FAMINE AND SCURVY ALONG THE YUKON

SAM WALL DESCRIBES THE MISERY

Two Thousand People May Soon Face Hunger.

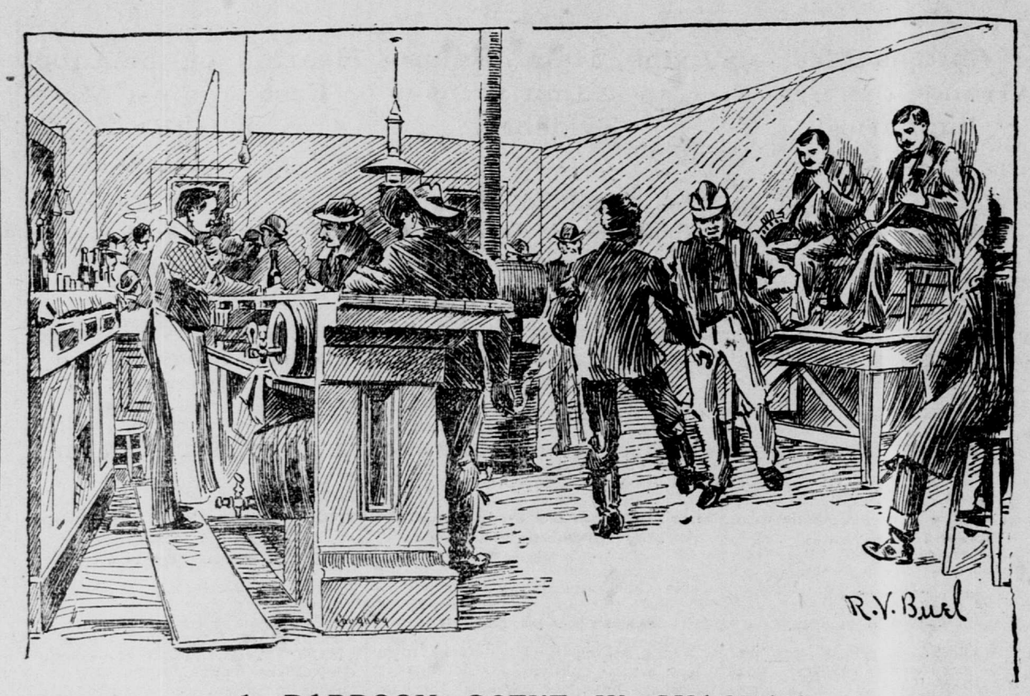
On the Way to the Klondike Men Are Stranded Along the River.

Captain Ray Tells of the Situation That Promises to Become Perilous.

MINERS IN DESPERATION.

Promptness and Firmness of Two Army Officers Prevent Lawlessness and Impending Starvation.

BY SAM W. WALL.



A BARROOM SCENE IN SKAGUAY.

CIRCLE CITY, January 13 (to Dyea by special courier and by steamship to Seattle, March 17).—There are a number of persons who came in this year, destination Dawson, who are wintering here against their will. The following passengers of the little steamer St. Michael are in winter quarters: C. R. Stewart, John D. Barmorly, C. H. Harvey, Herman Carpenter, Fred T. Barry, Ben Oleson, B. Mosses, all of New York; Charles R. Stewart of New Jersey, Pat Boland, S. Marks, Thomas Gillespie, James Thomas, John Partridge of Montana, Jesse Nevremont, H. Carroll, Ben Davis of California, P. Habernall of Washington, Captain Pasco of Idaho, Jules LaSalle, Colorado; Captain George Dunn and Thomas Marshall of Massachusetts, Dr. Hy. Watkins, Dr. George H. Merryman of Illinois, Comte d'Hauteville, R. Polimere, L. Tremblay of Denver, Alan H. Craig, Missouri; James Schaffer, Alaska; James Trooton, Colorado; Clarence Craig, Kentucky.

These were passengers on the Excelsior from San Francisco: John Field, Charles Sylterig, George Knutson, Sivert Bradley, Axel Johnson, F. Jaccord, L. Jaccord and V. A. Jaccord, all of San Francisco; W. E. Ray, George F. Bemis of Sanger, Cal.; E. Griffin, K. F. Benjamin Clark of Los Angeles, A. N. Thomas of Idaho, Fred B. Cruz, Charley Brooks.

The following have left Circle and have probably arrived by this time in Dawson: G. M. Hill of Berkeley, H. Rinkert of San Francisco, W. H. Bertram, Shellay Graves, Captain C. E. Tobetts, Jack O'Hara, Ed Lung of Tacoma, William Moore of San Francisco, L. N. Graef of Juneau.

Dr. Spencer Harris, formerly of Oakland, Cal., and lately connected with the Alaska Commercial Company's store here, died December 21, and his remains were buried December 23.

The holding up of the steamers Weare and Bella at Circle City on their way up the river, the taking command of those boats by the crowd on their return down at Forty Mile and Circle City, the armed attack on the cache of the American Commercial Company at this place, the forcible release of a prisoner at Circle City, together with reports of other raids said to be in contemplation, have convinced Captain Ray that unless some force sufficient to maintain order is posted on the river this year will witness an extravagance of lawlessness that will be very discreditable to the Government. He believes that there is a large element here bent upon making a clean up as highwaymen do it. He is convinced that the attack upon the American Commercial Company's cache was not an impulse of the congregated unfortunates, but was the development of a plan formed in Dawson, the weapons and ammunitions being secured there and at Circle City.

That so many rifles should turn up in a crowd otherwise destitute he considers strong evidence in support of the information he has on that point. He is also warned and believes that the boats that this summer may be expected to carry out great weights of gold stand in imminent danger of being held up and looted. Had the attack upon the cache here been successful Captain Ray believes that similar moves would have been made at Dawson and Circle City.

To meet and prevent any such attempt in the future he thinks the Government should establish military posts along the river with an army officer in command having the right and power to act. A civil government in a country like this where the population is composed almost entirely of sojourners rather than residents he believes would be impotent. With regard to the action that should be taken by the Government to advance and maintain American interests Captain Ray is anxious to lay before the President a plan for the establishment of a mail route from Cooks Inlet to the mouth of the Tanana. He believes that a post route would in one season demonstrate to private capital the feasability of a railroad, the establishment of which would solve the whole problem. It would insure cheaper provisions besides communication with the outside.

With these would come cheaper labor, the opening up of the Tanana country, thought to be the richest in this rich region, and the establishment of a supply center at the Tanana accessible from the outside all the year round, thus dispelling forever the fear of hunger that has always hung over this entire northern country. It is to press these matters upon the attention of the Government that Captain Ray is so anxious to reach Washington this winter.

Monumental blundering seems to have marked the course of the companies' agents with regard to the management of the boats, and great loss and disappointment has resulted insomuch that both companies are under suspicion of having acted in bad faith with their patrons and to have connived at the failure of the boats to get through the flats last fall.

Having reached Dawson with almost no provisions, boats started down the river crowded with men. Those on the Weare were employed with the declared purpose of unloading quickly at Fort Yukon and returning to Dawson. Those on the Bella were given free passage to Yukon. Neither, because of the ice, got further than Circle. The extra crew on the Weare, believing that the boat could be put through if the commanders so desired, threatened to take possession of it.

I have in earlier dispatches reported what took place following this until the men embarked from Circle City in small boats to make their way amid the floating ice to Fort Yukon. I today heard from Captain Ray the interrupted story in these words. He said:

"I was on the Bella, attempting to reach Dawson, and had gotten as far as Forty Mile, when the Weare came down the river. The floating ice warned me that the river would not long remain open, and as my post was on this side of the line I shifted over to the Weare. I found her loaded with men who were promised an outfit and $5 a day for the trip. When we got to Circle City, after making a landing at about 11 o'clock, these men insisted that the boat should be pushed through. Captain Marimer gave them no definite answer. In the afternoon, as the boat still lay there, they began to get impatient and angry. The captain still refused to give the order to move. The weather grew colder and a little later he pulled her up in the slough. The men held a meeting that afternoon and Captain Marimer and Mr. King, the company's agent, came to me, both a little nervous. However, the men did not assume any determined attitude till the next day, when some of them came to me and declared they had been ashore without anything to eat and that they had determined to take the steamer to Fort Yukon and to take provisions out of the company's store, if necessary.

"I went out to see how many rifles I could find to co-operate with the Miners' Association against them. That afternoon the men came to me and stated they would drop aggressive measures if I would help them out of their predicament. I investigated and found that the company owed the men certain concessions. I refused to interfere as to their claims, but said I would see that they got food and shelter. I went to King and he acknowledged the justice of their claim to that extent, and that night I saw the men housed in a dismantled restaurant and a mess started. That was the 3d of October and all remained serene until the 10th, when the river cleared of ice. The men held a meeting and resolved that the boat should be taken to Fort Yukon. The Weare was now fast in the shore ice. Captain Marimer, in my presence, agreed, if the boat was cut out of the ice and he then considered it safe, he would go. He worked all that day and the next cutting a channel for the boat through the ice to the open water.

"At noon of the 11th the men in charge of the work came to me and said that Captain Marimer did not intend to keep his word, as the engineer had received no word and the engines were not in shape. I went and saw that what they said was true. I told them I did not believe the steamer could get down; that they must not make trouble and that I would resist any attempt at force. I said that if they acted at once I thought they could get there in small boats. Captain Geiger had agreed to see that they got small boats, and I said I would see that they secured food. They accepted, and a barge and three small boats started the next morning at 8 o'clock. After they had got under way, knowing the bitterness they felt toward the company, I grew anxious about the safety of the caches here. I had no opportunity to send word to Lieutenant Richardson in charge here and determined to start myself.

"A party of miners happening to land at that time I embarked with them at 10 o'clock. We drifted all that day and arranged to run all night. At about 8:30 the Indian pilot, Paul, called us, saying he thought the river was freezing. I came out from under the shelter and heard the peculiar sound of ice in motion. I called all hands and told the men the river was gorging below. I tried to get the boat headed up stream or across to reach the shore, but before we could turn her we were forced into the jam. We could not see the shore and the ice was piling up on both sides and it was with the greatest labor that we kept her from being forced under. Gradually the ice formed about us and we were in a pack.

"The ice was too soft to bear our weight, but at 11 o'clock we were still fast. The sky cleared and the mercury dropped to 10 degrees below zero. At daylight we found ourselves off the right bank of an island, and after several attempts with a setting pole, we got ashore. We transferred all of our baggage and provisions, supposing we had reached the mainland. I cut across through the woods, however, and discovered an open lead of water on the other side. I saw figures on the shore and in the ice, the boats of the Weare that had left an hour ahead of us. I signaled, they got a boat loose, rowed over and ferried us to shore.

"Both parties then got together, and asked me to take charge and tell them what to do. With the crew of the Weare, my boat's people and a number of others, who had come along, there were about eighty men in the camp. I had the provisions rounded up, and found there about four days' rations for all. We were about sixty miles from Fort Yukon. I pointed out to the people that they couldn't get back to Circle, as we were on the wrong side of the river, and that we could not get to Yukon short of four days, and that the only thing to do was to cache the extra property, take blankets and provisions and follow the trail of Indian Paul, whom I had dispatched with a message to Lieutenant Richardson as soon as I landed. I warned them to keep going until they got there. They made preparations at once, and at daylight thirty moved out. At noon the camp was clear. With my party I had three days' short allowance of provisions. During that day twenty-five or thirty more people came dropping in. As all seemed helpless and bewildered, I concluded to hang on there as long as possible to keep them from stopping and dying on the trail. Fortunately, on the 14th a miner, Mike Malloy, came along with extra provisions in his pack, and supplied me with flour and bacon to last for a week with a fair margin for destitutes. By the 15th I had 250 people on the trail between the Jam and Fort Yukon. On the morning of the 22d two men, Joe Carroll and Fred Gash, came into camp. They had been traveling all night to get to me. They had been started by Lieutenant Richardson after Paul's arrival with toboggans and dogs, but had been compelled to leave the toboggan thirty-five miles away, finding open water in the river and dense underbrush on land. We started next morning for Fort Yukon with these two hauling provisions and blankets on a small sled. We made ten miles that day, there being no trail. That night Paul came into camp with the toboggan.

"We reached the post on the 25th and found that the people ahead of us had been from five to seven days in coming through. Many had been three and four days without food. They had wandered away from the north bank out among the islands, and when they got to Fort Yukon found themselves on the other side of the river with open water between. Lieutenant Richardson had discovered them through glasses and had them ferried across, housed them in tents and had been feeding them, pending my arrival. They had been holding meetings night and day after getting settled, invited the lieutenant to be present, reviewed the situation of their employment, and when I arrived they asked my advice, going over the whole ground again. In the meeting when the lieutenant was present a motion was made to demand outfits and take them if necessary. This was not put, however. I made a proposition that I would issue thirty days' provisions to any who were willing to go to work cutting wood for the steamboats, for which they would be paid $5 a cord, the issue of provisions to be gratis. They very generally accepted the conditions. Some had already gone to work putting up buildings. On the 29th it was reported to me that there was a combination up at the Alaska Commercial Company's cache, three and one-half miles above, that had organized and armed for the avowed purpose of seizing the cache. That afternoon I went up with Lieutenant Richardson. Harry Davis, the agent, said the men had been holding meetings in the neighborhood for several days; that they had sent a committee to him demanding seven months' outfits, declaring they had seventy-five men armed, and if he did not grant it they would take it by force. A committee was waiting on Davis when I arrived. They demanded of him seven months' provisions and clothes for nine months, and said they would give their notes for the amount at one year. Davis declined. I asked if any were absolutely destitute. One of the seven said he was.

"I explained that I would give orders on the store to feed those who were destitute. As both companies offered work at good wages I believed they should accept it rather than pursue the course they were doing. If there were any bona fide miners there who were destitute I would endeavor to secure them food on credit and would recommend that the Government secure the bill. I came away without any definite answer from them, but leaving Lieutenant Richardson at the cache. That night about 10:30 o'clock I received a note from him saying he believed they intended to attack the cache the next morning. I wrote a proclamation taking possession of the caches in the name of the United States for the protection of the citizens in Northern Alaska, and warning all persons against trespassing. I sent word to have one posted on the door of the cache and another on a tree in their camp, and early next morning I started up to the cache. About twenty-five men who had volunteered accompanied me unarmed, as I deemed it wise not to make any demonstration of force. When I had arrived within half a mile of the cache and near a thicket of birch a man by the name of Noblett came out and met me and said that the miners wished me to come to their camp and talk the matter over. This I declined to do. He then came out plainly and said it would be safer for me to go to camp, as if I attempted to go to the cache I would be fired upon.

"While talking to me I noticed him raise his hand as if giving a signal, and between twenty-five and thirty men armed with rifles appeared in the edge of the timber and covered myself and party. Noblett then said they had possession of the cache. As I had left Lieutenant Richardson there and as I had heard no firing, I told him he was a liar. I told him he could fire, as I was going to the cache just the same. He then asked me if I was willing to make the same proposition I had made the day before, and I told him I would make no more propositions. He then asked me if I would wait a few moments until he could talk with his men. I saw him go to consult with some men in the timber about seventy-five yards away. In a few minutes he came back and said he would make no further opposition to my going on. At the same time he called in the firing party. At the cache I found between seventy-five and one hundred men, some of them very much excited. I learned from them that Noblett and his people had been stopping destitutes coming down the trail and representing that the companies would not sell on credit and that they would not issue to destitutes. I at once made an order to issue ten days' rations and notified all that the companies were offering work at fair wages, and all must go to work who had no money. To miners who were without money, food or credit I would authorize the issue of five months' provisions. I placed flags over the buildings and warned all against molesting.

"When I arrived at the cache I found Lieutenant Richardson patrolling with a Winchester in front of the building, keeping the entire mob at bay. It was a sight to see. I learned from him that Noblett had visited him the evening previous, and said the men wished to see him. Richardson replied that he had no new terms to offer, and would not go. Noblett then said that the men wished to take charge of him for his protection; that they intended to seize the cache, and no force could stop them, but they did not wish to injure him if it could be avoided. Richardson acknowledged their consideration, but said that if they wanted him they must come and get him. Richardson made some provision to meet an attack. He sent a man in the early morning with a message to warn me of their intention to capture me and hold me as hostage, on information which he had learned from a man named Sheridan, who overheard it discussed. The messenger was fired upon twice by sentries and captured. I also found they had been holding as prisoners in their camp half a dozen men whom they had arrested going toward Fort Yukon to prevent any message being sent me. One of these was a kodak fiend, who took a couple of snap shots of the crowd, the negatives of which I have sent to Washington.

"I appointed a committee to hear the applicants for outfits, but soon discovered they were issuing to all comers, and so dismissed it and heard the applicants myself. I have furnished relief for about 370 people and drawn drafts on the Government for about $30,000. Upward of 150 men are cutting wood along the river and there are about twenty indigent sick in the hospital. The others have gone prospecting or have found employment in the Birch Creek mines about Circle City. Over two hundred purchased supplies to last until July. I found that thirty or forty of the band that organized to rob afterward developed ample means to pay for their outfits, and we required them to do so. I have reliable information that the scheme of the hold up was developed on the steamer Bella. They secured arms by buying or borrowing along the river. It was not a case of destitution or of starving people, but of robbery, they knowing the great demand there would be for food. They also desired to get possession of the large quantity of liquor that was landed there. Since then there has been little or no friction. I believe it will all result in great good. About 15,000 cords of wood will be cut, and men are scattered over the country prospecting and are liable to discover rich new mines.

"Had I sat here supinely and allowed the men to take the upper cache order would be gone, and the result would be that a great number of idle men would be congregated here and I would have found myself fighting for my own cache. I was informed that both Captain Hansen and Captain Healy at Dawson were urging men to come here, offering free boats, and representing that there were between 1600 and 2000 tons of provisions stored here. The fact is there were less than 300 tons in both caches, exclusive of whisky, two hundred tons of this being in the A. C. C.'s cache. I tried to communicate with the local heads of both companies to have them co-operate with me and to send only the destitute here.

"Word reached me from Minook that an organized effort would be made there by a band of lawless people to capture the boats coming up with provisions and going down with gold dust. A meeting was held there to discuss the capture of the Bella, coming up, but I understand that General Carr and ex-Governor McGraw talked them out of it. I am told that Captain Healy threatens to cut Circle City off his list of trading posts because of the way they treated his boats this fall. He ordered his boats not to stop there, but as it is a port of entry they have to do so.

"There are now about 1300 people on the river between the Nozekakut and the boundary line. There will be 2000 before June, when the river opens, all without provisions. The boats will object to landing, as they will be eager to get through to Dawson. If these people are stranded here they will paralyze the upper country. I have no power to protect the people; what I should have is power to disarm every irresponsible person. These companies should be made to treat the people fairly and the people must be made to leave the property of the companies alone. Capital properly invested should be protected."

Brazil Will Not Sell.

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RIO JANEIRO, March 18.—The Italian Minister is negotiating a commercial treaty with Brazil. The Government has refused the proposition to purchase the battle-ship Aquidaban made by the United States.

CANADIANS STEAL MORE TERRITORY

Trouble Brewing on the Borders of Alaska.

Dominion Officials Advance Farther on Our Soil.

Now Collecting Duties Near the Summit of the Two Passes.

CONFLICT IS IMMINENT.

Governor Brady About to Depart for Washington to See the President.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

JUNEAU, Alaska, March 14 (by steamship Queen to Seattle, March 18).—After dinner this evening I had a long interview with Governor John G. Brady, and before that a talk with Collector of Customs J. W. Ivey. Things are going to "pop" in Alaska before long. The fuses of several official secrets are about to be ignited. When they go off there will be a sensation and a scurrying to cover.

Alaska is on the verge of radical changes, which will affect not only the people of the district, but which promise also to be of international interest and importance. I remarked to Governor Brady that the day before yesterday I had seen the British Union Jack flaunting its colors on the summit of Chilkoot Pass, while crowds of Klondikers passed below it in their hurried march to the Klondike. The Canadians moved up there some two weeks ago from Lake Bennett, and have since been collecting duty on the spot, about twenty rods from the summit of the Yukon side. At first there was much indignation expressed at Dyea, but the feeling has now calmed down, and duty is being paid by Klondikers without protest. A few American flags may be seen at Sheep Camp, raised as if in defiance to the Canadians, and seemingly to imply that, though they have come so far, they must come no further. Governor Brady said:

"I am going up to Dyea and Skaguay in a few days with Collector Ivey. I am going to make a special inspection of the situation on the passes, on the trails and in those towns. The Canadians have been nudging closer to the summit gradually. I know that their flag there is offensive to many men. At first the Canadian authorities were stationed at Lake LeBarge, next they moved up to Lake Bennett and now they have pitched their tents and the British flag at the summit. I have no power to take any kind of action. If I had my own way, I would be inclined to set up a stake ten marine leagues from the coast and have them kept beyond that.

"I intend to make a journey to Washington, D. C., in a few weeks. I presume I shall be consulted by the President about this gradual nudging us off the log, but I shall make no recommendations formally. We are in strained relations with Spain. I do not feel like troubling the administration with this matter; besides that, we want the friendship of England at this time. I am going to Washington to be ready for use in connection with legislation for Alaska."

The stationing of a United States Deputy Collector of Customs, backed up by a force of Deputy United States Marshals, at Lake Bennett, in territory which the location of the Canadian customs post and the flying of the British flag on the Chilkoot summit shows is now claimed as Canadian ground, is expected here to precipitate complications, the result of which it is not possible to foresee or predict. It is difficult to see how a conflict of some sort can be avoided. On this point Governor Brady declined to express himself.

Collector Ivey, fresh from Washington, is clothed with new powers and backed by the administration. He is in the saddle and has the reins in his hand. He sprung the first of a series of sensations in Juneau to-day. He ordered the three breweries to close and keep closed to-night. Then a report spread that all the saloons in Juneau, Dyea, Skaguay, Wrangel, Sitka and elsewhere in Alaska were to be closed. Saloon keepers hurriedly hid surplus whisky, beer and other intoxicating beverages to prevent their being seized. Collector Ivey said:

"The matter of brewing beer and also the sale of spirituous liquors in Alaska has been under consideration by the department at Washington for three months. I have instructions to stop the breweries and to prevent them making any more beer in the future."

"Will you close the saloons in the district?"

"I am not prepared to say as to that at present. The execution of the law rests with the United States Marshal. I will say, however, that I intend to enforce the law from this on to the extent of my ability, as I have tried to do since I have been in office. On my recent trip south I seized and took with me more liquor than has been seized since 1867. I can say nothing as yet in regard to martial law at Skaguay and Dyea, but I will station deputies at Lake Bennett."

In the afternoon Collector Ivey went over to Douglas City, on Douglas Island, across the channel from Juneau, and closed the breweries there. This morning's boats took the news up to Dyea and Skaguay, where there are three breweries and saloons almost every other door, and by this time consternation reigns there.

Governor Brady said in regard to the new determined enforcement of the liquor law: "You can depend on it that whisky in Alaska will be $20 and upward per gallon in a short time. There has been too much smuggling. I do not speak for Mr. Ivey, but I understand he has authority to employ a large number of additional deputies.

"He will also have a steamboat at his disposal and other facilities which no collector has ever had before in Alaska. When we get to Skaguay and Dyea we will have a consultation with the military authorities there, and when we return to Sitka we will have a conference with the United States Marshal and with the United States District Attorney. If necessary I presume," said Governor Brady, smiling, "the Government can spare a ship or two from the Bering Sea fleet to help us enforce the law in Alaska."

Captain Belcher, in command of the post on the Chilkoot summit, told me that he was ordered there by a superior officer whom he declined to name. He said he had always understood that the Lynn Canal side of the summit was disputed territory, and not the Yukon side. He said the Americans paid their duty cheerfully and were well behaved. There are many Klondikers who have not enough money to pay the duty on their outfits. They are forced to pack or perform other labor on trails in order to make enough money to pay it. Enforcement of the collection of duty at the summits shuts them out from working at Lake Linderman and Lake Bennett, where later there will doubtless be much work to do in the way of boat building. Those who pay duty are obliged to spend from two to six weeks at the lakes preparing boats, and during that time they consume food on which duty has been paid, whereas if the duty were collected at Lake Lebarge, or some other point beyond, instead of the summit, the cost of living would be much less. This is complained of as a hardship. Duty is also collected on horses, dogs and oxen used in packing to the lakes. The duty on firearms is so high that hundreds of fine shotguns, rifles and revolvers are for sale along the trails and in Dyea, Skaguay and Sheep Camp at less than their cost.

HAL HOFFMAN.

WALSH CREEK DIGGINGS RIVAL THE KLONDIKE

Rush to Dawson Diverted by the Stampede to the New El Dorado.

JUNEAU, Alaska, March 14 (by steamship Queen, Seattle, March 18.—Rumors of the recent discovery of extraordinarily rich ground between the Big Salmon and Little Salmon rivers have been fully confirmed. A stampede has begun from the trails leading from Dyea and Skaguay, almost equal to the first sudden rush to Dawson early last spring. The excitement is intense. It is impossible to place a correct estimate on the number of men who compose the rush, as scores are leaving every day. When I was at Dyea and Skaguay yesterday I learned that many are going in with a very light quantity of provisions and slipping through the Canadian customs and police lines at night, taking the risk of running through all the stations on the lakes and Lewis River in a similar manner or climbing the mountains around them.

The distance from Dyea to the new diggings is only about 250 miles, or about one-third of the way to Dawson. About four miles below the Big Salmon is a bay or arm of the river. The end of it is not in sight from the course of travel on the Lewis River. It was never explored until recently, when, instead of being a blind bay, a creek was found running into it at the upper end. The discovery was made by several Klondikers from Wisconsin, who were frozen in and forced to winter near the Big Salmon. Their names are not known. They prospected during the long, lonesome winter months in the vicinity, more to kill time than with the hope of finding rich paying dirt, and they are now thanking their stars that the winter stopped their journey to Dawson. They made the first locations and the news soon spread. Their stakes are a short distance up the creek from the bay.

The Canadian police stationed at Lake Lebarge were next on the grounds. Locations were made and the creek named Walsh Creek after Major Walsh, the head of the Canadian police in the interior. He is called Governor of the British Northwest Territory. The major himself has a claim. It was taken for him by his private secretary, who also made a location for himself.

A. S. Kerry of the Kerry Lumber Company of Seattle has a sawmill near Lake Lebarge. He got in to Dyea from Lake Lebarge on Tuesday night, coming through without delay. Mr. Kerry had a talk with Major Walsh about the new discovery. Major Walsh is a conservative, careful man, and Mr. Kerry says he would not have said what he did unless he knew it to be the truth. Major Walsh said that from four to seven feet below the surface the gravel went $1 50 to the pan, with bedrock not yet in sight. Streaks of pay dirt are found on the surface. One dollar and fifty cents to the pan is a wonderfully rich prospect, comparing very favorably with the best claims on Bonanza and El Dorado creeks of the Klondike. Major Walsh thinks another Klondike has been found.

H. I. Miller of Seattle is one of a party of Klondikers which arrived at Dyea yesterday from Dawson. It made the trip out in nineteen and one-half days' actual traveling time. Mr. Miller came out as special carrier for The Call, carrying dispatches from Mr. Sam Wall, The Call's special correspondent at Dawson. He and every other man of the party confirmed the report of rich finds on Walsh Creek.

Mr. Miller described the location of the creek for me. Thousands have passed it on their way to Dawson, overlooking a fortune.

A letter was received here to-day by E. H. Miller, cashier of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, from W. K. Mead, ex-United States Marshal of Arizona, who is at Lake Bennett. The letter was shown me by Mr. Miller. Mr. Mead said he had talked with Canadian policemen and others who had made locations on Walsh Creek, and his figures in regard to the depth and the average per pan are the same as those mentioned by Major Walsh to Mr. Kerry—$1 50 to the pan from four to seven feet below the surface. The first rush was from among the winter campers and this season's early spring arrivals at Lake Bennett, who will be on the ground next after the police. The general belief in the interior is that a second Klondike, but on a smaller scale, has been found.

Other creeks are said to run into the Lewis River in that vicinity and from the same range of mountains. Men who have their outfits close to the summits of the Dyea and Skaguay trails are crazy to get them over to Bennett and start for the new diggings. I saw men packing and sledding their goods through Dyea Canyon as late as midnight, and they had been working since daylight in the morning. They hardly took time during the day to eat. They were working themselves to death. It is safe to say that no more side creeks will be overlooked on the way to Dawson.

The amount of a day's output of $1 50 dirt depends on the kind of dirt it is and the facilities for working. If there are many large rocks or bowlders to move the total would be less than in easy gravel, but the amount will run from $100 to $150 a day. Since this latest strike on Walsh Creek people here who have never had the Yukon fever before have found it irresistible and are preparing to "hit the trail" for the interior country.

A second creek which shows up well as a prospect has been "struck" on the Lewis River. It will afford many of the Klondikers now struggling to get over the Dyea and Skaguay trails an opportunity to get their hand in working gravel before they get to Dawson. The name of the creek is Lake, and it comes into the Lewis River about twelve miles below the Big Salmon River on the side opposite from the Big and Little Salmon rivers. A man named McConnelly is the locator. He claims to have washed out $2 from three pans of dirt. H. I. Miller and another man of his party went over to Lake Creek on the way out and examined the creek. Mr. Miller said both Walsh and Lake creeks looked well on the surface, but, from the character of the gravel of Lake Creek, he thought that McConnelly had exaggerated the amount of gold in the three pans, but he said it looked like pay dirt. This has caused a second rush, or, rather, increased the stampede from the trails down the Lewis River to the two new creeks.

HAL HOFFMAN.

RICH FINDS MADE ON THE AMERICAN SIDE.

Little Minook Creek Proving a Bonanza for Those Possessing Claims.

SEATTLE, March 18.—Letters received to-day from various persons at Rampart City, Alaska, established beyond a doubt that rich finds are being made on the American side of the line. About December 1 the Little Minook Creek find was reported, followed by the Hunter and Hoosier finds. But little work has been done on the last two.

Gratifying results are reported from Little Minook, where large nuggets and rich pans have been taken out. Nuggets worth $17, $85 and $136 and several smaller ones have been found on William McLain's claim, No. 9, above Discovery. This claim turns out from 40 cents to $1 65 to the pan. An exceptional pan on No. 9 reached $16. A $2 nugget was found on No. 8 claim. No. 6 is turning out from 30 cents to $1 30 per pan. If these results continue Little Minook will show up as a wonderfully rich creek.

Claim owners on Hunter and Hoosier believe that these creeks will show up as rich as Little Minook. The three are in the same neighborhood and all flow into the Big Minook. All the claims on the three creeks named are located. A number of smaller streams flowing into them, and known as the "pups," are also located.

Other prominent streams within a radius of fifteen miles of Rampart City are: Alder, Chapman, Russian, Gold Pan, Chicago and Herr creeks. Every woman at Rampart has located several claims and will hold them for male relatives, who will arrive in the spring.

RAILWAYS TO RESORT TO ARBITRATION.

Hope to Bring About a Quick Ending of the Present War of Rates.

NEW YORK, March 18.—At a meeting of the passenger traffic agents of the railroads to try to end the rate war between American and Canadian roads the committee of four presented a resolution providing that an arbitrator be appointed on or before March 23, who shall decide on the points in contention. All the roads agreed except the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific, whose agents will report to their superior officers.

PIONEER HENRY LONG ACCIDENTALLY KILLED.

RIVERSIDE, March 18.—Henry Long, an old pioneer of this State and a resident of this city for sixteen years, was instantly killed to-day. Long was at work on the side of a building when he slipped off a ladder and fell a distance of thrity feet, crushing his skull.

Long was a pioneer of Placer County, and represented that county in the Legislature which sent ex-Governor Booth to the Senate. In that campaign he took a prominent part. Long first arrived on this coast in a sailing vessel in 1842. He returned in 1846, and was one of the first to come overland when gold was discovered in 1849. He assisted in putting up the first mill on the Comstock when that camp was in its zenith. He has been a prominent Odd Fellow for many years.

SECRETARY GAGE SPEAKS AT CLEVELAND.

CLEVELAND, March 18.—Secretary of the Treasury Gage delivered an address this evening before the Chamber of Commerce on the financial question. This was in acceptance of an invitation extended several weeks ago by the chamber. The Secretary was met by the officers of the chamber upon his arrival in the city and escorted to the hotel. At 6 o'clock they had dinner together, and then they proceeded to the chamber, which was badly crowded. No one but members were admitted. After the address the Secretary was entertained at the Union Club.

Wants the Grand Court.

WOODLAND, March 18.—At a meeting of Court Star No. 10, Foresters of America, held on Thursday evening, it was decided to at once begin a vigorous fight to have Woodland designated as the meeting place of the Grand Court in 1899