

CAPE NOME REPORT

Statement by Experts of the Geological Survey.

LAST YEAR'S YIELD ABOUT \$3,000,000

Where the Gold is Found, Its Condition and the Theory of Its Origin—History of a Nugget.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—The most authentic and at the same time the most complete report on the gold fields of Cape Nome yet published is that of Frank C. Schrader, chief geologist of the Geological Survey. The facts set forth in this report are complete and reliable, and given from the point of view of men thoroughly acquainted with gold deposits and gold mining. From the report, the following extracts are made:

"The gold of this region has so far all been obtained from placer deposits, which can be conveniently grouped as gulch placers, bar placers, beach placers, tundra placers and bench placers. During last season only those of the gulches and benches have been important gold-producers. No facilities were available for exploiting the tundra deposits, and the benches have not as yet been investigated.

"The amount of gold produced during the last season cannot be estimated definitely. From the best information we could gather we believe that the production of gold of the entire belt during the season of 1905 was about \$3,000,000.

"The coarse gold, as far as present developments show, is largely confined to the creek and gulch diggings, ranging from one size of a pinhead to nuggets weighing several ounces. Two have been found on Anvil Creek weighing 30 to 25 ounces, worth from \$500 to \$400. Much of this gulch gold is about the size of No. 3 shot, while nuggets from one-half to 1 ounce are not uncommon. It is probable that much of the fine gold is lost by the more or less primitive method of extraction now in use.

"The gold is usually rounded and often smoothly polished, i. e., having a water-worn character. In color it is rather dull and somewhat resembles tarnished brass. The nuggets are round and subangular, but seldom flat. Small vitreous quartz masses are not infrequently found attached to the nuggets.

"The creek gold usually occurs on or very near bedrock, under a thickness of five to eight feet of gravel. In the diggings it may occur in varying thickness, but the gravel usually carries some gold, or at least good color, from the surface down. The flood plain, or gravel deposits of the stream, in or beneath which the gold occurs, measures from rim rock to rim rock, varies from 20 to several hundred feet in width on different creeks.

"A cross-section of the gravels at any given point would show the gold not evenly distributed, but more or less gathered into zones. This pay streak usually trends parallel with the creek valley, and is usually marked an earlier channel of the creek, when the gold was laid down in its bed. It is not necessarily continuous, but often occurs in detached pockets, which are sometimes very rich.

"The gravels occurring with these placers vary in size from medium to fine, and are usually poorly assorted, with indistinct stratification. The pebbles are chiefly limestone and mica-schist, with much calcite and quartz of vein origin. The gravels are usually found to be highly mineralized.

"In washing the gravels of the gulches and the creeks much 'ruby sand' and 'black sand' is obtained. The former is chiefly garnet and the latter magnetite. These minerals, having a specific gravity, are concentrated with the gold in the pay streak.

"In the lower reaches of Snake River and of the other large streams, and in apparently to occur on the bars also, is here much finer than in the creeks and gulches, but not so richly mineralized. So far as we learned, it is variously mingled with the gravels and the sand constituting the bars, and, like them, was deposited by the rivers and streams, and normally in the beach deposits there is fine gold, gold sand and some flake gold. The particles are much rolled and flattened, and range in size from that of a small pinhead to about 1/16 inch. With only the crude appliances for separation at hand during last season, little of the flour gold has, as yet, been saved.

"Some nuggets amounting to about \$150 in value, have been found, but are relatively rare. Some larger ones have also been reported.

"The beach gold, when separated, is bright in color, having much the appearance of fine brass or gold filings, and is usually of uniform grain. It is of irregular shape, usually flattened, with rounded surfaces, and is commonly of a grinding motion of the surf which reduced it to its present fine state.

"This beach gold occurs in the beach placers, a strip about 100 to 150 yards wide, extending parallel to the shore between the frontal edge of the tundra and the water line. In the Nome region gold has been found in the beach from a point about a mile east of the town westward for some 10 or 15 miles. Beach deposits are also reported from other localities along the southern margin of Seward Peninsula.

"The richest pay streak of the beach deposits usually lies on what is locally called 'bedrock.' This is a layer of varying consistency. It is, normally, blue in color, but is often stained yellowish red by iron; frequently it contains some carbonaceous matter and some sandy matter.

It has angular form. It is washed down to the gulches and gradually becomes sub-rounded. By some accident of erosion the gulch placer may be disturbed, and the nugget, again moved and still further reduced in size, finds its way to the tundra deposits. By the shifting of the shore line it may subsequently be exposed to wave action, ground down still smaller, and eventually be borne to sea as flake or flour gold.

"We expand this elementary idea as to the origin of the gold deposits because of a misconception among some of the miners in the Nome region that the sea has washed up the gold and deposited it in the beach. It is even asserted by some that the waves are constantly adding gold to the beach placers by bringing it up from the depths of the ocean."

"The bench placers of the region have, as has already been stated, the coastal plain or tundra is underlain by gravel similar in character to those of the gulches and the beach. There is every reason to believe that these gravels are gold bearing, though they have as yet received but little attention from the prospectors. As we have already noted, 'pay dirt' has been found a few inches below the surface at the edge of the tundra near Nome. This is the only fact in regard to gold in the tundra which we could verify by personal observation.

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Breeches and Valor. Kansas City Star. According to the war pictures all the British officers, from Lord Roberts to the lieutenant of mounted infantry, wear the baggy riding breeches which are tight at the knees and make the legs of the most stalwart man resemble those of a chicken.

Big Turret Steamship Coming Back to Portland for Another Cargo. The big turret steamship Elm Branch, under charter to the Pacific Export Lumber Company, of this city, called from Moran, the Japanese coaling port, yesterday, and is due at Portland about the 18th inst. The Elm Branch will be followed in a day or two by the turret steamship Inverness, which the company loaded on the Sound on her last outward trip.

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ELIJAH BRISTOW'S CABIN.

Native Sons Now Are Organized at Pleasant Hill. Elijah Bristow's Cabin, No. 33, Native Sons of Oregon, was instituted at Pleasant Hill, Lane County, by H. C. Mason, grand organizer, Tuesday evening, with 15 charter members. The following officers were elected and installed: Past president, L. C. Hawk; president, P. L. Bristow; first vice-president, F. Drury; financial secretary, G. E. Collins; marshal, L. C. Parker. The remainder of the officers will be installed at their next meeting.

One of the members of this cabin is the first white child born in Lane County. The first dwelling built in Lane County was at Pleasant Hill, and is still in good condition. It was built by Elijah Bristow in 1846. The first schoolhouse in the county was also located there, and is now used as part of the log barn on the Bristow farm. It was the first school taught in the county, and the first church services held. The first Christian Church in Oregon was organized in this schoolhouse.

Changes in the Affairs of the Steel & Wire Company. NEW YORK, May 10.—Changes of a sweeping character in the affairs of the American Steel & Wire Company were announced today after a session of the Board of Directors. John W. Gates resigned the chairmanship of the Board of Directors, and it is now his way to Europe. He is succeeded by Alfred Clifford, of Chicago. John Lambert, the president of the company, resigned in favor of William P. Palmer; Isaac L. Ellwood resigned as chairman of the executive committee, and his place is taken by William E. Denber. The office of treasurer, made vacant by the elevation of Mr. Clifford, is filled by the election of F. E. Watson. Henry Soltman and Frederick Strauss, both of this city, who resigned from the directorate last Monday because of their opposition to Mr. Gates and his policy, are succeeded by Randall Morgan, of Philadelphia, and Herman Slesinger, of New York. All the new officers, directors and committees named are said to be in absolute harmony with Mr. Gates and his policy.

Breeches and Valor. Kansas City Star. According to the war pictures all the British officers, from Lord Roberts to the lieutenant of mounted infantry, wear the baggy riding breeches which are tight at the knees and make the legs of the most stalwart man resemble those of a chicken.

Big Turret Steamship Coming Back to Portland for Another Cargo. The big turret steamship Elm Branch, under charter to the Pacific Export Lumber Company, of this city, called from Moran, the Japanese coaling port, yesterday, and is due at Portland about the 18th inst. The Elm Branch will be followed in a day or two by the turret steamship Inverness, which the company loaded on the Sound on her last outward trip.

Domestic and Foreign Ports. ASTORIA, May 10.—Arrived—British steamer Adria, from Astoria; American bark Echo, from Honolulu; steamer Signal, from Seattle. Arrived in 6 and left up at 9:30 A. M.—Steamer Columbia, from San Francisco. Reported outside at 4:45 P. M.—Three-masted ship. Condition of the bar at 5 P. M., smooth, wind north-west; weather cloudy.

San Francisco, May 10.—Arrived—Steamer Empire and Astoria, from Coos Bay; steamer Newberg, from Gray's Harbor; steamer State of California, from Portland. Sailed—Steamer Cleveland, for Tacoma.

San Diego, Sailed May 9—Italian ship Teocle, for Port Blakely. Port Blakely, Arrived May 9—British ship Lansing, from Port Gamble. Port