

**THE ASHCROFT-KLONDIKE ROUTE.**

"Mr. McFarlane is right. No one but a natural born fool would ever attempt to start for the Klondike by either the Ashcroft or Kamloops routes," said a well-known manufacturer of this city to a MINING CRITIC representative.

"Now take the Ashcroft route to Teslin lake, for instance. Passengers coming from the east pay the same fare to Ashcroft as to Vancouver. If they start from the former place they have a long six weeks' journey before them to reach Telegraph creek. If they come to Vancouver they step aboard a boat, and in less than three days, at a cost of \$20, are landed at Wrangel, and by taking river boats there they will in summer be landed at Telegraph creek inside of one week. They are boarded and lodged the entire distance.

"True, there is good feed for horses on the trail from Ashcroft to Telegraph creek; but in the name of common sense what advantage would there be in that unless people were out for a pleasure trip.

"No man in his sober senses will attempt to go to the Klondike by the Ashcroft route."

**BEATS A FISH STORY.**

Sir George Newnes, the enterprising editor of London's famous "omnium gatherum"—Tit-Bits—evidently loves to quote a good story without demanding strong vouchers for its authenticity. Thus a recent issue of this paper tells the following tale of the Transvaal on the authority of the one Captain E. Moss, of the Transvaal:

"I have twenty-four monkeys," he said, "employed around my mines. They do the work of seven able-bodied men. In many instances they lend valuable aid where a man is useless. They gather up the small pieces of quartz that would be passed unnoticed by the working men, and pile them in little heaps that can easily be gathered up in a shovel and thrown into the mill. They work just as they please, sometimes going down into the mines when they have cleared up all the debris on the outside. They live and work together without

quarreling any more than men do. They are quite methodical in their habits, and go to work and finish up in the same manner as human beings would do under similar circumstances. It is very interesting to watch them at their labor, and see how carefully they look after every detail of the work they attempt. They clean up about the mines, following the wheelbarrows and carts used in mining, and pick up everything that falls off on the way."

Not a bad tale for Mr. Moss—or may be Moses—of that happy land of the Dutchman and the Deutscher, the one and only Transvaal.

Cable Address: "CORDOVA," Vancouver.

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MINES REPORTED ON AND MANAGED

Consulting Engineer:

Leslie Hill, C. E., A. M. I. C. E., M. F. Inst. M. E.

**Notice.**

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Texada Proprietary Gold Mines, Limited, will be held at the office of the Company, 319 Cambie Street, Vancouver, B. C., on Monday, 21st day of February, 1898, at 3 p.m.

**Business:** To receive report of Directors and to elect Directors and Auditor for ensuing year, and any other business that may come before the meeting.

W. H. KEARY,  
Secretary.

VANCOUVER, B. C., January 25th, 1898.

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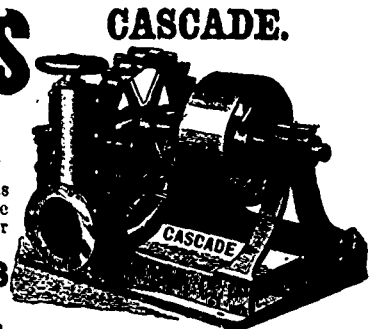
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