

PROSPECTING WITH STEAMBOATS.

Arrival of the W. S. Stratton and Her Emergetic Company.

They Have Visited All the Mining Camps From Kotzebue Sound to the Klondike—On for Central Alaska Now.

A story of scientific, systematic and persistent search for gold is told by the presence in port of two vessels lying near the lower end of town. They are the W. S. Stratton, a steamboat of respectable dimensions and excellent equipment and her little consort, the Breadwinner. The boats are the property of W. S. Stratton, W. A. Otis and James Casey, all American miners of broad knowledge and experience, and two other men whose names are unknown. They were built at Seattle under the personal supervision of Mr. Casey, and were equipped for the purpose of prospecting the supposed gold-bearing districts of Alaska and the Yukon country. Mr. Casey is manager and secretary for the company, and for something over one year he has patiently but energetically prosecuted a search for the yellow mineral. With a crew of 18 experienced men he visited, either personally or through his men, every mining camp from Kotzebue Sound to the Klondike, and possessed himself of reliable knowledge of the exact resources of each, so far as could be done. Like many others just now, Mr. Casey is "from Missouri," and he took no man's word, but those of his own, about any of the countries explored. As a result, he is probably one of the best and most generally informed men in the Yukon basin on the topography and mineral resources of this northern country.

For instance, the Minook district is subdivided, he says, into 51 sub-districts with a recorder for each, and he visited every one of them. His conclusions are? That there has not been a discovery in the district since '96 except on Eureka creek, and that only two claims have been developed. He has no confidence whatever in the Koyukuk country and wouldn't take the chance of wasting his time by going there. Of the country about the headwaters of the Tanana, Sixty-Mile, Kuskokwim and Copper rivers, however, he has the utmost confidence; and it is his expectation to operate there during the present summer and the coming winter, locating his boats at Selkirk or Sixty-Mile and working westward. On this expedition he will devote his research to the discovery of quartz, and he has no doubt that his exertions will meet with success.

The W. S. Stratton is a compactly built boat, designed by Mr. Casey himself, with fine machinery, electric plant and other conveniences, a cozy cabin, 12 large (for a steamboat) berths, etc. Her consort is 45 feet in length, of sloop-like proportions and a steel-hull, and is admired by all who know her good qualities. Her especial feature is a screw which operates in an iron pipe set in a groove in the bottom of the boat. A distinctive feature of the large boat, too, is that the hull is built into eight compartments or bulkheads, all fitted with syphons, and it would be necessary to fill four of them with water in order to sink her.

Our citizens will be interested in learning that the Stratton brought in a fair lot of mail from Minook and intermediate points.

Picnickers on the Hill.

A jolly party assembled at the residence of E. Leroy Pelletier on Wednesday night with the intention of ascending the hill overlooking the river to see the sun at midnight. The gentlemen in the party were well laden with delicacies, such as real, genuine cheebarko spuds, eggs which had never been evaporated, crystallized, desiccated or anything else—just eggs, and other equally delectable morsels dear to the Klondike heart.

A royal luncheon was spread about 2 a. m., to which ample justice was done by everyone.

The picnickers, however, were compelled to do without coffee, and thereby hangs a tale. The can containing the coffee had been entrusted to Dr. Edwards, but when the time arrived for the coffee to be made both the doctor and coffee can were missing. It is understood that the doctor fears a shortage in the food supply next winter, and availed himself of the opportunity to supply his cache with coffee. At any rate, at last accounts the coffee can was still missing. Among those in the party were the following: Mr. and Mrs. Pelletier, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Pickel, Miss Josephine Pickel, Mrs. Seefey, Messrs. Brown, Craig, Edwards, Sturgis, McArthur, Allen, Tinkham, Seesold, Hooper and Pulver.

Two Scows Wrecked.

A scow belonging to C. B. Johnson, of Seattle, loaded with furniture, and bearing several men, women and children, struck a pile of driftwood about 30 miles above Dawson on June 19 and was tipped over on its side, with the result that cargo and stock were swept off. The people were successful in getting on the driftwood, from which they were rescued in a canoe.

A loaded scow belonging to Ross Eckert was wrecked about 12 miles above the city this week and most of the stock lost.

Improvised Police Patrol.

A laughable scene was witnessed a few evenings ago during the arrest of a fellow who had evidently become crazed by liquor. He was fighting, kicking, scratching and yelling at such a rate that a couple of the policemen went to the assistance of Corporal Wilson, who had the fellow in custody, but even they had their hands full getting the fellow along. Presently a laundry cart attached to a dog team arrived abreast, and the corporal, to the astonishment and disgust of the driver, impressed

it into service and piled the obstreperous drunk into it on his back. The dogs soon caught the spirit of the occasion, and without much urging broke into a run. Thus the outfit went down the street at runaway speed, the drunk kicking and struggling on his back in the bottom of the bumping cart, with two men holding him down, another policeman urging on the yelping dogs, and Corporal Wilson hanging on to the cart in order to be in at the death. The scene was very amusing to the people on the streets at the time, who included Commissioner Ogilvie and other officials.

LATEST OUTSIDE NEWS.

Augustin Daly, the actor, died at Paris on June 7.

Bolton Rogers, an ex-police chief of Seattle, is dead.

Senor Emilio Castelar, a distinguished Spanish statesman, is dead.

Corbett will run a music hall and saloon at Paris during the world's fair.

Congressman Henderson of Iowa is slated for Mr. Reed's place as speaker of the house.

It is reported that Sir Julian Pauncefote was raised to the peerage on the Queen's birthday.

Yellow fever has become epidemic in New Orleans. Texas has declared a quarantine against the city.

Japan is assuming a threatening attitude toward Russia, and is exhibiting a suspicious sympathy for China.

Steve Brodie's great feat of jumping from the Brooklyn bridge was successfully duplicated on May 30 by Edward Kretz.

Prominent Filipinos say their countrymen would surrender if given a guarantee that they would not be punished.

It has just leaked out that Paderewski, the great pianist, was secretly wedded in December to Mme. Elena Gorski, a divorced woman.

Bellamy Storer, the new United States minister to Spain, mysteriously disappeared after reaching France, and had not been located up to June 8.

It is expected that, in addition to other honors paid him, the United States government will present Admiral Dewey with an official residence.

A rich find of placer gold in the Sierra Pinata mountains, California, is reported. Much of the gold is only four to six inches below the surface of the ground.

Three men, named Conrad Mabarg, David Peters and Mr. Rhodes, are reported to have drowned at White river, but there is no knowledge of the affair here.

The United States court of appeals has held that the anti-alien contract labor law was designed to affect only common laborers and not clerks or any class of skilled laborers.

The Modern Woodman of America have passed a law excluding from insurance benefits employees of breweries, besides many others following hazardous callings.

Gen. Marehand arrived in Paris June 1 and is now the idol of his country. All sorts of honors are flowing in on him. No man has awakened such a general public demonstration since Bonaparte.

Owing to an influx of water at the Kitchnar gold mine, near Troisk, Russia, a shaft in which 95 men were at work collapsed. Sixty-two of the miners were killed, and nearly all of the remainder were seriously injured.

A Kansas farmer named Wells, while insane, threw four of his boys into a well and then attempted to drown himself in the river. He was rescued and arrested. Two of the boys, aged 12 and 5 are dead, and one aged 7 will die.

The London Daily Chronicle announces that Mrs. Florence Maybrick is likely to be liberated shortly, as the result of pressure brought to bear by Mr. Joseph H. Choate, United States ambassador, in favor of reopening the case.

Dreyfus is expected to be returned to France by the end of June, when his acquittal is expected. Lieut. du Paty de Clam has been arrested on a charge of being the author of several of the forgeries employed against Dreyfus.

While Frank Facit was being initiated by the Modern Woodmen of Heppburn, Iowa, a "spanking board" supplied with blank cartridges was used upon him to cause fright. One of the cartridges forced a paper wedge into his leg, causing blood poisoning, and he died.

Mrs. Jane L. Stanford, widow of the late Senator Stanford, has formally transferred all her vast wealth to the university which bears the name of her dead husband's son. Deeds representing property valued at over \$10,000,000 have been given in trust to the trustees of the Leland Stanford, jr., university.

Borneo Britishers are urging the United States to assume administration of Palawan and other southern islands of the Philippine group. On Palawan it will be remembered that the British flag was raised by the natives, but under orders from London the flag was hauled down by H. M. S. Archer.

By an act of the British parliament B. R. Behr is about to construct a railroad from Liverpool to Manchester that is to run an express train at the rate of 90 miles an hour. It will be the fastest train on earth. It is to be scheduled to make the run of 39 miles between these two big cities in 20 minutes. Instead of a double rail track, it will have but one rail.

It has just leaked out that after a song recital given in Baltimore by Mme. Blanche Marchesi she was set upon by her enthusiastic admirers with a demand for her autograph. Being unable to comply she gave notice to that effect, whereupon the mob began to tear off pieces of her dress to carry away, and she was enabled to make her escape just in time to avoid being denuded.

Five men were killed and one fatally injured by the explosion of a powder press at Carney's Point, N. J. The dead are: Captain Stewart, U. S. A., Harvey Smith, Joseph Yeager, Isaac F. Friend, Amos Morris, Jr., workmen. A workman named Russell was horribly mangled about the body and lost the sight of both eyes. He is not expected to live.

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Open day and night—The Regina.

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