

THE REVIEW.

BY
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Wauneta is a little town in Chautauqua county, Kansas. There is a doctor there who is proprietor of the drug store, justice of the peace and constable. He sells the boys liquor, and then arrests and fines them for drunkenness.

An impressionable Paris banker, the owner of immense riches, died of grief on hearing that he lost everything in the world except 100,000 francs. His pauper brother, on inheriting that sum from him, died of joy.

England also has been enjoying a big strike. The engineers to the number of 120,000 "went out" for an eight-hour day, without any reduction of wages. Latest advices indicate a protracted struggle with the result in doubt.

More than 1,000,000 barrels of flour, equivalent to 4,500,000 bushels of wheat, were shipped from the United States to Japan during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897. The effete rice-eating Orientals apparently are hungry for more substantial food.

Thermometers in the Klondyke gold fields are guilty of some very "low down" tricks. Fifty below is regarded as rather moderate for January. This reads nice these hot summer days, but the actual experience is not so pleasant as many warm blooded people can testify.

In Italy only half of the criminals escape detection, according to Signor Ferriani, who has written a book on "Clever and Fortunate Criminals." He asserts that while 9,000 crimes, whose authors were not detected, were committed in France in 1825, the yearly number of such crimes is now 80,000.

The money lenders who have in the past found a profitable field in South Dakota are said to be complaining that the farmers of that state have within four years paid off \$50,000,000 of their indebtedness. One company that desires to place \$75,000 in South Dakota farm mortgages can not find takers for more than one-third of that amount. The same company reports that out of 1,500 farms loans in that state they have not had fifty foreclosures in seven years.

An Illinois farmer of many acres, died a few years ago, leaving to his three daughters his rich farm. Practical women these, they undertook the oversight of the 11,000 acres, dividing the tract into small sections and letting them out to tenants. Their plans have turned out well, says Womankind, and they have been favored with good crops. They have further added to their tillable land 400 acres which had been under water; to do this drainage a ditch of a mile and a half long was dug. But like all business that succeeds, this is personally looked after by its heads, and if these women do not work with their hands they do with their heads.

"Innocents" who may hereafter try to "see the sights" in Chicago are to be protected from the snide games and swindling schemes, which in the past have so often snared their unwary feet—in so far as the police can take care of them at least. The chief of police of the great city has issued an order declaring open war on bucket shops, slot machines, clock games and all the swindling devices that have so long disgraced the streets of Chicago, and his emphatic announcement that the order will be vigorously enforced has carried consternation into the ranks of swindling speculators and the sporting fraternity in general.

The Cleveland Leader says that of 876 divorce cases instituted in the Common Pleas Court of that county during the year ending July 1 only ninety-five were begun by men. In 781 cases the wife was the plaintiff. These figures tell the same story as those recently published regarding divorces in this State. They show one of two things—either that men are, as a rule, worse than women, giving much more frequent cause for divorce, or else that men are much more patient and enduring of the ills of matrimony than women are. The fact that a great majority of divorces are granted for desertion, drunkenness and cruelty on the part of the husband indicates which is the true alternative.

United States Judge Phillips, of the Western district of Missouri, has just rendered an important decision under the Sherman anti-trust law of 1890 making it illegal for persons to combine in restraint of commerce between the States. The decision is against the Traders' Live Stock Exchange, of Kansas City, a sort of close trading corporation which charged \$500 for membership. There were 143 members. The crucial question in the case was whether or not the cattle dealt in at Kansas City stock yards came under the interstate commerce provisions while they were in the yards at that place. The court held that they did, and granted an injunction covering every point of the case. The decision dissolves the exchange.

THE NEW ELDORADO.

The stories now being printed about the untold riches that may be found on the Klondyke river banks in far-off Alaska, just over the line in British territory, will remind many of our older citizens of the tales of a similar character that came overland from California away back in '49 and '50. Then, as now, the public mind became excited and thousands made the weary trip to the gold fields only to be disappointed in their hopes or succumbed to the hardships by the way, before they reached the longed-for goal. Thousands, indeed, did accumulate a competency in a comparatively short time, hundreds it may be became wealthy, while dozens perhaps acquired millions that made them famous the wide world over. Doubtless the scenes of those times will now be repeated on another and more remote stage of action, but it must be admitted that the outlook for a larger percentage of failure is much better in the present craze than in '49. So inaccessible and remote is the region whence came the haggard miners with the sacks of golden nuggets to Seattle, and so rigorous is the climate for a greater part of the year, that the chances of ultimate success and a happy return to civilization for those who brave the perils of the way and the dangers of the life that must be led are not especially good. Yet the golden mirage that now looms across the northern sky will lure many a man away from home and friends and present happiness never to return. Young men of vigorous physique, a love of adventure and plenty of cash to use as capital to start on, might do worse than to go. They will at least find new scenes and strange experiences that should in after life prove valuable as reminiscences at least; but the man with home ties and without any especial hardihood would do well to consider the matter very carefully and stay at home. The craze is, however, spreading as the stories of the probable extent of the gold fields are confirmed by later arrivals and by the opinions of government experts, who have visited the Klondyke country. There seems to be no doubt that fabulous wealth is lying around loose, "out of doors," up there, only waiting to be picked up in chunks and be transported to mints for coinage. The exodus of fortune hunters has already commenced. It will increase with the opening of navigation next spring. The final results of this last crusade can hardly fail to be beneficial to business in the United States, especially upon the Pacific coast, in any event.

PROSPEROUS ENGLAND.

According to recent advices the British Isles are at present enjoying an almost unprecedented era of prosperity. The recent visit of the United States Bimetallic Commission has brought to light the fact that the English people have no interest in our financial affairs except in so far as they may affect the commerce between the two countries. There is no desire for any change in the financial system of England. "Hard times," as we understand them, are not afflicting England at all, although there is the want and suffering that is characteristic of the overcrowded centers of population. There was never a more prosperous period than the present. Every laboring man is getting good wages and has plenty of work. Every capitalist is making a profit upon his investments. The revenues of the government during the last quarter of the financial year, ended on the 30th of June, show an increase of \$7,028,895, and reach a total of \$127,079,300 for the quarter, as compared with \$120,050,505 for the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

The organization of new mercantile and manufacturing companies during the first six months of 1897 and the increase of capital of existing companies represent a total of \$384,850,000, which shows that there is plenty of ready money among private capitalists. The increased investment in breweries alone amounts to nearly \$50,000,000, and in the manufacture of bicycles \$30,000,000. The amount invested in other manufacturing industries exceeds \$125,000,000. The investments in new hotels, restaurants and saloons represents nearly \$10,000,000, and nearly \$100,000,000 has gone into mercantile establishments, while the new amusements amount to nearly \$10,000,000. W. E. Curtiss in a recent letter to the Chicago Record says that several members of the ministry are personally believers in a double standard and the bimetallic clubs are increasing in numbers, although the agitation has been suspended for several months. The only possible inducement for Great Britain to join the United States and other countries in the recognition of silver would be to gratify our people, but the present government is not inclined that way. Lord Salisbury, the prime minister, is determined in his opposition to silver, and is not at all friendly toward the United States since the rejection of the arbitration treaty. It is not believed that he would even submit the question to parliament, and if he should do so it would be voted down by a tremendous majority. Everybody says that there is not the slightest sympathy with the movement in the house of lords, and in the house of commons such a proposition would upset the government.

ON THE KLONDYKE.

NUGGETS BY THE BUCKETFUL AWAIT THE ADVENT OF THE ARGONAUTS.

Tons of Gold Already Picked Up With Untold Millions Yet In Sight—Pointers About the Great Alaskan Eldorado.

Seattle, Wash., Special: The news of the rich gold strikes in the Klondyke fields of Alaska has created intense excitement all along the coast, and thousands are preparing to go to the diggings. Seeing this, the Alaska Commercial Company sounds a note of warning. The season is drawing to a close in the gold fields; snow begins to fall in August, and in September the great Yukon River will close to navigation. The Commercial Company owns the only boats on the Yukon in which supplies can be taken to the mining camps, and supplies can be got in only for 10,000 during the remainder of the season. The company estimates that there are now 30,000 people on their way to the gold fields, and warns those who are thinking of going that if they go now they will get there, if fortunate, just at the beginning of winter, and that in the nine months that must elapse before the next season opens there will be great privation and even starvation for many.

Nevertheless, the excitement of the Klondyke mines is on the increase, and hundreds of people are preparing to sail for Alaska. The steamer Portland, which brought down over \$1,000,000 in gold, is ready for her return trip, and will be crowded to her utmost capacity.

Conservative men who have been in the country claim that there is room for hundreds of men more in Alaska. They admit that all the fields in the vicinity of Klondyke have been taken, but every river in Alaska is, in their judgment, filled with gold, which can be secured if the men are willing to risk the hardships. Gold in boxes, gold in bags, gold in blankets, fine gold and coarse gold, gold nuggets and gold dust, the yellow treasure of the Klondyke diggings, which came in yesterday from the north, has set the people wild. A ton and a half of gold was a part of the load of the steamer Portland that arrived from St. Michael's, Alaska, and with 3,000 pounds of gold there were the several owners, sixty-eight in number, some with \$5,000, some with \$10,000, some with \$50,000, a few with \$100,000 and over, but all with gold.

With the product of their work for a season in the new "diggings," the richest in surface gold ever discovered, these miners made the long voyage from Dawson City, the new golden town, 1,895 miles down the Yukon to St. Michael's, and at St. Michael's boarded the Portland with their treasure, bound for homeland and intent upon changing their dust and their nuggets into the minted, milled coin of their country. On the voyage the gold was stored in the captain's stateroom. The little safe in the corner was packed full of bags of gold, and the remainder, that the safe could not hold, was placed in three boxes.

When the steamer came to this port the miners put their bags on their shoulders and walked down the gang plank in the presence of a vast throng of Seattle people, assembled to see the great pile of treasure from the rich fields of the far north. A miner with only \$5,000 in his bag easily carried his fortune. Twenty thousand dollars in two bags is a good load for any stalwart man, no matter if he has worked where the mercury falls to 60 degrees below zero. Two men used all their strength in carrying a strapped blanket in which was about \$50,000. The few with the big fortunes, \$100,000 and over, had to hire help to get their precious possessions to a safe place of storage in Seattle.

One of the "foolish" strangers who gave no consideration to the advice of the old miners is Frank Physcator. Last autumn he went from Boroda, Mich., to Alaska, and thence to Klondyke. He was one of the first to discover gold in the fabulously rich placers of the new Eldorado. He employed nine men and in three months' time took out from two claims \$60,027. He still owns the claims, but having nearly \$100,000, made in less than twelve months, he deems himself entitled to a trip to Michigan.

The miners who came on the steamer repeat the advice given by the men who went to San Francisco on the Excelsior. They say that no man should enter the Yukon country without supplies for a year. The necessary outfit costs at least \$500. Any man who starts on the perilous trip without sufficient equipment runs the risk of fearful suffering and even death. It is declared that there is no danger of food giving out. The North American Transportation and Trading Company will not allow a man take any food north on the Portland, but it will guarantee to furnish him food for a year at less than \$400. He can secure such a guarantee before leaving this city, so that starvation will not be one of the difficulties to stare men in the face.

There can be no doubt that the late strikes in the Yukon valley are the richest ever known. Instances are common where pans of gold have yielded over \$100, and occasionally much more. The miners say that all the territory where the rich strikes were made have been staked, and that so far as they are concerned it is useless for any one to think of making locations. But then there are other streams, all of which are known to have gold-bearing bars, though it is extremely doubtful if their richness will equal the famed Eldorado and Bonanza creeks of the Klondyke.

A letter received from Dawson City under date of June 18, contains many interesting facts. The writer, Arthur Perry, a well-known citizen of Seattle, says: "The first discovery of gold in the Klondyke was in the middle of August, 1896, by George Cormack, on a creek emptying into the Klondyke on the south, called by the Indians Bonanza. He found \$160 to the pan on a high rim known as Forty Miles. He went back with two Indians and took out \$1,400 in three weeks with three sluice boxes. The creek was soon staked from one end to the other and all the

small gulches were also staked and recorded. About Sept. 1 a man by the name of Whipple prospected a creek emptying into the Bonanza and named it Whipple creek. He shortly afterward sold out and the miners renamed it Eldorado.

"When I first reached the new camp I was invited by two butcher boys, Murphy Thorpe, of Juneau, and George Stewart, from Stuck Valley, Wash., to go down in their shaft and pick a pan of dirt, as they had just struck a rich streak. To my surprise it was \$283.50. In fourteen pans of dirt they took out \$1,565 right in the bottom of the shaft, which was four by eight feet.

On March 20 Clarence Berry took out \$50 to the pan. Jimmy McLain took out over \$200 to the pan; Frank Physcator took out \$135 to the pan; four boys from Nainamoo took as high as \$125 to the pan. They were the first men to get a hole down to bed rock and get any pay. They had Nos. 14 and 15. In fact, big pans were being taken out on nearly every claim on the creek, and one and two hundred pans were common. On April 13 Clarence Berry took in one pan thirty-nine ounces, or \$495, and in two days panned out over \$1,200. April 14 we heard that some boys on No. 30, Eldorado, had struck it rich and taken out \$800 in one pan. This was the banner pan of the creek, and Charles Meyers, who had the ground, told me that he had waited to pick the dirt he could have taken out one hundred ounces just as easy.

"Jimmy McLain took out \$11,000 during the winter just in prospecting the dirt. Clarence Berry and his partner, Anton Slander, panned out about the same in the same manner. Mrs. Berry used to go down to the dumps every day to get dirt and carry to the shanty and pan it herself. She has over \$6,000 taken out in that manner.

"Mr. Lippin, from Seattle, has a rich claim, and his wife has a sack of nuggets worth \$6,000 that she has picked up on the dumps. When the dumps were washed in the spring the dirt paid better than was expected. Four boys on a lay in Eldorado took out \$49,000 in four months. Frank Physcator, who owned the ground and had some men hired, cleaned up \$4,000 for the winter. Mr. Lippin, so I am told, has cleared up \$5,000. Louis Rhoades, of No. 25, Bonanza, has cleared up \$40,000. Clarence Berry and Anton Slander have cleared up \$13,000 for the winter.

"This is probably the richest placer ever known in the world. They took it out so fast and so much of it that they did not have time to weigh it with gold scales. They took steelyards and all the syrup cans were filled."

The fare to Dawson City from San Francisco is \$150, and it will cost at least \$500 to transport supplies for one man.

The steamer Excelsior will leave here for Alaska on July 28th, and already her passenger accommodations are engaged. This will be the last trip this year. She goes to St. Michael's, at the south of the Yukon, and transfers passengers and freight to a river steamer, from where they are carried 2,000 miles to Dawson City. Overland the route is about 600 miles from Juneau, and the majority of the miners rushing to the new Eldorado will go that way. The cold weather commences about the middle of September and lasts until May. The passengers on the Excelsior will reach Dawson City about Sept. 1, and will have to do the prospecting in the snow.

Mr. Ladue advises people to wait until next spring before going up, as the facilities for carrying them will be greatly improved then.

The fields are estimated to be worth \$700,000. Dawson City is only a few months old. The descriptions given by the returned miners make it a typical mining town, with everything but guns. Laborers, it is asserted, are paid as high as \$15 a day, but the advice is given that no man can afford to go to the new camp without from \$500 to \$1,000 with which to support himself and insure the possibility of returning in case of adversity. Living, of course, comes high. The region produces little or no fruit or vegetables. The meat of the caribou and the moose is sometimes scarce, and there are seasons when no salmon can be obtained.

TO REACH THE KLONDYKE.

Here's Information for Tenderfeet Contemplating the Journey.

Washington special: The fabulous reports of placer mining in Alaska are fully credited by scientists in Washington. Profs. Titman and Pratt, of the United States coast survey, have traveled extensively in Alaska. They declare that the Klondyke reports are borne out by their own investigations in Alaska. They are not in the least surprised to read accounts of the amount of gold dust brought to San Francisco this week from the placers along the boundary between Alaska and British Columbia.

Colonel Preston, the director of the mint, also confirms the statement of the amount of gold dust deposited at the San Francisco mint. The director says that he is advised officially that still other shipments will soon be forwarded from Seattle to New York; and his books show that \$1,200,000 has been taken from the Alaska placers within a very short time.

The general opinion of Washington experts is that there is a limitless area of unexplored gold fields in Alaska. The gentlemen of the coast survey state that while traveling in that territory they have frequently seen their Indian guides pick up dirt on the journey, and in a pan wash out large deposits of gold dust.

The correspondent has secured some reliable data upon these various points. Those who contemplate a trip to the various Alaskan mining settlements, or are interested in the published reports concerning these mines, will find here information that is entirely reliable. In order to reach that portion of Alaska known as the Yukon region, the traveler has the choice of two distinct routes. He can ascend the Yukon river or he can start at the head-waters and descend the stream. The second is the common and the nearest way to the mines. By that route the point of departure for the mines is Juneau, which is the most thrifty settlement in Alaska.

Juneau is a seaport and mining town, of two thousand inhabitants. It has schools and churches, three newspapers, water-works, electric light plant, two good wharves, large mercantile houses, good hotels, paved streets and fire and hose companies. Steamers touch Juneau every week from Seattle, 967 miles below. At Juneau the traveler should provide himself with the proper outfit for a journey across the mountains. As everything must be carried in shoulder-packs, only what is absolutely essential should be taken. Long experience has taught the dealers at Juneau the exact articles needed for the journey, and their judgment can be followed safely.

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