Ben Lomond in rugged Scotland, or the picturesque softening of old Sol's rays as he says "good morning" over the land of the olive and fig tree in beautiful Italy.

The morning we passed up Fifty-mile river will never be dimmed in the nooks of memory. A very early start was made from Miles Canyon and deep was the darkness pervading just prior to the dawn of morning. Gradually the far east was illumined in the softest of Quaker grays, until, on reaching the big bend some six miles above the canyon, light leaped from cloud to cloud, now tinting with the most delicate shades of pinks, reds and yellows and when coming into the long, straight stretch of river, suddenly burst forth over the whole heavens a sight so gorgeous and grand that one almost became inspired as the eyes feasted upon the rare and beautiful banquet that tempting Goddess Nature had set before them. Could the artist but reproduce the scene, how the very soul would reach out in response to the thoughts it inspires! It seemed as though the whole eastern world was one blaze of brilliant red fire, the reflections from which tantalizingly flitted from cloud tip to cloud tip across the firmament, each possessing its own peculiar tint and shade, and evoked simultaneous exclamations of admiration to be pronounced from those who witnessed that glorious sunrise in Alaskan territory. Not less beautiful were the dawnings of the day when Nature, in her milder garb, wrapped about her the shades of evening, and eloquently warned draw within the serenity of the night. The pen is unable to portray the beauties of a trip over the frozen rivers and lakes under as favorable conditions as were afforded your correspondent.

ABOUT DRESS FOR TRAVEL. Do not burden yourself down with five or six suits of underwear, and three or four suits of clothing, and heavily a leather coat and pair of pants over that. You will not require them. Wear your ordinary clothing, dress the feet warmly wearing moccasins, protect the ears, and if necessary in head winds or storms, be prepared to protect the face. Best of all is to go lightly clad and wear a good drilling "parkie." Avoid heavy furs, either as coats or parkies. Drilling is light yet protects from wind and cold.

If you are travelling with a sled of course you can carry fur robes or blankets and use your own bedding. Those not desiring to pay for meals, the customary charge for which are \$1.50, and carrying their own provisions can cook same in the road houses.

IMPROVEMENTS HEREABOUTS. It seemed strange, on arrival at Log Cabin, to find we were not at the real "old genuine" Log Cabin but a new spot about a mile from the old trail. A most excellent and easy grade roadway is now open from Bennett to Log Cabin, at which point are now located the police posts and custom house.

Here are piled up load after load of freight. Some marked Dawson, more to Atlin. The White pass & Yukon Railway have their own teams, and deliver freight from the point to which the railway is completed. Our surprise can well be imagined on our arrival at the Summit, to hear the booming two long and two short blasts of the whistle, the real crossing signal of the locomotive. To this point the road was completed and opened on Thursday, February 16. The graders are working well into Bennett now, and some 100 men are employed upon the line. Wages are \$2.50 per day and board. Fare, Skaguay to White Pass, \$3.00. Large camps for the workmen are established at several points, and the trail is kept constantly open by an immense gang of snow shovellers. Avoid the Brackett wagon road, stick to the creek coming down. The wagon road is a delusion and a snare.

Skaguay is much improved in appearance, although business is reported quiet at present, and the expected results from the Athabasca county invasion by prospectors not materializing, owing to the passing of the alien law, making it prohibitory for aliens to acquire property in the Athabasca county, has thrown a damper upon the business men who had anticipated the rush which was surely coming their way had that assinine bill not been passed. Victoria is suffering greatly in consequence, so we are informed, every merchant doing business with Victoria houses cancelling their orders and boycotting Canadian goods. Nevertheless money is reported as being in evidence in the city, the hotels well patronized, and business is being done in the city. Prices generally are reasonable.

STEAMSHIP RATES. The steamship companies have ended their war and are again locked in the smiling, embracing of mutual admiration, and have agreed upon rates between Lynn canal points and the Sound. The first and second class fares have been advanced from \$10 and \$5 to \$25 and \$15, respectively. Freight rates have also been advanced. Pretty hard to tell how soon each will be stabbing the other in the back.

We leave on the steamship "Laurada" Monday morning at 7 o'clock; Captain Francis S. White, a royal good fellow and an Elk, to whom we were introduced by our old friend Mr. Charles Malinsky, of Portland, now in the government service at Skaguay, inviting us at once aboard his ship, where every courtesy was and is being extended us. Blowing a gale as usual in Skaguay, but the world moves on.

COUNTERFEIT BILLS ALIEN. SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 7. It is stated that United States secret service officers, aided by Chinese, have discovered that large numbers of

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North American Transportation & Trading Co. MERCHANTS AND CARRIERS. Miners' Supplies a Specialty. Jobbing Trade Solicited. ALL OUR GOODS GUARANTEED

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YUKON SAW MILL CO. MANUFACTURERS OF First Quality Matched, Dressed Rustic, Roofing, and Rough Lumber.

J. D. JOURDAN & CO. THE BODEGA 223 First Avenue. Most Elegant Gentlemen's Resort in Dawson. CIGARS AT WHOLESALE.

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counterfeit \$100 silver certificates have been produced in this city. The operators are reported to be under police surveillance. The certificates that were of these spurious bills were sent into the Klondike district. They were readily exchanged for gold dust and their falsity was not discovered until the rounding miners tried to pass them in Portland. The banks of this city, following the precedent of the institutions in the north, have refused to handle any bills of that denomination. The paper is said to be of government make, as are also the various inks, with the exception of that with which the number is printed. This is of an ordinary quality and cannot withstand the action of acids.

The "Monte Carlo" FINEST BAR IN DAWSON. QUALITY OF WINES AND LIQUORS THE HIGHEST. Mixed Drinks a Specialty. HIGHEST GRADES OF CIGARS.

Exemption of Royalty to be \$5,000. The Toronto Globe contains the following important news item: OTTAWA, Jan. 21. Sir Charles Tupper stated in a speech here last night that the Hon. Clifford Balfour had told him that there was to be no reduction in royalty duties. The only change that was to be made was that the exemption of \$5,000 on the output on each claim was to be raised to \$5,000.

HOTEL BUTLER BAR AND CAFE. MEALS AT ALL HOURS. Finest of Wines, Liquors and Cigars. "Nothing is too good for us." Billy Thomas, Mgr.

OTTAWA, Jan. 22. Mr. Sifton confirms the statement made by Sir Charles Tupper here yesterday that the only change to be made in the royalty clause of the Yukon regulation will be to raise from \$2,500 to \$5,000 the amount of the output on each claim to be exempted from the 10 per cent royalty.

Tivoli Theatre and Dance Hall SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS FOR Week Commencing Monday, Mar. 20. A MARBLE STATUE THE FINEST FORMED WOMEN IN THE YUKON In Conjunction with the ALL STAR SPECIALTY COMPANY.

The Nugget Express and the Mail. The Nugget Express is handling the heavy mails in a very satisfactory manner and the system has been recently perfected by adding a special mail clerk to the staff of employees. A slight misunderstanding has occurred on Douglas and Hunter streets from a solicitor of the Nugget who, in a few cases agreed to take river mail free with the paper and some of the subscribers thought the creek agent was charging them without authority. The mail is all handled by the Nugget Express Co., and the expenses attached to the system will not permit a free delivery.

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