

FAMINE IS IMPENDING

Food Supply at Circle City Almost Exhausted.

PROMPT ACTION NECESSARY

Relief May Be Sent From Fort Yukon

—Joaquin Miller Arrives at Dawson City Badly Frozen.

Seattle, Jan. 13.—A letter from Dawson City, dated December 9, says: "The food supply at Circle City is almost exhausted. The steamer Victoria, from the mouth of the river, is also there. Two or three hundred people, who started from Dawson for Fort Yukon, were stranded there, but most of them procured small boats and continued on their way to Circle City, which is 90 miles distant. The population was almost depleted of grub. Of the 127 residents of that camp, nearly all were calculating on sending to Fort Yukon for supplies. Briefly, were it not for the supplies at Fort Yukon, which to a certain extent are an unknown quantity, the situation at Circle City would be far more desperate than at Dawson."

Joaquin Miller arrived at Dawson City December 4, at 11 o'clock. He was very badly frozen, having lost a part of the great toe of his left foot; his left ear was sluffing off and both cheeks were frozen. He left Circle City 35 days before, in company with Herald Canovan, of Ottawa, one of the coast survey. They started from Circle City without dogs, having been unable to secure them. They made their outfit on a sled.

Mr. Miller brings a story of great suffering along the river by parties who were caught in the ice on their way to Dawson, but who had not yet reached Circle City.

He reports also the death of Charles Anderson, a young man from Brooklyn, N. Y., who accidentally shot himself while in a boat 50 miles above Circle City.

LETTER FROM KLONDIKE.

Party of Californians Who Went North Last May in Luck.

Pomona, Cal., Jan. 13.—A letter has come from Dawson City, written by ex-member William Glover, former of Nevada and later of Ventura county, to his brother James, of Ontario. It gives interesting information concerning California miners who went to that region last May. In the party were ex-supervisor Joseph E. Bullock, San Diego, and Hiram Sampson, of Berkeleyfield. The party located on a small creek at the headwaters of the Klondike river. Mr. Glover says that claims were taken there in one day. All of them proved wonderfully rich. Mr. Bullock had celaned up over \$20,000 worth of gold between August 1 and November 15.

Mr. Sampson, who went in last summer with less than \$500, has nearly 100 pounds of gold, troy weight, and expects to get much more from the mining next spring.

Mr. Glover had about 70 pounds of gold on hand when he wrote the letter, but believed he would have about \$30,000 ready to send to San Francisco by summer. He adds that it is the general opinion that from \$7,000,000 to \$10,000,000 will go down the coast from the Klondike during the season of 1900.

DISCOVERED BY ACCIDENT.

Edison Finds a Substitute for Malleable Iron.

New York, Jan. 13.—The Herald says that Thomas A. Edison has accidentally discovered what he believes to be a new metal, which will do away with the slow and costly process of making malleable iron. Exhaustive experiments will be made and if they are successful it is promised full details will be given to the public.

It is claimed that after a lot of iron had been run through a magnetic ore separating mill the "pigs" were taken to the blast furnace as usual to be rolled and broken up. The lot in question proved refractory, for the pigs would not break them. The fact was submitted to chemists and the result was formed that there was some hitherto unknown substance in the metal, and this is believed to be steel.

Fell Through a Bridge.

Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 13.—At 1 o'clock this morning, a day coach on the Alabama road, went through Cuba bridge, 21 miles east of Montgomery, falling a distance of 15 feet. The conductor Law and Flagman Pope were nearly injured, and the passengers were bruised and other injuries, some of which are serious. Among the names of those who were injured were: G. D. Woodson, of Greenville, Va., bruised; Geo. H. Thorne, of Baltimore, arm and knee broken; the bathruber at Woodside, L. I., in June last year, was today sentenced to 15 years in the state prison at Auburn.

BRAVE WOMAN AND A HATPIN

Combination Which Felled Two Bandits in Chicago.

Chicago, Jan. 12.—Two men who last night tried to rob Conductor Warren, of a Blue-Island avenue cable train, were foiled by a woman passenger named Miss Sadie Williams. Besides Miss Williams there were three other passengers, another woman and two men and the gripman on the train. Neither the male passengers nor the gripman came to the help of the conductor, who was having a desperate fight with the robbers. Just as the robbers were getting the best of the fight Miss Williams concluded to take a hand. Grabbing her long hatpin, that fastened her hat to her hair, she made a plunge with the pin on the robber nearest her. All her strength was lent to the thrust, and the man screamed with pain. He released his hold on the conductor and turned on Miss Williams. She struck him again and he quit the fight.

Miss Williams went for the next man and made a thrust for his eyes. The point of the pin struck his cheek. "Take her off!" cried the robber. He turned to look for his companion, who by that time was on the platform, making ready to jump. He was asked to come back, but he did not. Meantime the young woman was striking for more vital parts than his face. She reached with her pin for his stomach. His thick clothing saved his life.

The conductor was bleeding and in a half-dazed condition. When he came to his senses there were but two passengers on the car. The others, whose names could not be learned, had gone. So had the robbers.

When the excitement was over and the robbers had disappeared Miss Williams replaced her hat and then asked the conductor if he was hurt. He was not. Then she fainted. She was soon revived, however, and escorted to her home.

Miss Williams resides with her parents, and is employed in one of the down-town offices. She is small of frame, but it is said that she has the courage of a soldier.

ANNEXATION QUESTION

Problem With Which the Senate Has Begun to Wrestle.

Washington, Jan. 12.—Bishop Merrill, of Chicago, delivered the invocation at the opening of the senate today. A bill was reported favorably from the Indian committee preventing railroad companies from charging more than 3 cents a mile for passengers through Indian territory. A resolution looking to the filtration of water used in the City of Washington caused Senator Hale to say that in no part of the United States was there a city whose citizens are so imposed upon and abused as to water supply as the citizens of Washington.

At 12:50 P. M., on motion of Davis of Minnesota, chairman of the committee on foreign relations, the senate went into executive session to consider the Hawaiian treaty.

Immediately after the treaty was called up Pettigrew offered a motion for conducting the debate in open senate, which was antagonized by Chairman Davis, of the foreign relations committee, and others, the principal portion of the debate for the first two hours of the session being upon this motion.

The senate finally decided not to debate the Hawaiian proposition in open session.

In the House.

The attendance in the house was light today, but the galleries were well filled. The civil service debate was resumed, and Cooney, Democrat, of Missouri, took the floor. He opposed the whole civil service reform idea, which he denounced as a cheat and a narrow swindle. A civil pension list and office-holding class, he argued, were logical and inevitable if it was to be maintained.

Dorr, Republican of West Virginia, followed with a set speech in opposition to the law.

Cox, Democrat of Tennessee, said he was so utterly opposed to civil service reform that he would vote to strike out the appropriation for the commission and for the repeal of the law.

Little, Democrat, of Arkansas, antagonized the principle, theory and practice of the law.

Battered by a Hurricane.

Queenstown, Jan. 11.—The Norwegian bark Hovding, Captain Reynolds, which arrived here yesterday from Pensacola, was terribly battered by a hurricane, December 20. She was submerged for a time and the wheelman drowned. Afterward, a huge sea washed over the captain. One of his legs caught in the sparker sheets, and he was dragged into the boiling surf. A few minutes later another wave washed him on deck. The flesh was torn off his leg. The cabin was gutted and the charts and compasses destroyed. Several of the crew were injured.

Mrs. Naek's Light Sentence.

New York, Jan. 12.—Mrs. Augusta Naek, jointly charged with Martin Thorne, the arch-murderer of William Goldenuppe, the bathruber at Woodside, L. I., in June last year, was today sentenced to 15 years in the state prison at Auburn.

MOTHER LODE FONUD.

Reported Discovery of the Source of Klondike Gold.

Seattle, Wash., Jan. 12.—The steamer City of Topeka, which arrived here this afternoon from Junau, had among her passengers nine men who left Dawson City December 9. They were: W. J. Jones, Port Townsend; D. D. Stewart, Juneau; A. Colder, Nova Scotia; F. C. Arnold, San Francisco; W. G. Stenger, Colville, Wash.; Harry Miller, Colville; J. Cordroy, Denver; George Anderson, Tacoma, and Robert Johnson, Tacoma. They were 24 days in coming from Dawson to the coast. Their journey was unattended by special incidents. The coldest weather recorded was 18 below zero. The party brought out with them about \$50,000 in gold dust and drafts. Dog teams were used in making the trip.

The party brings no new features in reference to the food situation at Dawson. They all agree that food is scarce, but that there is no danger of starvation. If a large number of persons had not gone down the river to Fort Yukon and Circle City to spend the winter, a different tale would have been told. F. C. Arnold said:

"There is no danger of starvation. Of course, there is not food enough, but that was always true in the Yukon, and always will be. There is a big warehouse full of beef at Dawson. Next winter will be far worse than this, because there will be many more people there."

In reference to the proposed government relief expedition, all agree that, while it is not needed to avert actual want, it would be welcomed nevertheless.

W. J. Jones brings news of the discovery of what is supposed to be the mother lode and quartz origin of the placers of the Klondike district. The discovery was made at four different points within 24 hours, one of them at the Dome, a high mountain to the east of the source of Eldorado creek, by Frank Slavin; the second one at claim No. 31, Eldorado, by A. H. Jose and partner; the third one on Nugget gulch, at No. 16; and the fourth somewhere in the 20s on Bonanza creek. The trend of the vein is northwest by west, westerly from the Dome. It is found at about 30 feet below the surface and under the muck and alluvial deposit. The ledge is about 18 inches wide, and maintains a uniform width. It is generally sprinkled with free gold. Mr. Jones brings down samples of the ore, and every one who has seen them say the rock is precisely the same in character as is found in the Comet mine at Berner's bay, Southern Alaska. Mr. Jones said that old timers in the Klondike had made a similar observation.

In no instance was the quartz discovery made by the men who owned the placer claims, and the locaters of the quartz ledge thus acquire a separate and distinct title from the locaters of the placer. The discovery of this ledge on No. 31, Eldorado, was made by a man who was working the placer for the owner. A shot was put in and about 30 pounds of ore blasted out. The greatest excitement prevails, and no man will listen to any suggestion to sell his claim until further development has been made.

Tom Nash, an employe in the saloon where the recent fire occurred, has been arrested for arson.

Regarding the output of gold in the spring, Mr. Jones says:

"It will be from \$15,000,000 to \$25,000,000. This opinion is concurred in by the managers of the transportation companies, and Alexander McDonald, the richest man in the Klondike. Five millions of dust is now stored in Dawson, \$3,500,000 of which would have come out this fall had the boat reached Dawson."

ANTI-SEALING LAW.

Works a Hardship on Residents in the Vicinity of Niagara Falls.

Niagara Falls, Jan. 12.—The United States customs officers stationed at both bridges have been notified to seize anything that looks like sealskins. Nearly all of the Canadians were notified to leave their sacks, gloves and caps on the other side if they did not want them confiscated.

The situation at Niagara Falls is probably different from that at any other point on the frontier. Both sides of the river are thickly settled, and the Canadian and American populations go back and forth daily. On the Canadian side, back of the high bluff, a number of wealthy American families have country seats, and a great many of the women in these families, as well as Canadian women, who wear sealskin coats, pass over the river to the American side daily, while out driving and making calls. Several sealskin hats of Canadians were seized belonging to gentlemen engaged on business to Buffalo and New York, and many a man went on to his destination tonight wearing a little traveling cap, after having left his name and something by which he could identify his confiscated headgear.

The law also affects the Canadian railroads running from Chicago eastward. These include the Michigan Central, the Grand Trunk, the Canadian Pacific, the Wabash and the Lehigh Valley.

The sealskin garments taken from their wearers are turned over to the appraisers at custom-houses.

IMPROVING WILLAPA HARBOR.

Captain Taylor Says It Can Be Done at Small Expense.

A Washington correspondent says: In his report recommending the improvement of Willapa river and Mailboat slough, Captain Taylor, of the corps of engineers, says:

"Willapa river empties into the Pacific ocean through Willapa harbor about 25 miles north of the mouth of the Columbia river. The entrance to Willapa harbor from the ocean has for many years maintained a depth of over 18 feet at mean low water, and at the present time has a depth of about 21 feet at mean lower low water.

"The mouth of the Willapa river is considered to be in the harbor about 12 miles in a direct line from the ocean bar. From the ocean bar to this point the depths are ample for any class of vessels, ranging from 27 feet to as much as 70 feet at mean lower low water. Near its mouth the Willapa river is joined by the North river, which flows in a course nearly at right angles to that of the Willapa. Just above the junction of these two streams is a bar having a ruling depth of water over it of about 16 feet at mean lower low water. The bottom of the river at this bar is lumpy, and the material forming it appears to be fine, hard sand and silt. The bar separates the deep water of Willapa harbor from the deep water of that part of Willapa river below Mailboat slough, which is a small cut-off channel, leaving the Willapa river about one-half mile above South Bend, the principle city on this harbor, and joining it again about 1 1/2 miles below the city. Immediately above the lower end or mouth of Mailboat slough is another bar, having a controlling depth of about 14 1/2 feet at mean lower low water. These two bars have existed with about the same depths which they have today since the earliest recorded surveys of this harbor were made, except that the upper bar has scoured away from two to three feet since 1892, when the government began the construction of a dike closing the upper end of Mailboat slough.

"The principal businesses of Willapa harbor are the the lumber business and the fish and oyster business. Located at South Bend are three sawmills, whose combined aggregate daily capacity is about 150,000 feet. It is reported that two of these mills are to be rebuilt with largely increased capacities.

"The lumber is mostly shipped to San Francisco in small schooners, as deep-draft vessels are denied charter for cargo from this harbor on account of the two bars above mentioned. It is claimed that, were these two bars removed, the mills located on this harbor would be able to compete with mills of Puget sound, Columbia river and other deep-water Pacific coast ports in the foreign lumber trade. Whether the lumber business of this harbor would be so extended or not may be questioned, but there can be no question but that the present trade would be materially benefited, as the vessels which now carry the lumber experience delays on account of these bars. One flood tide is required for loaded vessels to cross the two bars. Before the harbor throat (distant about 19 miles from South Bend) is reached, the tide is ebbing. As insurance companies prohibit vessel towing to sea on an ebb tide, they are forced to lie at anchor in a rather poor roadstead, called North cove, for about 24 hours. During the winter southwest storms frequently spring up, and vessels may be barbound from one day to a week after leaving South Bend.

"I am of the opinion that the most advantageous and economical method of improving these bars is to dredge a channel through them to a depth of 20 feet at mean lower low water. Near the lower shoal mud flats, which are covered at a two-foot stage of tide, extend about 1 1/2 miles to the north and about one mile to the south. At high tide this forms a wide expanse of water, and for this reason the channel through the lower shoal should not be less than 200 feet wide. The channel through the upper shoal may be reduced to 100 feet in width. The waters of the Willapa river carry but little sediment in suspension, its course is short, and for 12 miles above South Bend it is a tidal stream. For these reasons it is believed that a dredged channel would be fairly permanent."

The estimated cost of this improvement is as follows: Dredging at lower shoal, 250,000 cubic yards, at 20 cents, \$50,000; dredging at upper shoal, 100,000 cubic yards, at 20 cents, \$20,000; engineering, contingencies, etc., \$7,000; total, \$77,000.

Northwest Notes.

Antoine Maxine, a half-breed got into an altercation with John Emanuel, an Indian, at a dance at Little Mission, and fatally stabbed him with a butcher knife.

The state board of audit and control has rescinded the rule which it adopted of taking from the old soldiers who are inmates of the State Soldiers' Home 25 per cent of their pensions.

Sherman county farmers have not sown as much ground to grain this fall as is customary, owing to the fact that they were kept busy harvesting until late, and since harvest have devoted their time principally to getting their grain to market, leaving but little time to devote to seeding. What grain was sown early in the fall looks well.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

(Office of Downing, Hopkins & Co., Chicago Board of Trade Brokers, 711-714 Chamber of Commerce Building, Portland, Oregon.)

Exports of flour and wheat from both coasts last week were 4,595,000 bushels, or 700,000 bushels more than the previous week, and double the same week last year. Receipts are expected to fall off. We have now reached the time where the exports generally decrease; at least they have in the past years, as the first six months of the crop year generally marks the largest export business. There is every indication, however, of a good export movement from now on, as liberal engagements have been for wheat, corn and oats. Foreigners continue to buy moderately when the market gets weak, so that the outward movement will gradually cut into the wheat stocks, which are none too heavy if the exports are to keep up large. Argentine news favors an exportable surplus of about 35,000,000 bushels, but some good authorities make it only 3,000,000 bushels. This is used as a club by the bears and consumers to prevent an advance here. There will be no Argentine wheat available in European markets before the latter part of March. In the meantime their light stocks will be reduced, and they will have to come in as buyers. The American visible supply of wheat increased this week 47,000 bushels, and now totals 38,863,000 bushels against 53,872,000 bushels for the corresponding period a year ago. Although the movement of corn for 1897 was 116,747,000 bushels, and the shipments 97,427,000 bushels an increase in the receipts of 24,000,000 bushels and in 10,000,000 bushels in the shipments, they were less than the arrivals of oats, receipts of the latter being 1,338,000 bushels in excess of corn, while the shipments were 7,000,000 bushels greater, aggregating 104,666,000 bushels. The feeling in corn and oats is bullish. There is a strong disposition on the part of many local traders to keep on the long side. The Trego-Smith people have accumulated a big line, and they are getting quite a following. Exports of corn for the week were heavy.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 72@73c; Valley and Bluestem, 75@77c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$4.25; graham, \$3.40; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 35@36c; choice gray, 33@34c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$19@20; brewing, \$20 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$18. Hay—Timothy, \$12.50@13; clover, \$10@11; California wheat, \$10; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton. Eggs—18@20c per dozen. Butter—Fancy creamery, 55@60c; fair to good, 45@50c; dairy, 40@50c per roll. Cheese—Oregon, 12 1/2c; Young America, 12 1/2c; California, 9@10c per pound. Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.50@3.25 per dozen; broilers, \$2.00@2.50; geese, \$5.50@6.50; ducks, \$5.00@6.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10@11c per pound. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 40@50c per sack; sweets, \$1.25 per cental. Onions—Oregon, \$1.75@2.00 per sack. Hops—5@16c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4@6c. Wool—Valley, 14@16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@8c; mohair, 20@22c per pound. Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, \$3.50; dressed mutton, 6 1/2c; spring lambs, 5 1/2c per pound. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.00; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$4.50@5.00 per 100 pounds. Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.75@3.00; cows, \$2.50; dressed beef, 4 1/2@5c per pound. Veal—Large, 4 1/2@5c; small, 3 1/2@4c per pound.

Seattle Market.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 30c; ranch, 16@18c. Cheese—Native Washington, 13c; California, 9 1/2c. Eggs—Fresh ranch, 23c. Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 10c; spring chickens, \$2.50@3.00; ducks, \$3.50@3.75. Wheat—Feed wheat, \$23 per ton. Oats—Choice, \$19@20. Corn—Whole, \$23; cracked, per ton, \$23; feed meal, \$23 per ton. Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$22; whole, \$22. Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5 1/2c; mutton sheep, 8c; pork, 6c; veal, small, 7c. Fresh Fish—Halibut, 5@6c; salmon, 3c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4c; ling cod, 4@5c; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2 1/2@4c. Fresh Fruit—Apples, 40@90c per box; pears, 25@75c per box; oranges, navel, \$2.75 per box.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Nevada 11@13c; Oregon, 12@14c; Northern 7@8c per pound. Hops—12 1/2@16c per pound. Millstuffs—Middlings, \$22@24; California bran, \$18.50@19.50 per ton. Onions—New red, 70@80c; do new silverskin, \$2.25@2.50 per cental. Eggs—Store, 23@24c; ranch, 25@28c; Eastern, 15@19c; duck, 16c per dozen. Cheese—Fancy mild, new, 12 1/2c; fair to good, 7@8c per pound.