THE ALASKA REGION.

MR. JACKSON'S REPORT ON THE KLONDIKE GOLDFIELDS.

Richness of the Mines Not Exaggerated. Present Food Supply Insufficient—Utility of the Domestic Reindeer — There Is Practically No Law or Government.

In his statement of the bureau of education's summer's work in Alaska Mr. Sheldon Jackson, general agent of education for Alaska, says:

The summer has been a memorable one because of the excitement created by the rich gold discoveries of last winter on the Klondike. I was at St. Michael's the 1st of July, when the returning miners with their valuable packages of gold dust reached that port en route to the States, and, later, in the fall, when thousands of miners reached St. Michael's from the States en route to the Klondike mines. As in all large movements of population without time for perfecting plans, there was great waste and hardship. Vessels that had been long condemned as unfit for the carrying of passengers were chartered and sent with passengers from the Pacific coast ports to St. Michael's. Several of these vessels were originally built as river steamers, and after being condemned as unfit for further service, even on inland waters, were allowed to proceed into the ocean loaded with passengers.

In one instance a ferryboat that had been condemned as unsound, even for carrying soap across a small inland bay from manufactory to warehouse, was sent to St. Michael's. A number of transportation companies suddenly sprang into existence, and ocean vessels were chartered to bring their passengers to St. Michael's, at which place they expected to build small steamers or barges for the ascending of the Yukon river. I believe in no single instance did any such expedition during the entire season reach its destination at Dawson. Some of them were stranded at St. Michael's, others at the mouth of the river, and others still are now frozen up along the lower Yukon. The only parties reaching the Klondike by the mouth of the river were those that took the steamers of the North American Transportation and Trading company or of the Alaska Commercial company, two powerful corporations that had been providing steamers and experimenting for several years before this sudden rush was thrown upon them.

My observation at the various mining camps along the river and my conversation with miners that had been from one to several years in the country and a personal inspection of gold dust brought out by various persons have led me to feel that the public statements of the richness of the mines clustered around the Klondike have not been exaggerated and that there are much larger areas of mineral lands in Alaska than in the Northwest Territories of Canada. The extent of the gold bearing belt in Alaska is so great that rich placer mines will probably continue to be found for many years to come.

I also had an opportunity of visiting all the stores and other depots of supplies in that entire valley and am impressed with the fact that the food supply now in the country is entirely insufficient for the numbers of men that have gone to the mines, and consequently there cannot fail to be great distress and much suffering during the present winter. The action of the secretary of the interior in giving permission to the war department to use the domestic reindeer which have been brought over from Siberia for the purpose of taking into the Yukon valley supplies of provisions will somewhat relieve the distress. There are at the present time 200 deer trained to harness that can be utilized by the war department. For the management of these deer there are three Laps accustomed to freighting and some 20 or more Eskimo young men that have learned to drive and handle the animals.

The original purpose for which domestic reindeer were brought into Alaska from Siberia was to provide a new food supply and a new means of support for the Eskimo. But the discovery of valuable deposits of gold and the rapid influx of white settlers have made the reindeer as much of a necessity to the white man as to the Indian. With increased facilities of transportation by steamer up the rivers and perhaps increased facilities from one or two trunk lines of railroads into the country there will still be an urgent necessity for the importation of reindeer in large numbers. There will be thousands of miles distant from the navigable rivers and from railroad communication that can only secure adequate supplies of provision by means of reindeer transportation from depots of supplies either on the great rivers or at railway stations.

To demonstrate to the American population of Alaska the utility of the reindeer as a beast of burden a trial trip was made during the five winter months of the winter of 1896-7, during which a sled journey with deer was taken, covering a distance of 2,000 miles. The deer experienced every exigency that would be encountered in actual service as freighters. This 2,000 miles was made through a country without roads and largely without trails, traveling along rivers, over high mountain ranges, down steep declivities, in the midst of bitter cold (one day being 73 degrees below zero); at other times through deep, loose snow or through slush on the ice of the rivers during a January thaw. The few horses that were imported into Dawson last winter were fed on bread and biscuit made from flour, and in the absence of coarser food some starved to death, and all came out of the winter too weak to work. Dog traveling, like that of horses, also requires the carrying of food. But the reindeer can be turned out at night, as, in fact, was done during this trip of 2,000 miles in midwinter. They find their own living.

Admonished by the exigencies of the present, the government should commence preparing itself for the winter of 1898-9, when a tenfold larger population will have flocked into that inhospitable country. A large number of reindeer trained to harness should be secured in Siberia, and an adequate number of trained Lap freighters should be secured from Lapland for the handling of the deer in Alaska. The parties in interest have already made application for trained reindeer for the use of the detachments of the United States army in Alaska to secure rapid transportation. The parties that have taken the new contract for carrying the mail into central Alaska are also making a request for reindeer for that purpose, while various transportation companies are equally urgent for a supply of reindeer. The whole mining region has suddenly awakened to their importance for the development of the mines.

I found the Klondike to be the focus of the immigration into that region, but, as a matter of fact, all the mines along that stream and its tributaries were staked out and claimed before the news had reached the outside world, so that the great increase of miners necessitated their developing other streams and regions, but fortunately those were near by. Wherever a prospector has experimented on the streams and creeks, not only in the Yukon valley, but also on the streams north of the Arctic circle running into the Arctic ocean, as well as a number of the great streams running south into the Pacific ocean, evidences of gold deposits have been found, making Alaska probably the largest field of gold deposit in the world. The scarcity of provisions native to the country, the rigorous winters and hot summers, with the plague of mosquitoes, the frozen subsoil, winter and summer, containing the golden deposits, make the working of these mines and the securing of the gold a life of great hardship and suffering—a life that threatens the ruin of the health and, in many cases, will lead to death itself.

That great region, with its rapidly growing population, is practically without law or government. Two or three deputy collectors of customs are expected to watch a valley 1,600 miles long, without any provision being made for their getting three miles from home. Two United States commissioners are expected to dispense law in a region as large as all the United States east of the Mississippi river and north of the Ohio. Murders have been committed during the past season of which no official recognition has been taken or any official inquiry made concerning them. Crimes and misdemeanors go unpunished because of the great expense of taking criminals and witnesses a year from their families and business to the United States district court at Sitka, some 2,000 to 3,000 miles away. It is very important that the coming congress shall enact the legislation necessary to throw the protection of the government and the courts over life and property in that distant region.

I found the four herds of reindeer in a prospering condition. During the last spring 466 fawns were born, making the total number on the 1st of July last 1,466. In connection with the training school ten Eskimos have been under training in the management, driving and care of the deer. The government schools, as well as schools of several missionary societies, are in a prospering condition.—Report of Secretary of Interior.

FUJI WEIGHS FIFTEEN OUNCES.

Japanese Spaniel Said to Be the Smallest Dog In the World.

Fuji challenges the world to prove that he is not the smallest dog in it, and is proud of the fact that he is worth just $53.33 1-3 cents an ounce. He weighs only 15 ounces, and is of the royal dog blood of Japan.

Fuji needs no records to prove that when his mistress, Mrs. E. E. Sattler of Garfield place, Cincinnati, puts him sitting in her joined palms, fingers pointing upward, his head is the only part of his tiny, furry body that reaches above her finger tips. Fuji stopped growing a short time ago, and nothing artificial was resorted to to make him a high priced midget. He is 10 months old now and gained 1½ ounces in the last two months of his preparation for his struggle with the world.

Fuji is a Japanese spaniel. His markings are black and white. They are beautiful, but it is in his head that the dog fancier finds most to admire. His forehead is high and broad and bulges with brain; his nose is of the pronounced pug variety, and his eyes mirror a spirit of mischief and playfulness that made him so dear to the woman who reared him and so valued by the one who made him hers by purchase.

Fuji, grandfather of the mite who is now in Cincinnati, came from the kennel of sacred spaniels in Japan. The mother of Fuji, the younger, is Winki, a beautiful creature, who is about half a dozen times the size of her midget son.

Fuji was, until a few days ago, the property of Mrs. James M. Tower, who also owns his mother and two of his brothers in New York. There Mrs. Sattler saw him, admired him and soon purchased him for $500.—New York Herald.

FROM ROOF TO ROOF.

Somnambulist's Walking Feat Over the Tops of Fifteen Houses.

Edward Reilly of Wilmington, Del., recently performed a wonderful feat in his sleep. In his nightclothes he climbed from his bedroom window to the roof of his house. There are 15 houses in the row, and he walked along the roofs of the row for half an hour; then he climbed down, but climbed into the wrong window. The window he entered was on the rear of the second story of the house of Amos Brinton, two doors below his house.

A niece of Mr. Brinton was slumbering in the room at the time, and, awakened by the noise of his entrance, she screamed when she saw his ghostlike appearance. Her screams brought Mr. Brinton, who upon entering the bedroom fired a shot, which missed Reilly. The gas was lighted, and to his amazement Brinton discovered that the intruder was his neighbor.

He saw that he was asleep, and with a punch awakened him. Reilly at first wanted Brinton to apologize, but when he found he had been walking in his sleep and was not in his own room he could not say enough to excuse himself.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Man and the Mastodon.

A committee from Kentucky university recently returned from Blue Lick Springs, where it went to examine the bones of a mastodon which were recently unearthed there. The remains of an old roadway well paved with stone were found many feet below the surface of the earth and below the stratum of gravel in which the mastodon bones were found. The committee believes that the workmen who are excavating there are on the eve of important discoveries which will show this country to have been inhabited by an enlightened people at a time when mastodons roamed the forests.

A Tired Fellow.

Talkin 'bout November days, I reckon they're all right,
But I has ter fetch the wood in fer the big oak fires at night.
I reckon snow a-fallin makes a purty sort er show,
But it ain't so powerful pleasant when you has ter shovel snow.

Talkin 'bout November days, with frost in furrows gray,
They ain't so powerful pleasant when you spend 'em haulin hay.
I like the sharp, clear mornin's, the hunter's lively horn,
But I'm feelin mighty solemn when I'm set ter shuckin corn.

I've come ter the conclusion this world, fer man an boy,
Is about a peck o' trouble ter every pint o' joy.
I like blue skies an meadows, a bird that knows a song,
But I can't jine in the chorus when they work me all day long.

—Atlanta Constitution.

VALUABLE ART WORKS.

Paintings by the Late Dr. Newberry Appropriate For a Medical College.

Among the many art treasures of the late Dr. Newberry of New York, all his own handiwork, are three oil paintings which are the result of years of study, of travel and close attention to details of execution, which it was the intention of the doctor to bequeath to some free medical college. This desire of her father his daughter will carry out.

Outside of being really valuable works of art, the paintings are peculiarly appropriate for a medical college, for at a glance the student can see all the principal shrubs, flowers, fruits, etc., used for medicinal purposes represented in size as the frequency of their use predominates in actual practice.

The pictures represent the three temperaments—the muscular, the nervous and the nutritive. In the center of the muscular temperament picture is the strong face of Richard Cœur de Lion, while the animal kingdom is represented by the horse. Around them are growing bryonia, dogwood, grapes and plums and everything of value for ailments of those of muscular temperament.

In the nervous temperament picture are represented Charles I and a greyhound. Around them grow cateus, grandiflora (used for nervous diseases of the heart), aconite, hops, poppy plants (opium) and the peach, used as a nervous stimulant. Henry VIII and a hog figure together in the nutritive temperament picture in the midst of arnica flowers, aloes, flower-de-luce, toadstools, jack-in-the-pulpits, oranges and violets.

"My father was a homeopathist," said Mrs. Shutt. "He believed we should try to strike an equal balance of the three temperaments to gain a perfect state of physical health, and exercise equally all of our faculties for perfect mental health. Though 86 years old, his mind was clear to the end, and, although he called in a physician, my father insisted on prescribing for himself. He said he knew he was about to die and an hour before dissolution he asked for some bryonia to relieve the pain in his congested lungs.

"'This will be my last dose of medicine,' he said, and truly enough he was dead in an hour. He was a great admirer of Henry George and since the latter's death he seemed downcast for the first time I ever remember seeing him so."—New York Tribune.

AUTOMATIC TRAIN CHECKER.

Novel Invention by a Belgian to Prevent Railroad Accidents.

A novel automatic train checker, invented by a Belgian, has recently undergone a successful test in France. The trial and the invention are described by Henry P. Morris, United States consul at Ghent, Belgium, in an official report to the department of state.

"The experiments took place," he says, "under the direction of the inventor at Beaulieu le Cendray, near Chartres, before many railway engineers and a numerous gathering of scientists. Those present were convinced that the apparatus fully satisfied all claimed for it. The point chosen for the official experiments offers the greatest possible danger and difficulties. It was on the single track line between Chartres and Orleans, at the point of divergence of the branch running to Anneau and immediately over a grade crossing.

"There, at a distance of 250 yards from the station, the mechanism was placed in position. The invention consists of an immense hook, or catch, made of heat iron, to which while rigid a certain elasticity is given. It is fastened to the rails and regulated by a wire and lever from the station. When lying flat, trains pass it readily, but when raised it catches a lever hanging from the passing locomotive. The latter lever then automatically causes an air valve on the engine to open, and the brakes are immediately in action. During the trial the train came to a standstill before reaching the station. Careful calculation has been made that the hook or catch on the readbed should have at the same time sufficient suppleness to insure its action.

"Another ingenious arrangement connects the grade crossing gate with the apparatus in such a manner that the former cannot be opened without the latter being in position, so that an approaching train must necessarily stop before reaching the crossing, thus avoiding all risk of injuring persons passing at the time. Further appliances are said to render the invention equally useful in the prevention of collisions."

Horseflesh For Hog Feed.

A new and remarkable industry has been recently established by John Kilburn, a wealthy farmer and stock shipper located five miles west of Fort Scott, Kan. It is found that he has established a market for the cheaper grade of horses, which he slaughters and feeds to his hogs. By experiment he has demonstrated that hogs fatten quickly on horse meat, and he has for some time been buying animals that have served their usefulness to the plow, the coal hauler or the teamster for hog feed. This class of horses he finds has largely increased since the advent of the bicycle, consequent to the depreciation in their value. Mr. Kilburn buys them, exclusive of their hides, for a pittance—often as low as 25 cents—and they are killed in his hog pastures and fed to the pork for the city market.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Shoes For Vegetarians.

Mr. Oldfield, a British vegetarian, recently exhibited some ladies' boots. The soles were of flax or cotton webbing, the uppers of pannus corium, a cloth foundation so treated that it could be polished with ordinary blacking and hardly distinguished from leather. They are said to wear as well as leather. At present they cost more, as the manufacture is limited.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Mark Twain's Daughter.

"Mlle. Mark Twain" is what Figaro of Paris calls the daughter of Samuel L. Clemens.

Superiority.

White folks hab de learnin.
Culled folks hab sense.
Dey don' hafter read an write
An make a big pretense.
White folks takes de paper,
Watches it all year
To fin' de proclamation
So's dey'll know Thanksgivin's here.

Turkey in de bahnyahd,
Possum in de tree,
Goodness is a-gatherin
Whah de 'simmon waits foh me.
Chicken coop is noisy.
Isn' any fear
I'll need a proclamation
Foh to know Thanksgivin's near.

—Washington Star.

MINING FOR WHISKY.

UNIQUE ENTERPRISE ON THE MISSOURI ABOVE KANSAS CITY.

Steamer Arabia, Which Sank Forty Years Ago, Has at Last Been Located—Whisky Was Part of the Cargo—The Miners Expect to Secure It.

Mining for gold, silver and other minsral is very common, but the spectacle of an organized company of men digging a deep hole into the earth for whisky is rather extraordinary. Whisky mining is now under way at a point along the bank of the Missouri river between Leavenworth and Kansas City, and an effort is being made to secure from 200 to 600 barrels of 40-year-old liquor that is said to have been buried in the sand since 1856.

Nearly every one living along the Missouri river from St. Louis to Omaha has heard the old story of a boat laden with whisky sinking, always close to the town where the story was told, and of the great wealth in store for the person who would resurrect these spirits from the deep and place the same on the market. From time to time reports have been circulated that the steamer had been discovered.

Fresh stories have recently been traveling up and down the river about the finding of the long lost steamer. A trip was made a few days ago to Nearman, a Missouri Pacific telegraph station, nine miles north of Kansas City, and after a walk of four miles through the bottoms and the crossing of one old river bed the camp of the whisky miners was located on the west bank of the Missouri river, around the sharp bend a mile south of Parkville.

It was noticed at once that a party of seven men were at work in dead earnest sinking a large hole in the sand, about 20 feet square, to reach the old steamer, which they claim to have positively located. The head of the party was a large, good natured old man, named Gales C. Henson and called by the rest "Dad." Another leading member was G. W. Summers, a merchant of Parkville, who saw the boat sink 41 years ago, and is the possessor of an abundant store of reminiscences. From the members of the party putting up a derrick at the time the story of the lost boat was learned.

On the 1st of August, 1856, a large side wheel steamer, the Arabia, left St. Louis for Omaha and Council Bluffs, loaded with pork, queensware and whisky, the wet goods now estimated from 200 to 600 barrels. The trip was made without incident or trouble until Parkville was reached, on Aug. 20. At this time the channel of the river was a mile west of where it is at present, and in attempting to get into the Parkville landing the boat was snagged and began to take water. The pilot lost his head, so the story runs, and swung the boat into the stream, and after drifting down, as the engines could not hold her against the current, she struck on the opposite side of the river. The water was not very deep and the pilothouse, captain's cabin and the roof of the upper deck were out of water, and while the excitement was great the passengers and crew were all crowded on to this part, and afterward they were taken off in small boats.

The upper part of the steamer remained out of the water for over a year, and the following spring divers were put to work and the engines and part of the other machinery were removed. The whisky and queensware could not be secured, as they were in the hold that filled with sand during the winter, and in time the boat was lost to sight by sand washing over it and the channel of the river changing. The spot where it sank was forgotten, and after a hunt of years it was only discovered a few days ago.

Dad Henson rigged up a contrivance of his own invention, whereby he was able to sink an iron rod into the sand for a depth of 42 feet, by using ladders, and many soundings could be made in a day. Starting at the edge of the water, over 2,000 soundings were made, covering several square miles, and a twig was placed at every spot where the rod had been sent down. Many logs were struck and false hopes raised and the men were about to give up when they sounded out among the willows and underbrush fully a mile from the present river bed, and at last hit on what they say is the sheet iron roof of the boat. The rod was sent down repeatedly and the outlines of the boat were located, some parts of which are under 24 feet of sand and the remainder 36. After finding the boat the brush was cleared off, so that a patch is now cut out of the forest of willows the shape of a steamer.

At first an effort was made to reach the boat by digging a hole in the sand 20 feet square, but the sand came in on them so fast that this had to be abandoned after getting down 16 feet. They were also troubled with water flowing in on them, and an engineer was consulted, who informed them that they would have to have caissons and follow the plans used in putting down bridge piers.

They learned that good machinery for the purpose could be procured that had been used in getting the cargo out of the old Twilight, which was secured nearly two years ago, after having been buried in the sand 31 years, and they purchased the same for use here. They now have three large iron caisson sections and a big airpump on the ground. They will push the work in order to get everything of value out of the boat before high water sets in next spring.

The men are enthusiastic, and they believe that their fortunes are made. One of them stated that members of the company would not sell out for $75,000, and that before spring they would realize far beyond this amount. "Dad" Henson is an old river sage, and he says that timber buried in the sand where air cannot reach it will remain perfectly sound for years, and that the whisky barrels will be found in condition to be removed and taken out through the caissons. In case the barrels cannot be moved the liquor is to be tapped into kegs and placed in hogsheads that are now being secured for the purpose. This whisky is said to have been of superior quality, and with its 41 years of age it is expected to be the finest ever placed on the American market. The men state that they have made inquiries of liquor dealers and that they will get a big price for it.

When asked if they expected to pay internal revenue duties on it, they said they did not know, but thought that, inasmuch as the whisky had been manufactured before the war and antebellum duties had been paid, that it could not be taxed again at this late date.

These men are living in a long tent, have their claim, as they term it, marked out with flags, and they are prepared to spend the winter in a comfortable manner. They have two teams for hauling machinery and supplies, and are buoyed up by the enthusiasm that always takes hold of men who feel that they are on the eve of securing a large fortune.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Old Settlers' Yarns.

They were two old pioneers of upper Michigan entertaining the gullible resorters.

"When I first came to this region," said the veteran who owns a log cabin, a flatboat and a turnip patch, "we had a good deal of trouble with bears. They'd come sniffin round the shanty at night, and you could go out any mornin and lay in a stock of bear beef. 'Bout the best luck I ever had was one fall when I was pokin about just beyant the clearin. I was shovin a bullet home with an iron ramrod when I see a she bear and three cubs comin toward me. They see me at the same time, and all went up in a row on their hind legs. Of course I was naturally excited and banged away. When the smoke cleared there was them four bears strung on that ramrod, and there wasn't a good kick left in none of 'em."

The other entertainer looked troubled for a few seconds, but soon rallied and looked as honest as an owl.

"Hank," he began, "you mus' recaleck that red cow of mine. There was the beatinest critter I ever see. She could ketch more fish than airy a man in the settlement. She wasn't no expense 'cause she could steal a livin the year round. She could pick a lock with her horns, and ole Jim Clayter swears he see her climb a tree after a black bear once. I won't make no affidavy to that, but I know she used to bring in bear reg'ler. She could do more with them horns of hern than any man could with a rifle. Wasn't she a corker, Hank?"

"I hain't spinnin this here yarn, Lige," declared the other pioneer, who was plainly jealous, "but the only cow you ever owned since you come up here was a mooley."

Though they are both old they are as tough as pine knots, and it took five minutes to part them. The friendship of years is broken and each declares the other the prince of liars.—Detroit Free Press.

Altitude and Phthisis.

I have spent considerable time in traveling in the Catskills, Adirondacks and the Rocky mountains, investigating with some care these localities, with their varying altitudes above sea level and their influence upon the lungs, and, while perhaps a high and dry and lighter air may be beneficial in some diseases and for its influence upon the general health, I do not believe that it has the slightest effect upon the growth an proliferation of the tubercle bacillus itself. In this opinion I am heartily confirmed by the judgment of many able and careful practitioners with whom I have most earnestly conversed, and I repeat that altitude has no influence whatever in destroying the tubercle bacillus.

A considerable experience with this disease has led me to believe that no place is better for its treatment than New York city. Patients have come to me from every state in the Union, from Canada, from the Sandwich Islands and from Europe, and it appears to be the general belief among them all that the climate of New York city, with its clear air and bright sunshine, is quite as favorable under all circumstances as is that of most other localities. I have under my care at this time patients from several towns in Colorado, from New Mexico and California, and all are doing better in this city than in their own localities.—Dr. Hubbard Winslow Mitchell in New York Medical Record.

Leprosy.

Leprosy is an exclusively human disease. It is not inoculable to animals. It is never of spontaneous origin, but is invariably derived from the lesions or secretions of a person similarly diseased. Its development in a country previously exempt from the disease may always be traced to its importation in the person of a leper from an infected center. We know nothing definitely of the mode of infection or the channels of entrance through which the bacillus gains access to the organism—whether by direct contact, by inhalation or imbibition of the germs or by other intermediaries. Observation proves conclusively that every leper is a possible source of danger to all with whom he may come into intimate and prolonged contact.—Dr. Prince A. Morrow in North American Review.

He Favored the Idea.

"My dear," he said as he laid down the paper, "you ought to read that address by Mrs. Mouser, the eminent lecturer, on woman's work. She says that whenever a wife gets angry she should stop and carefully consider the matter for ten minutes before saying a word to her husband. That's a grand idea."

"It is, eh?"

"I consider it so."

"And where will you be when I begin talking?"

"Oh, I don't know—somewhere down town, I presume, but don't let that interfere with you at all."

And she was so mad that she didn't say a word for the full time limit.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Bearded Belles of Ancient Rome.

Among the Roman women at one period there was a morbid ambition to grow beards, and they used to shave their faces and smear them with unguents to produce these inappropriate appendages. Cicero tells us that at one time to such an extent did the mania for beards grow upon women that it was found desirable to pass a law against the "adornment."—San Francisco Chronicle.

Sustaining Pride.

There is nothing so sustaining in passing through an ordeal as proper pride. An Atchison woman who was struck on the head by a beer bottle in her husband's hands claims that it was a champagne bottle.—Atchison (Kan.) Globe.

Trained For Torture.

Algerian Chief—Prepare the young American for the torture chamber.

The Captive—Pooh, old boy; you can't scare me. I've been hazed.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.