

A YUKON OUTFIT

WHAT THE GOLD HUNTER SHOULD TAKE.

Sound Advice for Those Who Contemplate Seeking Their Fortunes in the New Gold Fields of Alaska and the Northwest Territory.

Special Correspondence.]

The most practical and vital question to be decided by the man who intends to go to the Yukon next year is the composition and quantity of his outfit. What should he take and how much of it. This is far more important a question than that of the route he shall select, since by any regular route he would probably reach his destination, while should he not have a proper outfit, he would be likely to find his labor to have been all in vain, with failure and possible starvation staring him in the face.

Whatever a man would require to eat, to wear or to work with he should take with him. To go into that country depending upon being able to purchase any of the necessities of life or successful work is to run the risk of utter failure and calamity. Again and again was this asserted by experienced Yukoners when the excitement broke out in July. Publicly through the press and privately on all occasions they advised gold seekers to take with them a complete equipment for 18 months, certainly not less than a year, and to place no dependence whatever upon being able to purchase what they might need from trading posts. This advice was based upon the well-known conditions of work and transportation in that region. The miner might be located several hundred miles by a trail impassible in winter from the nearest trading post, while the post itself, even if accessible, might fail to secure a stock of goods.

The soundness of this advice has been amply demonstrated the present season. Hundreds who did not give it sufficient weight, have rushed into Dawson City with not enough food to last them through the winter, only to find that not a pound of food is to be purchased there, and that they are but adding to the distress of those already threatened with starvation. They have not done this in ignorance, but in defiance of the advice of men of experience. The golden mirage of their imaginations has blinded them to the practical, and they have rushed headlong to needless hardships, if not destruction. Yet the majority of them took this advice seriously at first, and equipped themselves well for the journey. Very few, indeed, of those who have reached Dawson with almost nothing for their support this winter, landed at Dyea or Skagway with less than a thousand pounds of supplies each. The secret of their present shortness is the difficulties of the trail and their intense eagerness to reach their destination. They have disposed of or abandoned the bulk of their outfits, trusting to luck, or the deity supposed to have fools in his special charge, to get through the winter somehow. They would have done better to have camped at the lakes till spring, than to have gone on to Dawson short of supplies. They would have done still better, when they found they could not get through this fall in good shape, to have returned to the coast and waited until spring for another attempt fully equipped. Those who followed this course are infinitely better off than those who sacrificed everything to their insane eagerness to get through, and are now at Dawson with nothing to do and threatened with being overwhelmed by a calamity of their own creation.

The value of the advice given to those who started last fall has been demonstrated by their experiences. The same advice is as valuable to those who will go in the spring. Take everything with you that you anticipate to need for a year for any purpose, and do not depend upon being able to buy anything whatever. It is folly to take for granted that there will be so many new steamers on the river next year that the country will be amply supplied with food and other necessities. Assuming that transportation facilities will be increased ten times, this will be offset by the undoubted fact that more than ten times as many persons will go in as are there now, and that the added transportation facilities will be used to carry them and their outfits. To the thousands who are already there and must depend entirely upon supplies brought in for sale, must be added the other thousands who will not heed the voice of prudence and will rush in lightly equipped, depending upon purchasing what they need for the winter. It is extremely doubtful whether enough goods for sale can be taken in next summer to supply this demand. Indeed, in view of the experiences of this year, it is almost certain that they can not.

Even if it were not for this uncertainty, the conditions of successful work there require that the miner take in a full equipment and have it with him wherever he goes. The Yukon gold fields cover a great area of country, while the trading posts are few and at present only along the Yukon river. Other posts will doubtless be established next year, near such new districts as may become populous, yet even these will be only at points accessible to steamers. Those going to the gold fields must not expect to find claims near the present centers of population. They will be compelled to prospect distant streams and gulches, and if successful, they may locate several hundred miles from the nearest store. To be compelled to make a journey after supplies might cause the loss of the entire season's prospecting, even assuming that the things needed could be purchased at all. Every prospecting party

should be fully equipped to subsist itself for a year. Otherwise it can not carry on its work under the conditions necessary for success. This is made clear when one understands the method of mining and the difficulties of travel in the winter season, in a mountainous region without trails, the ground covered with snow and the thermometer almost continuously below zero.

The ground is frozen from surface to bedrock, a distance varying in mining claims from 20 to 40 feet. Even in summer it thaws out less than a foot from the surface. The best pay dirt or gravel is just above the bed rock, and to sink a shaft down to this requires a great deal of fuel, and it takes many weeks of hard work in the open season to gather fuel enough to last through the winter for heating and working purposes. Water for washing out the dirt and extracting the gold can be had only in the summer and early fall. In some districts water flows only a few weeks each year. All the dirt taken out of the shaft is piled up near it till the following summer, and until then the miner can not tell what will be the result of his year's labor.

This is the ordinary programme of the Yukon miner. He reaches the gold fields in June or July. He spends the next few weeks in prospecting and finally locates a claim. There is then but a short time left in which to gather fire wood and prepare for work. During the winter he sinks his shaft and piles up the dirt to be run through sluice boxes the next summer. When he can get water he begins washing, and by the time he has completed it more than a year has passed from the time he first arrived in the gold fields, and it may then be too late for him to get out of the country that season. If he went in supplied for 18 months and has kept his supplies he is all right. If not, he may be in the position of those Klondike miners this winter, who have not supplies to carry them through till spring and can not buy them at any price.

So much for the necessity of an ample equipment. Now a few words about the nature of it. Some things are absolute necessities, and one of these is quicksilver for saving the gold. Take five pounds. To be without it would be like a soldier without ammunition. It should be in a metal flask of some kind, something that will not break, and care should be taken not to spill it. A pick and long-handled shovel are necessary tools, also a gold pan. You will want a kit of tools for making a boat, as well as for building a cabin, fumes, etc. It should consist of whipsaw, handsaw, jack plane, draw-knife, axe, claw hatchet, hammer, square, chisel, file, whetstone, chalk line and wire and galvanized nails, also oakum, pitch, oars, rowlocks, calking iron, boat cotton, twine, sail needles, wooden block and manila cotton rope.

The necessary camping outfit consists of a tent, a Yukon stove, a nest of three camp kettles, fry pan, bake pan, water bucket, plates, cup and saucer, coffee pot, knives, forks, spoons, two large spoons and a butcher knife. The best materials for utensils are aluminum, graniteware and steel in the order named. No tin, china or glass is desirable. There is no economy in not getting the best and a full equipment. Food must be good and properly cooked if one would retain health and be in condition to work. Insufficient or poorly cooked food, with little variety, is the chief cause of scurvy. Too much care cannot be exercised in this particular.

As for food, an adequate supply for 18 months weighs about a ton. The chief items are 800 pounds of flour, 300 pounds of bacon, 150 pounds each of beans and sugar, 75 pounds each of rolled oats or other mush material and corn meal, 50 pounds of rice, six dozen cans of condensed milk, 85 pounds of butter in sealed cans, 150 pounds of evaporated vegetables, 100 pounds of evaporated fruit, 50 pounds of prunes and raisins, 30 pounds of dried fish, 40 pounds of coffee, with baking powder, soda, salt, pepper, ginger, mustard, yeast cakes, tea, soap, matches, lime juice (very important), dried beef, extract of beef, soups in tins, sausage, tobacco, etc., as desired, bearing in mind always that variety of food promotes health. There has more or less been said in the papers about various concentrated foods, but with the exception of evaporated vegetables and fruit, condensed preserves, condensed milk and beef extract there is nothing yet been brought forward which has been proved desirable. One can not afford to experiment with his stomach in Alaska.

All supplies should be carefully packed in canvas sacks of a total weight of 60 pounds each as nearly as possible. Canvas of superior quality should be used, the object being to preserve the food from loss by dampness as well as by breaking or tearing of the packages. Fifty pound packages are the most convenient for handling, and this is often as great a weight as one man can carry. It is better to have these canvas sacks paraffined, to resist dampness. Do not use oiled canvas, as the extreme coldness causes it to crack, with consequent loss of the contents of the sack. This is true also of oiled clothing, sleeping bags, etc. Plain canvas is better than oiled, and paraffined better than plain. A canvas tarpaulin is necessary as an outfit cover, and this may also be fitted up and used for a sail. The canvas sacks should be numbered and a list of the contents of each kept. The owner's name should be plainly marked on each. Such necessities as matches, candles, etc., should be distributed throughout the sacks, so that a loss of a portion of the outfit will not deprive the owner of these things. Put matches in tin boxes. The camper will require a tent, 8x10 or 10x12 being the usual sizes taken. Each man should have a canvas sleeping bag, preferably paraffined, with a hood to draw over his head. He can have another heavy woolen sleeping bag to go

inside this, or use blankets, as he may prefer, though there is more warmth to the same weight in the sleeping bag.

As for clothing, the essentials are mackinaw suits, heavy woolen underwear and overshirts, heavy woolen socks, woolen mitts and fleece lined leather mitts, heavy leather boots, gum boots, overalls, woolen cap, soft felt hat and a waterproof clothing sack. To this equipment one may add whatever he may think desirable, but these at least are necessary. The question of footwear is an important one. Gum boots are worn only while at work in the water, either in a canoe or along the trail. Leather boots crack and are easily ruined in the snow and cold. The Indians make a moccasin boot, called "muckluak," which is the usual footwear along the Yukon, but it will of course be impossible for them to supply the demand for them next year. This renders it advisable for the gold-seeker to take at least one extra pair of boots with him. The most desirable is the style of boot worn by lumbermen.

There are numerous little things that are a necessary part of an equipment. Every man should have a small kit of shoemaker's tools and supplies, also a complete mending outfit for clothing, toilet articles, etc., all in a case with pockets, one that can be rolled up and tied. A few yards of mosquito netting are necessary, for mosquitoes are a pest. Goggles to protect the eyes from snow blindness are necessary. Pens, ink, pencils, paper and government stamped envelopes, both Canadian and United States, should be taken. A few books are worth their weight. Fishing tackle and shot guns are likely to prove of service, as the streams teem with fish and water-fowl are extremely abundant in summer. Traps are useless, as all taking of animals for their fur is done by Indians. A compass is desirable, also snow calks for the feet. For travel on the snow a Yukon sled is needed. No matter by what route one travels or how he expects to transport his outfit, there will be times either on the journey in or later when he will have to pack supplies on his own back, and he should be equipped for it. The ordinary packing straps cut and gill the shoulders and let the load lie like a dead weight on the small of the back and the kidneys. There are various devices for overcoming these troubles. The best of them are the Merriam pack, by which the weight is thrown upon the hips, and the Yukon packing frame, which places the weight on the shoulders. Either is worth far more than it costs to the man who has to pack his outfit. In packing it is a great mistake to overdo oneself or to carry a load too far. The best plan is to move the entire outfit along by short stages, and then to stop work before completely exhausted. One should be especially careful not to sit around without a coat when heated or to wear wet clothing when not at work.

Every man going to Alaska should take a small supply of medicines and surgical necessities. These outfits, both regular and homoeopathic, may be procured in specially prepared cases, and cost about \$10. He should also understand the use of the remedies and appliances. Finally, the best advice of all is to take only the best quality of everything, whether clothing, provisions or utensils, and to procure them from experienced outfitters, who know just what is wanted and how to pack it. It is poor economy to save a cent or two a pound on provisions and then pay a dollar a pound to get this cheap food to its destination.

These things can all be bought cheaper and to better advantage at the outfitting points from which the steamers sail than at any other place. It is both economy and wisdom to wait until the final starting point is reached before outfitting, as a perfect equipment, selected under the advice of reliable outfitters and properly packed, is half the battle for success.

Girl Fishers in a Church.
Because the members of his church were negligent in attending Sunday services and still more so in contributing to the support of himself and the church, Rev. Maurice Penfield Fikes, pastor of the First Baptist church at Trenton, N. J., decided to try an innovation to attract people to hear him preach and their nickles and dimes from their unwilling pockets. He introduced pretty girls as ushers, and is more than pleased with the results of the first experiment. Mr. Fikes had the sagacity to make announcement of the fact that the young women would show folks to their seats and take up the collection. He was careful, too, to pick out six of the prettiest girls in his flock, so the church had ever before been seen there. Every seat in the church was filled long before services were begun, and it was necessary to get chairs in the aisles. As ushers the girls were a grand success, but their best services were given when the time came to take up the collection. The innovation doesn't meet with the approval of the other preachers, who say that when people are drawn to a church simply for the privilege of looking upon a bevy of pretty girls there is no lasting good to be expected from it. But Mr. Fikes says that he believes in getting people into his church and he doesn't care how he does it so long as the means are legitimate and honest. It took a long time to take up the collection, but when it was over and the money counted there was nearly \$300 to add to the treasury of the church.

Mrs. Maud Parks of Look Raven, Baltimore county, Md., was sitting near a stove when a celluloid comb in her hair caught fire. Somebody present got a bucket of water and emptied it over her.

California claims the largest boy in the world of his age. His name is John Bardin. He is 15 years old, six feet five inches tall, and weighs 220 pounds.

KNOCKED OUT.

It knocks out all calculations of attending to business in the right way for a day when we wake up in the morning sore and stiff. The disappointment lies in going to bed all right and waking up all wrong. There is a short and sure way out of it. Go to bed after a good rub with St. Jacobs Oil and you wake up all right; soreness and stiffness all gone. So sure is this, that men much exposed to changeable weather keep a bottle of it on the mantel for use at night to make sure of going to work in good fix.

Long Distance Signaling.
The Greenwich observatory has been put into telegraph communication with that of the McGill college, Montreal, and the signals can be flashed between the two places, a distance of 3,300 miles, in three-quarters of a second.

THE LAST MAN ON EARTH
To recklessly experiment upon himself with hope of relief is the dyspeptic. Yet the nostrums for this malady are as the sands of the sea, and, presumably, about as efficacious. Indigestion, that obstinate malady, even if of long perpetuity, is eventually overcome with Hester's Stomach Bitters, an appetizing tonic and alterative, which cures constipation, fever and ague, bilious remittent, rheumatism, kidney complaint and febrileness.

An even cubic foot of average soil was weighed and analyzed at Cornell University. It was found that the soil in one acre one foot deep weighed 3,082 1/2 tons.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.
We are asserting in the courts our right to the exclusive use of the word "CASTORIA," and "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," as our Trade Mark. I, Dr. Samuel Pitcher, of Hyannis, Massachusetts, was the originator of "PITCHER'S CASTORIA," the same that has borne and does now bear the fac-simile signature of CHAS. H. FLITCHER on every wrapper. This is the original "PITCHER'S CASTORIA" which has been used in the homes of the mothers of America for over thirty years. Look carefully at the wrapper and see that it is the kind you have always bought, and has the signature of CHAS. H. FLITCHER on the wrapper. No one has authority from me to use my name except The Centaur Company of which Chas. H. Pitcher is President.

March 3, 1897. SAMUEL PITCHER, M.D.
Lightning rods may be valuable if large enough and insulated sufficiently to carry away a bolt of lightning. The common lightning rod is not of much use.

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All Eastern Syrup, so-called, usually very light colored and of heavy body, is made from sugar cane and is strictly pure. It is for sale by first-class grocers, in cans only. Manufactured by THE PACIFIC COAST SYRUP CO. All genuine "Ten Grades Syrup" have the manufacturer's name lithographed on every can.

In a recent lecture Professor Bergmann, of Berlin, stated that in 50 cases of perforating the skull for epilepsy, he knew of only one permanent cure.

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Firefighters are made in Germany by twisting wood into a rope, cutting it into short lengths, and dipping the ends of the pieces into melted resin.

I believe my prompt use of Pilo's Cure prevented quick consumption.—Mrs. Lucy Wallace, Marquette, Kans., Dec. 12, 1895.

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Awful Warning.
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"Last summer I was almost an invalid; could not walk across my room without pain. I sent for our physician. He pronounced my case a bad one of 'Prolapsus Uteri,' congestion and ulceration of the womb, and said I was to lie abed. I was so distressed to find myself so helpless and useless to my family; I saw your Compound advertised and thought I would try it. I took several bottles, and used the Sanative Wash and Pills as directed, and now I am as strong as I ever was, and do all my own housework. I can walk more than a mile without any inconvenience. Oh! I am truly grateful. I cannot write the good you have done me. Words are inadequate to express it. May God bless you for the good you are doing."—MRS. SIDNEY HAMLET, Red House, Va.

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If only one person finds the word, that person gets \$2000.00. If \$2000.00 will be equally divided among them.

Every one sending a brown or yellow ticket will receive a creeping babies at the end of the contest. Those sending three envelope will receive an 1898 pocket calendar—no advertising creeping babies and pocket calendars will be different from the last contest.

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The various experiments made with solar engines by the French in Algeria, where the sun is never overclouded and shines with great power, have been attended in some instances with marked success. The best apparatus is stated to be a simple arrangement of boiler and concave mirror, the steam generated being condensed in a coiled tube surrounded by water, this being intended merely for distilling water. But in India an inventor has contrived some machines with which more varied results are accomplished. One of these, says the Philadelphia Record, is what is termed a cooking-box, made of wood and lined with reflecting mirrors, at the bottom of the box being a small copper boiler covered with glass to retain the heat of the rays concentrated by the mirrors upon the boiler. In this contrivance any sort of food may be quickly cooked, the result being a stew or boil if the steam is retained, or if allowed to escape it is a bake. The heat with this device may be augmented indefinitely by increasing the diameter of the box.

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By local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian tube. When this tube is inflamed it has a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; and cases out of ten are caused by Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surface.

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Germany and China.
The foreign office at Pekin says that when the bandits killed the two missionaries it ordered the governor of Shanghai to arrest the culprits, and the capture of four of them was effected, but meanwhile, indeed only one day before, the Germans landed troops and occupied the forts.

The Germans still occupy Kiao Chan, a place of great strategic and commercial importance, and show no disposition to abandon it, but, on the contrary, appear to have seized upon the murder of the missionaries as a pretext for obtaining and permanently occupying a very desirable position upon the Chinese coast, and so clear is this determination that China has appealed to Russia to interfere in her behalf against Germany. Germany reinforced her squadron in the Chinese waters on the heels of this seizure of Kiao Chan bay, and it is reported that as long ago as 1895 one of our warships on the Chinese coast was applied to by a German vessel for charts of these waters, "and particularly requested detailed charts of the harbor of Kiao Chan." The Germans verified these charts, and made more extended surveys of the place, and when "the German naval officers at that time discussed the probability of their occupying that port, the murder of German missionaries was not mentioned."

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