

PROSYSLAHS ARE GRIP

Claims Fifty Thousand Victims in Uncle Sam's Philippine Possessions—Other Dreadful Scourges.

(Copyright, 1900, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

MANILA, March 14.—One of the serious problems which confronts the government here is the selection of a leper island and the segregation of the lepers. There are lepers scattered throughout the archipelago. In many places they mix with the rest of the people. They may be seen begging at the doors of the churches, and it is hard to tell whether they are not in the markets handling the vegetables and meats which we eat on our tables. There are, it is said, 30,000 lepers in the Visayan Islands, and the number in the whole country must be upward of 50,000. Leprosy exists to an alarming extent in several of the provinces. In Luzon, Captain Lynch, one of the doctors of the health department, tells me that he saw several hundred cases during his stay in Negros. The Spaniards paid but little attention to the prevention of the disease. They had only two hospitals, one in Cebu and one in Manila. In Cebu the disease is known to be spreading and in Manila there are undoubtedly many lepers at large. "I took a carriage this afternoon and drove out into the country to the leper hospital. It is about three miles from the center of Manila and not far from the outskirts of the city. You pass by a market where hundreds of men, women and children are crowding and pushing one another in buying and selling, and think, as you look, how easily one leper could contaminate the whole lot. But look! Thousands of the thatched huts of the laboring classes, each but swarming with people, and at last come to a big white building which looks not unlike a penitentiary. It is surrounded by large grounds and shut off from the road by a thick wall of stone. It has a barred gate, and as you look up you instinctively remember the inscription upon Dante's Inferno: "All hope abandon ye who enter here," and wonder why it is not inscribed upon it.

Like a Prison. Entering by the gateway is like going into a prison. You are in a long passage between high walls of stone, and far down, at the end of this you see the barred doors of the hospital itself. There is a native at the entrance who looks ugly enough to be a patient himself. We ask for the lepers. He points across the court and tells us to enter. We do so, and within a few seconds are in the presence of two score horrid-looking objects, who have run to the doors to meet us. Some are young, some old—all are lepers. Here is a boy, brown-faced, bright-eyed, and as quick in his actions and joyful in his laugh as your own boy of home. But look! His hands and his breast are covered with white spots and one of his ears has already begun to decay. Next to him is a man whose nose has been eaten away and whose eyes are blinded by the disease. Others have foreheads which are falling in, toes almost gone and their bodies covered with sores. It is so horrible, indeed, that words can hardly express it. As we hesitate, a native comes around us. I motion them off, but they point to my camera, and one says "retrata," the Spanish word for photograph, and holding out his mutilated hands, bids these two words, in English, "I have leprosy." He puts out a Mexican dollar and throws it to him, and he gathers the horrid crowd in the sun to one side and poses them for me. As I snap the button, the native doctor appears and we go together through the walls are whitewashed, and the building is cool and well kept. The floor is of hard wood, polished so that our faces and those of these living dead men are reflected in it as we walk through the corridors.

Leaving the men's ward, we next go to the women's ward. There are 81 men and 25 women and girls now in the hospital. The females are of all ages, from little tots of 4 up to gray-headed women of 60. The most of them are idle, sitting about talking, smoking and chewing the betel. One woman has her mouth so swollen with the disease that her lips are left to hang in cigarette. Her nose is almost gone, but she has put the cigarette in one of her nostrils and is puffing out the smoke through the hole where her mouth should be. I have no doubt that she should be put in the hospital. I take a photograph of five of the worst cases, trembling as I do so for fear I may catch the disease.

Waiting to Die. I can imagine nothing more horrible than the condition of these people here. They have no amusements and no work. They are just waiting to die and watching themselves, knowing that they must die inch by inch. I understand that the health officers are considering the matter of a leper island, and that at the earliest possible moment the lepers will be gathered together and carried there. This has been done in Porto Rico, and there is no doubt but that should be done here.

This part of the world seems to breed lepers. There are said to be more than a million in India, China and Japan, and in the estimate made a million is assigned to Hindostan. No accurate statistics have been taken for China, for lepers are to be found in all the cities in the southern part of that empire. They mix about with the rest of the people, and you see leper beggars everywhere. On many of the rivers they go about in boats asking for alms, thrusting out bags attached to long poles at every boat and ship which goes by. They blackmail the farmers and fishermen and levy tribute on the mourners, threatening to touch them if they do not give alms. There is a leper asylum in Canton which has 500 inmates. There both sexes live together, and the lepers have wives and have children. I saw no Chinese lepers in the Manila hospital, but there is a large Chinese population here, and without doubt some of the Chinese are lepers.

Leprosy is usually caused by contact, but it is the most prevalent wherever the people are overcrowded, dirty and poorly fed. A hot, molar climate, such as we have here, is conducive to it, and the government is using every effort to put the town in a better sanitary condition. So far our soldiers have been very healthy here in Manila, and also in all parts of the Philippines. I have no doubt but that these islands are among the most healthful of all tropical countries, and for people who live well and take care of themselves, there is but little danger. The heat is no greater than in the United States in the summer. The natives, however, have no health regulations and a house-to-house visitation which the sanitary officials are now making shows that the city is in a very bad condition.

Manila's Death Rate. The death rate for the last six months of 1899 was about 41 per 1000, estimating the population at 200,000, or, if estimated at 250,000, about 31 per 1000. These figures are exceedingly high. Hong Kong, which is in the same latitude as Manila, and which has about the same climate, has a death rate only half so large, and it is next door to China, with all the plagues that that country so regularly produces. Here we had practically no plagues during the time above mentioned.

Within the past few weeks, however, there have been a number of cases of the black death or bubonic plague. This plague has broken out at several of the ports of Japan and the Philippines. It has been a number of deaths from it here. I found it at Kobe, Japan, when I passed through on my way to the Philippines. All the passengers taken on there were examined for evidence of the plague before they were permitted to come on board the ship, the captain of the steamer requiring a doctor's certificate from each. The black plague has, in the past, been very prevalent in China, especially in Canton and Hong Kong. It also exists in India, and there are now a large number of cases in Bombay and Calcutta. The doctors here tell me that it is often communicated by rats, and, within the past few weeks, they have sent out an order that all rats are to be killed. It is charged that the Filipinos and the Chinese will not co-operate with the Health Department in the killing of the rats. The country must be upward of 50,000. Leprosy exists to an alarming extent in several of the provinces. In Luzon, Captain Lynch, one of the doctors of the health department, tells me that he saw several hundred cases during his stay in Negros. The Spaniards paid but little attention to the prevention of the disease. They had only two hospitals, one in Cebu and one in Manila. In Cebu the disease is known to be spreading and in Manila there are undoubtedly many lepers at large.

especially object to having their arms scratched up by the doctors. Nevertheless, the doctors are making many vaccinations. They have established a vaccine farm here, at which they use young carabaos, or water buffaloes, to furnish the virus, instead of cows, as with us. Ten thousand points so treated were sent out in response to one order yesterday, and carabao vaccine is being distributed through all the Army posts. I went out to the vaccine farm this morning, and watched the mode of treating the animals. A carabao calf about a year old was lying strapped down upon a table as I entered the operating hall. The head and three legs of the beast were strapped to the table. The animal lay upon its side, its head and three legs so fastened that it could not move; and its fourth leg, one of the hind ones, so tied to a post that the belly was plainly exposed. The hair had been shaved from this part of the body, and it was upon



FILIPINO WASHERWOMAN.

partment in this matter, because there are many among them who eat rats as food. I have bought dried rats which were offered for sale at eatable articles in the cities of China, and I see them for sale in the Chinese stores here. The rats communicate the plague by contact, or by running over the body. It is also carried by the flea which lives on the rat and carry the disease to the human beings whose bodies may form the next feeding ground. So far, nearly every one who has caught the black plague here has died. The disease comes upon one without warning, in the shape of a fever, which in a short time raises the temperature of the patient to 100 degrees and upward. There is no chill, but the patient has a severe headache and shows signs of stupor. After 12 hours the glands of the neck, the armpits, or the groin, begin to swell and soon become as large as hens' eggs. In some cases the patient vomits blood, and within a few hours he dies. Some few recover. And if one can keep himself alive for six days after exposure he is probably safe.

Kills Rats. The plague kills rats as well as human beings. Dead rats are found in the drains in the infected portions of China, and the rats ran from such places almost as fast as the men. The doctors here have had considerable trouble about disposing of the bodies. They at first insisted that all should be burned, but the Chinese and Filipinos made such an outcry over this that General Otis has countermanded the order. When the plague was so bad in Canton, many of the pig-bearers who were paid to carry the bodies of the deceased sent back to China. They put them in immense wooden coffins which are hermetically sealed by varnishing them again and again with a sort of lacquer, but which are, nevertheless, unsafe in the case of the plague. During the prevalence of the disease at Canton, there were at least a hundred thousand of these coffins for the poor. In one such club 300 coffins were given away, and altogether more than 60,000 coffins were furnished to the poor.

It is said that 50 per cent of the people of the Philippines are suffering from skin diseases, and, from the amount of scratching I see going on, I judge that the figures are not far from the truth. Every second person you meet, whether man, woman, or child, jerks his clothes this way and that, apparently hunting for fleas. The diseases are largely caused by eating fish, which they blacken with the fat of the fish. It brings about a fish eczema, in which the skin scales off, making the patient look at times not unlike a leper. Then there is the dobe itch, which is so common that the natives of the Philippines have had it. This is supposed to be caused by a parasite which comes in the water in which the clothes are cleaned by the Filipino washerwomen. It usually attacks the face, the arms and the parts of the body which perspire most profusely, causing a rash. It sets one almost crazy, but it is easily cured and is not at all dangerous. The natives themselves pay but little attention to such diseases, although they have numerous medicinal plants and the mineral springs, hot and cold, which are found in different parts of the islands are very well patronized.

Smallpox of Course. The most dangerous of all skin diseases, is, of course, the smallpox, which has lately broken out in a number of places. It exists along the line of the railway in Luzon, and at several of the ports, and is said to be spreading in Pampay and Cebu. Several officers of the army have had it, but as yet, it has not affected the foreigners to any extent. The Spring months are the most dangerous times of the year for this disease. The weather is hot and dry, and the heat from noon until about 4 P. M. is often oppressive. I called at the Health Department today and made some inquiries of the doctors. They are not alarmed at the situation, but say that they are vaccinating as many people as possible. A wholesale vaccination of all the people would be a good thing if it could be carried out. It must be remembered, however, that there are 8,000,000 of them, and that at least 7,000,000, I should say, need such treatment. Practically no vaccination had been attempted among the lower classes up to the time of our taking possession of the islands. The people do not look upon smallpox as we do. They are like the Chinese in that many of them pay no more attention to it than they do to a bad cold. They do not care to be vaccinated, and the Chinese

Mr. Smith was soon secure a leave of absence from his governmental duties and his vacation will be spent in Iowa.

THE POTENT MAN. Crowned with the grace of fruited years, he stands Within the forum where are waiting crowds. The light of generations in his face, And on his lips the voicing of events. Fifty forty years are his, with strength mature. Whose brow is chiseled by the hand of thought; And his, the ardent, thought-compelling eye. Whose azure seems as vocal as his speech. His deeds are braver than his words— Deep-rooted as the haughty hills his hope; Not shall despair find footing in his heart. Whose faith-crown'd summits are soft laughter. Mild-mannered he, as best befits his hope. Whose strength finds ample source, and food Where Love is king at the heart of universe. And links, and holds the vibrant sun in chain. Adviser at the center of four empires great. Whose boundaries curve around two hemispheres— The Sioux, Latin and far Saxons shores— Truth is his council-wife, his high concern. Who made him so alive to glory and to blame. To all that most recruits the soul of man; Who made this commoner a king, and gave Into his hand the rule of commonwealth? Nor meager chance could make him what he is. Whose finger holds the page of destiny. The upward trend of show-evolving states. The grinding of the mills of fate and power; And grieves for men who walk in sin—and hope. What name he bears is that of fame and worth. Not easily achieved, nor won of fate. Till will and purpose high combine to wrest All counter-shapes to his concern and good. From mental race he sprang and birthright mean; Nor time nor flood could bar his progress west. Where once he willed to force a passage wide Through an all of rock or tumbled stone unbroken. His principles are fixed as rocky ribs That half-hippo, and fortend the heaving breasts Of many-sined and throbbing altitudes. When, woe his crown'd, he sought the throne of grace And knew, by choice unfeigned, the voice of God. Forth then to marts of trade, to court a hire, He goes concerned to gather in a proper wage. Nor halts he here—nor seeks the dense of vice. Where lurks the evil hand that slants the brow And sags the neck of the ambitious man. This he climbs by other way and best— Yet on to grammar school, and school of God. He goes—fast led by aspiration— Till wisdom-buends tender him to the stream Of ancient lore, art and song. Even every harness'd steed obedient To his secret's to his question-glass. The radiant moon for him a mantle wear; The seasons and the suns are his and God's; The swiftest of mighty mothers concerns his mind. This is his soul attuned to music-tones; In him the sense of truth and love incorporated. And his the passion of the endless age. Events in crowds press thro' his audience-rooms; His furrows the center of world storms. Where wrongs are righted and where truth is named; Requiring of concern and moment great. Requiring high deliverance and just. Find avast revolving in his senate hall. The populations view his rule appropriate. And mark his judgments braver than their code. God's promises are in his upward look; How can you champion, friend, to such Whose crown'd, and fortend the heaving breasts? Thro' his bright dream the reeling nations Gaze upon the splendor of the Newer Time; The world's-out problems of power than this. Within his ideal state no chasm jaws portentous; Between him and the angel choir small gulfs divide. This is the Being the Almighty, made and gave To marshals nations and correct their laws; To rectify the waste of abject streams. And huri their force against huge factory wheels; And curb the continents with space of iron. And climb Panama hills with ships of steel; And cur the sullen sea from shore to shore. This is the breath he breathed who thought The stars. Out of the show, or of the azure, main. Up through the halls of heaven, whose rosate Hoof recede into the golden palaces of God. There is no stronger wind of power than this. None that bears up the world with sweeter love. —LEOSTINE. Ashland, Or.

IOWA GIRL'S ROMANCE. Write Name on Eggshell and Met Her Fate in Cuba. Fort Dodge, Ia., has become one of the centers of the egg and poultry business for the West. During the shipping season in the Summer months large forces of girls are employed in the packing plants in picking vats in the eggshells, preparatory to shipment. One of the girls selected a large, smooth egg, and in a moment of day-dreaming, wrote her name and address upon it with a pencil. It was placed in a case with 27 others and shipped to New York, where it found its way to the warehouse of an exporter and was one of the first shipments of American eggs made to Cuba. Weeks slipped into months and the young woman forgot her romantic dream and made some inquiries of the doctors. They are not alarmed at the situation, but say that they are vaccinating as many people as possible. A wholesale vaccination of all the people would be a good thing if it could be carried out. It must be remembered, however, that there are 8,000,000 of them, and that at least 7,000,000, I should say, need such treatment. Practically no vaccination had been attempted among the lower classes up to the time of our taking possession of the islands. The people do not look upon smallpox as we do. They are like the Chinese in that many of them pay no more attention to it than they do to a bad cold. They do not care to be vaccinated, and the Chinese

Cuban merchant here, who, being unable to read English, brought it to me for translation. I would be very glad to have you answer this letter, as I am curious to know the one who adopted so novel a method of correspondence. I have a camera and have had a snap shot taken of myself with the egg in my hand. If you care for one of the pictures let me hear from you. Very truly, FRANK G. CARPENTER. This letter was promptly answered, with a request for the picture, which arrived in due time, with another letter, in which Mr. Smith gave a more detailed personal account of himself. Needless to say, this letter was answered as the first. Uncle Sam's excellent mail facilities assisted the young people in overcoming the obstacles of time and space. Letters followed fast if not furious, but the communications were of such nature that the public is not entitled to their contents. Sufficient to relate that the results have been so satisfactory that a recent letter from the Cuban late intimates that

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FOR CAPE NOME The Magnificent Trans-Pacific Passenger Steamship TACOMA Registered tonnage, 2611 tons; capacity, 400 tons; passenger accommodations, 150 first class, 900 second class. This steamship has just been released from the government service as a troopship, and has every modern comfort and convenience and is the largest steamship in the Cape Nome trade. Will sail from Tacoma and Seattle on or about the 25th of May. For rates and full information apply to DODWELL & CO., LTD. Telephone, Main 96, 252 Oak Street, Seattle, Wash.

Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Co. LEAVES ASTORIA For Mayers, Rainier, Clatskanie, Westport, Clifton, Cannon Beach, Flavel, Ham-Buff, Fort Stevens, Gearhart Park, Seaside, Gearhart and Seaside. 8:00 A. M. Astoria Express, 8:40 P. M. Ticket office, 252 Morrison st. and Union Depot. J. C. MAYO, Gen. Pass. Agt., Astoria, Or.

WHITE COLLAR LINE. COLUMBIA RIVER & PUGET SOUND NAVIGATION CO. PORTLAND AND ASTORIA. RAILWAY GATZERT (Older-street dock) Leave Portland daily every morning at 7 o'clock, except Sunday, returning, leave Astoria every night at 7 o'clock, except Sunday. Oregon phone Main 251, Columbia phone 321. U. B. SCOTT, President.

WASHINGTON & ALASKA STEAMSHIP CO. Steamship "CITY OF SEATTLE" will leave Seattle at 8 P. M. on Tuesday, April 3, and every 10 days thereafter, for Vancouver, Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway, making trip from Seattle to the above points in 12 hours. For freight and passage inquire of DODWELL & CO., LIMITED, AGENTS.

TRAVELERS' GUIDE. EAST VIA SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY. Leave Depot Fifth and I Streets Arrive OVERLAND EXPRESS TRAINS. For Salem, Roseburg, Ashland, Seaside, Astoria, 9:45 A. M. For San Francisco, Modesto, Los Angeles, El Paso, New Orleans and the East. 7:45 A. M. 8:30 P. M. "Spokane Flyer" equipment is carried on this train, via Umatilla. Passengers for Spokane, Astoria, Lewiston and Great Northern points take this train. THROUGH FULLMAN AND TOURIST SLEEPERS. Water lines schedule, subject to change without notice. OCEAN AND RIVER SCHEDULE. OCEAN DIVISION—Steamships sail from Astoria dock at 8:00 P. M. Leave Portland, Columbia, Monday, April 2; Thursday, April 12; Sunday, April 22; Wednesday, May 2; Friday, May 12; Monday, May 22; Thursday, April 7; Tuesday, April 17; Friday, April 27; Monday, May 7; Thursday, May 17; Sunday, May 27. From San Francisco—State of California, Tuesday, April 3; Friday, April 13; Monday, April 23; Thursday, April 27. From Columbia, Sunday, April 8; Wednesday, April 18; Saturday, April 22. COLUMBIA RIVER DIVISION. PORTLAND AND ASTORIA. Steamer Hasaio leave Portland daily, except Sunday, at 8:00 P. M.; on Saturday at 10:30 P. M. Returning, leave Astoria daily, except Sunday, at 7:00 A. M. WILLAMETTE RIVER DIVISION. PORTLAND AND CORVALLIS. Steamer Butte, for Seaside, Corvallis and way points, leave Portland Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 6:00 A. M. Returning, leave Corvallis Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:00 A. M. Steamer Madoc, for Salem, Independence and way points, leave Portland Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:00 A. M. Returning, leave Salem, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7:30 A. M. YAMHILL RIVER ROUTE. PORTLAND AND DAYTON. Steamer Elmore, for Dayton and way points, leave Portland Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8:00 A. M. Returning, leave Dayton for Portland and way points, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6 A. M. SHAKO RIVER ROUTE. RIPARIA, WASH., AND LEWISTON, IDAHO. Steamer Spokane, for Lewiston, leave Riparia daily at 8 A. M., arriving at Lewiston at 2 P. M. Returning, the Spokane or Lewiston leave Lewiston daily at 9 A. M., arriving at Riparia same evening. V. A. SCHILLING, General Passenger Agent, Telephone Main 711, City Ticket Agent.

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TRAVELERS' GUIDE. EAST VIA SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY. Leave Depot Fifth and I Streets Arrive OVERLAND EXPRESS TRAINS. For Salem, Roseburg, Ashland, Seaside, Astoria, 9:45 A. M. For San Francisco, Modesto, Los Angeles, El Paso, New Orleans and the East. 7:45 A. M. 8:30 P. M. "Spokane Flyer" equipment is carried on this train, via Umatilla. Passengers for Spokane, Astoria, Lewiston and Great Northern points take this train. THROUGH FULLMAN AND TOURIST SLEEPERS. Water lines schedule, subject to change without notice. OCEAN AND RIVER SCHEDULE. OCEAN DIVISION—Steamships sail from Astoria dock at 8:00 P. M. Leave Portland, Columbia, Monday, April 2; Thursday, April 12; Sunday, April 22; Wednesday, May 2; Friday, May 12; Monday, May 22; Thursday, April 7; Tuesday, April 17; Friday, April 27; Monday, May 7; Thursday, May 17; Sunday, May 27. From San Francisco—State of California, Tuesday, April 3; Friday, April 13; Monday, April 23; Thursday, April 27. From Columbia, Sunday, April 8; Wednesday, April 18; Saturday, April 22. COLUMBIA RIVER DIVISION. PORTLAND AND ASTORIA. Steamer Hasaio leave Portland daily, except Sunday, at 8:00 P. M.; on Saturday at 10:30 P. M. Returning, leave Astoria daily, except Sunday, at 7:00 A. M. WILLAMETTE RIVER DIVISION. PORTLAND AND CORVALLIS. Steamer Butte, for Seaside, Corvallis and way points, leave Portland Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 6:00 A. M. Returning, leave Corvallis Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:00 A. M. Steamer Madoc, for Salem, Independence and way points, leave Portland Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:00 A. M. Returning, leave Salem, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 7:30 A. M. YAMHILL RIVER ROUTE. PORTLAND AND DAYTON. Steamer Elmore, for Dayton and way points, leave Portland Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8:00 A. M. Returning, leave Dayton for Portland and way points, Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6 A. M. SHAKO RIVER ROUTE. RIPARIA, WASH., AND LEWISTON, IDAHO. Steamer Spokane, for Lewiston, leave Riparia daily at 8 A. M., arriving at Lewiston at 2 P. M. Returning, the Spokane or Lewiston leave Lewiston daily at 9 A. M., arriving at Riparia same evening. V. A. SCHILLING, General Passenger Agent, Telephone Main 711, City Ticket Agent.

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FOR CAPE NOME The Magnificent Trans-Pacific Passenger Steamship TACOMA Registered tonnage, 2611 tons; capacity, 400 tons; passenger accommodations, 150 first class, 900 second class. This steamship has just been released from the government service as a troopship, and has every modern comfort and convenience and is the largest steamship in the Cape Nome trade. Will sail from Tacoma and Seattle on or about the 25th of May. For rates and full information apply to DODWELL & CO., LTD. Telephone, Main 96, 252 Oak Street, Seattle, Wash.

Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Co. LEAVES ASTORIA For Mayers, Rainier, Clatskanie, Westport, Clifton, Cannon Beach, Flavel, Ham-Buff, Fort Stevens, Gearhart Park, Seaside, Gearhart and Seaside. 8:00 A. M. Astoria Express, 8:40 P. M. Ticket office, 252 Morrison st. and Union Depot. J. C. MAYO, Gen. Pass. Agt., Astoria, Or.

WHITE COLLAR LINE. COLUMBIA RIVER & PUGET SOUND NAVIGATION CO. PORTLAND AND ASTORIA. RAILWAY GATZERT (Older-street dock) Leave Portland daily every morning at 7 o'clock, except Sunday, returning, leave Astoria every night at 7 o'clock, except Sunday. Oregon phone Main 251, Columbia phone 321. U. B. SCOTT, President.

WASHINGTON & ALASKA STEAMSHIP CO. Steamship "CITY OF SEATTLE" will leave Seattle at 8 P. M. on Tuesday, April 3, and every 10 days thereafter, for Vancouver, Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway, making trip from Seattle to the above points in 12 hours. For freight and passage inquire of DODWELL & CO., LIMITED, AGENTS.

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