

HIGH COSTS HAVE SHUT DOWN MINES ALL OVER ALASKA

R. P. Bonham, Back From Long Trip Down the Yukon, Says There Is Big Rush From North

SIBERIA GOLD NOW ATTRACTS

Mines in Asia Promise Rich Development in Future; Once Mighty Nome Now Only Village

War, isolation and the elements have worked havoc with Alaskan industry, according to the observation of Raphael P. Bonham, special representative of the government, who spent several months ago to adjust labor troubles. He declared Saturday that by the time he got there the troubles had settled themselves by the elimination of the parties to the disputes.

The people have flocked out of Alaska, Mr. Bonham asserted, with almost the same rapidity that they flocked in during the gold rush of a score of years ago. Bonham said he traveled rapidly for Alaska—and made over 2400 miles, going in by way of British Alaska and down the Yukon to Nome. At St. Michaels, with a party of seven others, he chartered a gasoline trading schooner for \$180 to get over to Nome, a distance of 110 miles. It took them 44 hours, and the expectations were that eight hours would be sufficient. The schooner was blown back upon the Nome shore by a gale when it attempted to return and its crew of one squaw-man and one native Eskimo nearly lost.

High Prices Check Mining

The most remarkable thing about Alaska from the industrial standpoint, said Mr. Bonham, "was the stampede out. Ships and boats were loaded to the limit. People who had rushed in there 20 years ago were just as anxious to escape. At Dawson cottages that had cost thousands of dollars were offered for \$100 each. Hotels were closed or closing. The high prices for coal, oil, machinery and provisions made it impossible for individual miners to continue operations, and many companies found their gold costing them two dollars for one."

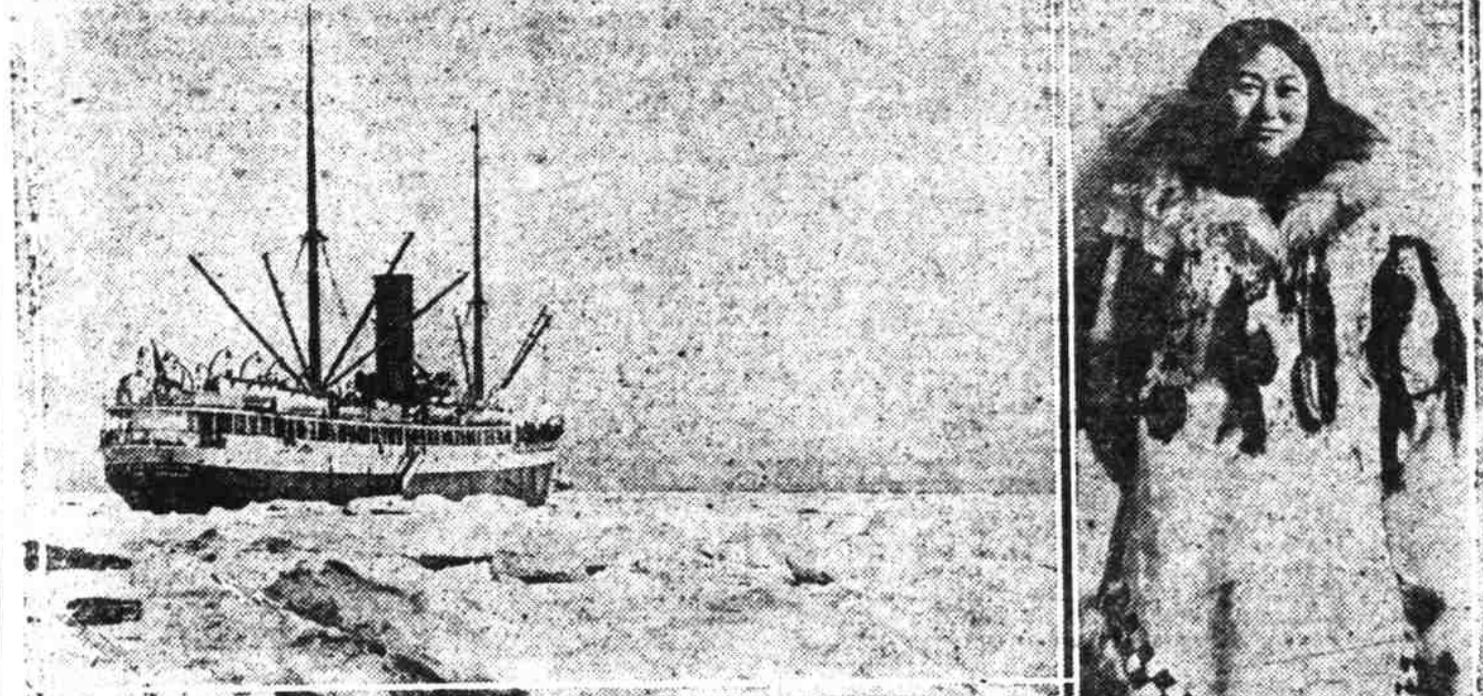
Mr. Bonham found the industrial conditions peculiar. The territorial government had passed a stringent eight hour law which was declared unconstitutional by the courts. The miners had attempted to enforce its provisions and had refused to work overtime at time and a half wages. The low water and small snowfall alone would have shut down many hydraulic and dredging operations. The high price of provisions in many cases wiped out the margin of profit completely, and it is astonishing how much men can eat in a cold climate working on dredges.

Only 400 Left in Nome

"In many hundreds of cases," said Mr. Bonham, "we found that men had reported for work early in the season and because of conditions had gone right out again. The varied causes contributed to the closing down of the mining operations in Alaska. Nome in its glory had 20,000 inhabitants. When Mr. Bonham left there in September it had 400."

"One of the great industries in Alaska," said Mr. Bonham, "is the reindeer. The animals multiply wonderfully and thrive on the tundra moss in that sec-

BONHAM SEES ALASKA'S INDUSTRIES



Above—Alaska reindeer among resources of northern country. At left—S. S. Victoria arriving at Nome with supplies. Right—Native belle in fashionable attire.

tion. With hay at \$80 to \$90 a ton, an animal that furnishes good meat and hides and can winter in Northern Alaska on the moss and brush is a wealth to its owners beyond estimate. Some meat is being shipped out of Alaska, and more will be. I had a carcass shipped to me here, but it has not arrived yet."

Gold Hunters Go to Siberia

Going down the Yukon Mr. Bonham was fortunate enough to be taken on board by a United States government steamer that was taking out soldiers, and was more comfortable and also was enabled to make the trip more rapidly than would have been otherwise possible.

"Mining men look for a later resumption of activities in Alaska," said Mr. Bonham. "Many of them told me they would go over to Siberia as soon as conditions permitted, and that indications are that there is as much gold in Siberia as in Alaska."

Chatsworth Woods to Go

London, Nov. 16.—(I. N. S.)—The famous Wicksup and Lyndon woods on the Chatsworth estate of the Duke of Devonshire are to be cut down. About 250 lumbermen of the Canadian Forestry corps will shortly take up their quarters at Rowsley to do the work.

ALASKA MINER, HERE ON FIRST TRIP OUT IN 12 YEARS, HOMESICK

Expects Those Who Have Left to Return Now That War Is Concluded, He Says.

Charlie Wallis, quartz miner of Fairbanks, Alaska, arrived in Portland Saturday on his first trip to the states in 12 years. Mr. Wallis will visit his brother, W. A. Wallis, a grocer of 1840 Sandy boulevard, and his sister, Mrs. Paul French, 1214 Laddington court, before visiting his mother at Rufus, Or.

For 20 years Mr. Wallis has lived in the Alaskan interior and he likes it. No sooner had he landed at Seattle than he became homesick for the safety of the Alaskan wilderness, for Mr. Wallis does not like cities.

"Nearly everyone is leaving Alaska now," said Mr. Wallis, "but now that the war is over, I think they will all

go back. Everything costs so much up there now—an ounce of gold dust will only buy \$8 or \$9 worth of stuff. There have been no new mines struck within the last few years and everything is at a standstill."

Accompanying Mr. Wallis is his McKenzie river husky, "Taxi," who has been the leader of seven dogs that have pulled him over many miles of frozen snow.

"I thought the children would like to play with him," explained Mr. Wallis. "He can pull their sleds around."

Taxi is a monstrous dog, and he is probably as homesick for the Alaskan snows as his master, as he waits further transportation, safely secured in a warm basement of a hotel.

Mr. Wallis is staying at the New Perkins.

St. Louis Sets Milk Prices

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 16.—(I. N. S.)—A cash and carry price of 11 cents a quart for milk, sold at dairy offices and branch stations, has been agreed upon by dairy firms, following a conference with social workers and city officials here.

BATHS IN BATTLE IS LATEST STUNT OF YANK SCIENCE

Bathing and Disinfecting Apparatus Follows Fighters to Very Front Lines During Action.

AMERICANS FIGHT CLEAN

Portable Apparatus Keeps Fighters Clean and Washes Clothes; New Clothing Issued.

By Sterling Hellig
Somewhere in France, October 20—Here is a war story that beats the record.

In crashing battles, without intermission, you can see almost an entire division of American soldiers victoriously advancing and taking their morning bath.

The bath, in the hell of it, that's the cool-nerve boys! The facts, beginning in early July, continue in the present hour, with hot-water showers and shelter tents for chill weather in the open.

Also, you get, here and there, the comments of a famous American hygienist, with full permission. He is Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh H. Young, senior consultant dermatologist and urologist of the American E. F., and previously professor in Johns Hopkins university medical school and hospital, bookwriter, member of learned societies and a leader in his line. Seeing the Buddies, Europe now knows what our hygiene is, and our "high ideas of living." At the same time, there are glimpses of the work of an untiring friend of the boys' health, Captain Edward J. McCague, of the medical corps and division dermatologist, from the University of Pittsburgh medical department.

Baths Near Trenches

The division was first thrown into action to prevent the Germans from crossing a river. Portable shower baths and Foden-Thresey disinfectors had been left in the training area when the division was moved to the front. Later, the Foden-Thresey caught up with them; but only the portable shower apparatus which were brought up by the sanitary trains were on hand for the first fighting division. Seven more showers were received from the American Red Cross and installed, first, in a dismantled house on a creek. French portable showers, hospital tents about 16 feet square, and the hurried-up Foden-Thresey steam disinfectors then formed the equipment.

How do you take baths in battle? Captain Boran and 28 men, under direction of division dermatologist, McCague, being assisted by divisional orderlies to run certain big bath establishments, the men were rushed in trucks as soon as they were out of the line (or marched when the distance was short) to such divisional baths, where they were showered and soaped and had clean underclothes and uniforms given to them.

Clean Clothes Issued

The soiled and underclothes (all blood, mud, sweat!) were disinfected and the underwear washed and reissued; but it was found impossible to disinfect, clean up and repair the outer clothing as rapidly as the men require. The new uniform suits were issued to almost everyone—and to some more than once.

"Can't you see it? Do I tell it? It is terrible, but splendid, those boys coming in all reeking blood stained, mud soaked, dropping all that, bathing and then getting into sweet, clean garments! About 15,000 new uniforms were obtained and ending up battle worn suits in the course of the advance, and none of the discarded things were lost; all went to the salvage for repairs, cleaning and sorting. And about the same number of fresh clothes and pairs of socks were furnished by the quartermaster corps, although the distributing personnel was drawn from the infantry. Does this last say nothing to you? It was the battle!

Yes; but I said "baths in battle" as distinguished from relief. Here's the high novelty. How do they do it? "Small showers were arranged in more distant positions." It is permitted me to quote Captain McCague in his own words, "so that battalions and other organizations could be bathed in the front lines."

Officers in Charge

Do you get it? Some of the battle baths were in charge of regimental medical officers. Others were entrusted to particularly intelligent and devoted sergeants with picked personnel of enlisted men. There were no changes of uniforms or underclothes at them; but the men used them continually in the hottest of the combat, and all in reach of the supply trains had one change of underwear and did their own washing.

Others of the advancing battalions had regular changes of underclothes and the small showers going with them were kept very busy. Other units, on orders of medical officers, bathed simply in creeks and ponds, whether or no they had clean underwear. All the while, farther back, the divisional establishments bathed troops in reserve and those coming out of the line into support and remaining in the area.

The men of the —th and —th regiments, for example, had their full big soap baths about once a week. Another division, first with the —th and later with a French division, and got very little bathing or change of underwear. They became quite dirty and infested, due to streams and ponds had, later on, the luck to come back near to a large divisional bath establishment. It kept fairly clean and well, but not so well as the —th and —th, just mentioned.

Advance Is Rapid

And now it gets hotter and hotter. Because I am quoting a few words from high personages, the story cannot "let itself go," but must be framed in measured and conventional language.

For five days the division was "very actively engaged" in hold the Germans. Then they crossed another river. French and Americans side by side, pursuing the enemy. During the first week, bathing was going on daily at the divisional baths—first of troops in the back and support, then of troops relieved from the lines, coming out in a muck of blood, mud and sweat.

Things got so hot in this pursuit that they shortly got ahead of the divisional baths entirely, so that they "remained inactive for two days," to quote my

friend, McCague; but, dismantled, they soon caught up, in an area which had been occupied by Germans four days previously. The ground was still covered with German dead.

Four days after this break in continuity, bathing was going on full blast in the new establishments. For example, take the —th infantry. As relieved from the line, they were marched to the big baths and fully fixed up. In one day, 2200 men went through those established at a certain pontoon bridge. They bathed all night. During the night the area was heavily shelled and 10 casualties occurred in the vicinity of these baths.

Set Up in Barrs

The division rushed ahead of the big baths again.

Again they were dismantled and re-established in two days. The first afternoon afterwards the entire —th regiment was bathed. French knockdown shacks had been moved up with baths and disinfectors to another river. One section found well arranged barns which the retreating Germans had not had time to burn and ran the whole business in them, with excellent success. Ten trucks were required to do the moving. Meanwhile, clothing and blankets for distribution in the division were sent to the baths, and although the shacks were soon left behind again, the extra supply of uniforms and underclothes necessitated keeping the trucks in the line. Seeing was experienced in obtaining them, although the division was engaged in the most active warfare!

Arrangements were made for the rapid bathing of the rest of the organizations during the remaining days of the month; but the men did not wait. Small showers were used extensively, in particular by the —th regiment in and immediately behind the battle. At the same time, other small showers, from the supply train, were moved forward with other organizations and used continuously.

hundreds of men passing through them as opportunity offered.

Fire Engines Used

Yet elsewhere, Captain McCague made ingenious use of town fire engines which he discovered in two bombarded villages. They were hand apparatus and proved very satisfactory pumps, one being established at a well, the other in a creek. My friend thinks that these can be found in many villages (especially when we get into German territory) and provide an easy means of pumping water.

In it a tour de force—a stunt—exceptional, not to be counted on, this bathing in the battle. Captain McCague says no, the thing is now routine in many organizations and can be done in all. Perhaps it is, by now.

"If portable tents and showerbaths and Feden-Thresey disinfectors and portable laundries be furnished with each division," says the Pittsburgh Medical college man, "no difficulty will be experienced in following the most active warfare and bathing thousands of men daily from supply organizations and troops in rest and reserve."

Yanks Fight Clean

This, I repeat, is the measured language of a responsible officer speaking for publication. The man to man facts go further. Medical officers, sergeants in charge and the men on their own initiative, set up the showers, when they can lay hands on them, in any shelter where there is water, in the thick of modern fighting!

And here is the hic of it. As cold weather opens and "natural bathing" closes, the required equipment has been coming along; but much still awaits

transportation from home, necessitating all kinds of makeshifts on the part of Buddies and their medicals, determined to "fight clean" and avoid skin annoyances and epidemics.

Ranger Trees Bear Then Waits for 4 Hours for Party

Dee Wright, forest ranger, went bear hunting on the Bear river in Pacific county, Wash., two weeks ago with two dogs and two men. Dee doesn't like to shoot bears except with a camera, but he enjoys chasing them, so he left his two friends and chased ahead with the dogs.

After going for miles through dense underbrush, Dee and his dog companions treed the bear. The dogs stood guard on the ground and Dee, to let the men know just where they had found the bear, climbed another tree himself so that his voice could be heard above the brush.

For four hours, Dee, the dogs and the bear waited, and just as they all fell asleep the two hunters appeared, found their bear all waiting for them and shot him without difficulty.

Ulysses Without Hotel

Ulysses, Pa., Nov. 16.—(I. N. S.)—Ulysses is without a hotel. Explanation: The proprietor of this town's only hotel loaded all the household effects of the hostelry onto several wagons one recent morning and departed post haste into New York state. Reports are that creditors were to foreclose on him on Monday.

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