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FROM GEO. W. OTTERSON

HE IS NOW AT TELEGRAPH CREEK IN ALASKA.

Reached There After a Hard Struggle—Will Get Into Klondike in January—No More Letters.

(Special Correspondence.)

Editor Star: Myself and party arrived at Telegraph Creek on October 7, after nine days of hard work and exposure. I think my last item was from Fort Wrangle. So I will here give a few of our experiences coming up the Stikine river. We reached Fort Wrangle September 16th to find all the river steamers tied up for the winter, and there seemed nothing left for us but a choice between two things—to return to Seattle and wait until next spring, when the steamers would start up, or build our own boats, and go up in that way.

We decided upon the latter course, as we did not like the idea of turning back. It took us almost a week to build two boats large enough to carry our outfits—three of us—as we have almost two tons of provisions and clothing. At that time the river was a rushing torrent on account of heavy rains in the hills above us, and bringing down up-rooted trees, and debris of all sorts. On September 21 we launched our boats, loaded in our goods and started out, all three of us in the first boat, which was rigged with a sail, towing the other with the most of our goods in it. I cannot express in words the dangers which we encountered in trying to keep out of the way of logs, trees, etc., and out of whirlpools and rapids. We had hard work to keep our little crafts right side up and there were times that I thought we were gone sure. We fought with the current for seven days, putting lines to shore and hauling on them trying to get ahead a few feet or out of rapids, and in that seven days we made just ten miles.

By that time we were pretty well tired out, so held a meeting of the stockholders and finally decided to go back to Wrangle. We lost no time in starting on the return trip. It took us just two and one-half hours to go down the same distance we had been seven days going up. After a few hours rest at Wrangle, I hunted up the manager of the steamboat line, and succeeded in chartering the Alaskan for \$2,000. I then made out and sold twenty-one tickets at \$100 each, to Glenora, which is twelve miles from Telegraph, and as far as the steamers go up the Stikine. In this way I was able to pay for the charter. Within two or three days our ship was loaded and ready to start. I retained three officers, who knew the river route, and on September 29th left Fort Wrangle with a full cargo and passenger list.

In the meantime the river had gone down somewhat, but the current is very strong at any time, and the river full of rapids and whirlpools, so that our progress was very slow. And sometimes we would be on a sandbar, and all hands would get out with lines and haul away until we were able to float, then again we would be in so strong a current that with steam on at high pressure we could not gain more than ten feet an hour, and sometimes would only move a few inches in that length of time. Our passengers had to work as well as the crew, and each evening would tie up the boat for the night, and everybody go ashore and cut wood to run her the next day.

It was not exactly a pleasure trip, but there was plenty of excitement, however, and no one can complain of "ennui." We reached Glenora, 138 miles from Fort Wrangle, on October 7th, and not a soul on board the Alaskan was sorry that part of the journey was over, and least of all myself. At Glenora we had to pay a duty of 25 per cent on all outfits, except that each man is allowed \$100 worth of provisions free of duty. We hired Indian canoes at this point, \$25 each, and brought our goods up to this place by attaching a line to the canoe and following along shore over rocks and boulders, climbing up one precipice and down over another, hauling it up stream in that manner. It took each man about three days to get his outfit over the twelve miles, making two or three trips a day.

We had fairly good weather, however, and with the exception of some rain had nothing to complain of in that line. We have been at Telegraph Creek since October 10th, and are now waiting for snow, so that we can go in with sleds, and in that way avoid a great deal of hard work in packing. We may not be able to leave here before January 1st, but as we are very comfortably situated here, we are in no hurry to start, as we feel that we have a good start ahead of the rush, and if we remain here until February we will be in plenty of time, as the streams do not open up for navigation until June. We are heading for Lake Teslin, where we will build a cabin, and then build a house boat for the river, and as soon as the Hootalinqua river opens up will launch our boat, and float down stream, prospecting all the small branches. Of course we may change our plans before spring, but hardly think so.

This is a very nice camp, probably 200 all told, and more coming every day. So far we have a good class of men, all earnest workers, but as soon as the traffic opens up along the river we will get all kinds of men here. We are all letting our hair and whiskers grow, preparing for the cold weather. Strangers coming in refer to me as "the man with the head of hair." I can hardly recognize myself.

I think this will be our last chance to send out mail until January, as the ice is beginning to run in the river, and it will soon shut off canoe navigation; then it will be some little time before the ice will be strong enough to travel over on account of the rapid current.

I send my Aloha to all Honolulu friends. Yours, GEORGE W. OTTERSON.

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