

NEWS FROM THE CREEKS.

Claim Owners Are Preparing for the Spring Work.

Large Quantities of Freight Being Transported in Anticipation of the Clean-Up.

The miners on the different creeks are making preparations for the spring clean-up. This winter has been exceedingly favorable for underground work, and most of the claims which have been developed have large dumps of dirt. Within the next three weeks, the trails will be in poor condition for freighting, and rates will be much higher than they are at the present time. Claim owners and laymen are now purchasing lumber to be used in sluice boxes. All of the freighters will be busily engaged until the roads break up.

Large quantities of supplies are being transported to the creeks in anticipation of summer work. On those tributaries where the ground is comparatively shallow, sluicing will be attempted during the coming season.

Eldorado's output next spring will exceed that of any previous year. The claims have been worked in the most thorough manner and with the most improved machinery. Nos. 16 and 17 have mined the greatest quantity of dirt, and probably will wash out the largest amount of gold. However, all of the claims which are working will realize valuable returns from their winter operations. A number of claims on this creek will sluice during the summer. It is reported that when the Berry Brothers return they will bring with them an extensive and modern plant of sluicing machinery to be used on their Eldorado property.

Bonanza creek in the vicinity of discovery, above and below, is the scene of active operations. If the water does not fail, the season's clean-up on this tributary will be astonishing even to those who are well informed. Dick Lowe's fraction at the mouth of Skookum will be sluiced during the summer. Many other claims will attempt to sluice; but those which are not located near the mouth of a pup or small stream, may experience considerable difficulty to secure sufficient water. There are some very large dumps in evidence on Dominion, particularly in the thirties below upper discovery. Claim owners on this creek will not be troubled by lack of water. Alex McDonald is planning to ground sluice No. 6 below lower discovery. He expects to build a dam across the creek in order to control the water. Other claim owners no doubt will operate during the summer season. Numerous roadhouses on Dominion have been closed within the past month; and not a few from this tributary quit their employment some time ago and left for Cape Nome.

No development work worthy of mention has been done on Quartz during the present winter; but W. C. Gates and his associates are making extensive and very costly preparations for summer operations. These gentlemen have a large concession located in the vicinity of No. 23 below discovery. Recently, Orr & Tukey, the freighters, completed a contract for the transportation of about 50 tons of machinery and supplies from the mouth of Indian river to the Gates concession. In the consignment, was a five ton boiler. Mr. Gates is now living in a comfortable cabin on Quartz, and is attending to the initial preparations. The result of the work to be done on this concession next summer will be closely watched by local capitalists; for if it proves successful, there are vast areas of ground which prospect quite as well, that can be developed by a similar process.

Generally speaking, the aspects for a prosperous spring are exceedingly good. On the principal creeks it will be no easy matter to secure enough men to handle the large dumps; especially will this be true if there is any shortage of water. Wages during the clean-up will undoubtedly average \$1 an hour.

Not All Harmony.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 18.—Not to exceed 40 of the expected 150 members of the Populist national committee has reached the city tonight to decide on a place and date for the next national convention. Senator Marlon Butler, chairman of the committee, with Senator Allen, of Nebraska, arrived in the early evening from Washington and Secretary Edgerton, of Denver, came on a night train. The committee will meet tomorrow afternoon in representative hall in the state capitol. Three cities—Cincinnati, Kansas City and Sioux Falls, S. D.—will contest for the

convention. Chairman Butler said tonight he believed the committee would complete its work tomorrow.

"There are two things to do," said the senator, "name a date and place and that should not take long. As to the convention city, that is purely a matter of finance. Whichever candidate makes the best guarantee naturally will be awarded the meeting."

"Then the Populists will go ahead independent of the Democrats and the proposition for fusion with W. J. Bryan?" was asked.

Senator Butler said he could not speak for the whole committee, or its probable action. He admitted there was a possibility that the committee would name no date, but would empower him as chairman to name both date and place, following the decision of the Democrats.

Senator Butler said it was well known there was difference among the committee men as to the question of fusion, but he declined to express his individual opinion or forecast the outcome. His admission that the committee might postpone action was regarded as significant by the pronounced middle of the roaders, who announced that they would fight any proposition looking to any other than an independent Populist. Members of the middle of the road committee declare that Bryan is the logical candidate of both parties, but they prefer to first name him and let the Democrats follow if they wish. The name of Judge Caldwell, of Little Rock, Ark., as a vice presidential possibility, was frequently and favorably mentioned.

Boers Kind to Wounded.

Arundel, Feb. 17, received by dispatch rider.—Capt. Longhurst, of the British medical corps, spent a night at Hobkirk's farm, attending the wounded Australians. He says that the enemy were remarkably kind to the wounded, provided them with mattresses and gave them all the eggs they had.

The Boer commander and Capt. Longhurst found that they had mutual friends in London and were soon on the best of terms. The Boers and British wounded fraternized. Noticing that the bandoliers of the enemy were filled with soft nosed bullets, one of our men said:

"You ought not to bring such things to fire at us."

The Boers replied: "We must use whatever we can get."

This particular Boer contingent had come from the northern district of the Transvaal where the Boers are used to hunting big game along the Limpopo. The men had obtained their ammunition for that purpose. One Briton whose thigh had been shattered replied to this explanation: "Well, I wish you had been kind enough to shoot me lower down."

After the retirement of the British forces the Boers held a prayer meeting and thanked heaven for their success. They separated into small parties and moved to their various outposts, chanting hymns as they went.

Capt. Longhurst says that he was much impressed by their considerate treatment of the British wounded.

Government in Cuba.

Santiago de Cuba, Feb. 18.—Gov. Gen. Woods' general orders, specifying the prerogatives of military commanders and civil governors, are creating a sensation here. The press, with the exception of the violently partisan local Cuban organ, comment favorably upon them, saying that they indicate an honest intention on the part of the intervening government to fulfill the pledge to establish the independence of Cuba.

The provision transferring public works to the civil department, on April 1, caused alarm among many American employes, as they expect dismissal when the transfer is made.

The managers of American and foreign business enterprises are also somewhat concerned, as they have no confidence in the coming Cuban administration of public affairs.

Thousands of Cuban politicians confidently expect recognition when the transfer is made.

Should Have Lingered.

A stranger dropped into the Aurora Club rooms yesterday and laid down 25 cents on the crap table. A Dawson merchant was "shooting" at the time. The stranger's 25 cents won and the table manager paid the winning. This was repeated nine times and, until the 25 cent piece had grown to \$128, all of which had been paid on the table. But at this stage of the game the dealer looked up and noticed that the man for whom the money had been planked down was not there. Inquiry among the bystanders disclosed the fact that he had walked away after the first throw, when he probably thought, not being posted on the intricacies of the game, that he had lost. That \$128 is still a part of the assets of the game.

The Holborn Cafe for delicacies.

ANOTHER RECORD BREAKER.

R. A. Rogers, of the P. P. Co., Makes Fast Time.

Made the Trip From Winnipeg in 29 Days—Only 96 Hours Actual Travelling on the Trail.

The Parsons Produce Company is evidently composed of men ambitious not alone for financial honors, but imbued with a strong determination to outdo all competitors for rapid mushing records. Only a few days ago Mr. G. W. McTavish, an employee of the company made the phenomenal trip from Bennett to Dawson in five days and one hour.

Following him was the senior member of the firm, Mr. R. A. Rogers, he arriving yesterday and making the journey from Bennett to Dawson in 96 hours actual traveling. Mr. Rogers is the general manager of the company, with headquarters in Winnipeg. He has never been in this country before and takes the greatest interest in the conditions which has made Dawson famous throughout the world. When asked what he thought of the country, Mr. Rogers answered:

"I think this is a great country, with a great future. I concluded to come in here that I might get in touch with local conditions, as no man on the outside can operate business here as successfully as one who is conversant with the necessities of the camp."

"We have a large business and anticipate operating on an even larger scale than heretofore, and if we can get a suitable location down town will have a store there commensurate with the extent of our business. We are now operating in Exeter, Vancouver, Victoria, Nelson, Rossland, Atlin and Dawson. We believe in progress and shall make every legitimate effort to increase the extent of our trade."

"In a few days I intend making a trip to the mines and shall upon my return arrange to leave again for my way back, leaving here about April the first."

Mr. Rogers is an affable and shrewd looking gentleman and the experience he acquires here will, without doubt, be practically applied.

POLICE COURT.

The advantages of following the Biblical injunction, "Abstain from all appearance of evil," were never more fully portrayed than in police court this morning when W. C. Squires, who is employed at the Dominion club rooms in the capacity of gold weigher and general bookkeeper for the club, the saloon and in Sam Bonfield's mining interests, was up on the charge of supporting himself in the main by gambling. His pursuit of the various divisions of business was admitted, and it was also admitted that he never does any work at the gaming tables; but the fact of his being gold weigher for the tables was sufficient to substantiate the charge, with the result that he paid the usual fine, \$50 and costs.

Chas. J. K. Nourse, of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, is not vaunted with vain glory regarding his attainments as a connoisseur, but he thinks he knows a good turkey when it is served, and is willing to "stand pat" on his judgment. On Friday, the 9th instant, Mr. Nourse purchased of Mike Conlin a turkey which, when submitted to the culinary test, developed, it is alleged, strong symptoms of impurity and decay. Mr. Nourse and Health Officer Dr. Goode are, therefore, appearing for the Queen in the prosecution of Mr. Conlin. The latter was not in court when the case was called this morning and a warrant for his apprehension was ordered issued. The case will probably be heard this evening or tomorrow morning.

Suit was instituted by J. H. Jewell against Archie McDonald for wages alleged to be due for labor performed on a mining claim.

Old Sol's Rays.

The effects of the sun's rays were felt more acutely today than at any time during the past six months. Today witnesses a decided softening of the snow and water poured from the eaves on the sunny side of buildings. It now looks as though spring is dawning in earnest on this part of the mundane sphere.

Gold Commissioner's Court.

The case of Nelson et al. vs. Fairclough et al. is on trial before Commissioner Senkler today. The action involves the title to the upper half of creek claim No. 29 below A. Mack's discovery on Quartz creek.

A protest suit has been filed by T. F. Lawson against M. L. Davidson, F. D. Boyer, Edward L. Ensel and Jack Anderson. The plaintiff alleges that he is the owner of the hillside claim known as the "Constantine," which adjoins the left limits of Nos. 16 and 17 below discovery on Bonanza; that

the defendants are the owners of Nos. 2 and 3 Magnet gulch, and that in developing their properties, the defendants are trespassing encroaching upon plaintiff's claim. The hearing of the protest has been fixed for April 11th, 1900.

Claims Recorded.

Yesterday afternoon, John S. Day received a grant for a placer claim described as the upper half of No. 2 Calder creek. At the same time, Edward L. Ensel recorded the lower half of the No. 2 Calder creek.

The following quartz claims have been recently recorded. The Homestake mineral claim by Mrs. L. K. Hill, the St. Peter claim by Olaf Winningstad, the Northern Light by Emil Stauff, the Regina by J. Kellner, the Midas by John L. E. Walsh.

Water Right Application.

John Raap, C. B. Debney and W. G. Strong have applied to the mining recorder for a three years' grant of 200 inches of water, to be diverted by digging a ditch about 1000 feet in length, in such a manner as to catch the surface water running from the hillsides on the left limit, opposite Nos. 16, 16a and 17 below discovery on Sulphur. The applicants intend to use the said water for mining purposes on creek claim No. 17 below discovery on Sulphur.

Needed at Home.

Pittsburg, Feb. 18.—At a meeting tonight of the East End Civic Club, under the auspices of the National Reform Bureau, of Washington, D. C., resolutions were adopted condemning as a crime against civilization the exportation of American whisky and beer to our newly acquired territories, and it was decided to petition congress to reenact the anticantene law.

D. A. Shindler has just received assortment of whiffs, Stillson wrenches, extension jaws, and 1 inch return bends, etc.

Do you feel weak, nervous and generally run down? Our celery, with beef, iron and wine will make you good as new. Cribbs & Rogers, druggists, opposite Palace Grand. Branch store, Grand Forks.

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