

Alaska Mines Show Activity

Readjustment of Wages Brings Close Approach to Normalcy in Pits.

LURE OF THE HILLS DRAWS

People Leave Populous Centers to Combine Pleasure Trip With Prospecting—Complexion of Mining Has Changed.

Anchorage, Alaska.—Readjustment of wages, bringing a close approach to normalcy as applied to mining, has resulted in a return of the pendulum toward greater mining activity than has been experienced in the history of Alaska since the boom days.

While the Alaska railroad was building it was impossible to obtain help for mining operations, owing to the good wages in railroad construction.

Even now there is a general shortage of miners throughout the territory, and every man of experience who cares to work is employed. Mining takes on an entirely different complexion than a few years ago; attention is being given to gaining access to known placer deposits suitable for hydraulics and dredges, and aside from this phase of the placer situation there is little doing save where old-timers have a little piece of ground from which they may sluice out a grubstake for the winter, and who do not care to take out a fortune.

Mine Much Quartz.

The other phase of the renaissance in mining is confined to quartz, and judging by the encouraging discoveries, the apparent permanency of ore bodies and ability to mine economically, the outlook for quartz is excellent.

Additional prospecting in the Willow Creek district has disclosed a more extended area, and as rapidly as trails and roadways are extended the prospector is bringing commercial properties into being.

So great has become the lure of the hills that almost all the populous centers along the railroad are undergoing a midsummer quietude, everyone who has a grubstake and many engaged in other lines of business taking advantage of the ideal condition in the hills to combine a pleasure trip with prospecting.

"How much does it go to the pan?" has been supplanted by "What does it run to the ton?" and "How is the crop looking?"

Even when a big cleanup comes in there is no excitement, as these things are becoming every-day occurrences.

Alaska at present needs more interest in quartz mining, especially for local capital is carrying the peak of development and the lack of larger capital is retarding rapid development.

Geological survey engineers are now making reconnaissance along the railroad belt and the result of their findings is expected to have a tremendous effect upon all classes of mining, and

a boom is looked for as soon as these reports are made known.

"Wild Cutters" Stay Out.

Alaska is no place for the wild cutter, for the communities are arrayed against spurious promotions, and all efforts to float such enterprises are balked by the public and press.

As an illustration of how the Alaskans are progressing, a group of business men have acquired a number of oil leases in the Anchorage field and hold them subject to the advent of capital in sufficient volume to drill one or more complete wells, the property being turned over on a low royalty basis, all emolument being subject to striking oil.

Anchorage recently jointly financed a cannery plant by escrowing all subscriptions until sufficient capital was raised. The cannery was launched and this season is operating successfully.

It is the policy of Alaskan capital to pool with outside capital on all legitimate enterprises and in this manner the public, as well as legitimate developers, are protected against buccaneers of finance.

Stray Dog Pays for Meal.

Columbia, Pa.—A stray dog was given a good meal at a restaurant here by Ralph Johnson, a clerk. The dog followed Johnson home late at night. When a highwayman held up Johnson, choking him, the dog attacked the bandit, who fled.

German Soldier 'Gold Brick' King

Sebeste Outdoes Rivals in United States Army and Is Sentenced to Two Years.

SWINDLES MANY AND VARIED

Court Procedure Brings Out Remarkable Tale of "Gold-bricking" Activities of Karl Sebeste—Even Joined Police Force.

Berlin.—Wildest tales of "gold-brickers" in the American army are surpassed by the story of Karl Sebeste, formerly a private in the German army, whose varied career has just landed him in prison for two years. His story came out during the court procedure.

Sebeste, who is twenty-five years old, was a clerk in a hat factory before the war and upon being discharged entered the army, found he didn't care for that sort of thing and "gold-bricked" into being discharged as physically unfit for service. He then drifted into the postal service and stole copiously from letters, for which he was sentenced to five months in prison. Promotes Himself.

Upon his discharge the war was getting hotter and he was again drafted and in his first engagement at the front was buried under a wall of earth that caved in from shell fire. Having recuperated he was sent to the front again, but proceeded to develop ill health and was sent to the German hospital in Coblenz. Emerging he promoted himself to the rank of non-commissioned officer and conferred a decoration of the Iron Cross upon himself. While in the hospital he had already laid claim to having been a student of theology and with the permission of the chaplain of the hospital conducted the divine services there with great success.

Pleasant as the hospital was he was finally sent back to his outfit, but managed to escape again in Germany, where he became the religious instructor in a camp at Spandau. Again he was successful, but when he tried to oust the chaplain and have himself appointed his successor ended again and once more he was sent back to his unit in France. This time the armistice came and, having been duly discharged, he tried the stage. Then

Fishes Up Diamond He Lost Four Years Ago

Valentine Ferberhard of Bayonne lost a \$900 diamond ring in the shallow waters of the Shrewsbury river at Water Witch, N. J., four years ago. He searched the river bed for weeks, but the ring was not recovered.

The other day he went for a launch ride on the Shrewsbury. Just as he passed the spot where he had lost the ring a friend dropped a hammer into the water. The boat was stopped. Bernhardt put his hand into the water and found the ring beside the hammer.

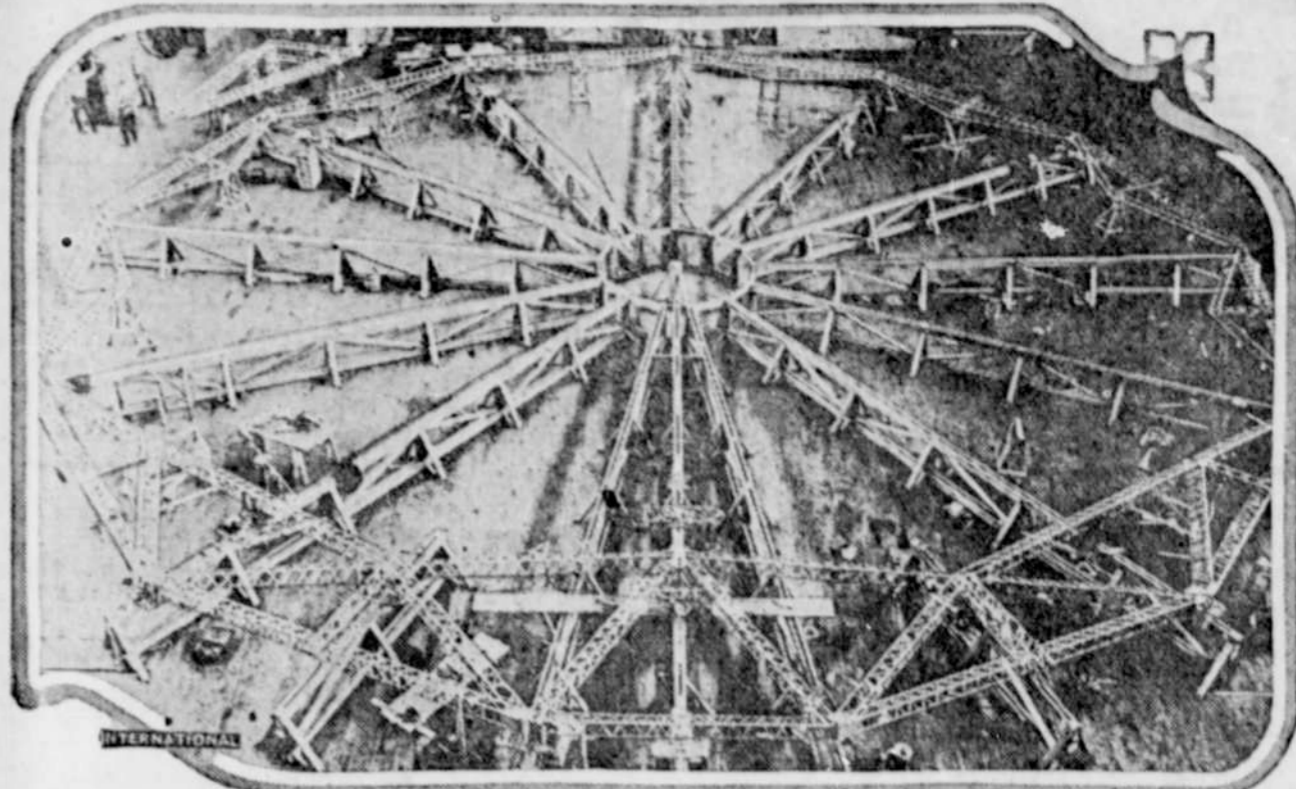
RUSS CANCEL ENGINE ORDER

Financial State of Government Makes Paying for 1,000 Locomotives Impossible.

Stockholm.—After having ordered 1,000 locomotives from an engineering firm here and having received 300 of them, the Russian government has intimated that it is now unable to pay. When the contract was made it was agreed that the engines were to be paid for as they were delivered, and the manufacturers obtained a guaranty for their money.

It is now considered probable that the soviet government will cancel the balance of the order. It is believed the present financial state of Russia and the failure of the Genoa and The Hague conferences is responsible.

Building One of World's Largest Dirigibles



One of the largest dirigibles in the world is under construction in the aircraft factory at the Philadelphia navy yard. Sections of the huge craft are shipped to Lakehurst, N. J., to be assembled in the hangar built to house the ZR-2, which descended in flames in England a year ago. More than a billion nuts and several million rivets will be used during the construction of the giant dirigible. The photograph shows a section of the airship being assembled at the factory.

Smock Marriage an Old Custom

Records Show That Such Ceremonies Were Common in Early Colonial Times.

FREED GROOM OF WIFE'S DEBT

Sometimes She Wore Only a Sheet, but Nobody Objected—Embarrassment Often Relieved by Happy Man Buying Trousseau.

Bangor, Me.—A Bangor lawyer attending court in the ancient town of Wiscasset, Lincoln county, spent a rainy afternoon rummaging through the colonial records of the place, and in the course of his reading came across the official registration of a "smock marriage." Not knowing what a "smock marriage" was, he looked further and got some light on a custom that prevailed in England and in some of the colonies as well in the Eighteenth century.

Smock marriages were weddings where the bride appeared dressed only in a white chemise or sheet. The reason for it was the belief that if a man married a woman who was in debt he could be held liable for what she owed if he received with her any of her property; and also that if a woman married a man who was in debt his creditors could not take her property to satisfy their claims if he had received nothing from her at marriage. In England, says an antiquarian, there was at least one case where a bride was in puris naturalibus while the ceremony was being performed in the great church at Birmingham. The minister at first refused to perform the ceremony, but he could find nothing in the rubric to justify a refusal, so he married the pair.

Use Various Expedients.

To carry out the law fully as the people understood it the ceremony should always have been performed as it was in the Birmingham case, but various expedients were contrived to get around it. Sometimes the bride stood in a closet, and put her hand through a hole in the door; sometimes she stood behind a cloth screen and put her hand out at one side; again, she would wind about her a white sheet furnished by the bridegroom; sometimes she stood in her chemise, or "smock." Eventually, in Essex county, immodesty and embarrassment were avoided by the groom furnishing all the clothes worn by the bride, retaining title to the same in himself. This he did in the presence of witnesses, that he might be able to prove the fact in the event that he was sued for any debts she might have contracted.

A marriage of this kind was performed in Bradford in 1773, the following being a true copy of the record:

A "Foxy" Bridegroom.

"Bradford, Dec. ye 24, 1773. "This may certify whomever it may concern that James Bailey of Bradford who was married to the widow Mary Bacon November 22 last past by me ye subscriber then declared that he took the said person without anything of estate and that Lydia the wife of Eliaser Burbank & Mary the wife of Thomas Stickney & Margaret the wife of Caleb Burbank all of Bradford were witnesses that the clothes she then had on were of his providing and bestowing upon her. "WILLIAM BALCH, minister of ye Gospel."

It is noted by the same writer that in all cases of smock marriages that have come to his knowledge the brides have been widows. It is thought that during the reign of George III there were many smock marriages in Maine, then part of the Province of Massachusetts Bay chiefly in the Counties of Lincoln, and York, or in the territory

PEDIGREE HUNT IN BRITAIN

American Visitors Are Eager as Natives to Know About Their Ancestors.

London.—"Among the keenest inquiries into their pedigrees—and genealogy never before was as popular as it is at this moment—are many of the Americans now visiting this country," says Secretary Fothergill of the Society of Genealogists.

"The day of 'faked' pedigrees is past. What the modern American is seeking is the truth about his forebears, traced backward generation by generation.

"They are particularly interested in the new field of genealogical research that has recently been opened up, the deposition books of the old courts. This has not yet been properly exploited, for in many instances the records of the ecclesiastical and common law courts and the court of chancery are not yet open to public inspection.

"The fascination of these books is that they are not mere lists of names and dates. The very words spoken by the parties and the witnesses to these old disputes are preserved, so that the authentic voice of one's ancestors may be heard down the centuries."

The main work of the society is the preparation of the huge consolidated index, which already constitutes a record of more than 2,000,000 baptisms, marriages and deaths, with other biographical details in many cases.

WILLING TO TAKE A CHANCE

When Carlo Got Through Laughing the Deputy Game Warden Decided Not to Arrest Him.

San Quentin, Cal.—Carlo Ballesteri was fishing on the beach here. A man came up and watched him a while. Said the man:

"I'm a deputy fish warden. I think I'll put you in jail for 30 days for fishing with a net, which is against the law."

"Ha, ha!" said Carlo, or words to that effect.

"Thirty days in jail is nothing to laugh at," said the man.

"Ain't I the bird that knows it?" inquired Carlo. "I'm doing a life stretch at San Quentin prison and am fishing by special permission."

"O!" said the fish warden, and contented himself with confiscating the net.

Aged Woman Works Garden.

Nutdrell, O.—Mrs. William Russell, who is eighty-seven years of age, and lives in the west end of the town, has a garden consisting of half an acre of land which is filled with vegetables, such as potatoes, corn, beets, carrots, beans and many kinds of flowers. This garden, which is kept in excellent shape, is worked solely by Mrs. Russell. Mrs. Russell rises at 4 o'clock every morning and works in her garden most of each day.

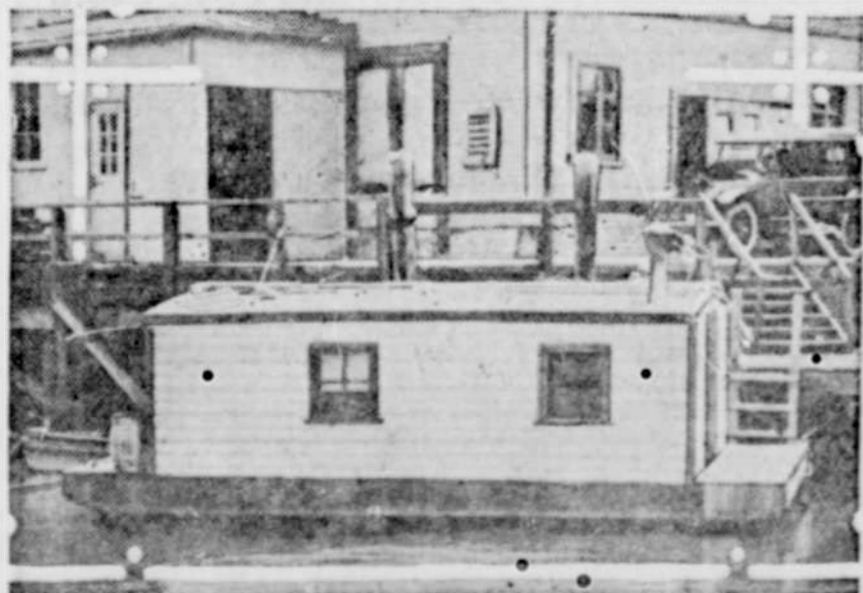
Pigeon Broods Nest of Rats in Mother's Absence

Glen Ridge, N. J.—In view of the well-known enmity between pigeons and rats, Herbert T. Darlington, a New York broker living in Summit avenue here, was amazed to find a pigeon sitting on a nest of young rats on the first floor of his garage.

Darlington had been missing squabs for some time and had supposed they were killed by rats. He keeps a loft of pigeons on the second floor of the garage. Early in the day he saw a large rat, apparently a mother rat, going into the garage. He shot it.

Then he found the pigeon on the nest, which also contained one empty pigeon egg. The little rats were asleep.

Floating Bar Found in the Potomac



Looks like a houseboat, but looks are deceiving, for when the revenue men swooped down upon this innocent-looking craft in the Potomac near Washington they found it was really a floating bar. The owner was absent, and remained absent.

AUTOS HIT; BABY SLEEPS ON

Child in Car Not Awakened by Serious Collision in New York State.

Tarrytown, N. Y.—A six-months-old baby in an automobile slept on after the car had collided with another and thrown out John Ryan of 67 Marquette avenue, Yonkers, who was rushed to the Grasslands hospital dying of a fractured skull.

The accident was at Elmsford, when Mr. and Mrs. Percy McBreath of Rockaway, N. J., were on their way to catch a ferry at Tarrytown. Ryan's car shot across in front of them and turned over as it was struck. Ryan was the only one hurt.

New Paper in Worcester.

Worcester, Mass.—Worcester is to have a new Sunday newspaper. The first issue of the Sunday Times will be published September 1. It will be sold for 5 cents. J. F. Estes, for many years managing editor of the Telegram, is the owner of the new paper and will be its editor and publisher.

SNAKE AS SUNSHADE HANDLE

Dog Is Rapidly Being Displaced in England as a Pet by Freak Rivals.

London, England.—The place long held by the dog as a family pet and street companion threatens to be usurped by the monkey and other exotic creatures. Women are seen carrying marmosets, mongooses, foxes, and parrots.

People also are getting accustomed to the woman with a young white fox on a string, another with three cats and the chimpanzee that rides in a motorcar.

But the most startling innovation in family pets was observed at a lawn party where a guest carried what appeared to be a sunshade with a highly decorative handle. Closer inspection revealed the "handle" to be a beautifully marked snake, perfectly motionless and carelessly twined over its fair owner's arm and around her sunshade.

Pennsylvania Has Soft Coal Reserves to Last 290 Years

Harrisburg.—Pennsylvania's bituminous coal fields contain 43,830,800,000 short tons of recoverable coal, enough to meet the demands of the next 290 years at the present rate of consumption, the state department of internal affairs announced in making public the results of a recent survey of the bureau of topographic and geological survey.

The supply available is less than previous estimates, which had placed the amount recoverable at at least 75,000,000,000 short tons.

The survey fixes the original bituminous deposits at 75,250,000,000 tons, of which 5,519,775,000 have been mined. Waste and unrecoverable coal reduces the amount available to the total estimated.