

WOULD SEIZE ALL ALASKA

Canadians Raise British Flag on White Pass.

CONSIDERED AMERICAN SOIL

Miners Will Resist Payment of Duties at That Point—Warmer Weather Causes Rush From Dyea and Skagway.

Seattle, March 7.—Five steamers arrived from Alaska today—the Utopia, Hueneme, Del Norte, Protection and Queen. The Queen left Skagway last Sunday. E. R. Knapp, of Boston, who came down on the Queen, authorizes the statement that the Canadian authorities raised the British flag on the summit of White pass on Saturday, February 26. This has heretofore been considered American territory. Mr. Knapp's authority for the statement is the foreman of the Humbert Transportation Company's pack train. He reported the affair to Mr. Knapp, who is connected with the company, just before the latter left Skagway.

In reference to the report that martial law had been proclaimed at Skagway, Mr. Knapp said that when he left last Sunday no such action had been taken; neither was it anticipated. Mr. Knapp also said that the reports of deaths at Dyea, Skagway and on the trails had been very much exaggerated. He had made a personal examination, and ascertained that since November 1 there had been 19 deaths at Skagway, and 13 at Dyea. This is not at all large, considering the population of the two places.

The report that two men from Dawson had perished on White pass, with a large amount of gold dust on them, is said by Mr. Knapp to have no foundation.

The rivalry between the towns of Skagway and Dyea is characterized by Mr. Knapp as being "at white heat," and is the reason, he thinks, that so many exaggerated stories of death and hardship are sent out. Each town is doing all it can to throw discredit on the other.

It is feared that serious trouble will grow out of the Canadians' attempt to collect duty on the summit of White and Chilkoot passes, and the Americans will resist the payment of duties on what they consider American ground. Another complication will result from the various tramways which are being constructed to carry freight over the passes. The officials of these tramways are reported to have declared that any interruption with their construction work or any attempt to exercise any right of ownership will be resisted.

It is thought at Dyea and Skagway that the next movement on the part of the Canadian authorities will be to claim sovereignty over those two places. Last Sunday the boundary line was at Lake Bennett, then at Lindemann, and now is at the summit of the mountains, which is only about 20 miles from salt water.

Two days before the Queen left Skagway, the wind, which had blown from the north continuously for seven weeks, shifted and began to blow from the southwest, causing a general thaw to set in. The changed weather caused hundreds of people who had been detained by the severe cold to start over the trails from both Skagway and Dyea, and when the steamer left, a general exodus from both towns was taking place. Both trails are reported in excellent condition.

A Portland Man's Opinion.

Portland, Or., March 7.—Northwest territory officials have taken the initiative in the contest for possession of Summit lake, by raising the Canadian flag on its shores. This lake, according to Dr. Horace R. Littlefield, one of the best-posted men regarding Alaskan affairs on the coast, is situated, as its name implies, at the summit of White pass, about 16 miles from Skagway. Both the United States and Canada claim it, and the dispute regarding it has engendered bitter feelings between Americans and Canadians in Alaska, which have rapidly increased in intensity of late. The American claim to the lake is generally considered to be quite as well founded as that of Canada, and the action of the Dominion officials is premature, if not wholly unjustified.

Suffering Is Terrible.

Portland, Or., March 7.—Following is an extract from a letter dated February 21, from Rev. W. W. Warne, at Haines mission, Chilkat, Alaska, received by William Wadhams yesterday: "Winter set in four or five days ago and now we are experiencing all the rigors of an Alaska winter. The suffering of some of the newcomers is terrible. The Perry Humbert expedition, stationed here, is going to lose 130 head of horses and oxen in a day or two more if they cannot get feed. I have loaned them all I had; now we are all out, except a few sacks of grain I kept for myself.

"There is not a bale of hay to be had in the country, and all of the grain is gone. Mr. Smith is now feeding 1,000 sacks of flour to try and tide over the storm. They have a little rice they will feed next. They cannot keep the poor animals either tied or blanketed, as they chew everything up.

CABINET IS ANXIOUS.

Wants to Know When the Report May Be Expected.

Washington, March 7.—It was developed this afternoon, through telegraphic correspondence between Secretary Long and Admiral Sicard, that the court of inquiry is unable to fix even an approximate date for the conclusion of its investigation into the disaster to the Maine. Sharing in the general anxiety for information, Secretary Long today, at the instance of the cabinet, telegraphed Admiral Sicard asking when it was probable that the report of the court would be made, and late tonight the following was received:

"Secretary of the Navy—I have talked with the president of the court of inquiry and agree with him that it is not yet possible to fix a date for the finding, as so much depends upon the progress of the divers and wreckers, and the results they obtain. Every effort is being made to advance the inquiry. The court intends to return to Havana this evening, having finished the investigation at Key West.

SICARD."

Admiral Sicard's message is regarded as disposing of the reports that the court has obtained positive or conclusive information bearing on the subject of its investigation. It is taken to mean that upon the testimony or discoveries of the divers will depend the finding, the examination of the officers and crew having been insufficient to enable the court to even form an idea as to what lines may be opened up from the investigation of the wreck itself.

While the telegram was naturally somewhat of a disappointment, in leaving the termination of the inquiry as much in doubt as ever, it was welcomed as practically setting at rest the reports as to the results of the investigation up to date. It is stated that the board, in all probability, will not return to Key West, the department having intimated that it was its desire that the examination of the officers and men should be concluded at this sitting, as they are needed for reassignment to other ships.

THE SOUND'S DEFENSES.

Contractors Are Offered Bonuses to Expedite the Work.

Port Townsend, Wash., March 7.—It is reported here today that both firms of contractors, now constructing fortifications for the government at Marrowstone point and Admiralty head, have been offered bonuses to expedite the work. An additional gun pit, not previously provided on the estimates for this year's work on Admiralty head, at the entrance of the straits opposite this city, will be commenced in a short time. The pit will be about 50 feet square, sufficient to accommodate guns and the machinery for operating them. In addition to the pit proper, there will be underground rooms for storing ammunition.

The work of securing title to land to be used for the government fortifications at Point Wilson is being pushed as rapidly as possible, and the work of construction will be under way there early in the coming summer.

Spain Bought Two Cruisers.

London, March 7.—Spain has purchased two cruisers which the Armstrongs have been building for Brazil, the Amazonus and her sister ship, unnamed, of 4,000 tons each, 23 knots and 10 guns. Spain is also negotiating for and will probably secure two cruisers of a similar type which have been building in France for Brazil. The Amazonus is ready for launching, and her sister ship will soon be ready.

The Spanish government is also endeavoring to secure guns and large supplies of ammunition in England and the Continent for immediate use.

The government of Spain seems to have funds, for it is understood to be paying a large part of the purchase money in cash, giving good security for the balance, these being the only terms upon which the Armstrongs would deal.

Will Be Authorized.

Washington, March 7.—The senate committee on military affairs today decided to recommend the passage of a joint resolution authorizing the abandonment of the expedition for the relief of the miners in the Klondike region, which was authorized last December. There solution provides for the sale of both the reindeer and the supplies purchased for the expedition. There was a suggestion that the reindeer brought here from Norway could be utilized by the interior department, but the committee took the view that the animals should be sold in preference to holding them for any department of the government.

Proctor Saw a Fight.

New York, March 7.—The Herald's Havana correspondent says that in his recent excursions Senator Proctor saw a lively engagement between a band of 250 insurgents and an equal number of Spanish infantry. This took place almost within sight of Matanzas, in the streets of which city the senator was later approached by a messenger from General Gomez, who openly proclaimed his identity and mission.

Marines Sent West.

Atlanta, Ga., March 7.—The navy department is transferring marines from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast.

ACTIVITY IS NOT ABATED

Warlike Preparations Still Progressing.

THE RUSH AT SANDY HOOK

Twenty New Mortars Soon to Be Received and Installed—More Ammunition for Brooklyn Navy-Yard.

New York, March 5.—There is a continuance of unwonted activity at the New York arsenal. The shipping of shells and other projectiles, to the fortifications about the harbor continues. At army headquarters there are no new developments, and no orders out of the customary routine are expected. It is said that a battery of 20 12-inch mortars will be soon received at Sandy Hook for testing before they are forwarded to the points for which they are destined. There are a number of unmounted guns at the proving-grounds awaiting the construction of carriages. The supply of ammunition has been increased in all the magazines, and is so arranged that it can be made immediately available.

The men at the posts seem much more pleased at the work they have to do than when the guns lay idle and in a condition unfit for active use. At Sandy Hook, however, there is a slight complaint among the men, who say that too much work is expected of too small a force.

A large consignment of ammunition, including powder and projectiles, is ready for shipment at the ordnance department in the Brooklyn navy-yard.

Commander Swift, who has charge of the department, superintended the work of packing. Commander Swift has received instructions from Washington to forward the supplies as soon as possible to Key West, whence they will be distributed among the United States war vessels now in that neighborhood. When asked if the consignment was not an unusually large one, Commander Swift replied that it is not, and that when it had been divided up between the several ships none of them will have more than the regular complement in her magazines. Many of the projectiles are for guns of large caliber.

As yet no information has been received as to what disposition is to be made of the guns which have recently been shipped to the yard from Washington. These guns are of different sizes, and as neither the Chicago nor the Atlanta, which are being overhauled at the yard, will be ready to receive the guns for at least six months, it is rumored that they are for auxiliary vessels.

PROCTOR FULLY POSTED.

Has Seen the Darkest Side of the Cuban Situation.

Havana, March 5.—A naval officer here today, in reply to a suggestion that it was a pity such an important decision as the verdict of the court of inquiry into the Maine explosion should rest solely upon the testimony of divers, who seemed men of only average intelligence, replied:

"The court of inquiry has not had to depend upon divers' testimony alone."

Then, realizing that he had said more than he intended, the officer resumed his habitual reserve. It is believed that the testimony of Lieutenant Commander Wainwright was highly important as bearing on the question of the existence of submarine mines.

Senator Proctor has seen much in a short time, and there is good authority for saying that he will make the results of his observations known in a strong speech in the senate on his return to Washington. Senator Proctor, however, said to a correspondent:

"Certainly a peculiar state of affairs exists. Residents of Matanzas told me that if I wished to correspond with General Gomez they would send my letter to him and have an answer back in a short time."

The Fleet at Hong Kong.

Madrid, March 5.—The public is much exercised over the report of the presence of a squadron of United States warships at Hong Kong, as it is presumed the vessels intend to threaten Manila, the capital of Philippine island, in the event of war between the United States and Spain.

Impartial, in an article headed "To Manila, to New York," quotes an unnamed high personage who scouts the idea of an imminent rupture, and says:

"The presence of warships at Hong Kong is only Washington's policy with a view to contenting the jingoes."

The high personage is said to have added: "But America has not so many warships as to warrant such bold action. If the Yankees go to the Philippines, the Spaniards will go to New York."

El Globo remarks: "The government is still alive to the critical situation, and is silently preparing for the worst. But it is too diplomatic to disclose the procedure by which it is preparing for emergencies."

San Francisco, March 5.—The war department has issued orders for the immediate transfer of ammunition from the Benicia arsenal to this city. The object is to supply the needs of the mortar batteries and heavy ordnance at the Presidio and Black point.

DUNHAM'S STORY.

Interesting Report of a Government Official on the Klondike.

Located in Circle City, 180 miles northwest of Dawson, which all the river traffic to and from the Klondike passes, is the man whom the United States government has sent out to gather information regarding the Klondike which the public may know is accurate—Samuel C. Dunham. Mr. Dunham is under the direct jurisdiction of the commissioner of labor at Washington. All the long winter months he has lived in a room in a \$20,000 house at Circle City, a house that is made of logs and boards, and whose real worth seems preposterous.

Mr. Dunham has sent some valuable information to Washington—or to the United States, as he puts it. While Alaska is a part of the United States you never would think so if you lived there and heard the people talk. They always refer to the rest of the nation as: "Back in the States."

It is safe to say that of the thousands already en route to the new Eldorado only a small percentage are actually aware of the real conditions that exist in the land of their destination. As gorgeous pictures of wealth have been painted for their edification as imagination could devise, and that is why the cold facts that have come to us by the aid of carrier, dog and sledge, and finally the United States mail, create something of a feeling of astonishment.

Mr. Dunham tells us that there is not work for the people who are already in the Klondike, and that before the spring rush is half over the country will teem with the destitute and homeless. However, the destitution is not now so great as it was imagined would be the case, and this because it has been found possible for the different camps to help one another.

When Mr. Dunham's report, which is now on its way, reaches Washington, it will be sent to congress at once, but owing to the fact that the report is not likely to reach the department before March, after the Klondike emigration has passed flood tide, Mr. Dunham has deemed it best to forward the more important facts here presented. In his latest letter to the Commissioner of Labor Mr. Dunham says:

"I am making fair progress on my report, and have reached a point where I can give an outline of its practical features. I have completed an introduction, giving a short sketch of the stampede as I saw it from the other side of the mountains; a chapter on the Klondike containing the first accurate account of the original discovery and the development of the mines, and what I hope will prove an approximately correct statement of the output (an exceedingly hard subject to handle); a chapter on Dawson and its surroundings, giving full information relative to wages, cost of living, opportunities for employment, etc., and ending up with an account of the food famine and the exodus, and a chapter on navigation of the Yukon.

"I have well under way a chapter on Circle City and the Birch Creek district, and have all necessary data for one on mining laws and local regulations, incidentally touching on the only form of government that has been known here previous to the present year—miners' meetings. In addition to these I shall give considerable space to the trails and the best means of getting here, expense, etc.; the best routes for railroads, which we assume are bound to come within a few years, although we do not know what is going on outside; the possibilities in agriculture, which are considerable in the Yukon valley, as wheat, oats, and vegetables of many kinds can be grown here successfully; the outlook from the commercial point of view, etc.

"A thousand pages could be written on the situation without exhausting the subject or the reader; but I shall stop short of 400 typewritten pages. It is exceedingly difficult to get information here, on account of the great distances and the unsettled condition of the public mind on the food question. It is hard to work when one hears constantly on every hand stories of starvation and death from exposure. I consider the situation grave, but not desperate. There is food at Fort Yukon for 600 more men than are wintering there, and this can be freighted to Dawson or part of Dawson can go to it. It may be that the transportation companies can feed the population next year, but it is doubted here.

"I have secured an accurate statement of the amount of freight landed in Dawson by the steamers during the season, made up from the manifests of the boats and from information obtained from the agents of the companies. Less than 2,700 tons reached there, and between 700 and 800 tons of this consisted of furniture, whisky, hardware, etc.—less than 2,000 tons for 5,000 men, and much of it was consumed during the summer. Prices are increasing in Dawson, flour selling for \$150 a hundred and many more other staples in proportion. Luxuries are not quoted, simply commanding what a man feels disposed to pay for them. Dogs have sold as high as \$500 apiece there, and \$300 has been offered and refused here.

"Our mail carrier is still here, stranded—without dogs or provisions to get out. The government pays \$600 for a trip that costs \$2,500. Nobody blames the poor carrier, but everybody damns the government and the contractors.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Trade Conditions in the Leading Cities of the World.

It begins to look as if Leiter, for all his impudence in ignoring the advice of Tom, Dick, Harry and other old time speculators, knew something about running a wheat deal. Where wheat will get to is beyond anybody's ken. Armour says there is no reason why it should not be put to \$1.50. He adds he is a believer in high prices for another year. Leiter talks \$1.25. No human being can forecast a market with certainty, for it would be no market if such a thing were possible. Leiter appreciates this or he would not now be marketing his cash holding. The speculators with widest experience agree that the Leiter control is as complete as anything human could be. There has never been a time, though, and never will be, when there are not contingencies enough about the wheat situation to keep it exciting. The Leiter wheat interest continues larger than any that ever existed before. It was deemed extraordinary early in February that he should extend his purchases into May. He has not stopped at that. He has gone into July. His risks on his cash lines in the pit have been reduced by his recent sales, but his line in the pit have been increased. The whole effort has been of late to cheapen the average holding, and it would look as if success had attended that. Leiter has lost more or less wheat on "calls." What he has done in the pit is mere guess work. The "talent" believe his May line a very commanding one, somewhere between 5,000,000 bushels and 10,000,000 bushels. His accumulations of July wheat last week might easily have reached 2,500,000 bushels, perhaps double that. The figures seem grandiose. Leiters' ideas of quantities are, however, different from the ordinary trades. It will be no exaggeration, in the estimation of any professional in this market, to put Leiter's interest, with all his recent cash sales, at 20,000,000 bushels. His present profits, on paper, must be astounding, easily \$2,000,000, perhaps double that. If Leiter continues to be favored to the end as he has been in the past the story of his huge wheat operations will read like an oriental one, the plans too magnificent, the results too extraordinary to be everyday.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 74@75c; Valley and Bluestem, 77@78c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$3.85; graham, \$3.30; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 36@37c; choice gray, 33@34c per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$19@20; brewing, \$20 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$19 per ton; middlings, \$24; shorts, \$20. Hay—Timothy, \$12.50; clover, \$10@11; California wheat, \$10; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton.

Eggs—10½@11½c per dozen. Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; fair to good, 45@50c; dairy, 35@45c per roll.

Cheese—Oregon, 12½c; Young America, 13@14c; California, 9@10c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$4.00@4.50 per dozen; hens, \$4.50@5.00; geese, \$6.00@7.00; ducks, \$5.00@6.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 11@12c per pound.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 40@50c per sack; sweets, \$1.75@3 per cental. Onions—Oregon, \$2.25@2.60 per sack.

Hops—4@16c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4@6c.

Wool—Valley, 14@16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@12c; mohair, 20@22c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 4c; dressed mutton, 7c; spring lambs, 5½c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.25; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$5.00@5.50 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.50@3.75; cows, \$2.50; dressed beef, 6½@7c per pound.

Veal—Large, 5@5½c; small, 6@7c per pound.

Seattle Market.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 27c; ranch, 22@23c.

Cheese—Native Washington, 13c; California, 9½c.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, 18c.

Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 12c; spring chickens, \$2.50@3.00; ducks, \$3.50@3.75.

Wheat—Feed wheat, \$23 per ton.

Oats—Choice, per ton, \$23.

Corn—Whole, \$23; cracked, per ton, \$23; feed meal, \$23 per ton.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$23; whole, \$22.

Hay—Puget sound, new, per ton, \$12@14; Eastern Washington timothy, \$13; alfalfa, \$12.

Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 7½c; cows, 6½c; mutton sheep, 8½c; pork, 6½c; veal, small, 8c.

Fresh Fish—Halibut, 6@7c; salmon, 3c; salmon trout, 10c; flounders and sole, 3@4; ling cod, 4@5; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2½@4c.

Fresh Fruit—Apples, 50c@\$.75 per box; pears, 25@75c per box; oranges, navel, \$2@3 per box.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Nevada 11@12c; Oregon, 12@14c; Northern 7@8c per pound.

Hops—12½@17½c per pound.

Millstuffs—Middlings, \$22@25; California bran, \$17.50@18.50 per ton.