

A WILD RUSH FOR THE YUKON

Sailing of the First Steamer for Dyea and Way Ports.

The Rush Has Now Fairly Begun and Will Keep On Increasing.

All Classes of Men Have the Gold Fever and Are Destined for the Klondike.

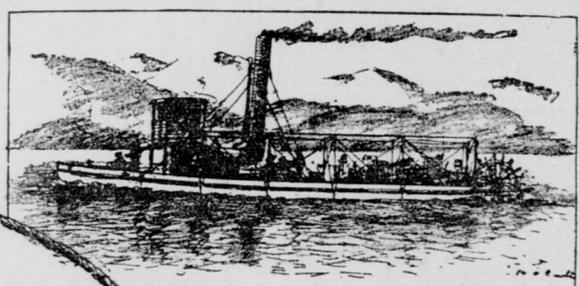
The rush to the gold fields has fairly begun. From one end of the water front to the other nothing can be heard but "Klondike." From the shipowner to the wharf rat it is the word to swear by, and the ship builders and engine builders are wrapped up in the subject. In the shipyards the hammers seem to ring out the word and in the foundries the furnaces proclaim it to the winds. The fever is in men's blood, and whether they go forth to face the perils of the road or whether they remain behind content with smaller profits and fewer risks they all alike dream of the riches to be found on the Klondike.

The steamer Excelsior of the Pacific Steam Whaling Company's line got away yesterday afternoon with a full passenger list. She was only allowed 71 passengers from this port, and of that number 70 went away on her. H.

steamer off as there was last year, when she started on her memorable voyage to St. Michael. At the Risdon Iron Works they are working night and day to fill Klondike orders. Two steel steamers for use on the Yukon are almost ready, and will be shipped north in sections next month. They will be fifty feet long, ten feet broad and will draw fifteen inches of water loaded. They will make an average speed of ten knots, and will be used simply as passenger boats. They are built on exactly the same lines as were the steamers used in the British military expedition up the river Nile. They will accommodate forty passengers and their baggage, and are guaranteed to maintain their speed in spite of the current of the Yukon. The iron works will send men to St. Michael to put the vessels together when the various sections reach there.

A party of nine, headed by H. C. Tabrett, marine superintendent of the Risdon Iron Works, and Robert McElroy, agent of the Phelan building, are interested in a novel scheme. The San Francisco Launch Company is building a boat 90 feet long, 20 feet broad and to draw 3 feet of water loaded, and with her they expect to make millions. She is equipped with powerful engines and a dredging plant, and it is the intention of the experts to dredge all the creeks in the vicinity of Dawson.

It was the intentions of Mr. Tabrett to superintend operations on the Yukon himself, but he has changed his mind, and a mining engineer will go instead. Tabrett had his outfit purchased, and was ready to start at a moment's notice when the snow came. He determined to have a foretaste of what he would have to encounter in



The other matter was relative to the powers of trustees of cities to specify the conditions under which elections should be held.

The Board of Trustees of the city of San Luis Obispo having advertised for the sale of certain bonds of the city for the purpose of paying the cost of certain municipal improvements authorized by the voters under the provisions of the act of March 19, 1886, P. W. Murphy, a taxpayer of that city, brought this action to enjoin the sale of the bonds and the levy and collection of any taxes for their payment, upon the ground that their issuance was illegal.

The Superior Court rendered judgment against him and for the city and Murphy appealed. The appellant presented three grounds upon which he contended that the issuance of the bonds was illegal, viz., first, that the bonds were made payable in gold coin of the United States, instead of being made "payable in gold coin or lawful money of the United States," second, that at the election upon the question of their issuance the voters were not asked in accordance with the terms of the ordinance by which the question was submitted; third, that the question whether the interest on the bonds should be paid annually or semi-annually was not submitted to the voters.

In the matter of the kind of money that shall be paid in the redemption of the bonds the court says: "This section (section 6 of the act of March 19, 1886) was amended in 1889, making the first sentence to read as follows: 'All municipal bonds for public improvements issued under the provisions of this act, shall be of the character of bonds known as serials, and shall be payable in gold coin or lawful money of the United States, in the manner following: ... The notice under the ordinance calling the special election for the purpose of authorizing the issuance of the bonds in question stated: 'The character of said bonds will be what is known as serial, and will be payable in gold coin of the United States in the manner following: (providing for distributing their payment over a period of forty years). The rate of interest to be paid on said bonds will be 5 per cent per annum.'"

Continuing, the court calls attention to the fact that experience taught that if bonds are payable in currency of a fluctuating value they are less negotiable than if the lender or investor knows of the precise kind of money in which he will be paid. The strongest point presented is in the following language: "In the absence of any limitation upon the mode of payment they would be payable in any lawful money of the United States, and the municipality in the bonds giving to the lender the alternative of paying them in gold coin or in lawful money of the United States would create no obligation upon it to make the payment in gold coin, it follows that the 'lawful money' in which they would be paid would be the kind which the municipality would elect at their maturity, and consequently the kind which at that date would have the least value. It cannot be held that the words 'shall be payable in gold coin or lawful money of the United States' inserted in the statute merely for the purpose of declaring that the municipality should have the option at the maturity of the bonds to pay them in gold coin, or in lawful money, since it needed no legislative declaration to give it that option."

The requirements of the statute, that the bonds shall be sold "at not less than their face value in gold coin of the United States" would prevent the sale of a single bond whose payment at maturity could be made at the option of the maker in kind, when it might then elect, and thus the very object of the statute would be destroyed. The statute would stand of value in this State is gold coin, and this is the only kind of money which the Legislature has authorized to be received upon a sale of the bonds.

The second proposition relates to the validity of the election, and the Supreme Court comes to the support of the city ordinance in the following strong language, first quoting the caption at the head of the tickets: "Each voter shall indicate his wish by writing, or causing to be written or printed, 'yes' or 'no' on the right hand margin of his ticket, opposite the proposition on which he may desire to vote. In the absence of any direction, the manner in which the voter is to indicate his wish may be immaterial, so long as his wish can be ascertained; but when the mode of its indication has been prescribed by authority of law the form becomes a matter of substance, and courts are not authorized to say that it may be disregarded and that the wish of the voter may be determined by conjecture. Whatever the statute requires the form to be is mandatory. A voter who is not printed upon the tickets that were used by the voters to vote for or against a proposition, stamp an 'X' in the square at the right," was authorized, and gave the voter no right to disregard the man-

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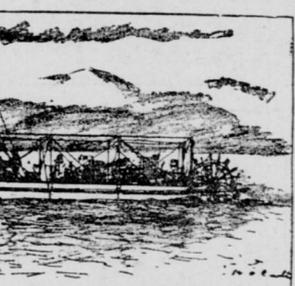
UPHOLDS THE GOLD STANDARD

P. W. Murphy Defeats the Trustees of San Luis Obispo.

The Supreme Court's Important Decision on Payment of Bonds.

The Law as Laid Down by the Highest Tribunal Affects All Municipalities.

The Supreme Court rendered a decision yesterday of no small importance to the voters of the municipalities of the State. It deals in no uncertain note upon the kind of money that shall be paid in the redemption of municipal bonds. The principal question in the case was whether certain bonds should be paid in gold coin only or in gold coin or lawful money of the United States.



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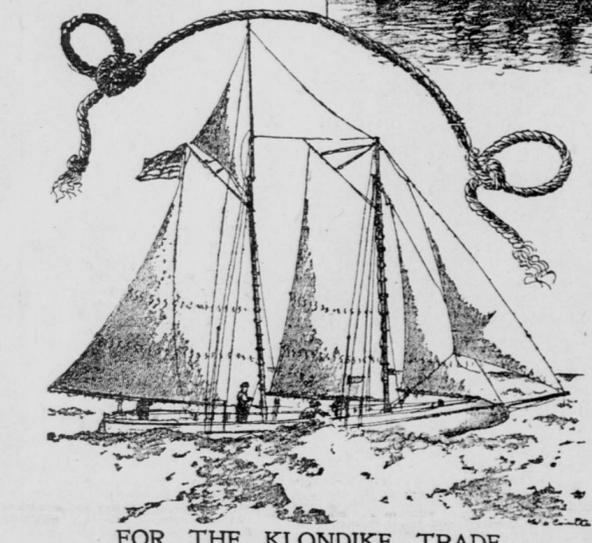
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FOR THE KLONDIKE TRADE.

Out of eleven river steamers now being completed in the various shipyards here for trade on the Yukon the above two will be very much alike when at work. The one under steam is built of steel throughout and will go to St. Michael in sections. The other one is built of wood and will have a schooner rig and a false keel in order to sail to St. Michael, where her machinery will be put in. All the others will be typical river boats of the type of the T. C. Walker and J. D. Peters on the Stockton route.

Marco was the odd one, and it was not his fault that he did not get away on the steamer. At the last moment he was taken from the vessel by a Sheriff's deputy on a charge of attempting to leave the State without paying his debts. Marco is one of a party of seven Russians who are bound for the Klondike in search of a fortune. When he was taken off the Excelsior his comrades rallied to his assistance, and for a time it looked as though there would be a free fight. Marco, however, said he was willing to face the music, saying his arrest was due to spite work, and that he could easily clear himself. He promised his companions to leave on to-day's train and be waiting for them in Seattle when the Excelsior gets there. When the steamer pulled out into the stream he waved farewell to his friends and went uptown with the Sheriff.

There is space reserved on the Excelsior for about 80 other passengers, who will join the vessel at Seattle also. Of the total number 27 are going to Dawson City via the Copper River country, and the others will make for the same place via Dyea and Skagway. A party from Sacramento headed by H. Henshaw took ten dogs along with them, and they expect the animals to be of great assistance to them in packing their outfits over the Chilcoot Pass. Miss Ida Brown has changed her mind about facing the pass this winter, but Miss Gates will press on and expects to join her brother in Dawson City next month. There was almost as big a crowd down to see the

Alaska, and getting his outfit together crossed the bay and spent a night in the Berkeley hills. It took him all of next day to thaw out, and now there is a Klondike outfit for sale, and Mr. Tabrett is going to stay at home. It was rumored yesterday that Chief Engineer Little of the Alameda was about to purchase the outfit, and take it to Australia as a sample of what a man who does not want to go to the Klondike requires.

The Tabrett-McElroy party will be outfitted for a two years' stay in the frozen north. The crew will work on shares and the vessel will be their home until San Francisco is reached again. The vessel will be sailed from here to St. Michael and at that point her machinery will be put in and the ascent of the Yukon begun.

The steel steamers being built at the Risdon and the wooden vessel being put together at the Launch Company's yards are very much alike. Both are almost flat-bottomed, but the wooden vessel will have a false keel put on and will be schooner-rigged in order to reach St. Michael. On arriving at that point the masts and false keel will be discarded and when the engines and smokestack are in position she will look very much like her steel sister.

At the Fulton Iron Works four magnificent river steamers are being built for the Alaska-Yukon Transportation Company. Whitelaw is building four river steamers on Spear street for the North American Transportation Company, the Union Iron Works are completing a steamer, the Senator, for the Pacific Coast Steamship Company and the St. Paul for the Alaska Commercial Company, while the Fulton will be called upon in a week or so to put the engine in the Dirigo, the fine new vessel now being completed for Kimball & Co. These latter vessels are for the St. Michael trade and all of them will be ready for business next March.

All the river boats will be sent in sections to either St. Michael or Dutch Harbor. The North American Transportation Company's fleet will go on a sailing vessel and the chances are that the latter will be towed to Dutch Harbor, where the steamers are to be put together. They will then proceed to St. Michael under their own steam. Many of the river steamers are to be fitted with the Babcock & Wilcox water-tube boilers, one of which is now on Folsom-street wharf awaiting the arrival of the Dirigo. It came from the East and is the first of its kind to be put into a steamer on this coast. The Risdon is building a number of them on the Heine plan and when completed they will be shipped to St. Michael. The new boilers are much lighter than the old, they can stand a pressure of 200 pounds to the square inch and steam can be got on them in a very short space of time.

The steamer Columbia, which sailed for Portland yesterday, took away over fifty miners for the Klondike. They will be transferred to the steamer Oregon at Astoria and will go direct to Dyea, and will then cross Chilcoot Pass to the valley of the Yukon. Among those who went away on the Columbia were: N. Lewis, B. White, C. Martin, H. C. W. George, T. H. Clement, A. J. Weller, T. Lynch, H. Brusse, W. E. Ketchins, J. Hoffman, H. F. Morse, C. H. Gillan, B. von Buskies.

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NEW TO-DAY.

A LETTER TO WOMEN.

A few words from Mrs. Smith, of Philadelphia, will certainly corroborate the claim that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is woman's ever reliable friend.

"I cannot praise Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound too highly. For nine weeks I was in bed suffering with inflammation and congestion of the ovaries. I had a discharge all the time. When lying down all the time, I felt quite comfortable; but