

MR. COUTURE TAKES ISSUE

With Another Correspondent Regarding Hunker Road.

Many Men Were Employed in Road Building in December When Much Good Resulted.

Editor Nugget:

My old friend George in his correspondence re an idyl of the Hunker government road, states that the moving of a boiler sometimes made as much as two claims in one day. That was perhaps in September, but I can assure my friend that after I had the road fixed in December, Mr. Kirkpatrick had a boiler weighing in the neighborhood of six tons moved from Dawson to his claim on discovery in two days, the first from Dawson to Last Chance, and from there to discovery on the second. Mr. Kirkpatrick complimented me then on the condition of the road. The glaciers and heavy traffic since then has spoiled the road, and a few men should certainly have been kept on the road to keep it in repair. I had over 20 men for three days between Gold Bottom and discovery and a smaller number for many more days. Glaciers were cut and a new piece of road made around one; sidehills were tiered and filled in, some bridges repaired and the road was put in good shape as attested by hundreds of travelers at the time. It must be remembered that this work was done in December, and only for this winter traffic. I did not know that I ever was at work near the mouth of Hunker with a corporal's guard; I never done any work there, and teamsters and others from whom my friend George got his information that they had never seen any men at work must have been woefully blind or willfully prevaricated. I will agree with my friend George that Hunker has been left in the lurch up to this winter, all trail making has been left with the roadhouse men and some claim owners who have expended hundreds of dollars. I have myself urged the necessity of doing something for this creek and it was at my solicitation that the cliff was ordered to be fixed.

Anyone who has had occasion to travel over this trail in summer time knows the difficulty we were laboring under and have been for the last three years.

I would not have taken up this matter but my old friend George, by his correspondence has placed both Mr. Thibeaudou and myself in a bad light by asserting that no work had ever been done on Hunker, and hundreds of persons have seen the men at work and the trail placed in good order for winter traffic. I also wish to state that whatever moneys were appropriated for the work was fairly earned by the men and myself, and good work so far as the late season of the year could permit, was done for the money.

L. COUTURE.

Dr. Everette on Relics.

The "mammoth" (elephas primigenius), which formerly existed in large herds in the primal swamps of both the Klondike region, as well as in the swampy interior of Alaska, was a type of the present existing family of elephants. It differed from the present elephant, in being covered with a thick coat of long, reddish-brown coarse hair—somewhat like coconut fibre—and next to the skin, was a mass of coarse reddish-colored wool, somewhat similar to what is now found on the musk ox (Ovis moschatus) of the "barren grounds" of the Arctic regions.

The "mammoth" were distinctly hairy elephants, and formed to live in such climates as the sub-arctic regions of North America and Siberia. Specimens of the "mammoth" have been found frozen entire in the ice of Siberian rivers, whose flesh, bones, tusks and eyes, were as perfect as if only recently dead. In fact, some of the frozen flesh of these Siberian "mammoths" have been thawed, cooked and eaten by Russian scientists. The "mammoths" were evidently killed by suffocation, in a dense and long continued fall of snow, which after enveloping them completely, was frozen into a solid mass of ice by the long continued frigid temperature of the sub-arctic climate, and thus preserved entire unto the present day. Where subsequent sudden changes of climatic temperature have occurred, this "ice-pack" has melted, and as floods of rapidly rising waters were formed, which would tend to destroy these now thawed animals, and scatter their teeth, bones, and tusks, all through the detrital muck

and gravel of the present placer beds of the creeks of the Klondike—and, in fact, all over the sub-arctic country of both North America and Siberia. This may have occurred not many centuries ago! Certainly, we have every geological reason to believe, that the singularly even thickness of the deposit of white volcanic ashes, which can be seen along and just below the surface of the banks of the upper Yukon river, were formed by deposition from a falling cloud of volcanic dust and ashes in a lacustrine, or marsh-like country, during a period of tremendous seismic or earthquake energy. And this deposit must have been preceded by a condition of time when no water was on the surface of the land, and the earth covered with frost, snow and ice. The breaking of the vast chasm or gorge in the mouth of the Porcupine river of Alaska, by eruptive action with volcanic energy, drained the great lake that was once the site of the present "Yukon flats" into the present system of the Lower Yukon river. And thus, in consequence, section after section of marsh and lake systems were drained into one another, forming the present Yukon river, whose headwaters have cut their way through and below the old lake bed of white volcanic ashes, that was formerly precipitated on a section of the bottom of the primal upper Yukon lakes. That all this must have occurred very recently, we will have to admit from the evidence produced. And also, that the great herds of both mammoth and "wood bison or atroch" (bos primigenius latifrons—some of the latter being yet alive in the "Imperial Forest Parks" of Russia—were destroyed by suffocation from enormous and long continued falls of snow, just preceding the time of the inter-draining of these Yukon lake systems—is certainly and without doubt a very evident fact.

The huge tusks, bones and teeth, so often found in the gravels of the Klondike placer region, are often called "mastodon," but this is incorrect. The "mastodon" (mastodon giganteus) was an omnivorous animal, and ate both flesh and grass; while the "mammoth" was strictly only grass and leaf-eating animals. The teeth of the "mastodon" are deeply indented with four ridges, from two to four inches in depth, and the sharp ridges of the upper teeth fit closely into the deep cavities of the lower teeth with a grinding, sidewise motion. The surface of the teeth of the "mammoth" are flat, like the grinding teeth of the cow, horse, sheep, or other true grass-eating animal. The "mammoth" had two long curved tusks of ivory (a pair of these tusks measured 21 feet and 23 feet in length, but the usual length is about 13 feet) projecting from its upper jaw in a part of a section of three curves. The "mastodon" had two shorter and stronger curved tusks of ivory in its upper jaw, but in addition, had, projecting from its lower jaw, one and sometimes three, pairs of straight, dagger-like tusks of ivory from three to six feet in length, which it evidently used with fearful effect to impale and stab the animal it was trying to kill and bite with its enormous cavernous mouth and fearfully jagged teeth. The habit of the "mastodon" was not in the sub-arctic regions of North America and Siberia, as was the "mammoth," and no remains of the "mastodon" have as yet ever been found in the Klondike region, or, in fact, in any part of Alaska or British North America—the Ohio valley of North America seems to have been the principal home of the "mastodon," and the sub-arctic regions of America and Siberia the home of the "mammoth."

DR. WILLIS E. EVERETTE.

Ben Is Plugging.

Editor Nugget:

Benj. Shelton who has been plugging away on No. 45 hillside Gold Run, for the last few months, has just managed to locate the upper edge of paystreak, but the edge is so thin, colors so fine, margin so narrow, that it does not seem to guarantee a big fortune for the Benjamin. However, being what they call an "all woolled one" he has turned his attention to the old pup, 43 Gold Run, and has just embraced his arms about "her neck" 1000 feet each side and is again plugging for all he is worth, in the dear hopes of surprising himself, as well as the natives. As the old California miner says: "Gold is where you find it." Yes, true, but he is of those who believes it as "come from" as well as a "go to," and remarking that the creek becomes suddenly rich from the said 43, several here believe that the pup needs a little careful attention, hence the latest move. The hillsides proper on Gold Run contain no gold, as so many even of the old ones do not seem to realize that gold is found on the hillsides, is taken from creek level, and sometimes even deeper, and then only from very few claims where conditions (principally on the points) allow it.

No. Gold Run is quite a different proposition, altogether than Hunker, Dominion, Bonanza, Eldorado, etc. There is no wash gravel in the hillsides or benches, and as I understand the first gold as yet "has got to be discovered above creek level. I simply put this for the benefit of so many who appear not to know. But Gold Run is all right, and I would not be surprised to see her the "banner creek" this summer. By the way, I know nothing of record time for putting down holes, but a fact right here of a 31-foot shaft put down in seven days, I thought worthy of note, that was performed on Mr. Ed. Bennett's claim, 47 Gold Run by young Beckley and his Swedish partner Gus. I know it took the old man here five weeks to go down 35 feet on 45, but being alone and having to send the old man himself up every time a little hoisting had to be done, he felt as though he had no especial kick a coming.

GOLD RUN.

POLICE COURT NEWS.

Yesterday afternoon the case of Molly Thompson, who was alleged to have "Molly Maguire" Geo. E. Nichols out of \$503 in gold dust of the realm at her place of business, the Globe hotel, Grand Forks, last Friday, was again being heard before Magistrate McDonnell. The evidence was of such nature as to warrant the holding of Molly to appear before the territorial court to answer to the charge of theft. She was accordingly held in the sum of \$4000, one-half of which she herself is responsible, with two others who qualified in the sum of \$1000 each.

A prosaic wage case occupied the attention of the court this morning.

Acknowledged by Governor-General.

To a telegram expressive of the sorrow of the people of the Yukon at news of the death of the late beloved Queen Victoria, sent by Col. Donald MacGregor to his excellency, the governor general of Canada, the following answer was today received:

Ottawa, Ont., via Bennett, B.C., Feb. 19, 1901.—Donald MacGregor, Dawson: Kind expression of sympathy and loyalty of citizens of Yukon territory contained in your telegram of the 28th will be duly forwarded by the governor general for submission to his majesty the king.

CAPT. GRAHAM,

Governor General's Secretary.

Like the Green Bay.

The local camp of Arctic Brothers is flourishing like a green bay tree, one of the most interesting meetings of the season being held last night when Messrs. H. E. A. Robinson, C. M. Woodworth and B. E. Davis accomplished the trip over the trail and ate icicles at the camp of Her Iciness the Arctic Queen. Many applications for membership were received which will be acted upon at the next meeting. The camp closed with a social session, the enjoyment of which was greatly augmented by an elegant lunch kindly provided by Mr. B. F. Germain.

COMING AND GOING.

There was no court held by either Justice Dugas or Craig today, this being Ash Wednesday and a Dominion holiday.

Tomorrow night is the regular meeting night of the Yukon council.

Little progress was made in the Belcher-McDonald case yesterday afternoon owing to various objections by opposing counsel regarding the rules of evidence. The case will be reopened at 10:30 a. m. tomorrow.

The official thermometer registered 42 below zero this morning.

At the Free Library.

The innovation in the way of short talks on current topics lately proposed by the board of control of the free library has been duly installed and at the meeting Monday night when Judge Craig was in the chair "The Future of the Yukon" was ably, though briefly, discussed by Commissioner Ogilvie, Mr. Milne, Mr. TeRoller, Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Morrison, each of whom spoke from 10 to 15 minutes. The subject was intelligently handled and discussed in all its phases, each speaker making a specialty of some point or feature of it.

To all present the various talks were both interesting and instructive; and henceforth these short talks and lectures will be prominent features of the always popular free library entertainments.

Fire This Afternoon.

At 3:20 o'clock this afternoon a still alarm was turned in on account of a blaze in the roof of the Victoria lodging house on Second street. The department responded and a stream from the chemical engine soon had the fire out. But little damage was done.

Plenty choice fresh vegetables at Meeker's.

Lined meal, 20c at Meeker's.

The fire never touched us. We are doing more business than ever. Murphy Bros., butchers.

CURRENT NEWS OF CREEKS

Great Preparations Being Made for Spring Work.

Another Month Will Witness Activity Where for Months There Has Been Little Life.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ash, of 31 below Bonanza hillside, have returned from the outside. Mr. Ashe will at once begin preparations for the summer work.

Mr. William Northrop the well known Klondike miser, has just returned from his New York home. Mr. Northrop rode a bicycle from Whitehorse to Dawson.

The N. A. T. & T. Co., are making extensive preparations for working their various claims on Bonanza and Eldorado in the spring.

Mr. Asa Holcomb, of 99 below Bonanza took the stage for the outside last Thursday.

Oscar Cornelius and Mat Moldestad of American Hill are putting on an extra force of men. A messhouse is being fitted up and the men will be boarded by the firm.

Last week Sam Bates, a laborer working on Dr. Carper's claim on American gulch was struck on the head by a windlass crank, knocked senseless and sent head foremost down a 45-foot shaft. He wore a heavy fur cap which was cut through clear across the top of the head while Sam sustained no further injuries than a small scratch on the side of his head.

Great activity is being displayed at the lower ferry in preparation for the government bridge which is to span the Klondike at that place. Buildings are being erected, logs and rock are being hauled and ice cut to make room for the piers. It is expected to have the bridge completed before the breakup in the spring.

LENTEN SEASON.

(Continued from page 1.)

for 40 days, and the 40 days beginning with today and ending with the first day of April are commemorative of that period in the life of Our Lord.

The cravings for food by the body of man in this age are not compatible with a literal following in the footsteps of Jesus of Nazareth, but the church has prescribed certain rules of conduct to be adhered to by the faithful and these are too well known to need or bear repetition here.

All who keep Lent will abstain from meat eating during the next 40 days, and devote more than the usual time each day to the consideration of religious subjects and the example set by the greatest exponent of the Christian faith.

More Candidates for Africa.

Ten more members of the N. W. M. P. handed in their applications for service in the South African constabulary yesterday afternoon and this morning and there will be more today. It begins to look as if the whole force stationed here wanted to go to South Africa.

Yesterday the statement was made that the opportunity to go was open to civilians as well as members of the police force, but this was an error due to misunderstanding as the call is to the N. W. M. P. alone, for the reason that experienced men are wanted.

Those who applied today and yesterday afternoon are Corporal Hildyard and Constables Russell, Morton, Spar-

row, Macnair, Goodall, Borrow, Foster, Atkinson and Shaw.

Information Wanted.

Miss Mabel Houck, of 401 Stimson block, Los Angeles, Cal., is desirous of gaining information concerning the whereabouts of James Houck, whom she supposes to be here. She writes as follows:

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 29, 1901.

Dear Editor—Would you do a loving mother and niece, the favor to advertise in your paper for a reasonable length of time, for a lost son and uncle. We are under the impression that he is there. His name is "James H. Houck." If you have any advice to give or suggestion to make address me given and very greatly oblige, yours sincerely,

MISS MABEL HOUCK.

Barrett & Hull have just received a shipment of candles from Fortymile which they are now offering at very reasonable prices.

Notice.

Whereas the commissioner of the Yukon territory has created a new mining district known as the Clear creek mining district, which district is described as follows: All of Stewart river and its tributaries from Lake creek to Fraser falls, including Lake creek and its tributaries.

Now, therefore, the public is hereby notified that on the 26th day of February, 1901, a mining recorder's office will be opened at Barlow City, and all records and documents pertaining to the Clear mining district will be located there.

Dated, January 31st, 1901.
(Signed) J. LANGLOIS BELL,
Assistant Gold Commissioner.

Social dance given by Prof. Payne at McDonald hall Thursday evening, Feb. 21st. Admission \$1.

Barrett & Hull have just received a shipment of candles from Fortymile which they are now offering at very reasonable prices.

Up-river frozen fresh eggs. Meeker.

Beef, chechako, 33c by the side, at P. O. Market, Third street.

To sell oats, hams and flour for cash see S. Archibald.

ARCTIC SAWMILL

Removed to Mouth of Hunker Creek, on Klondike River.

SLUICE, FLUME & MINING LUMBER
Offices: At Mill, at Upper Ferry on Klondike river and at Boyle's Wharf. J. W. BOYLE

GO AS YOU PLEASE RUNNING MATCH

COMMENCING FEB. 18 AT "The Orpheum"

—Entries—

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NAPOLEON MARION — WM. YOUNG

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Office, Telephone Exchange, next to A. C. Office Building.

DONALD B. OLSON, General Manager

GOING OUT?

Travel in Comfort and Make Quick Time

C. D. Co.'s Fast Passenger Stage

Leaves Dawson for Whitehorse Twice a Week

Wednesdays and Saturdays at 6 a. m.

Royal Mail Service

"White Pass and Yukon Route."

A Daily Train Each Way Between Whitehorse and Skagway

COMFORTABLE UPHOLSTERED COACHES

NORTH—Leave Skagway daily, except Sundays, 8:30 a. m. Bennett 12:15 a. m. Arrive at Whitehorse, 5:15 p. m.

SOUTH—Leave Whitehorse daily, except Sundays, 8:00 a. m. Bennett 1:25 p. m. Arrive at Skagway, 4:40 p. m.

E. C. HAWKINS,
General Manager

J. FRANCIS LEE,
Traffic Manager

J. H. ROGERS,
Agent