

## ST. MICHAEL NORTHWARD.

Official Report of the Country  
Compiled by J. E. Spurr.

### Beach Increases in Richness From California to Cape Barrow—Large Unprospected District.

For the benefit of the many who are interested in the Nome country either directly or indirectly, or through friends, the Daily Nugget publishes the following compiled by J. E. Spurr, under direction of the U. S. geological survey as produced in the Scientific American:

That the rush to Cape Nome in Alaska during the spring and summer of 1900 will far outstrip any previous exodus to the "Land of the Midnight Sun," is generally believed. The gold along the beach deposits of Cape Nome, the extent of which is as yet unknown, is the chief feature of next season's attractions, however.

Gold occurs at many places along the coast of the Pacific from Southern California to Cape Prince of Wales, Alaska, and this far the experience of those who have practically investigated these shore deposits show that their richness increases going northward. The beach deposits of Northern California are richer than those of the southern part of the state, and those of Oregon are said to be of greater value than those of California. Those occurring along the southern end of Alaska afford variable results, but when Cape Nome is reached, on the edge of the arctic circle, the gold bearing sands found there are of unprecedented richness among littoral deposits.

The gold in greatest amount is found associated with layers of ruby sand which is heavier than the gray sand and clay. Its occurrence in several layers simply indicates that the process of concentration has taken place at several periods, a deposit once accumulated being subsequently covered by shifting currents, which carried the lighter sand upon that previously laid down, or sand driven before the wind piled up dunes over the gold bearing layer. The growth of moss now found covering the region lying just back from the beach has evidently protected the sand strata from material change of centuries past.

In the vicinity of St. Michael the country consists of low, bare mountains of volcanic origin. These same hills run northward parallel with the coast, being usually of only trifling height, although at a distance inland some peaks become probably 1000 to 1500 feet high. Golovin bay, on the north side of Norton sound, is shut in by two high promontories, Cape Derby and Stony cape. The head of Golovin bay is low, and from here a portage extends, by lakes and rivers, to Grantley Harbor. This is the best harbor in northern waters and has been long used by the whaling fleet. The whole coast from here to Cape Prince of Wales is ordinarily low and rocky, and the shore from Cape Prince of Wales to Cape Espenberg, on the southern side of Kotzebue sound, is sandy. On Kotzebue sound the mountains at times come quite down to the shore, especially the Mulgrave hills at the mouth of the Noatak. From Cape Krusenstern, on the north shore of Kotzebue sound, to Cape Lisburne, the coast is generally low and rocky, with sandy intervals. Point Hope is a long sandy tongue of land, backed by steep cliffs at its landward end. From Cape Lisburne to Point Barrow the coast is also low and rocky, with many sandy stretches.

The Bering straits were first passed by the Russians in 1648, and again by Vitus Bering, in the Russian service, in 1728. Neither saw America. Captain Cook, 1778, discovered Cape Prince of Wales, and pushed a long distance northward along the coast. In 1816 von Kotzebue, a German in a Russian

ship, discovered the sound which bears his name. Since that time many expeditions have sailed along these shores, especially such as in the early days were seeking a northwest passage, or those which later were engaged in Arctic exploration. Gold was long ago reported on the Fish river, which heads in Golovin bay, but no mining was attempted. On the same river, 30 miles above the mouth, the Oonilak mine of silver bearing galena was discovered long ago and the Golovin Bay Mining Company, of San Francisco, formed to work it. There was difficulty, however, in getting the ore down the shallow river to the vessel which took it to San Francisco; and, in addition to this, two vessels, with all on board, were lost by the company previous to 1885. In 1890 operations were suspended, owing to the report of experts that there was no continuous vein, but in 1891 work was renewed. The overflow of the Klondike rush turned prospectors into Golovin bay, and in the summer of 1898 many claims were located on the Fish river and other streams in the district. The gold is said to be fine, but of high grade, and to be easy of access; and it is reported that there is plenty of water for sluicing. There were 300 or 400 people in Golovin bay last summer, and last winter probably 200 prospectors spent the winter on the peninsula between Kotzebue and Norton sounds.

### Gold Commissioner's Court.

The decision in Crawford et al. vs. De Large et al., which involves the title to No. 2 Ora Grande, was rendered yesterday afternoon. The judgment is as follows:

"The question in this case is whether the work done upon the above claim prior to November 13th, 1899, was sufficient to represent it for the year ending at that date. From the evidence I must come to the conclusion that the hole referred to at the lower end of the property in question was completed upon September 3d, and that the defendants must have missed it in examining the property. Two men were working upon the claim during the time that this hole was sunk. It took them about 50 days to finish it. After that, it is shown that very little work was done, somewhere between five and ten cords of wood being cut. The total work done upon the claim was one hole to bedrock, 28 feet, with two or three feet of drifting, and 25 cords of wood cut. The work done prior to September 3d was considerably more than one man's work for that period. I think the whole work can be considered fair representation work for a year, and it appears that the claim was occupied continuously by either of the men who did the work for three months. The ground was not therefore open for relocation at the time the defendants staked. The plaintiffs are certainly at fault in not seeing that the claim was renewed at the proper time; but the fact of their not renewing within the year does not in itself constitute abandonment of the property. The defendant's grants must be cancelled; but before receiving a renewal, the plaintiffs must refund the defendants the amount of money paid for their grants."

The case of Godwin vs. Huser was decided. This action concerns the Olson claim on Gold Hill. The decision is as follows:

"It appears from the statement of Mr. Olson, the original locator of this claim, that upon staking the ground he started from the up-stream, down hill post of a claim known as the Johnson claim, and marked 'B' upon a plat in a letter, dated December 30th, 1899, from Messrs. Godwin and Huser, which will be found on file No. 463. I hereby direct that the owners of the claim obtain a proper survey by a Dominion land surveyor, said surveyor to use the above mentioned post as the initial post of the claim, and have a plat of the survey placed upon file in this office. The said Godwin and Huser will be entitled to a 100 feet location using said post as the initial post, pro-

vided it does not interfere with any other subsisting locations."

A decision was rendered in the case of A. F. Miller vs. John A. Doerringer, which action involves the title to the hillside claim, left limit, opposite the lower half of No. 71 below lower discovery on Dominion. The judgment is as follows:

"This case coming up for hearing upon October 12th, 1899, and being enlarged from time to time in order to give the defendant an opportunity of renewing his property and showing that he had an unexpired free miner's certificate since acquiring the property, and said defendant not appearing to the date hereof in order to retain his property, and whereas the property should have been renewed on August 16th, 1899, the record of defendant is hereby cancelled, and a grant will be issued to the plaintiff."

A protest has been filed against Messrs. H. T. Wells, H. F. Waugh, D. R. McKay and McGillivray, owners of 14 below on Bonanza by Messrs. S. S. Sucha and E. W. Petrick, owners of the adjoining hillside on the left limit. The hillside owners allege that the owners of the creek claim are trespassing and mining within the lines of the hillside claim. The hearing on the protest has been fixed for March 12th, 1900.

No trials will occur in the gold commissioner's court for the next eight days as Commissioner Senkler will be absent for that length of time on a trip to the different creeks.

### Theosophical Club.

The Yukon Theosophical Club will hold its regular weekly meeting this evening at 7:30, over the Juneau Hardware store on Second avenue. The subject of discussion will be the moulding power of thought, and its influence on human action individually and collectively. The vast importance of the subject will doubtless attract a large audience, which the club is fully prepared to comfortably accommodate.

### Sunday Concert.

The Philharmonic orchestra, under the leadership of C. Lueders, will give another concert at the Palace Grand next Sunday. The orchestra has been strengthened and three vocalists have been engaged. Beatrice Lorne, Mrs. Leroy Toze and Erhardt will appear in choice selections.

Mr. Lueders is to be congratulated on securing such excellent talent for the occasion.

Tickets are on sale at Reid & Co., the druggists, opposite the Pavilion, both for orchestra seats and boxes.

Electric lights in all the rooms at the Fairview.

### Weather Report.

The minimum temperature last night was 28 degrees below zero.

At 9 o'clock this morning the thermometer registered 25.5 degrees below, since which time there have been no material variations.

### Improved Machinery Introduced.

That the demand for improved machinery is rapidly increasing is evidenced by the fact that several orders for pumping plants of capacity sufficient to pump one and two sluiceways upon hillside properties have already been secured by Mr. Charles E. Severance general agent for Mifflin, Lewis & Staver Co., and will be put in operation as soon as navigation opens. A representative will be despatched to the outside March 1st to accompany shipments and insure their prompt delivery. Mine owners requiring any machinery for early spring can secure standard machinery and be certain of prompt delivery by placing their orders with Mr. Severance, Room 15, A. C. building.

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