

The Tanana Gold Fields

Special Number

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, MAY, 1904

Special Number

DISCOVERY OF FAIRBANKS PLACER MINES

Narrative of Discovery.

Felix Pedro discovered the Fairbanks placer mines in July, 1902. Pedro is an Italian, 42 years old. He was for many years a coal miner at Carbonado, Wash., and had been prospecting for three years in the Tanana hills before he made his rich discoveries on Pedro and Cleary creeks. His adventures in the Kitchumstock range, his long summer tours afoot, his dangers from the baldfaced grizzlies, the bull moose and other animals, how he was eaten by mosquitoes and how he ate his dogs, his travels through deep, wooded valleys, across snow-swept plains and over the high peaks of the Alaskan range, ever in search of the yellow metal—these would fill a volume and equal the richest book of travels in interest. His modesty and candor in relating the stories of his wanderings, hairbreadth escapes and final success, are indicative of the man's character. He has found his fortune, and has the good sense to appreciate its value.

In the summer of 1898 Pedro, in company with a guide at Kitchumstock and followed the foothills down the Tanana, on a prospecting trip. They were the first white men to penetrate these wilds. Late in the season they lost their bearings, and provisions growing short, they essayed to find the mouth of the Tanana, from which place they hoped to make their way to Circle City. A boat was constructed, and on their downward trip Pedro prospected the bars at the mouths of all tributaries. On one of these bars he secured 25 cents to the pan of coarse gold in the top gravel. Here a cache was made of the tools unnecessary for the homeward trip, the boat was moored in a convenient place to more conspicuously mark the spot, and the journey resumed across country, in an endeavor to reach the Yukon between Circle and Ramparts. This feat was accomplished, after many hardships and privations, some time during the winter. For the next two years Circle City was the base of supplies, and yearly excursions were made by Pedro and his friends in the vain endeavor to relocate the lost placers.

In the summer of 1900 Pedro and Frank Costa prospected Fish Creek, and found gold on Fairbanks and other tributaries, replenishing their exhausted stores by working in the mines in the Circle district.

In August, 1901, Barnette and Smith were trying in vain to push the steamer Lavelle Young through Bates Rapids, intending to establish a trading post high up the Tanana. From his lookout on the dome at the head of Pedro and Cleary creeks, Pedro first saw a smoke far across the Tanana Valley, and a close examination with

that it was rising from a steamer. He watched the steamer descend the Chena River, which Pedro had before. Hastily informing his friends of the locality of the steamer, he crossed the valley to the boat, tied to the bank where the growns. The merchant representatives of their class in the Tanana Valley, passed a pleasant time. Captain Barnette informed

Pedro of his inability to get over the rapids, and of his intention to establish a trading post on the Chena. Pedro informed the merchant that he had found "prospects" on several of the near-by creeks, and then and there it was agreed to establish a post on the bank where the steamer was then tied up. The next day Pedro and Costa renewed their packs from the ample supplies on the steamer, and again disappeared in the wilderness.

The next day Barnette and Smith began to unload their goods. A small house was erected for the use of Captain and Mrs. Barnette, tents were put up as warehouses, and assisted by Jim Eagle, Dan McCarty, Ben Atwater and John Johnson, they soon built a log store, and Barnette's trading post was completed—the beginning of civilization on the Tanana.

The first year at the post was uneventful—a stampede to the Goodpasture River and a good trade with the Tinneh for martin skins comprising the only events worthy of note. That winter Dan McCarty went out to Valdez to meet Frank J. Cleary, Mrs. Barnette's brother, and these two young men crossed the mighty Alaskan range in midwinter, came down the Delta River, and amid hardships and suffering they reached the post on February 20, 1902, traveling for many days without food. At this time there were neither trails nor roadhouses. On March 10, Captain and Mrs. Barnette left the post for Valdez with dog teams, loaded with rich furs purchased during the winter. They went across the Tanana Valley, up the Delta, and climbed the Alpine passes of the St. Elias range, and though often in water and snow reached Valdez in safety. From this point they took a steamer for Seattle.

In April, Pedro, accompanied by Tom Gilmore, a character equally well known for his persistence and endurance, came into the post and renewed their prospecting outfit. They had \$100 only, but Mr. Cleary gave them a complete outfit, charging the balance to his personal account. Early in July Pedro came back to the post and reported that Gilmore had gone to Circle City. He was sick, but was given both medicines and provisions, and returned to the mountains. On the 28th he again came into the store, very much elated, and announced secretly to Mr. Cleary that he had "struck it." He had found rich prospects on Pedro Creek, but in his nervous and weak condition had been unable to sink to bedrock, though he had gold to show as evidence of his success.

Pedro was known to be a careful and competent miner and prospector. He had been followed so often by others who sought to get the advantage of his information and superior knowledge of the creeks, that when his prospects on Pedro and Cleary grew to be a certainty, he was nervously afraid his followers would descend upon him and stake the creeks before he could get his friends located, as they had done before. To avoid them he camped over on Bear Creek, crossing the divide morning and evening, sinking without fires until some depth had been reached, and carrying the waste up a ladder in a sack. He succeeded in locating many good claims for himself and friends—to which he was certainly entitled by reason of his arduous labors and great success.

His report at the post was quietly made known, and Costa, Cleary and other friends stampeded and staked. Pedro staked Discovery on both Pedro and Cleary Creeks, and the splendid dome between these golden streams is his monument—Pedro's Dome. From its summit one

overlooks the broad Tanana Valley, framed on its southern limits by the great peaks of the Alaskan range, and Mt. McKinley on its western flank, the royalist of them all. Pedro Creek was named after himself and Cleary after Frank J. Cleary, his friend.

Accompanied by Ed Quinn and Bill Smallwood, Pedro set out for the creeks secretly and by night. They sunk a hole to bedrock and uncovered seven feet of pay dirt. Other holes were sunk, and pay was located on Pedro, Cleary and Gold Stream. When the locations had been prepared Cleary and McCarty took their way through the wilderness to Circle City to record the claims.

Last May Judge Wickersham visited the creeks during a recess of his court, and upon his return made the following report:

"Made a personal inspection of the mines on Gold Stream, Pedro and Cleary creeks. A dozen pans from the top of the dump on Pedro's Discovery claim on Cleary Creek yielded an average of over 7 cents to the pan. Noble brought five pans from the face of the drift in the shaft and they yielded 25 cents to the pan. The pay streak is located for more than 100 feet in width and 800 feet long on this claim, and is at least six feet thick. On 2 above on Pedro Creek, Jack Costa's claim, the dump yielded 8 cents to the pan, and Costa informed me that his pay streak had been located 150 feet wide, six feet deep, and the length of his claim. A rough calculation shows that if his calculation is correct there is about half a million dollars in his claim. Discovery on Pedro panned as well as Costa's. On Gold Stream, Dan McCarty's claim panned an average of 8 cents, and Willig's but little less.

"Pay has been located for six miles or more on Pedro and Gold Stream, into which Pedro empties. Cleary Creek heads just over a low divide from Pedro, which extends the placer field that much further north. Coarse, shotty gold has been located on Fairbanks Creek, and prospecting is being pushed on a number of tributaries of Fish and Gold Stream. Rich pay is known to exist on three creeks—Pedro, Cleary and Gold Stream, and the future of the camp is beyond doubt. Other creeks are prospecting high, and the prospectors are confident. What the creeks need is systematic and careful prospecting."

This authentic report shows the condition on the creeks in May last. During the early part of July half interests in some claims on Fairbanks were purchased for \$50. To-day these same interests can not be purchased for \$50,000. Wolf and Chatham have proved to be the heaviest producers so far found in the district, and altogether over forty miles of rich pay has been uncovered.

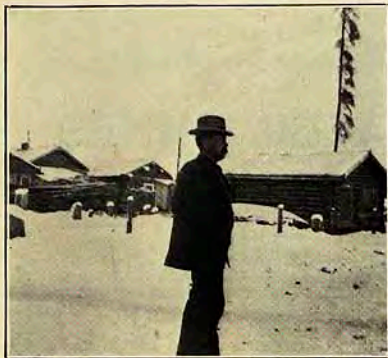
No man can visit the Tanana Valley without being deeply impressed. It is a wonderland in a wonderful country. It is the poor man's, and the rich man's, and the sportsman's paradise. The time is at hand when it will be developed by American genius, American capital, and American enterprise, and there will be no more prosperous section in all this progressive land for American brawn and American brain. It is the place for the hustler, for the man who wants to go ahead and get on. The climate is splendid and invigorating, the scenery beautiful, the distances magnificent, the mountains grand, the rivers majestic, and the fields fertile.

LOTS OF ROOM FOR PROSPECTORS.

More Good Creeks May Yet Be Opened Up.

Fairbanks News, October 24.

Mr. A. St. J. McAuley and partner, Dr. Overgaard, have just returned from a cross-country trip over a large part of the district. They think that the best part of the district has not been prospected as yet. That there are a score or more creeks which give as good surface prospects and general indications of being gold



H. J. MILLER

bearers as those already worked. The whole country gives evidence of being of glacial formation. The exposed rocks show signs and the ridges are smooth and well worn, with slide rock everywhere.

In an interview Dr. Overgaard said: "We passed down between Smallwood and Fish Creeks, where we saw many places to which we will return to ascertain what bedrock is like. Going down the slope we came to Little Chenoa. The valley is wide and flat, cut with sloughs, channels and swamps. We made our way over beaver dams, of which there are many. Beavers could be shot from the banks at nearly any time. The gravel bars in the Little Chenoa contain gold, but probably not enough to pay to work. Cowles and Anaconda, two tributaries to Little Chenoa, were followed for some distance and crossed. Several prospect holes were started, but none working at the time we were there, as everybody is in the hills looking for winter meat. They are both good looking creeks, from twenty to ninety miles long, with tributaries more than we could count from the hills. Going from Anaconda over a divide we dropped into the Big Chenoa about ten miles below the north fork, where we did a little hunting and prospecting. There indications look very favorable. The upper part of the Little Chenoa and the north fork are divided by one continuous mountain ridge, and tributaries and gulches running to both sides. The creeks have the appearance of being more shallow. Rim rock can be seen on both sides, and there is much more wash gravel in the beds than in the more prospected part of the new district. There is plenty of water in all the creeks. The country rock is micascist, mixed with numerous quartz breaks and ledges. Some of the creeks seem to consist solely of quartz gravel and boulders. All in all we got the impression that there is no reason to believe that Pedro, Cleary and Fairbanks Creeks are the only pebbles in the district. We are now getting into shape to go back and demonstrate the fact this winter. We have faith in the creeks we saw, and hope to show that it is not the immediate vicinity that has the gold. In the part of the country we saw, and that was a small part, you could put 1,500 men at work and prospect and there would still be enough left unprospected for every man in Alaska to stake and secure as many claims as he will want. This district is a promising field for the hardy prospector.

The Fairbanks Miner.

On May 1, 1903, the Fairbanks Miner made its appearance. The paper was typewritten, and but six copies were published. The name of the publisher is not given, but the contributors included Judge Wickersham, the well-known jurists.

Among the many items of interest appear the following:

Fairbanks has a population of more than 1,000 inhabit-

ants, and 387 houses by actual count. An application has been made to the District Court for town organization, though this can not be acted upon until the July term at Rampart. In the meantime the Miner advises the citizens to perfect a consent government by the election of a mayor, a council of seven, and a chief of police to enforce the regulations for sanitary purposes and fire protection.

As we go to press, May 7th, the Chena River in front of Fairbanks is breaking up, and the ice must go out in a few hours. Later—The ice went out at 5 p. m.

GRAVE SITUATION.

Shortage of Provisions Along the River.

Canned Goods About All That Is Left—Meals \$1.50—No Bread on Sale.

Fairbanks News, October 3.

Fairbanks has this week witnessed a struggle that reminds one very forcibly of the grub scare in Dawson in the fall of '97. Immediately upon the announcement being made by the Northern Commercial Company that the company was entirely out of flour, bacon, rice, ham and potatoes, a rush to the stores commenced.

The announcement was received with considerable surprise by many of the citizens of Fairbanks and many of the miners upon the creeks. Although both Captain Barnette and Mr. Turner notified many people several weeks ago that the company would not begin to have provisions enough to last the camp throughout the winter.

Many people, well-to-do, had failed to purchase their winter outfits in time, and were compelled to join in the scramble to secure the few remaining staple articles of

diet the company had yet to dispose of.

On Monday morning following the announcement published in last Saturday's paper, the Northern Commercial Company adopted an allowance system for the disposing of the provisions yet remaining on hand. The limit for each person of cornmeal or rolled oats was two 10-pound sacks.

On Thursday the supply of cornmeal was exhausted and only a limited amount of rolled oats remained. The supply of canned meats and canned fruits still holds fairly good. There still remains on sale some fresh potatoes and onions, limited to twenty pounds to the individual. There is yet considerable sugar and lard left, and Worcestershire and pepper sauce straight, and a fairly good supply of dried fruits.

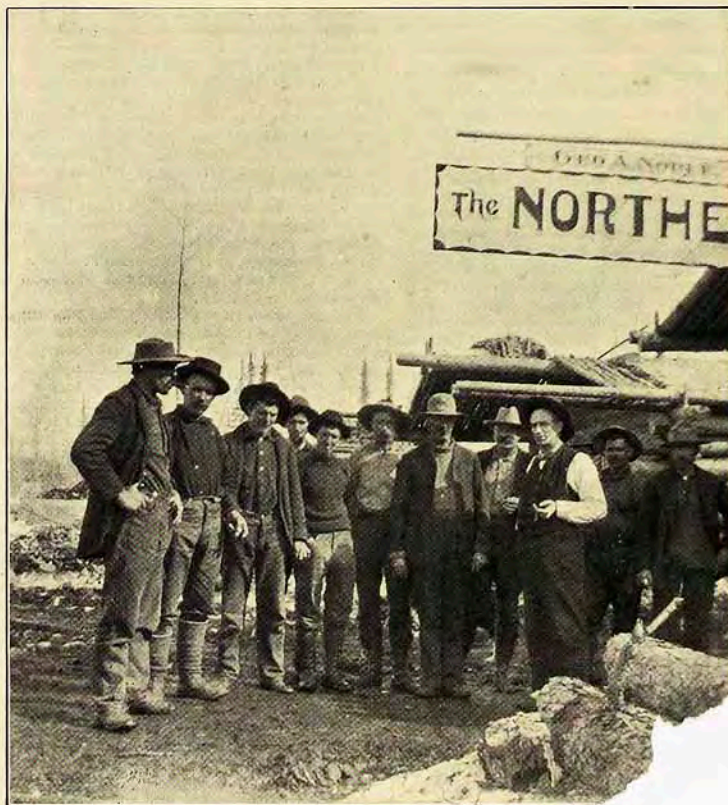
The only other general merchandise store in Fairbanks is the one owned by Mr. St. George, and he is almost, if not entirely, out of all the staple articles. He has still some tea and coffee on sale.

In Chena, the neighboring town, the supply of provisions at the present time is very little better. There are two stores here, owned by Hendricks & Belt, and the other by Sharp and Kirkpatrick.

Hendricks & Belt have by far the largest supply in the country, but they claim they will have very little more than enough to fill their winter outfit orders that are already on file.

There have been very few attempts by private individuals at cornering the staple articles, which fact is doubtless due to the precautions taken by the companies.

Following the announcement of the shortage of provisions all the restaurants in Fairbanks immediately raised the price of meals to \$1.50, bread took a jump to 50 cents a loaf, and then it was finally taken off the market entirely. There is now no bread on sale in the city.



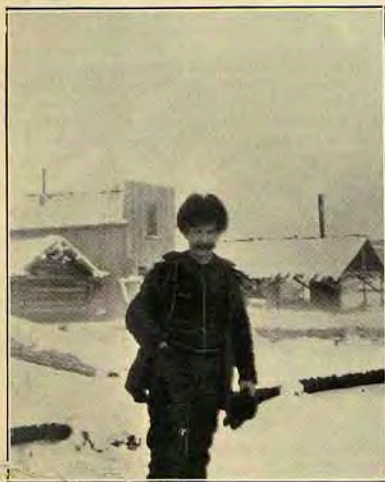
GROUP OF FAIRBANKS MILLIONAIRES

THE TANANA VALLEY AND ITS RESOURCES

The Tanana Goldfields.

The district of Alaska is a vast domain lying in the extreme northwestern corner of the North American continent, on Bering Sea and the North Pacific. It comprises an area of about 577,390 statute square miles, with a seacoast of 26,000 miles, or nearly two and one half times the seacoast of the balance of the United States. The district was acquired by purchase by the United States from Russia for \$7,200,000.

The census for 1900 gives the population of Alaska as 63,592. When we consider the vast difficult attendant



MATHEW MEHAN

upon full and correct enumeration of population in so vast a territory with widely scattered towns, settlements and mining camps, isolated and separated, and without communication of any kind with the outside world, we are forced to believe that the enumeration is, to say the least, not overstated. It is not an extravagant estimate to place the present population of the territory at 100,000. The number of white people in the territory was less than 5000 in 1890.

In the coast region of Southern Alaska, mining for gold, copper and silver has been profitably carried on for a number of years. The development of this industry has been especially rapid since 1900, and it promises to become one of the most important mining districts of the United States.

COAL.

The coal of Alaska embraces lignites, bituminous coal, and some anthracite. The lignites are widely distributed, and have been largely prospected. Coal has been found in nearly every part of the district, both on the coast and in the interior. It has been mined at many localities, but up to the present time only for local consumption, and the aggregate output, of which there are no authentic data available, would not amount to more than a few thousand tons a year. The coal is so widely distributed that it must be regarded as one of the most important resources. In fact, all the rocks of that north of the Coast range of mountains bordering the North Pacific are coal bearing in character, and it is not surprising to place the area of known coal reserves at 100,000 square miles.

WILDERNESS.

The Tanana valley contains vastly more and much more timber than any other streams that traverse the district. The supply is ample for all the needs of the country, but the quality is inferior when compared with the fir of Oregon and Washington. Along the river banks and in the beds of all the creeks the

growth is dense, and the number of large trees is ample for sluice lumber and building purposes. But as the higher altitudes are reached the growth becomes stunted, and the supply for mining purposes will not last many years. However, as machinery replaces the wood fires for thawing the ground, coal from a convenient bed will take the place of wood.

CEREALS.

All cereals of the hardy variety thrive here. Elsewhere will be found a photograph of a turnip raised at Chena, this year, by Mr. George Harrington. It weighed when pulled 17½ pounds. Several others in his garden were fully as large, both in diameter and weight. The garden also contained parsnips, potatoes, lettuce, kale, tomatoes and other plants. Their growth was thrifty, and the flavor superior to that grown in warmer climates. Tomatoes attain a large size, and with proper attention would ripen. Fall sown grain of the hardy varieties will certainly mature, and all kinds of grasses thrive when properly transplanted.

That stock can winter here without shelter or care has been fully demonstrated many times. Five years ago three horses were abandoned near the Delta, and were supposed to have starved during the long winter which followed. This spring they were found by their former owner. They were in splendid condition, and were worked all summer in a pack train between Fairbanks and the creeks. And there are several such instances on record.

FISH AND GAME.

Ptermigan, grouse, caribou, moose and bear abound, while the streams contain many varieties of food fishes, among which are the salmon, pike and greyling, and they are to be found in great abundance.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION.

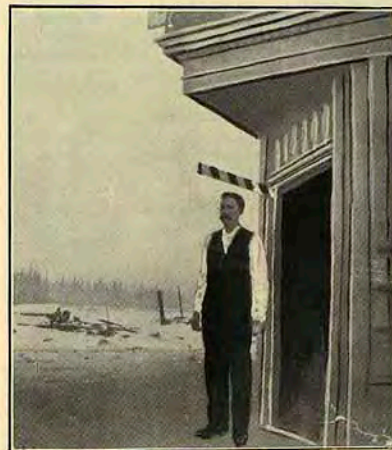
Aside from the dog team and sled, the only means of transportation is controlled by the Northern Commercial Co. and the North American Trading and Transportation Co. They both invite competition, and if the prayers of the miner were answered, it would not be slow in coming. Fairbanks can only be reached by boat from Fort Gibbon, at the mouth of the Tanana. Mails are delivered in summer by the boats, and this winter a contract has been

let for a semi-monthly mail service from Valdez. The Government telegraph line extends from the mouth of the river to Tanana Crossing, where it intersects with the line from Valdez to Eagle.

This magnificent valley is nearly eight hundred miles long, and from one to three hundred miles in width. It is the center of this vast empire, both geographically and commercially, and in the production of gold will soon rival Nome.

FAIRBANKS.

Fairbanks at the present writing (November 1), contains over five hundred houses, and is the home of about



GEORGE HARRINGTON
Proprietor of the Fairbanks Hotel

1200 people. Beside the offices of the Federal officials, Commissioner, Marshal, Clerk of Court, Recorder, etc., it has seven saloons, two stores, two cigar stores, four hotels, one newspaper, two barber shops, one blacksmith shop, one jewelry store, two tin shops, two paint shops, one machinery depot, three large sawmills, four lawyers, four doctors, two meat markets, two drug stores, one hospital, two laundries, two bath houses, two carpenter shops, and two bakeries, which have gone out of business for want of flour. The progress, prosperity and enterprise of any town or district may be very accurately determined by the quantity and value of the freight which is necessary to sustain its commercial life. Fairbanks is firmly established as the distributing point for this section of country. The permanency of her institutions is unquestioned. With an intelligent and comprehensive grasp of the requirements of the situation, the merchants of the town made lavish provision to supply every demand which might arise. But the Fates willed otherwise, and the freight could not be delivered. Commercial affairs and social functions are conducted upon metropolitan lines.

Capital, which is both timid and aggressive, will find here a profitable field for investment, associated closely with those conditions which inspire confidence. The period of speculation has passed and gone, and mining will henceforth be conducted upon methods similar to those governing ordinary industrial enterprises.

The personnel of the city government has attained a high degree of excellence. The leading business institutions of this town are directed by men of conspicuous ability, marked integrity of character, and possessing peculiar qualifications for the positions they severally occupy. The substantial men of the town have given the best possible evidence of their faith in the future of the district by investing their means locally in the creation and building up of enterprises which have added to the



FRANK H. MCGRAW

wealth and importance of the town. With every advantage in her favor, Fairbanks has an assured future. The mineral area will not be exhausted for years to come. Exploration and research will be the means of opening up new territory, and an era of prosperity may be confidently anticipated. Fairbanks will be the hub around which the commercial affairs of the district will revolve. Its population will become more permanent year by year, for it is fast becoming a city of homes. The Tanana gold fields will supply employment for men and capital for years to come.

Fairbanks is situated on the Chena River, about nine miles above its confluence with the Tanana. The Chena River is navigable for river craft until late in the fall, and if desired, a large volume of water can be diverted into the stream at slight expense. A few miles above the town a large slough from the Tanana empties into the river, and the stage of water is at all times affected by the flow in the Tanana. It is estimated that the expenditure of \$1,000 in the construction of wing dams will more than double the flow of water in the Chena when desired.

REVENUES.

The revenues for the fiscal year 1900 were:	
Customs	\$ 57,623.62
Public lands	2,376.32
Tax on seal skins	224,476.47
Rent of Fox Islands	1,200.00
License fees	157,234.94
Total	\$442,911.35

EXPENDITURES.

Territorial Government	\$ 28,655.98
Salaries—Agents at seal fisheries.....	11,473.41
Office of Marshal, etc	17,969.90
Public buildings	475.39
Refuge Station—Point Barrow.....	106.67
Boundary survey	500.00
Education of children	32,970.62
Education of Indians	4,364.30
Protecting fisheries	5,512.47
Steamer Albatross expenses	9,830.93
Supplies for natives	19,100.38
Building for United States Courts....	722.76
Reindeer	12,746.68
Expenses Surveyor General	4,800.00
Maps of Alaska	18.50
Survey of Yukon River	9,780.69
Relief—People in mining region.....	932.48
Total	\$159,961.16

FORMATION AND STRATIGRAPHY.

The gold fields of the Tanana have been spoken of throughout the civilized world. Until the past season that section lying in the Tanana slope of what is known as the Birch Creek Divide has been unexploited. But the Circle district on the Yukon slope, which comprises Birch, Mastadon, Deadwood and other creeks, has poured millions into the lap of commerce. Very little concerning this section is known by the world, beyond the obvious fact that it has been a heavy producer.

The rocks of the district are coal bearing in character. They are generally of a light colored, greenish, micaceous schist, interbedded occasionally with black graphite schists and white mica schists.

One very important feature occupies pre-eminence and attracts the attention of thoughtful minds, and that is the great extent of the gold bearing era. The precious metal is not confined to one creek or district, but is generously distributed over a vast extent of country. The capacity of some of the creeks to produce gold is unsurpassed in the history of mining, notwithstanding that the methods of exploitation were of the very crudest. The discoverers were poor, provisions were not procurable, and transportation for machinery impossible, yet over forty miles of rich pay has been uncovered within the past few months on Fairbanks, Cleary, Wolf, Chatham, Pedro and Gold Stream creeks, with half a hundred creeks yet to be heard from, all lying within the same belt, and within a radius of twenty-five miles.

Within this area are vast accumulations of auriferous gravels and many quartz veins, commonly following the strike and dip of the strata. That these veins contain gold in sufficient quantities to mine and mill profitably is questionable, but they all contribute to the value of the gravel. There will be found in this belt limited areas or zones which will contain more than the average amount of gold, which will render some creeks more valuable than others.

Thus we have in the Tanana immense preserves of gravel, holding in an icy grasp vast treasures of gold,

for these great gravel banks are piled in some instances to a depth of hundreds of feet upon the bedrock, and are frozen solidly, creating the impression that the forces of nature were suddenly arrested, the ancient channel drained into the creeks; and what was once a mighty river created by and having its source in the gigantic glaciers to the south, has dwindled to the puny proportions of small creeks.

ON THE CREEKS.

The great obstacle in the path of development has been the lack of provisions. In March, 1903, there were not a pound of provisions in the markets, and the supplies in the hands of the miners was largely freighted from Circle City during the winter. When boats arrived late in June the season was so far advanced that prospecting was impossible on many creeks. In July, no work having been done, a few half interests in claims on Fairbanks were sold for \$50 cash. By the middle of September it had developed into the banner creek of the district. There are hundreds of creeks yet unprospected.



FRED DEEMING

A TANANA TALE.

(Related by Judge Wickersham.)

"Whoop!" Windy Jim filled his cheeks with hot air, and everybody knew he was going to beat the king. "That's nothing. In '98 I left Forty-Mile to go over to the head of the Tanana with a sled and my dog Doughnuts, to stake the copper mines that I afterwards sold to Patsy Clark."

Jim looked solemnly around and then proceeded.

"The thermometer was frozen up when I left Forty-Mile, but after I crossed the Kitchumstock hills it was much warmer, and the Tanana was wide open. I built a raft and put Doughnuts and my outfit on it, and started downstream. We went fine for a while, but in the afternoon we came around a sharp bend and into a big log jamb. My raft tipped, sank and went under the drift. I jumped for the jamb, but missed my hold, and I went under too. I swam a hundred yards or more under that drift, holding on to Doughnut's tail, and came out below and swam ashore. 'Who-o-o,' and Jim puffed out his cheeks and looked honest.

"And there we were, Doughnuts and me, five hundred miles from supper, for I had lost my entire outfit—gun, provisions, blankets and all. We started back to Forty-Mile. Not a thing could we find to eat, and the thermometer 70 below. Even rabbits had gone south, and I could not even catch a cold. For twenty days we mused across the hills, Siwashing it at night, until I was

starved. I couldn't kill Doughnuts," and Jim's eyes were filled with tears, "but we just had to have something to eat, so I cut off his tail—you know what a big, long tail he had, Frank?" and Cleary solemnly nodded his head. "Well I cut off his tail and made soup of it, and it saved my life, for I came into camp four days later. Who-o-o!" The other able liar ran his forefinger through his hair and scratched.

"Well, I should say I did. I would divide my last meal with Doughnuts. Yes, sire! I gave Doughnuts the bone out of his tail, and after gnawing it a while he came on into Forty-Mile with me. That tail saved us both, and I could prove it by Charley Hall if he were here."

The ex-champion quit whittling, slipped off the counter, and went out.

Stampede Stories.

Frank Costa spent the winter of 1898-9 prospecting on the Seventy-Mile River, something over a hundred miles up from its mouth. As warm weather approached in the spring his stock of provisions was so short that he was compelled to do something speedily, and that something meant to move down to the Yukon, for no supplies were to be had in the interior. Traveling overland was impossible, as the snow was very deep and soft, and the streams swollen bank full. In a few days the ice broke up in the river and commenced to move out. That same day Mr. Costa took one of the flume boxes he had used the fall before, and after putting tight ends into it and caulking his improvised boat, started down stream with the ice. As he neared the many jams encountered he paddled ashore and patiently waited until the force of the water broke the jam.

But when about half-way down the river, at a point where the water set strong against a point of rock, his unwieldy craft struck hard against the bank and capsized, and Mr. Costa found himself in a large whirlpool just below. He had on a pair of rubber hip-boots and a heavy coat, but managed after making several circuits of the pool to gain the bank, when he hastily caught up with his runaway boat, which he regained by swimming. The Yukon was finally reached without further mishap, where he was fortunate enough to fall in with another boat on its way to Circle City which was well stocked with provisions.

Sourdough Tales.

Fred Deeming and William James, the discoverers of gold on Fairbanks Creek, were beset by many difficulties. They wellnigh exhausted their supplies of money in the purchase of provisions, which they packed to the creek on their backs. After tramping all night under their heavy burdens, they arrived at their present home early in the morning. A temporary cache was constructed, a light lunch partaken of, and they lay down for a much-needed rest. The mosquitoes were so numerous as to be almost unbearable, and as a high wind was blowing on this particular day, prospectors had fired the woods in different places, and early in the forenoon the sleepers were suddenly awakened by the fierce heat and roaring of a raging forest fire which swept everything before it. Their cache was nearly consumed by the fire, and they were compelled to seek safety on the steep hillside on the opposite bank of the creek. The place was reached with difficulty. From this position they watched the flames consume the last remnant of their stores. Nothing daunted, they set out across the hills for Pedro Creek, where they had a small balance to their account for cutting house logs. With this in the treasury the town of Fairbanks was again visited, and the sum invested in a new outfit. Upon their return to the creek they sunk their first hole in the spot where their cache had stood, and at a depth of thirty-five feet found 25 cents to the pan. This was the first pay ground on the creek.

THE FAIRBANKS MINES.

FISH CREEK.

Jim Kirk has one hole down 30 feet, on 6 bel' with 20 feet of gravel prospects from the bedrock in sight. The sediment is getting the pay better. Bedrock is probably 10' should contain good pay. Bedrock on the creek.

SMALLW

One hole has been sunk 20' the gravel contains gold, but bedrock has not been reached.

SOLO.

Four holes were started, but water drove the workmen out. No bedrock in sight. The gravel contains gold.

MINING NOTES

CLEARY CREEK.

Mat Mathisen, John Ronan and Charles Osterle will work on 1 above, left limit, this winter. They have a good cabin and plenty of wood. They have one hole to bedrock, 43 feet deep. The muck is 20 feet deep, but the 13 feet of gravel contains good sediment, and carries



JACK WALSH

some gold from the top down. They have three feet of 5-cent dirt near bedrock, which is good drifting pay, and expect to encounter a better pay streak as they work toward the creek.

Charles Willig will work two men on 2 above this winter. He has good pay, and would work a large force if provisions could be had.

Hans Austin and John Arnell have pay on 3 above, and will work there this winter.

Charles Columbe and Bill Anderson will prospect the bench on the left limit on 2 above this winter. A fair prospect has been found there.

Harry Hunkala and Ed Seiderman are prospecting the bench on the left limit of 2 and 3 above.

Al Columbe and Frank Allen will prospect the bench on 3 above this winter.

Jesse Noble closed down work on Discovery some two weeks since. He worked seven men all summer and the clean-up was much in excess of expectations. Frank Manly and Ben Boone have a lay on the property this winter and will work sixteen men. Mr. Noble will work seven men on 7 above this winter, and prospect 8 above with three men. Good pay has been found on both the latter claims, but the scarcity of provisions prevents more extensive operations.

The largest nugget found so far on Discovery weighed \$27.20.

On 1 below Cleary and Hilty have the best pay yet located on the creek. The pay streak has been located over 100 feet in width. It is eight feet deep, and averages 16 2-3 cents to the pan. A complete thawing and hoisting plant will be installed soon. S. R. Weiss, the foreman, has had a force of men at work all summer developing the ground, and it is the best prospected claim on the creek. Others will no doubt prove as good.

Dan G. McCarty, Dave Cascaden and H. Buhro will develop 2 below this winter. They have good pay located, and are certain to have a big clean-up in the spring.

[Since the above was written the last three claims above mentioned have been developed, and several lays let. The pay streak averages seven feet thick, and the average is 15 cents to the pan. Four below is equally as good.]

The pay streak has been located down the creek to 12 below, and few holes have been sunk outside the limit of good drifting ground. The greatest drawback to the development of the creek is the fact that claim owners as a rule have more ground than they can develop. This,

coupled with the short supply of provisions, has kept the camp in the fourth or fifth place as a producer, when it should head the list.

BEDROCK.

Very little work has been done on this tributary of Cleary. While doing the assessment last spring, one claim yielded \$250.

BEAR.

Several holes have been put down to bedrock. The pay streak has not been located, though all the gravel contains coarse gold.

GOLD STREAM.

Fair prospects have been found on 12, but from the point to 6 below little or no development work has been done.

On 6 below, fraction, Miller Thostesen is taking out a winter dump. He is drifting in good pay—25 cents on bedrock.

Charles T. Signer and Henry Birks, laymen on 5 below, have finished their work and located on Cleary, 1 below, right limit. Their clean-up was highly satisfactory. The last four and a half days two men shoveled in \$897.50.

Frank McGraw and partner are in good pay and are taking out a big dump on the fraction between 4 and 5 below.

Tom Jurack has three and a half feet of 5-cent dirt on 4 below, and fraction on right limit of the same claim. He is taking out a winter dump with the assistance of Oscar Nelson, the well-known miner.

Dr. Overgaard and A. St. J. McAuley are working a lay on 5 below, creek claim, where they have been located most of the summer.

Prospecting is being actively prosecuted on 3 below. C. Naderman is working on the lower end of 2 below, where he has good pay in two holes. Four men will work a lay on the upper end this winter.

Dr. Ehle, Billy Thomas, C. Clark and Al Wissel will work a lay on 4 below this winter. They have good pay.

Nos. 1 and 2 below are owned by Pedro and Ed Quinn. The assessment has been done, but no more.

GILMORE.

Only representation work has been done. Low grade pay has been found.

TWIN.

Big pay was found in one hole, but the creek was too wet to work.

PEDRO.

From 9 below to 2 above good pay has been found everywhere. The creek will be a busy place this winter. A large number of lays have been let, and the owners will also take out winter dumps. Some very rich ground was found this week, and a big spring clean-up is assured.

Aug. Eno and Frank Jewett will work Discovery and 1 below.

Tom Gilmore, William Hunter, Ed Baker and Sherman Freaker will work 2 below.

Frank Costa has let a lay on 2 below to Louie Borno for five years.

Ed Quinn and partners will work 4 below.

Bill Smallwood, Harry Atwood, Jim Funcheon and Charles Guises will work 5 below.

Al House made a big clean-up on 8 below this summer, and will take out a dump this winter.

Mat Weber and Gus Eno are working on 7 below.

No. 9 will not be worked this winter, but Jack Gregor will prospect 10 below.

Six separate lays have been let on 1 above.

Jack Costa has let four separate lays on the lower end of 2 above.

Preparations are being made to thoroughly prospect the upper end of the creek this winter. Frank Cleary, Charles Willig, O'Connor & Noble, Tom Jurack, Scott, Bennett & Dunbar, Louie Laflames and others being interested. Seven dollars per foot was offered for sinking this summer but water prevented.

Ed Quinn on 4 below on Pedro has found two feet of 55-cent dirt and is not yet to bedrock.

Mike Burns has two feet of 50-cent dirt.

WOLF CREEK.

Little prospecting has been done. Mr. Williston shoveled in on No. 4 this summer, and closed down in the fall in good pay. On October 18 he sunk a hole about five feet below his old bedrock, where he found three feet of gravel averaging 25 cents to the pan. Wolf Creek property is now in big demand.

CHATHAM.

About seventy-five men will work on Chatham this winter. Very rich pay has been located from the mouth to 6 above, and the owners wishing to realize quickly, have let many lays. As high as an ounce an hour has

been rocked out, but this of course was an exception.

FAIRBANKS.

Pay has been found from 16 above to 14 below. The benches and side streams or feeders also contain pay. One or two holes on a claim 1320 feet long can hardly be termed good prospecting, but for the work done the showing is truly wonderful. No. 2 below and 2, 4, 7, and 8 above have had some work done on them. On 2 below, two holes are down, 84 feet apart. The pay streak in each hole is over six feet thick, which averages 13 1-3 cents to the pan; the others referred to prospect about the same. The extent and richness of the stream is unknown, but enough has been found to insure the future of the camp.

[The above paragraph was prepared the first of November. By December 1, eighty cabins had been constructed and 175 men were taking out pay on this creek. The benches, as well as the creek, are very rich, the dumps averaging about 15 cents to the pan. As high as \$4 to the pan has been secured, and 2½ feet of one pay streak averages \$1 to the pan. The creek undoubtedly contains the broadest and most even pay streak yet discovered in the world. It has been prospected over 800 feet in breadth, the pay averaging from five to eight feet deep, and the limit on neither side has yet been reached. Fairbanks will produce \$1,000,000 this winter. Next year it will yield ten millions.]

Fully four hundred men are now prospecting on other creeks, and reports of new discoveries are received daily.

OIL AS FUEL.

The Experiment Along the Yukon Proves Highly Successful.

An interesting review of the enterprise of the Northern Commercial Company in its work of installation of the oil equipment for its steamers is given by E. H. Wagner, mechanical engineer in charge of the work.

"The use of oil by the company has proved a success, and the stock is being brought up the Yukon for the various supply stations for storage there until next spring, the boats can fill their tanks immediately on entering the season's work. The steamers Leah and Sarah are distributing the oil with the aid of barges, which they tow.

"The oil is a success as a matter of financial economy and otherwise. With the oil a more steady and satisfactory steam is secured and the pressure is always more even. Less labor is required for firing, the cost of loading a ship is eliminated, the long and frequent stoppages for fuel are cut out in the journeys up and down the river, and no stops are required except for landing and receiving of freight and passengers. Time is a valuable factor in this country.

"The oil is brought from Bakersfield, Cal. It is carried to St. Michaels in the steamer Rosecrans, formerly an American transport. The Rosecrans has a capacity of 50,000 barrels of oil. She is divided into compartments and the oil is run into her in bulk. On the first trip she landed 25,000 barrels in St. Michaels for us. She is to bring us another cargo this year.

"The oil is carried up the river for distribution in the heavy barges equipped with large tanks made of redwood. Storage stations are maintained at St. Michaels, Andreayski, Fort Gibbon and Circle.

"The main distributing tanks at St. Michaels hold 20,000 barrels; three at Andreayski, 10,000; at Gibbon, 5,000; at Circle, 10,000.

"The steamers of the fleet equipped with oil burning apparatus are the packets Sarah, Susie and the Hannah, the Louise, the Bella, the Leah, and the Herman. The company has other steamers not in commission which may be equipped next year.

"The packets, when in service, carry for their own use 700 barrels of oil. They have four huge tanks, two on each side and two athwart the ship. This fuel, with the tanks, weighs 130 tons to the packet. The other steamers each are equipped with two tanks holding 200 barrels to the tank.

"The oil is applied on steamers as fuel by conducting it through pipes from the tanks to the fire boxes. It emerges through jets, which are controlled by stop cocks, by which means the spray can be enlarged or reduced at will."—P.I.

Herb Wilson of 3 above on Chatham, says that on Tuesday he rocked out \$20 from one hopper full of gravel, and on Monday he rocked out one ounce in fifty minutes. He has a foot of such gravel on bedrock, and three feet more of very good ground above it. Himself and partner, Jack Ross, will take out a large dump this winter.—News.

IN OTHER CIRCLES

Arctic Brotherhood Smoker.

Saturday night, November 7, 1903, will go on record in the annals of the history of Fairbanks as the greatest event toward the upbuilding of the city. Going far to show that the true American spirit of harmony and good fellowship is predominant in this infant camp.

The event was the initial entertainment given by the members of the Arctic Brotherhood in Fairbanks, who have organized a camp. The Arctic Brotherhood touched the button which set free the pent up mirth and hilarity of many a man in this camp, and for a few hours had dispelled the gloom of the scarcity of grub. Every face was radiant with joy, and as the festive bowl passed around many bright lights loomed up as good entertainers, thus bringing out the fact that by a display of good fellowship and brotherly love we can conquer the most morose and sullen.

At 8 o'clock the doors of the new A. B. Hall were opened, with a committee in attendance to meet the guests with a welcome hand and a cheering bowl. By 8:15 the hall was filled to its uttermost, there being present 250 or more guests and members. A few numbers on a phonograph, selected by Mr. Howard Turner, and one by the orchestra, preceded the calling of the assemblage to order by Mr. Abe Spring, who, with a few brief remarks, called for and introduced Dr. Hall as chairman and master of ceremonies, who entered upon his duties with such zest that all were inspired with a feeling that a great treat was in store for them. Dr. Hall got down to business immediately by calling before him Captain Barnette and Billie Robertson, whom he appointed marshals to preserve order, and bring before the assemblage those who had to pay the penalty for some misdemeanor by song or story, both being installed with great pomp and ceremony. Then followed a selection by the orchestra. Seeing many thirsty souls around him, the doctor decided upon the necessity of waiters, and had brought before him Solly Spring, Jack Healey, Bert Carter and Ralph Newcomb, who were officially installed as waiters.

While Solly was adept at balancing the tray on four fingers, Bert in making long stretches and baths, Ralph was a winner, but Jack got there with both feet. He may know much of the grocery business, but he certainly did shine as hooch dispenser.

The orchestra was then introduced, which was composed of Casserley, Morgan, DeCamp, Burkhart, Lindig and Campbell.

The Chair's attention was called to the overworked waiters, and thereupon ordered Messrs. Whalen, Lavin, Long and Noonan before him, and after sundry accusations as to their reputations as dogmushers and freighters, were ordered to assist the waiters as freighters.

Seeing the need of more help in the mixology force ordered Dr. Danforth to proceed and assist Dan Noonan in dispensing the cheering fluids. Dr. Danforth pulled off his coat and displayed an extraordinary knowledge of the mysteries of the sideboard.

A sextette composed of Messrs. Noble, Walsh, Campbell, Kellum, Thomas and Sherman rendered the "Old Oaken Bucket" in such a masterly manner that an encore brought forth "Farewell, My Own True Love."

The orchestra again responded. By special request Judge Kellum sang the following song, which made a decided hit:

THE SONG OF THE SALMON.

Tune—"There Is a Hot Time in the Old Town To-night."
Now come all ye young che-char-cos, and ye hairy sour-doughs, do,
There is going to be a "smoker" and hell 'll be poppin' too.
There will be hooch for everybody, and something good to eat,
You can fill your hide with whisky and cigars that can't be beat.
We want you all to have a jolly time,
And when you go home you will feel so very fine,
When we meet again you will surely be in line,
For there'll be a hot time in Fairbanks to-night, our neighbors.

Chorus:

When you hear those corks go click, click click,
Jump right up and quickly take your drink,
For when the hooch is gone you'll never, never think
There was a hot time in Fairbanks to-night.

You will hear some funny stories, and some will make you guess,
That all the Arctic Brothers are full of jolliness,
For the men who tell these stories and make you laugh and smile
Say its good for mumps and measles and will drive away the bile;
For we all will do our best to please you all, and you will do the rest,
If your tanks arn't full, it will not be our behest,
For there is a hot time at Fairbanks to-night, ye soakers.

Chorus:

There is a village near our city, and its nine miles there they say
Where they catch the wily salmon on a universal lay,
And they catch him while he's swimming and they catch him while he drinks,
That's all there's in this village and it stinks, and stinks, and stinks.
You can smell them 'ere you reach the town
And the stench will nearly knock you down,
And the air is thick for miles and miles around,
But there's a hot time at Fairbanks to-night, poor salmon.

Chorus:

But if you want to go against it, just go there to buy your grub,
You will get the marble heart and your name it will be mud,
For they think they can outwit us and make us come to them,
But to h—I with their opinion for we do not care a d—n,
For this is the place where all the miners come,
And we've got little Chena now badly on the run,
And if we don't beat them let Johnny get his gun,
For we've got a hot time at Fairbanks to-night, Oh Chena!

Chorus:

If our neighbors down the river will only come to us,
We will be like Arctic Brothers and stop this awful fuss,
We will gather in the gold dust and know what we are about,
When the miner comes to town our hooch will knock him out,
For we're always got our mit in sight,
And they must pungle or they will have to fight,
And if we don't land them, you know t'will not be right,
For there is a hot time at Fairbanks to-night, poor miners.

Chorus:

Among those who attended this long-to-be-remembered smoker, which next to the discovery of gold is the most important event of the camp, are the following:

Mike Shepovitch, Dan Williamson, H. Ross, F. W. Lloyd, W. A. Brown, W. Enard, W. Mullen, I. Klonas, C. Blazer, C. Sundstedt, Moritz Moritzen, A. Peterson, F. Cleary, C. Beam, J. Serell, Dr. Overgaard, Ed Rolston, Billy Robertson, Judge Cowles, W. Shaw, Matt Meehan, Thomas Forrest, Bert Carter, J. M. Crawford, F. B. Parker, Dr. Ehle, J. J. McEntee, J. G. Anderson, F. Monroe, Captain Cunningham, James M. Long, Nelson Gilroy, J. White, C. F. Copeland, Judge Kellum, Billie Robertson, D. W. Truitt, Dr. Webb, Archie McClellan, Joe Miller, Phil Wren, Ralph Newcomb, W. Lodge, Al Hilty, Peter McConville, W. Smith, A. Q. Copeland, J. E. Riley, Billy Greig, A. Krolle, H. Bennett, Joe Miller, William Lodge, S. Hinkley, A. T. Hood, H. Knudson, M. Schroader, A. Lind, L. Meyer, I. C. Meyer, Jim Funcheon, Hi Anderson, J. Novak, Captain Barnette, A. B. Balzamar, George Kinman, E. B. Condon, N. Dupras, W. H. Smith, Dick Wood, Jack Healey, A. Barbee, P. J. Tierney, F. E. Woitke, H. B. Henshaw, Ole Peterson, C. H. Wilson, Thomas Cale, P. Whalan, H. R. Seibee, T. M. Kellum, A. Gibson, F. Seppi, Harry Davies, C. M. Nelson, Jim Lavin, J. H. Patten, W. E. McDonough, D. Mutchler, G. Mutchler, G. Toldo, Tom Walsh, Dave Countermaeh, Dick Woods, Fred Bulley, S. Widman, I. Jones, R. D. Moseley, Dick Bishop, James Oldfield, W. H. Henors, H. O. Belden, Senator Charles Hill, Dr. Danforth, George Harrington, Joe Petrie, John Long, Dr. Whitney, I. J. Fallon, George Noble, Frank Protto, H. Miller, John Cruse, Dr. Hepworth, W. M. Johnson, George Crede, Judge Miller, I. D. McCauley, Thomas Young, Howard Turner, Harry Martinson, Frank Allen, Al Moranzy, George L. Bellows.

♦♦

R. C. McConnell has secured some valuable claims and also several good lays on Fairbanks and Pedro Creeks.

THIRTY-TWO MILES OF PAY.

When all the conditions are considered, probably no section of Alaska has made such a good showing in the same space of time as has Fairbanks district from May last to the present time.

In the first instance, the country was staked by men with limited means, who were, with few exceptions, unable to even sink one hole to bedrock. These were followed later by stamperers who were generally little better provided than the discoverers.

Finally Pedro, Costa and one or two more succeeded in getting to bedrock, and thus inspired the owners of properties on other creeks to renewed efforts, with the result that early in the spring pay had been found on several of the creeks.

Meantime many of those who rushed in over the ice departed down the Yukon, and those who remained subsisted largely on moose meat. Prospectors on the creeks shared the same fate. There were no provisions to be had, and little money to buy with if there had been. Several representing large capital in Dawson, made a hasty trip into the country looking for business openings, and left for home as hastily without making the slightest examination into the conditions on the creeks. Their report was substantially to the effect that the Tanana was a good low grade proposition, which would require the expenditure of immense capital to develop; while a few averred that the mines could never be worked profitably.

But it was different with those who had done the prospecting. They knew the pay was there, and kept doggedly at work. Sometimes they had beans and moose meat, and at times the beans were nil, until the present writing, when over thirty-two miles of pay has been located.

It should be borne in mind that in the compilation of the following facts, no allowance has been made for bench claims, many of which have been prospected and found to be immensely rich, nor of the width of the pay streak, which in one instance is known to cover three claims in width.

On Gold Stream the pay streak has been located a distance of five miles, the full extent of the prospecting done.

Gilmore has three miles of pay in sight. At 3 below the pay so far uncovered is 1600 feet wide, while the limit has not been reached on either side.

Pedro has been prospected for five miles, and not a blank has been struck.

Twin, a tributary, has one mile of pay while the side claims or benches from 10 below to 2 above, are very rich.

On Cleary four miles have been prospected, with the usual result, good pay everywhere.

Bedrock, one mile; Chatham, one and one half miles, and Wolf two miles of pay is in sight. These streams are tributaries of Cleary.

Fairbanks has eight miles of pay in sight, with pay also on three tributaries. Pay has also been found on the left limit side claims from 10 above to 9 below.

This showing was made without capital, and almost without provisions; and the gravel on all the creeks enumerated will average very high. In fact, when we consider the adverse conditions and the short time devoted to the work it seems incredible. With all the years and thousands of men employed to develop the resources of the famous Klondike, not more than fifty miles of pay streak has been uncovered.

If the gold in the creeks was confined in a narrow channel, not one of them but what would rival Eldorado or Bonanza.

The gold is found in the gravel, and bedrock as a rule is not excessively rich. Five to six feet above bedrock a heavy sediment is found, and in this the gold is contained.

♦♦

Old Prospect Holes.

F. W. Lloyd and John Rice last fall discovered some very old prospect holes at the mouth of the Little Chena. At this point there is a small rocky mountain, which in some past age has divided the waters of that stream. Well up the sides of this mountain, near the summit, they discovered several old holes that time and the elements have done much to fill. Piles of gravel on either side of the holes marked their presence. These dumps were overgrown with trees and brush, and in one of the holes a spruce tree six inches in diameter was growing. At first it was thought that these holes had once been used as a dwelling by the natives, but the theory was soon discarded, as it is well known that the natives in this country always build their homes on the lower ground.

FROM THE HEADWATERS.

Fred Waitke Arrives from Upper Tanana.

Fred E. Waitke of Seattle arrived in Fairbanks last fall on the Isabella, after a hard and varied prospecting trip on the headwaters of the Tanana. He left Valdez March 25 with two pack horses and ample provisions for the entire season. The season was far advanced, and by the time Tanana Crossing was reached traveling was quite impossible. Part of the outfit was cached here, and a tedious journey to the source of the stream commenced.

In a short time traveling became comparatively easy on the ridges, and an immense lake country diving the Tanana and White Rivers was reached without serious delay. In this section the summer was spent in prospecting, which resulted in promise of ultimate success.



FRED WAITKE

At least Mr. Waitke intends to return there at some future time and continue his search.

By the middle of August the supply of provisions was nearly exhausted and Mr. Waitke started for White River, hoping to make an easy descent of that stream on a raft. After several days of weary wandering the stream was reached. The horses were turned loose and a cache made of everything but his blankets. He had then been out of provisions for several days. A raft was soon made, and on August 24 the homeward journey was continued down one of the most tortuous streams in the territory.

At Stewart River Mr. Waitke was fortunate enough to fall in with two men in a small boat, Dawson bound, and he completed his trip with them. He had subsisted for some time on short rations, and for two weeks was entirely without food. It is scarcely necessary to add that he was in a starving condition when Dawson was reached.

Two days after his arrival there he took passage on the Seattle No. 3 for Fairbanks.

There is no doubt of the existence of gold in the region visited by Mr. Waitke, as he secured fair prospects in several places. And while it is accessible to the prospector, it is very doubtful whether supplies can be shipped in there cheap enough at the present day to make mining profitable.

An abundance of float quartz was found in one section, some of it showing the unmistakable signs of copper, and all highly mineralized. But quartz properties inaccessible to transportation facilities for both machinery and supplies are hardly calculated to inspire a poor prospector.

Immediately upon his arrival here Mr. Waitke purchased the Board of Trade—a fine business block—which he refitted and renamed the Hub, and embarked in business. Since then he has acquired interests on some of the creeks, and intends to make Fairbanks his home until such time as he has acquired a competency and retires from business.

Charles Oesterle.

In the spring of 1898 the United States Mining, Dredging & Lumber Co. was organized in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the purpose of mining and dredging on some of the tributaries of the Yukon in Alaska. The capitalization of the company was \$14,000, the shares being \$1,000 each. Mr. Charles Oesterle was one of the stockholders in the concern and formed one of the party of fourteen who left early in the season for the scene of operations, acting as treasurer. A large dredge was purchased at Cincinnati and shipped to St. Michaels, where the stanch little steamer Arctic Boy was constructed to take the party, with machinery and supplies, to the location on the creek.

The first winter was spent at Hess Creek, above Rampart. The next season the boat was forced up Birch Creek a distance of 350 miles, the first steamer to ascend that stream. In August the water was so low that further progress was impossible, and the steamer and machinery were sold to Barnette & Smith, the obligations discharged, the money disbursed and the company dissolved, all of the party excepting Mr. Oesterle returning to their homes in Ohio. A few days later the fall rains raised the stream several feet.

Mr. Oesterle pushed on 65 miles up the stream to Pitka Bar, the former objective point of the expedition. Here he decided to locate in business for the winter, and accordingly purchased the Jump-Off road house, where he continued for two years.

In the meantime he had secured large mining interests on the creeks, and in 1901 established himself on his ground on Independence, which, with Mastodon, forms Mammoth. While operating his claim he secured 47, 48 and 49 above, a group of claims near the head of Mastodon; also Discovery and 1, 2 and 3 above on Independence, Discovery and 1 below on Miller, and a group of eight claims on the lower end of Deadwood—44 to 50 and two side claims.

These properties are considered by mining men to be the best in the district for companies with sufficient capital to properly open them up and install the necessary machinery. Deadwood and Mastodon have been the best producers of the district since its discovery.

When Mr. Oesterle became convinced of the richness of the Fairbanks district he placed his other property on the market, merely keeping up his assessments, and located here, where the ground is richer and better adapted to the requirements of poor men. Since his arrival here he has staked and purchased interests in a side claim off 1 on Cleary, 2 above on Little Eldorado, 4 above on Big Eldorado, 2 above Solo, 2 above and 9 below on Miller, the Kentucky claim at the mouth of Fairbanks, side claim, left limit of 5 below on Gold Stream, 2 below on Gilmore and a fraction on Kokomo. This winter, with his partners, Mat Mathisen and John Ronan, he will take out a dump on the Cleary Creek property, where good pay has been found. His other properties will also be exploited during the winter, pay having been located on most of the creeks. Discovery

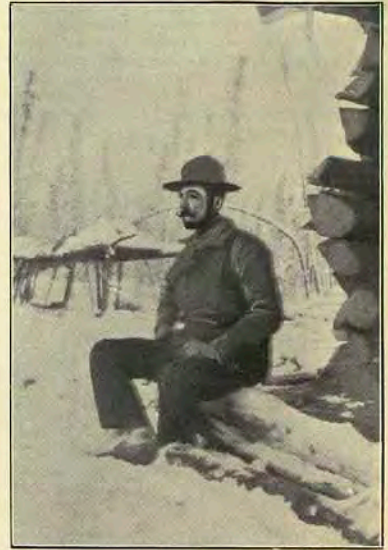


THIRD AVENUE HOTEL

on Cleary, the adjoining ground on the lower end, is so far the largest producer in the district, the pay streak, 200 feet wide and 7 feet deep, averaging \$1.25 to the bucket of 7 pans.

Shirley's Road House.

One of the largest and best roadhouses in the Tanana Valley is the Shirley Road House at the forks of Pedro and Gilmore creeks near the present center of the Fairbanks Mining district. Mr. and Mrs. Shirley operated the Jump Off Road House at the of Crooked Creek in the Circle district for three years but disposed of the place and joined the stampede to the Tanana, arriving at their present location in March, 1903. Here both the summer and winter, trails to the creeks meet, and it is also just a convenient day's travel from Fairbanks. A good garden was raised this season which produced sufficient vegetables to supply the table. All the roads and trails in the vicinity are kept in excellent condition and Mr. Shirley enjoys an excellent trade from the miners.



GEORGE PURCHES

Senator Nelson on Alaska.

For a brief and comprehensive summary of the situation in the great northern country, which has just been investigated by the senatorial committee, the statement by Senator Knute Nelson, a member of that committee, to a Washington Star staff is a timely one.

He said: "Two things that I marveled over more than anything else, are the unlimited vastness of that great country, and the untold possibilities of its gold fields.

"Alaska has been held back in development for two reasons. First, the lack of good wagon roads for transportation facilities, and second, because of the unfortunate monopoly of two companies which control the transportation in that country. These companies keep rates at prohibitive figures, and Alaska will never see its proper development until this monopoly has been broken, and open competition substituted. With good and a sufficient number of wagon roads, the future of Alaska will be greater than any one now dreams of."

Mr. Howard Turner, manager for the N. C. Company at Fairbanks, is well known throughout Alaska, having been stationed at Circle City, Nome and Koyukuk as manager of the company's stores at those places previous to his arrival in Fairbanks. The strictly cash basis which the N. C. Company has established at this place, together with the extreme shortage of provisions, has made Mr. Turner's position during the past winter a very trying one. He has been equal to the occasion, however, and by his straightforward manner of doing business has retained the friendship and good will of his patrons.

Charley Wubbenhorst, who has been a successful restaurant man in Grand Forks and Dawson, and an old-timer in the Chena restaurant and lodging-house.

MINING ITEMS

Finding Pay on Fairbanks.

Early in the spring of '93 the Dawson stampede contingent began to arrive. Pedro and Costa were diligently working their ground on Pedro—the only creek on which pay had been located. In passing by, many of the travelers would inquire "Which is going to be the best town, Fairbanks or Cheni?" The answers of course were never very reassuring. But inquiry was seldom made as to the pay found on the creek, and no one panned on the dumps. Upon arriving in town, the first duty was to stake a lot, and the next to plan ditches and drainage systems with the finger on the wet bar top, but few thought of going to the creeks. As the season gradually advanced and little dust made its appearance in town a spirit of unrest settled over the town. The stampede left for other parts—principally for Dawson—declaring that they had tested the ground, and while there was gold here, it was too low grade to be worked profitably except on a large scale with expensive machinery. Of a surety, the pay streak was shallow in town.

Costa, their benefactor, was hastily apprised of the find. The four men staked on the bench, and on Crane Creek. The discoverers are prospecting their ground this winter. Mr. Costa has let a five-year lay on his Crane Creek property, which has proved to be very rich, \$500 to the box length having been taken out this fall.

The freight bill on Mr. Costa's provisions last season amounted to \$935.35, aside from his fresh meat, which consisted of seven large moose.

SEARCH FOR PEDRO'S CREEK.

Birch Creek Joe is an Indian well known by his countrymen throughout the length and breadth of the Tanana. He is a miner of some ability, and is believed by the Indians to possess a superior knowledge and certain charm which augurs well for those who are so fortunate as to become interested with him in any venture. Thus in the winter of 1901 a Saltsha Indian sent Joe a \$10 nugget of fine looking gold, with the information that it came from a certain stream near the Kitchumstock Hills, and gave detailed directions of the route to the place. Accordingly, early in the spring Joe, accompanied by George Harrington and Al Moreney, set out for the discovery. All the landmarks were found exactly as described to a point well up a tributary of the Goodpasture, where a journey of several miles into the interior was to lead them to a blazed trail that had its be-

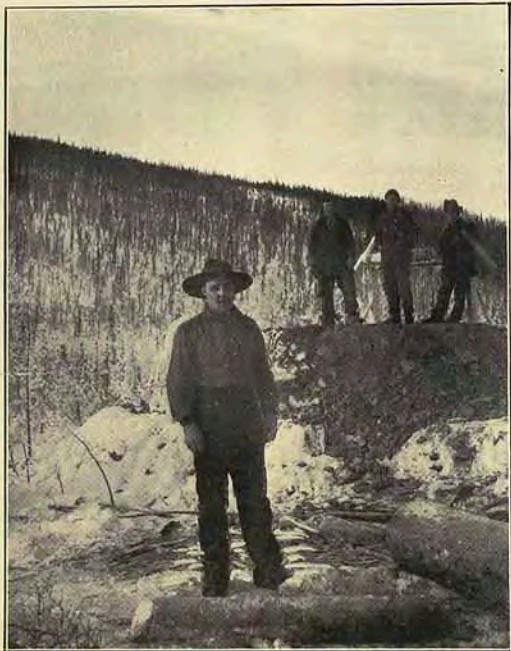
Located in town at that time were Frank Cleary in charge of the store; Felix Pedro, Harry Atwood, Bill Smallwood, Jesse Noble, Al Hilty, Ed Quinn, and Perry Barlinton.

The boat had no sooner been made fast in her berth than the news of the discovery of gold on the creeks was noised about, and every man, with the exception of Wada, left for the scene of the strike. The provisions carried consisted solely of pilot bread and sardines. They all staked on several creeks, and every one of them to-day is a millionaire in prospective. Not one of them but could sell at the present time for a fortune.

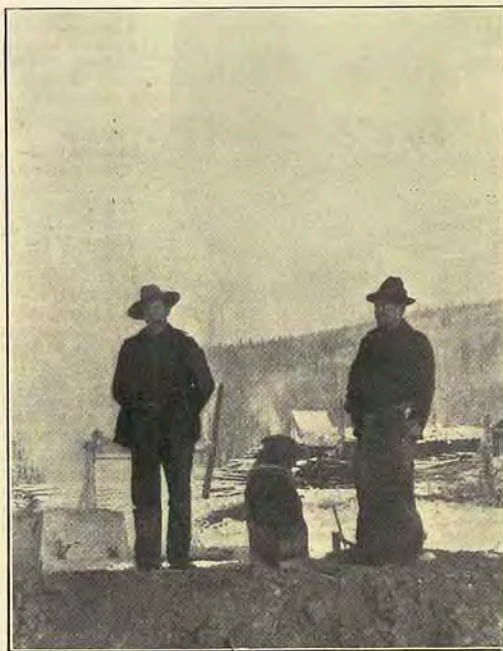
When most of the staking had been done, a miners' meeting was held at Pedro's tent on the 10th, and Captain Barnette was elected recorder. On the 13th the boat left for Tanana, where all the miners' supplies in stock was purchased, when the boat again left for Fairbanks, where she arrived on September 22d, and went into winter quarters in Steamboat Slough. November 1st there were three cabins in town, and on March 1st of the present year there were nearly four hundred.

SCRAPS OF HISTORY.

In 1887 two men spent the summer in prospecting on the Klondike, and pronounced it worthless, and again in



DAN G. MCCARTHY



AL HILTY

S. R. WEISS

It is said that it takes an exception to prove a rule. Why this is so I am unable to explain. But nevertheless there was an exception in this case, and a most fortunate one. Ed Crane, Charles Mack and George Ashenfelter, being short of provisions and far from long on cash, left one morning for the creeks in quest of work. Arriving at Jack Costa's hospitable door they stated their situation and desire. Mr. Costa had no room for them to work in his drift, but he "staked" them to a sack of flour, and advised them to take across the high hills toward Fairbanks Creek, where they were certain to find some moose. This advice was followed, and a few days later a large moose was killed on 2 above Fairbanks Creek. The moose could not be moved to town, but it was an easy task to bring their tent and belongings to the moose, so they at once established themselves where they were.

Whether it was fate or an unsatisfied ambition that spurred these gentlemen to action is an unsolved problem. But so soon as their quarters had been comfortably arranged they set diligently to work sinking a hole on the bench to the left of their home. Early in April bedrock was reached, and good pay discovered. Mr.

gining on the creek where the gold was found—which was near the summit of the range.

A diligent search was made for this trail, but it could not be found. The party traveled for hours in the direction specified in the instructions, and then reconnoitered. No trail. They then pushed on several miles beyond where they believed the trail to be, and becoming disheartened turned homeward.

It has since been learned that they were within a few hundred yards of the trail when they finally gave up the quest.

STAMPEDING THE CREEKS.

It was on September 7th of last year (1902) that the steamer Isabella, built and commanded by Captain E. T. Barnette, made a landing at Fairbanks, the first steamer to enter the Chenoa River.

She was laden with supplies for Captain Barnette's trading post at this place, which is now the N. C. Co.'s mammoth store. Mrs. Barnette accompanied the captain. The crew consisted of J. E. Floyd, chief engineer; Mat Mehan, assistant; Mr. Thompson, first officer; Dan McCarty and Frank Noyes and Alvin Copeland, firemen; Tom Larson, carpenter; and J. Wada, the Jap, cook.

1893 three men spent the summer there, and returned the same verdict. But in 1896 one of them secured a claim on Bonanza and returned with a competence out of its production.

The discovery of gold in the Fairbanks district was made by Felix Pedro and others in 1898, but diligent prospecting failed to develop paying properties until late in the fall of 1902. Since that time many creeks have come into prominence as heavy producers, notable among which are Fairbanks, Pedro, Gold Stream, Cleary, Chatham and Wolf, the product of which will amount to \$1,500,000 next spring. There are many streams in the district which look fully as promising as the best of these, but development work has been retarded—practically stopped—by the shortage of the supply of provisions.

To illustrate the vastness of the district, or rather the extent of the streams, it is safe to say that the water courses within its confines are fully 2,000 miles in extent. Ten thousand men could not thoroughly prospect these streams in ten years.

FROM DAWSON PAPERS

DAWSON, January 29.—Captain Barnette, who arrived yesterday from Fairbanks, en route to the coast, says thawing with steam plants, the same as used in the Klondike, will be the future method of work there. Claims are held so high now, he says, that even undeveloped properties are almost out of the market, and intending purchasers are turning away. He says:

"Discouragement is an absent element in the Tanana camp this winter. Good strikes are making the men hopeful and many are realizing hopes.

"I should say that the future method of development and operation of Tanana placers will be by the use of steam boiler plants and steam thawing points, the same as is most commonly employed in the Klondike. The pay of Tanana lies in big bodies, with perhaps an average depth of eighteen to thirty feet. The stratum of pay overlying bedrock on the average runs from four to nine feet thick, and pay on most of the streams is in unbroken channels.

"Tanana property is valued so high by its owners that they are refusing to sell at anything like tempting prices to men who have gone there to buy. Claims without improvements are held from \$30,000 to \$75,000 each. Ronald Morrison, a Sulphur operator, and Harry Warren, are returning from Fairbanks. Morrison went there to buy, and I understood he found prices too high.

"The extent of pay thus far located on the best creeks is as follows:

"Cleary Creek—Between 25 above and 9 below Discovery.

"Fairbanks—Between 16 above and 11 below.

"Chatham—Discovery to 7 below.

"Pedro—No. 2 above to 9 below.

"Gold Stream—Discovery to 10 below.

"Bedrock—Possibly a mile of pay.

"A dozen other streams are being prospected under encouraging conditions.

"On No. 4 below on Cleary the outside holes indicate the pay is three hundred feet wide at least. I know the dirt runs \$1.00 to \$1.50 to the bucket of seven pans.

"No. 5 below on Fairbanks and a bench opposite, on the left limit, are among the best properties in the camp. On the bench, which is owned by Jack Costa, and worked by Bill Cheesman, I did some panning. From a pan taken a foot above bedrock I got \$1.45, and from a pan two feet above, 80 cents."

DAWSON, January 29.—Captain Barnette, the pioneer trader of the Tanana country, and the irrepressible Billy Thomas, formerly of West Dawson, arrived by dog team to-day direct from Fairbanks. They left Fairbanks January 9. Thomas will be here a few days, and then return to Fairbanks. Barnette will go to San Francisco.

Thomas is highly pleased with the outlook in the Tanana. He says that rich pay is being taken out on several streams, and that the camp will make a fine showing next summer.

"The great and crying need of the Tanana camp this winter," says Thomas, "has been the need of grub. As fast as men have been able to get supplies they have gone to work with a will, and the greater number have had splendid success.

"Had the community been well supplied with grub it would have progressed much more rapidly this winter. As it is, many of the prospectors finally have obtained supplies by freighting from Circle and are now doing work on their claims with good results. I believe \$100,000 worth of supplies have been hauled over the trail from Circle to Fairbanks this winter.

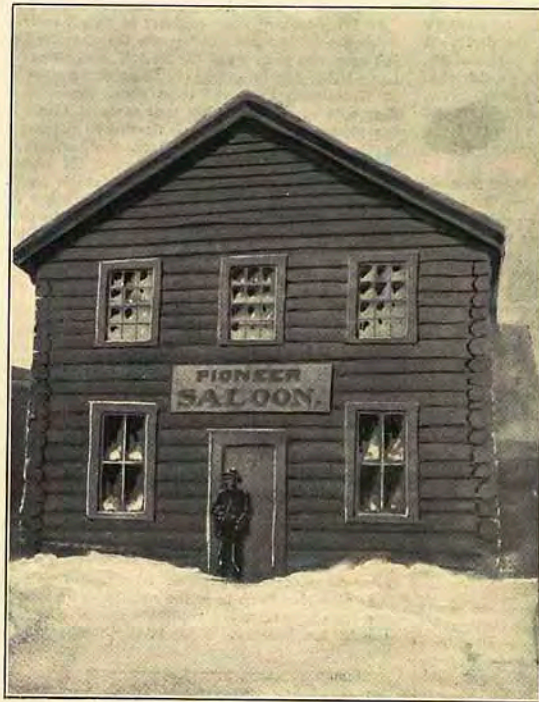
"The best creeks in the camp so far are Fairbanks, Cleary, Pedro and Chatham. Gold is found nearly if not everywhere along these creeks. Fairbanks is the banner creek. On a long stretch of the creek men are rocking out gold just as was done on Bonanza and El Dorado here in early days, and the creek is like a beehive. From four and a half to eight cents to the pan is obtained on the Fairbanks claims. The pay is three and a half to eight feet deep. Seven below is one of the best

claims. The pay seems to extend all the way across the creek, seven hundred or eight hundred feet.

"George Noble, formerly of Dawson, who has a brother in the gold office in Dawson, is having big luck on No. 3 above, Fairbanks. He had seven thousand buckets out in December, averaging a dollar a bucket.

"Cleary is showing up second best among the creeks. Cicero and Wilson, on No. 9 below, made a new strike, in which they got as high as \$4.50 out of seven pans at a depth of forty-five feet. These fellows had no grub at the beginning last fall, and ate dry bread and used Indian tea, and barely kept alive until they struck it."

It is certainly not the desire of this journal to crowd the Tanana with a great number of men who possibly may have to be shipped out of the country in the fall at government expense. The Cassiar, the Stickeen, Dawson and Nome are the past great gold strikes of the North, and in each of these camps came great crowds of men who had saved up barely money enough to reach the district, men who were not accustomed to the hard work and hardships of the miner, and who possessed no knowledge of mining. At the close of summer many of these men who had managed to struggle through the warm season had to be assisted out of the country,



"THE PIONEER"

either at the expense of their friends or at the expense of the government. The mining district of the Tanana is a large one, and there is a very great area of unprospected placer ground to be had. If you are considering coming to the country, you should possess at least sufficient money to purchase your first year's outfit after you land at Fairbanks.

Southeastern Alaska from Dixon's entrance to Muir Glacier is a network of straits, bays, canals, narrows and inlets interlacing the larger islands and mainland with almost countless highways for ships of the larger class. These straits, canals and inlets afford openings and landlocked harbors with good anchorage, and most of the time the inside passage is absolutely safe for open boats and scows, and thereby affording safe and cheap transportation. These inland waters in Southeastern Alaska total not less than 10,000 miles of safe navigable waters for large and small boats.

LOCAL NOTES

Joe Hoffner, of the Cleary Creek roadhouse, is doing some extensive building.

Harry Spall is the owner of a valuable fraction adjoining 4 below on Fairbanks.

One of the swellest-looking establishments in town is the tonsorial parlors presided over by Ben Sherman.

Billie Robertson is the proud possessor of the first and only piano in town. And it is a fine instrument.

J. A. Healy, formerly with the N. C. Company of Dawson, is now in the company's store in Fairbanks.

George Harrington of the Fairbanks has a large turnip that was grown in his garden in Chena. The turnip weighs 17 pounds, and measures 32 inches in circumference.

The miners of the Fairbanks district have petitioned Congress for a wagon road from Fairbanks to Valdez. The distance by the present river route is four hundred and twenty miles. A wagon road crossing the country at certain points instead of following along the river, would reduce the distance to about three hundred miles.

The N. C. Company will do considerable building in Fairbanks during the coming summer.

Mr. Abe Spring, well known in Dawson and Circle, has been appointed City Attorney for Fairbanks.

The sawmill of the Tanana Improvement Company in Fairbanks is probably the largest one in Alaska.

An Illinois woman is said to have confessed that she stole a lead pencil twenty years ago and has just paid the owner of the store for it.

And yet there can be no doubt that she meant to do the write thing when she took it.

P. McLennan is working a lay on 2 above on Fairbanks Creek. He is confident of a good clean-up in the spring.

James White and William G. Morrison, two well-known men of Dawson, are in the machinery business in Fairbanks. They have all kinds of mining machinery for sale.

Sharp & Kirkpatrick have a general merchandise store at Chena. They own and operate the steamer Jannie M. on the Tanana River, handling all of their own supplies from the mouth of the river to Chena.

The Tanana House at Tanana is one of the best places along the Yukon to spend a few days. The beds are scrupulously clean, and the table fare is as good as the market can provide. Passengers bound for Fairbanks who are delayed at the mouth of the river will make no mistake by stopping with Mr. and Mrs. Black, the proprietors.

TRIALS OF THE UPPER TANANA.

The Hardships and Privations Endured by Prospectors on Upper River.

Harry Behrends of San Francisco had a hard experience while prospecting on the headwaters of the Tanana last summer, and narrowly escaped with his life. The dangers, hardships, hunger and mishaps endured were amply corroborated by his appearance when he reached Fairbanks.

Mr. Behrends left Nazena on June 10th for a cruise to the headwaters of the Tanana and its tributaries. He had six dogs and 150 pounds of provisions, expecting to secure a plentiful supply of meat and game, which would make his stores ample. Traveling was easy, and the source of the river was reached without difficulty. But little game had been secured, however, as all of the available time had been spent in prospecting the bars on the innumerable streams. Finally, as he descended the bank of one of the main tributaries of the Tanana one day, he saw P. A. Reddick and William Kruhman who had just finished the construction of a boat in which to descend the river. They had tarried in the country until their provisions were completely exhausted. They had relied upon making Tanana Crossing in two days' travel with a boat, and supplies were procurable there. Mr. Behrends took an inventory of his outfit, and found himself possessed of just forty pounds of eatables. He also had a few hundred dollars in cash. At Kruhman's suggestion Mr. Behrends became one of the party. A raft was soon made to accommodate the dogs, and the party started down stream, the supply of provisions in the meantime having been reduced to ten pounds.

The river was high and turbulent, and the raft and dogs were soon lost. The second day out the boat was lost, together with everything but an ax and a 30.30 rifle and thirty rounds of ammunition.

Compelled to walk the party took a cut-off to avoid a big bend in the river, and after traveling three days and killing but three pine squirrels they came back to the bank of the river one hundred yards below where they had left it.

Mr. Reddick was so weakened by hunger and fatigue that it was deemed expedient to make another raft, on which to continue the journey. The logs were green and were soon lost, together with everything but the scant clothing worn by the men. It rained every day and most of the night. The distance to the Tanana crossing was supposed to be about 150 miles, and the three prospectors started out to walk. Their only nourishment was green berries and goose grass. Another sure-thing cut-off was attempted, and for three days they were tangled in a network of lakes, and wandered for hours at a time up to their knees in water. The river was then regained, and another wearisome march brought them to a cabin, which was only reached by swimming a slough.

Arriving there they found an Indian hut, long since deserted and empty. But in one corner was an old caribou hide and a discarded fur cap. The reader can imagine the avidity with which they were seized. An old can was found, and a regal feast enjoyed.

The following day Mr. Behrends, having been greatly strengthened by two meals from the old Caribou hide and fur cap, constructed a raft from the small poles of the cache, and started down river for assistance, his two companions being too weak to travel. That night, while asleep on the bank, the water raised in the river and his raft floated off. The journey was continued afoot for seven days, when he came to a large river. Here he found three dry logs which had recently floated into a pile of drift. These were bound together with willow wits, and he again proceeded by water, arriving at the crossing three days later, where he was picked up by Mr. Brantnober, the government packer. When found he weighed but sixty-six pounds, and was unable to talk until after he had partaken of nourishment and slept a few hours. A relief party soon went to the assistance of his companions who were soon rescued. They also were in a pitiable condition when found.

After resting fourteen days, Mr. Behrends started on down the stream, reaching Fairbanks late in September, when he took one of the last boats down, expecting to return to his home in San Francisco via St. Michaels before the close of navigation.

In the construction of one of the rafts he had used his undershirt for lashings, forgetting, in his dazed condition, that it contained \$140 in currency. It was not recovered.

About thirty miles above the Goodpasture, below the Crossing, he found sluice boxes and some old workings. He sluiced out \$36 while prospecting the ground, which

he considered good, and recorded upon his arrival here.

While on the head of the Tanana he crossed the trail made by Mr. F. E. Woltke, but these gentlemen did not meet there, each one operating in a different section of the country.

Coming from Valdez.

Napoleon Dupras received a telegram from Tom Norwick and Frank Gillespie of Valdez, stating that they would arrive here by the first of December.

The Bonfield Strike.

John Bonfield and the two Gustafson boys, the discoverers of Bonfield district, and about twenty other prospectors are putting in the winter sinking and prospecting on the two creeks on which gold was found early in the winter, Gold King and Bonfield Creeks. The new district lies almost due west of Fairbanks, and is situated at the base of the opposite range of mountains to Fairbanks district. Mr. Bonfield is very enthusiastic over the new district. He says the whole country around there is of a gravel formation, being composed largely of quartz and granite. On Bonfield and Gold King, where the discoverers first found fairly good-sized colors within a few inches of the surface in the creek bed the banks on both sides of the stream are 1,000 feet high, and are of wash gravel, the same as is found in the beds of the creek.

Boats Along the Yukon.

Fred Lundenberg, chief engineer of Sarah, arrived in Fairbanks in February. He reports the steamers Louise and barge and Leah are at the N. A. T. coal mines below Forty-Mile. Lightning with 10 tons refrigerated meat at Washington Creek, 75 miles above Circle. Robert Kerr cold storage boat, 200 tons meat at Circle City, Captain Smith in charge. He is figuring on shipping part of the cargo to Fairbanks. Ford, the freighter, has taken a contract to freight the cargo of the Lightning to Dawson at 15 cents per pound. There is an N. C. Company barge at Nation River, 70 miles below Eagle with 300 tons of provisions. The Rock Island barge with 350 tons is at Fort Yukon. The barge belonging to the Robert Kerr is at Fort Yukon with 100 tons of provisions. The N. A. T. has 1,000 tons of merchandise at Fort Yukon. There are a number of small barges below Fort Yukon frozen in.

Reported Strike on the Cantishna.

C. Goss, who has been over in the Mount McKinley district since the close of navigation, has just returned to Toulavanna. He reports having traveled up the Cantishna 150 miles, and finding many creeks, on a few of which he did some prospecting, getting some excellent prospects in several places. The country is full of game of all kinds. He brought out to Tulevana 156 martin skins and a bear weighing 1,400 pounds. He was on his way to Rampart for provisions, intending to return immediately, stating the prospects are good enough over on the Cantishna for him. While at Red Star roadhouse he showed the prospects which created considerable excitement among those present, and a number of them are now preparing to go in to the country at an early date. Mr. Goss says there is a roadhouse now at Ninana; it is run by Mr. Kearney. There is also another roadhouse about thirty-five miles further down the river.

Human society is divided into two classes, the toilers and the idlers—the one upbuilding and uplifting, the other, if not actively destroying, at least suffering things to decay.

The world owes everything, humanly speaking, to the toilers, and the old adage, "It takes all kinds of people to make a world," to the contrary notwithstanding, it could get along very well without the latter class.

Idleness is the parent of a large part of the ill that flesh is heir to. It nurtures vice and discontent, and is the fruitful source of poverty. There is, on the other hand, nothing ignoble or unmanly in honest toil. Labor makes a man more manly, for it develops him physically and intellectually, and in the end, morally. Riches, on the contrary, unman him, as they are often associated with excesses, license and idleness. Wealth rarely produces a high type of manhood, for it often robs men of ambition and makes them intensely selfish.

The men of to-day, in most cases, come from the plow and the workshop. Honest toil is near to nature's heart, and is linked to health, and thrift and contentment. The world's discontented ones are not usually found in the ranks of the honest toilers.

The man who is busy has no time for fault-finding and complaining.—Yukon Sun.

MINES AND MINERS

John Roman and Charles Oesterle of 1 above left limit of Cleary Creek, have struck good pay, and will work the ground this winter with machinery.

Messrs. Cleary & Hilty, who own 1 below on Cleary Creek, left Monday afternoon to prepare for winter work. They took with them J. Cook, S. Shequin, S. Weiss and Z. Farrington, whom they will employ during the winter. A big clean-up is assured in the spring.—News.



FRANK J. CLEARY

Dan Regan has good pay on lower end of 2, Cleary Creek.

Messrs Steers, Pine and Pete Nelson are building on 3 below, Cleary.

On 5 below, Fairbanks, they have struck an average of 40 cents to the pan.

Mike Burns sold 7 above on Kokomo Creek to Jones of the Eagle Mining Company for \$1,000.

Captain W. E. Geiger and party of nine arrived in Fairbanks from Valdez last January. They freighted their entire outfit from Valdez with dog teams, double tripping most of the distance. Captain Geiger is well known from Dawson to Nome.

Sam Shequin, Zemi Farrington, J. Cook, Nate Beemer, George Poe and S. Swanson arrived from Circle. They had three horses heavily packed and well-filled pokes. They were five days making the trip from Eagle Creek. As most of the Circle people have mining interests here, a large amount of development work will be done by them this winter.—News.

J. W. Pomeroy arrived in town Wednesday from 1 below on Fairbanks, where he has just finished sinking two holes to bedrock. Two holes were put down across the creek, forty-seven feet apart. It was twenty-three feet to bedrock in both holes. Six feet of gravel, averaging ten cents to the pan, was struck in both places. From fifty pans Mr. Pomeroy secured an ounce and a half of dust.

A prospector, whose modesty causing him to refuse his name, comes forward with the statement that he lived four months straight on moose meat, except an occasional fish, three times a day. The problem of eating a quail a day for a month, usually considered arduous, pales into insignificance in the presence of the moose achievement. No wonder the prospector said, in speaking of the shortage of grub in camp: "I believe if you would turn the old prospectors loose in a field of grass there would not be much left when they got through."

ADJOINING TOWN

CHENA.

Chena is the name of our neighboring town, at the junction of the Chena and Tanana Rivers. It was started last winter, and the influx of miners from Rampart especially has rapidly built a generous rival to Fairbanks. Hendricks & Belt have moved their post across the Tanana to Chena, other business houses are being erected, and the restless Americans are building a town worthy of its name. They are also making preparations for a railroad out to the mines.



TOM ROCKWELL.
Prominent Mining Operator on Fairbanks Creek

The scarcity of the staple articles of food which is sure to prevail throughout this camp during the coming winter will no doubt be an obstacle in the path of the hardy prospector. Many men will be compelled to travel to Circle City, Rampart, the mouth of the Tanana and even as far as Eagle to procure their winter outfits. These long, hard trips will consume valuable time, which would otherwise have been spent in opening up and developing the country or in taking out pay on some of the many creeks that have already proved to be gold bearers.

"A BAR BANQUET."

The first banquet in the Tanana Valley was tendered to the members of the bar of his court by Judge Wickersham on the evening of April 2d at the Tokio Restaurant. After the feast smoking and speaking entertained the company until a late hour. Mr. Pedro brought in the old gold pan in which he first discovered gold on the Fairbanks creeks, and Judge Wickersham informed the company that he intended to send it, with a bottle of Pedro dust, to Senator Fairbanks of Indiana, after whom the district was named.

In a letter written by Judge Wickersham to the Dawson News, the judge writes very encouragingly of Fairbanks. He says emphatically that this is the greatest gold region in the world; that vast areas of placer ground have not yet been touched. He says: "In twenty-five years from now twenty-five times as many men will be engaged in extracting gold from the placers of Alaska."

The new store building of the N. C. Company is one of the finest in Alaska. It is 30x60 feet, two stories high, with a six-foot cellar 20x50 feet. The lower story has a ten-foot ceiling, and the upper nine feet. The walls are of corrugated iron, building paper, and boards on the outside, and boards, building paper and ceiling on the inside. The warehouse, adjoining, is 30x100 feet, eleven-foot ceiling, of corrugated iron.

Senator Charles Hill of Dawson is running the Northern Saloon on Front street.

A. A. Turnbidge of the Red Top Hay Farm expects to put in a crop of oats and vegetables the coming season.

Oldfield & Conradt, the proprietors of the Northern Hotel at Chena, are two very enterprising young men. They own one of the largest and finest buildings in the Tanana Valley, and are doing a prosperous business.

VALDEZ ROUTE.

Table of distances from Valdez to Fairbanks, over winter mail trail:

Valdez	0	Chesna	40
Workman	20	Head of Delta	31
Ptarmigan Drop	12	Bill's Cabin	40
Tekel	18	Mouth of Delta	40
Ernstine	12	Saltscha	52
Tonsena	22	Moose Creek Cabin	22
Copper Centre	24	Fairbanks	21
Go Kona	31		
Chestichena	35	Total	420

FAIRBANKS TO VALDEZ.

Fairbanks	0	Copper Centre	31
Moose Creek Cabin	21	Tonsena	24
Saltscha	22	Ernstine	22
Month of Delta	52	Tekel	12
Bill's Cabin	40	Ptarmigan Drop	18
Head of Delta	40	Workman	12
Chesna	31	Valdez	20
Chestichena	40		
Go Kona	35	Total	420

CIRCLE CITY ROUTE.

Table of distances over winter trail from Dawson to Fairbanks:

Dawson	0	Circle	170
Eagle	110		
Total			280

FAIRBANKS TO DAWSON.

Circle	0	Dawson	110
Eagle	170		
Total			280

Circle to Fairbanks.

Circle	0	Twelve-Mile	22
Twelve-Mile R. H.	12	Faith Creek R. H.	24
Seventeen-Mile House	5	Cye & Hare R. H.	25
Jump Off	8	Smith & Sullivan R. H.	20
Central	18	Cleary Creek R. H.	16
Saw Pit	8	Fairbanks	20
Miller Road House	8		
Eagle Road House	10	Total	196

FAIRBANKS TO CIRCLE.

Fairbanks	0	Saw Pit	8
Cleary Creek R. H.	20	Central	8
Smith & Sullivan R. H.	16	Jump Off	18
Cye & Hare R. H.	20	Seventeen-Mile House	8
Faith Creek R. H.	25	Twelve-Mile R. H.	5
Twelve-Mile	24	Circle	12
Eagle Road House	22		
Miller Road House	10	Total	196

No Provisions.

Marshal Wickersham to-day sent the following telegram to Marshal Reynoldson at Eagle City: "People are leaving the camp on account of the shortage in grub. No grub to be had. Please notify everyone coming in that they must bring their own supplies. No oil or candles can be bought."

Valdez Is Anxious.

There is evidently some little uneasiness prevailing in regard to this country over in the Valdez section, as well as along the Yukon. Mr. Howard Turner, manager of the Northern Commercial Company, received a telegram from several of his friends, asking him to wire immediately the condition of the camp.

R. J. McChesney of Dawson and his wife are now in Fairbanks. Mr. McChesney left here in August for Dawson, with the intention of returning before the winter set in, as he says the camp has always "looked good to him."

Mr. Willison, formerly timber agent at Dawson, is located on Fairbanks Creek. Mr. Willison is very enthusiastic about the country. He is working a gang of men on 4 above Discovery this winter.

Edgar Wickersham is the deputy United States Marshal for the Tanana district. Mr. Wickersham is a conscientious and capable officer, and is an enthusiastic worker for the upbuilding of the country. He is the owner of the little steamer which plies between Chena and Fairbanks in the summer time carrying passengers to and fro.

The headwaters of the Chenoa River were stampeded and staked from Circle in 1898, but no prospecting was done and the claims were allowed to lapse. Many of the old-timers, however, kept an eye on the country, and were the first who settled here after the discovery of pay on the creeks. Numbered with these are Napoleon Dupras of the El Dorado, Dave Petree of the Pioneer, and George Harrington of the Fairbanks. They had such faith in the country that they gave away what they could not sell of their interests in other places, and came here to stay.

MINING NOTES

Messrs. White & Morrison of the Tanana Machinery Co., are well supplied for present needs with boilers, machinery and fixtures.

The workmen on 11 above on Fairbanks Creek rocked out 51 seven-pan buckets of dirt this week, to test the ground, and secured \$121.25. This is some of the low grade property turned down by people last spring. There are a large lot of just such propositions in this district, which will be developed this winter.—News.

John Bonfield, who led the vanguard of the rush to Tanana last spring, is still at Fairbanks, which he says in a letter, is destined to be the largest city in Alaska within four years. He says the country is unquestionably very rich, and that by another year several million dollars worth of gold will be taken out from the creeks on which only sufficient work has yet been done to demonstrate their value.

Charley Pine arrived in town from Pine Creek. He reports that considerable work has been done there this summer, and the showing made was good. Fair pay was found in many places along the creek for some distance, the gold all being coarse and showing but little wash. The pay streak was not located, however, and ten men are now there prospecting for it. All those interested are sanguine of ultimate success. The best gravel discovered so far runs about 10 cents to the pan.

The cupidity of men will naturally attract them to the richer creeks and claims. This operates as a bar to the development of claims of lesser value. Natural laws, however, provide for this state of things. When the first excitement which follows a great discovery of gold fades away, a normal condition of affairs prevails. Transportation facilities between the mines and base of supplies are furnished. Improved methods of mining are introduced, and claims, previously regarded as being "low grade," and not susceptible of profitable working, come to the front and are recognized by capital as providing a safe opportunity for investment.



JUDGE J. C. P. KELLUM

On a bench of the left limit opposite 5 below on Fairbanks, Mr. Cheeseman has got 30 cents to the pan.

The Norris brothers have two steam thawers with which they will work two of their creek properties this winter. While large dumps will be taken out on both creeks, they will vigorously prosecute development work on their other properties.

The steamer Seattle No. 3, on her trip to Fairbanks, had a barge ahead. The length of the boat and barge was 336 feet, and together they carried over 400 tons of freight. But little difficulty was experienced in reaching the town, and none of the cargo was lightered.

A long tom was in operation on one of the big gravel bars about four miles below town on the Chenoa River. Just how much the operator made is not generally known, but the News man has the information from him personally that he made more than he could possibly hope to by loafing.

THE TANANA GOLD FIELDS

MASON & HILL, Publishers

FRANK MASON - - - - - Editor

All communications intended for publication must bear the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The manager will not be responsible for money unless remitted in the ordinary manner, by registered letter, postoffice order or draft.

FRANK MASON, Manager.

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A. R. HEILIG.....Clerk of Court
N. T. HARLAN.....U. S. District Attorney
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EDGAR WICKERSHAM.....Deputy
J. T. COWLES.....Commissioner
JOHN L. LONG.....Deputy Recorder
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Council—W. A. Robertson, Abe Spring, Dave Petree,
John Long, E. A. Smith, Ben Sherman.

INTRODUCTION.

That a modern metropolitan city should spring into existence as if by magic above the 64th parallel of north latitude on the Western hemisphere, where the variation in temperature exceeds 160 degrees, is the astounding fact that we would emphasize through this volume. Though far removed from other centers of industry and enterprise, Fairbanks promises a magnificent future, and is destined to occupy a foremost position in the vanguard of the onward march of progress now dawning upon the great cities of the West.

As the continued and increased development of the mining industry in the Tanana progresses, and tons upon tons of precious metal are wrested from the depths of Nature's frozen storehouse, so will the magnitude and commercial importance of the city of Fairbanks expand. The following pages, compiled from authentic sources, will tell the story of the country's greatness, which the accompanying illustrations will illumine in the silent but unerring language of the camera.

A perusal of the personal history of the principal mine-owners and early pioneers of the country is invited. These sketches will be found to be entertaining as well as instructive, as they embrace much of the early history of the country, and from them the reader will obtain a comprehensive understanding not only of the country's greatness, but also of the hardships and privations endured in the pioneer days by those intrepid knights of iron will and nerves of steel who scaled the icy mountain barriers and braved the raging cataracts to hew a pathway for future generations.

Already the monetary condition of Fairbanks has undergone a perceptible change. Gold dust has now almost entirely taken the place, as a medium of exchange, of the ragged and dirty currency which passed between the buyer and the seller of but a few months ago. The currency brought into the country, which amount in most instances was limited to scarcely sufficient for the purchase of a season's supply of food, has practically all found its way into the stores of the two big companies in payment for provisions, and in the ordinary routine of business is from there shipped to the outside in payment for the supplies shipped in. Thus it is the currency has been practically retired from the market, and the product of the country has taken its place. Up to the present time scarcely a dollar has come into the country for speculative purposes, or that was not absolutely necessary for the purchase of provisions by its owner. Under unfavorable conditions the camp has thrived. The gold dust in circulation is gradually increasing in amount, the dumps on all the creeks are rapidly increasing in size, and a season of unparalleled prosperity is assuredly before us.

The class of men invariably rewarded in a new mining camp is the strong, able-bodied Swede. He is always a hard worker, patient and persevering; and, although fortune may not smile upon his first efforts he generally leaves a mining camp richer than when he came; and the mining camp, too, has been benefited by his presence. If he works for wages he pays his bills, and usually saves a portion of his money. If he strikes out for himself he is not afraid to explore new creeks, and if there is gold there he perseveres until he finds it, and thus the mining camp is benefited by his presence. These same good traits are possessed by individuals of every other nationality, but for hard work and perseverance the Swedes as a race out-classes other races, and when fortune finally crowns his efforts and he steps on board the out-going steamer with a heavily loaded carpet-bag he is satisfied with himself and the miners he is leaving behind are satisfied with him. He has worked hard for what he has got, and in a new mining camp hard work is more frequently rewarded than keen business foresight.

Your attention is called to a letter published in another column of this journal. The letter, among other important things, speaks of the present price of provisions in Fairbanks and Chenoa. One of the conclusions arrived at after reading the letter is that the two commercial companies of the country immediately raised the prices of provisions as soon as the great shortage was discovered. This, however, is a mistake. At the head of the Northern Commercial Company is too clever a business man to conduct the affairs of his company in that short-sighted manner, and the N. A. T. & T. Co. have doubtless learned a lesson in Dawson which they will not readily forget. The provisions mentioned were probably bought in large quantities by speculators during the summer, and the companies no doubt received their regular price for the goods. When the two companies had entirely sold out the speculators doubtless added a small margin to the cost of the goods and placed them on sale, and this may account for the unseemly high prices prevailing at the present time.

The desire for a port of entry for the Tanana is universal among the miners of the Fairbanks district. Competition is the life of trade, and a little healthy trade will greatly benefit the district. The two great companies of Alaska may mean well enough for the miners, and doubtless they do. They sell the miner his supplies—when they have it—a great deal cheaper than he could possibly land it at Fairbanks if he bought it outside and packed it in on his back, and that is certainly a step in the right direction, but the trouble is it does not go far enough. If the district is granted a port of entry, Canadian bottoms can land supplies into the district from the Upper Yukon and the danger of another season of starvation will be removed.

President Roosevelt has received the report of the senatorial delegates who visited Alaska during last summer. One of the recommendations proposed by Senator Dillingham was for a good wagon road from Valdez to Eagle. In an interview recently published Senator Dillingham says in regard to the recent investigation: "What Alaska needs most of all, yes, even more than Territorial government, is means of transportation. Personally, as far as the metals are concerned, I don't think the surface of the country has been scratched. I think there are gold fields in Alaska that will ultimately pay better returns than any section yet worked, but before that comes to pass, railroads, wagon roads and trails will have to be forthcoming.

"Take an illustration, for instance: Suppose a man locates a bed of gravel in the interior which if worked by hydraulic methods would prove a big paying venture. At the present time, when he pays 15 to 20 cents per pound to get his stuff packed in, the gravel is not rich enough to pay him to work it as he is now compelled to, whereas had they the proper roads there would be a mammoth profit in it.

"There should be, in my opinion, a good wagon road from Valdez to Eagle, for then other roads would branch out to all parts of the interior. Yes, Alaska needs help along this line, and a great deal of it, and yet we can not

say that Alaska is not resourceful. She is in a position to help herself to a great extent, although, as I stated before, she does need and deserves assistance from Uncle Sam."

COAL ON THE TANANA.

I have recently been shown some fine specimens of brown lignite coal, said to have been discovered near the head of the Nenana River, and I proceeded at once to make an examination of the district specified. Of course, as there are no openings, shafts or tunnels in the country, all I had to aid me in examining the formation was the faces of the rocks where they had been eroded by the different streams of water that have cut their way down into it, and the banks adjoining the creek fronts.

While this is not what I would have desired, it nevertheless enabled me to arrive at the very satisfactory conclusion that coal exists here, and from the character of the formation in general, in sufficient quantity and of suitable quality to justify development and marketing.

The vein where discovered crops on the tops of the high hills in the vicinity mentioned, but a lower and better vein will no doubt be uncovered as development progresses. It is about eight feet thick between walls, and the sample shown me contains a large percentage of amber, of inferior quality, which in appearance resembles dry, brittle pitch. The formation in the vicinity has been slightly uplifted and tilted, which has resulted in exposing the coal deposit on the tops of the hills.

Roughly estimating, the composition of the coal is about as follows:

Moisture.....	12 to 16 per cent.
Volatile hydrocarbons.....	30 to 35 per cent.
Fixed carbon.....	40 to 50 per cent.

Only a slight trace of sulphur was found, and other detrimental substances, while not large, will decrease as depth is attained on the vein. While the percentage of ash and moisture is large, they are not necessarily detrimental, as the ash holds the heat a long time. On the whole, I consider it a first quality of fuel, as it is remarkably free from sulphur.

The rocks of the country are coal bearing in character, and I am convinced that this particular vein covers a very large area. Evidences of this are to be found on most of the creeks of the Fairbanks district. The country is generally rather even and rolling, with an occasional high hill, usually well timbered. But the innumerable water courses which have cut their way down through the hills give the country the appearance of being very rough and rugged. The sides are well worn and rounded by frost bites and the action of water, and the formation is rarely exposed except on the brow of the highest hills and on the banks of streams. It is variable in composition, texture and color, and varies from wash-d granitic minerals to siliceous clays, and is cross stratified at times. Carbonaceous materials, such as small fragments of plants, are discernible in places. Carbonates of iron are largely mixed in the shales and schists, and a vegetable ooze, commonly known as coal blood, is encountered everywhere. The carbonates of iron varies in color from a bluish gray to a brownish black when freshly broken, but when they have been exposed to the weather they become more of a buff color. The thin layers of shale contain fossil imprints of leaves. These thinly bedded layers of shale can be broken down very easily in angular pieces, which are extremely indurated by an oxide of iron cement. Silver-white mica also appears as a secondary mineral.

From the foregoing indications I am convinced that a good grade of bituminous or soft coal exists at a depth of about 600 feet below the present lignite coal vein. But as the latter will fill all the requirements for years to come, its development is unnecessary.

As a fuel for the Fairbanks mining district the present find is rather inaccessible, being distant some thirty-five to forty miles, but the same vein will, no doubt, be discovered nearer by.

A fine, thick vein of coal has also been found near Saleha, and another, the largest of all, on the south side of the Tanana, near the new placer mining district. In composition these beds are nearly the same, so that our future fuel supply is assured.

These coal fields offer an excellent opportunity for investment.

DESIRE PORT OF ENTRY FOR THE TANANA

The following clipping from a San Francisco paper has been widely circulated throughout the country. The letter itself is well written, and fairly accurate, except perhaps in one or two instances. The comparative size of the two towns is very bad, but the desire for the establishment of a port of entry has only two opponents—the two great trading companies.

The conclusions that are apt to be drawn from the letter are misleading. The writer of the letter does not say that the companies are at the present time selling flour for \$12.50 per fifty-pound sack, butter at \$3.00 a can, and sugar at 40 cents a pound. He does not say the two great trading companies of the north have invariably raised the price of provisions as soon as navigation closed. He says that the present time flour, butter and sugar are selling at that price in Fairbanks and Chenoa. These goods are not sold over the counters of the two great trading companies, and to do justice, the stockholders are not sharing in this double extortion. The goods have been bought in large quantities from the companies, and, possibly, may have been paid for. They are taken to an altogether different building, before the price is raised, but the miner realizes only the financial difference.

Chenoa is situated on the upper waters of the Tanana River, near the foot of the McKinley Mountains in Alaska, and the Miners' Association of the Tanana mining district has petitioned the Secretary of the Treasury at Washington to have that port declared a port of entry and have retained the local law firm to present their case to the proper authorities. In their petition, which is signed by more than one-fourth of the total population of the Tanana River mining district, they set forth that the two great trading and transportation companies of the North, which control all of the trade of the American Yukon, have the district completely in their power and not only refuse to bring sufficient provisions to the district to feed the two thousand or more miners that are now there, but have invariably raised the price of provisions as soon as navigation closed, so that the ordinary miners have to live on extremely short rations, if they do not actually starve.

The growth of the country has been retarded by reason of the fact that the transportation companies refuse to bring sufficient provisions into the district for the miners to live on while they work, and as a consequence one of the richest placer mining districts of the North has for years been scarcely prospected and not developed at all. The steamship companies refuse to transport supplies and outfits purchased by miners elsewhere to be shipped to the mines, and compel all miners to purchase from their stores in Chenoa and Fairbanks. The miners desire that the United States Government declare Chenoa, the city at the head of navigation, a port of entry and that a customs officer be stationed there so that the Canadian vessels trading on the upper Yukon may compete with the two companies that now control that part of the North.

The following extracts from a report by the Secretary of the Miners' Association of the Tanana River mining district, W. S. Clark, of this city, sets forth their grievance and tells something of the country that they are endeavoring to have opened to mining and agriculture:

"Conditions exist here which have no parallel in the placer mining history of the world. We have but two seasons, short summer and long winter, and to prospect and develop the mineral resources hardships and privations must be endured a thousand times greater than in any mining district on the globe.

"To aid and make possible further and more extensive developments in this land we need vastly greater supplies of food and mining machinery. We must have river steamers that can navigate the shallow waters of the Tanana River. The two big companies to whom we must look have not the boats necessary, and being alone in the field, charge such excessive prices and provide such a small amount of supplies that it is impossible for the average miner to do more than live here, much less develop this extremely promising placer region.

"On the upper Yukon are the very steamers that are

required, but being Canadian bottoms they cannot come to us. Could they come here they could supply our invariably depleted markets six weeks earlier in the spring than can the steamers of the lower river.

"The two companies that practically own this country carry goods a thousand miles further up the Yukon against the current of the river and sell them for from 100 to 400 per cent. cheaper than they sell the same goods to us, and even then make a profit after paying the duty on the goods they take to Dawson. Here a year's outfit for one miner of plain food costs \$600, while the same goods, with duty added, can be bought in Dawson for about \$250.

"Stockton flour is selling here at the present time for \$12.50 per fifty pound sack, while in Dawson it sells for but \$2.50 for the same amount. A two-pound can of butter costs \$3. Sugar sells for 40 cents per pound, and both it and flour will advance fully one-half within the next month (letter dated January 16). All necessities are in proportion. Last year it was the same and next year it will be worse, for it is certain that the population will be more than quadrupled within the next ten months. Their condition will be appalling unless we get a port of entry in order that the Canadian steamers may compete with the two old companies.

"Shallow draught boats such as are on the run from Stockton to San Francisco are what is needed, and such a boat can pay for itself in one trip up this river. Further up the river, where no boat that draws to exceed two feet can go, is a great stretch of country that has prospected splendidly, but has never had any provisions for men to live on. From 100 to 250 miles above us is the best prospected, unworked country in Alaska. The native trade is very great, and the one who gets there first and establishes their trading posts can clear close to \$100,000 in five years on the native alone in the fur trade.

"There is but little known of this section, for all eyes have been turned to Dawson during the past seven years, and it is only now that people begin to realize the great opportunities that are presented here. Every variety of vegetable that will mature in nine or ten weeks will flourish here beyond all belief. Turnips raised here in Chenoa last summer attained a weight of sixteen and eighteen pounds. Potatoes flourish in this rich, virgin soil. The mountains are banked with great patches of rich raspberries where fires have been. Blueberries and cranberries are now frozen on the bushes, and in walking through the snow one kicks them off, and the snow is spotted with them.

"Many half-section homesteads have been taken up and are being improved. Oat, timothy and wheat hay flourish here after the soil has been turned up and allowed to crumble before planting is done. Grain matures, thanks to the endless sun of summer. Hay and oats bring 7 cents per pound in summer and a great deal more in winter.

"The Tanana is the warm belt of Central Alaska, and the valley at this place is over eighty miles wide and 350 miles long. We have the sun here in Chenoa three and a half hours the shortest day in winter, while at Dawson it is gone for nearly six weeks. Spring comes here a month earlier than in Dawson.

"We are a thousand miles nearer salt water than Dawson, and this river presents many other advantages to navigators that is not possessed by the upper river.

"But at present, as in the past, the two big companies own the country. In order to prosper we must have a port of entry here. Chenoa is an incorporated city about equal in size to Fairbanks, twelve miles further up the river. We are connected by telegraph with Dawson, and have a mail service twice a month during the winter via Valdez on the Pacific. Up to a few days ago we had a magnificent winter, and for six weeks or more the thermometer was above zero, but a few days ago it fell to 40 degrees below."

New Trading Post for Tanana.

The Northern Commercial Company announce that they will establish upon the opening of navigation a trading post, to be located on the Tanana river at the point where the military trail crosses the Tanana River. This point is known as Tanana crossing and is 140 miles above Fairbanks.

New Steamer for Tanana.

The Northern Commercial Company is framing a steamer at Portland, Ore., which will ply between the mouth of the Tanana and Fairbanks, carrying freight and passengers and capable of completing the round trip of 460 miles in three days. The steamer will be put together at St. Michaels and will arrive at Fairbanks with her first load of passengers and freight on or before the 1st of August.

The new vessel will be named the Tanana. She is modelled on the same lines as the "Koyokuk," now at the mouth of the Tanana River.

The "Tanana," when completed, will be 140 feet over all and 30 feet beam. Her carrying capacity will include comfortable quarters for thirty passengers. When the steamer is completed and turned over to the N. C. Company the contractors guarantee that she will draw not to exceed ten and a half inches of water, and when loaded with 200 tons of freight she will draw not to exceed twenty-six inches. The "Tanana" will have the very best machinery and will have more power than the steamer "Rock Island."

Fairbanks Prices.

The following list contains a few of the prevailing prices for goods sold by the two great trading companies when they have the articles for sale:

Condensed milk, per case.....	\$17.00
Condensed cream, per case.....	14.50
Sweet potatoes, per case.....	10.00
Vegetables, per case.....	9.00
Flour, per 100 pounds.....	9.00
Rolled Oats, per 8 pounds.....	1.50
Corn meal, per 8 pounds.....	1.50
Prunes, per 10 pounds.....	2.50
Apples, per 10 pounds.....	2.50
Lima beans, per 10 pounds.....	1.50
Brown beans, per 10 pounds.....	1.25
Sugar, per pound.....	.20
Worcestershire sauce, per small bottle.....	1.00
Coffee, per 1 1/2 pound can.....	2.00
Soda, per package.....	.50
Baking powder, per 1-2 pound can.....	.50
Fresh onions, per pound.....	.25
Fresh potatoes, per pound.....	.20

The above are the regular outfit prices. It includes the usual discount. Goods bought in small quantities are in many instances higher.

Judge Miller has moved into his new office building, next door to the telegraph office.

Charlie Columbe and Jack McGregor of Circle have some good ground on Fairbanks Creek. They will both have a good spring clean-up.

J. C. Patterson wishes to say to the miners who are about to start to Circle City for provisions that they should investigate the trail by way of Baker Creek and Rampart. Mr. Patterson says Rampart is only a three days' trip from the mouth of Cleary Creek. That there is a good level trail all the way, with the exception of a small divide between Glen Gulch and Rampart. He says there is no reason why miners should leave the country on account of the shortage of grub, as it can be freighted to the creeks in from two to three days after the trail is broken.

Not long ago a Western Kansas politician was asked by his wife to lay aside politics long enough one day to dig the potatoes in the garden. He consented, and, after digging for a few minutes went into the house and said he had found a coin. He washed it off, and it proved to be a silver quarter. He put it in his jeans and went back to work. Presently he went to the house again, and said he had found another coin. He washed the dirt off of it, and this time it was a silver half dollar. He put it in his jeans. "I have worked pretty hard," said he to his wife; "I guess I'll take a short nap." When he awoke he found that his wife had dug all the rest of the potatoes. But she found no coins. It then dawned upon her that she had been "worked."

AMONG THE MINES

CREEK NOTES.

The Gilmore roadhouse is doing a good business.

John Rapp and Al Wissel are sinking a hole on a bench claim on the left limit of Cleary, opposite 1 below. They expect to reach bedrock in a few days.

On Nos. 2 and 2 above on Cleary there are four holes going down.

On 3 above on Fairbanks W. A. Boss was drowned out,



BARBER'S ROAD HOUSE
6 Above on Chatham Creek

and he is now starting several new holes. About 200 feet of this ground is not frozen.

H. Woldridge is operating his boiler on his bench opposite 4 below on Fairbanks. He expects to reach bedrock in his first hole in a few days.

Joe Hoffman of the Cleary Creek roadhouse, is now enjoying a big trade from the travel between Fairbanks and Circle.

W. Stephens, on 16 above, on the left limit of his claim on Fairbanks has got down to gravel, and has already got a fair prospect. In one pan he got one color worth about eight cents, and about four cents in fine gold. He is probably about seven or eight feet above bedrock.

R. H. Flemming, on 4 above, on Chatham, has commenced operations. He is building a rocker house, and has two holes nearly to bedrock.

Jim Eagle made a transfer of a number of claims to Mr. Turner of the N. C. Company. The consideration is not stated.

Two or three parties who have been hauling goods from Circle have complained of missing things along the Chatanaga at places where they put up for the night.

Hunt, the freighter, has started back for Circle for grub. He is coming back right away, and intends working a lay on 8 below Pedro.

A. W. Bennett, formerly of the Golden City roadhouse, has taken a lay on 1 below Pedro.

Howell & Porter's ground on Chatham is showing up well. The laymen are now working on ground that will go nine cents to the pan, with about four feet of gravel. The first laymen abandoned this ground, after sinking one hole to bedrock.

Pine, Steers and Nelson have just completed their cabin on 3 below on Cleary.

George Light and George Wilcox have taken a lay on 2 above on Fairbanks.

Frank Farnum is in from Anaconda Creek. He says it has not been cold enough to sink yet.

A. F. St. George received a big lot of freight from Circle such as locks, flour, salt, candles, files and many other articles.

Mr. W. Swanson has returned from Circle City with some of the scarcities in the grub line.

Harry Austin of 2 below has gone to Circle City after some of the necessities of life.

Dan McCarty has two shafts to bedrock on 2 below on Cleary, both in good pay.

Charley Copeland came in from Kokomo, where good pay has been found. Ed Quinn is representing Discovery on this creek, and Mehan, Laason and McMahon are

representing 6, 7 and 9 above. They have a small boiler on the creek.

Dr. Hepworth and others passed the creek recently on a hunting expedition.

An offer of \$100 on bedrock is made to the successful party sending an acceptable name for the metropolis now building on 1 below.

Frank McGraw has returned from the creeks this week; he reports everywhere he visited the creeks are showing up in great shape.

On 3 above, on Chatham, Louie Meyers has three men working; they are on big pay, and have a depth of six feet, and a pay streak that they already know is ninety feet wide. On the claim above Bob Fleming has the same pay.

There are six claims on the creek, and already twenty-five cabins have been built.

There are about eighty men working on Chatham creek. The most of them are working on two-third lays.

On Fairbanks there are eighty-five cabins and about 250 men working. Some of the men have enough provisions to last until spring. But the most of them will be short.

On Gold Stream Wilson has three feet of pay on No. 4. No. 5 Gold Stream, Dan McCarty's claim, is all let out on lays. J. F. Monkman, P. R. Killett and J. Donland have a two years' lay on 200 feet of this ground.

The big steam plant that was in operation on No. 4 Glen Gulch is now being moved over to No. 4 Gold Stream.

F. G. Noyes and brother of the Tanana Lumber Co. are prepared for extensive mining operations. They have a large thawing plant, which will soon be installed on one of their claims, where a large force will be employed in taking out a big dump. They also have a small boiler and equipment that can be handled easily on sleds, which will be used in prospecting on other creeks and benches.

Rampart Notes.

Frank McGraw returned from a trip to Rampart this week. He reports everything very quiet over in that country. There are about 200 people located upon the creeks and in the town, and a good many of these are already making preparations to come to Fairbanks. Quite a few people will leave Rampart about the end of March for this camp. One saloon in Rampart is selling drinks two for two-bits. There seems to be plenty of provisions of all kinds for sale in Rampart. All kinds of canned goods are sold at 25 cents a can. Joe Cooper will probably move his saloon outfit up here in the spring. The Eagle Mining Company is not working many men this winter. There are one or two places on



GEO. L. BELLOWS

Little Minook where there is quite a little gold being taken out. The boiler and hoist that Frank McGraw went to Rampart after is now working in good pay on Little Minook, and it may be several months before it will be brought over here.—News.

D. W. Truit has two holes to bedrock on Chatham, the holes being eighty-five feet apart, and in each has four feet of 10-cent dirt.

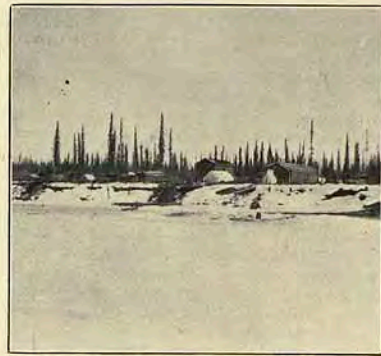
PERTAINING TO MINES

QUERY COLUMN.

All questions addressed to this paper appertaining to mining law will be answered through this column by Mr. J. C. Kellum of Fairbanks. Send communications to the News.

Editor News—

Q.—Suppose I stake a mining claim on January 1, 1904, and do not record with the commissioner until, say,



FAIRBANKS IN THE SPRING OF 1903

April 15, more than ninety days after staking, could I hold my claim by recording at that time?

CONSTANT READER.

A.—Yes, you could hold the mining claim at any time, if you record at the proper place before any intervening rights have been made perfect.

Editor News—

Q.—Is a power of attorney good for staking a claim if it is not recorded, or is it good if one gives another a power of attorney to stake by word of mouth?

J. F. B.

A.—Yes, a power of attorney is good if not recorded, but it is always safer to do so, if possible. A power of attorney is good by word of mouth, or as the lawyers say, it is good if given by parol, or even further, if you stake a claim for John Jones, who lives in Seattle, and even if he was never in this country, and you notify Jones that you have staked a claim for him, saying where it was done, if Jones accepts your staking and ratifies your act of staking it is a good and valid location.

Editor News—

Q.—How many claims can I hold by location on the same creek.

J. C. M.

A.—One creek claim, also one bench claim, of not more than twenty acres each.

Editor News—

Q.—How many stakes are required in staking a group of eight claims?

REQUEST.

A.—Eight claims are considered as but one claim, and four stakes will hold it, or even less number, if location is properly described.

Editor News—

Q.—Does a mortgage come before wages?

A.—If the mortgage is given before the wage-earner begins work on the mortgaged premises the mortgage holds title before any lien for wages.

Editor News—

Q.—Is a layman responsible for wages due for labor on a claim, or is the claim good for it? A MINER.

A.—The layman or lessee is alone responsible for wages for work performed on the leased property, unless the lessee or layman holds more than a leasehold interest.

Those coming in from the creeks are a unit in declaring that standing at the head of Fairbanks one is reminded of Bonanza, Dawson.

Napoleon Dupras has a fine saloon on Front street.

NEW DISCOVERY.

Big Quartz District Found Across the Tanana.

Tim Crowley, Jack Pomeroy and Sam Barber returned lately from an extended visit to the new quartz district discovered by them last summer. The district is on the headwaters of the Black River, in the Alaskan range of mountains, and is distant from Fairbanks in a direct line, almost due south, about 100 miles, but by the route traveled is nearly 200 miles.

They located two monster ledges, one of which is 100 feet between walls and crops 100 feet high for fully



JACK COSTA

half a mile. There are many ledges there, and float quartz can be found everywhere. They were not able to judge the character or probable value of the mineral, but think it to be a high grade silver ore, carrying a large per cent. of copper. A number of samples were brought out for assaying. Some members of the party will return before spring to spend the summer in developing the property. But few locations have been made there yet.

FAIRBANKS' FIRST SOCIAL FUNCTION.

The first social function given in Fairbanks took place Thanksgiving night in the form of an invitation ball given under the auspices of the Arctic Brotherhood. The event was greatly enjoyed by all who were the lucky participants. The dancing was in the A. B. Hall, which was decorated tastefully and festooned in rustic style. At eleven o'clock there was a grand supper march, and the gay party repaired to a building opposite, which had been specially fitted up for the collation. The banquet hall was tastefully decorated with large American flags and fir boughs. There were two long tables the full length of the room, and one along the end. The tables were neatly spread and filled with all the good things which go in keeping with a Thanksgiving dinner. The following were among those present: Mr. and Mrs. Kelum; Mr. and Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Charles Hill, Mrs. Fassel, Miss Barrett, Mrs. Frank Wilson, Mrs. Jessie Evans, Mr. and Mrs. C. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Dupras, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Leonard, Mrs. Werner, Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. John Rapp, Mrs. Delaney, Messrs. Dodge, Condon, Spring, Solly Spring, Overgaard, Noonan, Hall, W. H. Smith, R. D. Smith, St. George, Meehan Cleary, Laymon, McDonough, Fox, Dupras, Long, Karsden, McGonigle, Bennett, Wilson, John L. Long, Wiedman, Gamble, Bellows, Carter, Lindig, Sherman Healy, Wood, Petree, Henshaw, Fain, Parker, Woiitke, Mogeau, Dr. Hall, Cassely, Harrington, Robertson, Miller, Judge Cowles, Crede, Woiitke, Siebe Hoffman, Taylor, Petree, Rockwell, Waechter, Deane, Kinman, Parker, Shaw, George Mutchler, Purchase, Dr. Elic, Dr. Danforth, Oldfield, Sergeant Murphy, Sergeant Smith and Corporal Martin.

The Fairbanks News office is prepared to fill any order for fine job printing.

Telephone for Fairbanks.

The Yukon Telephone Syndicate, with Mr. N. A. Fuller, president, will establish a telephone system at Fairbanks. The material is now on the way. The capital of the company is \$50,000.—Dawson Daily News.

Express for the Creeks.

The Arrow Express leaves Fairbanks for the creeks every Sunday at ten A. M., carrying mail, papers and small packages. The rates are 25 cents for letters or papers, and 50 cents for small packages up to 5 pounds. From 5 to 10 pounds, \$1. Anything above that, 7 cents per pound. Terms cash. Leave orders at News office.

Tanana Turnips.

George Harrington of the Fairbanks has a fine garden at Chena. Though the growing season is not yet over he has turnips that will weigh 30 pounds, cabbage as large as water buckets, beets as good as can be grown anywhere, potatoes fit for the gods, lettuce in abundance, and kale is high as Deacon Jones's fence. There is little reason why our vegetable supply can not be home grown.

Important Decision.

In the commissioner's court Judge Cowles decided the trespass case of L. Meyers vs. Johnson & Meredith in favor of the plaintiffs. The gist of Judge Cowles' decision was as follows: Every man has a right to relocate mining ground, stake fractions or otherwise contest an original locator's right to mining ground, but such subsequent locator must stop here, and before he takes possession of the ground and proceeds to work same must establish his right to same in the district court; until that time he is a trespasser.

Al Morency Arrives.

Al Morency, one of the best-known miners in Alaska, arrived lately from Circle, and he intends putting in the winter here, which is sufficient evidence of his good opinion of this part of the country. Mr. Morency has been mining on Mastodon, and on other creeks in the Birch Creek country, since '94, and was also a heavy operator in the Klondike country.

It is roughly estimated that Al has taken enough gold out of the ground to load a mule pack-train forty miles long, and if the gold had been coined into \$20-gold pieces, and were placed edge on edge they would make a string long enough to reach within a very few miles of the moon. Al has a reputation as a phenomenal miner; he was never known to work a piece of ground that would not pay. It is said of him that he can tell whether ground will pay to work before ever a pick has been stuck into it.

Those who know him best say that it takes just \$94,000 to make a comfortable grub stake to last him through an Arctic winter, and even then he has been known to do a little rocking early in the season before the ground had thawed sufficiently to get a string of boxes in operation, in order to paint a parting streak of carmine around the rough edges of old Circle.

Mining Notes.

H. L. Meyers of 3 Chatham rocked out \$600 in five days.

On 3 above on Fairbanks Creek they have been getting \$2 to the pan.

Tom Roekwell and Sam Barber have taken a 100-foot lay on No. 4 below, Fairbanks. They will take out a big dump this winter.

Two new roadhouses have opened up lately. One is the Owl House, about nine miles out of town, and the other one is on No. 5 Gold Stream.

The Gold City roadhouse, built by H. Howard, contains all the accommodations for travelers and wayfarers. There is in connection a good stable and doghouse.

Louie Laflames, well-known the country wide as the owner of large mining interests on Mastodon and other creeks, arrived from the Circle district. He is the owner of 6 and 7 above on Pedro, where he will take out large dumps this winter.

Sam Blackburn, James and Jack McPike of Independence Creek arrived in town Monday. These gentlemen are the owners of one-half interest in 1 below on Fairbanks, where they will take out a large dump this winter.

TELEGRAPH FACILITIES.

Fairbanks is in direct communication with all the rest of the world. The United States government telegraph line extending from there to Dawson connects with the telegraph line of the Canadian government; from thence the telegram travels by way of Ashcroft, B. C., and from there on the messages are mostly handled by the Western Union Telegraph Company. The rates for messages from Fairbanks to cities along the coast is about \$5.50 for ten words.

The Marconi system has been installed along the Tanana River from Fort Gibbon to Chena. So far the workmen engaged in adjusting the wireless system of telegraph have been unable to accomplish anything like satisfactory results. The uneven nature of the country is a serious bar to the successful working of the system, especially where powerful machinery has not been installed to generate sufficient electrical energy to attract the deflected wave.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

A 25-horse-power boiler, a 4 and a 6-inch centrifugal pump, and a steam saw have been installed on 3 below, Fairbanks.

John L. Long is the mining recorder for Fairbanks district. Mr. Long is also the clerk of the court for Fairbanks, and a member of the city council, having received the largest number of votes cast in the recent election.

Messrs. Rossiaud, Moreau and Deschamps, who have been working a lay on Discovery, Chatham Creek, arrived in town Thursday with a fine clean-up. The last ten days, from September 5 to 15, with one man shoveling in, 34 ounces was cleaned up.—News.

A contract has been let for the erection of a two-story hotel on the Butler & Gibson lot, just above the Commissioner's office, on First avenue. The dimensions of the structure will be 30x60 feet, and it is the intention of the owners to have a first-class hostelry in every particular.

Between forty and fifty buildings are now in course of construction, and others are being started daily. Fairbanks is the largest log cabin town in the world to-day, and the number of buildings will soon be doubled. There are but few vacant buildings, those now under construction are not for rent, and the population of the town is rapidly increasing.



DICK MOTSCHMAN

The preliminary survey for the proposed railroad is now under way. The promoters have run a survey line along the streets of Chena. They expect to run the survey to Pedro Creek, and announce that if the business on the creeks warrants they will put in a road during the coming year.

NEWS CLIPPINGS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Carry Large Pokes.

While on his way to San Francisco for machinery, C. L. West was interviewed by a Skagway Guide reporter with the following result:

Mr. C. L. West arrived direct from Tanana, for which place he left Dawson last March.

Mr. West, when met by a Guide correspondent, was somewhat reluctant about speaking of the Tanana, as he does not desire to pose as a booster. Pressed for information, however, he said that the past two months had wrought a wonderful change in the Tanana country. Mr. West said, had he been able to get away from here about June 1, he no doubt would have given the camp a bad reputation, but that now he has no occasion to do so; that the country is being opened up and is showing good pay on all the creeks worked. Every man carries a good poke, and many of them are well filled.

On claim 2 above on Pedro, Costa brothers are working from twenty-five to thirty men, and their clean-up will compare favorably with those of some of the best paying claims in the Klondike. Within the past two months prospecting throughout the country has been extensively carried on; new creeks have been found in many places, giving to the Tanana what Mr. West considers the basis for a prosperous mining camp for many years to come.

The Goodpasture Strike.

There is every reason to believe that the reported rich strike made late last fall somewhere in the Goodpasture region is proving good, although nothing definite is known about it yet. Five men on their way from Dawson to the southern slope of the Tanana, are supposed to have made the discovery. One of the party returned to Dawson early in the summer, with \$2,000 in dust, and after securing a supply of provisions the party, with one intimate friend, returned to the hills.

The discovery was made by accident. While boating down some stream—supposed to be the Goodpasture—good looking wash was discovered on the rim of a high bench. A stop was made for dinner, and while the preparations were in progress, a wash-dish of the top gravel was tried, which yielded 34 cents. Camp was pitched, and further prospecting developed an extensive deposit of fabulously rich gravel.

Mining operations were at once commenced. Some of the men carried the gravel down from the bench in gunny sacks, while others washed it at the river bank with a rocker. In this crude way several thousand dollars were cleaned up before winter, when development work was vigorously prosecuted.

Dr. Medill was indirectly interested in the discovery, and was invited to join the miner on his return to the find; but as all his arrangements had been completed to

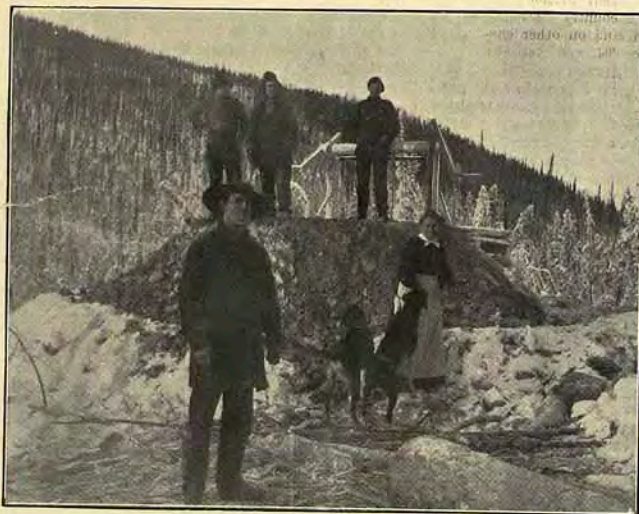
Stampede Now On.

A party of three men from Chenoa, composed of Messrs. Sullivan, Smith and Harry Kato, a Jap, returned from an extended prospecting trip in the foothills of the Alaskan range of mountains, which form the southern wall of the Tanana. On the eve of their departure for home they discovered an unexplored section that they have every reason to believe will prove on further investigation to be rich. Their own research was prolonged to the limit of their supply of provisions, which was nearly exhausted when the locality was reached.

The story of the strike, so far as the News has been able to learn, is as follows: About seventy miles south-east from Fairbanks, on an unnamed creek tributary to the Tanana, the prospectors found wash that yielded six cents to the pan in the grass roots. As a result of the pannings \$14 was brought to town. Bob Chamberlain of Fairbanks, who grub-staked the party, returned at once with them to the locality for the purpose of making further investigation.

Even the meager news that found its way to the public ear created considerable excitement, and several stampede parties were formed, only to meet an untimely end in the incipient stage, for want of information.

A party of about twenty, however, composed of men



DAVE CASCADEN

Burn Cabin for Signal.

As the steamer Koyukuk was preparing to leave her wharf at Battles on her trip to Fairbanks, her captain was approached by a party who requested him to delay departure for a while, as they were waiting for a party of two on the creeks who were desirous of leaving for Fairbanks. The captain said it was impossible to delay, but that he expected to be hung up on a bar four miles below town, and suggested that if the parties came in they would see the smoke from the steamer, and they could signal him by setting fire to a cabin and he would await their coming. The incident is suggestive of the feeling of all who are leaving the Koyukuk. The working out of a placer district is always sure to place the district town among the number of deserted towns, such as are found in Nevada and Idaho. Battles is now among the "has beens."

locate in Fairbanks, the proposition could not be entertained.

The location of the stream is yet but a conjecture. It is supposed to be on a tributary on the Goodpasture, which flows into the Tanana about 140 miles above Fairbanks.

Gus Gullikson, in company with William Cheesman, has a two years' lay on 5 below, Fairbank.

Mr. Corbisher, who has the contract to put up the relay stations along the telegraph line from Tanana to Eagle, is pushing the work with all possible vigor. The stations are twenty miles apart.

Jack Turner, Tom Beatty, Phil Wren and Chester Johnson, who worked a lay on Wolf Creek this summer, are in town this week outfitting for the winter. They will work another lay this winter.



COSTA BROTHERS

from both Fairbanks and Chenoa, took the trail in the hope that they might follow it in.

The discoverers only located one claim each for themselves and one for Mr. Chamberlain on each of the creeks discovered.

The first discovery was christened Japan Creek. Chenoa Creek and Golden Gulch were staked and named next in their order, and no further search was made. The gold exhibited was coarse, and showed but little wash.

D. Ryan of Skagway has opened a cigar store on Front street.

William Prendergast, John McNeff and Mike Wendell, who have been working a two-thirds lay of 2 above on Pedro, made a good clean-up last week. After a three-days' run, with five men shoveling in, \$1,800 was taken out of the boxes.—News.

MEN WHO HAVE MADE THE COUNTRY

Miller Thostenen.

One of the most energetic and enterprising of the old-time miners in the district is Miller Thostenen. He was born in Decatur, Ill., December 6, 1872. At the age of 7 years his father moved to Kearney County, Neb., where the young man attended school until the spring of 1890, when he went to Oklahoma to try his ability to build up a fortune for himself. There he gained much in experience, but profited but little. The next year he moved to Lyons, Colo., where he spent one season. The following year he returned to his old home in Nebraska, where he tried farming and stockraising, but with poor success. In 1897 he went to Montana, to try his fortune at mining, but shortly after his arrival there he was attacked with the Klondike gold fever, and went to California to winter, on his way to the Yukon.

Upon his arrival at Dawson Mr. Thostenen took a lay on the famous Poverty Bar, 12 below on Bonanza Creek, where he made a handsome sum of money. In 1899 he joined the stampede to Nome, found nothing, and went to his home in Nebraska to spend the winter.

In the spring of 1901 he came to Faith Creek, in the Circle district, and finally settled, in the fall, on Deadwood, in the Birch Creek section. In December of the same year he landed, with others from that region, on Cleary Creek, near Fairbanks.

Here he acquired title to an undivided half interest in 9 below on Gold Stream for doing the representation work, and found flattering prospects. He also staked a fraction of 175 feet on the right limit of 6 below on the same stream, where he has constructed a comfortable home and has good ground. He also has an undivided half interest in 20 below, 10 below and 6 below, and in 6 below, left limit, Pedro, which is also very promising property. Other interests acquired by Mr. Thostenen are: 9 below Eldorado; 1 above, right limit, Dome Creek; the Bluebird; half interest in three claims on Engineer Creek; bench 5 below, right limit, Spruce; hillside, 7 below, left limit, Miller, and a twenty-acre tract of hydraulic ground on Fourth of July Hill.

Development work this winter will undoubtedly prove many of these claims to be rich.



NEAL M'LEOD

Judge H. J. Miller.

Judge Miller is 46 years of age. He was born and bred in Southern Iowa. He attended the university at Albia, in that State, and commenced the study of law in the office of R. C. Henry (afterward circuit judge), at Mt. Ayr, when 20 years of age; entered the Kansas State University at Lawrence in the autumn of 1881, and graduated in the law department, after which he located at Prescott, Ariz., where he practiced success-

fully. Here he was tendered the nomination for the Territorial Council, which honor was declined. Later he was tendered the nomination by wire for prosecuting attorney, which was also declined.

Convinced of the future greatness of the State of Washington, Judge Miller went to that State in the winter of 1889. He was twice elected city attorney of the city of Centralia, and once prosecuting attorney for the county. Went to Whatcom in the spring of 1895, where he enjoyed a large and lucrative law practice. In the fall of 1897 was employed by Nelson Burnett, manager of the Chilcote Railroad and Transportation Co., and former editor of the Tacoma Daily Ledger, to come to Alaska as attorney for that company, with a good salary. That company had some of the largest and most important cases in Southeastern Alaska, and it is said that Judge Miller never lost a single case for the company. Besides, he had a large general practice, having successfully defended Captain F. C. Andrews and the other officers and crew of the bark "Canada," charged with piracy. Invested heavily in mines in the Altin and Porcupine districts, and failing to make fickle Fortune turn her face to his kisses in that field, finally located at Eagle in the practice of his profession, and in this district he expects to remain. Was elected to the city council at Eagle in 1903, and resigned to come to Fairbanks.

Judge Miller has often remarked to friends that the mistake of his life was in leaving the State of Washington, but feels that his opportunities at Fairbanks will atone for all past errors of judgment. He has great faith in the future of the camp.

Besides a large list of valuable city property in Fairbanks, Judge Miller owns a half interest in 19 and 20 above Fairbanks; a half interest in 17 above and 17 below, bench left limit, same creeks; 2 above and a half interest in 2 below on Steel; Discovery and 1 above on Narrow Creek, besides one claim each on Captain and Kokomo.

Edward M. Crain.

Edward M. Crain left Yuba City, Cal., in the spring of 1898, to try his luck in the far Northwest. He was a passenger on the ill-fated "Corona," and saved practically nothing of his outfit when the vessel went down. But with Mr. Crain, as with the class of men by whom this northern country was settled, the loss of an outfit was only an incident, and didn't in anywise alter his determination to "see what was up there."

Mr. Crain prospected in the Indian River country, after arriving in the Klondike, and with the prospector's usual luck. When the Faith Creek stampede took place in 1900 he was one of the number to come down river from Dawson. Not finding anything to his liking, he returned to the Dawson country, where he stayed until the reports of the finding of gold in the Tanana basin again lured him, with hundreds of others, to the new diggings.

Mr. Crain will always be intimately identified with the early history of this camp, for it was due to the efforts of himself and his partners, Charles Mack and George Ashenfelder, that gold in paying quantities was first discovered on Fairbanks Creek. After arriving in this camp—in March, 1903—the three partners went over to Fairbanks Creek to haul in some meat that had been cached there, and while the other two were hauling in the meat Mr. Crain commenced sinking a hole adjoining the left limit of No. 3 above Discovery, at the mouth of a tributary which was named "Crain Gulch," in honor of him.

On the 16th of April bedrock was reached and a good body of pay dirt found. The partners then secured ground on the benches along the creek, and hold to-day numerous interests on Fairbanks and its tributaries. This discovery led to the immediate locating of all available property on the creek and benches, and thus was found a creek which so far has proved to be one of the best producers in the district.

Judge J. C. P. Kellum.

One of the ablest and most talented legal advisers in Alaska to-day is Judge J. C. P. Kellum. Judge Kellum was born in Kansas City, Mo., in 1861. After graduating from the high school of that city he entered Harvard, where he received the degree of B. A. in 1877. He then entered the law school of the University of Missouri, where he earned the degree of B. L. in 1879, and



JOHN W. CASSIDY

took a post-graduate course in Columbia Law School of New York in 1880. He then practiced law in Kansas City until 1886, when he was appointed United States District Attorney of Arizona by President Cleveland. Upon Mr. Cleveland's re-election he was again appointed to the same office, and distinguished himself in several notable instances.

In 1898 Judge Kellum came to Dawson, where he accepted a lucrative position as legal adviser with one of the leading law firms of that city, not being allowed to practice in the Canadian courts, on account of his nationality. In 1900 he moved to Circle City, where he enjoyed a good practice for two years, but finally turned his attention to mining, which occupation he has followed profitably since. In January, 1903, he visited the Fairbanks district, and being greatly impressed with the showing made and the outlook for the future, he established his home here. Besides the valuable city property acquired by Judge Kellum, he has interests in 17 below, a side claim off 6 above, and fractions of 400 feet between 13 and 14 and 15 and 16 above on Fairbanks Creek; a one-fourth interest in 4 above on Cleary; three eight-claim groups on Fish Creek, which are considered very valuable, besides a large number of other claims in different sections of the district, which have not been prospected.

Commissioner James Tod Cowles.

One of the progressive spirits of the country is United States Commissioner James Tod Cowles. Judge Cowles is a native son of the State of Washington, having been born at Olympia on January 10, 1876. He graduated with high honors from the high school of that city, after which he entered the engineering department of the United States Army, civil service branch, employed in the construction of the Jetty at Gray's Harbor, Wash. Studied law one year with Claypool & Cushman at Tacoma, and in the year 1899 he entered the law school of the University of the State of Washington and was in the first class to graduate from that institution, in 1901, when he received the degree of LL. B. In the spring of the same year he was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the State of Washington, and left in June, 1901, for Circle City, Alaska, where he practiced his chosen profession for eighteen months.

He joined the early stampede to the new discovery and arrived at the present site of Fairbanks in Febru-

ary, 1903. Shortly after his arrival here the miners petitioned the District Court to appoint Mr. Cowles Commissioner of the new district, and in April official notification of the appointment was received.

Aside from the other interests acquired by Judge Cowles here, he is the owner of an undivided one-half interest in claim No. 8 below on Fairbanks, the first place where pay was found on that creek. Discovery on Cowles Creek, as well as interests on a large number of other creeks, notable among which are Wickersham, Elliott, Fourth of July Hill, Cushman, Caribou, Spruce, Pine, Bear, Miller, Rose, Lovett, Gold Stream, Nugget and Bonfield, the latter being in the new district on the south side of the Tanana Valley.

Frank H. McGraw.

All the old-time miners in the Rampart district know Frank H. McGraw, for several years the ambitious, energetic and obliging manager of No. 8 above on Little Minook. Mr. McGraw was born in Danforth, Me., in 1876. He followed farming in his youth, and later on conducted a hotel or summer resort at Lake Maranocook, where he received a thorough business training and improved the opportunity offered at the same time to study character from every phase of life. The opportunity was not wasted or the lessons forgotten. His ambitions being larger than the field for operations, he soon tired of his humdrum existence, and taking passage for the golden West, landed in Seattle in the fall of 1897. Before he had reached a decision as to the best occupation to follow, he suddenly concluded that mining offered the most opportunities for the energetic, and took passage on a steamer for St. Michaels in 1898. At that time Nome had not been discovered, so he proceeded up the Yukon to Dawson. Dissatisfied with the outlook at this place, he returned down the river to Rampart, where he soon took the management of the mines belonging to his uncle, J. H. McGraw, as above noted, and for five years No. 8 above Little Minook has been the banner producer of the district.

When the news of the discovery of gold in the Fairbanks district reached his camp he made immediate preparations to join the stampede and was one of the first to reach here, arriving very early in the winter.

He staked on Gold Stream and O'Connor Creeks. This winter he will take out a large dump on a fraction off No. 4 on Gold Stream, where a rich pay streak has been found. An ample plant of machinery was installed on the property in November, which includes a 30-horse-power boiler, hoisting plant and self-dumper.

Carroll & Parker Lumber Co.

The establishment of the Carroll & Parker saw mill in Fairbanks was fraught with many difficulties. The enterprising and industrious owners started from Dawson with the mill and equipment on March 14, 1903, with five horses and ten sleds, via the Ketchumstock route. The trail to the summit of that lofty range was all that could be desired. But upon their arrival there a severe blizzard was encountered, and the loads were left until a new trail could be made. Meantime the party pushed on to the military station, across the divide. Besides the hardships endured, they all froze their faces, and some of the party suffered from frostbites on various limbs. The storm abated after two days, when the weather moderated, and traveling became comparatively easy. The journey was resumed without serious mishap, but many hardships were endured. The country from Ketchumstock to the Goodpasture is covered with glaciers many miles across and hundreds of miles in length. All the streams having their source in this glacial field are flooded in the winter season, rendering the fords impassable and traveling on the ice all but impossible. But the trail over the glaciers was excellent and good progress was made.

About 80 miles from the mouth of the Goodpasture lumber was whipsawed and a scow 10-34 feet in size was constructed, which drew, when loaded with the entire outfit, but 19 inches of water. From this point the trip to Fairbanks was made in seven days, the barge coming through the slough and into the Chena River.

The mouth of the Goodpasture is a broad, lake-like country, unsurpassed in scenery and natural beauty.

Arriving here, the enterprising concern soon had their mill in operation and were kept busy the entire season. The price of lumber dropped from \$300 to \$100 per thousand feet, and many fine buildings were erected as a result. The owners also secured some valuable mining ground in the country, which they intend to develop next season.

Mr. Charles Carroll, the senior partner of the firm, is

a resident of San Francisco, Cal. He is a baker by trade, and prior to his departure for the Tanana was the owner of some of the leading restaurants of Dawson and proprietor of the Vienna Bakery. His ability as a business man is well known in Alaska as well as the Yukon.

Mr. Fred B. Parker, the enterprising junior member of the firm, is an able and energetic rustler of the rising generation. He is a native of Seattle, Wash., and is the son of F. A. Parker, the well-known Puget Sound saw-mill man. After a practical schooling under his father Mr. Parker came north in 1898 in charge of one of the three mills that were established on the Klondike trail—one at Lake Bennett, one at Lake Linderman and the other at White River Island. Later in the year he accepted the management of the yards of the Kerry Lumber Co. of Dawson, where his ability soon gained him an enviable reputation. He spent two profitable seasons mining at Nome just prior to coming here, and the information gained there will be a great aid in his future operations.

David Petree.

One of the most aggressive and popular business men in the community is David Petree. Mr. Petree was born in Sweden on January 31, 1868. After receiving a college education he entered the Royal Custom House at Stockholm, where he remained three years, and in 1889 came to the United States, where he had decided to cast his fortunes. In 1890 he located permanently in Seattle, Wash., when he immediately took out his naturalization papers and became a citizen of the country. Fortune was not particularly lavish with her smiles, but by dint of hard work, thrift, frugality and perseverance, Mr. Petree had accumulated a handsome sum, and with this in his pocket he left, in February, 1895, for the Yukon, in company with John Erickson, afterward the owner of the famous Eldorado No. 10. On his way down that stream they mined and rocked on the Hootalinqua, Big Salmon and Stewart Rivers, arriving at Forty-Mile in the fall of the same year. During the winter, in company with Bob Madison and others, he prospected on the Forty-Mile River, and the discovery of Chicken Creek was one of his personal achievements. But the pay discovered there was not satisfactory. Assiduous search for the pay streak was only abandoned when the provisions had been for some time reduced to Caribou meat and tea, when all returned to Forty-Mile, Mr. Petree accepting a position with the A. C. Co. But the early pioneers of the country were searching for fortunes rather than sinecures, and Mr. Petree was one of them, both in spirit and in fact. In the spring of 1896 he left with a party of men and eleven head of horses for Circle City, the first horses to reach that camp. He pushed on to the mines of Mastodon at once, where he worked a lay during the season of 1896-7 on No. 10 above. He afterward bought a half interest in No. 2, Mastodon Fork of Eagle Creek, the best ground on the creek, which he worked profitably for three years, when the property was disposed of at a fair price. He spent the winter of 1897 in "the States," and upon his return in 1898 he joined the stampede to Fourth of July Creek, and not finding the section to his liking, sold out at a good price and in the fall outfitted for Preacher Creek, where the entire winter was spent in prospecting Preacher and its tributaries. Mr. Petree was the first man to get a hole to bedrock on this creek, as he had been on the latter. He disposed of his holdings here and in 1899 joined the first stampede to the Koyuk, returning to Circle City over the ice in the winter.

In the spring of 1900 Mr. Petree established himself in business in Circle City, where he remained until the winter of 1902-3, when he moved to Fairbanks and established the first saloon located here. The place was then a wilderness, but there was, in Mr. Petree's opinion, plenty of gold in the ground, and he had no doubt as to the future of the camp. He brought in over the trail nearly five tons of goods, most of which was composed of provisions, the freight charges being 60 cents per pound.

Besides many claims of unknown value, Mr. Petree owns No. 12 below on Cleary Creek, where good pay has been located. His city property is also very valuable.

Upon learning the details of the discovery of gold here from his partner, Mr. Petree at once wrote a friend in Dawson, advising him to come on without delay. This letter in some manner found its way into one of the newspapers; but its authenticity was discredited, the current belief being that the road houses were trying to promote travel and trade resulting therefrom. But the few who took advantage of the information are to-day "in on the ground floor."

Jack Walsh.

Jack Walsh was born in Youngstown, O., in 1863. He graduated from the high school of that place, and at an early age, having developed a strong taste for mechanics, entered the employ of Mr. J. A. Campbell of the Republic Iron and Steel Co., as an apprentice. His ideas were so clear and his ambition so great that advancement followed advancement in rapid succession, until he gained the enviable position of master mechanic, which position he held when he left for the Klondike in 1897. In 1872 he was married to Isabella, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Wilkson, of Youngstown, the playmate of his childhood and companion of his youth. Isabella, a daughter of 8 years, is the issue of that union.

Unsuccessful in his ventures in the Klondike, Mr. Walsh went to the Koyuk in 1898, where he spent three years at mining. Here he lost about \$15,000 in an unsuccessful effort to convert a stream of water onto an extremely rich gravel deposit, the nature of the country over which his ditches were brought having proved treacherous and uncertain. In 1901 he journeyed to St. Michaels, where he joined the steamer Isom as chief engineer, and went to Dawson. From this point he prospected on the Stewart River, without success, and early in the spring of 1903 came across country via Kitchumstock, and down the Tanana to Fairbanks, where he arrived late in the spring.

However, he staked on Big and Little Eldorado, Gold Stream, Fairbanks, Bear, the main tributaries of Fish, Engineer and several others of the leading creeks in the district, and undoubtedly has some good property. He will develop some of these this winter.

George Harrington.

Fairbanks has many business men. Among the most successful is Mr. George Harrington. Mr. Harrington is one of the heavy operators on the creeks, and owns in addition many valuable pieces of property in the city of Fairbanks, among which is the Fairbanks, a well-known resort for mining men. He is unassuming, but aggressive, and deals intelligently with all matters which arouse his interest. His unbounded faith in Fairbanks and the mines which surround it is displayed by his actions. As an example of this, Mr. Harrington was among the first to dispose of his large interests in Circle City last season, and take up a permanent residence here. One of his first acts after locating here was to acquire interests on the most promising creeks, where he has expended a large amount of money in development work this summer.

Mr. Harrington is one of the pioneers of the country, and he is familiar with every paying district in the territory. His views, as expressed below, are wholesome and conservative, which is sufficient justification for their publication here. Speaking of the future, he says:

"I have great faith in the future of this country. When we consider the amount of prospecting that has been done, and the difficult conditions under which operations were conducted this summer, the showing made is marvelous in the extreme. There is an immense amount of ground in this country which is known to contain pay, but attention has been diverted from this by the richer discoveries on Fairbanks, Cleary, Chatham, Pedro and Gold Stream. Many of the creeks in the neglected district are sure to become big producers, if not, in fact, as rich as the best yet discovered. I certainly look for big fortunes to come from these sources. So far all the prospected creeks have become big producers, but as the various mining districts of the territory contain many creeks that are characterized as low grade, we may confidently expect to find many such here. Each succeeding year will see many of them opened up and worked profitably upon those lines which characterize industrial enterprises. Conservative operators will give much of their attention in future to low grade claims."

Mr. Harrington was born in Sonoma County, Cal., in 1865, where he followed farming until the spring of 1895, when he came to Circle City. Upon his arrival in Alaska he immediately engaged in mining, and established a business in Circle City, which was made to bear the expense of prospecting in new districts. He has made many long journeys into the interior on prospecting trips, some of them consuming many months of time, and usually fruitless of results. His hospitality knows no limit, his friends are legion, and over yonder across that low divide, Success is smiling a welcome.

Frank J. Cleary.

Frank J. Cleary was born in Minnesota, in the year 1877, and is, therefore 26 years old. Early in life he moved with his father to Montana, where he entered the State University, where, with his other studies, he took a general course in civil engineering. On the eve of his graduation he left that noted institution of learning to accept a lucrative position in the engineering department of the Northern Pacific Railroad. In 1899, after a faithful and meritorious career of two years, he was transferred to the land department, and promoted to the position of Examiner of Lands. In the winter of 1901 he resigned this position to come to the Tanana, to take charge of the trading post of Capt. Barnette, his brother-in-law, then located in the wilderness where Fairbanks is now located. While on his way here he met Dan G. McCarty at Valdez, and together they completed the journey in thirty-five days. They were well equipped and provisioned for the trip under ordinary conditions, but after crossing the divide a severe blizzard was encountered, and from this point they endured many hardships and suffered great agony from hunger, cold and fatigue. However, with true Western pluck and American perseverance they pushed on. For several days their provisions were short, and for the last five days of the journey they had nothing whatever to eat. The thought of killing one of their dogs for food could not be entertained, as the dogs were necessary to further progress. They arrived here on February 20.

A few days after his arrival here Captain and Mrs. Barnette left for the outside world; the captain to convert his year's purchase of furs into cash, and Mrs. Barnette to visit her old home, and Mr. Cleary was left the sole white inhabitant of the town. A few white prospectors were wintering at the head of the Chena, 125 miles distant, but for a few months he was the sole inhabitant of the city, which was composed of one small cabin and a solitary store building. There was little change in the camp until the early spring of 1903, when the inhabitants of the city numbered 2000 souls, and Mr. Cleary was chosen as one of the seven councilmen of a provisional city government.

Though the process of evolution from an obscure trading post in the interior of Alaska to the largest log cabin town in the world had been slow, Mr. Cleary had not been idle. When gold was discovered he staked several claims for himself, and was also remembered by those whom he had favored with provisions and assistance. He now has large interests in 1, 2, and 3 below, on Cleary Creek, owns 6 above on Wolf, 3 above on Pedro, 2 above on Twin, and 3 below on Gold Stream; beside interests in 8 below, 24 below, and side claim off left limit of 5 below on the latter stream. On Bear Creek he has 1 above Lower Discovery, and an interest in 2 below Upper Discovery on the same stream. On Fish Creek he has 1 above, beside other individual interests. He has also interests on Fairbanks and other creeks, some of which were acquired by purchase.

On Cleary Creek, where Mr. Cleary will work this winter, the pay has been prospected many times. It is 8 feet deep, over 100 feet wide, and averages 16 2-3 cents to the pan, or about \$1.65 to the bucket. Other properties show fully as well for the work that has been done.

R. A. Mutschman.

Every country has that sturdy class of pioneers who were prominently identified with its discovery and up-building, and upon whom the younger generation look with envy and admiration. The settlement of Alaska was fraught with untold hardships and many dangers. The inaccessibility of the country, its remoteness from civilization and the severity of the Arctic winters were well-nigh unsurmountable obstacles in the path of the first settlers. But by degrees its interior was penetrated, trails were established, and civilization advanced. In the vanguard of these early pioneers was R. A. Mutschman, who left his home in the mining regions of Colorado early in 1882, and settled in Harrisburg, the frontier town of Alaska. The name of the camp has since been changed to Juneau, and it is to-day a flourishing city, enjoying all the advantages of modern civilization. But as the city grew in magnificence and importance the pioneers pushed on into the interior, to blaze new trails and recover the hidden treasures. Mr. Mutschman, after spending a few years at mining in the vicinity of Juneau, made his way up the coast west and north, prospecting the Coast range of mountains, as well as the many islands on his way. He was one of the fathers of Sitka and Wrangle, and established camps on many of the larger islands, prominent among them being Annette.

Later on he crossed the divide to the Yukon, where he

has since been prominently identified with every camp on that mighty river, from Atlin to Nome. Being one of the first to reach Dawson after the discovery of gold on Bonanza, he staked claim No. 1, at the mouth of Big Skookum, one of the richest tributaries of that wonderful stream. The claim afterward became one of the largest producers of the district. But Mr. Mutschman joined a stampede to some other creek, and before his return had forfeited his right to record and lost the ground.

Though late in reaching this district, he secured, beside several interests on creeks of lesser note, a rich fraction off 3 below on Fairbanks Creek. A rich pay streak has been located here, and by the time the ground has been worked out he will have a competency for his old age.

Mr. Mutschman is a native of Illinois, where he was born in 1863.

Jack Costa.

As a conservative business man, miner and prospector, Jack Costa is known throughout the Yukon valley. In his youth he followed coal mining and prospecting, drifting later into the gold and iron regions of the eastern states. In the year 1888 he came to the Pacific coast, and finally settled in the state of Washington, where he engaged in his chosen profession. Thrifty and frugal by nature, he had saved a handsome sum of money, and in 1894, having heard many good reports from Alaska, he decided to cast his fortunes in the far North. Accordingly he embarked by steamer for Juneau, where he purchased a large outfit and started for the Yukon via the dreaded Chilkoot Pass. By the aid of native packers he soon reached the Yukon, and finally, after many hardships, but few mishaps, arrived at Forty Mile, where the remainder of the season was spent in mining. Not being satisfied with the prospects for the future of this section, he pushed on in the fall to Circle City, where he mined on Mastodon, and later on opened up some ground on Miller Creek. Success here was very uncertain, so he turned his attention to speculation. Being possessed of two good dog teams, he purchased a large store of supplies at Fort Yukon, and in the winter of 1897 freighted the outfit to Circle City and Dawson, where it was readily disposed of at prices that left a handsome profit. The venture having been so profitable, he continued until five trips had been made, when he took contracts to haul flume and sluice lumber from Dawson to the creeks for 40 cents per foot, and in this manner cleared a good "grab stake" for some time to come. Later in the spring he returned to Circle City over the ice and resumed mining.

The winter of 1898-9 was spent in prospecting on Preacher Creek, and in the summer of the latter year Mr. Costa visited his old home in "the States." On his return over the ice in the fall of 1899 he spent most of the winter in Dawson speculating, and made considerable money out of the venture. The summer of 1900 was consumed in the stampede to Faith, Hope and Charity Creeks, where no pay was found. In 1901 he again replenished his fortunes by speculating in Dawson, and spent the winter prospecting on the Salcha, Beaver, and the headwaters of the Chena.

Here he had the hardest experience of his whole career as a stamper. The stores for the winter were replenished from time to time from Capt. Barnette's trading post, and as there were no trails, but small loads could be hauled. On one memorable trip the thermometer ranged between 60 and 70 degrees below zero, and Mr. Costa had neither tent nor stove. By great exertion he managed to keep himself warm, but six of his dogs were frozen. His camp was finally reached, and the hole finished to bed-rock, which was 52 feet deep. The provisions meantime were nearly exhausted again, and as there was no pay in the prospect hole, he threw in the pick and shovel and started back to the Circle "Diggins," where he remained until late in the summer of 1892.

This circumstance is narrated to give the readers an idea of the hardships endured by the pioneers of the country.

Upon his arrival in the Fairbanks District in the fall of 1892, Mr. Costa secured No. 2 above on Pedro, 8 below on Cleary, 7 above on Gilmore, 16 below and a bench on the left limit of 5 below on Fairbanks, 1 above on Treasure, and 9 below on Dome.

After securing what ground he wanted, Mr. Costa began at once to develop his property. Two above on Pedro was opened first, and up to this writing remains the banner claim in the district for "quick money." Cleary and Fairbanks were also very rich, and most of these, as well as several hundred feet on Pedro, were let

out on lays, insuring a good clean-up in the spring. These claims, as well as his faithful old dog Joeko, are not for sale.

Frank Costa.

The old truism, that there was no country on earth where a man endured more, rustled harder and had less than in the Tanana, can no longer be verified. Mr. Frank Costa, a typical "sourdough," and one of the most energetic and persistent stampedes in the district, is an exemplification of this. From his boyhood he has followed mining, and later in life found himself in the state of Washington. Naturally frugal and industrious, he had saved a handsome sum of money, and in the spring of 1897, at the age of 37 years, he outfitted and joined the early stampede to the Klondike. A few days in Dawson sufficed to convince Mr. Costa that that was not the place for him, and he took a boat for Circle City, from which place good reports had been received.

At Circle City he outfitted and turned at once to the Seventy Mile, where he opened up some ground, but \$8 per day was the best pay found after diligently prospecting the ground, and the creek was abandoned. On his return down the river he prospected Washington and Fourth of July Creeks, with no better results, and finally returned to Circle in 1900. The same year, in company with Felix Pedro, he crossed the divide at the head of Mastodon and came down the Chatinega some distance. The prospects not being very encouraging, they crossed the country to the Little and Big Chena, the Salcha, and the Goodpasture. Many of the streams in the Fairbanks district were crossed at this time, and a map was made of the country, with the intention of ultimately returning. Good surface prospects were obtained on Fish Creek, but no holes were sunk, as they were trying to relocate Pedro's lost creek.

In 1901 Mr. Costa and Ed Quinn returned to this district, visiting Elliott, Fish, Bear, and other creeks. Later in the summer they visited Barnette's trading post, where Fairbanks is now located, where they replenished their supplies, built a boat and went up the Chena River to the mouth of the south fork. Here they spent the winter prospecting on Beaver, Pine and other creeks, returning to Circle City early in the spring.

In August, 1902, Mr. Costa returned to Pine Creek to complete some work he had started during the previous winter, and in the fall came down to Pedro Creek, arriving about the time gold was discovered by Pedro.

From the date of his arrival in the country until the discovery of gold, he was either with, or working in harmony with Mr. Pedro, and to him is due a fair share of the credit for the discovery of the country. Most of his ground is opened up, and many laymen are working this winter, while he is doing his own development work on the balance of his property.

For his own share in the district, Mr. Costa secured 3 below on Pedro, 1 above upper on Bear, 1 below on Cleary, 15 below and a bench off 8 below on Fairbanks, 1 below on Kokomo, 6 above on Gilmore, 9 above on Fox, 8 below on Dome, and Discovery on Treasure. Gold has been found on all of these creeks, and it is confidently expected they will develop into producers. Mr. Costa's former experience in mining was a great aid to him in determining the probable value of a location, and as he was one of the first to stake on many of the creeks, his property ranks among the very best.



THE FIRST HORSE IN THE TANANA

William H. Himes.

William H. Himes was born in Pennsylvania in 1863. In early life he followed farming, and being of that frugal, thrifty and industrious class, he combined lumbering with his duties during the dull winter months. In 1883 he visited the lumber woods of Michigan, where he spent a profitable year, finally drifting to Chicago, where he embarked in the new and hazardous undertaking of freighting cedar posts by schooner across Lake Michigan. The venture was not so profitable as would seem to the uninitiated, and the following year he went to Dakota, where he engaged in farming. A life spent in the heavily wooded hills of his former home had wholly unfitted Mr. Himes for the bleak Dakota plains, and he went to Montana for the purpose of engaging in stock raising. Here he spent nine years, but not meeting with flattering success, sold out his interests, outfitted for Alaska in 1895, and landed at Juneau early in the season. The next year, 1896, he turned freighter, and left for Circle City with supplies for L. Goldy and Mike Kanaley.

Arriving at Circle City, he formed a partnership with Frank Gage and engaged in mining on Miller Creek. Securing a claim, he worked diligently, but could find no pay. This ground was abandoned, and his spare capital invested in No. 14. This could not be worked at a profit, so a combination was formed with William Woods, owner of No. 13, and the two properties worked together. The result was no better, and he sold his claim at a profit above the purchase price, but had lost on the venture. Preacher Creek was prospected, with no better results. In 1901 he prospected on the Malozakoket, with the same result, and returned to Birch Creek, where he took a contract to furnish the largest mine owners with fresh meat. Here he established a reputation by killing and delivering 19 moose in one season.

On January 3, 1903, Mr. Himes arrived on Pedro Creek, and at once set about to secure some property. The following day he located the Keystone and Lone Star mines on Fish Creek. On a night stampede to Miller Creek, the next day, he staked 8 below on Miller and 1 above on Himes Creeks—the latter being named in his honor. He afterward secured interests in 10 Gold Stream, 6 above and a bench on the left limit of 12 below on Fairbanks Creek.

Since his arrival in the country Mr. Himes has performed but 30 days' labor for wages, always having been able to keep a "grub stake" in his pocket by contracting or hunting.

The past season was spent in developing 6 above on Fairbanks, which property now ranks with the best producers in the district. A large dump will be taken out this winter by Mr. Himes and his partner, Tom Crooks. But one lay has been let on the ground, it being the intention of the owners to work the property with an open cut next summer.

Michael Burns.

Another number in this galaxy of typical "sourdoughs" is Michael Burns. Mr. Burns was born and raised in Chicago. Being of an energetic and restless spirit, at the age of 16 he left for the boundless West, finally selecting a home in Montana, where he arrived in the year 1888. He at once went to the mines, where he found ready employment at good wages. The money so earned was invested in young horses, which, after being branded, were turned into the larger herds and left to make shift for themselves. During some of the winter months when work at the mines was slack, Mr. Burns engaged in freighting, and by hoarding his earnings and wages, was soon possessed of a considerable fortune for a young man. At this time he staked a quarter section of coal land in the breaks of Air Creek, near Fort Benton, and opened up the mine with his own capital. The demand for coal did not justify extensive working of the mines at that time, but unaided he could mine and sell sufficient coal to make a small profit above the going wages of the country. This was too slow a pace for Mr. Burns, so in 1897, having made ample arrangements for the protection of his property interests and supplying his old customers with fuel, he joined the stampede to the Klondike.

In the Dawson district Mr. Burns made a failure at mining, not because his efforts were abated, but because he found no good ground, although he participated in all the stampedes for the three years following his advent into that country. Becoming convinced that further efforts there would be futile, he disposed of his interests and came down the river to Circle City, where he soon took a lay with Jack and Frank Costa on Mastodon Creek, where he was diligently at work when news was received of the discovery of gold across the divide

in the Fairbanks district. A stampede was soon inaugurated. The sluice boxes were cleaned up, light packs made, and the party started for the new land of gold. Upon arriving here, Mr. Burns staked a large fraction off 2 above on Pedro, 1 on Willow, 1 on Deadwood, 1 above on Burns, 4 above on Solo, 14 below on Miller, 7 above on Kokomo, 1 above on Moose, 1 above on Treasure, 1 above on Gold Run, and secured an interest in Discovery on the latter stream.

His Pedro Creek property was immediately developed into a big producer, the clean-up last fall being equal to that of any claim in the district for the number of men employed. The property is well opened up, pay having been located over 100 feet in width, the entire length of the claim. Mr. Burns will take out a large dump himself this winter, and has four laymen working besides. The other properties will be diligently prospected this winter, with every chance in their favor of ultimately becoming producers, as gold has been found in the gravel bars of all these streams.

S. R. Weiss.

S. R. Weiss left his home in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, in 1897 for Dawson, where he secured some valuable property, notable among which was a claim on Monte Cristo hill, which for years has been a big producer, and a bench on lower Dominion, where good pay was found in the fall of 1892. During the summer of 1901 he spent some time at the mouth of the Tanana, visiting Nome in the fall, during the rush to that camp. But the outlook was hardly to his liking, and he returned to Dawson, where he was working his property when, in the winter of 1902, he received word from a friend to come at once to Fairbanks. Leaving his interests there in charge of a trusted agent, he left in January, and was the first of the Dawson contingent to arrive in the new "diggings." By the time he arrived most of the ground in the center of the district had been located, but he found a fractional side claim on the right limit of 3 below on Gold Stream, 8 below on Little Eldorado, a side claim on the left limit of 7 below on Cleary, 2 on Cowles, and claims on Isabella and Anaconda Creeks. He also purchased an interest in a side claim on the left limit of 8 below on Pedro, and some of the most valuable city property in the town of Fairbanks.

Mr. Weiss is also interested in a group of seven quartz claims on Chicken Creek, in the Forty Mile district. All his ground in this district prospects well for the amount of work done. The fraction on Gold Stream ranks among the best claims on that stream, good pay having been located on both ends of the ground—1,000 feet in length. This claim will not be worked this winter, but next summer Mr. Weiss will install a large thawing and hoisting plant there, confidently expecting to take out a fortune in the next few years.

He is a graduate of a Pennsylvania school of mines, well read in chemistry, and during the past few years has had a broad practical experience as a mine operator. If knowledge aids in success, Mr. Weiss is certainly well equipped. During the present winter he is superintending the large plant of Cleary & Hilty, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 below on Cleary Creek and 6 on Wolf. These claims were opened up during the summer by Mr. Weiss, and the spring clean-up is expected to reach a quarter of a million dollars.

Dan G. McCarty.

Probably the wealthiest man in the Fairbanks district, so far as property interests are concerned, is Dan G. McCarty. Mr. McCarty has always been an industrious, hard working man from his schooldays up to the present time. In an endeavor to better his financial condition, he left his home in California for the Yukon in 1899, and landed in Dawson the same year. The next season he went to Nome, returning in the fall as far as Barnett's post at Fairbanks, on the steamer Lavelle Young. In November of the same year he went to Valdez over the ice to deliver some mail and dispatches for the outside world, and also to pilot Frank J. Cleary into the country. The trip was accomplished at great cost of hardship and privation, as at that time there were no trails or road houses, and the passes in the mountains were wholly unknown. In March of the following spring he made another trip to Valdez, this time as escort and guide for Captain and Mrs. E. T. Barnett. Returning early in the spring, he continued on down the Tanana and Yukon Rivers in a canoe to Nome, and returned again in the fall on the Isabella, arriving on the memorable occasion when Pedro reported the discovery of gold on the creeks.

Mr. McCarty was young, vigorous and always ambitious. He was soon in the lead of the stampede that followed, and was therefore successful in securing loca-

tions near the center or on the most favorable sites of the different creeks, and his judgment has since been fully attested. After a hard and varied experience in the country, he has finally secured a sufficient fortune to satisfy any reasonable man, and will no doubt appreciate and protect it.

Unlike many of the stampedeers from the boat, Mr. McCarty passed Isabella and Engineer Creeks, and pushed on over the mire and bogs to Big Eldorado, where he staked Discovery. He next located 5 below on Gold Stream, 1 above on Fairbanks, Discovery and 2 above on Fish, 2 below on Cleary, and 11 above on Fox Gulch. Though he could have located on many streams, he was content with his holdings, and at once set about to develop them. Three of them—on Gold Stream, Fairbanks and Cleary—are among the big producers of the district.

Mr. McCarty is taking out a big dump on 2 below on Cleary this winter, where a large force of men is employed. The pay streak has been located 100 feet in width, six feet deep, and averages 12 cents to the pan. The limit has not been reached on either side. Four lays have been let on this claim for the winter. The spring clean-up here will reach \$125,000. On 1 above on Fairbanks four lays have been let, and all are taking out big dumps, having found good pay in all the shafts sunk. The spring clean-up here should be as large as that on Cleary. Two lays have also been let on 5 below on Gold Stream. Both are also in good pay, but owing to the lateness of the season when work was commenced, the clean-up will not be so large. However, the ground is very rich, and the pay streak extensive.

The other properties have not yet been developed, but they will be thoroughly exploited as soon as provisions can be had in the spring.

Next fall Mr. McCarty expects to leave his business in competent hands, while he will take a well earned rest and visit the St. Louis exposition, as well as his old home in sunny California. He will certainly go well equipped with means to enjoy himself, if money is required to contribute to one's happiness. Mr. McCarty is 22 years old.

Alfred Hilty.

Alfred Hilty, or just plain "Al," as he is known by his numerous friends, is one of the wealthy men of the district. He is a native of Indiana, and is 34 years old. In 1898 Mr. Hilty joined in the rush to Dawson, where he spent a profitable year at mining. The year following he went down the Yukon to Circle City, and went to the mines on Eagle Creek, which became his future headquarters and base of supplies, but most of the time was devoted to prospecting the tributaries of the Tanana. In the fall of 1899 he visited the headwaters of the Chatinega, and the following year went with Felix Pedro to the Salcha, where a large amount of labor was expended in a fruitless attempt to locate pay that was known to exist somewhere in the country. The following season was spent on the Goodpasture. Here a little gold was found, but nothing to justify working under present conditions, and that stream was abandoned.

The summer of 1902 was well spent when Mr. Hilty, while on his return from a long trip through the mountains, reached Captain Barnett's trading post just as the discovery of gold made by Pedro was reported. He started at once for the creeks, and as the country was well known to him by reason of his former trips up and down the river, he was one of the first to reach what is at present the best part of the district. He staked 3 below and a bench on the right limit of 2 below on Cleary; lower Discovery on Fish, 2 below upper Discovery on Bear, 8 below on Gold Stream, and Discovery on Nugget. He could have staked on Fairbanks, but did not particularly care for the property at that time, being thoroughly convinced that he had pay on his other claims, which would occupy all of his attention.

Shortly after staking he went with Frank J. Cleary to Circle City for the purpose of recording, and on their way home they formed a partnership, which brought into the combination 1, 2 and 11 below on Cleary, four claims on the middle fork of the Fulavana (where good prospects have been found), 6 above on Wolf, 3 below on Pedro, and Discovery on Gilmore.

The past summer a force of men was employed in opening up 1 below on Cleary, where a large plant of machinery has been installed. The pay streak has been located a distance of 330 feet across the stream, and the limit has not yet been reached. The thickness of the pay gravel is nearly six feet, and the average value of the dump is 16 2-3 cents to the pan. The spring clean-up will amount to at least \$150,000.

Mat. Meehan.

One of the most energetic and active business men in the country, as well as one of the heaviest property holders, is Mathew Meehan. Mr. Meehan was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1859. After receiving a thorough education in the schools of his native city he served an apprenticeship at ship carpentering in one of the best yards of the Dominion. His education in this branch of wood work naturally fitted him for bridge building, and after a preliminary course of instruction in this line he followed contracting and building for several years, with both profit and credit to himself. In 1877 he changed the scenes of his operations from Canada, and took up a permanent residence in Buffalo, N. Y., where he followed his vocation for many years. He became a naturalized citizen of the United States in 1883.

In 1897 he came to Dawson, where he followed mining for three years, and in 1900 he visited Nome to try his fortunes there. Not meeting with flattering success, he went to St. Michaels in 1902 and accepted a position in the ship yards of the N. C. Co., his traveling expenses having been paid. In July of the same year he aided in the construction of the Isabella, then being built for Captain Barnette, and came on that staunch little craft to Fairbanks, arriving here on September 8 of that year. When the Isabella party arrived many of the creeks had been staked, and those who had not been remembered by their friends were compelled to search for new creeks or accept the lower ends of the creeks already staked. With characteristic energy Mr. Meehan and Dan A. McCarty set out in quest of something new, and after laboriously working their way across the divides, finally discovered Fairbanks Creek, where they both staked for themselves and their friends.

By the time winter set in and Mr. Meehan had time to take an inventory, his holdings consisted of the following properties, some of which are yet unrivaled in richness in the district, if not in Alaska: Nos. 3, 4 and 7 above, and 1, 2 and 3 below on Fairbanks; 7, 8, 9 and a fraction of 4 on Gold Stream; bench off 6 below on Pedro; also claims on Kokomo, Pilot, Solo, O'Connor, Moose, Gilmore, Thom, Sheep Steer, and Flume Creeks.

The claims in which Mr. Meehan is interested on Fairbanks Creek will produce, at the lowest possible estimate, \$100,000 this winter; the spring clean-up should exceed twice that amount. With proper thawing machinery they will produce \$1,000,000 a year for many years to come. The Gold Stream and Pedro properties have also been prospected and a rich pay streak located. The other creeks are as yet unprospected.

Mr. Meehan is a thorough business man, liberal, affable and quick to grasp a situation that might puzzle a man of less worldly affairs. He therefore has been assigned the outside management of the properties, while his partners, Tom Larson and Mike McMahon, attend to the working details of the mines.

A boiler and hoisting plant will be installed this winter. But the best procurable in the markets here at this time is inadequate to the demands, and next season two large plants will be purchased in the larger machinery depots in the States, and shipped here in time for installation in the fall.

Jim Eagle.

Mr. Eagle was born in New Brunswick in the year 1844, of Irish parentage. At the age of eight years he moved with his parents to the State of Maine, where he attended the public school for three years. In his eleventh year he joined the crew of the ship Victory, bound from Ellsworth for Manzanilla, Cuba, and became a seafarer. He took several vacations ashore, in different parts of the world, spending some time in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1866, and one year in Madras. His last voyage was made on the Clydebank, from Buenos Ayres to Astoria, where he landed in 1897.

Mr. Eagle followed the logging business for several years on the lower Columbia and Puget Sound. In 1883, he contracted on the Island Railway, between Victoria and Nanaimo, B. C., until the fall of 1884, when he moved to Wrangell, and spent the winter mining on the Skeena.

In the spring of 'eighty-five he crossed Chilcoot Pass, and went down the Yukon to St. Michaels, where he took the revenue cutter Bear for San Francisco in the fall. The following year he returned to Alaska for the purpose of trading with the Indians for furs and musk. From the McKenzie River his party crossed to the east fork of the Chandelar River. From there they went to the Peel, and down the Peel to Fort McPherson, on the McKenzie. The trip occupied two years. No loss was sustained, though the venture could hardly be termed a financial success. The next year the Slave Lake country was visited, with similar results. The following winter

was spent in Seattle, where Mr. Eagle located a ranch in Clallam County, and followed farming for several years. The ranch he still holds, and expects to make his home there in his old age. In 'ninety-seven he joined the stampede to Dawson. In 1900 he again wintered in Seattle.

In the spring of 1901 Mr. Eagle started on a search for the Tanana, but was well on his way down the Yukon again when he met the steamer Arctic Boy, in charge of Capt. Barnette, and joined forces. The boat landed on the Chenoa on August 24 of the same year. Mr. Eagle spent the winter of 'ninety-one prospecting on Pine Creek. In the spring of 1892, in camping with Al Hitly, he visited the Good Pasture, but found no pay, and they returned just as the news of the discovery of gold on Pedro was received at Capt. Barnette's station.

A new outfit was at once secured, and Mr. Eagle started for the diggings. He staked 5 below on Cleary, Discovery on Chatham, Upper Discovery on Bear, 1 below on Fish, 9 above on Pedro, 7 below on Gold Stream, 15 above on Fairbanks, 3 above on Wolf, 8 below on Cowles, 2 above on Anaconda, 4 below on McCarty, 2 below Juniper, 1 below Lost Creek, and 1 on Flying Fish Gulch. Beside these he has many other claims that were staked for him by friends.

Since that time his time has been fully occupied in developing his properties, many of which have been found to be rich. He will spend the winter drifting on a fraction at the mouth of Chatham Creek, where he has some very rich ground.



Thomas M. Gilmore.

Thomas M. Gilmore, the subject of the above photograph, is a typical "sourdough." He was born in the thriving village of Morning Sun, Iowa, in 1866, and is therefore 37 years old.

At the age of 15 he left his home in Iowa for Aspen, Colorado, where he engaged in mining. Not meeting with the success he thought his energy, as well as his ambition and merits warranted, he visited other sections of the state, where he met with varying success.

By practicing rigid economy, untiring energy and frugality he had saved a tidy sum by the year 1891, when he moved to California, where for two years he engaged in fruit raising and farming. But his experience of ten years in the richest mineral regions of that most wonderful of states, Colorado, had wholly unfitted him for either a farmer or fruit raiser, and as the yearly output was not in proportion to his ideas, he gave up the business in the fall of 1893, sold his interests and returned to Colorado, where he engaged in mining.

During the winter of 1897 the reports of the fabulous riches of the Klondike and Alaska were generally circulated throughout the mountain regions of the Pacific States, and Mr. Gilmore was among the first to take the fever. Accordingly, he purchased an extensive outfit of provisions, clothing, tools, and all the necessities pertaining to the trip, and left early in the year for the frozen North. He was among the first to cross Chilcoot Pass, and taking the old Dalton trail, reached the Yukon River at Fort Selkirk just as the ice commenced

to move in the spring. The trip down the river was easily accomplished, and Mr. Gilmore and his party were among the first to reach Dawson from the outside world.

Soon after arriving here he joined a stampede to Dominion Creek, where he staked claim No. 5 above Upper Discovery. During the summer he was unable to locate the pay streak, and as his provisions were insufficient for his needs for another year, Dawson was visited, with the intention of replenishing. But upon his arrival there Mr. Gilmore was apprised of the shortage which existed, and the probable famine which would ensue. Accordingly, he disposed of such articles as were not necessary to his own existence, abandoned his claim, and took a row boat for Circle City, where provisions were to be had in plenty.

From Circle City he naturally drifted to the Birch Creek district, where he engaged in mining. After three years of hard work here, Mr. Gilmore, in company with Felix Pedro, Charles Colum, Bert Johnson, Tom Jurack and Perry Bartlett, started on a long and fruitless search for a creek which had once been discovered by Mr. Pedro, in 1898, while on his way down the Tanana, and could not be found. The party came down Pedro Creek and Gold Stream, then crossed to Fish Creek and the Little Chenoa, where their provisions gave out, and they returned by way of Captain Barnette's trading post, which had but just been established. The journey was then resumed to the head of the Chenoa, but the creek in question was not discovered. However, gold was found on Gold Stream, and good prospects were secured at the mouth of Fish Creek. But as winter approached, the party, with the exception of Mr. Pedro, returned to their homes near Circle City. Considerable work had been done on Bear Creek, and Mr. Pedro remained behind to continue prospecting during the winter, on an agreement having been made for him to keep what provisions could be spared, and to send word to his companions should he discover pay.

Accordingly, in the latter part of August of the year 1902, Mr. Gilmore received word by Mr. Ed Guinn that Pedro had found pay and was opening up his ground. (Bear Creek was deep and wet, so he had crossed the divide to Pedro Creek, located discovery, and found pay with little difficulty.)

Mr. Gilmore at once disposed of his holdings and departed for the new discovery, where he arrived on September 1. He staked 2 below on Pedro, where he has good pay, and 3 above on Gilmore, which creek bears his name.

During the spring and summer of 1893 Mr. Gilmore built a warm and roomy road house at the forks of Pedro and Gilmore Creeks, where he confidently expects a thriving little mining town to spring up in the near future. At least, it provides a comfortable home for himself at present, and a pleasant rendezvous for his host of old friends who are constantly passing to and fro over the trail between Fairbanks and Circle City. The location, besides being in the direct line of travel, is also near the present center of the district.

J. H. Patten.

J. H. Patten is a rustling Alaska pioneer, who has achieved success through his ability to make things move whether they would or no. He has been a resident of the state of Washington for many years. In 1897 he located at Skagway, and at once embarked in the freighting business over the White Pass. Here he saved sufficient capital to enter the mercantile business, and forming a partnership with Mr. Bishoprick, a general store was opened at Atlin. After a short but successful career here Mr. Patten sold his interest and moved to Dawson, where he remained until the winter of 1902-3, when he joined the early rush to Fairbanks, where he secured claim No. 13 above, left limit, on Fairbanks Creek; 2 on Moose, a promising tributary of Fairbanks; 1 on Calder, left limit; 10 below, left limit, Bear, and interests on several other creeks which have not yet been prospected.

In the town of Fairbanks he located a slightly piece of property on which he has erected the Third Avenue Hotel, the best and largest hotel in the city. The place is modern in both appointment and equipment, being supplied with baths, a large furnace in the basement, and warm stables for both horses and dogs. No provision is made for a bar, and Mr. Patten declares that no liquor will be dispensed in the house so long as he remains its host. It is located on the corner opposite the courthouse square and commands a good view of the river and surrounding country.

David H. Cascaden.

Another of the fortunate pioneers of the district is David H. Cascaden, of Iowa. He came with the rush to Dawson in 1898, where he participated in many of the stampedes of those days, making a "Mexican stand-off"—lost his money but saved his life. The following year—1899—he visited the Tanana, coming into the valley via Kitchumstock and the Goodpasture. Here he found much to inspire confidence in the country, and returned to Eagle for a large outfit of supplies, coming back into the country by the same trail. Much time was afterward spent in this section, prospecting all the streams above the Goodpasture.

In 1900 he joined the stampede to Nome, but securing no property of special merit he again purchased a supply of provisions sufficient for two years and returned to the Tanana, where he was confident of ultimate success. During his stay in the Tanana valley Mr. Cascaden had found gold in many places, but never in sufficient quantities to pay under the conditions then prevailing, and improved conditions were not thought of for many years to come. The south side of the valley, however, in the Alaskan range of mountains, looked very inviting to him, and he believes good mines will some day be found there. During these trips he was never fortunate enough to meet the prospectors from the streams lower down the valley, for the reason, probably, that both made the Goodpasture the limit of their fields of operations, although fair prospects were always secured there on the bars and benches.

Upon his return to this district, Mr. Cascaden arrived just in time to participate in the stampede that followed the discovery of gold. He staked and secured interests in 4 below on Moose, Discovery on Treasure, Discovery on Burns, 13 below on Cleary, Discovery on Bedrock, 17 below on Fairbanks, 1, 8 and 12 on Solo, a fraction off discovery on Fish, side claim off 1 on Gold Stream, and claims on six other creeks—Gold Run, Deadwood, Sheep, Stear and Cleary, besides some very valuable city property.

Possessed of an abundance of provisions, Mr. Cascaden spent the winter of 1902-3 in developing property for others for interests in eight other creeks, viz: 4 below on Gold Stream, 6 above on Pedro, 4 above Lower Discovery on Bear, Discovery on Solo, Discovery on Fish, two claims at the forks of Gilmore, and 4 above on Twin.

Many of these properties have since been developed into producers, as will be seen by reference elsewhere in this volume, notable among them being the Gold Stream, Pedro, Fairbanks, Cleary and Bedrock claims. Mr. Cascaden is therefore safely numbered with the millionaires of the district, and right richly does he deserve the reward. He is 26 years old. He is taking out a big dump on Cleary Creek this winter, and has let lays on his Bedrock property, and is therefore assured a good clean-up in the spring. Development work is being pushed in the meantime on the other creek properties all of which are very promising and centrally located. He expects to spend next winter in "the States," and will do so if there is sufficient water in the spring to wash up the winter dumps.

George Purches.

In London, England, the place of his birth and home of his youth, George Purches received a thorough education. But, as is the rule among his people in his country, he was taught no trade, and had no occupation beyond idling. However, Mr. Purches was practical, and of an investigative turn of mind; and not being able to figure to his own satisfaction what life held in store for him in his declining years, he decided to cast his fortunes in the mining regions of the West. Accordingly he took a thorough course of instruction in mineralogy and geology under an eminent specialist, and sailed for British Columbia, finally reaching the McKenzie river in 1882. Here he followed mining and prospecting, with varying success, for some time. Being in constant communication with Prof. Dawson, the noted scientist, he finally located in that rich section of country between the North Thompson and Frazer Rivers and turned his attention to prospecting for merchantable mica, which at that time was in great demand and commanded a high price. No deposit of value was found, but some excellent specimens of topaz and sylvanite were discovered, which were sent to the geological survey of Canada.

In 1897 Mr. Purches went to the Yukon, and in 1900 to Nome, in both of which places he followed mining, but secured no ground of particular merit. Arriving in the Fairbanks district in the fall of '92, he secured 9

below on Gold Stream and 3 below on Fairbanks Creek, both of which properties have been developed into big producers.

In the fall of '93 he formed a partnership with W. McKinnon, who for many years has been in the employ of the N. C. Co. as chief of the shipyards and building department, with headquarters at St. Michaels, and by this combination many valuable properties on other creeks were added to the capital stock.

This winter will be devoted to taking out a large dump on 3 below on Fairbanks, where the largest plant of machinery in the district has been installed. They also have a smaller boiler and hoisting plant, which will be used in the development of other properties.

Mr. Purches became a subject of the United States by naturalization in Nome in 1900.

George L. Bellows.

George L. Bellows was born in New York City, in 1857. After receiving a thorough education in the public schools of that city, he served an apprenticeship in one of the large printing establishments there. Developing an aptitude and application worthy of the best, his promotions were rapid, and some of the best situations within the gift of the publishers were tendered him. In 1885 he contracted the gold fever in its most violent form, and being possessed of considerable capital, he went to Leadville, Colorado, arriving in the early excitement at that lively camp. Here he secured two valuable pieces of mining property on Breece hill, which lies on Fourth avenue, Leadville. One of these properties was disposed of at a fair price shortly after it was located by Mr. Bellows. But the other he still holds, waiting for a better market for the silver production. The mine is opened up to a depth of 500 feet, and title is secured by a United States patent. He also secured a good claim in the Cripple Creek district, which was also disposed of at a good figure, and was at one time a heavy holder of the oil stock of the Pueblo Oil Company.

After a bootless trip to Thunder Mountain, in Idaho, he returned to his first love, and upon taking a course of training in the machinery department, entered the employ of the manufacturers of the Mergenthaler typesetting machines, and for several years was kept "on the road" setting up new machines and instructing the new operators both in typesetting and the mechanism of the machines. He was one of the chief machinists at the World's Fair exhibit at Chicago.

Joining in the early rush to the Klondike, he went out a few lead pencils at Skagway on route, and afterward, in company with Dick Bird, founded the Tribune at White Horse. Here he secured an interest in the Peacock copper group of mines, but sold both interests and settled in Dawson, which field offered a wider range for his abilities. But the smiles of Dame Fortune had withered and wrinkled to a frown, and every piece of property he secured proved to be a "wild cat," while his neighbors waxed luxurious and rich. When the strike was reported "on the Tanana," Mr. Bellows was one of the first to leave for the new field, coming via Kitchumstock, and down the Tanana. His party were the first arrivals by this route.

Since his arrival here Mr. Bellows has secured two claims in groups on the Chetnega, 15 below on Bear, 1 on Bellows Gulch, a side claim, 7 above, right limit, Gilmore; 3 above, Hungry Gulch; several claims in the new district on the south side of the Tanana, and three valuable lots in the town of Fairbanks, on which substantial cabins have been built.

Fred Deeming.

Fred Deeming was born in England in 1875, where he received a practical education. At the age of 19 he crossed the Atlantic to British Columbia, where he followed mining and prospecting during the most favorable seasons, spending the remainder of his time in sightseeing and in the pursuit of pleasure on Vancouver Island, in the vicinity of Victoria. In 1897 he came to Skagway, where he followed freighting over the famous White Pass for the following year, and as prices dropped with the advance of civilization, pushed on to the Yukon, where he arrived in 1898.

In the Dawson district Mr. Deeming followed mining and prospecting with varying success until the spring of 1902, when he visited the Forty Mile district, from which section good reports had been received. On the bars of this stream a practical miner could make fair wages with infinite toil, but the hardships and exposures incident thereto were so severe as to reduce the profit to a minimum, and he was arranging to seek a more

profitable field for exploration when the first news of the discovery of gold in the Fairbanks district was received. Preparations to join the inevitable stampede were soon completed, and the trip was made over the ice via Circle City.

Arriving at Fairbanks, Mr. Deeming soon formed a partnership with Mr. William James, and together they left for the creeks. On Fairbanks Creek they secured a 500-foot fraction off the lower end of 7 below. No pay had been discovered on the creek, but they had faith in the country, and were desirous of securing interests on several streams, in the hope that one of them would develop into a producer. They also secured 18 below, bench claims on the right limit off 12 and 14 below, and a fraction off of 4 above and 4 below, on the left limit, below, on the same creek; 3 below on Pilot, 1 and 4 below on Vault, 4 and 5 above on Treasure, No. 1 and a fraction off 1 above on Canyon, 2 on a tributary of Canyon, 3 on Evans Gulch, a tributary of Fairbanks, and 4 on Walnut.

Early in the spring an arrangement was made with Commissioner Cowles for sinking three holes to bedrock on his Fairbanks property—8 below—for 200 feet of ground off the upper end of his claim, which adjoined their fraction. This task was completed by the end of June, the shafts being from 30 to 40 feet deep, but each of them contained pay ranging from 5 to 20 cents to the pan. The pay streak was 7 feet thick and over 100 feet broad, the limit not being reached on either side, and this was the first pay found on the creek. The news of this discovery made a glorious Fourth of July in town, where the values of creek claims were fast on the ebb. At this time half interests in some of the best claims on Fairbanks Creek could be purchased at prices ranging from \$50 to \$250.

Mr. Deeming is one of the Deeming Brothers, who for six years were the champion bicycle riders of British Columbia, both on the track and for all distances.

William James.

William James was born in Scranton, Pa., in 1874. At the age of 6 years he moved with his parents to Amador County, Cal., where he attended the public schools until 1886, when he went to Carbonado, Washington. Having chosen mining as a profession, he entered the coal mines of this famous camp to learn the trade, and continued there until 1894, when he took up a residence in Cumberland, B. C., where he soon found profitable employment in the mines of that district. In 1898, having laid by a considerable sum of money, he joined the mad rush to Dawson. Here he followed mining and joined in many of the stampedes that followed.

In 1900 Mr. James decided to visit Koyukuk, and after laying in a large lot of supplies, started down the Yukon close behind the moving ice in a small boat. He was the first to reach Circle City from up the river that spring. Upon his arrival there he was induced to join a stampede that was then being inaugurated to Faith, Hope and Charity Creek. The stampede was a capital success as stampedes go, but the result was a dismal failure—no pay having been found. Upon his return he purchased the old Junction road house, at the mouth of Deadwood Creek, where he remained until the fall of 1902, when he sold his road house, and with Nate Zimer joined the stampede to Fairbanks. Arriving here early in the winter, he staked 12 on Gold Stream, and secured an interest in 28 and 29 on the same stream; 1 above on Forks Creek, 4 below, bench, right limit, Pedro; 4 and 5 below on Dome, bench, left limit, 4 below, Fairbanks, and 6 above, Fish. At this time he formed a partnership with Mr. Fred Deeming, and together they secured a fraction of 500 feet off 7 below, 18 below, bench on right limit of 12 and 14 below, and a fraction off 4 above and 4 below, left limit, Fairbanks; 3 below on Pilot, 1 and 4 below on Vault, 4 and 5 above on Treasure, a fraction off 1 above on Canyon, 2 on a tributary of Canyon, 3 on Evans, and 4 on Walnut.

The claim 7 below on Fairbanks has been thoroughly prospected and found to be rich, the pay streak being very extensive, as is also the bench claim on the left limit of 1 below. Four men will be employed this winter in taking out a big dump on this property, and three lays have been let on the upper end of the ground, which will also yield a handsome revenue. One lay has also been let on the bench claim above referred to.

Early in life Mr. James developed a taste for athletics, and is always foremost in promoting sports of a kindred nature. As a wrestler he has few equals in the country, and as a "musher" no superior in the district.

HISTORICAL

When Alexander McKenzie descended the mighty river which bears his name, in 1789, he did not dream of another mighty river between himself and the Pacific Ocean. Still later (in 1793), when he made his renowned journey from the heart of the continent up Peace River and across New Caledonia (now British Columbia) to the Pacific Ocean he does not appear to have thought of the vast territory to the north of him drained by the Yukon. The Russian, Malakoff, who in 1838 entered its mouth and ascended to its junction with the Koyuk knew nothing of the extent nor the direction of the river above him; and his successor, Zagoskin, who built Fort Mulato in 1843, was as content to confine his explorations to about 700 miles of the river, ascending only about 100 miles above Mulato. The name Yukon appears to have come from the term applied by the Indians on the lower river, "Yu-kon-ah," which means the "Great Water."

Two years after Malakoff ascended what he called the Kwich-pak, now the Yukon, Alexander Campbell, a young Scotchman in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company, was making his way by arduous labor from the Mackenzie to the headwaters of the Yukon on the Pelley branch, which he discovered and named in 1840, and in 1843 he descended this stream to its confluence with the Lewis River, which stream he also named.

This journey of nearly 1,000 miles was made in a birch bark canoe. He was accompanied by a half-breed interpreter, two French Canadians, and three Indians. The report of his exploitation induced his company to establish a post near the mouth of the Pelley, which he named Fort Selkirk. This fort was established in 1848, and was occupied until 1852. In 1850 this intrepid traveler descended this river to learn whether or not he was on the waters of the Colville, which flows into the Arctic Ocean in latitude 71 degrees, west longitude 151 degrees.

In 1825 another Scotch clerk of the same concern made an exploration of part of the Peel River and the region around its confluence with the Mackenzie, which was followed by the establishment of Fort Yukon in 1847. Space forbids a detailed account of the labor, danger and hardship incident to the transportation of a trading outfit from London to these posts, covering besides the sea voyage a journey of about 4,500 miles. Sufficient to say that the outfits were often three years in transit, and the return of the furs the same. The pioneers of to-day are but pioneers in the sense that they were the first to make mining profitable, and blazed a shorter pathway into the interior. Trading posts were established in the interior more than a century ago, when Canada contained only two or three towns, and the west coast was unknown. A trader at one of these posts did not learn of the battle of Waterloo until three years after it had been fought.

These early heroes were not prospectors, knowing little or nothing of mining; yet Campbell knew there were "specks" of gold in the gravel at Selkirk, and in the early '60s the existence of gold was known on a stream tributary to the Yukon below the Porcupine, now known as Birch Creek. This discovery was made in 1862, by the now Very Rev. Archdeacon McDonald of Fort McPherson, on Peel River, who labored for years among the Indians around Fort Yukon, and as far up as Forty-Mile.

The knowledge of his discovery was possessed by the people of Fort Yukon soon after it was made, as appears in a letter to his father in Toronto, written by a clerk at the fort, October 2, 1864. It is as follows: "I had some thoughts of digging gold here, but am not sure about it. I do not think it is in paying quantities at the fort, but if I could only get time to make an expedition up the Yukon I expect we should find it in abundance, but I am always on the voyage or busy at the fort during the summer, and in the winter nothing can be done in the way of gold hunting. I think that next fall, after arriving from my trip down the Yukon, I shall be able to go up the river. There is a small river not far from here that the minister, the Rev. McDonald, got so much gold on a year or two ago that he could gather it with a spoon. I have often wished to see if we can never find time. Should I find gold in paying quantities I may turn gold digger, but this is merely a speculation when I can do no better."

It is definitely known, the first man who discovered gold mining in Yukon Basin was Arthur Har-

per, who hailed from the county of Antrim, Ireland. He came to America when he was eighteen years of age, about the middle of the last century. Mining excitement carried him to the Pacific Coast, and he drifted about until he reached the northern part of British Columbia.

The maps of this country then extant led him to think the extensive McKenzie and Yukon water systems—heading, as both of them did, in known auriferous regions—must have gold in paying quantities somewhere in their systems, and he determined upon investigation. Associated with him in his venture were Frederick W. Hart, from his own country; Samuel Wilkinson, an Englishman; George Finch, a Canadian, and Andrew Kanselar, a German.

This party left the headwaters of Peace River in September, 1872. They proceeded down the Peace to a small stream called Half-Way, which has its source near one of the tributaries of the Laird. Up the Half-Way River they worked their way in dugout canoes until winter set in, when they continued with sleighs of their own make to Nelson River, where a halt was made until spring. Here they met Leroy Napoleon McQuesten (better known as Jack McQuesten). Their dugout boats were exchanged for McQuesten's canoe, and the party, with the exception of Wilkinson, continued on down by the Laird, McKenzie and other small streams, to the Porcupine. Wilkinson remained on the Laird, where the prospects seemed favorable. On the McKenzie they were met by a Scotchman named Nicholson and an American named McNeill, who continued with them to Fort Yukon.

At Fort Yukon the party saw some native copper in the possession of the natives, who said it was from the White River. Harper determined to institute a search for the deposit, while Kanselar concluded to continue down the Yukon. Harper, Hart and Finch started on July 15th for the White River, the route being up the Forty-Mile. When a short distance up the Forty-Mile they were dissuaded from a further attempt by the Indians, who reported the canyons in the river impassable. Had they continued a few miles farther up stream they would certainly have discovered the rich bars of the Forty-Mile, which have since become world-famous as the poor man's bank. The White River was reached by another route, in September. The party failed to find the copper, but from indications they believed they were near it at their turning point.

McQuesten entered the employ of the Alaska Commercial Company, and in August, 1874, established Fort Reliance. Harper prospected around the mouth of the Koyukuk for some time, and in 1875 joined McQuesten at Fort Reliance, where they entered into a partnership which lasted fourteen years.

In the fall of 1877 Harper crossed overland to the head of the Sixty-Mile River, where he found prospects which assured him \$20 per day, but bad weather and unfavorable conditions stopped his work, and the following year he was ordered by his company to the lower river.

When one reflects how near this man came to starting the world with discoveries on the Tanana, Koyukuk, Forty-Mile and Klondike, almost at the birth of the present generation, one can not but wonder at the vagaries of fate. His faith in the country was unbounded, and his correspondence with friends in the outside world had much to do with the discoveries which followed.

In the early eighties a few miners entered the country by the Dyea Pass, and mined on the Stewart River with such success and in such numbers that Harper established a trading post for their convenience in 1886. So far all the gold taken had been secured on the bars and surface, and was very fine. But in 1886 coarse gold was discovered on the bars of the Forty-Mile, and the following year the Stewart River was abandoned. Harper and McQuesten accordingly established a post at Forty-Mile, and for ten years it was the undisputed metropolis of the Far North. In those days provisions were always short, so that most of the miners were compelled to spend the winters along the coast, going many of them as far as Seattle, returning over the ice early in the spring.

Rich finds were made on Birch Creek early in 1891, and Grete City sprang into existence. This led to further exploration, and good pay was found on Mission Creek and its tributary, American Creek. At the same time Miller and Glacier Creeks were exploited, and found to be rich. Attention was then turned to other sections, and in 1897 Henderson, Munson and Swanson found pay on Gold Bottom—Hunker Creek. Henderson's invitation to George W. Carmack to join them on Gold Bottom, led to the discovery of gold on Bonanza and El Dorado.

HOMESTEAD ACT

The act provides that "no indemnity, deficiency, or lieu land selections pertaining to land grant outside of the district of Alaska, shall be made, and no land script or land warrant of any kind whatsoever shall be located within or exercised upon any lands in said district; except as now provided by law. And provided further, That no more than 160 acres shall be entered in any single body by such script, lieu selection, or soldier's additional homestead right."

There is no existing law whereby indemnity, deficiency or lieu land selections pertaining to any land grant, or script or warrants, may be located upon any lands in Alaska.

No such locations will, therefore, be allowed.

Full instructions with reference to the general homestead law will be found in the general circular of July 11, 1899, as well as special instructions under the act of May 12, 1898, 30 Stat., 409, concerning homesteads, etc., in Alaska, and will, so far as applicable, govern the making of entries and proofs under this act, except as modified herein.

The act of 1891, supra, is amended so as to provide that no entry shall be allowed extending more than 160 rods along the shore of any navigable water and to provide that no homestead entry shall be allowed for more than 320 acres.

In executing surveys for homestead applications the instructions now prevailing will be followed, and the limit of 160 rods as to frontage will be measured along the meandered line of said frontage.

The form of the tract to be entered, if upon unsurveyed land, is prescribed in the act as follows:

"If any of the land * * * is unsurveyed, then the land * * * must be of rectangular form, not more than a mile in length, and located upon north and south lines run according to the true meridian."

The above is construed to mean that the boundary line of each entry must be run in cardinal directions, i. e., true north and south and east and west lines by reference to a true meridian, not magnetic, with the exception of the meandered lines on meanderable streams and navigable waters forming a part of the boundary lines of the entry. Thus a frontage meander line, and other meander lines which form part of the boundary of a claim, will run according to the directions in the Manual, but other boundary lines will be run in true east and west and north and south directions, thus forming rectangles, except at intersections with meander lines.

The limit of one mile in length for each entry is held to be 80 chains in aggregate easting or westing, or 80 chains in aggregate northing or southing.

In other respects the rules previously adopted to govern surveys of claims under the act of May 14, 1898, will continue to be followed by you, of course taking into consideration the limitations as to the area of claims.

Every person who is qualified under existing laws to make a homestead entry of the public lands of the United States, and who has heretofore settled upon any of the unsurveyed public lands of the United States, in the district of Alaska, with the intention of taking the same under the homestead law, shall, within ninety days from the date hereof, or prior to the intervention of an adverse claim, file the record of his location for record in the recording district in which the land is situated as provided by sections 13 to 16 of the act of June 6, 1900, 31 Stat., 326 to 328.

Every such person who hereafter settles upon any of said unsurveyed land, shall, within ninety days from the settlement or prior to the intervention of an adverse claim, file the record of his location for record in the recording district in which the land is situated, in the manner above stated.

Said record shall contain the name of the settler, the date of settlement, and such a description of the land settled upon, by reference to some natural object or permanent monument, as will identify the same.

If at the expiration of the time required under sections 2291 to 2292, R. S., and as modified by section 2305, R. S., or at such date as the settler desires to commute under section 2301, R. S., the public surveys have not been extended over the land located, the locator may secure patent for the land located, by procuring at his own expense, a survey of the land, which must be made by a deputy surveyor who has been appointed by the sur-

veyor-general, in accordance with section 10 of the act of May 14, 1798, 30 Stat., 409.

When the survey is approved by the surveyor-general under authority of this office, the same rules should be followed as in soldiers' additional certified rights; in addition to which the settler must furnish the required proof of residence and cultivation.

You will use the regular homestead and final proof blanks (Forms 4-007, 4-063, 4-062 and 4-369), and continue the series of original and final numbers as now used in soldiers' additional cases, except in commutation you will continue the regular cash series of numbers, instead of final homestead series.

When a settler desires to commute, the survey and homestead application must cover his entire claim, but only 160 acres or less, thereof may be commuted, in which event the entry will stand intact as to the portion not commuted, subject to future compliance with the requirements of law within the statutory period of seven years.

You will require entrymen who commute to pay, in addition to the price of \$1.25 per acre, the same fees and commissions as in final homesteads.

The foregoing covers the requirements of the act governing the homestead regulations in Alaska, and is a sufficient guide to those who wish to enter lands. The act is too long for publication at the present time.

Appeal to Government.

At a meeting of the town council held on November 12 a letter was ordered drafted and sent to the Senate Committee on Territories, to be presented to the Secretary of War. It is as follows:

Fairbanks, Alaska, November 12, 1903.
Hon. Knute Nelson,
and Committee on Territories—

Senators—The undersigned were instructed by the common council of the Town of Fairbanks, and by every miner and prospector of the Fairbanks Recording Precinct, to appeal to the government of the United States to come to the rescue of the more than one thousand persons who are now in this region without food.

In carrying out our instructions we decided to address ourselves to your committee and plead with you to act as our sponsors. We will first respectfully draw your attention to the actual conditions confronting us and then point out how, by doing away with a little red tape, the War Department could materially alleviate our dire necessities.

There are now between 2000 and 2500 persons in this district, and at the close of navigation, about October 15, it was found that, at the utmost, not more than 1000 persons succeeded in providing themselves with sufficient provisions to last them until navigation opens. Not a

pound of flour, cereals, rice, salt, ham, bacon, butter or lard can be bought in this entire Tanana Valley. To add to our grievous condition the run of salmon last season has been very limited. The sudden influx of people seems to have driven the game back into the far hills, thus the main food supply of the miner, fresh meat, is very scarce this winter.

There are but three points from where, with the greatest exertion, supplies could be brought here over the ice. Namely, Circle, Rampart and Fort Gibbon. Valdez, Eagle and Dawson are out of consideration. The distances are too great, men and animals will eat more than they can haul.

Circle is about 200 miles from here, with three mountain ranges to cross, which makes double and triple tripping often necessary and many wet, glaziered creeks to travel on. Rampart is about 250 miles from here, but that camp has already sold all the supplies it could spare, and no further relief can be had from there. As soon as the shore ice began to form, men ran in every direction to make up their winter's outfit. Rampart is already sold out, and by the time this reaches you, it is questionable whether Circle will have any more to spare for us. This brings us to our only remaining point. Fort Gibbon is about 270 miles from here with neither mountain nor hill to cross. The company stores there are but small affairs, hardly ever carrying more stock than they expect to sell during the season to the main river trade. The only visible supplies are those at the military post at Fort Gibbon.

It is useless to theorize as to whom, if any one, is to blame for the deplorable shortage. The actual fact remains that here are over 1000 American citizens unable to obtain the necessary bread and meat stuffs to sustain life.

This brings us to the point as to how you can help us. The military posts are usually well stocked. The commander at Fort Gibbon should be instructed by wire to set aside for his own company just so many supplies as he actually needs until June, 1903. By that time the government can lay down at Gibbon fresh supplies by the up-river route. All the remaining staples should be sold at army ration prices.

Extreme care should be taken that the vultures who speculate in human necessities should have no chance to fatten on the government liberality. And, therefore, no supplies should be sold at the post unless the intending buyer brings a written request from the common council of this town.

You may rest assured that we shall be very careful that your aid shall not be abused.

No drones of any kind will receive orders for supplies from us.

Realizing how busy you are, we shall confine ourselves to but one pertinent statement. We do not ask for

luxuries. We ask for staple foods. We do not ask that it be given us. We ask that it be sold us. We know that the government of the United States is not in the mercantile business. But the staples we ask for can not be bought anywhere else.

For humanity's sake we beseech you to come to our rescue. Should you decide to help us, go to the Secretary of War at once, and let all future steps be taken by wire.

We would have wired you were it feasible to explain ourselves thoroughly by wire.

As soon as this reaches you, we ask that you wire us your decision. Many human lives depend upon your favorable and prompt action.—Very respectfully,

E. T. BARNETTE, Mayor.

This letter is reproduced merely to emphasize the peculiar conditions under which this district has been developed. Since the first discovery of gold here, provisions sufficient to supply one half the prospectors were not procurable, the lucky though unfortunate miners being compelled to freight their supplies across the mountains from Circle City.

The output of the camp this winter will reach \$1,500,000. Had the miners been able to secure sufficient provisions to enable them to employ help, the spring clean-up would have been double that amount.

Early in the fall—before navigation closed—the allowance system was adopted by the stores. No man could secure more than one sack of flour and two seven-pound sacks of corn meal. Other staples were also short.

From Mt. McKinley.

John McCloud, who was with Judge Wickersham on his trip to Mt. McKinley this summer, is in Fairbanks. He reports a very pleasant trip, barring a few hardships. They traveled up the Cantishna about 60 miles on the Tanana Chief, after which their outfit was transferred to pack mules, and the journey continued 150 miles up into the foothills, where a permanent camp was struck.

On the way one creek was found that gave some promise and it was staked. Game was plentiful at all times.

Judge Wickersham says of the trip that he had "a most delightful and interesting trip and having been entirely successful in every particular, except that we did not get on top of the mountain on account of snowslides. We made the mistake of getting there on the longest, hottest days, instead of when it was cold and freezing of nights. I obtained many fine photographs, maps and much geographical information."

Judge Wickersham will write up and publish the results of his journey for the Century magazine. The publication of the article is awaited with much interest.



White Pass & Yukon Route

Through Line--SKAGWAY TO DAWSON

DIRECT ROUTE TO

.. TANANA AND FAIRBANKS ..

Via. White Horse is the ONLY WAY to Reach the BULLION and RUBY MINING DISTRICTS...

MATT J. B. WHITE, G. F. and P. A., MacKINNON BUILDING, VANCOUVER, B. C.
S. H. GRAVES, President, A. B. NEWELL, Vice-Pres. and Gen. Manager,
VANCOUVER, B. C. VANCOUVER, B. C., and SKAGWAY, ALASKA.
S. P. BROWN, General Agent, 35 Dexter Horton Building, Seattle, Wash.

At Skaguay, the southern terminus of the Rail Line, connections are made with the Ocean steamers of the following lines: Alaska S. S. Co., Humboldt S. S. Co., Pacific Coast S. S. Co., and the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. (British Columbia Coast Service). The trans-continental trains in turn connect with the ocean lines at all Pacific Coast terminal ports.

WINTER SERVICE.

During the winter season extending from the close to the opening of navigation, the company's lines of mail, passenger and freight sleighs will operate over the ice. This year a special fast freight service has been arranged, and special equipment provided; regular stage relays of horses being used in addition to the Mail, Passenger and Express service. During the past season the trail has been greatly improved, making smoother running and faster time possible.

The passenger sleighs (all upholstered) are of the newest design, and being built expressly for the Northern traffic; they are exceedingly comfortable.

Each sleigh has accommodations for ten passengers, 1,000 pounds of passenger baggage, and 1,000 pounds of mail and express. Passengers will stop at Roadhouses every night, and travel only during the day. No team will travel more than an average of 20 miles, and a fresh team will be in readiness at each station along the route. Ample robes will be supplied to passengers.

Shippers' attention should be called to the fact that freight, express and baggage can be bonded through to Dawson during the winter on any of the stages operated by the White Pass & Yukon Route.

The Company will start operating its mail and passenger sleighs on a tri-weekly schedule from White Horse, and oftener if necessary, connecting with the all-year daily train service at White Horse.

The White Pass and Yukon Route Bulletin No. 11 furnishes full information relative to the handling of mail, passengers, express, baggage and freight, passenger fares, freight rates, etc., and conditions under which shipments are received.

TRAIN SERVICE.

* 9:30 a. m.	0	Leave..... Skaguay.....	Arrive	4:30 p. m.
11:00 a. m.	21 White Pass.....		3:05
11:45 a. m.	33 Log Cabin.....		2:10
12:35 p. m.	41 **Bennett.....		1:35 p. m.
2:10 p. m.	69 Caribou.....		11:50 a. m.
.....	150 Atlin.....		
4:30 p. m.	111	Arrive..... White Horse.....	Leave	*9:30 a. m.

*Daily Except Sunday. **Meal Stations. Standard—Alaska Time—One hour slower than Pacific Time.

SUMMER SERVICE.

During the open season of navigation on the Yukon River, which extends from the middle of May to the middle of October, the British Yukon Navigation Company's river steamers connect directly with trains at White Horse, giving daily service to Stewart River, Dawson, Tanana, etc.

Connections made at Dawson for all Lower Yukon River points, including St. Michaels, Tanana and Nome.

Through connections made at Caribou with the Company's Lake steamers for Atlin, Taku and Golden Gate Mining Camps.

The Alaska Pacific Express Co. operates over this line.

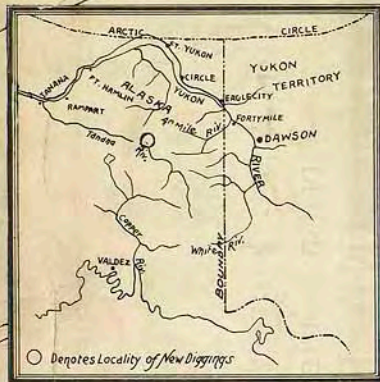
During the open season of navigation on Yukon River baggage can be checked through to Dawson, on through tickets, via the White Pass and Yukon Route without undergoing inspection by the Customs Officers at Skaguay.

Freight and baggage, if routed via White Pass & Yukon Route Destination, may be bonded through Yukon territory to Alaska points on lower Yukon River; also through Alaska, via Skaguay, from British Columbia and Yukon Territory and vice versa, without payment of duty.

THE AUTHORIZED UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN BONDED CARRIERS.

SKETCH MAP
HOWING TANANA GOLD FIELDS
ALASKA

COMPILED BY FRANK J. CLEARY, TALAVANA or CHETINEKA RIVER



BIG SWAMP
 NO Bottom
 cannot cross this flat in Summer

BIG SWAMP
 No Bottom

SUMMER TRAIL
 30 Miles to Discovery
 on Pedro Creek

WINTER TRAIL
 24 MILES from HENDRICKS STORE
 to DISCOVERY on PEDRO CREEK

WINTER TRAIL
 14 Miles to DISCOVERY on Pedro Creek

SUMMER TRAIL
 16 MILES to DISCOVERY on Pedro Creek

NOTE

Pedro Creek	Creeks with
Gold Stream	good pay on
Cleary Creek	them
Bear "	others not Pros-
Gilmore "	pected
Wolf "	

