

THROUGH TELEGRAPH

Dawson Will Connect Direct With the Outside.

THE CHAIN WILL BE COMPLETED

Line to Be Constructed From Atlin to Quesnelle.

A Branch Will Then Be Built From Bennett to Atlin and Communication Established With All Outside Points—Work Will Begin Soon.

Authentic information has been received in Dawson within the past few days to the effect that parliament has appropriated \$225,000 for the purpose of covering the expenses of construction. It is expected that the line to the outside will be completed by the middle of next June. Mr. Charleston, the gentleman under whose management and supervision the present system was constructed, is now on his way to Dawson. He has been delegated to represent the central government in matters respecting the erection of public buildings, and the construction of public roads. Likewise to him has been entrusted the supervision of the telegraph line extension. The people of Dawson realize from experience that Mr. Charleston is an efficient and able official, and that he will expedite the performance of his duties as much as possible.

The plans of the government are to build the telegraph line from Atlin to Quesnelle, which is a station on the Canadian Pacific railroad. No surveys have yet been made; but surveys will start from each terminal point, and work towards each other. In this way the preliminary work of surveying will be completed before the first of May. Undoubtedly a party of surveyors have already left Quesnelle. It is thought that Mr. Charleston will be accompanied by another party, which will commence operations from the Atlin end of the line.

In the last mail, Justice Dugas received a letter from Ottawa which had been written on January 2d.

When asked respecting the action taken by the government in reference to the construction of an extension to the present telegraph system, the justice answered:

"In my letter, dated at Ottawa on January 2d, I am informed that the department of public works will commence the construction of an extension to the present telegraph line. This extension will connect the Yukon with the outside world. The new line will be built in all probability, between Atlin and Quesnelle, B. C. Without question the work of construction will be done as expeditiously as possible. Mr. Charleston, who built the present system, was to have left Ottawa soon after the time when my letter was written. He will supervise and manage the construction of the new line. He will also take charge of the erection of several public buildings in Dawson, and of the building of additional roads in the territory.

"I am extremely gratified with this recent action of the government, and I am confident that the people of Dawson will have telegraphic connection with the outside world before the river freezes in the fall.

Little Willie Aftermath.

The following is from the Victoria Times of January 16th:

According to late arrivals from Dawson the editor of the Klondike Gleaner is reported to be a fugitive. He is said to have gone to the American side, presumably the Circle City district, to avoid answering to the Dawson courts

for articles in which it is claimed he had libeled the Klondike judiciary. The Gleaner is alleged to have characterized the arrest and subsequent trial of the dealer in a gambling house as an attempt on the part of the officers to extort money from the gamblers, and to have published severe strictures on Judge Dugas and the Dawson judiciary generally. Judge Dugas placed Semple on \$1000 bonds to show cause why he should not be punished for libelling the court. Semple gave bonds, and is claimed to have written other articles criticising still more severely. He was again cited to appear, and on the receipt of this summons, says Joe Boyle, who returned yesterday from Dawson, he is said to have fled down to Forty mile, having his hands and feet badly frozen on the journey, and the Canadian officers who went in pursuit were reported to have overtaken and arrested him.

Two New Townsites.

Plats of two new townsites on one of which a town will rapidly spring up with the advent of spring, have just been received by and are now posted in the office of Lieut. S. E. Adair, general agent in the Yukon territory for the White Pass & Yukon Ry. Co. The townsites are those of Cariboo and Closeleigh, the former at Cariboo Crossing, where the railroad will cross on drawbridge the narrow strait which connects Lakes Bennett and Tagish. The plat shows Cariboo to be a "V"-shaped site, the point being the water front. Cariboo may grow to be a town, but the chances are that it being only a way station, lots will not go like the proverbial hot cakes.

With Closeleigh, however, it will be very different. Closeleigh is the name for the new town just below Whitehorse rapids, and directly across the river from the present village of tents and shacks. The plat shows this to be a very cleverly laid out town with eight avenues and ten streets. The avenues run parallel with the river and are intersected by the streets. The avenues are designated by numbers and the streets by names, in which list appears the names of several prominent Canadians and of officers of the railroad company. Business lots, 45x100 feet near the water front, are being readily sold, several choice locations having already passed into the hands of future business magnates of the new town.

Being the terminus of the road, at least until such time as its promoters determine to extend it on to Dawson, Closeleigh is destined to rapidly grow into a place of considerable prominence, being favorable to the location of wholesale houses whose field of operations would be the entire Yukon river and its system between that point and St. Michael. It is likely that many persons now in business at Bennett will change their base of operations from that place to the new town of Closeleigh.

Mass Meeting Called.

At the urgent solicitation of a score or more of influential citizens, and in compliance with the request of a largely signed petition, C. M. Woodworth, esq., has called a mass meeting for next Monday night to be held at 8 o'clock in McDonald hall for the purpose of obtaining general expression regarding the matter of Dawson choosing by election the representations on the board of the Yukon council, which right and privilege was granted by parliament over one year ago, but of which our people have not as yet availed themselves. Every business man in the city as well as every man, regardless of nationality, having at heart the best interests and future welfare of Dawson is urgently requested to be present and participate in the meeting.

Regarding Mails.

Postmaster Hartman informs the Daily Nugget that the mail which left here a week ago tonight reached Selkirk just three days later, an average of almost 60 miles each day. The mail closed at noon today and will start for the outside tonight. Mr. Hartman also

stated in the Daily Nugget office this morning that paper mail will be forwarded at regular second class rates of postage, which is four ounces for one cent. A bundle of three or four newspaper, therefore, can be sent from here to any part of Canada or the United States for one cent.

Where is W. A. Brown?

Ben F. Brown of Pendleton, Oregon, writes the Daily Nugget for information concerning his brother, William A. Brown who was last heard from by his relatives by a letter from this place. If the recalcitrant William is here he will do well to allay the anxiety of his relatives by writing them news of himself.

Burnham Goes to Africa.

The singular straits to which Britain is reduced in the present war is demonstrated in the following remarkable item appearing in Monday's Seattle Star: "A passenger of singular interest who came down from Alaska on the City of Seattle is F. R. Burnham. He is an American, but he has spent many years of his life in South Africa. Mr. Burnham is said to be more familiar with the topography of the Transvaal than any man now in the British army. The queen has been searching everywhere after the recent reverses for men to join the staff of those fighting the Boers who are capable of advising the conduct of the army with regard to the character of the country. Mr. Burnham heard of this in Dawson while conversing with some British officers. He told them his experience there and they immediately employed him for the British government. Mr. Burnham came down, accompanied by his wife and son. They will remain in Seattle for the present, while Mr. Burnham will go at once to South Africa and join the British army."—Victoria Times

(F. R. Burnham above referred to was in Dawson early last year, going from here to Skagway where he invested in a large amount of improved property which he still owns, or did own a short time ago. Although a young man, he has seen much of life and for valiant services to the British government some few years ago he, although an American citizen and a good and loyal one, was granted a township of land, the tract being six miles square, in the Transvaal country, which grant was rapidly increasing in value the last time Mr. Burnham had heard from that country last fall. Burnham at one time last year had \$22,000 in cash deposited with a Skagway bank, with which he proposed erecting a second electric light system for the town, his object being to secure the necessary power from Reid's Falls, two miles north from the town, but as there was some trouble about securing the water right he did not push the proposition. Burnham is a director of the Bishop McCabe college, the only college in Alaska, and in him the British government has secured a most valuable and reliable assistant in her present difficulties.—ED.)

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