

DAWSON'S MAIL SERVICE.

Has Been Excellent During the Present Winter.

Postmaster Hartman Replies to Objections—18 Consignments Carried Each Way Since November.

(From Wednesday's Daily)

Exceptionally good mail service is being given to the people of the Yukon territory during the present winter. Great improvements have been made in this department of the government. Postmaster Hartman has his office thoroughly systematized, and the public are satisfied with the results.

Mr. Hartman, in speaking of the delay sometimes occasioned in sorting the mail, said: "I am aware that some complain about the office closing for several hours after the arrival of a consignment of mail. The only way that this delay could be avoided would be to employ more clerks and I do not feel disposed to recommend an increase in my office force. Most of the time, my employes are idle; they are on duty, it is true, but there is hardly anything to be done during the intervals between the arrivals of mail. The expense attached to the administration of the postoffice is very great now, and I do not favor any further outlays at the present time."

The first consignment of mail to be despatched to the outside over the ice this winter was started from Dawson November 6th. Since then, the mail has left here regularly every week. In all, 18 consignments have been shipped, which were comprised of 266 sacks. The weight of each consignment averages 500 pounds, making a total of 9,000 pounds, which have been carried to Bennett since the closing of navigation. The trip from Dawson to the railroad station at Bennett has been made by the carriers, as a rule, in seven days; but the mail, which left here on the 14th instant, reached Bennett in five days and four hours.

The first mail to arrive in Dawson this winter over the ice was on November 7th. Altogether, there have been 18 consignments, comprised of 322 sacks, transported by dog team from Bennett to Dawson. The total weight of these consignments is 9,000 pounds. The incoming mails have been delayed in several instances. For 13 days in November, for 10 days in December, and for 13 days in February, the people of Dawson received no mail from the outside, but these delays were matters of small inconvenience.

Since November, 1899, postoffices have been established on Bonanza, at Grand Forks, on Hunker at the mouth of Gold Bottom, and on Dominion at the mouth of Lombard. Once a week, mail is carried to and from the sub-offices.

A semi-monthly service has been established for some time between Dawson and St. Michaels, and way points on the Yukon river.

Taking everything into consideration the people of Dawson are to be congratulated on their well regulated mail service.

Last Night's Dance.

A pleasant social dance was given at the McDonald hall last night by Senator Lynch and Mr. Edwin S. French to about 40 invited guests. The floor was managed by Prof. James Duffy, and good music was rendered by Tom Manzey's orchestra. Lunch was served at 12 o'clock midnight. The varied numbers on the program concluded with "Home, Sweet Home," but the chords of this old tune were not struck till an early hour this morning.

The ladies present were: Meslames Edwin S. French, Alex. McDonald, Seely, McDonnell, George Smith, Sale, Lewis, George K. French, Mahoney, Merman, Kelly, Hill, West, the Misses De Lobel, Miss Roberts, Miss Gandolfo, Miss Booge and Miss Comer.

The gentlemen were: Senator Lynch,

Messrs. Edwin S. French, Doig, Alex. McDonald, McCaul, Curtis, Lewis, De Lobel, George K. French, Milne, Buch, Wiley, Griffith, Byrne, Merman, Buchanan, Sale, George Smith, Milton, Martin, Colin Chisholm, Capt. Healy, Capt. Olson, Dr. MacDonald and Dr. Barrett.

Fire This Morning.

At 9:15 o'clock this morning fire was seen bursting through the roof of the building on Front street which is occupied on the first floor by the Northwest Trading Company and on the second floor by the law offices of Pattullo & Ridley. An alarm was turned in and in a few moments the big chemical engine from fire house No. 1 was on the scene and at work, a ladder having been hoisted to an upstairs window and a stream turned into the flaming room. Later two streams from three-inch hose were turned on, and in ten minutes all danger of further destruction was past.

The fire originated in the ceiling of the law office from an overheated stove pipe, there being no one in the office at the time to regulate the fire in the heating stove. The damage done to the firm's books and papers was slight.

Mr. Allenberg of the Northwest Trading Company estimates his loss at between \$4000 and \$5000, the damage being wrought by water. The stock and fixtures in the Merchants' Cafe, the first building on the north, were also considerably damaged by water. The fire boys did prompt and valiant service and prevented what would otherwise have been a repetition of the disastrous conflagration of last month.

The fire this morning originated in the very building in which the fire of January 10th was checked, and a good portion of which at that time was torn down.

Water Rights.

M. H. Boulais has been given the right, for three years from February 27th, to divert and use 200 inches of the water of Portland creek for mining purposes on creek claim No. 30 below lower discovery on Dominion.

C. W. Johnson, O. E. Stanhope and N. F. McPhee have been granted the right, for four months from February 27th, to divert and use 60 inches of the water of a pup entering Hunker on the right limit at No. 16 above discovery for mining purposes on the lower 180 feet of said creek claim, No. 16 above discovery.

E. B. Newman has applied to the mining recorder for the right to divert 60 inches of water by running a drain half of a mile in length, directly to the rear of his property, namely the bench claim in the second tier, left limit, opposite No. 7 below discovery on Bonanza.

John S. Cameron has applied for the privilege of diverting 100 inches of the water of Victoria gulch, to be used for mining purposes on creek claim No. 42 above discovery on Bonanza.

Gold Commissioner's Court.

Gold Commissioner-Senkler is occupied today in hearing the trial of the case of the Crown vs. Judge Davis. The controversy arose over the boundary lines of what is known as the St. George claim on Monte Cristo Hill. The trial of the action of Servini vs. Irvine is fixed for tomorrow. This suit involves a dispute respecting the boundary lines of the bench claim, left limit, opposite No. 10 Last Chance.

Where is Sackrider?

Mr. E. S. Houghtaling, of Hart, Michigan, has written respecting the whereabouts of Charles Elihu Sackrider, who is described as a man of small stature, black hair, blue eyes, and aged 41 years. No word has been received from the missing man by his relatives since April, 1891. Because of his protracted silence, his old mother is exceedingly worried. Any information respecting Mr. Sackrider will be greatly appreciated.

Will Expand.

W. M. Cribbs of the drug firm of Cribbs & Rogers who operate a store here and another at the Forks, returned to the latter place this afternoon after

passing two days in the city. Mr. Cribbs expects to leave on the 12th of the next month for the outside. He will visit Canadian cities where he will purchase new stocks for his company's stores here, then he will visit his old home in Pennsylvania, after which he will make an extended tour of the United States, going from New York to San Francisco by way of Jacksonville, Florida, and New Orleans. At San Francisco he will purchase a large stock of drugs which he will take to Nome, where Cribbs & Rogers will wing a shingle to the breeze.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Park Jewell of No. 25 Gold Run, is in the city for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. James Holmes from Hunker, are at the Fairview.

C. Wegerman, agent of the A. E. Co., at Grand Forks, is registered at the Regina.

Sergeant J. J. Wilson made a flying trip to Gold Bottom on official business Sunday.

Steve Sanders, who is interested in Nos. 32 and 22 Gold Run, is in town on business connected with his mining properties.

Mr. E. F. Christie, the genial sales man who has been with the S. Y. T. Co. the past season, is making an extended tour of the creeks in the interest of his company.

A Rare Gift

Chicago, Feb. 13. — Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Nickerson have given their valuable collection to the art institute. It is valued at upward of \$300,000. It comprises one of the richest and rarest gifts yet presented to that institution. For 20 years or more the donors have been collecting in all parts of the world extremely fine specimens, which are now to be placed upon exhibition. The letter making the bequest was received and accepted by the directors of the art institute this afternoon. The only provision made was that suitable galleries to be designated by the donors shall be devoted to the expositoin of the works of art. The rooms will be refurnished and decorated at the expense of the donors.

The collection consists of valuable Chinese and Japanese porcelains, jades, crystals, bronzes, ivory and wooden carvings, swords and sword guards, oil and water color paintings, engravings, etchings and other valuable art works. The collection as regards jades and crystals is said to be the finest in the United States, with the possible exception of the Huber Bishop collection in New York. Even that famous collection is excelled as far as crystals are concerned. Single specimens have cost as high as \$18,000, and many are rated in value from \$6000 to \$12,000. This collection of jades and crystals will establish a new department or section in the art institute, which will at once put the museum at the head of any other institution in the country in this branch. More than one gallery will be necessary for the exhibition of the specimens.

Among the Chinese.

San Francisco, Feb. 14.—If a new emperor has been named by Kwang Su to ascend the mysterious throne of China, the denizens of Chinatown are blissfully ignorant of the fact. Traffic went on as usual yesterday in that quarter. There was no gathering at the street corners beyond an idle crowd that watched the departure of a little band of freshly shaved Celestials for the home of their ancestors. No proclamations decorated the walls. The office of the Chinese Empire Reform Association, said to be the headquarters of any embryo revolutionary party, was padlocked and deserted. Rumored changes of dynasties and the crumbling of immemorial power seemed to have less effect than the arrival of a fresh lot of wildcat meat at a corner butcher's.

Consul General Ho Yow was interviewed regarding the reported abdication of Kwang Su. He stated that the reported change of Emperors had been learned, but that nothing official had been received. "If there had been any such important announcement made," he said, "this consulate will receive

word from the minister at Washington. I have never heard of Pu Chun, the boy reported to be named as Emperor, nor of Prince Tuan, his father."

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