

YUKON GOLD FIELDS.

Events Which Led Up to the Present Boom.

The Route to Klondyke—Hardships to Be Encountered—Surprising Figures as to Distances—Cost of Living.

The excitement caused by the discoveries of gold in large quantities along the Klondyke river, and the waters tributary to it, near the Alaskan boundary, has aroused a spirit of wealth-hunting which will not be allayed for many a day.

is to be feared, been little taken into consideration. Few setting out from San Francisco, Seattle or Vancouver have stopped to think that when the Bering sea has been reached and a distance of 2,500 miles traversed over the waters of the Pacific, the journey is but beginning.

Neither have the severities of the new climate been properly reckoned. Many who have gone forth in their enthusiasm for wealth to the rich localities almost within the arctic circle will find themselves poorly equipped to cope with the chilliness of below-zero temperature.



LANDING AT THE KLONDYKE DIGGINGS. (From a Photograph.)

told by miners returned from the Klondyke fittingly rival the stories of California's golden period.

As far back as 1860 a deposit of gold was found in the basin of the Yukon by a prospector named George Holt. He also reported the finding of coarse specimens along the Hootalingua river. But it was the discovery of gold near Siska in 1873, followed by the finds in the vicinity of Juneau in 1880, that drew attention to the possibilities of the newly-acquired territory of Alaska as a gold-producing country.

The Klondyke and its aptly named golden tributaries, the Bonanza and the Eldorado, have again turned the heads of Americans and Canadians, starting them in pursuit of the metal which has been described as "bright and yellow, hard and cold, heavy to get, and light to hold."

The reports from this territory of riches would indicate that the gold

there is extreme gold, while in the short summer the heat is intense. One of the prospectors, writing recently from Dawson City, has told the world that the dreaded mosquito finds a home there, and that he is "our worst enemy."

The landing place by the Yukon river route is St. Michael's, a half of miles from the mouth of the Yukon. From this point, before the gold fields are reached, it is necessary to pass the waters of this great river for a distance of 1,890 miles, leaving behind the territory of the United States as the destination is neared.

In the shorter route, by way of Juneau, on the southeastern part of the Alaskan territory, difficulties are also encountered. When the Pacific inlet and straits have been left behind and the vessel enters the harbor of Juneau a diversified method of travel lies before the gold hunter.

To save themselves when caught in the terrible storms which overtake wanderers in these passes above the Lynn canal, men have been known to crawl under some overhanging rock and remain there without food until

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The Klondyke empties into the Yukon 50 miles above the Big river. Bonanza creek is a tributary of the Klondyke and Eldorado is again a tributary of the Bonanza. It is along these two rivers that the most extensive finds have been made.

Circle City is 200 miles from the Klondyke fields. Fort Reliance is 750 miles from Juneau. The miles of the Klondyke run from 35 to 100 miles from the Alaskan boundary, and are in British Columbia.

The wages paid to miners in the Klondyke district are \$15 a day. Workers in the sawmill of Joseph Ladue, who claims to own the entire Dawson City site, are paid ten dollars a day.

Prices in the latter place are fairly representative of the amounts charged for provisions and articles of wear, and the following list will give interesting information on this subject.



DOG SLEDGE GOING TO THE KLONDYKE. (From a Photograph.)

Table listing prices for various goods: Flour, per 100 lbs. \$12.00; Caribou meat, per lb. 1.50; Beans, per roll. 25; Rice, per lb. 25; Sugar, per lb. 25; Bacon, per lb. 40; Eggs, per dozen. 1.50; Better eggs, per dozen. 2.00; Salmon, each. \$1 to \$1.50; Potatoes, per lb. 1.25; Turnips, per lb. 1.25; Tea, per lb. 1.00; Coffee, per lb. 1.50; Dried fruits, per lb. 50; Canned meats. 25; Lemons, each. 20; Oranges, each. 15; Liquor, per lb. 50; Shovels, per pair. 2.00; Picks. 6.00; Coal oil, per gallon. 1.00; Overalls, per suit. 15 to 25; Underwear, per suit. 15 to 25; Shoes. 5.00; Rubber boots. \$10 to \$15.00; Lumber, per 1,000 feet. \$750.00.

It is now too late to reach the Klondyke district this year; and as mining is possible only during the months of May, June and July gold-seekers are advised by experts to delay the start of the fields until April 15 of next year.

The dominion government at Ottawa, Orl. De la Roche, minister of mines, to preserve to Canadians the lion's share of the Klondyke gold, has issued a northern Eldorado, but it is highly improbable that there is any foundation for the report that the expedition of all British subjects is prohibited.

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The boundary, according to the surveyors, crosses Forty-Mile creek 23 miles west of the point where it flows into the Yukon. Fort Cudahy, which is situated at the confluence of the Yukon and Forty-Mile creek, is therefore, considerably within the Canadian side of the boundary.

The Dominion government has announced that it will publish a summary of some further reports which have been received at the interior department from Mr. Ogilvie.

ports Mr. Ogilvie speaks at length of the great difficulties and dangers which have to be encountered by explorers in that land. The lack of a mail service seems to be felt almost as great an inconvenience as the want of claims registration bureau, with a court for the collection of debts.

An Unfair Advantage. Dr. Lasker, the great chess player, when in London is in the habit of occasionally visiting a certain restaurant in the city well known to many chess devotees.

The offer was good-naturedly accepted; and on Lasker's winning he became the recipient of a box of doubtful-looking cigars, which, however, the donor averred were of good quality.

Getting It Back. "I see the railroad bunger has so much stock in his hands that he is a receiver."

HUMOROUS.

—Fond Mother—"Oh, Peter, Peter, I thought I told you not to play with your soldiers on Sunday!" Peter—"Here I call them the Salvation Army on Sunday."

—In the Right Place.—The Summer Girl—"Oh! I love nature so!" The Farmer—"Well, miss, things is jest as nucheral around here as they are anywhere."—Puck.

—Business Phil—"Have you noticed how Stubbins repeats himself?" "Yes; it is an atrocious habit; yesterday he tried to collect a bill of me which he has collected twice before."—Detroit Free Press.

—At the Club.—Dobson—"Jones hasn't been around to the club for two weeks. Wonder what the matter is?" Hobson—"Why, his folks are all away at the seaside; and he can rest just as well at home."—Judge.

—Fuddy—"Spinner has taken to the lecture platform; reads his own poems." Duddy—"Spinner always was an eccentric fellow. Always doing what nobody else ever thought of doing."—Boston Transcript.

—There are 250,000 words in the English language, and most of them were used on Sunday by a woman who discovered after coming out of church that her new hat was adorned with a tag on which was written, "Reduced to 68. 11 1/2 c."—Tit-Bits.

—Carrie—"For mercy's sake, turn the tie of your neck ribbon around front." Don't you know that it is no longer good form to wear the bow behind?" Maude—"I suppose they still make an exception in the case of a beau on a tandem, don't they?"—Boston Transcript.

MOCKING THE WOLF'S HOWL. Brutes Can Be Easily Lured from Their Retreat by a Bogus Noise.

Lew Wilnot, who lives almost anywhere in the state of Washington, is a westerner of the old type. He tells about fooling wolves by imitating their cries.

"One Sunday morning," he writes, "while we were mining on the Clear-water, along about the 1st of May, I took my revolver and went over to the cabin of my partners and proposed that we go to the hills and kill some grouse.

While going up the hill we saw a very big wolf's fresh track in the trail we were climbing. The trail forked, one branching up the river, the other turning back into the hills.

Suddenly the beast began to howl, and shivers crawled along my back—they always do when I hear a wolf howl. When the sound died away I mocked it, and was answered with quick vigor.

Again I answered it. I told the boys if we would wait the beast would come, but they laughed at me, and we went on after grouse. The wolf howled back to our left after we got to hunting, and was plainly looking for its mate.

We went to a small mound, sat down and howled in a low voice, because I feared it would notice the deception. It did not answer, but pretty quick come trotting through the small brush.

As it ran along on a fallen, rotten pine tree I shot it with my revolver and over it went. We ran up and found it badly wounded, and, wolflike, sulking. Its skin made a pretty good rug.

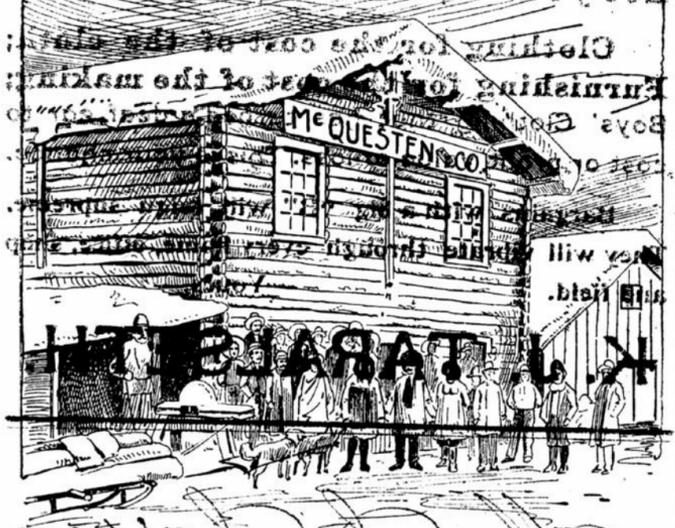
While after that I was going from Mount Oregon one morning on a cayuse, when a big wolf came into the trail and kept on before me, turning to the left after awhile where I had to go to the right. I went on a way, got off my animal and howled to see what would happen.

An answer came back quick and long, and, though I knew I was perfectly safe, I felt lonesome with the dread a wolf's howl gives me. I started on after a bit, and on reaching the divide looked back, and there was a wolf on my trail. I kept on till I came to a thicket, howling once in awhile in a way that made the wolf follow, though suspiciously. When I was half through the brush I disappeared and crawled back. When the wolf came to the edge of the brush I pulled on him with my revolver and over his chest shot through the heart.

Testing Tobacco in Cuba. The testing of tobacco is a fine art, which reaches its highest in Cuba. The Cuban's first test is by the smell. He can detect the slightest variation in odor and instantly rejects the tobacco as not belonging to the best grade.

There's nothing slow about Jones," he said, reflectively. "The other laughed scornfully. "I guess you never loaned him any money," he said.

"Oh, yes, I have," replied the first speaker. "That's what made me speak that way. I loaned him ten dollars six months ago and I haven't been able to catch him since."—Chicago Post.



WINTER SCENE IN CIRCLE CITY.

diggers have comport themselves in such an unexampled manner in times of great excitement as to somewhat rationalize the tradition of gold-hunting. They do not mind their work, and when the harvest was reached each one a prospecting party went out with the prospectors.

the danger was past. The storms sometimes last for several days. From Juneau to Dyea is 100 miles. Crossing the Alaskan line one goes to Lake Lincoln, and then across the lake for about five miles, after which an overland journey to the head of the lake Bonanza, 30 miles long, and a trip to the Klondyke river; four miles to Tagish lake, from whence 21 miles may be traveled on boat. Canyons are traversed in the country, and lake is reached; thence to the Klondyke and down the Barge, where 31 miles of navigable water is found. After a further journey of 200 miles along the Lewis river the Yukon is reached at Fort Selkirk. From Juneau to Dawson is a dis-