

SEATTLE'S CRUEL CRIME.

Enticing Thousands to go to Barren Cape Nome.

In Seattle, last winter, it was well understood among the knowing ones that the beach diggings at Nome were exhausted. Experienced placer miners came down from that camp with reports that could not be doubted. Among these was Peter L. Trout, an experienced and reliable miner, who, prior to going to Nome, had served as United States customs inspector at Circle City. He prospected the beach with much thoroughness, and found many rich spots, but in every instance, as in the case of every other man working there, the pay streaks were narrow and shallow, and gave out with a few hours or a few days working.

Mr. Trout then gave up working on the beach, and took a trip back into the hills to prospect a creek. He found the stream staked for its entire length, and also its side gulches. In brief, tramp where he would, he found the whole country staked. Returning to Anvil City, Trout told the business men there, "as he had often told others, that next summer the beach would not pay to be worked with rockers." Even then the gold was practically cleaned out. He returned to Seattle and embodied his experiences and views in an interesting pamphlet. Other authorities brought out similar reports, but the transportation companies, the Seattle newspapers and the outfitting concerns of that city were in no mood to disseminate the facts. They were all primed for a stampede, and it had to come off, regardless of the consequences.

All reports agree that conditions at Nome are alarming. More than 20,000 men are huddled on the desolate shore. The beach diggings are exhausted, the creeks are all staked, and there is no employment. Typhoid fever and smallpox are raging, and lawlessness is rampant. Suicides are frequent, and a spirit of cold selfishness has seized the despondent population.

The work of exciting these thousands, luring them to certain failure, and dumping them on one of the most desolate spots on earth, is one of the stupendous crimes of the century. At no time had these victims a "chance for their money." Long before they took passage it was known, quite beyond question, that the bottom had fallen out of the beach diggings, and it was also known that the limited creek placers there would not employ a tenth of the men who took passage.

In the end, Seattle will gain nothing from this fiasco. To outfit the thousands who joined the stampede, business was screwed to an abnormal pitch. It was transient trade, gone as quickly as the thin seams of gold on the Nome beaches. The fever will cool in Seattle almost as quickly as it has cooled at Cape Nome, and some part of the northern depression will react on the Puget Sound city. Seattle ought to be above such will of the wisp projects. Its future greatness will not be questioned, but this sort of business will add nothing to it.—Spokesman-Review.

Legally, Guano is a Metal.

In the case of the Utah Guano company vs. the State of Utah and Alfred Lambourne, the general land department has sustained the local office in its decision rendered in 1899 in favor of the Guano company, whose locations embrace the greater portion of Gunnison island in the Great Salt lake. The Guano company made its locations under the placer mining law, while Lambourne and his associates claimed the same ground under the

desert act, the contention made by the defense being that the ground was not mineral bearing and therefore not subject to location as such. The local office, however, decided that guano is a mineral, and this decision has been sustained by the general office. The culmination of this fight in favor of the Guano company will doubtless result in extensive operations on the island and the establishment in Utah of a large guano manufacturing establishment, as the island is said to contain vast deposits of this mineral which is of superior quality. Heavy capitalists are interested in the enterprise and it is more than likely that a sale will soon be recorded. Edwin W. Senior, the well-known land attorney, conducted the case for the Guano company.—Salt Lake Mining Review.

Granite-Hilgard Road Survey.

Engineer W. T. Chalk, who has charge of the survey of the Hilgard-Granite railroad, is at the land office today completing a map of the proposed route. This will be forwarded to the Interior department at Washington, in accordance with regulations for the securing of the right of way over government lands. Mr. Chalk states that he has not yet completed his estimate of the cost of construction, but is satisfied with the main proposition and that is that there is a practical and feasible route as indicated by the preliminary survey, and that the road can be built without excessive cost of construction, and furthermore that the road will be built. The distance from Hilgard to Granite is 61.3 miles, according to the preliminary survey. The most expensive portion of the road is the first thirty miles, although there is one mile of heavy work just over the summit. It is probable that one short tunnel will be required, although this may be thrown out on a revised survey. The prospective tonnage will justify the construction of the road; there are two or three of the big mines near Granite each one of which is ready at any time to contract for the shipment of ten cars of ore daily for ten years, and for a longer term if necessary. There is other traffic which shows that the road will be a paying investment. The actual work of construction will be commenced as soon as the necessary arrangements for the same are completed.—La Grande Chronicle.

Telegraph Poles Set in Solid Rock

The Columbia Southern telegraph line is completed to a point a little south of Wilcox, say nine miles south of Shaniko. Some people have expressed themselves as surprised at the slowness with which the line is being built. A glance at the ground in which the poles are set, however, will go a long way towards proving that the line is being strung with comparative rapidity. Every hole has to be blasted out of the solid rock. This takes a great deal of patient labor, and a lot of time in consequence. One good feature of this is that the poles from Wilcox to Shaniko will never blow down till they rot, and that will not occur for many years. It is confidently expected that by the 1st of August the line will be completed and in working order. When this is done we will have all the advantages of the most favored cities.—Shaniko Leader.

Growing Magnitude of Our Mining.

K. R. Kasper, the regular correspondent of the Mining and Engineering Review for Oregon, will remain in Sumpter all summer, and keep the readers of the Review well informed regarding the mines of that section. His reports will be entirely a truthful reflex of mining developments in Baker county, as he sees them from a view point of a man of large experience, as he is a careful and conscientious reporter. He will also contribute special articles to several daily papers. The growing magnitude of Baker county's mining industries, warrants the establishment of a permanent news bureau in that section.—Mining and Engineering Review.

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