

SEWARD GATEWAY

FIRST YEAR, NO. 17.

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ANOTHER LINE OF STEAMSHIPS

Northwestern Commercial Company will Place at Least two Vessels on the Seattle-Seward Run

That Seward and tributary country will be well supplied with ocean transportation next year, can now be given out as a certainty. It is well known that the Alaska Pacific Navigation Company will begin about May, next year to run a fast boat between Seattle and this port, covering the distance one way in three and one-half or four days. The Alaska Commercial Company have two large steamers, the Bertha and the Portland, which make regular trips, and at intervals vessels of other lines touch here.

Now comes the Northwestern Commercial Company, a pioneer in the Nome carrying trade, which proposes to establish a steamship line between Seattle and Seward. This announcement was made yesterday by J. D. Trenholme, of the management of the corporation, says the P.-I. of the 11th ult. Mr. Trenholme stated that such a move is made possible through the rapid development of the country and Cook Inlet district.

The plan provides for the construction or purchase of two fast 1,500-ton steamers. Meanwhile, it is proposed to establish the line early in the coming year, the service to be regularly inaugurated about the middle of February. To enter the new field by that time the company will place three of its Nome fleet, the steamships Victoria, Olympia and Tecoma, on the route. They will be continued on the run until the opening of the Nome season, by which time two vessels of the line named will have been purchased or constructed.

Mr. Trenholme stated that the company is inclined to build the steamers. If such a course is adopted it means the building, most likely on Puget Sound, of two fast passenger and freight vessels at a cost of from \$450,000 to \$500,000. That amount of capital, the company believes, should be invested in the two vessels in order to give an adequate service. Plans and specifications are already being drawn with a view to letting the contracts.

The proposed steamers are to have accommodations each for 150 first-class and 250 second cabin passengers and a carrying capacity, exclusive of fuel, of 1,500 tons.

The plans being drawn provide for a vessel of the same general description as the steamship Senator save that they will have greater beam and less draught. They are to be equipped with such powerful machinery and equipment as will enable them to make fast time. Neither vessel will, when fully loaded, draw more than twenty feet.

Mr. Trenholme also stated that his company, which together with the Northeastern Siberian Company owns and operates a fleet of seven vessels each season in the Nome and Siberian trade, has contemplated entering this field for nearly a year past. The rapid development of this country and the building of the Alaska Central Railway, causes a demand for better transportation facilities, and such concerns as the Northwestern Commercial Company are wise in taking advantage of the opportunity.

Seward Public School

HONOR ROLL

Arthur Gray, Roy Ashland, Kenneth, Irvine, Edwin Lowell, Kit Irvine, Pearl Bartholf, Alexandra Lowell.

On last Friday afternoon the children's Thanksgiving entertainment was repeated by request, and the sweet and unaffected way in which they gave their little exercises was enjoyed, by all and especially their attentiveness and order.

After the exercises the children and audience were entertained by pleasant talks by Mr. Sly and Dr. Sleem after which Mr. Gould treated the children to a big waiter of sweets and they all paraded out with happy faces to the sound of the drum beaten by Elmer Herning.

PLACERS CHANGE HANDS

G. W. Dickinson, President A. C. Ry, and Mr. Wash, a Local Mining man are Purchasers

During the first of the week a transfer of some importance took place in Seward. Jack Wash, James Clinton, A. F. Anderson, A. H. Bryant, Thomas Towle, Jerome J. Hachey and C. O. Grant, the original owners, selling a three-fourths interest in thirteen 20-acre placer claims on Falls creek, 26 miles north of town. The line of the Alaska Central railway runs through three of these locations.

Mr. G. W. Dickinson, president of the Alaska Central railway was the purchaser; negotiations here having been carried on and closed by Mr. Hugh C. Baker, acting as his agent. The consideration is not made public.

Last Tuesday Mr. Jack Wash bought the remaining interests of the other vendors, hence he and Mr. Dickinson are now the owners of the property.

Nine of these claims are in the bed of Falls creek and four are bench claims. The work of development will begin at once. Lumber will be delivered on the ground and a system of preparation for next season's operations begun. All the necessary funds for this purpose having been provided. Sufficient work has been performed on this ground to prove its value; the former owners having made money by working it with only the pick, shovel and rocker. At one place a shaft has been sunk 20 feet which shows colors from top to bottom, 10 cents to the pan having been obtained at the surface.

It is the intention of the new owners to put in a flume and wash out the gravel of the creek claims, then work the benches by the hydraulic process.

HARBOR WILL BE FORTIFIED

Matanuska Coal as fine as any for Steaming Purposes and will be Used by Warships

An important piece of news leaked out the other day and was caught by the Gateway man while he was making his rounds hunting for items.

Colonel W. A. Swanitz, chief engineer of the Alaska Central railway, is an old personal friend of Paul Morton, Secretary of the navy.

Colonel Swanitz has forwarded to Secretary Morton a complete description of Resurrection harbor and the Alaska Central railway.

A request from the proper source has also gone forward to the secretary of the navy for the appointment of a commission, whose duty it will be to investigate the advantage, of Resurrection harbor as a naval station.

This commission will also visit the Matanuska coal fields and report on the vast quantities of fuel that has lain dormant for years waiting for the completion of the railway so that those dusky diamonds will be of use to mankind.

It has been thoroughly demonstrated that the Matanuska coal is as fine for steaming purposes as any on this continent. Uncle Sam desires such coal for his war ships. The Alaska Central railroad will lay this coal down at Seward. Uncle Sam's ships will come here after it.

Coaling stations for war ships must be protected; protection of this nature means fortifying the harbor. Resurrection harbor will be fortified before many years. Jot this down in your note book as you may forget it.

Fine Sunday Dinners

Messrs. McCarty & Haefel, of the Moose Cabin Cafe, have inaugurated a new enterprise in connection with their first class restaurant which is meeting with popular favor.

They have commenced a series of several course Sunday dinners; the time of serving being from 3 to 8 o'clock. The dainty cleanliness of their establishment is noticeable by every one entering the door.

This innovation has already been received with appreciation by the people of Seward, and the quality of such Sunday dinners as they are serving will greatly augment their business.

Housewives who are weary of the drudgery of the home during the week, can enjoy a first class meal with their husbands or families without additional worry. Dinner parties of any size can be accommodated, and should a young man desire to give his lady-love a rare treat by dropping into the Moose Cabin Cafe between the hours named, they can all be satisfied. This is a necessity of our town that should be encouraged.

MANY DESIRE INFORMATION

Hence a Brief Description of Seward Townsite is for the first Time Given Publicity

To answer many inquiries that came not only to the editor, but to residents, asking for a description of the town site of Seward, an attempt is hereby made to describe that which in time will be the site of, if not the largest, one of the most important and prosperous cities of Alaska.

Seward, as is well known, is situated on the west side and within one mile of the extreme head of Resurrection Bay. The townsite is located on a gradual slope beginning at the base of the mountain on the west and inclined toward the east and south to the waters edge, as the townsite in a measure juts out into the harbor. It is bounded on the east and south by the waters of Resurrection Bay.

Lowell creek, quite a large mountain stream, flows from west to east through the town a little north of the center. To give some idea of the fall, which in the future will be useful for sewerage purposes, elevations along this stream are given. It should be here stated that Jefferson, a cross street 100 feet in width, is traversed by Lowell creek, and that in the course of time this stream will be boxed in and covered over.

Beginning on First avenue, on the west side of the townsite, the elevation is 125 feet above low tide. Second avenue 110 feet, Third avenue 100 feet, Fourth avenue 80 feet, Fifth avenue 60 feet, Sixth avenue 45 feet, Seventh avenue 30 feet. Those streets bordering on salt water are but a few feet above sea level, the water here averaging about 17 feet.

All avenues run north and south and are 80 feet in width. Cross streets, which are named after the presidents, are 66 feet in width with the exception of Jefferson street, as above stated. Alleys 20 feet in width run from north to south. The blocks are 600 feet north and south by 220 feet east and west.

The soil is gravelly, insuring splendid drainage, which is quite necessary in this moist climate. Regarding timber, it should be remarked that that which recently covered the townsite was of second growth, the first having been cut by the Russians about 137 years ago, and was made up into lumber for the purpose of building ships, a number having been constructed in this harbor. Such trees as spruce, hemlock, birch, balsam of giliaid and cottonwood are the kinds to be found here. Native fruits are huckleberries, Alaskan cranberries, high and low bush, and red currants, much larger and finer than those cultivated.

The townsite company own the water system. Water is taken from a stream southwest of town and is carried by gravity to points required. Next year this important auxiliary to a growing town will be greatly improved.

A great deal of information which may be of interest to many is not included in the foregoing description, as this article is not intended as an advertisement for the townsite company or any individual.

New Placer Locations

McDonald, Kelly and Murphy, three prospectors, have located a number of placer claims at the mouth of Jobsop creek, 27 miles north of Seward and near the line of the Alaska Central railway.

Before locating, by thoroughly prospecting the ground they demonstrated that they had a valuable proposition.

They have commenced the work of development and will continue through the winter. Their work will be principally confined to sinking shafts and preparing for sluicing next season.

Eddie Willis, who recently married Miss Emma Newkirk, the lady who won the \$1000 beauty prize at Madison Square Garden, New York, is an old Klondike partner of A. C. Gould, of Seward. On account of the romantic features about this wedding, illustrated papers all over the country have been giving the story quite an amount of space.

RAILWAY WORK PROGRESSING

End of Track at Snow River—Pile Bridge will soon be Finished—Other Items, Etc.

The end of the track of the Alaska Central railway is now at Snow river. Pile driving for the bridge across that stream will begin on next Monday.

Grading on miles from 24 to 28 is progressing rapidly notwithstanding inclement weather that has been experienced in that neighborhood lately.

Gall & Westerland have taken the contract for clearing mile 29, which shows that the railway is getting further and further toward the interior.

The Construction Company is daily expecting a cargo of dynamite by sailing vessel. This explosive is badly needed to complete the rock cuts on miles 23 to 26.

In anticipation of a large supply of dynamite arriving, the company have constructed two powder houses, each 16x20 feet in size. One is located beyond the northeast corner of the townsite and the other one half mile beyond Bear creek, seven miles north of town.

Extreme high tides during the first of the week did considerable damage to the embankment south of the lagoon outside of town and a large force of men have been kept busy building additional crib work.

Soundings for wharf number 2, which is to be purely a railway dock, have been completed and plans for its construction are being made in the chief engineer's office. The exact location of this wharf has not yet been decided upon.

The company will frame and build several truss bridges this winter and have them ready for immediate erection when required. Plans for the timbers and iron work are now well under way.

INTERESTING TO MINERS

Selections from Exchanges which Tend to Show Importance of Metal Mining

Mining furnishes many illustrations in which stockholders reap large profits in their investments. One of these instances is that of the stockholders in the Corwen Reef Gold Mining company of the Transvaal, South Africa, who in the past sixteen years have paid \$7,100,000 in dividends or 1,168 per cent, an average of 73 per cent a year.—Exchange.

You nearly always hear of the "big strikes," but you seldom stop to figure up the thousands who have profited by the steady little producers. Find a good vein that assays well, and you will never have any trouble in developing it if you don't try to hide your luck from the world. Remember that the news of your "find" should be public property, if you want your country advertised. There is no class more secretive than the prospectors, and at the same time no news which is more welcome or more beneficial to a mining community.—Record Miner.

Mr. Walter Harvey Weed, in a recent number of the Mining Magazine, gives the following interesting facts: The production of metallic copper in the United States for 1903 was 608,044,517 pounds of a value of \$91,506,006. In 1902, 44 per cent, or about 289 million pounds, were produced from an area a mile long and one-half mile wide, at Butte, Montana; 26 per cent, or about 156 million pounds, from a strip of country two to six miles long extending through the center of the Keweenaw Peninsula, Michigan; and 18 per cent, or 189 million pounds, from four isolated districts in Arizona; of that remaining 12 per cent, the greater part comes from Bingham, Utah; Keswick, Cal., and Ducktown, Tenn. The gold and silver mines of the country, notably those of Colorado, contribute about one per cent, of the total production, which is obtained as a by-product in smelting for the precious metals. Of the six largest mines in the world four are in the United States, the Anaconda mine of Butte itself furnishing one-seventh of the entire world's supply of copper, and the Calumet and Hecla nearly one-eighth.—Prospector.

Patrick Rockefeller Backus is training his whiskers for a purpose. When they have attained a length of 30 inches, it is said that Mr. Backus proposes to pose as a Russian patriarch.

Ladies purses and hand satchels at Seward News stand.

ALASKA NEWS

The Post-Intelligencer correspondent at Nome estimates the placer gold output of that district for the season just closed as in excess of \$4,000,000. Charles D. Lane, the largest mining map in the district, says the output will fully equal that of last year.

There is every reason to believe that Alaska will be represented at Washington this winter, as in years past, by volunteer congressmen, but just for fear that there might be a shortage, the Valdez Chamber of Commerce has elected two.—Douglas News.

J. W. Neal, the government farmer of Copper Center, reports his year's experience as very successful. He raised a fine crop of oats, barley and wheat, though the latter got slightly nipped by frost. Oats matured in excellent shape, producing a fine quality of grain and a very abundant yield. This year, the second of experimental work, the ground produces at least 75 per cent better than last year. As is well known, this summer has been the worst experienced in six years for cold rainy weather, and the fact that grain matured under such unfavorable conditions proves the feasibility of raising in the Copper River valley all the feed required.—Prospector.

The Arctic Brotherhood, at the session held in Seattle, decided that persons outside of Alaska and the Yukon Territory could not become active members of the order. Now if it would make another order to the effect that its meetings and all its business transactions should be confined to the same territorial limits it would be in keeping with its name.

J. W. Allen, a pioneer mining man of Alaska who has spent the past month in the Fairbanks district, is in Seattle and stated to a newspaper reporter that many people, perhaps 5,000 would winter there and that mining operations in the district are active.

"There are," said Mr. Allen, "two creeks that are deemed rich. These are Cleary and Fairbanks. The country has not been searched, let alone prospected properly."

"There will be a good deal of work done in the Tanana district this winter. Until this summer there has been no machinery or the creeks. Miners had to wait for winter to haul it out from the town."

"I heard of a company which expended as much as \$2,000 in hauling machinery only 12 miles from town."

"Last winter's work was roughly estimated as having produced a million dollars. There is some shallow ground but most of the ground is deep. There is more water than in the Klondike. Work was done last winter on a small scale, by means of wood fires and light machinery."

"I should not," added Mr. Allen, "advise people to go there until next spring. There are enough people there to do all the work that is to be done and only just about sufficient supplies for them."

TANSINA CREEK GOLD

Alfred Lowell Tells of his Placer Claim Three Miles South of Seward

Editor Gateway:

One week ago I went to my placer claim on a creek three miles south of town for the purpose of fixing up the camp and washing out a few pans of gravel from the bottom of the creek.

After reaching there, I took three pans of gravel from the creek bottom and obtained an average of 25 cents from each pan. With a flume, from \$25, to \$30 per day to the man could be cleaned up at this rate.

We call this stream Tansina creek. While walking along it, at the time mentioned I saw a yellow spot on the bed rock. I picked it up and found it was a gold nugget. Its value proved to be \$133, and I am now wearing it as a watch charm.

We intend to put in a flume there next summer and work at sluicing the creek bottom during the season. We will require plenty of lumber for this work.

Yours truly

ALFRED LOWELL

Seward, Alaska, Dec. 8, 1904.

If you must drink, then drink the best Chase & Sanborns coffee at Brown & Hawkins.