

Siberia May Be Next To Attract Seeker Of Gold

Members of Expedition Sailing from Los Angeles This Week Believe They are Pioneers of New Gold Rush Such as That to California in Forty Uine

By FORREST WHITE
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Los Angeles, May 6.—The three-masted auxiliary schooner, "Speedway" spread her sails Tuesday and pointed her course for the new frontier of gold, thousands of miles away in the hazy Siberian wastes.

The "Speedway" will carry a full company of determined argonauts, who expect to make their dreams of vast wealth in pure gold come true and believe themselves to be the vanguard of another great gold rush like that to California in '49, or to Alaska a score of years ago.

Forty days from today, granted favorable weather, the "Speedway" will drop anchor under the lee of the beautiful Pallasades that form an entrance to one of the earth's remotest outposts—Okhotsk on the Okhotsk Sea, in Siberia. She will have travelled 4,700 miles by the ocean trade routes from the harbor of Los Angeles, and will have accomplished the first and easy stage of the journey for the ship's company that has heard and answered the call of gold—gold in grains, and nuggets, and in solid blocks, waiting for the touch of the eager fingers of man.

At Okhotsk these new Magellans will assemble a fleet of river boats, and when they are heavily laden with supplies and machinery for panning and mining gold, will stroke their difficult way through unnamed and uncharted streams to the town of Petrotaulfske, at the South end of Kamchatka peninsula. Here will be their goal, the joyous end of the first expedition to dig for Siberian gold, and the thrilling moment for one of the most picturesque companies of men that ever set sail as fortune hunters.

Will they find fold in fabulous quantities, and ready for the taking by little effort? Every man of the company will tell you they will. But save for one, none of them has ever seen the spot. They have cast their fortunes upon the word of this one man, L. S. McGirk, a veteran gold miner, who has roamed the earth in search of the yellow metal.

McGirk is experienced in the ways of gold and knows a chance pocket from a true field, where rich strikes may be made. He returned recently from the Siberian fields with samples of "float" quartz which assayed as high as \$12,000 a ton, while placer samples assayed from 30 cents to \$13 a yard.

It is McGirk's word and the samples that he took from the earth that has put the fever into the blood of the men who sailed on the "Speedway." For the greater part they are veteran placer miners, but they include representatives from nearly every walk of life, including a physician, a lawyer and a preacher. They all go for gold.

The expedition was organized jointly by McGirk and H. C. Wilson, an experienced shipping man, who purchased the "Speedway," a staunch craft, and loaded upon her mining machinery costing \$75,000 to be installed for dredging and hydraulic operations. Supplies to last the entire company two years, with tents and camping outfits, are also stowed away in the hold of the ship, and all of the company which sailed today said their good-byes, recited again their dreams of wealth, and stood ready for the long and unbroken absence at the last outpost of civilization in a strange and forbidding country.

The "Speedway" will be their only means of communication and will remain at anchor in Okhotsk harbor until she receives her cargo of gold. But even if the gold fails, the expedition does not expect to return empty-handed, for it has been agreed that in addition to mining, no matter how rich the sand or ore, they will trap land otter, silver, red black, white and cross fox, sable and Siberian squirrel, and will ship the skins, worth far more than their weight in gold, with their gold, back to Los Angeles harbor once a year.

If the "Speedway" returns heavily laden with gold a year from this time, the real rush to the Siberian gold fields may be expected to follow. But not before then, for it is doubtful if any word of the success or the failure of the expedition will reach the world except through the return of their own ship.

WORTH THE MONEY

The County Commissioners paid a bill for \$713 for the paving of the sidewalk in front of the Courthouse, at the meeting Monday. It was generally conceded that the paving was satisfactory in every way, and had greatly improved the appearance of the street.

DANCE TONIGHT

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TRINITY CLUB WILL BE ORGANIZED HERE

Permanent organization of a Trinity Club is the object of a dinner which will be given to all alumni and former students of Trinity College by C. R. Pugh at 6 o'clock Thursday night at the Linden.

It is estimated that there are 20 or more Trinity men in Elizabeth City and this immediate neighborhood and organization into a permanent body will be desirable, according to those of the alumni who favor such a move. All former students of Trinity are invited to be present at the dinner.

R. E. Thigpen, the alumni secretary, will be present, and Rev. J. M. Ormond, who as pastor built the First Methodist Church in Elizabeth City and who is now a professor at Trinity, will attend. Mr. Ormond has been invited to be the guest of Raymond Sheely while in this city.

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REVOLT SPREADING

Havana, Cuba, May 6.—The revolt which began here last week has spread to another province in Cuba but the authorities say the situation can be handled.

WOMEN IN RALEIGH

Raleigh, May 6.—The annual convention of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs opened here today for a four day program.

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MANY FOREST FIRES SEEN NEAR BESTCITY

Fires are reported in several places along the northern boundaries of Camden and Pasquotank counties. The exact location of the fires cannot be determined as changes are being made constantly and new fires springing up in new places.

A number of motorists who have made the trip from Elizabeth City to Norfolk along the canal bank road found it exceedingly hard going on their return at night on account of dense smoke. No serious handicap is found in the day time as the light is sufficient to allow some speed to be made; but at night the smoke is a serious handicap.

Those who braved the smoke and motored through found it necessary to proceed very slowly with at least one member of the party walking ahead to guide the driver. Those who were equipped with flashlights experienced the least trouble. The delay in some instances amounted to at least two hours.

Miles Clark made the trip up along the canal bank Friday and found fires on both sides of the road. Rushes were burning along the canal cracking and popping like rifles in a pitched battle. On the other side there were fires in the Dismal Swamp and no matter from which direction the wind came the smoke was always present.

Preferring water to fire as perhaps the less objectionable element, Mr. Clark returned by way of Moyock.

Fires can be seen as bright lights on the horizon in several directions after dark any evening. They are not considered dangerous to life and property as they are confined to waste places.

F. F. Cohoon is quoted as saying that he was able to see almost to Moyock from the big drainage ditch on account of the foliage burned away.

SECRETARY WILBUR WANTS STRONG NAVY

Washington, May 6.—In an address here last night Secretary Wilbur of the Navy came out unqualifiedly for a navy which will make the United States second to no nation.



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