

DAWSON AND VICTORIA

The Capitals of the Klondike and of British Columbia to Be Connected by Relay Posts.

Practicable and Profitable Project of the Arctic Express Co.—Local Business Will Benefit.

Still another important enterprise in connection with the development of the far northern gold fields has been initiated and brought out on the way to success by the enterprising F. M. Rattenbury, this latest organization which he has promoted and incorporated for the furtherance of Victoria commercial interests being known as the Arctic Express Co.

As recently as last year a man coming out from Dawson with a man capable of providing himself for the trip with a big outfit of provisions, tents, stoves, bedding and sleds to haul the extensive outfit—the whole costing not less than \$10,000, and more probably \$15,500, accompanied by a pack of eight or ten miles below the city, and Montreal would be reasonably safe from 20 to 30 days.

The proposal of the Arctic Express Co. is to adopt the relay plan, and establish well-provisioned log houses or stations along the entire route from coast to the Klondike capital. With this in operation, a man will be able to leave Dawson without fear of starvation before him, although he carries nothing save the clothes he stands in. He will be loaded and supplied with the necessities for the trip at each station along the way, and at a cost of but \$250 for the trip—no more than one-quarter of the cost under the old system.

By these posts or relay stations, too, business connection can be maintained between Victoria and Dawson, and the necessary coasting service obtained on the "inside" during the long winter months. The route would also be utilized for the carriage of the mails, the company having already secured the United States contract for four years at \$80,000 per year. This service, however, can be performed at very little additional expense when once the posts are established.

Express packages of all kinds, newspapers and specie will also be handled by the same system, and the opportunity for profitable business at the present time appear practically limitless. As the Bennett Lake & Klondike Co. are working in connection with the express company, their boats will be utilized, what otherwise would be a very difficult matter becomes an exceptionally easy one.

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THE BRITISH COLUMBIA CASE.

As the days go by, and there is no evidence of a settlement of the case, the Premier has entrusted with the task of forming an administration when he has secured a majority in the House.

CANADIAN FRONTIER DEFENSE.

Plans for Strengthening Coast and Interior Fortifications—Agreement Respecting Lake Vessels.

A Montreal dispatch says: In connection with the announcement that a revision of the agreement of 1817, respecting naval vessels on the great lakes, will form one of the subjects to be considered by the conference of United States and British commissioners at Quebec during the present month, the interesting fact has come to light within the last few days that the British government is taking the most energetic steps looking to the defense of the Canadian frontier and of the coast line on both the Pacific and Atlantic.

QUOR PERMITS.

Mr. Rattenbury has secured a majority in the House, and the Premier has entrusted with the task of forming an administration when he has secured a majority in the House.

MR. SEMMLIN'S PROSPECTS.

The comic-opera interlude in provincial politics organized for the purpose of Mr. Robert Bevan is now over, and Mr. Charles A. Semmlin has been called on to form a government.

NO TIME LOST.

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SMOLDERING EMBERS.

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