

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL

News of the Day Selected from Thursday's Evening Times.

UP ON THE YUKON.

An Arizona Miner With Twenty Years' Experience.

SPENDS A PROFITABLE SEASON THERE

He Contradicts Many of Mr. Seaman's Assertions—It is a Grand Gold Country But Hard to Get At.

C. E. Myers, of the mining firm of Myers & Webb, Prescott, Arizona, and late of Fort Mile Creek, Yukon river, Alaska, called at the Times office this morning in reference to the Seaman interview, published in the Times last Thursday. Mr. Myers said he would like to contradict some of the statements made by Mr. Seaman regarding life at the Yukon mining camps.

"I have just come down from Fort Mile with 34 other miners," said Mr. Myers, "and am on my way home to Arizona, and I want to tell you that some of the things Mr. Seaman has said about the Yukon country are not fair or just. To begin with, my paper and I and two other men went from Frisco to Juneau last spring. We left Juneau on March 15th and started to cross the summit with Pete Macdonald, who was taking two horses to the Yukon, the first horses ever taken into that country. Mr. Seaman says boats are often upset making the passage. That is not so. All last season only one boat was upset. The men running her, O. C. Bell and Ole Peterson, were following up the ice too fast, and it was their own fault; they lost their outfit. That was in the Lewes river, 60 miles above Pelly river, just north of the British Columbia boundary line. No lives were lost last season. It was my first season in the country. Now, Seaman says men can get in only a few days' work, some getting as low as six days. I never heard tell of any man only getting six days. I put in 62 days, and there were men working for claim owners at \$10 per day who got in from 76 to 78 days this season. Many claim owners get in four months' work in a season, beginning the ground slicing early."

"Did you make anything by your 62 days' work?" "I cleared \$300 after everything was paid for. I was working on the same claim as Bob Lowry and Peter George on Miller creek. Lowry employs men, and he and his partner, McCullough, did well this season. Mr. Lowry came down with us and brought out \$600 for the season's work. Seaman says he cannot be found giving over \$2 a day. When we were going down the Lewes river did some prospecting, and we found bars yielding \$8 and \$10 a day, and we, four of us, took \$150 a piece out of that river."

"What about the Frenchmen who are so deeply in debt, mentioned by Mr. Seaman?" "They are not in debt at all; I know them all, and they have done first-rate this season. It was their first season on Fort Mile creek, not their eighth as Seaman says. They heard of the new strikes on Miller creek, packed their outfits over the range, opened up claims and every man of them took out about \$1000 clear of expenses for this season's work."

"Anything in the story about \$90,000 debts on Jack McQuestion's books?" "Yes, there is. There is a man on the wrong side of the book for Jack. But I was talking to him before I left. He is a fine man and highly esteemed by the men. He said he would get over the half of the \$90,000 this season; the balance was not much account, but the outlook on Franklin and Davis creeks was very good, and there was some hope. As for a man being practically tied to the country if he has \$1000 or \$1200 against him on the books I won't say anything more than that William Boss, a miner living at Fort Mile, having \$1100 against him on McQuestion's books, sold his claim and came out this fall. Mr. McQuestion told him he could leave, and he told Boss the account didn't matter; if ever he got the money he could send it in to him."

"Now, as to the expense of getting in to the country, is it as much as Mr. Seaman made it out?" "Well, if he travels first-class and lives high, it's quite possible; but you know miners don't expect to travel luxuriously anywhere, and for my part I can't see how it could cost a miner \$250 to get from Frisco to Fort Mile, exclusive of outfit. It cost me nothing like that. First, I paid \$40 from Frisco to Juneau; then \$10 to Haines' Mission on the Daia river, this side of the summit. From there we started on sleighs across the frozen lakes. Then there was \$30 worth of grub; a whole lot of things I took in lasted a good deal of the summer. So, you see, my expenses, including provisions and part outfit, cost me less than \$100. Yes, it's a hard country to get into, and the getting

there is enough to sicken a lazy man, let alone the everlasting rustling he has to do when the season opens. I deny Mr. Seaman's assertion that it is a lazy man's country. It is a country where a lazy man is the only one likely to do well, and I must say most of the boys are hustlers. Why, Seaman contradicts himself when he says it is a lazy man's country, by telling you immediately afterwards that you have to strip from six to twelve feet of earth off to get down to pay dirt. Is that an attractive occupation for a lazy man? You bet not. No, sir; the lazy men light right out when they see how much work there is to be done."

"Were Mr. Seaman's quotations on provisions correct?" "In the main; but flour dropped to \$12 per cwt. this fall, and other provisions in proportion, although clothing remains the same. Potatoes are not 50 cents a pound. I bought them right along at McQuestion's at 29 cents. Everything is pretty high up there, of course; gum boots \$15 a pair, a shovel \$5 and so on, but you expect it, under the circumstances. This season, Jack McQuestion was selling complete outfits for the season, including provisions, for \$250."

"Any smuggling of whiskey and rides, as alleged?" "Yes. But not to the extent Seaman makes out. Probably a dozen rides were smuggled in this season, but certainly no such number as 250. "Did you visit all the diggings along the Yukon?" "That would be impossible. If a man prospect a gulch in a season he is doing very well. Seaman was never at Miller creek and some of the other camps he mentions. You see Franklin gulch is 15 miles from the mouth of Fort Mile creek; then it is 40 miles to the next camp and so on in much the same ratio to all the other camps, so that if a man spent his time travelling between camps he could not expect to make very much. "Is travelling dangerous on the river?" "No, it is very easy, except in two places, Canyon and White Horse, where there are rapids. We usually run the White Horse and portage the Canyon. But Pete McDonald, with his scow and two horses, shot both of them safe and sound. Then you have to pole up Fort Mile creek; if you are up to poling, good progress can be made. That's the route to Davis creek and Canyon creek. There is no trail and travelling is very rough. We had to pack in a lot of stuff on our backs as they were short at the camp, flour, beans, fruit, etc. Away in there prices are, of course, higher than at the stores at Fort Mile."

"How do the men spend the long winter?" "Oh, things are much better there now than they used to be. They have now three billiard tables at Fort Mile, and there is any amount of literature, so there is much more pleasure than formerly. "Is there anything in the statement that water is scarce?" "No, there is lots of water. Not a drop stopped work a day on Miller or Davis creeks this season on that or any other account. It was a fairly good season. The Yukon country is very rich in gold, but it is hard to get at owing to the shortness of the season. I have been mining for twenty years, and, of course, know what to do when I get to the ground. A green hand on the Yukon is quite likely to lose a season getting acquainted with the dirt, but men of experience, who are willing to sit in and work for all they are worth while the season is on, can make money. I think all the men did fairly well this season, some of them very well, and although you will hear a few croakers condemning the country, the general opinion is that the Yukon miners is that the Yukon is a good one. It is the wild, barren appearance of the country as they go in that disgusts the reader, and takes the heart out of them. They are not used to it, and they give up before they try to do anything. I am well enough satisfied with what I took out this season, for a first season. I am going home to Arizona to look after some business there, but next year, or that following, I will go in to the Yukon, and expect to do still better. As a side before, the Yukon is a good gold country, but a man has to work very hard while the season lasts."

**Poultry Show.** Cochins ruled the roost at the poultry club show last night and as the judge makes a specialty of this breed he was rewarded by having the largest entry of the series. Only partridge Cochins were shown as the hens entered did not appear. In cocks Albert Sherk took first with the bird that won first at Seattle, as a cockerel, and in hens with the first at Victoria. Both these showed great improvement on last winter's form. The pullets were excellent, all showing grand condition and plumage. Mr. Patterson won first and second, scores, 82 1-2, 81 1-2. Mr. Baxter, third, scored 80. A fine cockerel was shown, not for competition, and was greatly admired. Mr. Merritt's Aylesbury ducks were in evidence as his Pekins are good evidence that ducks are the most profitable poultry. The beautiful game fowl will be shown next week and eight classes are provided.

SHORT LOCALS.

Cleanings of City and Provincial News in a Condensed Form.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

—Allan Bishop has been appointed deputy collector of inland revenue at Kaslo.

—Collector Milne has telegraphed the total catch of the British Columbia fleet as 68,741 skins.

—No action will be taken by the Attorney-General in the charges against Sergeant Gibbs of Nanaimo police force, that he misappropriated certain fines.

—A large brindle dog, with three feet of chain and a collar attached, awaits an owner at the police station, where he called this morning looking for his master.

—Sooke district is being thoroughly prospected for gold and it is believed the prospectors will be rewarded. Mr. Radford is said to have made very satisfactory discoveries.

—In the police court Swill Tims and Jas. Pudderman, drunk, fined \$5 apiece. Chin Ah Song, obtaining money under false pretences from Mar Mey, continued till another day.

—Fanny Davenport, came to British Columbia during December, playing in Vancouver the 18th and 19th and here on the 21st and 22nd. She will present Fedora and La Tosca.

—Yesterday the school board yesterday the school board desks were awarded to Muirhead & Mann and for chairs to Weller Bros. and Jacob Sehl. They are all for the new schools.

—Capt. Bisset, of the schooner Annie E. Point, was accidentally shot in the shoulder this morning while with a hunting party on the Saanich road. He was not seriously wounded. Dr. R. L. Fraser attended to him.

—Saturday last a small craft from Seattle named the Echo put into Victoria harbor. She had a cargo of produce but had no manifest papers. The owner told a plausible story and was allowed to depart Sunday morning for her proper papers.

—A letter received from Nelson states that 40 miles of the Nelson & Fort Sheppard railway had been completed on the 10th inst., and it was expected the line would be completed by the end of the month. Trains will be running during December.

—A quiet session of the board of school trustees appointed to arrange for the laying out and fencing of the North ward school grounds met yesterday. It will be necessary to build a retaining wall, fill in the grounds and erect a fence. Tenders for this work will be called shortly.

—The contract for the erection of Mr. Bryden's beautiful house on Head street was yesterday awarded to George McFarland by the architect, J. Gerhard Thiers. Mr. Thiers will call for tenders for several other residences to be built in the suburbs as soon as the plans are completed.

—A Seattle girl, Miss Clara V. Clark, No. 109 Republican street, believes in at least one form of woman's rights. She applied on Saturday last to the county clerk for a license to wed Wm. C. Johnston, of Victoria. The license was issued, and Mr. Johnston will be compelled to come to the scratch or leave the country.

—The Young People's Literary Association of the Central Presbyterian church met in a social gathering. A constitution was adopted and other business transacted. The society will give its first entertainment on Monday next, when Rev. Mr. Macleod will deliver a lecture on "The Characteristics of a Good Man." A costume party will be given for the use of the city hall for the purpose of holding a public meeting is said to be in circulation and has the names of the following gentlemen attached: The object of the meeting is to discuss the action of the mayor in ignoring the North Ward representatives in the council when appointing standing committees and other matters affecting the ward.

—A quiet session took place on Wednesday evening last at 86 Fort street, in the presence of a select company of invited friends. Henry Pike, a Victoria leader, and Miss Elizabeth Martin Ross, both of this city, were the contracting parties, with Captain Charles LeBlanc as best man and Miss Jane Ross, sister of the bride, as bridesmaid. Rev. Joseph Hall, of the Centennial Methodist church, tied the knot.

—Thursday evening will be memorable in the annals of the city. The brilliant victories won by Victoria lacrosse team at home and abroad have called forth from the citizens a generous expression of appreciation. The musical entertainment in connection with the affair will be one of the best ever given in Victoria. The grounds will be being appropriately decorated for the concert and everything promises well.

—The general board of missions of the Methodist church have made the following appropriations for British Columbia: Domestic missions, \$6235; Indian missions, \$20,414; Chinese missions, \$4254. There was also \$7850 devoted to work in West China, and \$26,000 to Japan. The total appropriations exceed the amount of last year's income by \$22,000, which, it is expected, shall be met by an advance in the contributions of the friends of missions during the year.

—Late contributors to the Midwinter Fair exhibit at 18, Troncau avenue, are: A 6 1-2 pound pumpkin, from R. T. Williams, 22 View street; a 5 1-2 pound carrot, from W. P. Sayward, 14 Cadboro Bay road; a 3 1-2 pound potato, from T. E. Squires, Victoria West; a 3 1-4 pound potato, from S. C. Johnson, Cedar Hill road; ten potatoes, weighing 17 pounds, from S. Sidwell, South Saanich; one potato weighing 4 pounds, and 25 potatoes weighing 50 pounds; Ald. Henderson; 6 silver skin onions, George S. Wilson, James Bay.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

—J. A. Kenning, commission agent, has opened an office in the Five Sisters block.

—The frost on Sunday and Monday nights formed ice two inches thick at the mouth of the Nanaimo river.

are paying up before the 30th to secure the one-sixth rebate.

—There was no inquest held in the case of old man Dayel, who was found dead in one of Maxnard's cabins. The body was interred yesterday.

—Rev. G. T. Pritchard, the "boy preacher," who was here last year, is in trouble in Des Moines, Iowa, charged with stealing some clothing.

—The renewal of the mission being conducted at St. Andrew's Roman Catholic cathedral by the Redemptorist priests is being very well attended.

—Ah Kee was fined \$30 or seven days in the police court this morning for sawing wood on the street. He failed to pay the fine and is in jail. Within a stone's throw of the police station another Chinaman was sawing wood all day. Nothing was said to him.

—The civic taxes are being paid more promptly than they were last year and it is expected a large percentage will be paid before October 31st than has been paid previously. Yesterday the city treasurer gave receipts for \$14,000. Monday and Tuesday will be the busiest days.

—As a result of the inspection of the Kaslo-Slocan country by Messrs. Gundry and Foley, two prominent St. Paul railway men, the railway from Kaslo to the mines will be constructed at an early date. It is understood that the contract has already been let for building and equipping the line.

—A parlor social was held last evening at the residence of Mrs. Hastie, 141 Chatham street by the members of the Y. P. S. C. E. of the First Presbyterian church. After a short address by Rev. Dr. Campbell followed, the following numbers were announced: Solo, Miss Field; reading, Mr. Landes; song, Mrs. Walt; solo, Miss Wolff; duet, Mrs. Cochrane and Mrs. Jackson; and recitation, Mr. Chisholm.

—The steamship Warrimoo is due here on November 8th from Australia and the Hawaiian Islands. She will have a big return cargo as there is already a large amount of freight at Vancouver for her. It is almost settled that a boat to take the next run will be chartered in Australia and that the last run on which the Miowera was lost will be the only one abandoned.

—S. L. Kelly, owner of the steam schooner F. H. Worlock, received a letter via the Empress of Japan from Captain Kilderbjerke, who is in command. The letter makes no reference to the reported confiscation of the ship's papers on the Russian coast. The captain says he had no skulking when the letter was written. The captain intends to go to Yokohama.

—The facts relative to the "Bobbie Burns" mining transaction were not stated correctly in the item in last evening's Times. The arrangement was made several months ago, and W. J. Macaulay became the principal owner in the three-quarters interest sold. It is understood to be the intention of the new owners to form a joint stock company shortly, and in the meantime to start development work on the property.

—R. D. Vening, of the marine and Fisheries department, who returned on the Empress from an official visit to the Commander and Erybloy Islands, is spending a few days in the city before going to Ottawa. He has called upon a number of the sealing captains and owners, and has also spent considerable time with Collector Milne. He is gathering information on several points to be used by the Dominion government. An attaché of the marine and fisheries department Mr. Vening has had much to do with sealing matters.

—The members of the newly-appointed board of horticulture met yesterday, the following gentlemen being present: A. H. Ohlson, Victoria district; T. Trage, Salt Spring Island; E. Hutcherson, Ladner; Thomas Cunningham, New Westminster; Thomas G. Earle, Lytton; Hon. J. H. Turner, A. discussion on rules and regulations for carrying out the law occupied the time of the meeting. Inspector Hutcherson left last evening for Oregon and Washington to learn how many trees will be sent to British Columbia this season. He will then be better able to import imported trees.

—Charles James, aged 17, of Chatham street, is missing. The boy left his home Tuesday morning to go hunting at Cedar Hill and Beaver Lake. He told his parents he would return that night, but has not since been seen or heard of. He was dressed in a blue serge coat, dark trousers, and had on a white straw hat with black band. He had a double-barrelled shot gun and a small spaniel dog accompanied him. The boy though young is an experienced hunter and knows very well the part of the country where he is supposed to be shooting. It is thought he has met with an accident.

—J. C. Drysdale, proprietor of the big salmon cannery at Point Roberts, is in the city on his way to San Francisco, and is stopping at the Northern, says the Post-Intelligencer. Mr. Drysdale's cannery has about completed the season's work and has put up 50,000 cases this year, the bulk of which is sockeye salmon. Mr. Drysdale says: As far as returns have been received this year, my cannery is high line on the whole coast. My pack all goes to San Francisco, and is shipped foreign to England and Australia. The salmon market feels the general depression and is low. There has been no improvement in it for the past six weeks."

—The agents of the "Mercantile Guide Company" Pacific Coast Directory for 1894, and representing the large and well known bookbinders and printers, the Hicks-Judd Company, of 23 First street, San Francisco, Cal., are in Victoria for the purpose of securing subscriptions, information, etc., for their 1894 book. The work has been here before, and by reason of its low price is deservedly worthy of the large patronage bestowed upon it. It contains valuable and useful information relative to all business, trades and professions of all towns and cities represented in the book. The 1894 issue will be enlarged and improved. A. Marks is the general manager.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

The divisional court will sit to-morrow at 11 to hear an appeal from an order made by Drake, J. in Powell vs. Harris.

The application of Nicholson for leave to sign final judgment against Kerr & Co. was dismissed by Crease, J., with costs.

Judgment will be given to-morrow in Chambers in the case of the Bank of British Columbia vs. Wainwright. The following are set down for hearing to-morrow:

Brackman & Ker Milling Company vs. Courtney defendant and Weldon Courtney plaintiff. An interlocutory issue. Application of Sheriff McMillan to show cause why the said parties should not appear and state the nature and particulars of their respective claims to the wood seized in the cause of the plaintiff against the defendant.

Re Robert Dunn, late of East West-lington, deceased. Application for an order that W. S. Chandler for and on behalf of the infant children of James Dunn deceased named to the person appointed by the judge to have custody of said infants and in default that the said parties be committed for contempt of court.

Irving vs. Malette and Stamford. Application of Malette for directions for trial of issues herein. The trial of this action will take place on Monday.

Canada Paint Company vs. Robinson Trading Company. Motion for judgment, Crease, J., to set aside writ of summons on the ground of irregularity.

**Charge Dismissed.** In the police court this morning Mr. Crease was prosecuting in the case of Mar Muey, who charged Chong Ah Soong with obtaining \$140 under false pretences. He bargained with Soong for six Chinamen to work at the North Pacific cannery on the Skeena river. The bargain was made at Victoria and Mar Muey went after him but Soong had disappeared. A warrant was sworn against him in Westminster but he was recently arrested on a second warrant sworn out in Victoria. Book No. 24, Quong Yuen corroborated the testimony of Mar Muey. Soong acknowledged he had received the money but said it was impossible for him to get the men. They refused to go to the Skeena. Mr. Ward, presiding magistrate, told Mr. Crease that in the opinion of the court no case had been made out. The prisoner was dismissed.

Mr. Crease—But, your honor, I can show you that this is a case made out. The statutes provide that—"The court is of opinion," said Mr. Ward, "that this man would not be convicted if taken before a jury."

For the defence it was argued that there was sufficient evidence to warrant committal. Mr. Ward said: "Well, I and my brother magistrats," said Mr. Ward, "are of opinion that there is not. If you want to try it before another magistrate, you are at liberty. We regard it as a civil suit. The magistrats left the bench, but Mr. Crease remained behind with his celestial client and another summons was issued against Soong and sworn to before another magistrate."

**The Garnet Court-Martial.** It is understood that before the close of the court-martial at present being held on H. M. S. Garnet a sensation will be caused among the officers of the navy and their friends. Navigating Lieutenant Masters, president of the court-martial, who is on trial on account of a shortness of £250 in the fund's accounts, it is said, is not to blame, but other officers may be. The Garnet having been in commission for three years, the canteen fund was large. Lieut. Masters is rather easy-going, and he allowed men to go to the chest, take what they wanted out and put it O. U.'s in. Some of these as well as a receipt are said to be missing. The court is composed of Captain Brooke, H. M. S. Champion, president; Captain Treacher, Royal Arthur; Commander Stokes, Royal Arthur; Navigating Lieutenant Davenport, Melpomene. Captain Hughes-Hallett appeals for the prosecution and E. V. Bodwell and P. A. E. Irving for the defence.

**The Puebla's Passengers.** The steamer City of Puebla sailed for California this morning with the following cabin passengers from Victoria: R. P. Bithart, Wm. Wilson and wife, Mrs. E. Bollinger, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Smith, A. W. Sawyer, wife and child, R. T. Elwars, Mrs. Mollie and child, Miss Notinuer, W. A. Washington, A. Benson, C. A. McPherson, D. E. Wright, P. H. Webb, M. O'Neil, wife and two children, W. J. Maloney and wife, C. Midrine, J. Barclay, Miss Barclay, J. E. Clark, J. M. Wells and wife, W. Bredt, F. Rolph and wife, G. Armitage and wife, E. Yates and wife, G. E. Bates and wife, R. M. Henderson and wife, Miss Seabrook and E. M. Bremner.

**Marine.** The tug Lorne towed the Robert Siddon to sea last night.

The steamer City of Topeka being a week behind time will not leave here for Alaska on the 30th. The Alki will go up in her place.

A San Francisco special of Tuesday says: The steamer Alki, according to reports received by the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, arrived at Portland yesterday from Alaska. She will make a return trip on the 30th inst. instead of the Topeka, which vessel is behind six days in making the trip. When the Topeka arrives she will be started on the regular schedule commencing November 14.

**Spanish.** Valparaiso, Oct. 27.—A dispatch received in Valparaiso says that the Spanish government has opened an armory men. It is announced that the Chilean firing-works will be advanced upon the 28th inst. and that the government will be obliged to surround the armory. Patches have been sent to the consuls at Melilla.

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THE SILVER

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MR. GORMAN CRITICISES

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San Francisco, Oct

Advertisement for Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder, featuring the product name and a small illustration of a woman.