The Klondike Nugget

TELEPHONE NO. 12.

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GEORGE M. ALLEN. ... . Publisher

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LETTERS

And Small Packages can be sent to the Creeks by our carriers on the following days: Every Tuesday and Friday to Eldorado, Bonanza, Hunker, Dominion, Gold Run, Sulphur.

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KLONDIKE NUGGET.

MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1903.

TANANA.

Tanana is a frost pure and simple. Such is the concensus of opinion among those who returned to Dawson today on the steamer Rock Island and certainly they are in a position to know whereof they speak.

The lurid tales of the "veracious" Jap so eagerly swallowed by our gullible morning contemporary have proven to have been founded upon airy fairy nothings.

The scores of good claims which were to turn out fortunes to their owners this spring, have disappeared and the work now being done in the district amounts practically to nothing.

There was no reason in the stampede of last winter—nothing to justify it, no well substantiated facts to indicate that a real strike had been made, nothing in short but highly exaggerated yarns imposed upon a too credible public by a few parties who had personal interests to serve.

The Tanana country is undoubtedly in the northern mineral belt and through process of time and with the introduction of improved machinery may be expected to become a productive mining center. But time will be required just as was the case with this district.

It was a full year after the great strike on Bonanza creek before Dawson offered a field for commercial and other business enterprises, but still in the light of that knowledge hundreds of people set out for Tanana during the middle of an Arctic winter, expecting to find an opening for every conceivable kind of venture.

How sadly they erred our news columns explain today. The Tanana may be all right in years to come, but as a poor man's country it has proven a disappointment.

CALLS FOR ACTION.

The Sun has informed the public that Mr. Ross is not, and never has been, sufficiently well to attend to his duties in parliament since the election of December last. This information comes after repeated announcements that Mr. Ross was in perfect health, and well able to attend to the interests of his constituents as well as any other member.

In the light of events it is pertinent at this time to call attention to the position in which the public has been placed by reason of oft repeated assurances which it now appears has no real foundation in fact.

It will be remembered that the local board of trade together with the miners organization at the Forks had determined prior to the sitting of parliament, to send delegates to Ottawa to protest against the Treadgold concession. This proposal has the approval of the people and would have been carried into effect had it not been for the announcement of Mr. Ross' return to Ottawa and of his complete restoration to health.

Under the circumstances it was believed that the interests of the community would best be left in Mr. Ross' care and consequently it was decided to abandon the delegation idea.

Now it appears that Mr. Ross has been able to spend little or no time in the house and during a great portion of the session has been out on the Pacific Coast.

Had the facts been known to the public as they should have been made known, the delegates would have been sent on to the capital, and a more emphatic protest against the iniquitous concession would have been entered. The territory has suffered not only on account of the disability of its member, but through the suppression of the truth has been led to forego the privilege of sending a delegation to Ottawa.

Altogether, the situation is extraordinarily unsatisfactory and seems to call for action on the part of those who were instrumental in electing Mr. Ross to office.

The collapse of the Tanana boom should result in renewed activity throughout this district. A second Klondike has yet to be discovered—and in fact there is no other district in the Yukon that can be compared with that of which Dawson is the commercial center. If the government will open the country to the prospector and restore long shaken confidence there will be no reason to fear any serious decrease in mining activity for years to come.

Russia has politely informed the United States government that such little disturbances as a massacre of several hundred inoffensive parties are not a proper subject for international comment. Russian civilization might compare favorably with that of a Sioux Indian, but viewed in the light of any higher standard it suffers lamentably.

The suppression of the Treadgold grants is essential to Yukon prosperity. With Treadgold in the saddle the miners of the Yukon territory would have a hard row before them.

British Columbia is enjoying a miniature Klondike stampede. Reports of claim jumping, thefts of grub, etc., indicate that old time traditions are being observed.

INTERESTING SESSION

Eagles Have Enjoyable Time at Meetinig Last Night.

Dawson Aerie, No. 50, Fraternal Order of Eagles, held an interesting meeting last night when F. L. Perkins of the Sun was introduced to the mysteries of the order and provided with a pair of wings. Being a large, heavy man, Mr. Perkins was given only a portion of the initiatory work.

At the close of the business session a social session or "speerunce" meeting was held at which stories were told, songs sung, reminiscences related and a good time enjoyed. The aerie is in a very flourishing and prosperous condition.

Max O'Rell is said to have remarked just before his death that he "would rather wear a hat than a halo anyway." It's a great thing never to have the big head.

NEW MINING APPLIANCE

Machinery Here for Gold Run Company

When in Operation Will Handle 4000 Cubic Yards of Gravel Each Day.

Many are the devices being employed this season by holders of extensive mining interests to decrease the cost of extracting the gold from the frozen gravel, to handle the maximum of dirt with the minimum cost. There are dredgers, steam shovels of several different kinds, pumping plants, hydraulic Rorks and atners, but it has remained for Dr. Wills, representative of the Gold Run Mining Company, to introduce a system totally unlike anything heretofore attempted in the Klondike, a method in vogue in other camps, notable the Caribou, but which has never before been tried here. While outside last winter and investigating the best method of handling vast quantities of dirt at the least possible cost, the system that has been adopted was hit upon and at once it was seen that such would be admirably suited to the Klondike. Dr. Wills went to Chicago and after some negotiations employed the Webster Manufacturing Company to build for him a plant according to his desires. In due time the outfit was completed and shipped to the far north, the entire shipment weighing approximately fifty tons and arriving a week or so ago.

A distinctive technical name for the plant could scarcely be found. It is nothing like a dredger, steam shovel or anything else of that sort, but rather is a sort of a hydraulic plant confined to close quarters with provisions for casing for the water after usage and also the tailings. For ground that is more or less deep and where it is impossible to care for the tailings by simple gravity there is no better method known to mining men for handling dirt in large quantities.

The plant of the Gold Run Company is quadruple in its effect, consisting of four elevators and sluicing devices instead of one, each operating separately and independent of the other. One is being hurried to the ground on Gold Run of the company and will be up ready for operation before the close of the season. The others will also be installed as rapidly as possible, but it is doubtful if all will be completed this fall.

The main idea in the plant, that which results in the enormous saving of labor is the fact that water is entirely used as the force to place the gold bearing gravel in the boxes in lieu of the man with the pick and shovel. An open cut in the ground it is proposed to work is first made sufficiently large to contain the string of boxes necessary to wash out the gold and also contain the elevator at the lower end. The depth of the cut appears to make no difference, it being the intention to operate in ground on Gold Run where it is forty feet to bedrock. Dr. Wills is authority for the statement that while he was in Paris he saw the same kind of an apparatus at work, not gold mining, however, at a depth of 100 feet and no difficulty whatever was experienced.

After the cut is made to bedrock or as far below as the pay runs a string of boxes is set in the cut at the proper angle for sluicing, the riffles being the ordinary blocks such as are always employed in hydraulic flumes. At the lower end of the boxes is placed the apparatus that constitutes the machinery portion of the plant. It consists of a frame work, the height of which depends upon the depth of the cut, upon which operate two elevators, one to carry off the water and the other to hoist the tailings out of the cut as fast as they are discharged from the boxes. That which cares for the water is nothing more than a Chinese pump so familiar to the old time miners who operated in the north and also California long before the advent of steam pumps. The flume is about three feet wide, of corresponding depth and will hoist five or six sluiceheads if necessary, sufficient to keep the sump dry at the end of the boxes into which the water and tailings drain.

The elevator to get rid of the tailings is a system of buckets that are attached to an endless chain and which carries the debris to the surface and deposits them out of the way. With the boxes in position and the elevators ready to do their part of the business active operations begin, the dirt, gravel and everything else, including bedrock of all kinds, being washed through the boxes by means of water under hydraulic pressure. Each of the four plants when in full operation will handle 1000 cubic yards in a run of twenty-four hours and as fast as a large area of ground is worked out the trouble and expense of moving the outfit farther up stream will amount to little. Then, too, when a considerable space has been gone over, the caring for the tailings will be of less consequence as they can be dumped on the worked out ground. The pump will handle 1500 gallons of water a minute.

The properties of the Gold Run Company embrace over twenty claims and it is the intention to work them all in the same manner. At the lower end of the creek there is but little muck. The gravel, however, extends to a depth of forty feet, all carrying gold in sufficient quantity to pay to work in the manner now contemplated though untouched in times past when worked by the old method of thawing and hoisting. The bedrock is composed entirely of decomposed schist and handles very easily. There will be one difficulty experienced and that will be on account of a possible inadequate supply of water during certain seasons of the summer. Mr. Joseph McGillivray, the veteran hydraulic miner, has estimated that the work of an inch of water in the gravels of the Klondike in a day of twenty-four hours is seven cubic yards, and by actual test in the workings of a comparatively large scale made by a gentleman who is one of the largest operators in the territory it was found to be 5.69.

These machines with three men will do the work of forty or more, they require the services only of a fireman, engineer, nozzleman and possibly an assistant to the latter at times. The pumps will be operated by steam. Dr. Wills expects to have his first machine up and ready for operation by August 1.

Lept His Eyes Open.

When the negro laborers descend into the diamond mines at Kimberly, they hew out the hard diamantiferous earth and put it in wooden tubs which are hauled on stout wires to the surface where the earth is spread over the ground to undergo for several months the softening influences of heat and cold. When it is soft enough it is shovelled into the washing machines where the dirt is separated from the rough diamonds and other large mineral substances. The mixture of minerals remaining is known as concentrates.

It was necessary until recently to go very carefully over the concentrates to pick out the garnets and many other foreign substances until nothing remained but the rough diamonds. This is a slow and laborious operation, but it has been an essential part of the mining industry until it was superseded by a discovery made a while ago.

Among the employees in the sorting room was Fred Kerston, a bright young fellow, who quietly went to work to try to discover a way to separate the diamonds from other stones more quickly and easily than could be done by the slow process of hand picking. He told no one of the problem he was working at but kept on with his experiments, not a whit discouraged by his many failures, to find an efficient process.

One day, by the merest accident, he made the discovery he was after. A rough diamond and a garnet happened to be lying on a small board on the bench where he was working. He happened to pick up one end of the board when the garnet slipped off, but the diamond remained.

This was a phenomenon worth investigating. Kersten found that there was a coating of grease on the board which had retained the diamond, while the garnet slipped off.

He procured a wider board, coated one side of it with grease and dumped a few handsfuls of concentrates on it. Then he found that by holding the board in a slightly inclined position and vibrating it, all the concentrates except the diamonds moved to the lower end and fell off while the diamonds remained in place.

Then he invented a machine by which his discovery might be utilized. One part of his machine was a slightly inclined table coated with grease and vibrating when the machine was in motion. Another part was a sort of hopper through which the concentrates, with a small current of water, passed to the surface of the vibrating table. Considerable study was required to perfect the apparatus but at last the machine was completed and the big diamond men were invited to witness the new method of separating diamonds from the rest of the concentrates.

The invention was an entire success. All the garnets and other minerals that are not wanted pass over the surface of the table while every diamond, large or small, is retained. A more simple and complete device for saving time, labor and loss of diamonds could not be invented. The entire work is done by machinery, hand picking has been wholly superseded, and both the young inventor and the owners of the diamond mines are profiting by the new labor saving device.—Ex.

The Orr & Takey Co., Ltd., night stage to Dominion. On and after June 20th stages for Caribou and points below Lower Dominion will leave Dawson at 7 p. m.

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