PART 2 DESERET EVENING NEWS. 9 TO 12

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1895. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

Alaska's Gold Mines.

Newsy Facts and Interesting Stories About Valuable Territory Which John Bull Covets.

The Juneau Mines and How England Is Trying to Get Them—The Wonderful Treadwell Ledge, Which Cost $400 and Now Pays $100,000 a Year—How a Wood Sawyer Stumbled Into a Fortune—Alaska's Sands, Which Are Mixed With Gold Dust—The Placer Mines of the Yukon River and Their Precious Output—What the Congregational Expedition Has Discovered as to the Mines of Southern Alaska—Something About Alaskan Coal and How it Can be Utilized—The Value of the Territory—It Cost Only Two Cents an Acre, But its Resources Have Already Produced $75,000,000 and There are Fortunes in Sight.

Special Correspondence of the News.
[Copyrighted 1895 by Frank G. Carpenter.]

WASHINGTON, November 20, 1895.

SHALL John Bull gobble our gold? That is one of the questions which will probably come before the next Congress in the discussion of the Alaskan boundary line. The English are scheming to get hold of the rich placer deposits on the Yukon river. They also want to move forward the southeastern boundary of Alaska, so that the precious quartz mines about Juneau will be in British territory. If they succeed, we will lose the best gold territory of Alaska—a territory which is now producing nearly a million dollars a year, and which may produce tens of millions in the future. The best of Yukon mines are within about twenty-five miles of the boundary of Alaska and British Columbia. The Canadians say that if reports run it would include them. By the treaty of England with Russia in 1825 Alaska begin at the Portland canal, about fifty-four degrees forty minutes, and ran northward to the main boundary of Alaska proper, along a line which was to be about thirty miles back from the coast. The wording of the body is such that there is no doubt but that its main coast line was meant. Sir England wants to make this thirty miles begin with the outside shores of its numerous large islands running along the coast, and not the coast proper. For seventy years she has made her maps according to the old understanding, but now that the gold mines are found she wants to change the construction of the treaty and move out the line so that it would cut off most of our best harbors and the wonderful gold territory which we have begun to develop.

THE GOLD MINES OF JUNEAU.

How valuable these gold fields are we are just beginning to learn. During the past week I have talked with a number of men who have just returned from Alaska. I have gone over the maps with the members of the expedition of gold experts sent by Congress to investigate the mines of the territory, and have looked over the collection of specimens which they have just brought back. There is no doubt that the Alaskan mines are very valuable.

Between 1880 and 1890 the whole gold yield of Alaska was less than $5,000,000. Now the territory is turning out more than $1,000,000 a year, and there is a single mine near Juneau, which has already produced more than $5,000,000 worth of gold. The owners of the mine have refused, it is said, $10,000,000 for their claim. The gold in it seems to be practically inexhaustible, and the mine is now turning out more than $500,000 a year. It is owned by Senator Jones and several leading San Francisco men. In many respects it is the most remarkable mine in the world. It has a low grade ore, the most of which does not average more than $2.50 to a ton. Still, it can be worked at more than 100 per cent profit, and the mine is considered one of the finest gold properties of the world. This is known as the Treadwell mine. It is situated just opposite the town of Juneau, on Douglas Island. It was located by a French Canadian, known as "French Pete," who came from Sitka to Juneau to prospect for gold. He had an Indian woman for a wife, and his brother-in-law told him of this gold ledge. After locating the mine he sold it to a man name Treadwell for $400, and it made Treadwell's fortune. A company was organized to develop it, and about five years ago the mine was capitalized at five million dollars. More than one million dollars have already been spent upon it, and it is said to have the largest stamp mill in existence. It is situated so close to the sea that the ore can be handled very cheaply. The gold-bearing ledge is seven hundred feet wide, and it crops out upon the surface. Tunnels have now been run into it on all sides, and hundreds of incandescent and arc lights made these so bright that the work can go on night and day. Professor Becker, who visited the mine last summer, speaks in high terms of its workings, stating that the immense profits of the mine are largely due to its being located so near the water.

THE GOLD CREEK AND SILVER BOW MINES.

There are other gold mines on Douglas Island, one of which is paying very well. There is also valuable gold territory on the main coast. The whole strip of land, which will be cut off if John Bull has his will, is undoubtedly more or less mixed with gold. Juneau is a mining town in the mouth of Gold creek. It now contains about 2,000 people, made up of miners and traders. It lies on the edge of the sea, backed by precipitous mountains. Gold creek, which flows into the ocean at this point, has valuable placer mines, and it was in the canon along this creek, just back of Juneau, that the first of this part of Alaska was discovered. This was about 1880. In 1881 the Silver Bow mines were opened. These are up the creek, back of Juneau. They are on the side of a canon more than 1,000 feet above the sea, and, curious to say, they are placer mines, situated, as Dr. Becker tells me, to the bed of a long-since dried up lake. The ordinary placer mines are found in the beds of creeks, and this mine is the only one of its kind in the world. It is worked by a tunnel, out of which have already been taken hundreds of thousands of dollars. More than $100,000 were produced the first season that the mine was opened, and it is paying very well today.

SAWED OUT A FORTUNE.

No one knows how much gold there is in the mountains walling Gold creek. The whole region is densely wooded, and it is almost impossible to prospect on account of the woods. Some of the trees are ten feet high and hundreds of years old. On a ledge of quartz that was discovered not long ago it took the miners ten days to clear off a small patch of ground around the outcroppings, and the vegetation is so dense that it is almost impossible to tell where the gold is. Now and then mines are discovered in curious ways. Not long ago a laborer took a cross-cut saw with him and went up into the mountains to cut wood at so much a day. He had not gone more than a mile before he tumbled over a log and, as it were, sawed out a fortune. When he fell he threw the saw and tried to save himself. Upon rising and going to where the saw had fallen he found that the earth was torn up and a streak of white quartz showed out through the black dirt. He stooped to examine it and found it full of yellow specks. These specks were gold. He followed the streak up the mountain for several hundred feet, and upon it staked a claim which brought him a fortune.

UNCLE SAM'S PROSPECTORS.

We know practically nothing about this gold territory of Alaska, but the indications are that there is gold all along the coast, up to and far beyond Sitka. Alaska is about one-sixth the size of the whole United States, and only a small part of it has been prospected. During the past summer Congress sent three experts from the geological survey to investigate the gold mines and coal fields of the southern and western part of the territory. These men have been in Alaska all the summer. They traveled more than 2,500 miles in a tugboat, in and about the shores of the various islands. They visited most of the mines now in question with the British, and made a tour of Cook's inlet, where there are valuable placer mines. They have inspected the new mines of the island of Kadiak, and have found good gold mines being worked as far west as the island of Unga, lying at least 1,000 miles beyond Sitka. They returned in September, bringing back a great quantity of specimens of gold and coal-bearing rocks. These specimens are now in the department of the geological survey. There is one large room which is filled with tables loaded with chunks of Alaskan gold quartz. There is a specialist who has for weeks being grinding chips from these rock specimens into leaves, each of which is thinner than a sheet of the finest writing paper, so thin, in fact, that it is entirely transparent. These leaves are put between plates of glass and subjected to a microscopic examination, by means of which their constituents and value can be known. Until the rocks are analyzed, the report of the expedition will not be ready for Congress. The work, however, is going on rapidly, and by the first of the year we will receive our first accurate knowledge of many of the Alaskan mines. The members of the expedition are scientific gold and coal experts. Dr. George F. Becker, the chief, is the man who investigated the gold fields of the south for Congress last year. Professor William H. Dall, another member has spent years in Alaska, as he is an expert as to coal mines, while C. W. Purington, Dr. Becker's assistant, is also a gold expert. During my talk with Dr. Becker he showed me a number of photographs of the different mining regions. He was very conservative as to the profits of Alaskan mining, but said that the output of Alaska will be at least $1,200,000 this year.

ALASKA'S GOLDEN SANDS.

Dr. Becker tells me that gold washing is going on along the shores of some of the islands of Alaska, and that there is gold in the sands along the shores of the Pacific running north along the coast. There is a great deal of gold washed up daily on the beaches of the Island of Kadiak. A large number of miners are engaged in the business, and they often make big profits. He tells me that mines have been recently opened on Admiralty Island which are good prospects, and that the Unga mines on a little island further westward are now turning out $70,000 a month. These Unga mines are the property of the Alaskan Commercial company. They are quartz mines, having a rock much like that of the Bodie mine of California. The ledge is more than thirty feet wide, and the ore runs from $8 to $9 per ton.

THE GOLD MINES OF THE YUKON.

The gold mines of the Yukon were not visited by Dr. Becker's expedition, it is a trip of more than 2,000 miles to them, going around by the Yukon river, and it takes more than a year to get there and back and make any kind of an investigation. There are little steam boats which go up the river carrying hundreds of tons of freight to the miners. They make their trips only twice a year and if one misses the boat he has to wait until the next year or come over the mountains to Sitka. Many of the miners go from Sitka in this way to the Yukon, carrying their supplies with them on the sledges, which they drag over the snow. The gold mines are placer mines found along the rivers and creeks which flow into the Yukon. These creeks are almost dry during the winter, but in the spring there are great freshets, which carry everything before them. The miners build fires on the gravel; in the winter, and when the dirt is thawed they carry it up to the banks out of the way of the freshets and wash it during the summer. The work is very laborious, but so far it has paid very well. Fifteen Yukon miners who came back with the Geological Survey party in September last, had more that $100,000 worth of gold with them, which they had taken out this year, and there are undoubtedly millions lying in the beds of the rivers. So far no quartz mining has been done.

Dr. Dall, who has visited the Yukon regions, tells me that the gold is largely found in streaks or what the miners call stringers, so that there may be a little string of gold without being a long vein. This by the action of the frost and the water is broken off, and nature grinds up, as it were, the gold from the placers. He does not say there are no large quartz leads in this part of Alaska, but states that the placers are not absolute evidence that there are such. These miners told Dr. Dall that they expected to go back next year. They have to undergo great privations, and Dr. Dall says that a man must have a capital of at least $500 to start out from Sitka to mine gold on the Yukon. He ought to take a year's supplies with him, and he must be prepared for a climate of such a nature that in the winter the thermometer falls to sixty degrees below zero, while in the summer it rises as high as 100 degrees above that point. There are insects of all kinds during the summer, and the mosquitoes of Alaska are worse than those of New Jersey. The miners live in log cabins, and their accommodations are of the rudest possible nature.

ALASKA'S COAL MINES.

A large number of coal mines were visited by this geological survey party and Dr. Becker tells me that there are big veins of coal along Cook's inlet and along Kachemak bay. In the latter place the bluffs rise 800 feet straight up from the water, and the coal crops out of them, so that it could be easily transferred from the mines to the ships. It is a lignite coal, about five eighths as good as the Cardiff coal. It is believed that it could be taken to San Francisco and sold there for $6 a ton at a profit. There is a possible market for this coal at a future bay way station between Vancouver and Japan on the Aleutian islands. At present each of the great trans Pacific steamers has to carry 2,000 tons of coal for each voyage. With such a station they could save 1,000 tons of freight each way in going to and from Asia.

UNCLE SAM'S REMOTE TERRITORY.

During this expedition the geological survey party visited and took pictures of the new Sugoshee Island. This is the last possession that Uncle Sam has acquired. It rose out of the sea after we bought the territory from Russia, and as it was the direct gift of God, there is no possibility of the English laying claim to it. It is a volcanic island, some parts of which are still steaming, and which are so hot that they would roast any human being who touched them. Birds fall into the crevices of the rocks and are cooked, and Dr. Becker and his party ate eggs which they boiled over the steam coming out of the ground.

THE ALASKA PURCHASE AND THE RUSSIAN LOBBY.

The loss of the gold territory will be by no means the only loss which Uncle Sam will sustain if the boundary line is changed as the Canadians desire it. It would cut us out of some of our best harbors and most valuable waterways. Few people realize the enormous amounts of money which we have gotten out of Alaska. When it was purchased it was looked upon by many as a snow-clad desert, and Seward, who was then Secretary of State, had a hard fight with Congress to get it. There was a big lobby here at the time, and it was publicly charged that of the $7,200,000 paid for it only $5,000,000 reached the czar, the remainder being spent as a corruption fund. This was not true. Twenty-seven thousand dollars was all that went to the lobby, and this was paid to the attorneys who passed the bill. In addition to this there was the sum of $9,000 which went out of the whole amount to one of the Washington newspapers. $9,170,000 was spent by the Russian minister in buying munitions of war and machinery, which were shipped to Russia. The cost of Alaska to us was, all told, not more than $7,500,000. We paid just about two cents an acre for the property.

WHAT ALASKA HAS PAID UNCLE SAM.

Now let us see what we have gotten out of it. The Seal Islands alone have paid between six and seven million dollars in rentals and royalties to Uncle Sam, and our people have sold tens of millions of dollars' worth of its products. The whaling industry has yielded more than $11,000,000, and the fur, fish and mines up to 1890 had turned out products amounting to more than $64,000,000, so that out of that which cost us less than seven million and a half, we had up to 1890 said products to the amount of seventy-five millions, or to ten times the price originally paid.

The resources of Alaska are enormous. Senator Perkins of California, who is largely interested in whale fishing, could tell you just how many hundred thousand dollars are invested in that industry. He could show you how, during fifteen years, the whaling catch has amounted to millions, and how in 1894 there were more than a million and a half dollars' worth of whales caught in Alaskan waters. There are salmon canneries in different part of Alaska, which represent a capital of more than $4,000,000. They employ thousands of laborers, and they export about $3,000,000 worth of salmon every year. Cod fish is another industry, and Dr. Becker tells me that he believes that a large part of the Alaskan islands would be available for stock raising. There is no doubt but that the territory has still great possibilities, and, in the opinion of those who know most about it here at Washington, Uncle Sam will be very foolish if he allows John Bull to take an inch more than that which is now so accurately set down in the treaties.

Frank G. Carpenter

Items in Wheat Culture.

For a wheat seed bed one wants firmness as well as fineness. Use the roller two or three times, the last time just before drilling. If the soil is fine and well firmed, it will draw up moisture from below, nearly always. Being firm below the seed, it brings the moisture to the seed to cause it to sprout. The incut of mellow soil acts as a mulch and the sprout comes up through it readily. T. H. Terry, a successful Ohio farmer who sows wheat on potato stubble, writes in relation to the amount of seed to the Ohio Farmer as follows:

If I can get the wheat in by the 10th of September, I sow 58 quarts of wheat as small as Fults. If two weeks later, would sow eight quarts more. The wheat would then have less time to stool out, and I would help make this up by having more plants. One needs about so much growth for winter protection. This might not be seed enough for some soils. If I sow too much seed the wheat is more liable to lodge. I make the straw weaker to have too many plants. Plenty of room and sunlight makes healthier, stiffer straw. We have tried all the way from a bushel to 2½, and after long experience conclude the amount named to be as nearly right for us as we can tell beforehand, without knowing what the season will be. Of course we would sow more of a variety having a very large berry, such as the early red Clawson. The Fults is small and 58 quarts give a pretty good stand.

ZION'S SAVINGS BANK & TRUST CO.,

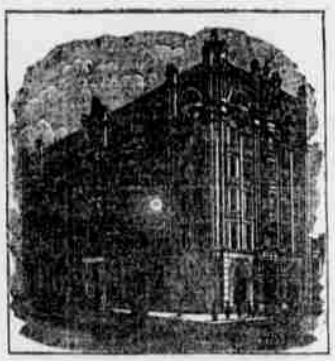
Nos. 1, 3 and 5 MAIN STREET.

CASH CAPITAL, $200,000. SURPLUS, $200,000.

DIRECTORS.

WILFORD WOODRUFF, - - President.
GEORGE Q. CANNON, - - Vice-President.
GEORGE M. CANNON, - - Cashier.

Joseph F. Smith, George Reynolds,
T. G. Webber, Heber J. Grant,
Angus M. Cannon, Lorenzo Snow,
James Jack, Francis M. Lyman,
H. B. Clawson, L. John Nuttall.



Some people always save a little; most people sometimes save something, and some people never save anything. The road to comfort lies more in what we save than what we make. Zion's Savings Bank was opened for two purposes: As an investment for those who established it and also as a place in which the people of Utah could safely deposit their money and receive a reasonable interest thereon. It is the Largest and Oldest Savings Bank in Utah, and the confidence reposed in it is attested by the fact that since the bank was instituted, 16,608 savings accounts have been opened. Deposits are received in any sum from $1 up.

We Still Pay five (5) per cent per annum, Compounded Four Times a Year.

OPEN an account with us NOW. We have depositors whose first deposit was only a small sum and whose account now shows thousands of dollars to their credit. Married Ladies and Minor Children have right to deposit in their own name and payable only to their own order.

Write for any Information you Desire.
Deposits received from parties outside of Salt Lake City carefully attended to