

LATEST NEWS FROM THE KLONDIKE. 9 O'CLOCK EDITION.

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD! GOLD!

Sixty-Eight Rich Men on the Steamer Portland.

STACKS OF YELLOW METAL!

Some Have \$5,000, Many Have More, and a Few Bring Out \$100,000 Each.

THE STEAMER CARRIES \$700,000.

Special Tug Chartered by the Post-Intelligencer to Get the News.

The Latest Reports From the New Eldorado Arrive This Morning—Interviews With Those Who Have Come Down From the North With New-Found Fortunes—The Recent Strikes Seem to Be as Rich as Reported—There Is Plenty of Gold, But Only the Hardy and Provident Can Secure It—No Man Who Is Without a Suitable Outfit Should Attempt Fortune in That Remote Region—There Will No Doubt Be a Great Rush for the New Discoveries, and the Majority Will Outfit in and Leave From Seattle.

The Post-Intelligencer chartered a tug at Port Townsend last night to enable a staff correspondent to meet the incoming steamship Portland, from St. Michaels, loaded with her treasure of \$700,000 from the Klondike.

moment, so the tug was ordered sent to Seattle with the correspondent on board. The Sea Lion, Capt. Sprague, made the trip down in record-breaking time, arriving at 6 o'clock, at least two hours ahead of the Portland.

The Portland has on board 68 miners with \$500,000 in gold—not a man who has less than \$500. Some of them have over \$100,000. Some of them are Seattle men, and they come back happy and rich.

This story, obtained under considerable difficulty, but which is thought to be full and reliable in detail will be read with intense interest. It follows:

BRINGING BACK GOLD.

Sixty-eight Miners on the Portland Confirm the Fabulous Stories.

ON BOARD STEAMSHIP PORTLAND, 3 a. m.—At 3 o'clock this morning the steamship Portland, from St. Michaels for Seattle, passed up Sound with more than a ton of solid gold on board and 68 passengers. In the captain's cabin are three chests and a large safe filled with the precious nuggets. The metal is worth nearly \$500,000 and the most of it was taken out of the ground in less than three months of last winter. In size the nuggets range from the size of a pea to a guinea egg. Of the 68 miners aboard hardly a man has less than \$5,000 and one or two have more than \$100,000 in yellow nuggets.

One peculiar feature to be noticed is that the big strikes were made by tenderfeet, while the old and experienced miners of many years' experience are suffering indescribable hardship and privation in Alaska and the Northwest Territory and have only a few thousand dollars to show for their labor. Fortune seemed to smile on the inexperienced men who went into the mining districts late last year, as nearly all of them were the most fortunate. The stories they tell seem too incredulous and far beyond belief. Instances are noted where single individuals have taken out, in two and one-half months, gold to the value of over \$100,000.

Clarence Berry, of Fresno, Cal., went to the Yukon, in 1896, and prospected several years without success. He returned home last autumn, was married and took his bride to the Klondike last November. He is now on the Portland with \$25,000, the result of a winter's work and fortune's smile.

Frank Phiscator, of Baroda, Mich., is another lucky miner. He went to the Klondike last autumn and is now returning with \$8,000, having worked two claims with nine men, three months, and he still owns the claims. He was one of the orig-

inal discoverers of the El Dorado district. Although most of the passengers are returning home with plenty of gold, they all advise and urge people who contemplate going to the Yukon not to think of taking in less than one ton of grub, and plenty of clothes. While it is a poor man's country, yet the hardships and privations to be encountered by inexperienced persons unused to frontier life is certain to result in much suffering during the winters. They should go prepared with at least a year's supplies.

The rush to the Klondike region commenced late last year and the claims were staked out and worked all winter. Labor was worth \$5 a day last winter. Flour sold for \$6 a sack and other provisions were proportionately high. Some of the mine owners attempted to lower the wages to \$3 a sack, but success. By burning the ground to thaw the gravel, which was hoisted up about twelve feet to the dumps, where it was sluiced and washed in the spring, miners were able to work during the entire winter. In the early part of last month the thermometer ran up to 55 degrees in the shade and in January it was 58 degrees below zero.

The steamer Portland was reported passing Cape Flattery at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The news dispatches from San Francisco announcing the arrival of the Excelsior at that port with many miners and a large quantity of gold has created a public demand for the latest and most authentic news from the gold fields of Alaska.

Realizing the impossibility of the Portland arriving in Seattle before 8 or 9 o'clock this morning, the Post-Intelligencer telegraphed to Manager Libby, of the Puget Sound Tugboat Co., at Port Townsend and chartered the tug Sea Lion, Capt. C. W. Sprague, to intercept the Portland in the straits so that this paper's representative could interview the returning miners and lay their stories before the public at the earliest moment.

In the straits. At 2 o'clock this morning the Portland was stopped in the middle of the straits abreast of Port Angeles by the Sea Lion. As the reporter went over the steamer's side and was met by Capt. Kildston, a crowd of miners gathered about, eager to hear the latest local news. Entering the captain's cabin, the skipper pointed to a corner in which was piled three boxes and a large safe.

\$700,000 in Gold. "There, you see those boxes and that safe; well, they contain in round figures over \$700,000 in gold, and that metal weighs nearly a ton and a half," was the captain's response to the reporter's question as to the amount of gold that was on board. He continued: "Of the 68 passengers there is hardly

a man on board who has less than \$5,000 and one or two have over \$100,000." The captain then went below and awakened one or two of his passengers, who came to the cabin and chatted a few moments about the Klondike and its mines.

Clarence Berry. Clarence Berry is regarded as the luckiest man in the Klondike. With a miner it is all luck, nothing else. Ten months ago Mr. Berry was a poor miner and today he is in Seattle on his way to his home in Fresno, Cal., with \$100,000 in gold nuggets. He said rather modestly:

"Yes, I've been rather fortunate. Last winter I took out \$100,000 in 30 box lengths. A box length is 12x15 feet, and in one length I found \$10,000. Another time, the second largest nugget ever found in the Yukon was taken out of my claim; it weighed 23 ounces and was worth \$231. "I have known men to take out \$1,000 a day from a drift claim. Of course, the gold was found in pockets, and those finds, you can rest assured, were very scarce.

"I would not advise a man to take in an outfit that would cost less than \$500. He must expect to be disappointed and the chances are that he may prospect for years without finding a paying claim, and again he may be lucky enough to strike it rich.

"The country is wild, rough and full of hardships for those unused to the rigors of Arctic winters. If a man makes a fortune he is liable to earn it by severe hardship and suffering. But, then, grit, perseverance and luck will probably reward a hard worker with a comfortable income for life."

Inspector Strickland. Inspector Strickland, of the Canadian mounted police, is en route to Ottawa on official business. His statements were guarded and conservative. He said there were only two mining districts in what is known as the Klondike section and they are called the Hunker and Bonanza districts. He added:

"When I left Dawson City a month ago there were about 800 claims staked out and there were between 2,000 and 3,000 people in there. We can safely say that there was about \$1,500,000 in gold mined last winter. The wages in the mines were 45 a day and the saw mill paid laborers 210 a day.

"The claims now staked out will afford employment for about 5,000 men, I believe. If a man is strong, healthy and wants to work he can find employment at good wages. Several men worked on an interest or what is termed 'lay' and during the winter realized from \$5,000 to \$10,000 apiece. The mines are from 35 to 100 miles from the Alaska boundary."

A Seattle Man. William Stanley, of Seattle, is among the passengers. He left his son in charge of his interests in a couple of claims. He went to the Klondike last year and is now returning with nearly \$5,000 in gold.

Henry Anderson, a native of Sweden and well known on the Sound, sold a one-half interest in his claim on El Dorado creek and is coming back to Seattle with \$45,000 spot cash, the proceeds of the sale. T. J. Kelly and son, of Tacoma, went in last year and made \$10,000. The son is in charge of the claim and the father is among the Portland's passengers.

Sackful of Nuggets. Richard Blake, of Dungeness, has been successful and is coming back to the place where he was born and raised with a big sackful of nuggets.

William Sloan, formerly a dry goods merchant of Nansimo, B. C., sold his claim for \$22,000, and with the gold he took from the mine has come back to civilization. Another man by the name of Wilkenson, of the same city, sold his claim for \$20,000 and is back to stay.

Bob Strong, of Port Townsend, has a good claim, and is in a fair way to make a fortune, but his brother, William G. Strong, is not so fortunate. They are both working on the El Dorado river.

A Pugilist's Fortune. Jack Horne, of Tacoma, formerly a well known lightweight pugilist of Puget Sound, went to the Klondike last fall and worked on a "lay." He is returning with something over \$6,000, which is probably more than he could have realized in the "ring."

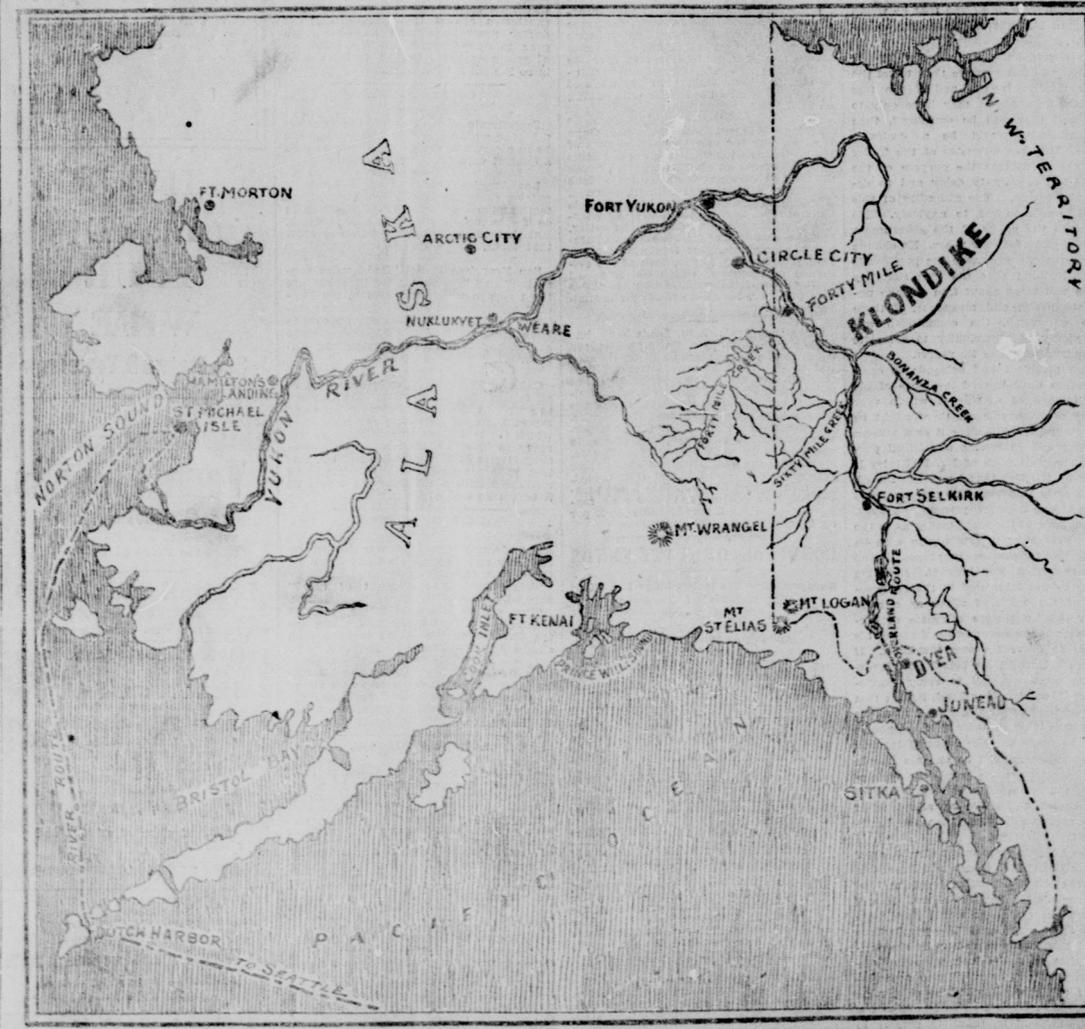
With \$25,000. Frank Keller, of Los Angeles, is on board the Portland with \$25,000. He went in last year, mined during the winter and last month sold the claim for that sum.

Briefly, such is the story of nearly every miner on board. They all have gold, and it is piled about the staterooms like so much valueless hand luggage. They attribute their success to "lucky strikes" and aver that thousands of people will rush to the Yukon valley in the next year or two, and after undergoing great hardships and privations will probably return broke in health and finances. All of the miners lay great stress on the necessity of taking in plenty of supplies and say that the proper outfit will cost not less than \$50 to each man and that it is advisable to purchase provisions and lighting in Seattle.

The Portland's Passengers. There can be no doubt that the late strikes in the Yukon valley, are the richest ever known. Instances are common where pans of gravel have yielded over \$100, and occasionally much more. It is generally conceded, though, that all of the territory where the rich strikes were made has been staked and that so far as those districts are concerned it is useless for any one to think of making locations. But, then, there are other streams, all of which are known to have gold-bearing

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THE LAND OF GOLD.



Map Showing the Yukon Country, with Klondike and Bonanza Creeks, where the recent rich discoveries have been made. The Overland Route from Seattle, by Dyea, Chilkoot Pass, the Lakes and River, is shown, as well as the Outside Route by the Way of Bering Sea, St. Michaels and the Yukon River. The Dotted Line Shows the International Boundary.

KLONDYKE Don't get excited and rush away only half prepared. You are going to a country where grub is more valuable than gold and frequently can't be bought for any price. We can fit you out quicker and better than any firm in town. We have had lots of experience, know how to pack and what to furnish.

COOPER & LEVY NOS. 104 AND 106 FIRST AVENUE SOUTH.

A few more of those excellent Lawn Mowers on hand. 16-inch, \$2.35; 18-inch, \$3.15. Going camping? Take a look at those Folding Camp Beds at \$2.15 each. Received yesterday, 10 cases Fresh Ranch Eggs, 29c per dozen. Another shipment of Butter just arrived—Fine Dairy, 25c per brick. Choice Creamery, 35c per brick.

Store Open Until 9 O'clock Tonight. COOPER & LEVY WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCERS 104-106 FIRST AVE. SOUTH, ONE DOOR SOUTH OF YESLER AVE.

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