

WHERE IS FRED CLAYSON?

Left Dawson on a Bicycle for Skagway Dec. 20th.

Last Seen Christmas Morning Leaving Minto—Carried Drafts and Money—Police Searching.

Where is Fred H. Clayson—a question that the police, the Canadian Bank of Commerce, a host of friends, but most of all, a mother, two sisters and a brother at Skagway would be pleased to have answered.

Mr. Clayson arrived in Dawson about the middle of last October with a scow load of vegetables, principally potatoes and onions, which he sold at good prices, realizing handsomely on his venture. Navigation closed before he got started on his return to Skagway with the result that he remained here until the ice was in condition for travel. Unaccompanied by any one he left Dawson on Wednesday morning, December 20th. He was heard from at Selkirk on the 24th, where he stopped to have some repairs made to his wheel which had broken. From Selkirk he went to Minto, where he stopped over night at the road house, leaving there next morning, Christmas day, in company with two men, one of whom was named Olsen. Since that time nothing has been heard of him. Being due at Skagway several days ago and not appearing, telegraphic inquiry was made by his brother, with the startling result that it is now announced that Clayson has not been seen since Christmas morning. Neither have the two men who left Minto with him been seen. But the former being on a wheel it is not probable that he would keep in company with the pedestrians any great distance.

C. S. Hubbell, who arrived in this city Sunday night, left a road house near the foot of Lebarge Christmas morning, and, although he came over the trail taken by all travelers this season, he saw nothing of either Clayson or the two men who left Minto with him. Hubbell says that there is a general impression with the telegraph operators along the line that Clayson and his companions will never be again seen alive.

Major Wood, of the N. W. M. P. who is in charge of the post at Tagish, is having a systematic search of the trail made from Minto southward, but up to today no report of any information regarding the missing men has been made. It is known that Clayson carried a large sum of money on his person, also a draft for \$1500 on the Canadian Bank of Commerce at Skagway, the money and draft being the result of his trip here in October with a cargo of vegetables. The Skagway bank has been asked by wire to look out for the draft.

Several theories are advanced for Clayson's disappearance, one being that he did not take the C. D. cut off, but continued along the river and was caught by breaking ice or by an air hole and was drowned. Another is that, as there are reported to be some rather rough characters hanging around several of the upper river roadhouses, he may have been foully dealt with for the money which he carried. A third, but rather unpalatable theory which is being advanced for Clayson's disappearance is that when the "Soapy" Smith trouble occurred in Skagway in July of '98, Clayson was actively on the side of law and order and was, it is said by several people now in Dawson, largely instrumental in having upwards of a dozen "suspects" driven out of the town, and that the hard characters above referred to as hanging around roadhouses were members of the "Soapy" gang and that Clayson was on their list.

As the writer was in Skagway at that time he knows that Fred Clayson was not there when the forced exodus of un-

desirable characters took place, he having a short time previously reached Skagway from Dawson, going on to the Sound within two or three days.

This time Clayson was on his way out from his third trip to Dawson, and being a very strong and vigorous man and a most intrepid and fearless traveler, his strange disappearance is indeed a mystery. Fred H. Clayson is the senior partner of the firm of F. H. Clayson & Co., one of Skagway's largest general mercantile establishments.

Hurried and Secret Meeting.

Excitement ran high last night in theatrical circles. This was caused by a note for a meeting of the theatrical managers association to be held in secret at midnight last night. The place selected, one of the members suite of rooms, was hard to find, but the scribe was not to be outdone and at 2:30 a. m. invited one of the members to lunch, who told all. It seems that for some time there has been a stampede on from the ranks of the professional talent, especially among the soubrettes, due most likely to the climate. To stop this the meeting was held and the following resolution unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That any lady performer leaving the stage, for other engagements be requested to contribute a sum (amount not considered) to the meal ticket fund of the Actors Society.

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FOUND—On Front street, between Madden House and Aurora saloon, one bunch of keys. Owner can have same by inquiring at Nugget office and paying charges.

LOST—Small, black, bobtail husky dog; white spot on right front paw; weight, between 50 and 60 pounds. Return to 42 above Bonanza or to Dr. Everett's office, Dawson; \$10 reward; was lost near Carmack's Forks.

LOST—A package containing two pairs of rubber shoes; owner's name, G. S. West, on package. Leave at Nugget office; reward.

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