

FRUITLESS SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS

Wreckage of the Steamship Clara Nevada Drifts Ashore.

Parties Sent From Seward City Find No Trace of Those Who Were Aboard the Vessel.

JUNEAU (Alaska), Feb. 15 (by S. S. Islander to Victoria).—Captain Thomas Latham of the steamer Coleman has brought to Juneau the first news of the most horrible wreck of a steamboat that has ever occurred in Alaskan waters. While real facts and actual details are at this writing scarce, there is no doubt that the steamship Clara Nevada from Seattle on her return trip to Juneau from Dyea and Skaguay has been wrecked and all hands lost. I had a talk this evening with Captain Latham. He said: "When we put into Seward City at 10:30 o'clock yesterday morning for the mail they asked us what ship had been wrecked. I did not know of any ship that had been wrecked. They then told us that a ship had exploded or burned about 9 o'clock last Sunday night off Eldridge Point, over toward Sullivan Island, and people of Seward City pointed to some wreckage lying on the beach close to the wharf. A heavy gale was blowing Saturday all day and all night. It was the hardest blow we have had in a long time. No vessel could live in such weather with anything the matter with her. I was told that there was a towering puff of flames and then a bright red glow on the black waters. This would indicate that the ship exploded and then caught fire. She could not have lasted long. "I examined the wreckage near the dock. It consisted of skylights, parts of a deck house, ring buoys, a part of a sewing machine, pillows, chairs, tables, linen, a lot of plank and board on which at one end was the letter 'A' and on the other 'N' in gilt. The wreckage had yellow trimmings. "The Clara Nevada was newly painted and had yellow trimmings. The Clara Nevada arrived at Skaguay last Friday from Juneau, discharged cargo and left early Saturday afternoon for Juneau. I know she was there at that time and that she left about that time. This would bring her off Seward City about 9 o'clock at night. She had aboard a number of passengers for Juneau and some for Seattle—I don't know how many. Neither those passengers nor the ship have arrived and this is Thursday, four days later. What has become of them? "Among the wreckage was a lot of 16-foot planks. The Clara Nevada had a deck load of lumber. Some of it may have been for Pyramid Harbor, which she intended to put off on her way back. "We cruised along the shore to see if we could find anybody, but saw not a man. I doubt that there have been any survivors of the shipwreck in such a gale. I intended to go across to the other shore, but the weather was too thick. Some ship has been lost—there is no doubt about that. All the indications point to the Clara Nevada. "The Clara Nevada put in here last Wednesday from Seattle, and laid over until the next day for repairs to her boilers. It may have been her boilers that exploded and set fire to the ship. The Clara Nevada was of 300 or 400 tons burden, a trim craft of symmetrical lines. She had a heavy cargo and about 100 passengers. There is no means of telling how many passengers she carried from Dyea and Skaguay for Seattle and Juneau, but there were undoubtedly a large number. The list cannot be obtained until the next boat gets in from Dyea and Skaguay, which may be the Chilcat or the Wolcott. "George Bach of Seward City came down on the Coleman. He corroborated Captain Latham's story. He saw the fire (he calls it an explosion) on Saturday and placed the lights on the dock as a signal to any survivors there to make a landing. None came, though many persons were aboard the luckless vessel. "Mr. Benicke, formerly of Portland, of the local firm of J. D. Meyer & Co., is supposed to have left on the Clara Nevada from Juneau. Friends who have since arrived on the steamship Wolcott say he told them he expected to leave Skaguay on the Clara Nevada on Saturday afternoon. He has not been seen since. "The steamship Rustler left Juneau to-night to search for survivors of the Clara Nevada. Searchers from Seward City and Pyramid Harbor have not found or seen any camp fires on the shore. The Rustler will make a thorough search. She is expected to return in three days. Boats from the head of Lynn Canal usually carry from ten to fifty passengers. It is feared all aboard the Clara Nevada are lost. Many Juneau people and some residents of Seattle are known to have been on the ill-fated ship. HAL HOFFMAN.

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One of the men, F. S. Duff, left the vessel at Juneau because, as he said, he did not consider her safe. M. Maguire, who has an interest in the Clara Nevada, had his attention called to the foregoing statement to-night and admitted that repairs had been made on the boilers on the way north, according to a letter the engineer wrote to him from Juneau, but he says these repairs were of no consequence and the damage was not such as to in any way endanger the vessel.

H. N. Rinker, who has been at Juneau for several weeks, says that the Clara Nevada's laundry was left there on the 6th of this month. She did not return and when the story of a burning steamer being sighted above Juneau reached that port three days later, it was at once concluded that it could be none other than the Clara Nevada, even before the later details came tending to confirm this report.

FATHER MEYER'S DEATH RECORDED. All Los Angeles Grieves Over the Passing of the Priest. Was Ever Ready to Extend a Helping Hand to Those in Need of Assistance. Special Dispatch to The Call. LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—The funeral services over the body of Very Rev. A. J. Meyer commenced at 9 o'clock this morning, and the bell of the church tolled just at noon as the funeral procession filed out of the church. The aisles of the edifice were crowded, and several hundred people were unable to find even standing room. Father Harnett of East Los Angeles preached the funeral sermon. He spoke of Father Meyer as a model for his hearers to follow, saying that in him they beheld the life of another Saviour. They could behold in him patience and humility in a marked degree. When Father Meyer came to Los Angeles he was not unknown; the Holy Father had offered him the bishopric of Galveston, but he had refused the mitre offered by the Pope to take charge of the boys in St. Vincent College. The many Protestants present testifying to his friendship with those outside the church. He was never called to care for the sick that he did not respond. He was a man, plain, honest, kind and open-handed. Herr Joseph Rubio sang Mozart's "Domine Jesu Christi," which was a favorite song of the father. Herr Rubio also sang with the choir the Sanctus and Agnus Dei from the same mass. Dion Romany played on his violin, "Nearer My God to Thee." The Bishop felt impelled to add a short address to what Father Harnett had said. He spoke of the death of Father Meyer as a common loss to all the people of Los Angeles. The Bishop then performed the final absolutions for the dead. As the casket was carried out of the church it was viewed by hundreds who had been unable to get into the church. The cortege was composed of representatives of religious societies from all over the State, and hundreds of the parishioners and friends of the late priest. The interment took place at Calvary Cemetery on Boyle Heights. Delegated by a Fruit Union. MARTINEZ, Feb. 15.—Dr. Carothers, John Sweet and Samuel Potter have been appointed a committee by the Contra Costa Fruit Union to attend the Free Market convention to be held in San Francisco on February 23.

COLUMBIA CREEK THE RICHEST IN THE YUKON LAND

Ex-State Senator Richards of Oregon Writes of Recent Big Strikes in the Northern Country.

POMONA, Feb. 15.—S. A. Richards of San Bernardino County, received a letter yesterday from his brother, Hugh, who went to Dawson City last July. The letter was written at Dawson on December 24 and was mailed at Victoria, B. C., last Sunday. Hugh Richards was formerly a State Senator in Oregon. He writes his brother that the richest strikes of the past six months have been made on Columbia Creek, and that the very highest record of gold washing by pans in freezing cold weather was made there in the last six days of November. Three brothers—James, William and Albert Hohn—were among the first to strike it rich there last August. They went to Dawson from Ventura, California, where they were very poor and eked out a livelihood by bee raising. Richards writes that together they have already over \$160,000 in gold stored in oil cans and sacks of skins ready for shipment to San Francisco. Their claim is worth easily \$600,000 more. They found bedrock about fourteen feet below the surface, and in one month they took out from a hole twelve feet square over \$50,000 worth of gold. In the last week of September they got out over sixty pounds of gold. When they came to sluicing their gravel more carefully next May they will surely get thousands of dollars more of gold dust and nuggets. Richards writes that he has not yet known of any exaggeration of the quantity of gold in the Klondike region. He says that no one can have any idea what an immense amount of gold Alaska and the Klondike are going to yield until they see mining there for themselves. He says that all the original claims on Bonanza and El Dorado creeks are yielding as much gold now as one year ago. Some men who have mined constantly since the first rush to Dawson in September, 1896, have on hand over \$300,000 worth of gold ready for transportation to the United States when navigation opens, and he thinks that at least \$18,000,000 will come out of the Klondike region before navigation closes next September. Some people put it at \$25,000,000.

OFF TO COPPER RIVER WILDS CERTIFICATES FOR MINERS

Large Party of Eastern Men Sails From Seattle. Lewis' Mission to Ottawa in the Interest of Klondikers. Will Ask That Licenses Be Issued by All British Consuls. Present Regulations That Are a Great Hardship to Many of the Gold Seekers. Copyright, 1898, by James Gordon Bennett. OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 15.—Representative James Hamilton Lewis of Washington had a conference on Yukon matters to-day with Sir Wilfred Laurier and the Minister of the Interior. Speaking of his mission, Mr. Lewis said: "The object of my present visit to Ottawa is connected with the difficulty which has arisen over certain regulations compelling all miners to take out mining licenses personally at Victoria, Vancouver or other Canadian ports. This works a very great hardship upon all American citizens who may be going to the Klondike. I consulted with the Departments of State and the Treasury, calling attention to my proposal that we should ask Canada to permit the issue of free miners' certificates by any British Consul or Vice-Consul in the United States, or at any rate at such ports in Alaska as may be designated by the Dominion. Since arriving here the Chamber of Commerce of Seattle, my home city, has suggested Tagish as a convenient point where license might be issued. I realize that Tagish is one of the points in the disputed territory. This is the proposition that I have to submit to the Canadian Government. I have every confidence that our request will be granted."

SEATTLE, Feb. 15.—The steamship Alliance sailed late to-night for Port Valdez, Alaska, via Dyea and Skaguay, with 250 passengers. Her return to this port may be expected in about twenty-five days. The Keystone Company, made up principally of people of Braddock and Beaver Falls, Pa., and acquaintances in Seattle, left on the Alliance, intending to go into the Copper River country. There are a number of prominent men, including lawyers, one doctor and other professional gentlemen, as well as mechanics and civil engineers. Colonel Creighton, a war veteran, who commanded a company of cavalry during the civil war, and who took a party of explorers and miners into the interior of Alaska eleven years ago, is in charge of the party. They purpose if gold is not found in paying quantities upon the tributaries of the Copper River to pass over to the headwaters of the Tanana. Colonel Creighton says that the talk of the hostilities of the Copper River Indians is simply nonsense; that they are the most inoffensive of people and that in all parts of the territory the natives are kind and hospitable. He thinks it unfortunate that so many are going north without being advised of the conditions, privations and hardships that they will have to encounter. Many will blunder around for more than a year before they will know as much of the country as they should know before starting.

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SAYS COLLINS WAS KILLED BY A WOMAN TRIED TO SHUT OUT TILLMAN

"Indian Pete" Garcia Tells of the Murder. For Some Time the South Carolinian Waited.

Accuses the Person Who Has Passed as His Wife. Finally Recognized, the Senator Spoke Against Annexation.

Declares That She Slew and Robbed the Aged Carpenter. The Hawaiian Islands Not of Strategic Importance to This Country.

SAVING HIS OWN NECK. Admits That He Helped to Dispose of the Body and Spend the Victim's Money. In Case of War Japan Could Take Coal for Vessels Over in Tenders.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—"Indian Pete" Garcia, the alleged murderer of Charles Collins, near Santa Monica, has made a confession in which he asserts that the woman who has passed as his wife killed Collins. The confession was made by Garcia at the County Jail to-day, in the presence of Sheriff Burr and Chief Jailer Kennedy. The story Garcia tells is plausible, but it must be remembered that if Garcia can establish his truth it saves his worthless neck. Ever since Garcia's arrest an effort has been made to prevail upon him to tell the story of the crime, but until to-day his lips have been sealed. He has now unsealed himself and insists that the woman who calls herself Mrs. Garcia committed the deed. Garcia claims that last Friday night Collins came to the shack where Garcia was living with the woman and that all three proceeded to get drunk. They drank a gallon of red wine and were soon reduced to a state of lunacy. They sang and caroused for some time, and finally old man Collins, in his drunken way, began to make love to the woman, who was the most intoxicated one of the three. Garcia did not object, and the woman and Collins had a long conversation. In the meantime Garcia improved the shining hours by consuming more than his share of the red wine. At length the woman and Collins told Garcia they intended to go away and remain for the evening. Garcia claims that they departed and that in a short time the woman came back alone, with an ax upon her shoulder, remarking that she had "done the old man up." Garcia says the woman then took the ax and washed the blood and hair from the steel. After she had done this she passed him a gold piece, saying: "Here is twenty for you." At the same time she rattled some more money in her pocket, saying: "The old man had a lot." Garcia admits that he then went with the woman to Collins' body with the intention of burying it. It lay in a great pool of blood on the sand dunes. The corpse was badly mutilated and in trying to arrange it so that he could cover it with sand Garcia says that he got spattered with blood. The burying of the corpse of the murdered man proved to be too much for the woman, and she returned to her shack and left it lying on the sands, where it was found the next day. Garcia was arrested while spending the dead man's money. The woman present while Garcia was relating this tale to the officers, and, considering the nature of the revelations that were being unfolded, she took remarkably little interest in it. When "Indian Pete," as Garcia is known, had concluded his story she arose from her chair and said: "It is all a lie. Pete and Collins and me were all together that night drinking. Collins went away and Pete and I don't know who killed the old man. I didn't." All efforts to prevail upon the woman to confess availed nothing. She refused to accuse Garcia of the crime and as resolutely denied knowing anything about it herself. In several particulars she denied the story of Garcia. She said that they had other drink besides the gallon of red wine. The officers are inclined to believe that the confession of Garcia is the truth. Sheriff Burr is of the opinion that the woman committed the actual crime, but that Garcia assisted her in planning it and in carrying the plan into execution.

Rural Mail Delivery. SAN JOSE, Feb. 15.—Congressman Loud has written to Major W. S. Hawley of this city, stating that the free rural mail delivery authorized for the West Side section, will go into effect on March 1. The postoffice at Guberville will be discontinued.

Confirmed by the Senate. WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The Senate to-day confirmed the nominations: To be Receiver of Public Money—J. H. Bauman of Holbrook, Ariz., at Tucson, Ariz. To be Register of the Land Office—J. W. Johnson at Lincoln, Neb.; G. W. Stewart at Visalia, Cal., and A. H. Boles at Perry, Okla. To be Attorney—R. E. Morrison, Territory of Arizona.

HILL HELD FOR THE MURDER OF PARVIN. Returns to Ventura's Prison to Await Trial, Bail Having Been Denied Him. VENTURA, Feb. 15.—Robert Lee Hill appeared before Justice Boling this afternoon for preliminary examination upon the charge of having murdered Theodore R. Parvin on the Los Posas last Wednesday by striking him with a scantling. The courtroom was crowded to suffocation. There were many persons from interior sections of the county present. Several witnesses testified. The Judge held the defendant without bail to answer to the charge of having murdered Parvin.

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