

SKAGWAY MEMORIES

Recalls the Days of '97 on the Trail

Well Known Character of That Time Again Being Sought for by His Victims

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer of February 17 contains an item that will cause many of the sourdoughs of '97 to smile and will bring back a flood of memories of the days spent on the Skagway trail during the first rush to the Klondike after the strike on the Bonanza. The item in question concerns one C. J. Christie, who while being an oily, smooth, more than of excellent education and address yet possessed the reputation of being so crooked he "can not lie in bed straight." Those who know him best declare that he is a temperamental, that would be afforded more pleasure in the securing of one dollar by hook or by crook than in earning ten honestly.

According to the following article which is in the nature of a dispassionate statement, at Baker City, Oregon, Christie has again been playing his favorite con game, his victims in this instance being women. It is reported that after turning this last trick he went to Texas and held up a train, was captured and is now in the toils of that state, but whether the rumor is true or not can not be definitely stated. The clipping reads as follows:

"Miss Rose Shuman, a wealthy lady of New York, was here today looking for C. J. Christie, of Oregon, who she says induced herself and a number of wealthy ladies and gentlemen of New York and Philadelphia to invest a large sum of money in timber lands in Oregon. Miss Shuman says Christie represented to his victims that large sums of money could be made by purchasing government timber land in this state. He was supplied with all the money he required, and from the day he departed from New York until the present time he has not been heard of. Miss Shuman is on his trail, and proposes to locate him, if possible, before she returns to her New York home. Christie agreed to supply his clients with 20,000 acres of timber land in upper Bitter river, for \$4.50 and 35 an acre. This contract was made last July. Christie was in Sumpter this fall, but no one knows where he is now. It is said he got away with a lot of gold nuggets belonging to one of the Sumpter banks."

Christie will be remembered by a great many who were on the Skagway trail in the fall of '97. He was a smooth talker and would have been a natural leader of men had he not been so crooked. Had he remained in the Klondike and succeeded in keeping out of jail he would have been a typical agitator and would have been at the top of the heap of that little band of patriots which has until recently been continuously spouting revolution and the overthrow of the government. At one time on the trail when it had become so bad as to be almost impossible he succeeded in doing it entirely for a number of days in order to compel the stampers to work on his improvement.

Christie left Portland with a party for the inside numbering six, but within a few days after landing at Skagway the outfit was split up and he found himself out in the cold. He was not so, long, however. Several thousand people were all but stranded and though they all had money in abundance they could not make the progress they desired and were only too willing to listen to any sort of a scheme that would hasten their arrival at the land of gold. Among the number was a middle aged lady who accompanied Christie with her niece who was starting a bank. Christie negotiated himself into her good graces and induced her to put up sufficient funds to buy quite a string of horses.

With these he packed her outfit to Lake Bennett, also quietly advertising the fact that the pack train was his, that he had twelve tons of provisions at the lake and about a dozen boats. In that manner he contracted to take a number of men and outfit them when here with a ton of grub each at a stipulated price, receiving his payment in advance. Eventually he with some sixteen or eighteen persons arrived at the lake and in order to make good he spread the report that his partner had taken the grub, sold the boats and proceeded on down the river. He was considered to have been very much abused and again did the crowd make up a sufficient purse to bring them all down the river, it being agreed that upon their arrival here the dishonest partner would be made to disgorge the grub that he had stolen. It is needless to say that the story of the stolen grub was a falsehood but it answered the purpose and Christie made use of it. The partner that he had, had, upon breaking away from him had given him all their provisions amounting to but 350 pounds in order to get rid of him.

The party arrived in Dawson in due

time, one of the number being E. Leroy Pelletier, correspondent of the New York Times who afterward achieved considerable prominence here. Christie had given his party the name of his erstwhile partner and the whole mob was looking for him with an eagerness that can well be understood when it is remembered that grub was very short and they had all paid for a ton of it. One day the entire outfit in coming down Front street met the much desired partner face to face and though none knew him but Christie they all took their cue from the latter when he called him by name and proceeded to carry his bluff out with reference to the grub that he said had been stolen from him in Bennett. The partner was not a man to stand for one moment any sort of a game that had been put up on him and as soon as he saw the drift of things there were some doings on the street that are still remembered by a number who witnessed them. The outcome of the matter was that the partner as soon as he had finished with Christie told all the crowd that they had been duped by their man who had no grub or anything else as far as he knew. His words carried conviction and they all believed him. Pelletier had but one regret. On the way down the river the more he thought of the way that Christie had been robbed the more convinced he became of a diabolical crime having been committed and as the eastern press was at that time clamoring for sensational stuff he had written up a four column story that fairly sizzled with excitement. When the whole thing proved a fake he had to tell his story and that was his greatest regret.

Christie was immune from punishment here as his offense, that of obtaining money under false pretenses, had been committed on the American side. He remained here a part of the winter of '97, won about \$7000 at Faro and went out over the ice in the latter part of March. That was the last heard of him except in an indirect manner. His adventures with the lady who came here to start a bank are said to have cost her about \$11,000.

Not a New Idea

John Paul Jones was much more than a bold and expert sea fighter. He had been a trader before he was a warrior, and in the intervals of his naval employments by the United States and Russia he was an enterprising and successful merchant. He also had much of the mind of a statesman, and he was greatly interested in the work of the men who framed our constitution and out of thirteen colonies made a nation.

He saw that the proposal to limit the administrative divisions of the government to four—foreign affairs, finance, war and justice—was an inadequate provision for the needs of the country. In January, 1788, being then in France as American commissioner for the settlement of prize claims, he addressed to Thomas Jefferson, then one of the American envoys in Europe, a memoir on the organization of the United States government under the constitution. In this he said, among other things:

"No sensible person will maintain that four ministers will answer the ends of our government. Had I the power I would create at least seven ministries in the primary organization. In addition to the four already agreed upon I would ordain a ministry of marine, of home affairs, and a general postoffice. As commerce must be our great reliance, it would not be amiss to create also a ministry of commerce."

These suggestions were followed in so far that the postmaster general was made a member of the cabinet, and within eight years a navy department, on which Commodore Jones naturally laid much stress, was established. After some years the ministry of home affairs, or department of the interior, was created. But it took just 115 years to bring the nation and congress to see what John Paul Jones saw in 1788—the governmental importance of commerce and the need of special governmental agencies to look after its interests.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Spanish Sheep Travel.

There are about 10,000,000 migratory sheep in Spain, which each year travel as much as 200 miles from the plains to the mountains. They are known as transhumantes, and their march, resting places and behavior are governed by special regulations dating from the fourteenth century. At certain times no one may travel the same route as the sheep, which have the right to graze on all open and common land on the way. For this purpose a road ninety yards wide must be left on all enclosed and private property. The shepherds lead their flocks, which follow after and around. The flocks are accompanied by provision mules and by large dogs to guard against wolves. The merino sheep travel 300 miles in the mountains, and the total time spent on the migration there and back is fourteen weeks.

Swedish Famine Fund.

The Vice Consul for Sweden and Norway wishes to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscription for the relief of the famine stricken people of Sweden:

John H. Henderson & Co., \$1 B.

CONCESSION MUST BE ABOLISHED

Board of Trade Has Begun Aggressive Measures to Accomplish the Overthrow of Treadgold Octopus

Dawson, Y. T., March 6, 1903.
To the Editor The Klondike Nugget:
Dear Sir,—It is the wish of the Dawson Board of Trade that you forward a copy of telegram sent this day to Messrs. the Honorable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada; Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior; William Mulock, Postmaster General, and James Hamilton Ross, Member of Parliament for Yukon, and which reads as follows:

"Oppose any attempt to pass order in council or act in parliament that will in any way confirm Treadgold concession. Are having monster petition signed and reliable data prepared to forward Ottawa asking government to aid in furnishing water for mining purposes. People are a unit in making demand and will insist upon government protection from monopoly of Treadgold Octopus."

"The Dawson Board of Trade, 'H. C. Macaulay, Pres.' And it is the further wish of said board that your influence, help and co-operation in assisting the people of this territory to make the necessary recommendations to the parliament of the Dominion of Canada to prevent the passage through parliament of the Treadgold concession and water grant from Klondike river and Treadgold creek such as is and has been contemplated."

The Treadgold concession and water grant as granted by an order in council and which when ratified by the parliament at its next session will become law is in the opinion of this board one of the most iniquitous measures that was ever inflicted upon a people, and (in the consideration of the Dawson Board of Trade) will work a great hardship upon the people of this territory since it will mean the virtual bankruptcy of all the property holders of Dawson and surrounding territory, and instead of the Klondike becoming the prosperous country we expect it will virtually become the property of Mr. Treadgold and those who are associated with him in his scheme.

An immense petition to the Dominion parliament to cancel and disallow this measure is being prepared and circulated (a copy of which will be sent you) embodying the objections of the people of the Yukon to the granting of this measure and asking the government to provide water for the miners of this territory.

If this were done it would mean the commencement of a new era of prosperity for this camp, the population

Will Go Before Parliament With a Petition Asking for the Establishment of a Public Water System—Prosperity of the Country Depends Upon the Securing of Favorable Action.

of which would materially and rapidly increase and an immense avenue for Canadian manufactures and merchandise would be opened up and not only would this territory be benefited but the benefit would extend to the whole of Canada, by a measure of this kind.

But on the other hand if we are unable to obtain this object, and should the government allow the Treadgold concession to become law it would (in the opinion of the Dawson Board of Trade, and I might say of the people of the Yukon generally) be a tremendous setback to the prosperity of this country.

Now, in order to convey to you some idea of the magnitude of the grant which Mr. Treadgold and his associates are looking for and which it appears likely they will receive, if the intention of the minister of the interior is allowed to be carried out, it having been recommended by him we believe, that the said Treadgold and his associates receive the sole and prior right to divert and take water from the Klondike river up to 5000 miners inches for distribution and use in the district, said district comprising the beds, banks, valleys, slopes and hills of the Klondike river, of Bonanza, Bear and Hunker creeks and their tributaries, also the right to divert and use the water of Rock creek, which water we are informed by Mr. Joseph McGillivray, a mining engineer of long experience, amounts to 8000 inches, natural flow, and which would give Mr. Treadgold and associates the sole right to divert and sell 13,000 inches of water. Now a miner requires with which to sluice his dirt 50 inches of water, which is the amount considered necessary to make a sluice head, and

should the Treadgold company at the rate which, we understand, is the contemplated charge (25 cents per miner's inch per hour) it would cost that miner \$12.50 per hour or \$300 per day, of 14 hours, which is the length of the working day here during the summer season. Now this grant of 5,000 inches from the Klondike river and the natural flow of Rock creek, amounting to 8,000 inches, making a total of water at Treadgold's command of 13,000 inches, or 260 sluice heads of 50 inches per sluice head, costing the miner in this country \$78,000 per day, or \$10,140,000 per year of 130 sluicing days, which is the length of the sluicing season here, would mean this: That the holder of the same would practically own the country, all the hill claim owners would have to come to him for water or allow their claim to remain un-operated for lack of same, and Mr. Treadgold and his associates would be receiving all the profits that would accrue from the thousands of hill claims situated on the immense and huge gravel deposits with which this country is abundant.

He, Mr. Treadgold, is further allowed this concession: That the property of the grantee shall be exempt from representation. This the Dawson Board of Trade considers would enable the owners of non-working claims to evade the representation law by their turning over into the name of the Treadgold Company their properties.

For an instance of how this would work, we will suppose that 5000 hill claim owners not working their properties and not wishing to expend on their properties the \$200 per year necessary by law in order to hold their claims in his name, thereby exempting them from representation, the government would lose the fees charged in lieu of representation, and the country would lose the expenditure of that amount for labor (representation of said claims, amounting in all to \$1,000,000, of which amount Mr. Treadgold will say would receive \$750,000, the claim owners would save \$250,000 and the government and the country would be done out of the expenditure of the \$1,000,000, not to speak of the fees for affidavits of representation and renewal, amounting to \$17 per claim per year, or a total of \$85,000 per year for the 5,000 claims.

But on the other hand if the government will only listen to our plea,

cancel or disallow this infamous Treadgold grant and themselves supply the water to the miners of this territory at a figure that will enable the government to get the cost of the installation of the necessary plant for supplying said water out of the water supplied, we will say in about eight years, it would we know give the miners cheap water and enable them to recover the precious metal from the immense low grade gravel deposits that we have in this country and would mean a greatly increased population and prosperity for this country and would cause and bring about an immense trade with and throughout Canada.

And now in conclusion I might say that this letter being hastily written, as we thought it necessary to act quickly in the matter, does not permit us to go into details of the matter as much as we would like. (These details will come later, a copy of which will be sent you), but I think sufficient has been said to show you the iniquities of this concession and to point out to you the firm and positive objections that the Board of Trade and the people of this territory have to said concession, and which objections will be exemplified in the petition about to be prepared and sent to Ottawa, and that the granting of this concession would be prejudicial and greatly detrimental to the best interests of this country and we ask you for your sincere and earnest co-operation and assistance in helping us to prevent this measure from becoming law. Yours truly,

DAWSON BOARD OF TRADE.

PETITION.

To the Honorable the House of Commons in Parliament Assembled: The petition of the undersigned residents of the Yukon Territory humbly sheweth:

1. That by order in council of April the 21st, 1902, certain privileges are granted to Malcolm Orr Ewing, A. N. C. Treadgold and Walter Barwick, in connection with the proposed establishment by them of a system of water supply for washing out gold-bearing gravel in the district therein described, including the Klondike river, Bonanza, Bear and Hunker creeks and their tributaries.

2. That the benefits conferred upon the grantees are of incalculable value and involve an enormous exploitation of the public resources of this territory for the benefit of a few favored concessionaires.

3. That in the opinion of your petitioners the accumulation of extraordinary powers in the hands of a single corporation such as is effected by the above order in council, will lead to the paralysis of the independent commercial and industrial life of the community and will prove in the highest degree oppressive and injurious to the public welfare, since the grantees are thereby enabled to crush out competition and to reduce to a position of practical servitude the individual miners in the extensive

district affected which includes the richest portion of the Klondike.

4. That the need of this territory is not the creation of monopolies but their prevention, and the encouragement of the individual miners by securing equal privileges and opportunities to all as far as the law and the administration can provide them.

5. That for the promotion and development of the mining industry of the Yukon's cheap, abundant and effective water supply, furnished at a minimum of cost by the government at the earliest possible moment, is absolutely essential.

Your petitioners therefore pray— (1). That the order in council of April 21st, 1902, may be cancelled completely, and that no special privileges shall hereafter be granted within this territory with respect to wood, mining, water or any other class of rights affecting the general public, but that all persons shall be restricted in such matters to the rights conferred upon every member of the community by the mining regulations.

(2). That the supply and distribution of water for general mining purposes within this territory shall not be controlled by any private person or corporation, but either that it shall be undertaken by the Dominion government as a public work, or that power shall be given to the commissioner of the Yukon Territory in council to construct such a system and to raise the necessary funds by bonds guaranteed by the Dominion.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

St. Louis estimates that the sums to be expended on its Midway at the coming exposition will represent something like \$5,000,000. There is no doubt the sums will represent considerable "altogether."—Boston Globe.

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