

Subscribers of Portland Merchants in the Old Days.

Bonfort's Wine and Spirit Circular.

For some unexplained reason the evasion of the United States customs laws does not seem to many men a criminal act; men otherwise of the strictest probity. This was shown by a story of whisky seizure, of which the narrator was the victim, being laughingly told by a well known front street business man.

"It was in the early days of Juneau," said the merchant "when Portland had almost entire control of the Alaska trade. Once a month the steamer California would leave here for the north, her hold filled with goods sold by Portland dealers. There were, if I remember rightly, twenty-three saloons in Juneau at the time I speak of, 1881, and, of course, they had to have whisky to conduct business. The same old organic act prohibiting the importation of liquor into the country existed then as it does now, and as a consequence we were forced to use all manner of devices and subterfuges to get the whisky into the country and keep our customers supplied.

"Kerosene oil cans answered for quite a while, until the receipt of kerosene at Juneau grew to such dimensions that in sheer self-defense Old Man Webster, the Juneau customs officer, was compelled to plug and seize the stuff. Then canned goods' skeletons properly labelled were put in use.

"The shipment of these whiskey filled corn and tomato cans was rapidly outgrowing any reasonable demand for corn or tomatoes, when I was called upon to make a trip to Juneau. Here was a chance for me to make a big shipment of whisky and go along with it to see it safely through. After much consideration I decided on using ham tins. Each barrel was carefully bottomed and lined with hams, then in the centre was placed a ten gallon keg of whiskey, hams were placed on the top of the keg and the tierce headed up.

"I had fifty of these ham whiskey barrels fixed up, and as the California steamed away from the dock without a break from the customs officers here, I smiled satisfiedly to myself to think of the turn I would make with those 500 gallons of good red liquor delivered to Juneau.

"But I counted without my host. At Port Townsend there was a shipment of sawmill machinery for the California to take aboard which necessitated the unloading and restoring of a portion of the steamer's cargo. Among this freight was my fifty tierces of hams. Had I known what was to follow I would have given the mate a \$20 gold piece and bought a barrel of beer for the crew rather than have the goods put ashore, but knowing of no danger, I complacently watched the hams swung out of the hatch and onto the dock. Imagine my dismay, however, when, with the landing of the third sling load, I saw a big burly fellow armed with a bayonet fastened to a pole approach the tierces and begin prying into them. Well, I was over the side of that steamer and onto the dock in a minute.

"What the—are you doing?" I demanded.

"Looking for whiskey," he coolly replied, preparing to make another prod.

"Who are you and what have you got to do with freight passed by the inspectors of Portland?" I angrily inquired.

"Oh,—Portland and her inspectors, too. Freight's on their dock here at Port Townsend. Treasury Department ruled that all Alaska shipments must be searched for liquor," he answered, and with that he rammed the bayonet in through one of the air holes in a tierce. It struck fairly on a keg.

"What's that?" he queried, looking at me with a sardonic grin.

"A ham bone; anybody would know that," I answered, slipping him a \$10 note.

"Hum!" he mused, pocketing the money. "Didn't know what it might be."

"Everything would have been all right but at this moment the Collector for the port came up, and possibly noticing my flushed, angry look, turned to his assistant and asked: 'What have you struck here, Tom?'

"Nothing but hams, sir," replied the inspector, standing true to the \$10 he had received.

"Well, better push your tryster into another or two of these barrels, to make sure," said the Collector.

Active Gold in the South.

There is more activity in Southern gold properties than has been known since the days of the first discoveries. Development work has been pushed over the field for six months and many a property has been sprung up in splendid shape. Georgia, North Carolina and Alabama have been the scenes of the greatest activity, although South Carolina and Virginia have not been neglected by any means.

Rich ore has been struck in Lumpkin, White, Gilmer and Cherokee. New mills have been put up in several counties. Negotiations are on for a number of mines over the State. Some are preparing for incorporation, and there is evidence of investment in good properties by home people, although the Northern and Western capitalists are showing more money.

The old mines are being reopened in White, and one new property is being opened up. The McCluskey, in Hall, has a new mill with ten stamps. A five stamp mill is about to be put on the Big Job in the same county. A cyanide plant has been put in at the Merks, and development is going ahead steadily on the Gold Hill mine in the same county. A tunnel is being driven on this property to cut the strike all the way across. One four foot vein was cut within thirty feet of the mouth of the tunnel, and in sixty days more the tunnel should cut the veins encountered in the shaft 100 feet above.

The Sixes and the Cherokee, in Cherokee County, have produced very rich ore recently, and a deal is on for another well known mine up there. Over at the Creighton, Mr. Thies is turning out bullion in paying quantities every month, and this mine continues to stand at the head of the list among Georgia gold mines.

The real truth about mining in the South is now generally recognized, and that is that there is no money to be made on a simple stamp mill proposition except in isolated cases. Every mill should save its tailings. The money is in the concentrates, and the mine which does not save anything except what it catches on its plates is losing from three to seven dollars for every one it makes.

The last summer has been a more serious effort to prove that Georgia gold bearing veins run deeper than was ever known before. All the work that has been done judiciously on this line has been rewarded with success. It may take six or twelve months more to demonstrate it to the entire satisfaction of everybody, but it will be shown up beyond any question. Then Georgia will have some large producers and profitable mines.—Atlanta Constitution.

Cleo's Thrifty Mother.

The parsimony of foreign celebrities who come to this country has been frequently amusing to Americans, says the New York Sun. There have been some very striking instances of it in recent years, but the mother of Mile. Cleo de Merode seems to have carried off the palm in this respect. Salvini, it is said, was so penurious that he bought a sandwich on the street for five cents rather than pay for his supper at a hotel; and one of the stories told about him on his last visit to this country was that once in Philadelphia he gave the porter of a hotel a penny and told him to buy him three cakes.

The actor had discovered that his trunk was damaged, and he wanted to repair it himself. Tamaqua was notorious here for his stinginess. It was said that he sold the tickets sent to him in view of his artist's privilege, and hired his own brother as a valet because he could be got at a cheap figure. Then he used to make him roll his trunks around on a truck at the foreign custom houses rather than pay the porters a fee for the work.

It may have been nothing more than good business judgment that prompted Mile. Calvo to look for a business manager while she was here and then express the greatest astonishment that such an assistant of the most capable kind could not be hired for \$10 a week.

These are some of the stories told about the highly paid foreigners who come to exhibit themselves here. But Cleo's mother holds the record. It is said that she astonished the servants at the Imperial hotel by washing her daughter's clothes in the bathtub and ironing them herself. On Tuesday, the day before they returned to Europe, the ballerina and her mother were seen on lower Broadway. They had gone down to one of the exchange offices in order to get \$100 in French money. It was raining. An acquaintance met the two just as they were coming out of the office.

"Why, that watch inside," exclaimed the mother, indignantly, "wants to give me only 517 francs for \$100." Then Mme. la Mere de Cleo de Merode put up her umbrella with a mighty emphasis and stepped out onto the sidewalk.

"Why, a man offered me 518 up-town. But I thought I could get 500 down here. Now, we shall have to walk uptown, for, of course, there will be no profit left for us." Then Cleo and her mother started to trudge uptown. The dancer received \$500 for her appearances in New York.

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