

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 impassable 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 to be added 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, dunes, etc. It should consist of whipsaw, handsaw, jack plane, draw-knife, axe, claw hatchet, hammer, square, chisel, files, 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, granite ware 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 600 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, 35 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 50 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 claim 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 kinders. 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 homeopathic, 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 Ushers 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 more young men in its pews than 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. 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.

Miss Maud Parks of Lock 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.

DUTY OF THE DOCTOR

QUESTION AS TO WHAT HE OWES TO THE PUBLIC.

No Doubt that Physicians Are Greatly Imposed Upon by Unscrupulous People—Say from 25 to 60 Per Cent. of Their Work Is Donated.

Night Calls Often Needless. A question of considerable interest to the medical profession is coming up in the large cities as to the rules that should govern miscellaneous night calls. Some physicians, while not upholding a doctor in heartlessly weighing his fee in the balance with a human life, declare that doctors are imposed upon so often day and night by those able to pay for his services, but failing to do so, that he is justified in



HURRIES OUT IN THE STORM.

consulting his personal desires and comfort before answering a call. So much of a physician's work is practically charity, they say, that he is at liberty to use the same prudence about undertaking the work offered him by strangers that any other professional man is. Other physicians assert vehemently that every reputable doctor will answer any call, that it is part of his religion to be ever ready to succor the afflicted owing to the peculiar nature of his profession, and that it is not comparable to the stand that might be taken for a fee by an attorney or a man in any other business whose services might be sought by a stranger. They say that the emergency which usually exists when a doctor is called

often originate at 2 o'clock in the morning. Very often when a doctor is thus called upon at night to render immediate aid with no fee in sight when he asks for the history of the case he learns the child has been ill for two or three days, but "it did not look serious and we didn't think we would need a doctor until to-night." Then at an early hour in the morning, after having had a few days in which to seek the free aid that is at their disposal, they call upon a professional man to leave his bed, with no prospect of remuneration, and attend the case of the child.

A favorite trick of panic-stricken families in an emergency, the doctors say, is to call up half a dozen doctors at once in order to be sure and have enough of them on hand. If a member of the family awakes the household with agonizing groans and a bad case of cholera morbus everyone decides he is going to die in half an hour, and someone rushes to the nearest telephone and calls up all the doctors in a radius of a mile. Neither knows the others have been called, but, anxious to save a life and with the appeal of the frenzied one still ringing in his ears, hastens to dress. Then he goes to a dark and cheerless barn and latches a tired horse by the light of a lantern, and with the sleep still in his eyes is soon speeding toward the house. From other directions half a dozen other physicians are coming, but they are met at the door by a member of the household, who is "So sorry, but we couldn't wait, and Dr. Brown gave an injection of morphine and he's all right now."

A juncture where the physician feels decidedly chary of giving his services is in a case where a doctor has been in attendance on a patient for days and has prescribed a certain course of treatment by the family. But in the night the patient appears to become worse, his breathing becomes light or his pulse rapid and in alarm some member of the family rushes for the nearest doctor. He is told breathlessly at the door that a man is dying in the next block and unless he hurries a life will have slipped away. In nine cases out of ten the doctor will hastily dress, and without asking any more questions take his medicine case and start for the house. There he finds a table covered with bottles and pills and powders left by the other physician, and is told that they would have sent for the other doctor only he lives so far away. Of course that sort of

a humanitarian point of view more than a utilitarian, and openly say that the medical profession owes it to the public to be every ready to respond to a call.

That there is a great deal of injustice on the part of the public cannot be doubted, and it is also true that if the public would consider a physician not as a bounden servant, but as a professional man full of duties, and never infringe on his night leisure except in cases of real urgency, the man of medicine would always meet patients halfway. It is an error to suppose that a doctor is compelled to consider all calls. There is no law strictly covering the case, while many eminent physicians declare it to be a part of their religion to regard calls, whether they bring fees or not, as part of a bounden duty, they say to solve the problem of just a failure to meet patients half-way when a physician should be required to give his time at unreasonable hours for nothing, has driven many persons out of the profession.

NEW BABY INCUBATOR

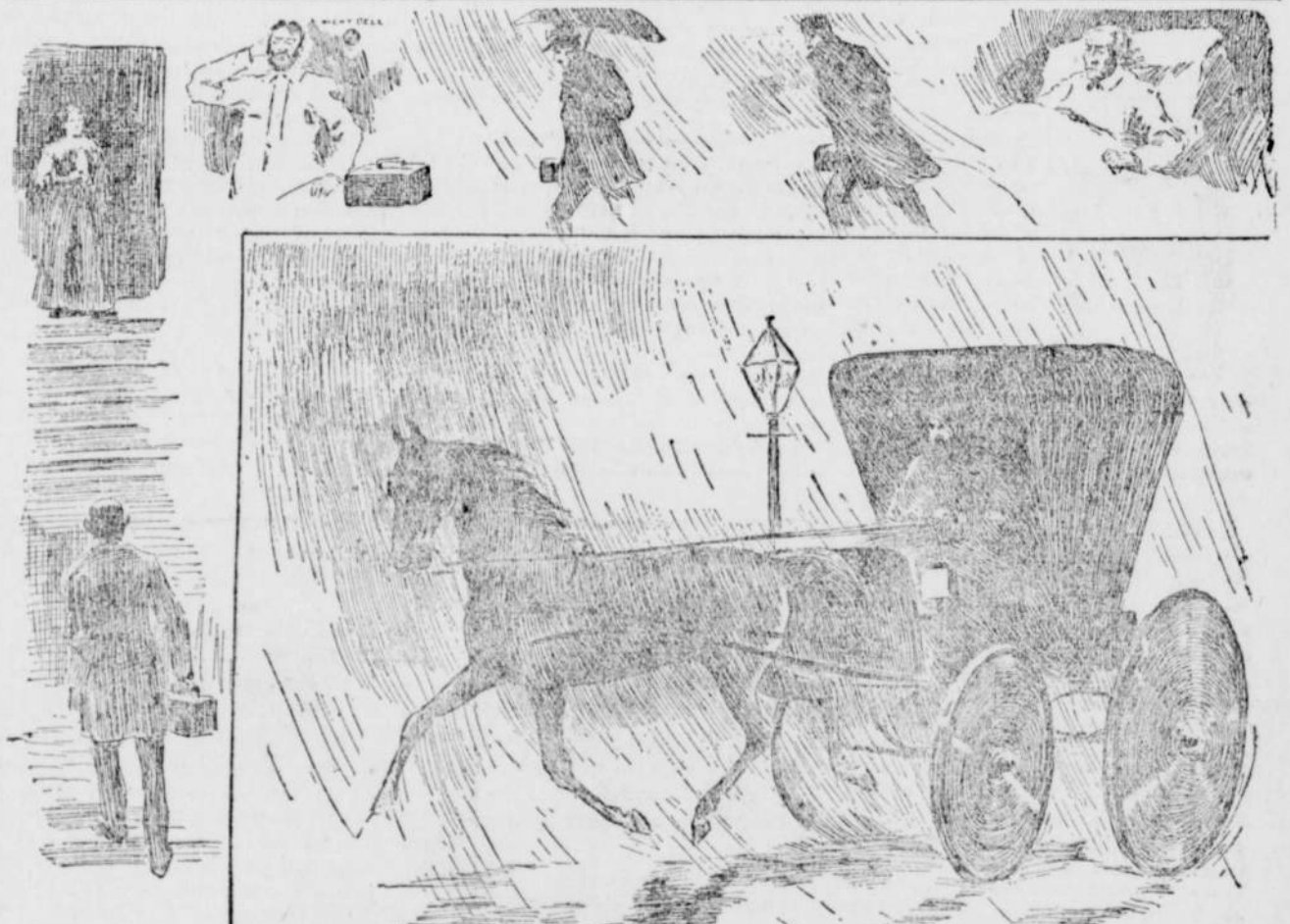
Very Efficient Contrivance to Fan the Feeble Sparks of Life.

This illustration shows one of the latest baby incubators, with nurse in attendance. These incubators are used as a means of saving the lives of prematurely born or very weakly infants. The incubator is composed of a metal frame mounted on a metal stand. The



BABY INCUBATOR AND NURSE.

child rests on a wire hammock suspended from the four corners, and in front are two swinging glass doors made to close tightly, while at one side is a glass window through which the child may be seen. This box is heated by air which is made moist and agreeable by being passed through a small



NIGHTLY SCENES IN A DOCTOR'S LIFE.

In the night should be sufficient incentive to him to respond to the call and take his chance of being paid later; that a case of life and death cannot wait until the morning, as a lawsuit of any other business might.

Physicians of years of experience in general practice in Chicago make the startling statement that from 25 to 60 per cent. of a doctor's work is donated. Some physicians say about one-third of their time and experience goes for nothing, others place it at a quarter, and two declare that fully 60 per cent. was never paid for. Some of this work, of course, they know will not be paid for, that done at hospitals and for people who frankly confess their inability to meet the bill. But it is the other part that rubs. It is the bills of people who can and will not pay that make doctors shy about going out on night calls and increasing the annual percentage of charity work. It is well known that doctors donate a far greater percentage of their work than other professional men do. The medical charities of a great city like Chicago, says the Chronicle, are enormous in the aggregate. The time that is donated by hundreds of doctors to hospitals and dispensaries is worth many thousands of dollars, and by many in the profession the claim is made that the doctors are far too liberal in this regard since the free dispensaries and hospitals are taken advantage of by people well able to pay for medical attendance, and thus the profession is cheated out of thousands of dollars every year.

In very many of the cases where doctors are called upon at night and urged to hasten to the bedside of a dying child such action would not be necessary had the parents of the child taken precaution to visit a dispensary the day before and secure what was necessary for the suffering little one. Complaints of a serious nature do not

thing does not tend to make a physician fall in love with night messages. He finds a case almost at his door which was passed over his head to a doctor in another part of town when the patient became ill, but when a crisis arises the family rushes to the nearest doctor, and in nine cases out of ten he is not paid for the call. After a few dozen of these experiences he is a little shy about chasing out into the night on a hurry call.

The majority of doctors, however, go on the principle that a physician's time is not his own, that he is enlisted in the cause of suffering humanity and should be ready at all times to render aid to the needy. These doctors for the most part are the younger generation who have not had so many hard



"DR. SMITH GOT HERE FIRST."

knocks as their gray-bearded brethren and who are striving to build up a practice in the fierce competition which obtains in large cities. They insist that whoever calls on a doctor at any hour for aid should be answered at once. They look at the question from

sheet of absorbent antiseptic wool suspended in medicated water.

Kien Long and His Physicians. There used to be related a curious anecdote of old Kien Long, emperor of China. He was inquiring of Sir George Staunton the manner in which physicians were paid in England. When, after some difficulty, his majesty was made to comprehend the system, he exclaimed:

"Is any man well in England that can afford to be ill? Now I will inform you," said he, "how I manage my physicians. I have four, to whom the care of my health is committed. A certain weekly salary is allowed them, but the moment I am ill the salary stops till I am well again. I need not inform you that my illnesses are usually short."—Harper's Round Table.

Spitzbergen Hotel. The hotel recently erected in Spitzbergen is thus described: Built in Norwegian style, it has a large hall, and a quantity of smaller rooms, with thirty beds. It is also provided with a book for visitors' names, among which may now be seen those of Sverdrup, Fuлда, Prince Hohenlohe-Schillingensfuerst, E. Vely, and others. The climate of Spitzbergen is said to have the most favorable influence on persons suffering from chest diseases.

Real Mean. Miss Olds—Have you seen my new photographs? I have just had a dozen taken, and am very much pleased with them.

Miss Smartleigh—Ah, you wore a thick veil, I suppose.

What has become of the old-fashioned man who banked up his house every fall?

A sick man never gets sympathy as long as his appetite is good.