

WRITES THE KLONDIKE NEWS

A Dawson Man Tells a Seattle Friend His Opinions.

Does Not Overdraw in His Estimates—Likens Dawson's Christmas to Old Times.

Gus M. Stearns, a former prominent business man of Portland, who has been for three years in the Klondike, writes under date January 2 an interesting, gossipy letter to a friend in this city of matters in general on the Yukon and in and around Dawson and the creeks.

"Much interest is being taken in prospecting on American territory, Tanana being strongly in the lead, several parties from here having started or soon will start. The prospects of enough of that section will soon be known to justify a large camp somewhere on the river well up from the mouth.

"Clear creek, a tributary of Stewart river, is and has been attracting much attention and it is generally thought will prove a fair producer and a camp of some magnitude. The prospecting going on will determine this soon, as there are between thirty and forty men at work now on the creek. A permanent camp at the mouth of the creek, making a base from which the miners can secure supplies, will enable upper Stewart river to be prospected, and when that is done I predict some rich discoveries both in quartz and placer.

"Eureka creek, a tributary of Indian river, is also showing rich prospects at this time, though practically deserted for the last two years, and bids fair to become a large producer.

"An estimate of the output for the current year is hard to make as yet, owing to the large number of claims on the creeks that are unworked this winter. These, however, are expected to be worked next summer, and it is the uncertainty of what ground will be worked and what will not, that makes it hard to form an estimate of the coming output. I have no doubt that the winter output will be reduced, but think it safe to say that the increased summer work will cause this year's figures to fully equal those of last.

"Mercantile business of all kinds seems unusually quiet in Dawson, so much so, indeed, that even the large companies are taking a hand in cutting prices. The hotel or roadhouse business on the creeks seems largely overdone and general complaints is the rule. Still it is generally thought that under the new mining regulations that prospectors will return in large numbers.

"The brightest and most pleasant winter weather that the 'oldest' can recall has been over this district for the past four weeks. From 8 to 10 degrees below to 10 to 12 above. Such doings on the part of the weather clerk indicate neglect of duty, or, perhaps, 'bootch', but it could not last, and today it registered 40 degrees below and still going down.

"Christmas and New Year's, each have passed in Dawson, as with the rest of the world, and this Christmas, owing to the large number of children in the city and on the creeks, has seemed to the observer more like an old-fashioned Christmas for boys and girls than previous like occasions here, and not so much like the days when Christmas was celebrated here by the sour dough.

"All of the large stores had an abundance and well selected stock of toys and other things calculated to please the juvenile eye and deplete the poke of the head of the family and his male friends.

"This method of celebrating, however, was by no means unanimous, and the genuine old-timer who was a sour dough when we were chechakos, threw off the lash rope, broke the halter and went bucking, some the slowing bowl and some the tiger. It all passed as usual in this peaceful mining camp, where, even the extra double distilled 'bootch' cannot cause the toughest of the tough to forget his fear of the boys with the yellow stripes, or the dreaded government woodpile, where sawing wood under compulsion, with the thermometer dallying with the fifties, is no dream, but a sad and fearful reality."

No Demand for Dogs.

A big, strapping, broad-shouldered man strolled into the lobby of the Butler hotel yesterday afternoon leading a thoroughbred malamute dog by the chain. The man was a picturesque figure. His type was frequently seen on the streets of Seattle at this season

of the year in 1898 and 1899 and even as late as last winter. The man and the dog, however, belong to an era which is practically a part of the history of Alaska.

Few people in the lobby looked at the man, who was a Klondike miner of the conventional type. The dog, however, attracted all eyes. He was a beauty. Of more than ordinary size, broad-chested and broad-backed, the malamute tugged restlessly at his chain, panting the while as if in pain from the warmth of the steam-heated room.

"He's worth \$100 of any man's money," said the miner, answering an interrogatory. "Of course, I can't get that for him outside, but it's his true value. I would take \$60 for him, and no less."

Three years ago, a dog like this would have sold for from \$250 to \$500 in Skagway," continued the miner. "That was before the day of the railroads and when roadhouses on the upper Yukon were mighty few and far between. In those days a winter's trip over the river from Skagway to Dawson earned many a fortune of from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Then claims were sold on the outside in form of options, while the miners on the inside were digging the gold out of the crevices of the bedrock by the tablespoonful and dumping it in coal oil cans.

"There was only one way of quick communication between Seattle and Dawson possible in the winter three years ago. This was by means of dog teams, and the malamute, of all animals in the frozen north was most valuable. Shepherds, Newfoundlanders and St. Bernards, full blood and scrubs, brought good prices, but the thoroughbred malamute carried the banner for money value. I have seen them sold readily for \$500 each in Dawson when a party was made up to come out over the ice in the early days of the camp.

"But this is all changed now. It is true that the old timers scorn the steam locomotives and the trains in winter time and go over the trail in little groups with dog sleds to this city. They have made better time than the trains, too, during the late snow blockade. But where a miner used to have his team of four or eight dogs, he only has two now and prices have dropped accordingly.

"It is easy now for a man to travel by dog team from Skagway to Dawson with a light sled, a fly and 200 pounds of food for himself and his animals. This is because the roadhouses are frequent and new supplies can be obtained at any point. In the old days the miner had no roadhouse to depend on; he started with a full outfit of from 1000 to 2000 pounds. One malamute to 250 pounds of freight was the ordinary reckoning. As the necessity for the dogs has grown less and less every year, their value has decreased."

The malamute lay panting and whining while his master talked, as if bewailing the fate of his kind. The dog was a fine specimen of his breed, with a thick undercoating of soft downy wool, and a rough outer coat of gray hair, almost spiky, with the ends tipped with black.

The malamute was bred in the Mackenzie river country originally and was started from the mating of Scotch collies with native wolves.

"The malamute pups take as kindly to the collar and traces of a dog sled as a duck does to water," concluded the miner. "Some breeders of malamutes have made fortunes from them. I know of one of these who has a native Siberian she-wolf which is the mother of a tribe of malamutes that have netted the owner a fortune of \$10,000."—P. I., Jan. 30

Canadian Children's Testimonial.

London, Jan. 25.—It is believed that one of the last acts of Queen Victoria was to signify a wish that the testimonial sent by the children of Canada should be handed over to the royal patriotic commissioners, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in South Africa. This desire was communicated to the commissioners in a letter from the colonial office, dated the day of her death.

The testimonial of the children of Canada consisted of the sum of £3399, which Mr. Chamberlain forwarded to the royal patriotic commissioners the day Queen Victoria died.

Rex hams and soft wheat flour; job lots, at S. Archibald.

Fresh cabbage at Denver Market.

Fresh candies made daily at Zaccarelli's Bank Corner.

Brewitt makes clothes fit.

Hay and oats 10 cents at Mecker's.

The fire never touched us. We are doing more business than ever. Murphy Bros., butchers.

When in want of laundry work call up 'phone 52. Cascade Laundry.

Films of all kinds at Goetzman's.

TIMES ARE BRISK IN CHINA

No Law to Behead Members of Royal Family.

Supposed Traitor Loses His Head—A Large Sum of Money to Bribe New Official.

The Chinese peace commissioners have received definite imperial instructions not to consent to any punishment heavier than imprisonment for princes of the royal blood. This news reached Seattle in mail advices on board the United States transport Arab, which arrived from the Orient last Sunday night. The Universal Gazette of Peking, discussing the peace terms, criticizes them for their omissions only, pointing out that the officials who are to be punished should have been designated by name and the nature of the punishment specified.

"As the demand now stands," says the Gazette, "there may be a difference of opinion as to whether or not Tang Fuhsiung is included. As for Prince Tana, the chief sinner his name has not even been mentioned. It is known that the Chinese peace commissioners have definite imperial instructions not to consent to severer punishment of princes of the royal blood than imprisonment."

Oriental papers are discussing with avidity the peace terms.

Further details of the wreck of the new German steamer Suishiang, 60 miles above Ichang, among the rapids of the Yangtse gorges, are contained in the Shanghai Mercury of December 29. The vessel is a total loss. All on board were saved, except Capt. Breytag, her master, who lost his life that others might live.

The Suishiang was bound from Ichang to Chungking. It was her maiden trip. She had on board a cargo of merchandise and a number of passengers, including several missionaries, who were on their way to resume their labors in the province of Szechuen.

The disaster came while Capt. Breytag was grappling with the forces of nature among the treacherous rapids of the Yangtse gorges. It is feared that the loss of the steamer will discourage further enterprise in the same direction.

The Suishiang was built at Shanghai by Boyd & Co. for Arnhold, Karberg & Co. for the special purpose of trading on the upper Yangtse.

A remarkable story of vengeance meted out to a Chinese who informed foreign troops of hidden treasure in a small town 20 miles from Peking is told by the Shanghai Mercury. The treasure, was said to consist of £17,000. On nearing the village the Chinese was sent ahead of the expedition, which numbered about 25 men, to prepare the villagers for the surprise party. When the gold hunters arrived they found the head of their informer in a bag, instead of a flowery welcome. The villagers made other manifestations of their hostility to the troops. Reinforcement were sent for, and in the meantime the troops bivouacked in the village pawnshop. The treasure is still hidden, and inquiries are being made in Peking about the return of the troops.

It would appear from the article that the gold seekers were British, as the Austrians subsequently protested against a "wanton" invasion of their sphere by the British.

Within the space of one week on the Canton river five passage boats in tow of launches have been robbed by river pirates. In three of the instances the launches were captured and made use of to conduct them to a place of safety. In only one instance were any arrests made. Some time ago the Shubing boat was held up and two of the passengers badly wounded. The following night another boat was robbed and the launch taken and has not yet been recovered. The pirates are starting operations earlier in the season, and scarcely a day passes but one or more robberies are reported. The river police seem to be unable to cope with the robbers, and it is thought that if it gets much worse up-river traffic will be entirely suspended.

The keepers of gambling dens in Fatsan, China, are becoming somewhat worried as to what action will be taken in regard to their places of business when the new viceroy To Mo takes office. They have been informed that he hates vice and will do his best to drive out the nefarious traffic. The heads of the Wa Sing lottery establishment have accordingly held a meeting and will make an attempt to buy his excellency when he arrives. The enormous sum of \$300,000 has been

raised and will be offered to the viceroy if he will take no cognizance of the acts of the gamblers.

The new viceroy will assume his position in a short time, and his action is anxiously awaited by the gamekeepers, who, however, seem to have some sort of assurance that their request will be granted if the viceroy is properly mollified.—P. I., Jan. 30.

Notice.

Whereas the commissioner of the Yukon territory has created a new mining district known as the Clear creek mining district, which district is described as follows: All of Stewart river and its tributaries from Lake creek to Fraser falls, including Lake creek and its tributaries.

Now, therefore, the public is hereby notified that on the 26th day of February, 1901, a mining recorder's office will be opened at Barlow City, and all records and documents pertaining to the Clear mining district will be located there.

Dated, January 31st, 1901.
(Signed) J. LANGLOIS BELL,
Assistant Gold Commissioner.

Notice of Revocation of Power of Attorney.

To all Whom it May Concern: Take notice that a certain power of attorney, granted to Joseph McGillivray, of Dawson, Y. T., by the undersigned company, to carry on the affairs of the said company in the Yukon territory, bearing date the 22nd day of January, 1900, has been revoked. Dated at Dawson, this 15th day of February, A. D. 1901.
Per Pro: THE ANGLO-KLONDIKE MINING COMPANY, LTD.
T. A. R. PURCHAS,
GEO. T. COFFEY.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the parliament of Canada, at the next session thereof for an act to amend the act respecting the Dawson City Electric Company, Ltd., and to extend the time limited for the commencement and completion of the electric railway and tramway by said last mentioned act authorized to be constructed.

BELCOURT & RITCHIE,
Solicitors for the Applicants.
Dated, at Ottawa, this 10th day of December, 1900.

At the present rate of consumption, the white fish the Pacific Cold Storage Co. brought in for the lenten season will all be gone long before Easter.

Elegantly furnished rooms with electric lights at the Regina Club hotel.

Brewitt makes fine pants. crt

Pine fresh meats at Murphy Bros., Third street. crt5

Kodaks bought and sold. Goetzman.

We fit glasses. Pioneer drug store.

WANTED.

WANTED—Engineer—Wages \$5.00 a day and board. Must be a good machinist. Apply at Fairview Hotel; Tuesday after noon at Nugget office. crt.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT—Finest office rooms in the city. Newly painted and papered. Enquire A. C. Co. crt.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

LAWYERS

CLARK, WILSON & STACPOOLE—Barristers, Attorneys, Notaries, Conveyancers, etc. Office Monte Carlo Building, First Avenue, Dawson, Y. T.

BURRITT & MCKAY—Advocates, Solicitors, Notaries, etc.; Commissioners for Ontario and British Columbia. Aurora No 2 Building, Front street, Dawson. Telephone No. 88.

MACKINNON & NOEL, Advocates, Second st., near Bank of B. N. A.

HENRY BLECKER FERNAND DE JOURNEL BLECKER & DE JOURNEL, Attorneys at Law. Office—Second street, in the Joslin Building. Residence—Third avenue, opp. Metropole hotel Dawson.

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

N. F. HAGEL, Q. C. Barrister, Notary, etc. over McLennan, McPeck & Co. hardware store, First avenue.

PATTULLO & RIDLEY—Advocates, Notaries, Conveyancers, etc. Office, Rooms 7 and 8 A. C. Office Bldg.

BELCOURT, McDOUGAL & SMITH—Barristers, Solicitors, Conveyancers, Etc. Offices at Dawson and Ottawa. Rooms 1 and 2 Chisholm's block, Dawson. Special attention given to Parliamentary work. N. A. Belcourt, Q. C. M. P., Frank J. McDougal, John F. Smith.

FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE
W. D. BRUCE, General Agent Manufacturer's Life; Phoenix Fire Insurance Association of London, England. Mines Real Estate, Fire Orphanum Building.

MINING ENGINEERS.

J. B. TYRRELL—Mining Engineer—Mines laid out or managed. Properties valued. Mission St., next door to public school, and at below discovery, Hunker Creek.

SOCIETIES.

THE REGULAR COMMUNICATION of Yukon Lodge, (U. D. J. A. F. & A. M.), will be held at Masonic hall, Mission street, monthly, Thursday on or before full moon at 8:30 p. m. C. H. Wells, W. M.; J. A. Donald, Sec'y

Fresh halibut at the Denver Market.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given that on and after March 1st, 1901, grants for all applications for relocation will be issued at the time the application is made, wherever the claim applied for appears open for relocation upon the records. The allowance of two weeks which has hitherto been made for holders of claims to take out a certificate of work will cease on and after March 1st. Holders of claims are warned, in order to avoid trouble with relocators, to take out a renewal of their claims on or before the expiration of their former lease.

(Signed) J. LANGLOIS BELL,
c28 Assistant Gold Commissioner.

Pine line of pipes at Zaccarelli's. Best assortment of Klondike views at Goetzman's the photographer.

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