THE CHANCES OF MAN IN THE FAR NORTHWEST

Alaska and Its Two Sides of Life as Seen by Sydney B. Charles, Former Portland Newspaper Man-Tanana, Its Good Features and Its Endless Litigations--Country Varying in Resources

D. CHARLES AND DAUGHTERS

S ALASKA a good place in which to make a stake?" "Do you think I could better myself by going there?"

"Not once, but scores of times questions similar to these have been asked me since returning from Alaska," said Sidney D. Charles, a former newspaper man of Portland, who has been engaged in that work for the past four years in Fairbanks, the metropolis of the Tanana placer gold fields. He came out this winter, over the All-American route to Valdez, bringing his two little girls, aged four and five, respectively, and brought along a number of inter-

and brought along a number of inter-esting views. "I have been sought out by entire strangers, even," continued Mr. Charles, "eager to hear about the so-called "golden opportunities' of the far north-land. Sometimes, by way of introduc-tion, the callers would begin, 'I knew a fellow at Nome who made a fortune and bought a farm in eastern Oregon,' or another would, observe, 'An acquaint-ance of mine at Salem took out \$40,000 from the Tanana last summer.'

Alaska Gold.

"Indeed, many farms, fruit orchards and considerable town property have been purchased in Oregon with gold extracted from Alaska. Seattle is a good example of what the outpouring of

tracted from Alaska. Sectific is a good example of what the outpuring of wealth from the northland may do, and whole business blocks in Tacoma havy do and whole business blocks in Tacoma havy do and the form the northland may do, and the form the northland may do, and the form the northland may do, and the grid of the matter that the output the four factories, have almost and ready market in the output the local factories, have almost and the regulated eastern made goods and shifts, etc.
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The provide the local fact, have made goods the grid of the way for commercial enterprises in Alaska, fans fired the degrid of the output the trans.
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starve and freeze, could 17 But what makes me 'sore' is that some of them boasted about landing in Fairbanks with money and told how easy it was to beat the roadhouse men.' "This winter the roadhouse propric-



many instances are known where \$10,-000, \$20,000 and \$30,000 have been ex-pended and the pay is not always located even then. After the pay is found it is necessary to do the 'deadwork'--drive a working shaft, run tunnels and drifts and block out the pay preparatory to taking out a dump or for summer sluic-ing, whichever the case may be. This costs from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

SOMMIT OF THOMPSON'S PASS

Too Much Litigation.

"The curse of litigation also hangs over the camp like a dark cloud, and after a man secures ground he is often forced to fight for it through the courts. In the more shallow diggings of the Hotsprings district, the Chandalar, the Koyukuk, the Innoko, the Birch creek section and the upper Sushitna, there are better opportunities for poor men, but it requires money to outfit and a man must be possessed of more than the average determination and grit or he will be a sure failure, for Alaska is no place for weaklings.

'After having observed the way Port-After having observed the way Port-land and adjacent districts have de-veloped in the past six years, I am confident that if the average young man would work as hard here and at-tend strictly to business and be allys to the opportunities expanding and opening on every hand, as he would have to work in Alaska to make a stake, he would be much farther ahead of the game in a stated number of years. If is seldom that the 'chechaco' or new-comer strikes it rich in Alaska. He usually has his eye-teeth cut first.

Country Right.

"I wish to add, however, that the Tanana itself is a splendid country. It is practically self-supporting, in all kinds of home grown vegetables and berries. The drawbacks are fierce factional fights, the curse of litigation, and high transportation rates. There are thousands of square miles of mineral bearing ground which cannot be worked two sides of Alaskan life. Dr. Matthews electricians and first class mechanics, while an portain created a line of the prime and the state of the server and the state ser at a profit under the present adverse conditions, but which, under more fa-

"This, in a measure, illustrates the Tanana are college graduates, expert two sides of Alaskan life. Dr. Matthews electricians and first class mechanics,

"This, in a measure, illustrates the

tors had circulars printed and two sides of Alaskan life. Dr. Matthews of Seattle, while in Portland, remarked that 'Alaska was a boneyard of broken hearts,' and the statement is justified to a certain extent for the many family the trip unless they were able to pay the trip unless they wer

A TYPICAL ROAD HOUSE IN THE INTERIOR.

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STAGE LEAVIN VALDEZ FOR FAIRBANKS.

CUSHMAN ST AIRBANKS

HOW KOOLAU HELD THE PASS--Like Horatio Who Held the Bridge He Contributed to History

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The situation appeared almost ridicity bout the dead men who fell under the shave of the second.
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"How are you?" cries the one.
"Who are you?" cries the one.
"How are you?" cries the other.
"But you have you are." contin"The better for the honor you have
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the second.
"The better for the honor you have
and bullet holes through their lungs.
Welch the second.
"The better for the honor you have
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of men assall the dispenser of the tail, sieep with their prayers and implore as a favor what they deem a miraculous prolongation of their life? And yet, during that sleep, how much would remain and how much of their selves would they find again on awak-ing? What link, at the moment they closed their eyes, would connect them with the being that was to awake with-out memories, unknown in a new world? Nevertheless their consent and all their hopes at the beginning of that long inght would depend upon that non-ex-isting link. There is, in fact, between real death There is, in fact, between real death

There is, in fact, between real death and this sleep only the difference of that awakening deferred for a century, an awakening here as allen to him would be of a posthumous child. On the other hand, what answer de we make to the question when it has to de not with us on earth? Are we concerned, for instance, about the after-life of the animals? The most fulfulful affectionate and intelligent dog, once dead, becomes but a repulsive carcass which we hasten to get rid of. It does not even seem possible to ask ourselves if any part of the alterdy spiritual life which we loved in him subsigit elsewhere in our memory, or if there be another world for dogs.