

STROGGE FROM DAWSON

"Nigger Jim" Leads a Lively Chase.

FOLLOWED BY A BIG CROWD

ALL RETURN DISGUSTED AND MANY ARE FROSTBITTEN.

Death of another Judge, Who Founded a Hospital for Suffering Klondikers and Did Much for the Sick.

BY SAM W. WALL.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

DAWSON CITY, Jan. 19, via Seattle, Wash., Feb. 9.—The sensation of the moment in Dawson is a stampede started a week ago by some old timers and well-known characters of the country. Several hundred men left the city on last Tuesday and have not yet returned, although it is more than a week ago. Numbers have come in, as is always the case, having been compelled to drop out of the race short of its destination. Some of these had feet or hands frozen. Some were merely unable to keep the pace, while the general complaint was a lack of provisions for such a long run.

The destination of the stampede is not actually known to any one here, nor is it known just exactly on what information the stampede is based, but the "tip" that started it is credited with being straighter than anything of the kind that has come to town for some time.

"Nigger" Jim, who occupied such wide space in the newspapers outside last summer in the pose of an El Dorado King, is at the head of the procession, however it is, and the fact that his name has a good deal of potency here, is responsible for the length of line following. A friend or partner of "Nigger" Jim's came to town on Monday and exchanged money for \$3000 and the old dust and made ready to leave again.

"Nigger" Jim himself is said to have had much difficulty in securing the information as to where the stuff had gone. He prepared to accompany his friend, but in the meantime sent a messenger up the creek to notify a few other friends. The town was soon agog with the news, and a big crowd gathered, a large report of a big find somewhere by somebody, and that "Nigger" Jim was going. A crowd gathered in the street to watch a dog team that had been meted in front of the Pioneer saloon. Others made ready to follow the team when it should start, hitching up their own teams and loading their sleds with provisions. "Nigger" Jim's outfit at that time consisted of a man stationed at the back of the saloon, and when all was ready they started from there as quickly as possible. Some saw the move at once, and followed, and others saw the leaders were a long way down the river before they discovered what had taken place. Many others, slow in getting the news, started late that night and on the next day.

"Nigger" Jim and his big following have returned to town, all of them very much the worse for a very trying experience, none of them having declared against it, and less than half of them returned from the mountains, where they floundered breast deep in the snow for two days. He made several attempts to elude the crowd, but being unsuccessful, took the back track. Many of the 600 suffered with frozen feet, hands and faces, as the thermometer has ranked about 30 below, few had proper equipment for such a trip and only the chosen had snowshoes and sufficient provisions.

Various are the guesses concerning the adventure. It is believed that Jim will make another and less conspicuous start for the new creek, although it is safe to say that few who followed him this time will try it again. Others believe that the whole thing was simply a rank failure to obtain money for prospecting. A good deal of prospecting is going on, but at the time the latest intelligence came out it was too early for any definite knowledge of the ground to have been obtained. Circle and Eagle City are both reported in cheerful spirits and thriving. Cabins of Circle empty last winter are nearly all occupied again, and Eagle City has grown to be a place of 300 cabins. From Captain Geiger and others I have learned the location and situation on nearly all the steamboats that are frozen in on the river. The McArnold, belonging to the Alaska Exploration Company, is on the Yukon in a not very safe position twenty-five miles below Minook; the Seattle No. 1, Seattle-Yukon Trading Company, is on the Yukon in a very safe position; the Herman, Alaska Exploration Company, on a bar in the river forty miles below the Tanana in a dangerous situation; the Yukoner, belonging to Pat Galvin, below the Tanana.

The Wear and the Hamilton of the North American Transportation and Trading Company are on the ways at Fort Get, there, being overhauled; Tanana Chief is 300 miles up the Tanana; the John C. Barr of the North American Transportation and Trading Company is in winter quarters thirty miles below Forty Mile, safe; the Tacoma, Empire Transportation Company, forty miles above Circle City on a bar in the river. In bad situation; the Victoria, same company, at Circle, it will require considerable work to make her safe; the Sovereign, Columbia Navigation Company, in the slough at Circle, unsafe situation; the Seattle, Empire Transportation Company, the Reindeer and the Elverson, all in the Dall River, in safe quarters. At Dawson there is the Willie Irving, pulled out on the banks and safe; the Aquila, in the same shape; the Bellington, same; the New York, the big barge of the Boston Alaska Company, is in the ice in a very dangerous situation.

In the Light slough, twenty-two miles

above Stewart, are the J. P. Light, Governor Pingree, Philip B. Low of the Boston Alaska Company, the Tyrrell, Seattle No. 3 and No. 4, Seattle Yukon Transportation Company, all reasonably safe.

In Steamboat slough, three miles above Selkirk, are the Columbian, Canadian and Anglian, Canadian Development Company; the Surf, James Donville Florence; The Oza, Noy and Flora of the Klondike and Bennett Lake Transportation Company, and the Gold Star are at the White Horse Rapids. Thirty-six small steamboats are up as far as Kuyokuk and the Yukon from the Hootalinqua to Andrej-sky is strewn with small boats.

The breaking up of the river in the spring will have with very many of them, and many thousands of dollars invested in steamboats will certainly be crushed up in the ice.

There has been another complete breakdown in the mail service, especially that of the American contractor, Richardson, and no word has been received from the outside since the river closed, except the vague reports from an occasional traveler. The Canadian mounted police here have undertaken to take up the Kuyokuk and the Yukon without regard to the contractor, but there is reported to be a small mountain of mail at Bennett, which they seem unable to move. The loss of the official mail which went through the ice on a sled about six weeks ago has caused the officials here a deal of extra work in rewriting their reports.

Kitty Straub, alias Stella Hill, committed suicide at the Monte Carlo Theater, December 28, by shooting herself in the chest with a revolver. The incident of the kind among the dance hall girls this winter. Her lover had been paying attention to some other girl, and the coroner's jury adjudged the deceased to be sane. Myrtle Broese, of the Tivoli, took poison for some similar reason November 20.

Tom MacPatrick, an old man, was found frozen in his cabin. Doctor Rosalie to Victoria, Feb. 9.—The police in Atlin may have something to do any day now besides sitting before the fire. Feeling runs high since the news of the exclusion act reached there; trouble is brewing, and defiance of the authority of the police may be shown any day.

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This is considered more imminent from the fact that all the information is in possession of the Canadian "jumpers," so-called, who came from the Canadian towns on the last ships and from coast towns of Alaska, fortified with the facts and full knowledge of the legislation at Victoria. On the other hand, the American claim holders have meager information and are at a disadvantage in not knowing just what went south over the trail. They have valuable claims, possibly worth large fortunes, or at least an independency through life to most men, are being taken away—surprised and appropriated by the very eyes without doubt the locators and owners, men who acquired their last summer at considerable expenditure of both money and labor. It is understood that when improvements need not be paid for the Canadian locator is so magnanimous as to reimburse the first locator.

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CLAIMS SEIZED BY CANADIANS

Trouble Ahead in the Atlin District.

RESULT OF EXCLUSION ACT

AMERICANS LOSE EVEN THEIR IMPROVEMENTS.

Situation Has Almost Reached the Point Where Not Even the Mounted Police Can Preserve Peace.

BY HAL HOFFMAN.

Special Correspondence of The Call.

JUNEAU, Alaska, Feb. 3 (by steamer Rosalie to Victoria, Feb. 9).—The police in Atlin may have something to do any day now besides sitting before the fire. Feeling runs high since the news of the exclusion act reached there; trouble is brewing, and defiance of the authority of the police may be shown any day.

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PACKERS SMASH THE TOLL GATE

Skaguay Men Make a Bold Raid.

REMOVE BONE OF CONTENTION

PROMPT ARREST AND RELEASE ON OWN RECOGNIZANCE.

Cheerful News to a Lot of Dry Men in a Cold Climate Is That the Whisky Famine Is Averted.

BY HAL HOFFMAN.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SKAGUAY, Alaska, Feb. 6 (via Seattle, Feb. 9).—There are warm times at Skaguay now, and they are getting hotter each passing day. Sunday was a day of excitement. The most cheerful news to a lot of dry men in a cold climate was that the whisky famine in Atlin and Dawson, which became impossible for the most of the American convays, has been averted. After thinking over the ultimatum the Canadian officials at White Pass, Log Cabin and Bennett, concluded that they wouldn't arrest any more convays if such action carried with it the exclusion of whisky. So now the grave international complications that threatened are a thing that might have been, and whisky is the passport to peace.

Horsemen dashed through the town yesterday afternoon in regular "Rough Rider" style. There was trouble up at the toll gate. The toll gate up on the Brackett wagon road what is known as Camp 9 has been a bone of contention for several weeks. The packers claim that the trail beyond that point and this side of White Pass was made not by Brackett, but by the original packers on the trail, and that Brackett has no right to charge toll over it.

A crowd of about fifty packers, all mounted on sprightly steeds, suddenly appeared at the toll gate yesterday afternoon. They demanded to go through without paying. The gatekeeper refused. Axes were produced, and the packers, led by J. H. Brooks and Bert Johnson, chopped down the toll gate and carried away the logs and dumped them down the ravine into the river. Then Mr. Brooks brought to light a large bottle which he had concealed somewhere, and so far as it went around the permit of the toll gate, the packers were satisfied. Feeling very jolly the whole crowd rode into town and dashed down the principal street with their horses flecked with foam.

The wagon road company made complaint and the whole crowd was arrested. The rough riders permitted themselves to be arrested in a graceful manner by a deputy United States marshal. They were taken to their quarters before they rode away on their personal recognizance as well as their horses.

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MORIONS AT WAR AMONG THEMSELVES

SALT LAKE, Feb. 9.—A large and enthusiastic audience greeted Senator F. J. Cannon at the Salt Lake Theater to-night when he came on the stage to deliver his lecture on "Senatorial Candidates and Pharisees." A special train from Ogden brought down a large number of the personal friends of the Senator.

The Senator referred to the recent attack upon him by the Women's Republican Club of Utah, and made that the basis for a discussion of the living questions now pending in the State. He then took up the whole subject of the trend of politics in Utah, and set the line sharply between the progressives and the reactionaries of the Mormon church. He pointed out that Utah came to the nation as a Haggar out of a wilderness, with her empty water jar and her dying child, and that the nation opened its arms to her and took her into its friendship and under its authority, in return for which the nation is entitled to receive from her such devotion as was never given by any other State; that she cannot repay the nation except by holding to the highest ideals, and that for these John Hendy Smith and Heber J. Grant, apostles of the Mormon church, have substituted the lowest.

He made a touching reference to his mother, whose faith and holiness had always kept him in the church. He said that when he failed at his responsibility which now confronted him of seeking to have Utah spared the possibility of the awful shame of a Senatorship bought and sold he had been impelled by the remembrance of what his mother said and did in the last Senatorial fight when his father was a candidate against him. She came to him then and said: "I don't care what the Senator's wife or any other State; that she cannot repay the nation except by holding to the highest ideals, and that for these John Hendy Smith and Heber J. Grant, apostles of the Mormon church, have substituted the lowest.

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