

in South Africa the work of civilization—a work which could not well be longer deferred. It is certainly part of the work which is destined to bring about that dominance of the English speaking race which is best for the good of mankind, and in which we ourselves can no more help being in our special sphere, participants, than we can turn back the shadow on the dial of time.—N. Y. Ex.

BACK FROM KLONDIKE

Mr. W. Pacey, who has just returned from the Klondike, was interviewed by a Star reporter on his arrival, with the following result:—

You belong to Otago, Mr. Pacey?—Yes, I belong Alexandra South.

How long were you at the Klondike?—I arrived there on the 18th July in 1898, and left on the third of July last—a few days less than a year. I got back by the Moana.

Did you reach the diggings?—I did. I first went to Bonanza Creek. That and El Dorado are the two particularly rich creeks in Klondike. Then I bought a claim on Gold Hill for \$900, and there I remained, except for short runs further back, until I came away.

Where is the Golden Hill?—Sixteen miles from Dawson City.

A hard place to get to?—It used to be, but not now.

There are no fewer than forty steamers running in and out of the port during the summer months, and you can get to Dawson City almost without wetting your feet.

There is a railway to the summit of the White Pass, and when the ice breaks up—which this year was on the 17th May in Dawson City, and on the 5th or 6th of June in Bennett—you can take a steamer to Dawson. There is a tram running round White Horse Rapids, and another tram goes round Five Finger Rapids. It is at these places, particularly at the White Horse Rapids, where so many people have lost their lives.

You speak of El Dorado and Bonanza as the chief creeks. Are there others where good gold is found?—Oh, bless you, yes. There are other main creeks besides these. There are the Dominion, and the Sulphur, and the Hunker—all rich creeks. They run more or less directly into the Yukon. All of these are very rich. Outside of them, however, there is nothing particularly satisfactory. There are lots of places where payable gold is found—payable stuff, but not sensational, though a great many fellows make wages on them.

Do you think the Klondike is likely to give out soon or to last as a goldfield?—Speaking as a miner of 30 years experience, I should say that the Klondike will be a better field in ten years than it is now. Perhaps it will last for over twenty years. How long, nobody can say, but it is not going to be worked out quickly.

Can you give me any fact to go upon in support of this?—Yes. Ground that has been run over and left will pay for working again. One claim of this sort, right above me, was taken up by a man named William McCormic, who worked the tailings and got \$4,000 worth of gold out of stuff which the first holders had thrown away.

What sort of working is it?—Well, the ground runs from 12 ft. to 150 ft., and often 200 ft. deep to the bedrock, and you have to sink and thaw all the way. Perhaps you will not manage to get down more than 10 in. or 18 in. a day. You first dig a hole and light a fire on it, and then dig a bit deeper and light another

fire, and that's the way you go on. You keep on putting in spruce fires.

Is there plenty of wood about for the fires?—Any amount. The whole country is covered with the spruce pine. Of course, the men use a lot of it, and sometimes you have to go back a bit to get it, but there is always plenty.

What size claims are they?—The creek claims are 500 ft. square. Then at the back of these are what they call the bench claims—what we in New Zealand would call terraces. They run 100 ft. square, and the next tier will be 250 ft. frontage by 1000 ft. up the hill.

And how do you hold these claims?—On a miner's right for which you pay \$10, and a recording fee of \$15; that is, when you get the chance to pay it. It took me six days to get into the recording office, there was such a rush of people, and then I was a bit ahead of some of those who were waiting.

And what kind of ground is it to work?—The most is a quartz gravel very much like stuff I have mined at Waikaka and Switzers, and there is a lot of the same stuff about the Molyneux. We don't call it wash at the Klondike; we call it pay dirt. It runs about 5 ft. through, and you may get the gold in any part of the wash, sometimes near the top, at other times on the bottom. This sample here (producing a bag of nuggets running up to half-ounce pieces) I got off the top of a 5 ft. lot of pay dirt. This other stuff, what we call dust, but which you will see is as big as what would be called rough gold in New Zealand, was got about the middle of a seam. The bottom generally found is a mica schist rock. That is what we call the bed reef.

Is there any reefing at the Klondike?—Not a reef had been found up to the time I left.

And how do you get the gold out?—When you are on a creek claim you generally use sluice boxes, and up on the hill claims you have to rock it out. I got all mine with cradling.

Is the population getting smaller or larger?—Smaller, most decidedly. There are lots of people there of the wrong sort—doctors and lawyers and barbers, and broken-downs generally, and they are not the sort of people to do any good in a place like that. I may also say that there are more people there than there is ground opened out for.

Then there should be plenty of room for prospectors?—That's just it. If the ground was in New Zealand it would be thoroughly prospected in lots of places where never a spade has been put in; but you can't prospect very easily at the Klondike. The ground is so precious hard that it makes it expensive. In the summer the thaw is felt only about six feet down, and for the rest of the year it's solid ice from the very surface.

The two deepest shafts on the Klondike are 250 ft. down, and the ground solid ice all the way. Nobody has got to the bottom of the ice yet.

Then it is to be gathered that you have a favorable opinion of the Klondike on the whole?—Most certainly. I think that anybody who would make a discouraging report about it would be foolish, and not warranted by the facts.

Are you going back yourself, Mr. Pacey?—I am not. I have had my turn. I am largely interested at Alexandra, being one of the promoters of the Golden Beach, and I am going to stop here to look after my interests. All the same I have every faith in the Klondike for men of the right sort.—*Otago Star.*