

## TRAVEL IS NEARLY OVER.

On the Winter Trail Between Dawson and Bennett,

Snow Has Gone From the Cut-Offs, and the Rivers are Open in Many Places.

From Mr. L. W. Stetson, who arrived last night 13 days from Bennett is learned the condition of the winter trail from Dawson to the outside world as it existed within the past two weeks, and as it doubtless is by this time.

Mr. Stetson first came to this country in '97 and has since visited every portion of the Yukon country where gold was reported to have been found. He has been up and down the Koyukuk, but has little faith in that stream as a gold producer. He owns property in the Eagle district; but will spend this summer at Nome, as he will leave for that place on the opening of navigation. While on the outside he ordered a large amount of machinery which will be taken to Nome by the outside route and which, Stetson expects, will be awaiting him there on his arrival. He left Dawson for the outside on January 14th and has since been visiting in Seattle and other lower points until he started for this place about three weeks ago.

Mr. Stetson gives an accurate description of the trail and conditions on it as he found them. The fact that he came light and on a wheel enabled him to pass the majority of those traveling Dawsonwards, and he estimates their number at several hundred. He was accompanied by Messrs. Johnson and McCarter, former blacksmiths who left last fall for Nome and who expect to continue on down the river later in the season.

In speaking of people whom he passed on the trail, Mr. Stetson mentions a large party of Italians who are driving 20 ox teams to heavily laden sleds, while they also have a herd of 30 or 40 loose cattle which are being brought along for beef.

White & Adair have a caravan of upwards of 30 horses, each animal hauling two tandem-rigged sleds laden with merchandise.

Kellogg, of the Yukon Mill Co., is somewhere between here and Selkirk with eight large horses, with which he is bringing in some heavy milking machinery. Kellogg's horses, Mr. Stetson says, will be the finest ever seen in Dawson. When they arrive they will be turned over to the A. C. Co.

In addition to the above and several other large outfits there are hundreds of smaller outfits where only from one to three or four horses or mules are being used. In one party passed by Stetson are nine French women, and he estimates that altogether there are 40 or 50 women on the trail all bound this way. He met but very few people going out; among the few being Fire Chief Stewart, who had reached Minto, where he was endeavoring to repair a "busted" bicycle tire.

Speaking of the condition of the trail, Mr. Stetson says it is going to pieces very rapidly. The ice on Tagish lake is rotten and full of airholes which makes traveling not only slow but very dangerous, a team of horses having been lost there only a few days ago. From Whitehorse up to Lake Marsh, Fiftymile river is open all the way, but from Whitehorse on to Lebarge it is still closed and the trail over it is fairly good. There are many dangerous places on Lebarge, the ice being very brittle in many places. Thirtymile river is all open.

The cutoffs, Mr. Stetson says, are entirely bare of snow and for that reason he thinks that many of the outfits which are yet to cross them will never reach Dawson on the sleds on which they started, or by any other means of conveyance but boats.

On the Yukon in many places the river is open for miles at a stretch. There is a long open place near Five Fingers and another near Reindeer. At the Yukon roadhouse only 12 miles above Dawson water is running over the ice to a depth of 12 inches. In that vicinity yesterday one of Orr & Tukey's teams dropped through the ice into four feet of water, but were rescued.

Large amounts of freight which was started from Bennett is piled up along the trail a large lot being cached at the foot of Lebarge on account of Thirtymile river being open.

Mr. Stetson says Bennett is entirely dead and that Skagway is but a few notches higher in the business scale. He says there has been quite an exodus from Bennett to the Big Salmon country, where new and rich discoveries have been reported.

The work of blasting out the rocks at Five Fingers has been successful and by the time navigation opens there will be little there to impede it as compared with the former natural conditions. The big rock in Thirtymile which has ever been a menace to navigation has also been removed, as have many minor obstacles.

Mr. Stetson reports that on the outside nothing is heard but Nome. He confirms reports formerly brought in that all first-class passage as well as freight space on steamers is engaged for months to come and that from 15,000 to 20,000 people have already reached Seattle en route to the Mecca and that thousands more will arrive before the great mass of humanity begins to move northward. The business of Seattle was never so brisk as at present.

### Valuable Property in Litigation.

Some very valuable mining property is involved at present in litigation. Just now, both the territorial and gold commissioner's courts are engaged in trying cases which affect the titles to hillside claims on Magnet gulch.

Since last Wednesday, Justice Dugas has been hearing the testimony which has been submitted in the action of James McKenzie and John Miles, plaintiffs, vs. Mrs. M. I. Davidson and J. H. Davidson, defendants. As reported in a recent issue of the Nugget, this case involves an half interest in the hillside claim, left limit, opposite the lower half of No. 3, Magnet gulch. The plaintiffs allege that in consideration of their information concerning the ground, defendant, Mrs. M. I. Davidson, promised to record the property and transfer to them an half interest. She secured the grant; but has refused to execute the promised bill of sale. In answering the plaintiffs' complaint, she avers that no agreement was made requiring her to deed to the plaintiffs any interest in the ground. This same claim is also in litigation in the gold commissioner's court.

On March 13th, 1900, F. L. Lawson, as plaintiff, commenced suit against Mrs. M. I. Davidson, F. D. Boyer, Edward Ensel and John Anderson, defendants, before Gold Commissioner Senkler. The trial of the action was started yesterday.

The plaintiff, Lawson, alleges that on March 22d, 1899, he recorded a certain placer claim, which is particularly described as the hillside, left limit, opposite Nos. 17 and 18 below discovery on Bonanza creek. The property measures 250 feet in width along Bonanza creek and extends up the hill a distance of 1000 feet. It is located immediately west of the mouth of Magnet gulch. The claim was surveyed by Dominion Land Surveyor T. D. Green.

The defendants, F. D. Boyer, Edward Ensel and John Anderson, on March 7th, 1899, recorded a claim which is described as the hillside, left limit, opposite No. 2 Magnet gulch. This piece of mining ground is 250 feet wide along Magnet gulch, and extends up the hill to the summit, a distance of about 500 feet. The rear end line adjoins the east side line of Lawson's claim.

Immediately south of this Magnet gulch property is located the claim of defendant, Mrs. M. I. Davidson, whose ground is described as the lower half of the hillside, left limit, opposite No. 3 Magnet gulch. It is also 250 feet in width along Magnet gulch, and extends up the hill to the summit, a distance of probably 600 feet in this particular locality. Likewise, the rear end line adjoins the east side of Lawson's claim. The properties of the defendants have been surveyed by Dominion Land Surveyor C. S. W. Barwell.

The plaintiff contends that the rear end lines of both of the Magnet gulch claims, which are owned by the defendants overlap the east side line of his Bonanza creek hillside. The defendants are charged with extending their claims about 100 feet across the east boundary of the plaintiffs' property. If this assertion be true, then the owners of hillside No. 2 will lose the greater portion of their pay; and their claim will be depreciated greatly in value. Mrs. Davidson, owner of No. 3, will also be seriously affected; but not so much of the pay on her claim is so situated as to be involved in the issue. The owners of both of the Magnet claims had expended, in development work, at least \$20,000 on each of the properties, before the protest of the plaintiff, Lawson, was filed.

Before the gold commissioner, the plaintiff is represented by Hon. F. C. Wade, and J. A. Aikman. The defendant, John Anderson, has retained Attorney C. M. Woodworth. Messrs. Clark and Wilson appear for Edward Ensel and F. D. Boyer. Messrs. Tabor and Hulme represent Mrs. M. I. Davidson.

### Seems Like Sunday.

This being Good Friday, therefore a statutory holiday, many of the departments of business are closed to the public and a general Sunday air has pervad-

ed the city, and especially is this so of the upper part of the city, where the courts, public offices and bank all suspended business for the day. The large stores are also closed.

Another feature that is indicative of a holiday is the large decrease in the amount of hootch in stock in the city during the day. As early as 9 o'clock this morning several lurid jags, which had probably taken several hours to cultivate, were in evidence and were worn by men who probably have no more idea of the reason or today being called Good Friday than they have of the name of the man who discovered the island of Madagascar.

But, 'twas ever thus. Some men jollify on any occasion which offers the slightest excuse; and a day which approaches to anything the nature of a holiday affords a golden opportunity which must not, in any manner, be overlooked or passed by.

### DENY CHARGES.

(Continued from Page 1.)

ular party is a matter of no concern to the committee. Since our organization, we have received the support of the citizens; and we shall be directed by their advice until our common purpose is accomplished.

Mr. Clark, the secretary, said: "The committee has worked harmoniously; and has exercised great care in excluding everything of a political nature. As for myself, I may say that at the last general election in 1896, I voted and supported to the best of my ability Mr. Sifton's candidate at Brockville, Ontario. This recent attempt to involve the matter of representation into a political dispute emanates from those few who are opposed to the rights of the citizens."

Mr. Alex McDonald replied: "The charges to the effect that the committee is the tool of a particular political party is absolutely untrue. Questions of politics do not affect this issue of representative government. The citizens understand the situation perfectly; and I do not think they will give consideration to the recent statements of a local paper."

Mr. McMullen answered: "It appears to me that there can be no question as to the desirability of having two members from our midst added to the Yukon council, and I think the recent articles in the Sun may tend to mislead people from the object sought. I have attended many meetings of the committee and have noticed with pleasure the absence of any show of party politics; and I think your contemporary is wrong in assuming that the members of the committee are actuated by any motive to harass the outside government. On the other hand, the spirit displayed has been entirely in the interests of our own territory. I am opposed to the introduction of politics in this matter. What is needed at this time is the addition of two members who are familiar with existing conditions, to assist the present council, a number of whom are already overworked and not easily accessible to the public."

Mr. Noel said: "I am not a party man; in the past I supported both political parties at different times. The committee is entirely without the influence of any political organization. We are endeavoring to act as the representatives of the people; and I do not think that our motives can be successfully attacked. The Sun charges, in my opinion, reflect great discredit upon it, and are so extravagant as to be harmless."

Mr. Woodworth answered: "At the last general election I voted the Liberal ticket, and spent considerable time in speaking in favor of the Liberal party and its policy. The recent criticisms are untrue and uncalled for. The committee will not tolerate the discussion of politics; and all of our actions evidence the fact that we are engaged solely in the effort to secure representative government for the people."

Mr. Proudhomme replied: "I am a Conservative; but I would not allow my action as a member of the committee to be influenced by my political preferences. The statements made in the Sun are untrue, and I think their apparent falsity will be discovered by the people."

The other two members of the committee, Messrs. Williams and Sturgeon, are not in the city, and their views could not be ascertained.

Table d'hote dinners. The Holborn.

Shoff, the Dawson Dog Doctor, Pioneer Drug Store.

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

Silver shield apricots 50 cents a can. Royal Grocery, Second ave.

Hilarity on tap at Rochester Bar.

### Cold Storage.

The refrigerating steamer Lotta Talbot is now being utilized for cold storage, the machinery having been started

Thursday morning. For rates and space apply to Alaska Meat Co.

Private dining rooms at the Holborn.

Ladies' belt purses. Pioneer drug store.

Best imported wines and liquors at the Regina.

### The Pioneer Suggests.

For that tired feeling which leaves the system in a condition of general lassitude, don't take the wrong medicine. See George Butler, purveyor of good spirits.

The Holborn Cafe for delicacies.

Get your eyesight fixed at the Pioneer drug store.

When in town, stop at the Regina.

Short orders served right. The Holborn.

Shoff's Cough Balsam; sure cure.

Chloride of lime. Pioneer drug store.

Choice Cudahy hams 45 cents per pound. Royal Grocery, Second ave.

The liquors are the best to be had, at the Regina.

Happy days at the Rochester Bar.

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WADE & AIKMAN—Advocates, Notaries, etc. Office, A. C. Office Building, Dawson.

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TABOR & HULME—Barristers and Solicitors, Advocates; Notaries Public; Conveyancers. Telephone No. 22. Offices, Rooms 1, 2, 3, Orpheum Building.

ALEX HOWDEN—Barrister, Solicitor, Advocate, etc. Criminal & Mining Law. Room 21 A. C. Co's office block.

PATTULLO & RIDLEY—Advocates, Notaries, Conveyancers, etc. Offices, First Ave.

**DOMINION LAND SURVEYORS.**  
TYRRELL & GREEN, Mining Engineers and Dominion Land Surveyors. Office, Harper St., Dawson.

**ASSAYERS.**

JOHN B. WARDEN, F. I. C., Assayer for Bank of British North America. Gold dust melted and assayed. Assays made of quartz and black sand. Analyses of ores and coal.

**MINING ENGINEERS.**  
RUFFUS BUCK—Surveys made of underground workings, ditches and flumes. Offices at Dawson and Ferk.

L. NETLAND, C. E.—Underground surveys. Reports furnished on mining properties and hydraulic concessions. Office, Room 1, Dawson City Hotel.

**WANTED.**

WANTED—To buy a cabin and lot near business part of city. Address Firch, Box 232, Dawson, Y. T.—P13

**FOR SALE.**

FOR SALE—Furniture of 15 rooms on Front Street; rooms all occupied. Apply N. C. this office—P113

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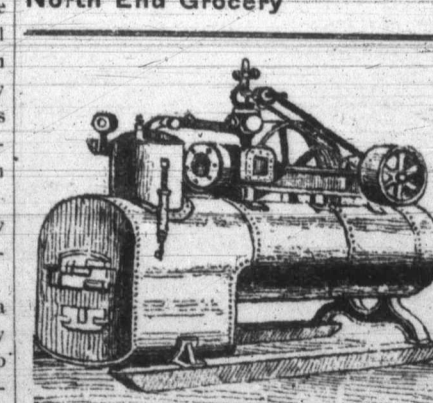
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**The Nugget.** Third St. Near 3rd Ave.