

THE KLONDIKE GOLD FIELDS IN ALASKA.

The United States Government in 1867 paid Russia \$7,200,000 for the Territory of Alaska. Alaska has paid back her purchase money in gold four times, having produced during the time it has been a part of the United States about \$30,000,000 of the precious yellow metal.

border. They were discovered, as has been said, by a party of "tenderfeet," who, against the advice of the old-timers in the district, wandered "over yonder in the Klondike" and struck it rich. From Klondike comes much of the gold and from Klondike seems to come all the excitement.

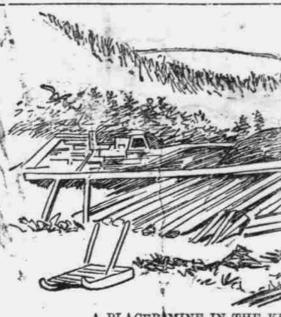
unheeding, crowding into the Alaska-bound steamers without anything like enough supplies or enough money to see them through ten days of travel on land. Miners who have been there say that such as those will perish.

There are two general routes to the Klondike district. From Chicago both lead to Seattle, and there diverge. One goes by ocean steamer west and a little north, and passes through Dutch Harbor, at the extreme end of the southwest Alaskan peninsula.

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

The placer mines, from which prospectors are said now to be lining their pockets with gold, are in the region remote from civilization, little known, and on account of its uncertainties, dangerously alluring to the average man. This gold-producing country of the interior is in the vicinity of the Yukon near where that great river turns to the west in its course to the sea.

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



A PLACER MINE IN THE KLONDIKE GOLD FIELDS.

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

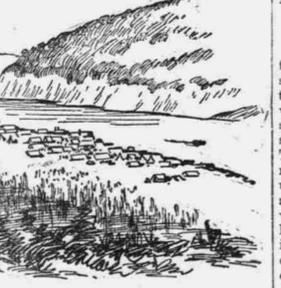
To give an accurate idea of the cost of living in Dawson City, the price list of a general store there is herewith given:

Table listing prices for various goods in Dawson City, including flour, sugar, rice, and other provisions.

Alaska and Its Resources. In the purchase of Alaska, the United States acquired a Territory more than half a million square miles in extent, a part of it within the arctic circle and in the region of everlasting ice and snow, where, during part of the summer, there is continuous day and during the winter continuous, dreary night.

In acquiring the Alaskan Territory, though the United States moved its center, figured in geographical miles, not in area or population, as far west as San Francisco. The country now extends from about the sixty-fifth degree of longitude up at the far east corner of Maine to the 122d degree up at the far northwest tip of the Alaskan mainland.

The United States, therefore, may almost say with England that the sun never sets on its possessions. The principal river in Alaska, the Yukon, up which prospectors have to work their weary way to reach the gold fields was called by Schwatka, the Alaskan Nile.



DAWSON CITY, IN THE KLONDIKE GOLD REGION.

The cost of the trip this way cannot be definitely stated beyond Juneau, because after that point it depends somewhat on the bargain made with the Chilkoot Indians, who pack supplies through the pass, and the length of time the overland part of the journey requires.

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

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

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

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

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

The Klondike fields are considerably east of Port Cudaly and Dawson City, and both of these are on British soil. Into the new regions, though, American miners first ventured and made the first discoveries of gold. Since then hundreds of them have trooped over the border, staked out their claims in the rich hills and begun to dig.

Should the Canadian Government pass an exclusion act in these miners, of course, would be disappointed. The difficulty of enforcing such an act, especially on miners who have staked out their claims, is at once apparent.

parent. The result in retaliation by the Government of the United States is also easily imagined. The Dominion Government has already established a custom house on the border, and is doing a fair business collecting duty on the goods that go into the new country, and miners think they will be satisfied with that.

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

Queer Place of Refuge. The passengers on a Tenth street trolley car were treated to an unusual sight early yesterday morning. As the car was bowling along in the vicinity of Parish street a couple of sparrows, one in chase of the other, swooped down in front of the car. The pursued, by a quick flank movement, eluded its tormentor by darting under the roof of the front platform, and before the motorman knew what was up the bird had perched on his hand which gripped the lever.

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

Mr. Bryan expects to visit Mexico in October and is preparing an address on the money question, which he hopes to be able to deliver in the Spanish language.

SIGNS ARE NOT LACKING

Of Prosperity, Says Dun & Co's. Weekly Review of Trade.

NO. OF FAILURES FOR THE WEEK

All the Textile Industries Are Encouraged by Large Demands of Goods—The Haste to Buy Wheat.

Messrs. R. G. Dun & Co's Weekly Review of Trade for the week ending Aug. 14th, says: Every city reporting this week notes increase in trade and nearly all bright crop prospects. The great change in business is emphasized by the presence of a multitude of buyers from all parts of the country by their statements of the situation at their homes and more forcibly yet by the heavy purchases they are making.

The heavy speculation in many products, but most of all in wheat, have made the week one of surpassing interest even to those who best remember the upward rush in 1879. At the principal clearing houses throughout the country payments in July were for the first time slightly larger than in 1892, and 11.0 per cent. larger than last year; in the first week of August 7.7 per cent. larger than in 1892 and 28.4 per cent. larger than last year, and in the second week of August they are 17.9 per cent. larger than in 1892, and 38.1 per cent. larger than last year.

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Senator George Dead. A Man of Great Erudition and Legal Attainments. Senator George, of Mississippi, died in Washington on the 14th. He was born in Monroe county, Ga., on the 26th of October, 1828.

Drummer Evangelist Baptized. The North Carolina Baptist says W. P. Fife, the drummer evangelist, was baptized in the ocean at Old Orchard, Me., Saturday, August 7th. He says his mind had been unsettled all of his Christian life and he decided to be immersed.

Gold Seekers Returning. A special from Seattle, Wash., says many of the gold seekers who left for Klondike are returning home for the winter on account of the blockade at Dyea and Skagway, where there will be much suffering during the winter.

Tobacco Destroyed. A wind, rain and hail storm which passed over Viroqua county, Illinois, done more than \$100,000 damage to the tobacco farmers. Fully four-fifths of the crop is destroyed.

Pity News Items. The fire losses for the first seven months of 1897 have fallen to \$64,500,000 as against \$75,500,000 for the same period in 1895.

SOUTHERN BIBLICAL ASSEMBLY

The Executive Council Elected--State Meetings to Start Up Interest.

The Southern Biblical Assembly, which has been in session in Asheville, N. C., during the last ten days, is now planning for 1898. The following executive council was elected: President, Bishop Edward Rondthaler; vice presidents, Rev. T. T. Eaton, D. D., of Louisville; Rev. H. A. White, D. D., of Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.; Dr. J. H. Carle, president Wofford College, Spartanburg, S. C.; Rev. J. F. Spence, D. D., Knoxville, president of Harrison University, and Rev. C. H. Bell, D. D., Sheffield, Ala.; secretary, Charles W. Dabney, LL. D., president of State University, Knoxville, Tenn.

A new departure was agreed on. A series of State meetings, three days each week, will be held in each State, in order to awaken interest. It is probable that the first of such State meetings will be in Louisville, in October, and that others will follow southward, along the line of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, with a return series through the Atlantic States, ending in Virginia.

PHENOMENON IN GEORGIA.

Thomasville People Much Exercised Over a Supposed Volcano. The inhabitants of Thomasville, Ga., are intensely excited over what appears to be the existence of a volcano on a plantation near there. The crater is about twenty-five feet square, and several streams of blue smoke issue from it. The ground in the immediate location of the crater has sunk to the extent of two feet below the surface. Excavations made show that the smoke proceeds from an extensive bed of ashes. Originally the source of disturbance was situated beneath the residence of a farmer, but the volume of smoke and intense heat compelled the destruction of the house. It is impossible that the smoke should proceed from burning mines, as there are no mineral deposits in the locality. Frequent rains have failed to quench the subterranean fires. The phenomenon is being visited by hundreds of curious people.

YOUTHFUL MURDERERS.

Negroes, Six and Eight Years Old, Kill a Baby. At Grapevine, Texas, a little negro was killed by two other little negroes. The murdered child was but 3 years old. The others were 6 and 8 years of age. A few days ago they tortured the little fellow by burning it all over with a hot iron, which caused it great suffering, and to stop it from crying, they took it by the head and feet and threw it off a porch some three feet high and stamped on it and stamped it to death.

Sherman Soon to Retire. A special from Washington to the Philadelphia (Pa.) Record, says Secretary Sherman's retirement from the Cabinet is expected to occur before Congress meets, but not until after the election in Ohio, for it is feared that if he should go out of office, even if it was done voluntarily, before November, his friends in Ohio might turn the scale against Senator Hanna and give the State and the Legislature over to the Democrats.

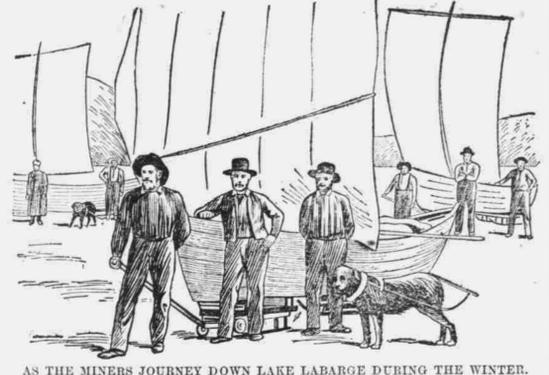
Primary Idea Defeated. Virginia's State Democratic Convention in session at Roanoke nominated A. J. Montague for Attorney-General, and defeated the resolution to elect United States Senators by primary. The platform as published in these columns was adopted. The convention then adjourned sine die.

Tobacco Claims Allowed. La Lucha, the government organ published in Cuba, is authority for the statement that the Spanish government at Madrid has issued an order that all claims for tobacco by American manufacturers have been allowed, and that tobacco can be removed.

Killed His Girl's Father. Eli Burney, who was forbidden to visit his sweetheart, shot and fatally wounded the girl's father, V. B. Greeg, at Whitehead, Ala. Burney made his escape, and is being pursued by officers.

Bryan's Mexican Trip. At the headquarters of the allied silver forces of Kansas a request has just been received from Mr. W. J. Bryan for copies of all documents and statistical tables relating to the silver question in Mexico, and also text books for acquiring a knowledge of the Spanish language.

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AS THE MINERS JOURNEY DOWN LAKE LABARGE DURING THE WINTER.

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

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

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

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

Another vessel brought to Seattle a second party of successful prospectors and a ton and a half of gold. These men had endured peril and undergone great hardships in accumulating the fortunes they brought, and they told a story that had a dark as well as a bright side. To follow their example means a risk of wealth, health and even life, but for those who are willing to take the chances the prospect they hold out is alluring.

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

which the placer mining extends it is estimated that up to last year there were 2000 miners. The districts in which most of them worked were in a broad belt of gold-producing rock, through which quartz veins carrying gold occur frequently. Through the gold-bearing rocks the streams have cut deep gullies and canons, and in their beds the gold which was contained in the rock is concentrated. The mining of this country consists, therefore in washing out the gravel of these beds. So the miners worked, being fairly well paid for their labor, until the "tenderfeet" made the Klondike discovery. That was nine months or so ago, and the news of it is just reaching the outside world. It is just now in reaching the miners along Forty Mile and Birch Creeks, though, and they shouldered their picks and moved forward in a wild rush at the first word of the new lucky strike. As a result gold dust and nuggets by the ton are turned into the mints on the coast, and men who never before rose above the level of the commonest of miners have come back to civilization and comfort loaded with gold to last them a lifetime. Take as an illustration this list of returned miners who came on the Excelsior:

Table listing names and values of returned miners from the Klondike, including T. S. Lippy, F. G. H. Bowler, Joe La Due, etc.

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