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HARVEST TIME APPROACHING

When the Wealth of Golden Grain Will Be Garnered.

Many Rockers Are Now Working on the Various Creeks and Sluicing Will Soon Begin.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)
That there is a harvest time in all lands civilized and otherwise is a God-given decree, and upon the products to which every land and country is adapted depends the nature of and season in which the harvest is ripe.

In the vast wheat-growing countries of the United States and Canada the harvest time begins from the 1st to the 15th of July and continues for a month or six weeks. Further east and a little south the farmer who does not have his wheat all in "shock" by the 7th of July does not fully enjoy the celebration with which that day is accompanied in all regularly ordained county seat towns and to which nine-tenths of the farmers repair for that day. All through these countries the expression is heard: "Over in Hoopole township a few are beginning to harvest their wheat, while here on Pumpkin ridge it won't be ripe for two weeks."

Down in Dixie land where "cotton is king, sah," the harvest time does not begin until the middle of September, nor close for eight or ten weeks later, there is invariably some one to begin in advance of his neighbors, and in the cotton country such harvest time expressions are heard as "cotton bowls has been a bustin down on Possum Trot fer nigh onto two weeks, while up in Carrot valley they are plum green yet."

Before the crop is one-fourth part harvested on Possum Trot, work has begun in Carrot valley and together the work in both places goes merrily on.

The staple product of the Yukon is neither wheat nor cotton, but here there is a harvest time the same as if agriculture was the one pursuit of the country. This country is now on the threshold of her annual harvest time, and already expressions similar to those heard in the first days of the wheat and cotton garnering seasons are now being heard here such as "over on Eldorado 40 rockers are running," and "sluicing will be going on on hundreds of claims in less than two weeks," etc.

The harvest time of the Klondike has begun and will continue, as does the cotton harvest, from eight to ten weeks. Here, instead of walking over his fields and plantation to estimate the season's yield, the owner walks around and over his dump. He knows to within a very few the exact number of buckets or the exact number of cubic yards in that dump, and he also knows what per cent came from the rich drift and how much came from the ones not so rich. With this information to base his valuations upon, he is able to compute to within a few hundreds of dollars the value of his output and how much of it will be profit when all expenses are deducted.

It is known to a certainty that this season's output will far exceed that of all previous years, the principal reason for the increase being the great number of modern appliances in the way of steam thawers that have been operated during the past fall and winter. Owing to the increase in the size of the dumps over those of previous years, the longer will be the time consumed in the necessary work of washing out, as the means for accomplishing the latter have not advanced in line with the matter of thawing the ground.

Within the coming two months the demand for labor on the creeks will be greater than at any time during the past year. Already has the exodus from the city to the creeks begun, there being several hundred fewer men seen on the streets now than ten days ago. The harvest time is here and with the usual increased demand for labor which, by the way, is to be had in abundance.

Accompanying the glad season is a general revival in all branches of trade and industry, and from now until the curtains of winter are once more pinned down by Boreas, Dawson and the Yukon will be a delight and a continuous arena of life, business and pleasure.

A Thrilling Adventure.

The report has been brought from Chilliwack of a unique and thrilling experience of one of the men employed at the Mount Baker mines, not very far from that town, and if the facts are as narrated, the man's escape from instant death would seem to be miraculous to all who are accustomed to see nothing but ruin in the track of the avalanche.

It appears that the man, whose name is Frank Healey, was on the snow roof, which protects the offices and other buildings of the mines, which about the precipice, from the snow-slides, and he was clearing away the snow which had accumulated to a considerable depth against the smoke stack. In doing this he started a snow slide which carried him off his feet, and this was the last his comrades saw of him. They considered it a foregone conclusion that the man was a "goner" and one who carried the news to Chilliwack, said it would be useless to try and find the body for three months, when the snow should have melted. What must have been the surprise of the miners, therefore, when Healey walked into camp, a couple of days after. Though particulars of how he escaped injury or death have not yet been received, his experiences, when being borne at a terrific speed on the snow slide over rocks, trees, etc., would make it interesting reading. As far as the matter has been explained, Healey, by being practically on the rear end of the slide, had his track pretty well cleared for him by the solid body of snow which supported him, and in this way he traveled fully 3000 feet. Mr. Carlisle, the manager of the mine, states that the course of the avalanche lay over at least one bluff where there is a drop of between 200 and 300 feet. Near the point where the slide ceased from sliding, and Healey came to a halt, is a shack which is used by the miners on their way up and down the trail to the mine, and which is distant about five miles from the mine by this route. In this shack were some stores, and, when Healey came to himself he made for this shack, and soon made himself quite comfortable, and after a good night's rest returned to the mines by the trail.

The extraordinary tale is vouched for by several responsible parties, and it seems Healey has had a truly unique experience.—New Westminster Columbian.

Land Laws of Alaska.

Many inquiries having been made by prospective argonauts bound for Nome and other fields in Alaskan territory, with reference to the laws governing the acquisition of non-mineral lands such as homesteads, town sites, and trading posts, at the request of the Nugget, Norton D. Walling, of Grand Forks, has submitted the following:

The homestead land laws of the United States, were extended to Alaska territory by act of congress approved May 14th, 1898, and the statute governing such entries is as follows:

"An act extending the homestead law and providing for right-of-way for railroads in the district of Alaska and for other purposes.

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that the homestead land laws of the United States and the rights incident thereto, including the right to enter surveyed or unsurveyed lands under provisions of law relating to the acquisition of title through soldiers' additional homestead rights, are hereby extended to the district of Alaska, subject to such regulations as may be made by the secretary of the interior; and no indemnity, deficiency, or lieu lands pertaining to any land grant whatsoever originating outside of said district of Alaska shall be located within or taken from lands in said district: Provided, that no entry shall be allowed extending more than 80 rods along the shore of any navigable water, and along such shore a space of at least 80 rods shall be reserved from entry between all such claims, and that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to authorize entries to be made, or title to be acquired, to the shore of any navigable waters within said district: And it is further provided that no homestead shall exceed 80 acres in extent."

A person to be qualified to enter land under this act, must show that he is a citizen of the United States or has declared his intentions to become such, that he is 21 years of age and has never had the benefit of the homestead law; that the land is entered for his own use and benefit, and not directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other person.

It must also be shown that the land is agricultural and not mineral in character, and that it contains no valuable deposits of coal or any of the precious metals.

An act making provisions for the disposal of public lands in the territory of Alaska for townsite purposes passed congress and became a law on March 3d, 1891. Section 11 of said act is as follows:

"That until otherwise ordered by congress, lands in Alaska may be entered for townsite purposes, for the several use and benefit of the occupants of such townsite by such trustee or trustees, as may be named by the secretary of the

interior for that purpose, such entries to be made under the provisions of section 2387 of the revised statutes, as near as may be, and when such entries shall have been made the secretary of the interior shall provide by regulation for the proper execution of the trust in favor of the inhabitants of the townsite, including the survey of the land into lots, according to the spirit and intent of said section 2387 of the revised statutes, whereby the same result would be reached as though the entry had been made by a county judge and the disposal of the lots in such townsite and the proceeds of the sale thereof had been prescribed by the legislative authority of a state or territory; provided, that no more than 640 acres shall be embraced in one townsite entry."

Townsite entries under the general law in organized districts are made by the judge having jurisdiction in the county wherein the land is situated, but Alaska having no regular territorial form of government trustees are selected by the secretary of the interior to perform that function. The section of the statutes above referred to—2387—prescribes that the entries of land for such purposes shall be made in trust for the benefit of the occupants thereof according to their respective interest and at the minimum price—\$1.25 per acre.

The amount of land to be taken will be governed by the number of inhabitants. A mere trading post containing a population of less than 100 is restricted to 160 acres; if the population exceeds 100 and less than 200, 320 acres, and in cases where the population number more than 200, 640 acres may be embraced in the townsite, which is the maximum amount allowed by law in any case.

Land occupied by what is commonly called a trading post can be acquired by any citizen of the United States 21 years of age, or any association of such citizens, or an incorporation incorporated under the laws of the United States or of any state or territory authorized by law to hold lands in the territories providing such land is being occupied in good faith for the purpose of trade, manufacture, or productive industry. Not more than 80 acres can be entered by any one person, association, or corporation for which the government charges \$2.50 per acre.

The applicant must submit proof that said area embraces improvements owned by himself, and is needed in the prosecution of such trade, manufacture, or other productive industry; and furthermore, that such tract does not include mineral or coal lands. The same restriction applies in entries of this character as in homesteads, with regard to the reservation of each alternative 80 rods of land abutting on navigable water.

Title to land can also be acquired through what is known as soldiers' additional homestead scrip, which one year ago could be purchased in 40 and 80-acre pieces, at from \$12 to \$20 per acre, though the price varies according to current demand. This scrip can be located upon any unoccupied, unappropriated public land, non-mineral in character, and requires no residence or improvements of any kind whatsoever. A survey of the ground must first be made by a United States surveyor and a plot of the same filed in the United States land office of that district, when the scrip will be received and certificate issued. This is by far the quickest means to acquire title when all the conditions are favorable, but where any doubt exists as to the character of the land, whether mineral or non-mineral, it is unsafe, and its use invariably results in a protracted and expensive law suit.

What They Want.

Notwithstanding the Associated Press reports Alaskans in Washington City to the contrary, Mount St. Elias is not the proper point at which to divide Alaska, nor do we want to be called Seward territory.

Alaska should be divided, it is true, and that at an early date, but all of the southern part, including the entire Sitka land district, should be included in one territory; while the Yukon country and Arctic slope, that country which is naturally tributary to the Yukon river, should be included in another territory. With that portion of the district bordering on the Gulf of Alaska, including the Alaskan peninsula, in one territory there can be no question to its right to retain the name of Alaska. Such is the name of its principal geographical features and such should be the name of the political division. The other territory, which will be to the north, should be given the name of its principal geographical feature, namely, Yukon.

In a very few years there should be at least two states where the district of Alaska now lies—the state of Alaska and the state of Yukon.—Alaskan.

Grand Forks Baby.

On last Saturday Mrs. Garvey, wife of the proprietor of the Garvey hotel at Grand Forks, gave birth to a baby girl. The mother and little daughter are both doing exceedingly well. Garvey is receiving the congratulations of his many friends and acquaintances.

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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DELAY UNNECESSARY.

It is quite apparent that the majority in the Yukon Council is determined that no election for representatives on the Council shall occur until after the general elections, which are due to take place some time during the approaching summer. Apparently, the source from which the Council derives its inspiration looks with something like askance at the probable result of an election in this territory. The knowledge that the government had met defeat in Dawson, while it probably would not be very much of a surprise on the outside, would still be used as campaign material by the opposition with some effect. This contingency the Council appears determined to prevent.

We do not believe that the people at large desire to see an election held here upon party lines. The issues which divide the great political organizations on the outside do not concern us in Dawson. We do not want men placed on the Yukon Council for political reasons. When we are represented on the Council, we want to see men there whose devotion to the advancement and progress of this territory will be paramount to their allegiance to any political party.

But questions of policy, or questions of candidates, or questions of possible results, should not affect in any respect the time for holding the election.

The people have spoken their minds upon the matter of representation, and the census has proven their undoubted right thereto. The Council has little to gain by postponement, and the territory has much to lose. Unnecessary delays will not deceive anyone. The motive therefore is plain. On the other hand, prompt compliance on the part of the Council with the expressed wishes of the people would materially raise that body in the public estimation. Their action in this matter will serve to determine to what extent the Council is disposed to regard an almost unanimous expression of public opinion.

FOR AN ASSAY OFFICE.

Theoretically, a man found with gold dust about his person is guilty of a misdemeanor. The only thing that saves us all—that is, those of us who are fortunate enough to have a poke with anything in it—from being treated to a season of retirement at the barracks, is the fact that the law is not enforced.

This law was passed in Canada years ago, for the reason that experience had proven that the use of gold dust as a medium of exchange was productive of all sorts of evils. What has been proven true in the older provinces, is no less a fact in the Yukon Territory.

Three years of business on a gold dust basis has served only to indicate the necessity of some action being taken whereby currency can be brought into general circulation and gold dust entirely eliminated as a consideration in the transaction of business. The present system has few, if any, satisfactory features. It results in placing a standard medium of exchange in competition with one of varying value, which means, according to all economic law and according to actual experience in Dawson, that the standard medium is constantly being forced out of circulation.

Much of the gold dust which

is in common use has been subjected to a sifting process, or carries with it such a proportion of black sand that its actual value is considerably below the value at which it is taken. Naturally, therefore, anyone having the option of paying an obligation in gold dust or in currency prefers to pay out the former and bank the latter.

We do not believe that the situation would be rendered any more satisfactory by the enforcement of the law alluded to at the beginning of this article. Such action would simply serve to complicate matters, and additional hardships upon the miners would result.

The only logical solution to the difficulty is some provision on the part of the government whereby a miner can exchange his gold dust for currency in Dawson, getting the full value thereof, less the usual government fee for assay expenses, which is always merely nominal.

Some such provision as this would immediately and naturally take gold dust entirely out of circulation and replace it with standard currency, the value of which never fluctuates. The miner from the creek would get the full value for the product of his claim, and the merchant in Dawson would get the full value for his wares. Any other solution of the problem must of necessity be more or less in the nature of a makeshift.

MIGHT TAKE A LESSON.

It now appears that Roberts has a long and arduous campaign before him, which must be carried out before he can expect to engage the Boers within the Transvaal proper. The approach of the bad season renders his task more difficult than ever. The loss of the Boers' two best generals does not seem to have disheartened them to the extent that was anticipated. The London papers are again becoming critical at Roberts' movements. If they would leave the commanding general alone and allow him to work out his plans without having each and every one subjected to an analytical process by war "experts" on the London newspapers, the results in the long run would doubtless prove far more satisfactory. In direct contrast with the English parliament and the English newspapers, the colonial legislative bodies and leading journals have accorded a hearty and almost unanimous support to the war, and left the determination of war measures and policies to those in whose hands they properly belong.

Ever since the war began, the home government has been in a constant turmoil, brought about through efforts to make the war a political issue. This apparent division of sentiment which has been made manifest in the British parliament will doubtless result in prolonging the war to a greater extent than otherwise would have been necessary, as the Boers have taken renewed courage by reason of the activities of opponents of the present British government.

The politicians of England might well take a lesson from the unanimous expression of loyalty and patriotism which has been made manifest in the colonies.

Had it not been for Mr. Joseph Clarke and the citizens' committee, our contemporary, the "organ," would have been in a bad way for material with which to fill its last issue.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.