

THE KLONDIKE GOLD FIELDS IN ALASKA.

The United States Government in 1867 paid Russia \$7,200,000 for the Territory of Alaska.

Alaska has paid back her purchase money in gold four times, having produced during the time it has been a part of the United States about \$30,000,000 of the precious yellow metal.

To-day the eyes of the world are turned toward our frozen acquisition in the north, for within its borders has been discovered an Eldorado, seemingly "richer than Pluto's mine." A few weeks ago the word Klondike, literally translated meaning Deer River, was known to geographers and a few miners on the Yukon; to-day it is on every tongue and is known as the designation, if the reports be but half true, for a gold-bearing district greater in area and richer in character than any the world has known, with the possible exception of California.

The reported gold discoveries of the present day in Alaska and the reported gold discoveries of '49 in California afford many parallels. To the average man the treasures of the coast State were seemingly as inaccessible as are the riches of the Yukon and its tributaries. One was more than 2000 miles across a trackless desert and over snow-bound mountain passes, beset by savages, whose deadly attacks marked the trail with bleaching bones across the Western States; the other is nearly 7000 miles by water, through a rigorous climate, or almost 4000 miles by land and water, with mountain passes to scale as dangerous as those of the Swiss Alps.

The fabulous tales of wealth sent out by the California pioneers were no less wonderful than those brought back by the men who braved the last cold season in the Klondike mineral belt,

border. They were discovered, as has been said, by a party of "tenderfeet," who, against the advice of the old-timers in the district, wandered "over yonder in the Klondike" and struck it rich. From Klondike comes much of the gold and from Klondike seems to come all the excitement. A few "tenderfeet," going it blind, have stirred up the Nation. Out of the regions of their discovery has come, it is estimated, \$2,000,000 worth of gold during the present summer. Nearly all of that gold has found its way into the United States.

It is hard to tell where the Alaska gold fields are located except that in a general way the best of them are along the Yukon. There are a few "lode" miners near Juneau and along the southeast coast of the Territory (the most accessible part of it), but the ore is of low grade and mining is made profitable only by the most careful management.

The placer mines, from which prospectors are said now to be lining their pockets with gold, are in the region remote from civilization, little known, and, on account of its uncertainties, dangerously alluring to the average man. This gold-producing country of the interior is in the vicinity of the Yukon near where that great river turns to the west in its course to the sea. Before the discoveries in the Klondike the most productive districts had been along Forty Mile Creek, partly in British and partly in American territory, and the Birch Creek district, all in American territory.

Along all of the river in this section, tributaries to the Yukon, gold diggings exist, and in many places pay the prospector well for his trouble. In all the immense country over

unheeding, crowding into the Alaska-bound steamers without anything like enough supplies or enough money to see them through ten days of travel on land. Miners who have been there say that such as those will perish.

How to Reach the New Gold Fields.

There are two general routes to the Klondike district. From Chicago both lead to Seattle, and there diverge. One goes by ocean steamer west and a little north, and passes through Dutch Harbor, at the extreme end of the southwest Alaskan peninsula. From there the steamer turns north and continues on to St. Michael's Island, a little above the mouth of the Yukon, in Bering Sea. At that point passengers are transferred to the river steamer to begin the long journey up the Yukon, which winds northward and eastward, and finally brings the traveler to Dawson City, now the principal town in the mining district, although sixty-five miles from the Klondike fields.

The cost of the trip from Chicago this way, as prospecting miners usually travel, is \$251.50. It is divided as follows: From Chicago to Seattle (second class), \$51.50; from Seattle to Dawson City, \$200.

In time the trip costs thirty days—four from Chicago to Seattle, sixteen

The Centre of the Gold Region.

Dawson City, the centre of the new mining region, although sixty-five miles distant from the Klondike, is said to be a typical mining camp—minus the guns. The British Government enforces its laws in Dawson, and those laws prohibit the use of firearms, so few men carry guns. The laws of the camp are enforced by mounted po-

but they do send delegates to the National political conventions. The judicial function there is exercised by a district court, established in 1884. The courts sit alternately at Sitka and Wrangle. [How odd for a court to sit at Sitka and Wrangle.]

And speaking of Wrangle, among the things Alaska has done for this country aside from stirring up the present



A PLACER MINE IN THE KLONDIKE GOLD FIELDS.

lice, whose captain is a civil officer. Though there are said to be 3000 people in Dawson, few houses have been built, for the principal reason that lumber is \$100 per 1000 feet. The general fear is, of course, that there will be great suffering there this winter, and it will be increased, it is expected, by the rush of unprepared prospectors who sailed for the new fields immediately on learning what luck had befallen those who have but recently returned.

To give an accurate idea of the cost of living in Dawson City, the price list of a general store there is herewith given:

Flour, per 100 pounds	\$12.00
Moose ham, per pound	1.00
Caribou meat, per pound	.65
Rice, per pound	.25
Sugar, per pound	.25
Bacon, per pound	.40
Butter, per roll	1.50
Eggs, per dozen	1.50
Better eggs, per dozen	2.00
Salmon, each	\$1 to 1.50
Potatoes, per pound	.15
Turnips, per pound	1.00
Tea, per pound	.50
Coffee, per pound	.50
Dried fruits, per pound	.35
Canned meats	.50
Beans, per pound	.75
Lemons, each	.50
Oranges, each	1.50
Tobacco, per pound	1.50
Liquors, per drink	.50
Shovels	2.50
Picks	5.00
Coal oil, per gallon	1.00
Overalls	7.50
Underwear, per suit	\$5 to 5.00
Shoes	5.00
Rubber boots	\$10 to 15.00

Alaska and Its Resources.

In the purchase of Alaska, the United States acquired a Territory more than half a million square miles in extent, a part of it within the arctic circle and in the region of everlasting ice and snow, where, during part of the summer, there is continuous day and during the winter continuous, dreary night. The Alaskan coast line is greater than our Atlantic seaboard, and the entire population of whites, Eskimos and fierce Indians, who are called the Apaches of the north, is not much more than that of a ward division in Chicago.

In acquiring the Alaskan Territory, though the United States moved its center, figured in geographical miles, not in area or population, as far west as San Francisco. The country now extends from about the sixty-fifth degree of longitude up at the far east corner of Maine to the 122d degree up at the far northwest tip of the Alaskan mainland. This is taking no account of the little island of Attu, 1000 miles out in the Pacific, beyond the Hawaiian group, which, since the purchase of Alaska, has really been our western land limit.

The United States, therefore, may almost say with England that the sun never sets on its possessions.

The principal river in Alaska, the Yukon, up which prospectors have to work their weary way to reach the gold fields was called by Schowatka, the Alaskan Nile. It rises a little more than 200 miles above Sitka, in the southern part of Alaska, and then strikes northward, following a broad circle to the west before it empties into Bering Sea through an extensive delta. Six hundred miles in from the

gold excitement one of the most forward was to involve it in disputes with England on the boundary question and the seal fisheries business.

Both of these disputes threatened war, but white-winged peace settled over the situation in each case and brought the suggestion of that newly invented English-American institution—arbitration. However, the boundary question is not settled yet, and the British lion is even now roaring a little and angrily swishing its tail because of a diplomatic (the British call it un diplomatic) note from Secretary of State Sherman demanding that British vessels "keep off the grass" as it were in the seal fishing grounds.

The Boundary Question.

It was not unexpected, of course, that the discovery of gold in the Klondike region would revive in a measure the old question of a boundary line between Alaska and the British Northwest Territory.

The Klondike fields are considerably east of Fort Cudahy and Dawson City, and both of these are on British soil. Into the new regions, though, American miners first ventured and made the first discoveries of gold. Since then hundreds of them have trooped over the border, staked out their claims in the rich hills and begun to dig. Should the Canadian Government pass an exclusion act all of these miners, of course, would be dispossessed.

The difficulty of enforcing such an act, especially on miners who have staked out their claims, is at once ap-



MINERS CROSSING THE BORDER.

parent. The result in retaliation by the Government of the United States is also easily imagined. The Dominion Government has already established a custom house on the border, and is doing a fair business collecting duty on the goods that go into the new country, and miners think they will be satisfied with that. The exclusion of Americans would practically close the country for a time, for the best of the means of transportation to that frozen region are owned by American companies.

In the past miners of any nationality have been free to enter any new diggings and stake out their claims without restriction. Canadian miners are now free to work across the border in the Alaskan fields. What the result of an exclusion act would mean to Canada in a retaliatory measure by the United States, Canadians know better than they can be told.

It is not believed, however, that Canada will attempt to exclude American miners. It is true that the United States excludes Chinese, but Canada probably recognizes that keeping out Chinamen and barring the way for Americans are two different things.

Queer Place of Refuge.

The passengers on a Tent street trolley car were treated to an unusual sight early yesterday morning. As the car was bowling along in the vicinity of Parish street a couple of sparrows, one in chase of the other, swooped down in front of the car. The pursued, by a quick flank movement, eluded its tormentor by darting under the roof of the front platform, and before the motorman knew what was up the bird had perched on his hand which gripped the lever. There it sat contentedly, while the passengers craned their necks to get a view of the odd spectacle. The sparrow didn't seem to mind the fact that the motorman's hand was constantly turning around as he manipulated his lever, and, after riding on its queer perch for fully a block, chirped its thanks and flew away.—Philadelphia Record.

"Breakfast Picnics."

People get up early in the morning out in Nebraska, and from this habit some enterprising social leader has evolved an idea which has become a fad in the neighborhood of Grand Island, where "breakfast picnics" are in vogue. The guests start out at 4 o'clock, breakfast in the woods, and come home before the sun makes things too hot for comfort.—New York Sun.

AGRICULTURAL HALL CASE.

Over a Thousand Increase on the Pension Rolls.

STATE SEIZED THE WHISKEY.

Dismissed With Costs—A Manslayer Pardoned—A Reward by the Governor—Palmetto Chips.

There has been a large increase in the number of the pensioners of the State this year. In all 1,127 new names appear upon the rolls. This year great pains have been taken under the new act to care for all applications filed and there will hardly be any complaints. The clerks in the comptroller's office are busy transferring all the figures to the big final pension sheet, and the board hopes to have the checks for the individual pensioners in the several counties go forward to the clerks of court immediately. This year almost half of the pensioners come under the head of class C, No. 3—widows. Last year they numbered 1,966. The total number of pensioners of all classes is 5,841 against 4,714 last year. The following facts about the \$100,000 appropriation which is the same this year as last will be of interest to the pensioners: Last year the class A pensioners received \$8 a month apiece or \$96 for the year. The total amount paid them was \$5,184. This year the class A pensioners will get nearly \$1,800 less, the act having reduced their monthly payments to \$6. Last year the class B pensioners got \$29.10 each, or a total of \$9,578.90. The class C men drew \$45,842 and the widows \$98,140.40, each getting \$19.40 apiece. This year the class A pensioners will draw \$72 apiece. The class B men will get in the neighborhood of \$15.50 apiece. The expenses last year were something over \$900 paid to the several county boards of pensions. This year the expenses will run up to about \$1,400, under the provisions of the new law.

The carload of whiskey shipped to Anderson after Judge Simonton's decretal order and injunction, was seized by the constables by the Governor's advice. The reason given by the Governor is that the shippers consigned the liquor to themselves as agents and not to a regularly appointed agent in this State, who happened to be a resident of the State.

The State authorities admit that the decretal order settles quite thoroughly the question of shipping bottles by the carload lot, yet at the same time it is pretty certain that any such shipments not made under the exact conditions of the Gukenheimer shipment will be followed by legal proceedings. There can hardly be a doubt that the State will not attempt to interfere with a shipment made exactly as in the Florence case. So far as sales by the case or in cases are concerned, there can be no question about them so long as the regularly appointed agent of a house in some other State sells the stuff in the shape it was received.

Last week a committee of six leading negro preachers of the Methodist church appointed by the conference called on Governor Ellerbe, presenting him with a report adopted by the conference dealing with lynchings and assaults. Serious apprehension was expressed at "the growing disregard of law and order manifest throughout the country, North, East South, and West. The orderly investigation and punishment of crime by our courts are often supplanted by excited and prejudiced judgment and the cruel and inhuman taking of life by mobs." Governor Ellerbe expressed himself as pleased with the position taken by the conference.

There will be no further attempt on the part of Mr. Wesley or his attorneys now to get possession of the agricultural hall property at least until the hearing of the appeal in November before the United States court of appeals and the final determination of that appeal. On the 11th Attorney General Barber wired the assistant attorney general from Greenville, that the supersedeas had been granted by Judge Simonton and the execution stayed. Judge Townsend, in accordance with this order, has amended the bond and forwarded it to Judge Simonton.

The State of the 12th says there is locked up in police headquarters in Columbia a negro Pullman car porter named D. W. Alexander, who has been arrested by Chief Daly upon suspicion. If he proves to be the right man, a very serious charge will be made against him. He is said to have assaulted a lady on a Pullman car. He jumped from the car when the chief made for him, but was caught.

The Secretary of State has issued a commission to Louis Beltrus, F. L. Meyer, O. G. Marjehoff and R. E. Bicaise, of Charleston, as corporators of the Charleston Fire Department Aid Association. The purpose of the company is to aid its sick and bury its dead members.

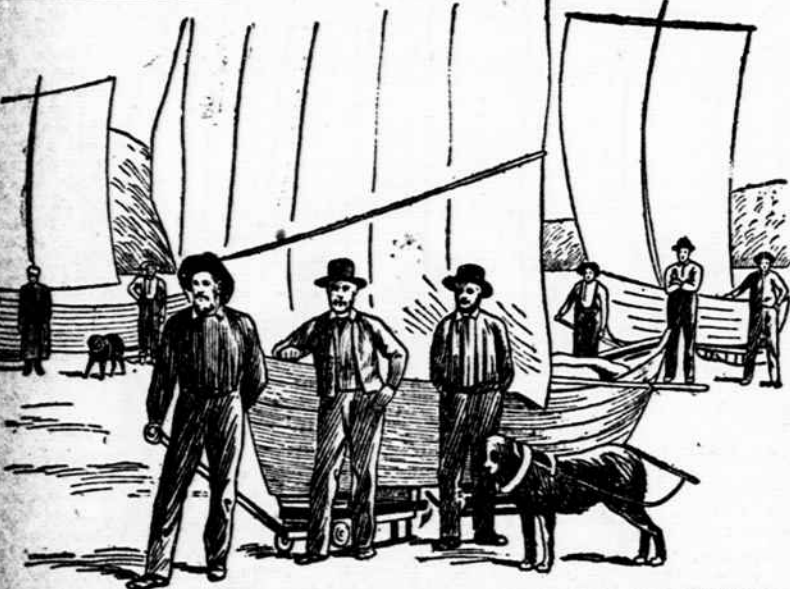
The assistant attorney general has received from Greenville the copies of the final orders signed by Judge Simonton in the three other "original package" cases. Each case has been dismissed with the costs falling on the liquor people.

Governor Ellerbe has granted a pardon to Chas. B. Hatfield, who was convicted of manslaughter in Darlington county in October, 1896, and sentenced by Judge Aldrich to a term of three years in the State penitentiary.

In an altercation at a colored Baptist church at Yorkville Henry Jones, alias Henry Fry, shot and killed Andy Darby. Both the parties are colored. The fad originated over a white woman of bad character.

Governor Ellerbe has offered a reward of \$100 for the apprehension and conviction of Pat Dreher, the negro who killed his wife at Lewisdale a short time ago.

There are now two "original package" establishments in Laurens.



AS THE MINERS JOURNEY DOWN LAKE LABARGE DURING THE WINTER.

and in both cases those who returned brought back with them great nuggets of the precious stuff that left little or no doubt in the mind of the hearer. The California miner in the song who had so many nuggets that he was accustomed to "go a hatful blind" finds his parallel in the Yukon miner who claims to have "washed out" \$212 in one panful of dirt—a process that requires ten or twelve minutes.

Poor Man's Mines.
The Alaska and California gold fields are alike also in being placer mines. Placer mining is commonly called "poor man's mining," for the reason that it is done without machinery, while the implements required in the work are few and of small cost. A placer miner can get along very well with a pick, shovel and gold pan. If the dirt is not rich he can accomplish better results by running it through a sluice box, but where the yield is in nuggets instead of fine gold he prefers to "pan" it.

The great Klondike strike was made nine months ago, but nothing was known of it in the United States until June 15, when a vessel called the Excelsior arrived in San Francisco laden with miners from the Klondike, who in turn were laden with gold.

They told almost incredible tales of the richness of the newly discovered district, where fortunes had been accumulated in a few months. Experienced miners and "tenderfeet" seemed to have shared good fortune alike, and with some justice, too, for the credit of the discovery of the new gold fields is due to the inexperienced men.

Another vessel brought to Seattle a second party of successful prospectors and a ton and a half of gold. These men had endured peril and undergone

which the placer mining extends it is estimated that up to last year there were 2000 miners. The districts in which most of them worked were in a broad belt of gold-producing rock, through which quartz veins carrying gold occur frequently. Through the gold-bearing rocks the streams have cut deep gullies and canons, and in their beds the gold which was contained in the rock is concentrated. The mining of this country consists, therefore in washing out the gravel of these beds. So the miners worked, being fairly well paid for their labor, until the "tenderfeet" made the Klondike discovery. That was nine months or so ago, and the news of it is just reaching the outside world. It was not long in reaching the miners along Forty Mile and Birch Creeks, though, and they shouldered their picks and moved forward in a wild rush at the first word of the new lucky strike. As a result gold dust and nuggets by the ton are turned into the mints out on the coast, and men who never before rose above the level of the commonest of miners have come back to civilization and comfort loaded with gold to last them a lifetime. Take as an illustration this list of returned miners who came on the Excelsior:

Brought from Alaska	Value of claims.
T. S. Lippy	\$5,000
F. G. H. Bowker	90,000
Joe La Due	10,000
J. B. Hollinseed	25,500
William Kulja	17,000
James McMann	15,000
Albert Galbraith	15,000
Neil Macarthur	15,000
Douglas Macastur	15,000
Bernard Anderson	14,000
Robert Krook	14,000
Fred Lendesser	13,000
Alexander Orr	11,500
John Marks	11,500
Thomas Cook	10,000
M. S. Norcross	10,000
J. Emminger	10,000
Con Stamatin	8,250
Albert Fox	5,100
Greg Stewart	5,000
J. O. Hoetwood	5,000
Thomas Flack	5,000
Louis B. Rhoads	5,000
Fred Price	5,000
Alaska Commercial Co.	250,000
Total	\$399,850

A Perilous Journey.

Every one of these men has a story to tell of the vast riches of the new gold fields, but they tell another story, too—a story of hardship, trial and suffering through long winter days, when the sun was smiling on this earth's other pole and leaving them in miserable cold and darkness. They tell a story of prodigious travels, of staggering journeys and the dangers that beset the traveler. They tell what a trip it is to reach the gold fields, and when they get through the faint-hearted prospector, who isn't thoroughly convinced that he wants to undergo the trial, decides to forego the trip to Alaska and dig up his wealth at home or go without. Some of the gold-mad adventurers, though, rush on

from Seattle to St. Michael's Island, and ten up the Yukon to Dawson City by the fast boat. The distance in general figures is 2250 miles from Chicago to Seattle, 2500 miles to St. Michael's Island and 1890 miles up the Yukon to Dawson. A total of about 6600 miles.

The other way to the Klondike, the "mountain route," is shorter in miles, but equally long in the time it requires and a great deal more difficult. By this route the traveler sails more directly north to Juneau, which is 899 miles from Seattle, and then goes by lake and river and over the mountains 1000 miles to the new mining territory. On arrival at Juneau the traveler changes to a smaller boat and sails 100 miles north to Dyea. From there he has a portage of twenty-seven miles through the Chilkoot Pass. The last half-mile of this pass is over a glacier and the severest of climbing. Chilkoot Indians are employed to pack supplies to the top of the pass, but from there on the traveler has to pack his own load.

After getting through the Chilkoot Pass the traveler reaches Lake Lindeman. At that point is a sawmill, where boats are sold for \$75 each. Travelers who do not care to pay that price can purchase lumber and build their own boats. The lumber can be bought for \$100 a thousand feet, and about 500 feet are required to build a boat that will answer the purpose. Still other travelers carry whipsaws and get out their own lumber, and a man handy with a saw and hammer can build a boat in three or four days. To continue the trip, though, a boat is necessary and by some means or other one must be had.

After securing his boat the traveler floats down Lake Lindeman and Lake Bennett and then has half a mile of portage where his boat has to be moved on rollers. There is any amount of rollers to be had, though, for earlier beaters of the path have left them. This half mile overland brings the traveler to Lake Tagish, through which he goes six miles and over a quarter of a mile of portage to Mud Lake, and on to the White Horse Rapids. Here there is another portage of three-quarters of a mile, and the traveler brings his boat to Lake Labarge. From there on the journey is through Thirty Mile River, the Lewis River, 150 miles to Five Finger Rapids, to the Yukon at Fort Belkirk, and then down stream 250 miles to Dawson.

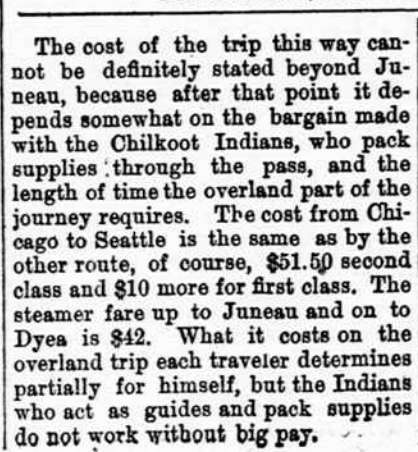
The cost of the trip this way cannot be definitely stated beyond Juneau, because after that point it depends somewhat on the bargain made with the Chilkoot Indians, who pack supplies through the pass, and the length of time the overland part of the journey requires. The cost from Chicago to Seattle is the same as by the other route, of course, \$51.50 second class and \$10 more for first class. The steamer fare up to Juneau and on to Dyea is \$42. What it costs on the overland trip each traveler determines partially for himself, but the Indians who act as guides and pack supplies do not work without big pay.

coast it is more than a mile wide and the volume of its water is so great as to freshen the ocean ten miles out from land.

The principal cities of Alaska are Juneau and Sitka. They are both thriving towns, and probably they will thrive from now on, for a time at least, as they have never thriven before.

Alaska is ruled by a Territorial Governor, who just now is J. G. Brady, recently appointed by President McKinley to succeed James A. Sheakley. The Governor's residence is in Sitka. The citizens up in that frozen country do not vote for President of course, being under Territorial government,

DAWSON CITY, IN THE KLONDIKE GOLD REGION.



MINERS CROSSING THE CHILKOOT PASS.

great hardships in accumulating the fortunes they brought, and they told a story that had a dark as well as a bright side. To follow their example means a risk of wealth, health and even life, but for those who are willing to take the chances the prospect they hold out is alluring.

Location of the Klondike District.
The richest of the mines in the Alaska region seem to be in the Klondike, a few miles over the British