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NO. 52

KLONDIKE'S PETITION

Three Men Sent to Ottawa to Protest Against Severe Laws.

NO DANGER OF STARVATION

The consensus of opinion among returning miners is that there will be supplies enough to last through the winter.

Dawson City, N. W. T., Nov. 25, via Seattle, Wash., Dec. 29.—The miners here have commissioned three men to go immediately to Ottawa and present a petition to the Canadian authorities reciting the reasons why the new mining laws are unjustly severe.

The petition is the result of several conferences of committees composed of the most intelligent citizens and aliens of the Klondike.

What Returning Miners Say.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 30.—E. Barrington, one of the passengers on the steamer Alki, speaking of the situation in the Klondike, said:

"There is no need of any one worrying over their friends' starving. Of course, provisions are not plentiful, and supplies should be taken in in the spring, after which time all the provisions in the country will be exhausted."

Speaking of the rush to file claims, Mr. Barrington said: "For some time before I left the Commissioner's office was unable to accommodate the miners, and the men stood in line for days, with the mercury 40 degrees below zero, in order to file claims. The biggest sensation in the way of a strike was No. 43, on Hunker. It paid \$45 to the man. If it had not been for the exodus to Fort Yukon, 100 claims would have been worked on Bonanza, Eldorado and Hunker creeks this winter."

Living in Tents.

S. W. Foote said a great many people went past Dawson City in boats with the floating ice, unable to make a landing. Many people are living in tents at Dawson, though the temperature is away below zero. Good strikes have been made on Lucky Creek, a tributary of All Gold. Sulphur Creek is also turning out well.

"On the way out we encountered good weather nearly all the time," said Foote. "We left Dawson Nov. 21. Part of the way we threw off our coats and went in shirt sleeves and bare hands. It was only 15 below zero then. At the Chilkoot summit we encountered a fearful snow storm and were lost for a time. It lasted all the way from the head of Linderman to the summit. One man went ahead with a stick, poking it in the snow, to find the hard path to walk on. Beef and mutton at Dawson is being sold at \$1 to \$1.50 per sack, while bacon and beans brought \$1 to \$1.25 per pound. There was plenty of sugar at 30 cents per pound. The claims are all taken within a radius of forty-five to fifty miles of Dawson."

E. D. Barnes stated that the Alaska Commercial Company and the North American Transportation and Trading Company have declined to receive any more gold for safe-keeping, as their safes are full. T. H. Mallory believes that the output next season will be between \$15,000,000 and \$20,000,000.

No Starvation.

Edward Conrad, when asked if there is danger of starvation at Dawson, replied emphatically: "No, sir. There is not a surplus of food, but there will be no starvation." When asked for an opinion on the Government expedition, he said: "It is a humbug, and I doubt if it can get to Dawson before the ice breaks. The men who came out and say that starvation lurks there are the men who were there only a few weeks, got discouraged, homesick, and cry starvation as an excuse for coming out."

On Nov. 20 the English church, known as "The Klondike," was destroyed by fire. Two or three adjoining cabins were also burned.

To Assist Maj. Rucker.

Vancouver Barracks, Wash., Dec. 30.—Eleven packers with sixty-nine mules, in charge of Lieut. Ryan, of Fort Robinson, have arrived from Chicago. The party will proceed to Dyea on the next steamer to assist Maj. L. H. Rucker in selecting a route for the Government relief expedition.

HAS NO BROKEN HEART.

Booth-Tucker Says Mrs. Ballington Booth is Working in the Hospital.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Commander Booth-Tucker, of the Salvation Army, who arrived in Chicago Tuesday night, says that Mrs. Ballington Booth is now doing from three to eight hours' work a day from her bed in the hospital, and that her condition never has been serious. The bulletin which announced her as dying of a broken heart, he says, are in Ballington Booth's handwriting, and the physicians in charge have been instructed not to talk.

Mr. Booth-Tucker pronounced the whole story of the cause of Mrs. Booth's illness an attempt on the part of Ballington Booth to stir up a breeze against the Salvation Army. He had investigated the story of the insult said to have been offered Mrs. Booth at the Willard Hall meeting in Chicago, and had found it to be entirely false.

Mrs. Booth Much Better.

New York, Dec. 30.—Mrs. Ballington Booth is now steadily improving at the Presbyterian Hospital. She is making slow progress, but it is sure, though it will be a long time before she will be able to leave the hospital.

FITZ SAYS HE WILL FIGHT.

Agrees to Take On Both Corbett and McCoy Upon Certain Conditions.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—Martin Julian, on behalf of Bob Fitzsimmons, has announced that the champion, in deference to the wishes of the public, will meet both Jim Corbett and Kid McCoy, but upon certain conditions, named by him, only. In the first place, any fight must be for at least \$10,000 a side and the largest purse offered. As to McCoy, he must meet Choyinski before he is taken on by Fitz. As to Corbett, he must show his sincerity by first defeating some good man. Sharkey, Maher or Choyinski will do.

Julian says that Fitzsimmons' determination never to enter the ring again was sincere. That before his fight he made his wife a promise to that effect. He says, further, that both he and Fitz have been for weeks trying to persuade Mrs. Fitzsimmons to withdraw her opposition, but that they have only now succeeded. The main reason that Fitz makes the condition that Corbett fight some good man first is that he does not think Jim is sincere in his desire to meet Fitz again. Julian says it took Fitz five years to drag him into the ring last time, and they propose to have some assurance of his sincerity before the champion takes him on.

Corbett Ready to Sign.

New York, Dec. 29.—William A. Brady, Corbett's manager, discussed the condition imposed by Fitz at length. He reiterated what he had said so often, that the only man Corbett will meet is Bob Fitzsimmons.

"Corbett will never fight Maher, Sharkey or Choyinski," said Brady, decidedly. The only pugilist he will agree to make a match with is Fitzsimmons. Jim lost the fight with the Australian at Carson City through carelessness. As it was, he had all the better of it up to the time he was knocked out.

"Corbett is thoroughly in earnest about another contest with Fitz, and he will sign articles any time the Australian names. If he thinks Corbett is bluffing, I will post \$2,500 with Dan Stuart, George Siler or Louis Houseman as a forfeit for a match."

McCoy Accepts Conditions.

New York, Dec. 29.—Kid McCoy was in great spirits when he heard of the announcement that Fitz would take him on. He at once telegraphed to his brother Homer to make the match and put up a certified check for \$1,000 to bind it. He said that he was perfectly willing to meet any one in his class whom Fitz named, but would prefer meeting the champion first.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

Contractors to Investigate Preliminary to Making a Bid.

Washington, Dec. 30.—A party of fourteen gentlemen, representing a number of prominent contractors, will sail to-day from New York on the steamer Finance for Nicaragua. They will make a personal investigation of the surveys of the Nicaragua Canal, not as representatives of the canal company, but simply as business men. Their purpose is to thoroughly study the canal, and if they are favorably impressed they will on their return make the canal company an offer to dig and build the canal for a certain sum.

The party will further agree to complete the canal, so that the naval force of the United States can pass through it before they demand one cent of payment. The gentlemen of this party favor the Menocal survey, but are open to conviction as to the others. They represent, among other contractors, those who are now completing the Chicago Canal, and also the firm which built the Russian canal from St. Petersburg to Kronstadt.

They cannot make their proposition to the government, but will do so to the canal company, who, they expect, will in time lay it before the Washington authorities.

FREAK A LA DARWIN.

Remarkable Specimen of Humanity Received in St. Louis Hospital.

St. Louis, Dec. 30.—W. L. Brebracht, a remarkable freak received at the City Hospital, is regarded as a striking proof of the Darwinian theory. Brebracht was born with seven fingers on the right hand, six on the left, and only two toes on each foot. Closer examination showed that the patient had cleft hands and cleft feet. His spinal column is bent in a manner unlike anything ever seen in a human being. The curvature closely resembles that of a horse. The shoulders are also shaped like those of a quadruped, and indicate a much greater adaptation to physical endurance than is possessed by the average human shoulder.

Brebracht does not object to examination, and answers all questions cheerfully. He has inherited from his mother and her ancestors, he says, these striking evidences of man's ascent from a lower order of being.

\$2,000,000 to a Hospital.

Philadelphia, Dec. 30.—By the will of Mrs. Henrietta R. Fales Baker \$2,000,000 is bequeathed to the Pennsylvania Hospital. The will was probated yesterday, and the bequest is made contingent upon the death of the son and daughter of the testatrix without issue. The estate is estimated at over \$2,000,000.

Shawanna Hager Dend.

Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 30.—W. D. Hager, one of the best known showmen in the country, died at Wauson yesterday from cancer of the stomach. For the last fifteen years he has been one of the managers of the Barnum & Bailey show. He recently contracted to manage Buffalo Bill next season.

SEIZED PART OF CHINA

French Flag Raised on the Hai-Nan Island.

BIG FLEET TO BACK IT UP

British to Use Canadian Pacific Ships—May Send More Troops—Bismarck Anxious for German Eastern Policy to Succeed.

Shanghai, Dec. 30.—It is reported here that the Admiral of the French fleet has hoisted the French flag on Hai-Nan Island, which is between the China Sea and the Gulf of Tonquin. The Chinese offered no opposition.

London, Dec. 30.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Singapore confirms the report of the seizure of Hai-Nan Island by the French.

According to a special dispatch from Shanghai, the British Admiralty has requisitioned three of the Empress steamships, belonging to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Berlin, Dec. 30.—The Tageblatt says Prince Henry of Prussia will visit the Mikado and the King of Corea.

Its Kiel correspondent says a further force of marines will start for China in January.

According to the Nueste Nachrichten, of Leipzig, Prince Bismarck disclaims all responsibility for Germany's policy in China; but he approves it and wishes it executed with energy on the assumption that it implies an entente with Russia.

Hai-Nan Island is off the south coast of China, and separates the Gulf of Tonquin from the China Sea. It has an estimated area of 12,000 square miles and a population of 1,000,000 Chinese, exclusive of wild tribes in the interior. Some of the mountains in the centre rise above the snow line. It has several large rivers. The coasts are generally rocky, but the west coast is low and the south coast has some good harbors. Timber is a principal product. This is sent to Annam, Siam and Singapore. Other exports are rice, sugar, wax, pearls, coral, salt and a little gold and silver. Its capital is King-Choo, a populous city on its north coast.

CHINA IN NO DANGER.

Japanese Diplomat Says the Powers Do Not Threaten Her.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The rapid movement of events in the far East continues to be an absorbing topic in diplomatic circles. There is no further talk of the United States as a possible factor in the contest, as the recent understanding at a Cabinet meeting is accepted as removing this government from the field of controversy.

At the same time an eminent authority on international affairs said that a situation might develop when the United States would be called upon to go much further than protect American interests at the treaty ports in China. This situation would come, he said, if the scramble for Chinese territory went to the extent of the extinction of China and the complete absorption of the old empire by foreign nations.

A leading Japanese diplomat said: "No event has occurred thus far to indicate that China is about to be divided among the powers. The only tangible fact is that Germany has occupied Kiao Chou Bay and Russia has a fleet at Port Arthur. But Germany's action was taken to collect an indemnity for an indignity to German missionaries, just as she enforced indemnity from Hayti. Beyond this, Germany may seek to establish a naval station at Kiao Chou, and thus have a naval base of operations on the Pacific. But that does not involve the taking of any considerable portion of Chinese territory, and it is yet to be shown that Germany will take more than a coast port and such land immediately adjacent as to give the port proper facilities.

"If it comes to taking territory, the course of China must not be overlooked. While China is weak from a military and naval standpoint, yet she has an enormous number of men ready to take the field, while the entire force of Germany at Kiao Chou cannot exceed a few thousand men. Even a weak nation is strong in defending its own territory. There are reports that Japan would aid China in an extremity, but there is nothing in that. Japan, doubtless, will act alone, if there is any reason for acting at all. Thus far, however, I know of no steps that Japan has taken, or contemplates, towards taking part in the controversy. My impression is that she will remain an independent and neutral observer. Her position will be much stronger by such a policy than it would be by an alliance at the outset. As an observer, if she sees that the partition of China is at hand, doubtless she would have some part to take, but for the present there is no evidence that such an emergency is near."

A Chinese diplomat said: "The alleged official statements coming from the Chinese Legation have been unwarranted, as the Legation has not received a word from Peking since the German force had landed at Kiao Chou, without previous notice to the Chinese Government. It is felt, however, that many of the reports as to the seriousness of the situation, particularly those from Shanghai, are overdrawn. Judging from the press dispatches, there appears to be little doubt that the original purpose of Germany to enforce an indemnity has now developed into securing a naval station at Kiao Chou, and possibly more territory, on the ground that Germany is entitled to a

return for her service during the China-Japan war. But it appears to be overlooked that Germany has received distinct returns for those services in the granting of large concessions, which, at the time of the grant, were considered as most valuable to Germany.

"As to the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, that is not a surprise. A Russian fleet was wintered at a Chinese port last year, with the consent of China, as it involved no sacrifice of territory. What the outcome will be it is difficult to say, but it is felt that an amicable settlement will be made, possibly by the granting of coast stations, but without any serious dismemberment of territory."

SOCIETY ORGANIZED FOR MURDER

Arrest of Nine Foreign Miners at Pottsville Discloses Its Existence.

Pottsville, Pa., Dec. 30.—Nine foreigners were arrested here yesterday for wrecking a saloon. The proprietor of the saloon, also a foreigner, was ordered by them to leave the place and refused to do so. His place was then smashed to pieces. At the hearing he appeared, revolver in hand, and a friend accompanied him with a shotgun. The accused men were held in jail for trial.

The arrest of these men has brought to light the existence of an organized band of foreigners for the purpose of self-protection and the punishment of enemies. One branch at New Philadelphia, a mining village, has twenty-nine members. Nearly all the members are foreign laborers. Weekly dues are paid in for a defense fund. The society has signs, grips and passwords.

Residents of Silver Creek and the neighborhood are terrified. They fear to make any move against the organization, but the police are quietly getting evidence against it. It is known that these men have sworn to take the lives of a constable, an attorney and a well-known citizen of New Philadelphia. This has been sufficient to make the whole population afraid.

COAL MINERS ON STRIKE.

Honey Brook Men Go Out Again. Trouble is Fanned.

Hazleton, Pa., Dec. 30.—Trouble has again developed in the Honey Brook district of the Lehigh & Wilkesbarre Coal Company, and yesterday morning 2,000 men were thrown out of employment because 500 striking employees at work on the surface went on a strike. Twenty-five men were reported absent on Monday, and Superintendent Jones, to discipline them, sent them home Tuesday. The union men took a hand in the matter and made a demand upon the superintendent for their reinstatement.

This was refused, whereupon the striking hands left mine No. 4 yesterday morning, and proceeding to No. 5, induced the men there to follow. The other hands were thus forced to quit. It was Superintendent Jones who refused to grant any concessions when the last great strike was precipitated. Unless some concessions are made this time it is feared that serious trouble will follow.

Bank Officials Arrested.

El Reno, Oklahoma, Dec. 30.—Gustav Thelan, president of the Bank Exchange Bank; Michael Elchoff, cashier; Charles A. Newman, assistant cashier, and Louis Elchoff, a member of the Board of Directors, have been arrested on the charge of receiving deposits when the bank was known to be insolvent. A big meeting of the stockholders was held at which great excitement was manifested, and several of the speakers declared that they were ready to lead a lynching party. The bank had \$68,000 in deposits when it went under, but will probably not pay more than 25 cents on the dollar.

Gen. Harrison for the Senate.

Indianapolis, Dec. 30.—General Harrison was spoken of yesterday as the delegates to the Republican conference were leaving the city as a possible candidate for United States Senator. According to reports of Representatives from the rural districts of the State, farmers will ask their Representatives to the next Legislature to urge General Harrison as a candidate.

France Takes Action.

Paris, Dec. 30.—The Figaro says the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Hanotaux, will convene an international conference without delay for the neutralization of the Newfoundland Banks during the fishing season.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Countess de Castellane, nee Gould, gave birth to a boy, her second son.

The operatives at Fall River decided against a strike because of the wage reduction.

Gov. Adams, of Colorado, has refused to honor Gov. Black's requisition for William H. Griffith, of Leadville, Col.

The president of the Lake Shore Railroad said that business men use the long-distance telephone more and trains less.

The Turkish Government is explaining that the firing upon Greek ships by the forts at Prevesa was due to a mistake.

Heirs of Robert Morris, who, they claim, lent \$1,500,000 to the Colonial Government, have demanded from the Government payment, with interest.

The San Francisco authorities have decided to bring to trial all parties accused of murder who have been adjudged insane and have afterward recovered.

George R. Hodgdon, proprietor of the Tremont Hotel, in New Haven, has been arrested, charged with being an accessory to Frederick Cook in attempting to set fire to the Tontine Hotel in that city.

A Happy New Year TO YOU ALL.

May Joy and Prosperity be with you all.

The mild weather of the past two months has left us with by far too many Overcoats and Storm Coats.

In order to clear them up we have made Special Cuts throughout the entire lines, and intending buyers will do well to observe carefully-----

\$18.00	Overcoats and Ulsters,	now \$14.00
16.00	" " " "	13.00
15.00	" " " "	12.50
12.00	" " " "	10.50
10.00	" " " "	8.75
9.00	" " " "	7.75
8.00	" " " "	7.00
7.50	" " " "	6.00

Wherever sizes are broken, either in men or boys Suits, Overcoats or Reefers, we've made special prices.

GIDDING & CO.

FIRE AND EARTHQUAKE.

Hayti Gets Both the Same Night, and 3,000 Persons Are Homeless.

Port au Prince, Hayti, Dec. 29.—At 11 o'clock Tuesday night a fire, which assumed considerable proportions on account of lack of water to supply the pumps, broke out and destroyed 800 houses, including a number of warehouses, a hotel, the Church of St. Joseph and its parsonage. About 3,000 persons were rendered homeless.

Yesterday morning at 6.40 o'clock there was an earthquake, the disturbances running from north to south, lasting half a minute, and causing slight cracks in the earth. There were no accidents, but the population was greatly alarmed.

Finally Forced to Close.

Brunswick, Ga., Dec. 30.—The Merchants and Traders' Bank of this city failed to open its doors yesterday morning. The capital stock of the bank is \$100,000. Some months ago there was a plan to put the bank in the hands of a receiver, and ever since the depositors have been withdrawing, and the bank has been losing outside business to such an extent that it was finally determined to close.

Missing Minister a Wanderer.

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 30.—The minister, the Rev. Samuel Spurrier, is believed to be wandering towards Canada. It is said he stopped with M. S. Sattum, in West Pittston, last Friday night, and he was going to Canada, and left the next morning.

TRIED TO KILL THREE PERSONS.

Then the Angry Boarder Took His Own Life

Camden, N. J., Dec. 30.—Eaton Johnson, 22 years old, last night attempted to murder Earnest Fellows, Mrs. Fellows and their son Frank, 13 years old, by shooting them at their home, No. 226 Erie street. He dangerously wounded Fellows and inflicted a slight wound in Mrs. Fellows. Johnson then shot himself, dying instantly.

Johnson, who was a ship carpenter, came here from Richmond, Va., about five months ago, and boarded with the Fellows family, to whom he was related. He fell in arrears for his board, and last night, it is said, was ordered from the house.

Last night when the family was at supper he came for his trunk, but was told he could not have it until he paid his back board, amounting to \$7.50. Then he drew his pistol and fired at Fellows, the ball taking effect in the neck, close to the spinal column. Mrs. Fellows ran screaming into the yard. Johnson followed and fired, the shot glancing along her side. He next turned on the boy, who was calling for help, and shot him in the thigh. After firing another shot at Fellows, which went wide, he killed himself. Johnson was formerly employed at Dialogue's ship yards. He was unmarried.

Big Legal Battle.

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 30.—Within a few days one of the greatest legal battles ever fought in this city will commence before the Court of Common Pleas. The case is that of the City of Cleveland against the Lake Shore, Big Four, Pennsylvania and Cleveland & Pittsburg railroad companies, and involves the title to millions of dollars' worth of property on the lake front.

The railroad tracks originally ran along close to the water's edge, but for years the companies have been filling in the lake until large tracts of land have been created. This ground is now claimed by the city. A brilliant array of legal talent has been employed on both sides, and the contest will be watched with great interest.

To Cruise Around the World.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The warship Mohican, which has been thoroughly overhauled at the Mare Island Navy Yard, has been turned over to the training service and will be put in commission about Jan. 10 under the command of Commander Book, lately the Captain of the Marion. Most of the officers on the latter ship will be transferred to the Mohican. This ship is to recruit about 150 apprentice boys on the Pacific Coast, and probably will start with them about the middle of January on a cruise around the world. According to present plans, some time will be spent among the South Sea Islands, where the American Navy has not been represented to any extent since 1883.

Blanco's Home-Rule Decree.

Havana, Dec. 30.—Capt.-Gen. Blanco has issued a decree announcing the lines upon which the home-rule government is established. The Governor-General and executive assume charge of foreign affairs, war and the navy, and with five autonomous secretaries of supreme justice and interior (Finance, Public Instruction, Public Works, Posts and Telegraphs, and Agriculture and Commerce), with the President of this council, constitute the responsible government.

The new officials will take the oath of office at 9 a. m. on Jan. 1, and will immediately assume charge of their departments.

President Invited to New York.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Yesterday afternoon a delegation consisting of Warner Miller, William Brookfield, Charles G. Moore, ex-Mayor Schieren, of Brooklyn; Benjamin Ash, of Newark, and Secretary Locke, representing the National Association of Manufacturers, called upon the President and invited him to attend the annual banquet to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, on Jan. 27, at the close of the convention of the association. The President said he would take the invitation under consideration. The members of the committee think, from their interview, that he will attend the banquet.