

Ten Days From Dawson

Arrivals by the Queen Last Night Broke Previous Records.

Half a Million in Treasure on Board the Big Steamer.

Seventy-two passengers only ten days from Dawson carried their gold ashore from the Queen when that famous excursion steamer docked at the outer wharf at 11.30 last night. There were 200 or more Klondikers in all aboard, mingling with United States senators, successful men of business and their families, and the butterflies of fashion...

Ten days from Dawson to Victoria is smart travelling; it would have been eight days or even better if the Queen had been sailing direct from Skagway south when they arrived at the Lynn Canal port. She had gone to Sitka, the Glaciers and Juneau, though, and it was only by bringing the Wolcott into service that the Queen was able to catch the Queen at Juneau.

The great factor in their last trip was through rail connection between Lake Bennett and Skagway, and the fact that a quarter of a mile of track to lay when they reached the head of steamer navigation for the upper river, and the metallizing being completed as the train advanced.

This was last Thursday, the promise of the company that the train would run by the 10th or 15th of July being more than redeemed, and a feat in railway building accomplished that is probably without parallel in history.

The tracklayers worked so rapidly that the train carrying the first passengers to go over the completed road was not compelled to make a standstill, pushing along on the just-fitted metal at a smart pedestrian's pace until the new track was added to the finished section and with a cheer giving a bass to the shrill soprano of the whistle, the coaches swept on and on behind.

It is not over-stepping the mark to say that the Queen brought in treasure alone half a million dollars. John Wilkinson, of Nainaiho, had upwards of \$60,000 in dust, which he carried in two carefully shouldered satchels; Andrew Peterson, who has "been in the country for eight or to fifteen years," has possibly \$50,000 more; individual workers for wages or on lay, storekeepers, speculators and others, would swell the total by at least \$250,000; and the Trendwell sent down to the Queen \$75,000.

The just-out miners say that the rush to Cape Nome continues, without visible signs of abatement. That the end of the world is at hand, and that a few thousand men had gone down the river, representing all degrees of fortune and position.

It was for the most part a guess as to the value of the new field, for although direct reports were said to have come from the river, but no steamer had until now brought the Hannah, from within 300 miles of the new diggings, and her passengers spoke from hearsay of the rich veins of two classes—the lucky ones of the Klondike, who feel that they can as conveniently go to the Klondike as to Nome in passing; and the unfortunate, to whom anything is probable to be a fortune.

From the just-in Klondikers the news is received of yet one more big fire in Dawson, forty odd cabins being destroyed, many acres with all their contents. A neglected camp fire was the original cause of mischief, sweeping up a gulch siding on Klondike buildings, licking up all the tinder-dry buildings.

On the scene of the first and original "great fire," Charles Meadows, generally known as "Charlie," has commenced the erection of a Grand Opera house, which is to be three stories in height, seating 42 in the balcony and a double row of boxes, 42 in number.

Thieving has become common since the clean-up, and there is a sound of revelry by night (and day) also in the heart of the Klondike. "Obey," the foreman for A. Lancaster of Gold Hill, is the heaviest loser from thieving, a collection of sundries worth about \$2,500 and \$3,000 disappearing from his cabin during an absence of half an hour.

Along this way the Fourth of July was celebrated in royal fashion, a crowning feature being the floating of Old Glory from the summit of Mount Dewey. It had been placed there the previous evening by a party of experienced climbers, Messrs. A. P. Eastman, A. E. Pillsbury and Rev. J. A. Sinclair, who by their feat lay claim to the honor of having performed the greatest feat of mountain work yet recorded in Alaska. They start for the actual ascent was made at 4 a. m., and the crown of the mountain reached twelve hours later, a ten-foot "cop" of the American flag being floated on a 21-foot iron staff. Two hours were spent on the peak, and the descent made in four and a half hours. The actual descent was made in a landing surrounded by a crater or cavern several hundred feet deep, across which runs a log-bridge from 20 to 24 inches wide. Along this for a distance of 150 feet or more the flag-planters were forced to "coot" it—the walking hazardous portion of their task here being to get the flag to the sea level, whereas Mount Juneau is a distance of 150 feet or more.

Among the Queen's through passengers was "Pat" Smith, of this city, a son of Mr. J. A. Smith, of the late James Bay, with his partner, O. Ellisworth, of San Diego, left Dawson May 31, and made Skagway just five days and eighteen hours later, not the record, very close to it. They left Dawson lively as ever it was, and being the only ones to make the trip, they have done moderately well. Among these are Bob Bryce, Jack Stocking, M. Conlin and Clemens, who have started for home by the way of the lower river and San Francisco. Alex. Bailey is eminent or Her Majesty's chief adviser in the administration of the affairs of the province.

J. G. Cameron is the owner of some good property on Bonanza benches; J. H. Duncan, while attending to the clerical duties at Tabor & Helm's, has found time and opportunity to acquire good bench property on Dominion, Quartz and Gold Run; C. N. and Gus Gowen are making money, the former intending to come out in a few weeks; A. C. Hood is contented, and Hugh Petticrew is waiting his time, with a first class law degree, to go to the Yukon next winter; Ross Eckhardt had the misfortune to have his load dumped in the Yukon, the striking of a snag severing miles out of Dawson. His cigars were damaged, but he saved enough to avert complete loss.

Since his advice was received, three boats have reached White Horse from Dawson, the Victorian, of the Canadian Development Company, which left the Klondike capital on June 24 with 100 passengers; the Willie Irving, which left a few days earlier, but which de- clined to go to the Yukon, and the Canadian, also of the Canadian Development Co., which left on June 20, and made the trip in three and a half days, the fastest time on record, with 150 passengers. There is now plenty of water in the river, and the steamers are experiencing no difficulties.

Among the Victorian's passengers who were not in the company yesterday were Mr. Oliver said: "I consider something more than an investigation is needed; I consider that a great wrong has been done to many people who went out as pioneers to that country; and while it may be impossible to redress these wrongs, it is not im- possible to punish those who perpetrated them. I will vote for the motion of the honorable member for Fletton, in order to support all that his motion contains or the position he takes, in every particular, but because I wish to place before the house and the country, in the most emphatic manner possible, my de- sire that the offences which have been committed against the pioneers of the Yukon, and certain officials of the government should be punished, and punished as severely as possible, as the result of the investigation."

News comes from White Horse that the steamer Hannah, which was successfully floated and repaired, had a second narrow escape from destruction. She and the English of the same line, which were moored below the rapids, when their boilers blown down, broke and sank, and drifted 4 miles down the river before they were securely anchored. Neither steamer was damaged.

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Attempt to Hush Up The Yukon Iniquities.

Scandalous Transactions Involving Three Departments of the Ottawa Government Which Refuses Investigation.

Those of our readers who have not been able to read the whole of Sir Hibbert Tupper's great speech on the Yukon administration will be interested in the following brief summary of his charges against the government and its officials. Sir Hibbert concluded his speech by moving an amendment to the motion to go into committee of supply, to the effect that a judicial commission be appointed to investigate the charges. The amendment was defeated by a party vote, but three Liberal members, Mr. Oliver, member for Alberta, Mr. Richardson, member for Lisgar, and Mr. McInnes, member for Vancouver, voted against the government and in favor of the investigation.

Mr. Oliver said: "I consider something more than an investigation is needed; I consider that a great wrong has been done to many people who went out as pioneers to that country; and while it may be impossible to redress these wrongs, it is not im- possible to punish those who perpetrated them. I will vote for the motion of the honorable member for Fletton, in order to support all that his motion contains or the position he takes, in every particular, but because I wish to place before the house and the country, in the most emphatic manner possible, my de- sire that the offences which have been committed against the pioneers of the Yukon, and certain officials of the government should be punished, and punished as severely as possible, as the result of the investigation."

That Major Walsh did not make official full reports by each mail, as required by order-in-council. That Major Walsh adopted or countenanced a system tending to inspire a reasonable distrust of the justice and good faith of the Dominion. That Major Walsh acted in a manner repugnant to honor and policy of the Dominion, contrary to the principles of constitutional and parliamentary govern- ment, and in violation of the authority of the Dominion and of the Queen into contempt, causing injury to the Queen's subjects.

That Major Walsh was guilty of mis- behavior in office; of an act directly contrary to the designation of his office as chief executive officer of the govern- ment.

That in September, 1897, Major Walsh employed a confidential informant, Wil- liam Mission band upon an engagement to send them home in October, 1898, at the expense of the government. That the informant was a man of low character and employed by the government, was in charge of these Indians, and that the Indians located and worked on the Yukon, and that the informant was trans- ferred to Lewis Walsh, another brother of Major Walsh.

That Major Walsh illegally issued an order to the superintendent of the Mounted Police, forbidding him to re- ceive any reports or to order a judicial in- vestigation of the interior or by In- spector Wood. That he subsequently notified the representatives of the gam- bling and liquor interests of western Canada, and that the police were in- structed not to interfere with the in- terests of these parties.

That Major Walsh, subsequent to his appointment as chief executive officer of the Yukon, and that the Indians located and worked on the Yukon, and that the informant was trans- ferred to Lewis Walsh, another brother of Major Walsh.

That Major Walsh, while chief executive officer, carried on a liaison with Lucille Elliott, a woman of low character, and that the informant was trans- ferred to Lewis Walsh, another brother of Major Walsh.

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Life Sacrificed

That unsanitary conditions have un- necessarily prevailed in the district. That in Dawson, a city of 25,000 esti- mated population on April 1, 1899, not a single road, bridge or drain, or any- thing that might be termed a public work existed; neither pavement, road- way, drain or ditch, neither water sup- ply nor lighting; that the disposal of refuse was left to individual respon- sibility, and that this condition of affairs resulted in an epidemic of ty- phoid fever.

That official favoritism and partiality has been shown and extended to the representatives of the North American Trading Company, of Chicago and Seattle.

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made officials of knowledge acquired in the discharge of their duties. That timber inspectors have become finan- cially interested in timber limits and have received sums of money over and above their legitimate fees for the performance of their duties.

That Arthur Young Wilson, of Dawson, formerly of Simcoe, Ontario, a prospector, applied to T. S. McFarlan, crown timber agent, for a timber berth one mile square, opposite Dawson City, and made the claim to have same on payment of license fee and royalties, and was told how to stake out the berth. That Wilson accordingly staked the berth and paid the fee, \$250, and obtained the license.

That the later one J. W. Willison came to Dawson and assumed the office of crown timber agent and refused to recognize Wilson's license upon the ground that the berth was to be reserved for the citizens of Dawson City and was not to be sold to any person living into disputed territory. That Wilson accordingly staked the timber on the same berth sold to Bartlett Bros. for 75 cents a cord, and made the claim for a thousand cords at a profit of at least \$5 per cord.

That Joseph Edgar Groulx, while regis- tered as a member of the executive council of the district, procured his pro- fessional services and was financially interested in the same. That he had already done about \$400 worth of work on the claims.

That William H. Clement, legal adviser to the council, is a member of the law firm which acts professionally in matters within the jurisdiction of the council.

That Mr. Justice Dugas, while a Judge for the Yukon judicial district and member of the executive council, is financially inter- ested in mining claims in the district.

That confidential information has been obtained by officials in the office of the present gold commissioner, who has been obliged to dismiss an official for the offence.

That Mr. Louis Davies appointed to the office of inspector of steamboats one Rus- sel, who had been previously dismissed from the office and was employed on account of improper conduct.

That the laws respecting certificates of masters and mates have not been properly enforced.

That the postmaster-general has been guilty of gross neglect in the administra- tion of the office and appointed in- efficient and corrupt officials.

Miss Shaw's celebrated letter to the Times concerning the Yukon administration is also quoted.

Sir Hibbert concluded his speech by pledging himself to resign his seat in par- liament and retire from public life if he failed to substantiate his charges. He also offered to support all that his motion contains or the position he takes, in every particular, but because I wish to place before the house and the country, in the most emphatic manner possible, my de- sire that the offences which have been committed against the pioneers of the Yukon, and certain officials of the government should be punished, and punished as severely as possible, as the result of the investigation."

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Atlin Tangle Easy to Avoid

Decision on Four Points of Policy Would Have Settled Main Trouble.

Gold Commissioner Unjustly Blamed While Fault Lies in His Orders.

From Our Own Correspondent. Atlin, June 23.—The judicial investigation before Mr. Justice Irving into disputed claims is proceeding in slow stages. At the sitting this morning only two cases came up, and both were disposed of within an hour in favor of the original stakers. The trouble in both these cases had arisen through Mining Recorder Hunt having received a document, which was not to be recorded. They were both bench claims, and the reason given by the recorder for his refusal was that he had no authority to make disposal of the government's money. The government had decided that each claimant having a case before the inquiry should pay \$25, and he (the judge) had nothing to do with the government or its actions. He, however, would give judgment with costs of \$32.50 against the unsuccessful claimant, and if the latter was worth it the money could be collected from him, and the successful claimant might be recouped for his outlay. He (the judge) being further questioned, said he followed the law, and that the govern- ment would return the fee of \$25 to success- ful claimants.

It will be remarked that all this leaves the matter in a very curious position. Here is a case in which the judge (perhaps "Commissioner" is the proper title) has ordered the defendant claimant to pay the fee of \$25 to the successful claimant, and in the very next breath says it is very likely the government will pay the fee. If both these things are done, it will perhaps be something of a solution to the man who has spent his money in a vain cause, and a slight relief on the haphazard nature of these whole proceedings, so far as the government is concerned.

Undoubtedly the reason why so slow progress is being made in bringing the matter to a close is that the miners who have claims in dispute either refuse to or are unable to pay the \$25 fee—chiefly because of the poverty of western Canada, know, too, that as soon as one or two cases come up involving the decision of test questions, it will be the duty of the world for them to decide whether it is worth while to take their cases into court at all. These questions are not of a simple nature, and are very plain and simple, and I have often been puzzled to know why it was ever necessary that this elaborate and expensive commission should have been issued. The essential points that require to be settled are simply these:

(1) Will claims that were established and recorded in good faith under the mistaken belief that the Atlin district was in the Yukon Territory be recognized and allowed?

(2) If so, will the full area of the North- west claim, 250 feet, be allowed, or will the claimant be limited to the area of a British Columbia claim, 100 feet, and in the latter case what will be the method of allotting the area?

(3) Will the rights of claimants who