

ONE VAST GOLD FIELD

Discovery in Clondyke District Causes a Rush.

FEW MEN AND HIGH WAGES PAID

Estimated to Be Thirteen Miles in Extent—Millions Taken Out in a Few Weeks.

San Francisco, July 19.—A story rivaling in intensity of interest that told of the fabulous wealth of Monte Cristo was related by passengers on the little steamer Excelsior, which has just arrived from St. Michael's, Alaska. Millions upon millions of virgin gold, according to the story, await the fortunate miner who has the hardihood and courage to penetrate into the unknown depths of the Yukon district. There was tangible evidence on the little steamer of the truth of the story told by the travelers, for in the cabin were scores of sacks filled to the very mouth with "dust" taken from the placers of the far frozen North. The amount brought in is variously estimated at from \$500,000 to \$750,000.

There came in on the Excelsior some 40 people—among them some women—from what is now known as the Clondyke district, though only 15 of these had been actually engaged in mining. There were among them men who had been for more than 10 years facing the dangers and hardships of the frozen North in the hope of making a rich find but who signally failed. But now they come back with fortunes stowed in their gripsacks and untold millions to be picked up in the country of which so little is known.

The new Eldorado lies just across the Alaskan boundary in British territory. It is of recent discovery, but already there are at least 3,000 people on the ground and more are flocking in that direction as fast as transportation can be secured.

The discovery of the Clondyke region presents a story that is uniquely interesting. Around Forty-Mile, on the Yukon, is a tribe of Indians known as the Sticklers, and with them is a man who years ago was known as George Cornack, but who is now called "Stick George." In September last at the head of a party of Indians, he left his hut near Forty-Mile camp and started in a southerly direction, saying that he intended to find a new gold field before his return. He came back two weeks later and started the miners with the announcement that 40 miles away there was gold to be found in plenty. The streams abounded with the yellow metal, and all that was needed was for somebody to pick it up.

Many persons flocked to the place, and in time the word reached Forty-Mile camp that untold riches could be found along the bottom of Bonanza creek and its tributaries. Men who had failed at the former camp immediately packed their belongings and set out for the new fields. It was a hard and trying journey, but that was nothing compared with the promise of millions at the end of the route.

The following is an extract from a letter received by the Excelsior. It was sent from the Clondyke region by a prominent and wealthy young business man of San Francisco to his brother in this city:

"The excitement on the river is indescribable, and the output of the new Clondyke district is almost beyond belief. Men who had nothing last fall are now worth a fortune. One man has worked 40 square feet of his claim and is going out with \$40,000 in dust. One-quarter of the claims are now selling at from \$15,000 to \$50,000. The estimate of the district given is 13 miles, with an average value of \$300,000 to the claim, in which some are valued as high as \$1,000,000 each. At Dawson sacks of dust are thrown under the counters in the stores for safe keeping.

"Some of the stories are so fabulous that I am afraid to repeat them for fear of being suspected of the infection."

"Labor is \$15 a day and board, with 100 days' work guaranteed, so you can imagine how difficult it is to hold employees. If reports are true it is the biggest placer discovery ever made in the world, for though other diggings have been found quite as rich in spots, no such extent of discovery has been known which prospect and worked so high right through."

AN OFFENSIVE ALLIANCE

Spain and Japan Again Said to Be Combining Against the United States.

London, July 19.—A Paris dispatch to a newspaper here says that inquiry at the American embassy there has elicited a confirmation of the rumor that the governments of Spain and Japan have arranged an offensive alliance against the United States. The terms of the undertaking, which is for the mutual protection of Cuba and Hawaii, provides that in the event of aggressive action on the part of the United States, tending toward interference in Cuban affairs, or persistence in the annexation of the Hawaiian islands, both Spain and Japan shall declare war simultaneously against the United States, and shall make hostile demonstrations along both the Atlantic and Pacific coast lines.

Tin-Plate Works Shut Down.

Cleveland, July 19.—The Crescent tin-plate works closed in every department this morning. The heaters refused to go to work, and without them it was impossible to operate the mill. The company decided to shut down indefinitely.

Cut Her Children's Throat.

London, July 19.—Emma Symonds, wife of an engine-fitter, cut the throats of her four young children, and then her own last night.

COAL AND OIL TO BURN.

Company Organized to Develop Recently Discovered Alaskan Fields.

Seattle, Wash., July 19.—The Alaska Development Company was organized today, to develop the coal and oil fields recently discovered in Southeastern Alaska by R. C. Johnson, of Los Gatos, Cal. The report made to the company by Mr. Johnson and T. J. Hamilton, of this city, the experts who made a thorough examination of the property, shows that the discovery is really the most wonderful find the world has ever known. The oil fields are located within a few hundred feet of tidewater, 350 miles west of Juneau. The statement is made in good faith that the oil is dripping directly from the oil rock and, in places can be dipped up in buckets, while the surrounding coal beds are inexhaustible.

Thirty thousand feet of pipe has already been ordered from Pittsburg, and as soon as received here a steam schooner will be chartered to carry it and take material to the place of the discovery.

A prominent oil man has given a guarantee of all the capital necessary to build a refinery there as soon as may be necessary to handle the product. The oil is pronounced of the best quality ever seen and the quantity is unlimited.

IN HAVANA PROVINCE.

The Cuban Patriots Are Still Marching Westward.

New York, July 19.—A Herald dispatch from Havana says: The invasion of Havana province by insurgent forces on their march westward is now an accomplished fact. The local papers are prohibited from publishing even accounts of "official" victories in that province, the object being to discredit the news of unusual activity. General Weyer may suppress news, but he cannot conveniently hide wounded soldiers, and these keep coming in.

The Herald's correspondent at Matanzas writes that Colonel Alvarez Armendez, with 70 men, was completely routed July 11, near Jaguey Grande, by the insurgent General Carillo. The Spanish lost 20 killed and about the same number wounded. During the fight 25 of the Spaniards deserted and went over to the insurgents.

A report is current and generally believed in Matanzas that the insurgents have attacked and partially burned Cardenas. There are fully 5,000 rebels in the vicinity of Matanzas and Cardenas.

General Weyer has not succeeded in capturing Gomez, and has evidently given up the idea, for he has left Sancti Spiritus and is now at Cienfuegos on his way back to Havana.

THREE WERE DROWNED.

A Scow Goes Over a Dam With Fatal Results.

Manchester, N. H., July 19.—Five young men employed in Baldwin's bobbin shop ventured out on the swollen Piscagog river in an old scow without oars, depending for the guidance of the boat upon a man with a board. The rains of the last two days had caused a flood and the river was a raging torrent.

The men were unable to control the old hulk and in a short time it was swept over the dam, the occupants in their efforts to prevent this losing the board they used for paddling. When the boat went over the dam it fell bottom upward with the men beneath it. Three got clear, but only two were able to reach shore, and, although the other man was an expert swimmer, he was drawn under by the strong current. The drowned were: Frank Simms, Joseph Lavoi, George Tirrien.

They were all single. Thomas Tirrien and William Lavoi were swept close inshore, and by hard swimming got within reach of those who had gathered along the bank, and were dragged out.

THE DAY IN CONGRESS.

Pacific Railroad Affairs Are Discussed in the Senate.

Washington, July 17.—Pacific railroad affairs occupied the attention of the senate throughout the day, and the Harris resolution relating to the pending proceedings against the Union Pacific finally went over. Early in the day, Stewart and White indulged in sharp personalities in connection with the contest over the San Pedro deep-water harbor. The joint resolution was passed, accepting the invitation of France to participate in the Paris exposition of 1900.

Stewart moved a reconsideration of the action of the senate in passing the resolution directing the secretary of war to proceed in the construction of a breakwater at San Pedro, Cal. It reopened the long-standing controversy over the location of a deep-water harbor on the coast, and a long and exciting debate between Stewart and White ensued.

In the House.

Washington, July 17.—No business was transacted by the house today. Immediately after the journal was approved a recess was taken on Cannon's motion until Monday, Cannon having given assurances to Bailey that, in his opinion, a partial or complete conference report of deficiency bill would be ready by that time.

General Forsythe's Petition.

Washington, July 19.—General George A. Forsythe, U. S. A. (retired), is the author of a remarkable petition, which was presented to the house of representatives yesterday by Mr. Belknap, of Illinois. The petition prays the house to strike the sugar schedule from the tariff bill. The most scathing arraignment of the sugar trust thus far made before congress is conveyed in the statements set forth by General Forsythe in support of his prayer.

OFF FOR THE POLE.

Professor Andree Starts on His Balloon Voyage.

Tromsøe, Island of Tromsøe, Finnmark, Norway, July 19.—The steamer Svenskund, from Spitzbergen, reports that Herr Andree, the aeronaut, ascended in his balloon on Sunday afternoon, at 2:30. The ascent was made under favorable circumstances.

As the wind conditions were more favorable on Sunday morning than they had previously been, the order was given that the start should be made as quickly as possible. The preparations occupied three and a half hours. The balloon, which was christened the Eagle, made a successful ascent amid the shouts of the crowd which had gathered to witness its departure. Despite the lightness of the wind, the balloon rose rapidly until an altitude of about 600 feet had been attained, when it was forced down nearly to the surface of the sea. After a few sandbags had been thrown out, however, it again ascended. The weather was clear, and the Eagle was visible for an hour, traveling in a north-easterly direction. When last seen, it was moving at the rate of 22 miles an hour.

Andree's Last Word.

Stockholm, July 19.—The Afomblad has received the following telegram from Herr Andree, via Tromsøe, written just before the balloon was cast loose:

"In accordance with our decision, as was announced, at 1:35 in the morning preparations were made to start; and now, at 2:30 in the afternoon, we are ready to ascend. We shall probably be carried in a north-easterly direction. I hope gradually to get into regions with more favorable wind conditions than exist here.

"In the name of all my colleagues, I send our warmest greeting to our country and friends. ANDREE."

King Oscar has received a telegram, dated Vigors Bay, July 11, and signed "Andree," conveying the humble greetings and warmest thanks of the members of the expedition on the point of their departure.

The Aeronaut's Preparations.

Professor S. A. Andree expects, should all go well, to reach the north pole by balloon. He planned to make his first attempt in July, 1896. The balloon and all material necessary for the ascent were taken to Spitzbergen, and everything was made ready; but, on account of unfavorable conditions, it was found necessary to postpone the trip until this year.

PAID THE PENALTY.

John Newman, Alias Frank Butler, Is Hanged at Sydney.

Sydney, N. S. W., July 19.—John Newman, alias Frank Butler, convicted of the murder of Captain Lee Weller, in the Blue mountain district, in 1896, was hanged here yesterday. He broke down at last, the remarkable stoicism which he had exhibited since his arrest in San Francisco last February giving way, and he confessed his guilt of this as well as other shocking crimes.

He admitted that his right name was John Newman, and that he was born of good family in Staffordshire, England, in 1858. He professed the profoundest penitence for his misdeeds and at the last moment willingly received the religious consolation usually offered to the condemned.

The execution was effected without incident. Few spectators were admitted, those present being principally officers of the court and attendants directly concerned in carrying out the law's decree.

The case is one that has excited intense interest throughout the colonies, and great satisfaction is expressed in the thorough work performed by the detectives in securing evidence leading not only to the capture of Newman, but his speedy conviction and execution.

New Fish for the Coast.

San Francisco, July 19.—A consignment of fish new to this coast, and of crabs, arrived this morning from the East. They are sent here by direction of Commissioner Brice, of the United States fish commission, and are en route in car No. 3, of that branch of the government. The fish are the tautogs, and are to be planted on the reefs of the Pacific ocean near the Farallones, while the crabs, which are of the blue shell variety, and unknowns on this coast, will be consigned to the waters of the bay, but in a spot to be kept secret in order to give them time to acclimate themselves and multiply and spread before they fall into the nets of the local fishermen.

Run Down by a Train.

Austin, Tex., July 19.—This morning at 2 o'clock a freight train in the International & Great Northern railroad yards ran over four white boys, all of Fort Worth, who were sitting on the track asleep, killing three of them instantly and badly wounding the fourth. The killed are: John Bridges, Charles Sweeney, K. L. Montgomery. The injured boy was Henry Estis.

The train ran over the boys as it came into the yards. On leaving it an hour later a negro named L. F. Cox, of Waco, who attempted to grab a brake bar to steal a ride, lost his hold and fell under the cars, being mangled into an unrecognizable pulp.

A Corner in Cycle Tubing.

London, July 19.—There is great excitement on the Birmingham stock exchange owing to the belief that there is a corner in cycle tubing. There has been a heavy advance in prices and several speculators have been badly pinched.

A bee is never caught in the rain, and you will notice that ants, wasps and spiders will prepare their nests against the coming of a storm many hours in advance.

NORTHWEST BREVITIES

Evidence of Steady Growth and Enterprise.

ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

From All the Cities and Towns of the Thriving Sister States—Oregon.

One hundred teachers registered at the recent summer school at Pendleton. It is thought the salmon pack at Astoria this season will exceed 550,000 cases.

Henry Anderson Humstad, a stevedore, was found dead in a scow on the Willamette river at Portland.

A wagon loaded with mining machinery turned over on Harry Weaver near Olalla, fatally crushing him.

G. L. Wood, of Oakley Green, near St. John's, committed suicide by swallowing the contents of a two-ounce bottle of morphine.

The present year's wool clip of Umatilla county has nearly all been disposed of and the buyers have left for other fields.

At Susanville two robbers bound and gagged a Chinese merchant and stole from him \$400 in cash and a large quantity of gold dust.

It is estimated that Umatilla county will harvest nearly, if not quite, 5,000,000 bushels of wheat this year. This, at 50 cents a bushel, will bring \$2,500,000.

The Independence and Dallas Hoppers' Association have agreed to pay 30 cents a box for picking. The Dayton association will pay 30 cents a box, or 60 cents per 100.

The Portland Horse Packing Company, whose plant is located at Linton, has received an order for 5000 barrels of cured horse meat from dealers in Paris, France, and the order is now being filled.

In Linn county there are 71 church organizations, 45 church edifices with a seating capacity of 18,845; 21 halls, with a seating capacity of 1,155; valuation of church property, \$117,375; number of communicants, or members, 3,495.

The superintendent of the state penitentiary has filed his report for the quarter ending June 30 with the secretary of state. It shows there were 350 convicts at the close of the quarter, an increase of three over the preceding quarter. During the quarter 46 were received, 44 discharged, and one recaptured.

On the trial of the case of Hartin vs. the Southern Pacific in Roseburg, last week, it developed that there was no law in this state requiring that engines should whistle at crossings. But the ruling of the court is that in order to reduce the dangers of crossings to a minimum approaching trains should give proper warning.

Washington.

Everett has 1,355 children of school age, a gain of 206 over last year.

The capacity of the Cheney roller mills is being increased from 80 to 150 barrels of flour a day.

Mrs. C. L. Myers owns the largest hay ranch in Lincoln county, between 6,000 and 7,000 acres.

At the potlatch on the Chehalis reservation the Indians treated their white visitors to a clam bake.

The supreme court has granted the petition for a rehearing in the case of ex-Treasurer J. W. McCauley, of Tacoma.

It is estimated that the wheat crop of Adams county will average 40 bushels per acre. Harvest hands are in demand.

The old courthouse block at Sprague, together with the buildings, have been sold and turned over to a Methodist college.

Mrs. Flora Fife, wife of Colonel W. J. Fife, a well-known theatrical and military man, died suddenly in Tacoma of typhoid pneumonia.

Chauncey Lamb, who was injured by a horse and carried from Florence, Idaho, to Colfax, on a stretcher, died in Colfax after intense suffering.

The Goldendale telephone wire has been successfully strung across the Columbia, and that city is again connected with the outside world.

The three Simpson camps on the Kamilehie road, in Thurston county, got out 65,000,000 feet of logs from June, 1896, up to June of this year.

Dr. Blalock, of Walla Walla, an authority on fruit raising, says pears should be picked a week to 10 days before fully ripe, for commercial shipment.

Captain Matthews, who is now building in Hoquiam a three-masted schooner, has just returned from San Francisco with a contract to construct a steam schooner at once for Captain Kimball, of San Francisco.

A bundle of the ballots that were stolen in Tacoma, after the city election, mysteriously reappeared the other day. The bundle was found on Controller Benham's desk, but no one knows how it got there.

Sam Lash says that he was waylaid and robbed of \$180 cash while near Shiloh. The robbery was in broad daylight, being about 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Alexander Fraser, who served through the Crimean war, was found dead in his cabin in Everett. He was sitting in an easy chair, with his clothes and hat on, clutching a revolver, which was recognized as his own. He had placed the weapon close to the middle of his forehead and pulled the trigger.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Downing, Hopkins & Company's Review of Trade.

There was much activity in the Chicago market during the past week. There was a temporary advance in July wheat of 5 cents per bushel, but the end of the week shows a tendency to sell out on the confident assertions that the present week will see a good beginning of the movement of new wheat to market.

There is no indication that the demands from the milling interests will be sufficient to head off any great quantity of it as the flour trade is apparently calling for lessened rather than increased production. It therefore remains with the farmer to say whether or not he will sell now or at some time in the future. The developments of the last few days lead the trade to believe that there will be the usual liberal marketing of wheat almost direct from the harvester. Looked at in the broad sense, however, the wheat market is in a strong position the world over, and the coming twelve months should see a higher price level than the last twelve. America should take a more than usually prominent part in the trade of the year, as the present crop promises to be not only the finest quality but relatively larger than that of any other country. The government figures on production issued July 10, are practically ignored by the trade. They indicate a crop nearly 40,000,000 bushels less than the most radical in the trade will estimate. The weak point in the report is the notoriously inaccurate figures on area. No one in the trade will seriously entertain the proposition that Oklahoma has but 200,000 acres in wheat this year.

The London Times of recent date says: "The prospect of the harvest in Eastern Europe are disquieting indeed. In Austria and Hungary and along the whole line of the Danube the harvest will be bad. Immense tracts of corn-fields in Serbia, Bulgaria and Roumania have been laid under water by destructive floods, and what water has spared, rust has greatly injured. So bad, indeed, is the prospect that Austria and Hungary, instead of exporting wheat will have to import it. At any rate it is clear that the wheat supply from the Danube is likely to be exceedingly small, if not altogether wanting this season."

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 65c; Valley, 68c per bushel.

Flour—Best grades, \$3.50 to \$3.60; Graham, \$3.25; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel.

Oats—Choice white, 38@40c; choice gray, 37@39c per bushel.

Barley—Feed barley, \$16 to \$16.50; brewing, \$18 to \$19 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$18.50 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$15.50.

Hay—Timothy, \$11 to \$14; clover, \$11.50 to \$13; California wheat, \$10.50 to \$12; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9 to 10 per ton.

Eggs—14@15c per dozen.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 35@40c; fair to good, 30c; dairy, 25@30c per roll.

Cheese—Oregon, 11 1/2c; Young America, 12 1/2c; California, 9@10c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3@3.50 per dozen; broilers, \$1.50 to \$3.50; geese, \$2 to \$3.50; ducks, \$2.50 to \$3 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10@11c per pound.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 35@45c per sack; new potatoes, 50c per sack.

Onions—California, new, red, 90c@ \$1; yellow, \$1.25 per cental.

Hops—9 1/2@10 1/2c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 6c.

Wool—Valley, 11@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@9c; mohair, 20c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 2 1/2@2 3/4c; dressed mutton, 4 1/2c; spring lambs, 5 1/2c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4; light and feeders, \$2.50 to \$3; dressed, \$3@4.25 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.75 to \$3; cows \$2.25; dressed beef, 4@5 1/2c per pound.

Veal—Large, 3; small, 4@4 1/2c per pound.

Seattle Markets.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 18c; ranch, 10@12c.

Cheese—Native Washington, 10@11c; California, 9 1/2c.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, 17@18c.

Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, 10@11c; spring chickens, \$2 to \$3.50; ducks, \$2.50 to \$3.75.

Wheat—Feed wheat, \$25 per ton.

Oats—Choice, per ton, \$21.

Corn—Whole, \$20; cracked, per ton, \$20; feed meal, \$20 per ton.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$19; whole, \$18.50.

Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5 1/2c; mutton sheep, 6c; pork, 6 1/2c; veal, small, 6c.

Fresh Fish—Halibut, 45c; salmon, 4@5c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4; ling cod, 4@5; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2 1/2@4c.

San Francisco Markets.

Wool—Choice foothill, 9@12c; San Joaquin, 6 months' 8@10c; do year's staple, 7@9c; mountain, 10@13c; Oregon, 10@13c per pound.

Hops—8@13c per pound.

Millstuffs—Middlings, \$18 to \$21; California bran, \$14 to \$14.50 per ton.

Hay—Wheat, \$11.50; wheat and oat, \$7 to \$10.50; oat, \$7 to \$9; river barley, \$5 to \$6; best barley, \$6 to \$8; alfalfa, \$5 to \$5.50 clover, \$6 to \$8.

Potatoes—New red, 70@80c; do new silverskin, 80@91c per cental.

Fresh fruit—Apples, 20@30c per small box; do large box, 30@50c Royal apricots, 25@50c common cherries, 15@25c; Royal Anne cherries, 25@40c per box; currants, \$1.00 to 1.25 per chest; peaches, 25@60c; pears, 20@40c; cherry plums, 20@40c per box.

BULLET HOLE IN HIS HEART.

Thus Wounded, This Man Lives, Defying Nature's Laws.

Chicago, July 19.—Charles B. Nelson, who, while in Washington Park on the night of July 1, in company with Mrs. Edith M. Staples, was shot in the breast, expects to learn soon if he is carrying around a heart with a bullet hole bored through it. He submitted to the X-rays for two sciagraphs last night, in the hope of locating the bullet fired into his chest on that night.

The sciagraphs seem to indicate that the ball cut through the heart on the shortest and most direct line, to lodge near the spine, but they are not quite conclusive. When he was brought to the Chicago hospital the surgeons said he was shot in the heart and he was well enough yesterday to go to Washington Park and try to locate the clump of bushes near which he and Mrs. Staples were sitting when he was shot.

When the photographic plates were developed a person was able to see traces of the bullet. One of the plates showed the bullet in line with the junction of the spine and the ninth rib. The other indicated it was back of the junction of the fourth rib and the breast bone. These two points are in a direct line from chest to back.

It is the opinion of the specialist, judging from the density of the bullet spots in the negatives that the bullet was lodged about two inches in front of the spine. If that is so, and the ball traveled in a straight line, it must have gone through the heart. If it did not go through the heart, how did it get around the heart and reach its present location? That is what troubles the surgeons. Nelson's heart is directly back of the entrance of the bullet and surgeons say the bullet could not have gone in direct line without piercing the heart. The sciagraphs indicate that the ball was not deflected. It will require another sciagraph showing a lateral view of the patient's chest to determine whether the bullet has passed through the heart or not. If it proves to be back of the heart, the mystery will be greater than ever.

When Nelson was brought to the hospital and his wound was probed he lost a pint of blood. The surgeons were satisfied his heart was pierced and said he had but a short time to live. When he began to recover they concluded that the bullet had pierced the pericardium, the sack enveloping the heart, and dropped, perhaps, to the bottom of the sack after bruising the heart. The sciagraphs indicate that the bullet did not drop, but went straight ahead in its course, after boring its way through the breast bone.

In taking the sciagraphs, Nelson was exposed to the waist