

VACATION DAYS.

SOME ARE LEARNING TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THEM.

The Delightful Month of September—Vacation Habits Growing on Our People—How Brave American Women Have Saved the Cuban Child.

The wise man chooses the month of September in which to take his vacation, and the fool goes in August.

Of the truth of this remark there can be but little dispute, but the man who takes both August and September is perhaps the wisest of all. The people who most enjoy their summer outing have come to see that September is the month in which to get the most out of a vacation, and those who can afford it, linger longer at their seaside and mountain homes. Ten years ago September 1st was regarded as the day for the home-coming of the absent city folk. Now it is only one of the days set for their returning, for hundreds who have been at the seashore or other resorts, are now going into the Catskills and not a few are invading the Adirondacks.

Surely there is no more acceptable time for a vacation than this delightful month of September. The heat of summer is past, and the air is cool and invigorating, thus giving a new zest to sports and new energy to the hunter or the tourist as they climb the mountain and commune with nature. The Catskill mountain resorts reap their richest harvests in September if the weather is seasonable.

And Saratoga, too, never holds so many attractions for some people as in September. Of course the loud people who follow the races, the people who come to show their fine clothes and turbans, are not here now. But there are hundreds of refined and intelligent people who are among the most pleasant and companionable persons one can meet, who will remain until October, and gain more in health and strength than others have lost by their pleasure seeking amidst the heat and discomforts of August.

It has been given out officially that the President was so charmed with Point Bluff, that he and his party have promised to return there next year. This is gratifying to the managers of the hotel, who are certain to reap a rich harvest from this announcement. This hotel has attracted much more attention than any other in the country this year, and it is all on account of the presence of the plain and dignified Chief Magistrate of the Nation. It is really a little singular that the American people pay so much attention to the doings of the President, especially when he is on his annual outing. For four years we have had the papers competing with each other to see which could tell the largest fish story respecting the luck of Grover Cleveland. It has been said that everything printed about the President is read with the keenest interest, and that especially all that concerns his invalid wife is highly prized.

In spite of the cry of hard times it is very evident that most of the summer resorts have done a good business this year, and some of them have made considerable money. The vacation habit is growing upon the American people, and it is well that such is the case. If any people need vacations, it is those who live amidst the strain and

excitement of our modern city life which consumes so much energy and vital force that seasons of rest become absolutely necessary. The trouble is, however, that vacations do not by any means bring rest. There is many a man, and woman too, now returning to town whose vacation has brought only a ceaseless round of pleasurable excitement. But it has, at least, been a change, has enabled them to get out of the ruts in which their lives were running. As people become more sensible they will gradually learn how to take vacations that are restful and recuperative and which will, in reality, fortify one for the hard work of the coming winter. Some have already learned the art of thus preparing for the strain upon their constitutions. These are philosophers and are to be envied.

But even the fashionable summer resorts, with their continual whirl of excitement, their competition in dress and display, all of which absorb so much of time, and both mental and physical energy are infinitely better for the jaded business man and woman of society than no vacation at all, because the change of air scenes and surroundings has diverted the mind and shifted the strain for the time at least, to other quarters. If a person walking up hill turns around when tired and walks backward, he will become partially rested, because the backward step brings into use a different set of muscles and relieves the strain on others. And so, if we must "keep moving," even in our "recreations," perhaps some portions of our physical and mental composition may enjoy a brief respite and thus some benefit accrue. But how much better it might be, casting aside both care and the love of display, our weary jaded city folk could sit down in the cooling shadows of a quiet farm-yard and rest both the body and the mind.

A gentleman who returned to town the other day, said that he believed he had gotten the value of the money he expended for his vacation, in compressed energy of body and mind. He had engaged board at a farm house two miles from a post-office, and had walk-

Miss Cisneros' Cuban Home.

ed to and from the village once each day for exercise. He had eaten heartily of the good things the farm afforded, and had simply stretched himself in the shade and rested. For his four weeks' outing he had paid \$25, and to save this he had not been compelled to put off a dozen collectors as his partner had, and whom he must now go home to face after a two weeks' stay at five times the cost at Saratoga.

The good women of America, at their summer homes, have had their hearts deeply moved by the recital of the wrongs inflicted upon the beautiful young Cuban girl, Miss Cisneros, by the Spanish authorities in Havana. Undoubtedly some of the more sensational newspapers have over-stated some phases of the case, but the unvarnished truth points to one of the blackest stories in the history of the unfortunate island. More than 40,000 American women have signed the petition to the Queen Regent, for the release of Miss Cisneros. General Weyer has denied that the sentence of banishment for twenty years demanded by the prosecution has been actually passed upon the young lady, but the essential fact remains uncontradicted, viz.: That a Spanish officer was found at midnight in the young lady's room, and her cries brought the assistance of neighbors, who seized and bound the

officer, who was afterwards rescued by his soldiers. The evidence seems to point to the fact that to relieve himself from disgrace, he made charges against Miss Cisneros of having enticed him to her home for the purpose of having him assassinated. This charge is completely refuted by the fact that Col. Berriz was in the hands of Miss Cisneros' friends for more than two hours, and was entirely unharmed.

The story of the incarceration of the beautiful girl in the prison for fallen women is fresh in the minds of all. There she was detained with scarcely the necessities of life, and compelled to associate with the lowest creatures in the city. These facts are fully established by the testimony of several Cuban ladies who were in prison with her, and who have since been liberated and are now in New York city. The interest which the American ladies have taken in the case has already borne fruit, for instructions were telegraphed from the Queen to give the young lady proper care, and to treat her as a distinguished prisoner. She has since been removed from the prison and placed in a convent.

There is no longer the slightest fear of the cruel sentence being put into execution, but there is every reason to believe that it would have been, had it not been for the all-powerful appeal of the women of America. With that appeal is now coupled the demand that Miss Cisneros be sent to America, and permitted to live among the women whose efforts have rescued her from a living death.

Queer Exchange of Counterfeit Coins. The police of Paris recently discovered a regularly organized market place for the sale of spurious coins of France. It was extensively patronized by waiters, who lay in a supply of the false coins to work them off on tourists. The large stock of false coins seized were found to be of a quality superior to that generally uttered by counterfeiters. The idea seemed to be to safely insure small profits. For instance a lot of five franc pieces were found to have an almost bullion value of three francs each. They were sold to the waiter customers for four francs each, thus allowing the dishonest purchaser a clear profit of one franc.

Few people look closely at a franc piece, and a very bad imitation can be successfully uttered in four cases out of five. The average price paid at this exchange for franc pieces was twenty-five centimes or two and a half cents. European continental waiters are past masters in the art of passing counterfeit or demonetized coins, foreigners being their victims.

Were They? A good story is being told about the appointment of a postmaster in Northwestern Ohio. It appears that there were a number of aspirants for the place, and when the announcement was made to him that a German was sure to secure the plum, every person was anxious to be in line and congratulate him on his success. One of the congratulators was a man who was noted for being blunt, and asking questions from the shoulder, so to speak. After the usual form had been gone through with he blurted out: "Why, no person had any idea that you were a candidate, to say nothing about expecting you to get the place. What kind of a pull did you have?" "I will tell you," said the German. "You see, I used to go to school with the congressman and we were chumps."

Most of the people of the town agreed with the German, but that didn't interfere with his getting the place and drawing a nice salary for four years.—Columbus Dispatch.

THE RICH KLONDIKE.

THE MAD RUSH OF GOLD SEEKERS CONTINUES.

In Spite of Repeated Warnings the Trails Are Crowded—Fears That the Food Supply Will Fail—Untold Wealth in the Frozen Northland.

The excitement and the rush for the gold fields continues with unabated force. There is not the least doubt of the enormous extent and the value of the gold fields of Alaska. Every returning steamer brings information which not only confirms all the previous flattering reports, but goes far beyond all that has been heretofore told.

One of the vessels which reached Seattle last week brought but a comparatively small cargo of gold as reported. There were thirteen miners, and the amount which they were understood to have was \$250,000. But the real truth is, that no one can tell just how much gold is brought back by the individuals, for many of them are not communicative when it comes to talking of the exact amount of the precious metal which they are transporting. This last steamer did not bring so much gold as it was supposed it would, because it left St. Michael's before the arrival of the Yukon river steamer, which is known to have on board sixty miners from the Klondike fields, each of whom has a rich bag of gold. Some of the miners are becoming alarmed for the safety of the Portland on its next trip, when it will bring back perhaps two or three millions of the precious metal. It has been arranged to have a revenue cutter accompany her as a precautionary measure.

But rich as is the field, the magnitude of the undertaking of going to the gold fields, and the dangers that environ the gold seekers, are fearful to contemplate unless all the returning miners greatly exaggerate the conditions that exist. Of the thirteen who just returned to Seattle, nearly every one declared that he was prompted to do so because of the fear that the supply of food would give out.

When the Excelsior arrived at St. Michael with a hundred and thirty odd gold seekers and the miners heard that the Cleveland would bring 150 more, they talked strongly then. They said that too many persons were going in and that supplies could not possibly hold out during the winter. After leaving Dutch Harbor the partial extent of the rush dawned upon them. "My God!" said one man, "what are they thinking of? Are they crazy?" There will be terrible, horrible times on the Yukon next winter. Starvation will stare them in the face long before spring.

"From my own personal investigation at St. Michael," writes a correspondent, "I am convinced that the miners do not speak too strongly. The steamship company is doing its utmost to get supplies up the river, and were it possible to do so would have food for all. But it labors under disadvantages which cannot be appreciated until seen. A serious mistake was made by one company in carrying up too much liquor on the last trip or two of the boats. The miners want food, not liquor. Last year, with 1,500 persons on the river and facilities for transportation very little under those of this season, there was a serious shortage. This year these same 1,500 settlers must have supplies, and they, with those who went in last spring, making a total of probably five thou-



Panning Out a Rich Find. sand—will require those of the last rush—will require every pound that can possibly be taken in. "I doubt if five thousand pounds will be taken up the river this season. This does not mean five thousand pounds of food by any means. Perhaps the larger half will be food, but hardware, stores, liquors, clothing, blankets, etc., will figure up nearly one-half. Regarding the situation over the various passes, these miners, each and every one of whom has gone in over the trail, say that it is an utter impossibility to transport enough supplies over that route at this season of the year. "In warning the people to wait until spring I simply act for the miners, who speak in the name of humanity. There is gold in the Yukon country—plenty of it—but to seek it this season under these circumstances is no less than sheer madness. It is even more; it is criminal to those who already are in the country." There was some concern felt at St. Michael for the safety of the river steamer Wenre which was fifteen days overdue. The boat has been overworked this summer, and her machinery is out of repair. The steamer, which is loaded with an immense pile of gold dust, is now said to be laid up for repairs near Circle City.

The first serious misfortune for the Klondike and Yukon miners this season came in the shape of forest fires. Since the thaw in the spring there has been practically no rain and the country has been unusually dry. The latter part of June fire started on El Dorado and Bonanza creeks, and for three weeks the entire district was ablaze. The woods was afire in every direction up and down these creeks. From there the fires went across Hunker and Gold Button creeks, sweeping through the Hillside section and crossing over into the Indian river district, continuing with unabated fury through nearly the whole distance. Several cabins and a quantity of food is reported destroyed. At about the time fires were burning in the Klondike, others were raging in the Stewart river country. The fires in every case resulted from the carelessness of prospectors in going away and leaving their camp fires burning. Large quantities of cut wood was destroyed, while the damage to standing timber has been immense. All the dry wood was burned, and as a result the price of wood at the mines will be fully 100 per cent. higher than last season.

The Yukon miners who came back on the Portland without exception estimate that not less than \$10,000,000 will



Building a Boat on Lake Lindenman.

be taken out of the Klondike district next winter. All this summer the miners have been getting in shape for the winter's work, and mining will be done on definite and systematic plans, and claims worked to their utmost limit. Last winter the work done was little more than prospecting. On all the claims where gold has been found the owners have made every preparation for work. Cabins have been built, wood gathered, sluice boxes made and everything placed in readiness for a start at the first possible moment. As soon as the ground freezes the mining and drifting will begin, and continue without intermission until about May 1. The dirt will then be ready to shovel into the boxes, and when the ice breaks the sluice boxes will be in operation. On account of the remarkably rich strikes, work was confined almost entirely to Bonanza and El Dorado creeks, and the "pups" entering into them. Even on these creeks not more than one-half of these claims were worked. The Hillside claims along the El Dorado and Bonanza creeks are being worked for the first time this summer. They are sluicing up rich. On one of them as high as \$50 a day has been made without the rockers. Nearly all the hill claims are located by men who went in the spring.

Hundreds of miners are looking toward Stewart river, the second longest branch of the Yukon, and hundreds of prospectors will, undoubtedly be on the banks and bars within a few months. Although the bars of the main river have been successfully worked for the past ten years, there has been practically no prospecting done on the many important tributaries. The first gold discoveries on the Stewart river were made in 1855 on bars within 100 miles from its mouth. Fully 100 men were working on the river bars in 1886 with good success. Each succeeding season the bars have been worked. The Stewart empties into the Yukon about seventy miles above or south of the Klondike and ten miles below the White river.

M. W. Powers, of Denver, has come back from the Yukon after three years stay, and is one of the lucky ones from the Klondike. He was one of the original discoverers of America Creek, in 1896. When the Klondike strike was made the report reached him at his claim. He went up the river traveling on the ice. Finding the district all that was claimed for it, he returned to America Creek for his outfit, and on March 3 was back at Bonanza, where he and Joe Goldsmith entered into a partnership in working a claim. The fourth day after starting work they struck dust yielding \$6 to the pan. He located other claims on Skokum Gulch, a tributary of the Bonanza. In forty-two days they cleared up \$7,000.

This pay strike was the coarsest gold found in the district. Prospectors who had weeks before passed over Skokum and considered it worthless, soon began to stampede to it, and every foot of ground was quickly located. Powers and Goldsmith had cleared up \$40,000 between March 3 and July 1, and both are now returning, thoroughly satisfied with their luck.

M. R. Gowler was a member of a party of Canadian mounted police, who went to the Yukon with Captain Constantine in 1895. His term has now expired and he comes back as half owner of a claim on Bonanza Creek and interests in El Dorado and Hunker Creeks, and brings with him a good share of dust. Not much was done on his claim last winter, not more than enough to find pay. This winter the claim will be worked and Gowler expects to have a great clean-up in the spring. He will spend the winter at his home in Winnipeg.

"All the members of our force have done well," he said. "Mr. Constantine, our captain, takes an interest in the welfare of his men, and when the big strike was found he made it possible for all of us to secure interests in the district and yet in no way affect or abridge the efficiency of the force or interfere with our duty."

Among the number who have gone to Klondike is Miss Bessie Lasserge, of Toooma, a young lady of nineteen. She braved the terrible ordeal of the journey in the hope of making money enough to save her mother's home from being sold to satisfy a mortgage. Reports from the gold fields say that Miss Lasserge is panning out gold that pays from \$2 to \$6 a pan. She has several offers of marriage, one being from a very wealthy miner who will soon be a millionaire.

Advertisement for Walter Baker & Co.'s Breakfast Cocoa, featuring an illustration of a woman and text describing the product's quality and availability.

Advertisement for Alexander Brothers & Co., dealers in cigars, tobacco, candies, fruits and nuts, with contact information for their agents.

Advertisement for W. W. Watts, Iron Street, Bloomsburg, Pa., offering iron work and general job work.

Advertisement for W. H. Moore, offering shoes and window curtains, with the slogan 'We buy right and sell right.'

Advertisement for W. H. Brower's Carpets, Matting, and Oil Cloth, located at 2nd Door above Court House.

Advertisement for Fruit Growers in the Cumberland Valley, promoting peaches and other produce, with detailed text about orchards and shipping.