

The Messenger
Prints the News
and is sought after by the people of Marion, N. C., and other counties, Western North Carolina, and is there for sale.

The Klondike Gold Fields in Alaska.

The United States Government in Alaska has 27,200,000 for the Klondike gold fields.

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

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

Along all of the river in this section, tributaries to the Yukon, gold diggings exist, and in many places pay the prospector well for his trouble. In all the immense country over which the placer mining extends it is estimated that up to last year there were 2600 miners. The districts in which most of them worked were in a broad belt of gold-producing rock, through which quartz veins carrying the 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 the gullies, and the miners worked, being fairly well paid for their labor, until the "tenderfoot" made the Klondike discovery. That was nine months or so ago, and the news of it is just reaching the outside world. It was not long in reaching the miners along Forty Mile and Birch Creeks, though, and they abandoned their picks and crossed the mountains to the westward, 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 marts out on the coast, and men who never before

Best Men's Journey.
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MARION, N. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1897.

In time the trip costs thirty days from Chicago to Seattle, sixteen from Seattle to St. Michael's Island, and ten up the Yukon to Dawson City by the fast boat. The distance in general figures is 2250 miles from Chicago to Seattle, 2500 miles to St. Michael's Island and 1500 miles up the Yukon to Dawson. A total of about 6300 miles. The other way to the Klondike, the "mountain route," is shorter in miles, but equally long in the time it requires and a great deal more difficult. By this route the traveler sails more directly north to Juneau, which is 800 miles from Seattle, and then goes by lake and river and over the mountains 1000 miles to the new mining territory.

After getting through the Chilkoot Pass the traveler reaches Lake Lindenman. At that point is a sawmill, where he can buy a saw and hammer. Travelers who do not care to pay that price can purchase lumber and build their own boats. The lumber can be bought for \$100 a thousand feet, and about 500 feet are required to build a boat that will answer the purpose. Still other travelers carry whipsaws and get out their own lumber, and a man handy with a saw and hammer can build a boat in three or four days.

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

The cost of the trip this way cannot be definitely stated beyond Juneau, because after that point it depends somewhat on the bargain made with the Chilkoot Indians, who pack supplies through the pass, and the length of time the overland part of the journey requires. The cost from Chicago to Seattle is the same as by the other route, of course, \$51.50 second class and \$10 more for first class. The steamer fare up to Juneau and on to Pyea is \$12. What it costs on the overland trip each traveler determines partially for himself, but the Indians who pack the gear and pack supplies do not work without big pay.

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.

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.

Attorneys in Georgia.
Phenomenon in Georgia.
Thomaspole People Much Exercised Over a Supposed Volcano.Negroes, Six and Eight Years Old, Kill a Baby.At Grapevine, Texas, a little negro was murdered by two other little negroes. The murdered child was but 3 years old. The others were about 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 out of a porch some three feet high and then jumped on it and stamped it to death.

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.

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 Dyas and Skagway, where there will be much suffering during the winter.

At Hatfield. Scare.
The reports that Capt. Hatfield, the escaped desperado, had killed four men during a fight in the mountains in Logan county, W. Va., are without foundation.

NEWS ITEMS

Southern Pencil Pointers.
Last week's attendance at the Nashville (Tenn.) Exposition was 35,383. The smallest previous attendance was 30,000.

Phenomenon in Georgia.
The inhabitants of Thomaspole, 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 vicinity 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 in July of last year became so great that the farmer was obliged to leave the place. The smoke is now being blown toward the Atlantic States, ending in Virginia.

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