

HOW FROST AFFECTS WIRE.

Must Have Six Feet of Slack in Cold Countries.

Bennett-Dawson Line Hung too Tight Which Accounts for Various Breaks During the Past Winter.

Sup. J. B. Charlson thus explains the very plausible cause of the intermittent breakings of the telegraph line between here and Bennett during the winter just closing. He also gives interesting information regarding the construction of the Quesnell line. The Skagway Daily Alaskan in a late issue reports Mr. Charlson as saying:

"I care little for the aid of a surveyor or engineer," says Mr. Charlson, "in the construction of a telegraph line. I can usually survey a good commonplace route with my eyes pretty well."

"In building the Atlin Quesnell line we shall, in traversing a forest country, cut a swath 12 feet wide. Large trees and small will be slashed, and nothing will be left standing that will prove a menace to the line. Whenever possible good standing trees will be utilized for telegraph poles."

"The wire to be used is No. 8 galvanized steel, the same as is used in the Bennett Atlin system. It is a good wire, and the breaks that have occurred in the system have not been the result of using poor wire, but having too little slack in the line at some places. The fault for the little slack lies on the shoulders of the subordinates. I instructed them to give six feet of slack to every mile of wire. They did not follow instructions and the result was the line was too tight at places to stand the extreme tension under the great cold. The giving of more slack would have meant the hanging of a trifle more wire and therefore the carrying of a few more coils of wire on the part of some one who evidently eliminated the trouble."

"In the construction of the Atlin branch my orders for the hanging of wire with six feet of slack were strictly observed, and not a break occurred on that branch this winter."

"The severe cold weather and the frequent intermittent warm and damp weather of the Yukon basin keeps the very fabric of the wire working in the process of contraction and expansion so that it becomes crystallized and brittle under the cold and far more liable to snap. The wire contracts two and a half feet per mile in the Yukon basin. I recently had a letter from Capt. Abercrombie, U. S. A., who is to build the Valdez Eagle line, inquiring as to the contraction and expansion of wires in our Yukon system."

"Our wires near Minto were cut several times presumably by the murderers of the Clayton party. In one instance six feet of wire was taken out. Had it not happened that we had just left an extra coil of wire in one of the nearby stations we would have been in serious need of a piece for making the repairs."

Night Change His Luck.

Jim Donaldson is a sport and one whom has never been accused of being other than "on the dead square," and his winnings are due to skill rather than tricks. But sometimes, as is the history of all sporting men, the fickle goddess declines even the advances of James. Saturday night was one of these occasions, and half an hour before the time arrived for the glove contest at the Palace Grand Donaldson arose loser. As he walked away from the table he remarked to a friend:

"Tis settles it. I had a half notion to not referee that nigger scrap; but now I'll do it; maybe it will change my luck."

Partners Fight.

Ed. Holden, Sam Nichols and Jack Smith are partners in the ownership of claim No. 2 above upper on Dominion. During the former part of the winter when Holden was burdened with the care incident to the management of the Monte Carlo theater, bar and gambling rooms he had but little time to devote to the management of the claim which was then being looked after by Nichols. But when the disastrous fire came and swept away all that was near and dear to him on Front street, he hid himself out to his claim to see as to how his interests were faring there. Evidently what he found did not suit him, for he had been there but a short time when he and Nichols had a "hitch," with the result that bad blood was engendered. This strained condition of affairs continued until last Thursday night when, as the story goes, Holden found Nichols down in the shaft panning out when Holden, who in the

meantime had assumed management of the claim and the work thereon, had expressly forbidden such acts as the one in which Nichols was detected. The result was a physical encounter between the partners. Miss Rose Blumkin who was at the claim as a guest, attempted the role of peacemaker, but her efforts were not crowned with success. The two men "fit and fout" for some time, and in the melee it is said Holden bit a mouthful of flesh from Nichols' shoulder. It is also reported that Holden got the best of the scrap. As to whether or not the angel of peace has spread her white wings over claim 2 above upper on Dominion, the Nugget is not informed.

Entertained His Friend.

Mr. Chas. Sperry and Dr. J. Arlan Hornsby, both at present in Dawson, were former citizens of Skagway and intimate friends. The former came to Dawson on one of the last steamers to come down the river last fall, and has been here ever since; therefore, he feels that he is an old timer and in position to show his newly arrived friends the wonders of the city.

Dr. Hornsby arrived a week ago and was here two or three days before meeting his friend Sperry, since which time they have been very much together, the latter acting in the capacity of pilot and trail blazer. While escorting the medical man along Front street one bright afternoon Sperry chanced to see a fine specimen of mountain sheep hanging by the heels in front of a Dawson restaurant.

"Here," said Sperry to himself, "is where I will shine and show my friend that during the five months of my residence here I have acquired a large stock of knowledge." And leading the doctor close up to the sheep he began: "This, sir, is one of the greatest products of this far northland. These noble animals, sir, are indigenous to the high mountain country 200 miles to the eastward, where they are found in great numbers by hunters of sufficient trepidation to penetrate the mountain fastnesses and wilds which they inhabit. When once frightened it is impossible to pursue them for that they flee to the nearest high precipice and drop head first down, down, down perhaps a hundred feet or more through the air to a bench or shelf below on which they alight with a crash that can be heard a mile or more. Sometime the solid rock on which they strike is shivered to atoms, but the sheep's head appears to be in no manner effected by the collision. Why just look at those horns (and the speaker swung the body of the animal outward), those horns are harder than the rock of Gibraltar."

Then he left the heavy body swing back, and in proof of his statement the horns and head crashed through the glass of a large show window in which pies, doughnuts and other rubber goods are displayed.

Hastily reaching for his sack, Sperry entered the restaurant before the proprietor, who was washing dishes, could get his hands out of the water and said: "I'm the fellow that did it; what is the bill?"

The hasher was so taken back at the stranger's readiness to settle for the unfortunate accident that he dropped \$12 worth of dishes on the floor and gasped: "Oh, gimme \$5."

Sperry paid the money as readily as he ever paid a bill in his life and has been congratulating himself ever since on getting off so easily. Yesterday the writer saw him explaining the wonders of the mountain sheep to another new arrival, but he was standing back 20 feet and pointing at it with his finger.

Large Mining Plants.

One thousand tons of hydraulic machinery are to be shipped into the interior just as soon as navigation opens, says the Skagway Alaskan, for use in the Hootalingua and Stewart river countries. This statement comes from a man who is in the city enroute to the interior in connection with another big enterprise and who says further:

"Big companies are to make these shipments, and they will go by the way of St. Michael and up the river. Some of the machinery is in Vancouver awaiting shipment. A Mr. Goodman is one of the men interested in one of the concerns."

"The big dredger which was sent in last season for use on the Lewis river, will be operated there this season."

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Short orders served right. The Holborn.

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One 15 and one 20 to 35 horse power boiler, new or second hand. Address with description and terms, Allan R. Joy, room 15, A. C. office building.

Shoff's Cough Balsam; sure cure.

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DELIGHTFUL SUMMER TRIP.

From Closeleigh Down the Yukon to St. Michaels.

Dawson Will Be the Mecca of Many Pleasure Seekers and Tourists This Year.

Anyone who has seen a good collection of views taken along the water ways of the interior from Bennett to St. Michael longs to take the trip and enjoy the famous scenery and the exciting scenes of the mining camps. Of course, in winter the journey over the ice is not such as would attract the adventurous tourist but in summer time when daylight is almost continuous, the trip is an ideal one and one that is beginning to draw the attention of easterners accustomed to spending an extended outing in the west. It is only in the last two years that the southeastern Alaska excursion business has assumed any importance, and now that a trip to Skagway, and return via the glacier, has become commonplace the more venturesome of the tourists are planning to take the trip by steamer to Skagway by rail to Bennett or Closeleigh and thence down the Yukon river for its entire length and by ocean steamer from St. Michael back to Puget sound again. The trip will necessarily be an expensive one and will not be extensively patronized until a through rate is given for the round trip. The cost of transportation alone during the coming season will be about as follows: Puget Sound to Skagway, \$25; Skagway to Bennett, \$10; Bennett to Dawson, \$75; Dawson to St. Michaels, \$75; St. Michaels to Seattle, \$75; total, \$260. The up river rates will doubtless fall considerably below the figure given above. The W. P. & V. railroad will be completed to Closeleigh or Whitehorse before the season is well advanced and there will be keen competition between steamers plying on the upper lakes and river and the railroad, which will result in the Bennett Dawson rate being cut in two.

The lower river boats running down from Dawson will probably drop to a \$50 rate.

Such a trip is within the means of but few, but many others propose to combine business with pleasure and float down the river in an open boat, built or purchased at Bennett, stopping when convenient or when opportunity to earn money is offered. It is by such means that wonderful scenes of the Yukon may be seen at their best. The attraction of spending one's vacation among the richest mining camps of the world is a good one indeed, and the Yukon bids fair to bear other craft next season beside those guided by Nornward bound argonauts.—Skagway News.

Theosophists.

The Yukon theosophists will again entertain their friends and the thoughtful visitors who may attend the second lecture by Mr. Rudolph, F. T. S., on the interesting subject, "Theosophy the Scientific Guide Through the Visible and Invisible Worlds."

At the same time the committee appointed to draft resolutions on the club's attitude on adequate public non-sectarian schools, to be presented to the Yukon council, will submit its report for action. Meeting at 7:30 on Wednesday evening over the Juneau Hardware store, Second avenue; meeting free to all.

Next Sunday's Concert.

The Symphonie Orchestra, under the leadership of William Garbracht, will give a concert next Sunday evening at the Palace Grand theater. The program will consist of several classical musical selections to be rendered by the orchestra. Mrs. E. B. Lyon, the artistic pianiste, has been secured for the occasion. Mrs. Leroy Tozier, Miss Nellie Forsythe and Mr. Ed Shank, will render vocal selections. Mr. Griffith will be the accompanist. The managers, Messrs. Zimmerman and Radcliffe, are to be congratulated on the resumption of these Sunday concerts, and it is hoped that their efforts will be rewarded by the public. Tickets are now on sale at Reid's drug store.

Ice men, important. For sale one ice plow, complete; call at Shindler, 109 Front street.

Same-old price, 25 cents, for drinks at the Regina.

Every room a miniature home. The Fairview.

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