

JUNEAU IS ON THE J

ALASKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS ITS HEADQUARTERS THERE.

Prospectors Are Pouring Into the Future Metropolis of the Great Northwest, and Merchants Are Hurrying Thither to Get Their Percentage of the Gold—Business Men Preparing for a Big Jam in the Spring, When the Rush to the Copper River Country Will Begin—The Town Already Has Electric Lights and Steam Heat.

JUNEAU, Alaska, Sept. 22, via SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 27.—This bustling town will soon be the centre of Alaskan activity. It is the Denver of the Great Northwest. Already prospectors are pouring in preparatory to the now confidently expected Spring rush to the new gold fields in American territory, while merchants of all kinds are hurrying hither to make money out of the fortune hunters. There is a general air of prosperity, for everybody has more or less money, grafters not being in evidence here as they are at Dyea, Skagway and Dawson. JunEAU is a good place for a poor man, but it offers no encouragement to the Weary Walker who seeks to prey upon the industry of his fellows. Pink Whiskers Blake, Dusty Rhodes and others of that ilk are gently but firmly informed by the immigration committee of the Chamber of Commerce that there is no aching void here for them to fill, unless they are willing to wear wooden overcoats.

Yes, JunEAU has a Chamber of Commerce, and a very solid institution it is. It has on its membership rolls the names of the most prominent business men in this town, beside those of well-known capitalists from other cities who have established legal domiciles in Alaska. Thus far it has done much good to the commercial interests of the town, and it promises even greater results in the Winter and Spring. It is not merely a local body, but purports to represent the territory, for it calls itself the Alaska Chamber of Commerce. The constitution and bylaws are as follows:

ARTICLE I.

The name of this Association shall hereafter be "The Alaska Chamber of Commerce," and its location and principal place of business shall be at JunEAU, Alaska.

ARTICLE II.

The objects of this Association shall be to further the business interests of Alaska and promote commercial relations between the district and the rest of the world, and to benevolently labor for the public good of the city of JunEAU and the inhabitants thereof, and to render such moral and material support to those in authority as to this Association shall seem prudent in assisting them to carry out the object for which this Association is formed.

ARTICLE III.

Section 1. No person engaged in a business of an objectionable character shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Any person, an actual resident of Alaska, upon the payment of \$10 initiation fee, and his election in accordance with the provisions of these Articles, shall become an active member of this Association.

Sec. 3. Honorary members may be elected in the same manner provided for the election of active members, but without the payment of initiation fee or dues. Such members shall enjoy all the privileges of the Association, excepting the right to vote, to participate in debate and to hold office.

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Board of five Trustees, and they shall serve for one year from date of election, or until their successors are elected and installed. In case of a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the term of any officer, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to call a special meeting for the purpose of electing an officer for the unexpired term.

Sec. 2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association, and of the Board of Trustees. He shall not vote, except in case of a tie vote. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Sec. 3. The Vice-President shall, in the absence of the President, perform all the duties of his office.

Sec. 4. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings and transactions of this Association, and perform such other duties as the Association may from time to time direct.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Association, receive all moneys and pay out the same only on receipts signed by the President and Secretary. His account shall be open to the inspection of the Board of Trustees at all times, and he shall render a complete record of all moneys received, expended and on hand, quarterly.

ARTICLE V.

Section 1. Any person desiring to become a member of this association shall sign an application, which shall be indorsed by three members of the Chamber in good standing.

Sec. 2. If said application be approved by a majority of the Board of Trustees the same shall be submitted to vote by ballot at the next succeeding meeting at which the application is received, and if not more than five of all the votes cast are opposed to such applicant, he shall be declared elected.

Sec. 3. In case of rejection the applicant shall not again be eligible to apply for membership until the expiration

of six months.

Sec. 4. Every member shall pay regularly to the Secretary the sum of One Dollar per month dues, in advance. Every member three months in arrears refusing to pay such dues, after having been notified by the Secretary, shall at the expiration of thirty days after said notice cease to be a member of this Chamber, and his name shall be stricken off the books.

ARTICLE VI.

Section 1. Regular meetings of this Association shall be held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the place designated by the Association.

Sec. 2. Nine members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business except the election of officers, suspension of rules and extraordinary expenditure of money. Extraordinary expenditure of money shall consist of any expenditures other than the expenditures incidental to the current business of the Association.

Sec. 3. For the Election of Officers, Amendment of Bylaws, Suspension of Rules or Extraordinary Expenditure of Money, a majority of the members in good standing shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 4. A majority vote of any quorum shall decide all questions submitted to vote except Amending of Bylaws or Election of New Members. Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern the deliberations of this Association insofar as the same are not inconsistent with these bylaws.



JUNEAU, THE FUTURE METROPOLIS.

Sec. 5. These bylaws may be altered or amended by a two-third majority of a necessary quorum for such a vote at any regular meeting after two weeks' notice of such intention previously given in writing.

From this it may be seen that JunEAU is no longer a mere mining camp, but a thriving, busy town, with a future before it. It has every qualification for the future metropolis of the Northwest, being equally accessible by land or water. Besides, it is the nearest port to the mouth of the Copper River, the Golden Gate of the Great Northwest, which promises to be the principal approach to the gold regions in the Spring. Old miners are making arrangements now to go up the Copper River in February or March, and strike thence to the new fields along the Chillyna, White and Stewart rivers, from which have come within the past few weeks further stories of rich finds that bid fair to throw the Klondike into the shade.

Louis C. Frey, of Newark, N. J., is now in the Copper River country at the head of an exploring and prospecting party. Mr. Frey, who is a veteran prospector, says in a letter to a friend in this city:

"The Copper River is nearly four hundred miles long, draining over 29,000 square miles, and by a portage (road) of seventy-five miles at its upper end, can be connected with the Tanana River, which flows into the Yukon. One can also reach the Yukon from the Copper River by ascending the Chillyna River, which empties into the latter stream, as far east as Scorial or Copper River Pass, which is only eighty miles long. At the other side of Scorial Pass is the head of navigation of the White River, which empties into the Yukon midway between Fort Selkirk and Dawson City.

"There will be three routes next year—via the Stikine River, via Chilkoat Pass and via Copper River. The last will be the easiest and shortest. Several navigation companies are preparing to run steamers from Seattle, Sitka and JunEAU to the mouth of the Copper River, and there is a strong prospect of a railroad in the Spring.

"The crazy rush over that dangerous Skaguay Pass should be stopped, by Government interference, if necessary. On my way from Seattle to Sitka soon after the Dawson boom was started, I talked with thirty men bound for the Klondike. Only four of them knew anything about mining; the balance were ignorant of that science, as well as of the art of taking care of themselves. They will have to face rough times. No man should come to the Northwest without a proper supply of gold, grub and grit."

That JunEAU will be crowded to its utmost capacity long before April is acknowledged by all who have visited this place. Olds & Orton, proprietors of the Occidental Hotel, have leased three new buildings, to be used as annexes, and contemplate erecting an enormous structure so soon as sufficient building material and labor can be obtained. Prominent merchants are increasing their orders for the Spring by several hundred per cent., and the municipal government has recognized the need of an adequate police force.

JunEAU already has electric lights and most of its big buildings are steam heated. It is not yet oversupplied with theatres, politics and French millinery

but those necessary adjuncts to metropolitanism will probably come in good time. Meanwhile, the citizens of JunEAU say to the people of the United States: "Come, if you want to; but if you can't come, don't apologise; there are others."

Above all, don't come if you can't live without luxuries. JunEAU is a live town, but it isn't little, old New York.

REDSKINS WON'T KILL.

THAT IS, UNLESS THE WHITES FIRST SHED BLOOD.

Charles Ehrlich, Who Has Just Returned from the Copper River Country, Says the Indians Are Peaceable and Will Fight Only in Self-Defense—He and His Partner Carried no Firearms While There—They Found Much Gold and Staked Off a Couple of Quartz Claims—Region Rich in Ore.

PORT TOWNSEND, Sept. 29.—From Charles Ehrlich, a young man who has but recently returned from the Copper River country, your correspondent secured an interesting interview relative to that much talked of section. The impression has prevailed that the Copper River country was inhabited by hostile savages, who looked with jealous eyes upon the advent of the white man on his stamping ground. Mr. Ehrlich dispels this false impression by

saying that the Indians are peaceable and will harm no one if let alone and treated fairly by the whites.

Two men were killed there last Summer, but they themselves were primarily responsible. It seems the two men hired some Indians to do packing for them, and when the time of settlement came they disagreed as to the amount due and a quarrel followed, in which one of the white men shot an Indian. The next day about a dozen Indians came down in a body and killed both of the men. This unfortunate affair cannot be ascribed to any hostile tendency; the Indians simply followed a custom prevalent in all tribes—a life for a life.

Carried No Firearms.

Mr. Ehrlich and his partner had no firearms at all, and had no occasion to use any, other than on the game which abounds in that country—moose, bear, grouse, ducks and geese being plentiful. Mr. Ehrlich smiled broadly when told of a proposed plan, which has been a topic of conversation of late, of forming a company of some three hundred determined men, heavily armed, going to the Copper River and expecting to have to fight the Indians before being allowed to prospect for gold. He said the idea was absurd and evidently originated with men grossly ignorant of the Indians of that country.

Young Ehrlich was closely questioned in regard to quartz and placer mining on the Copper River. At the mouth of the river some rich quartz claims have been located. A mining expert representing an Eastern syndicate was there during the Summer and offered one man \$16,000 for his claim, but the offer was refused. The ore is free milling, runs as high as \$80 to the ton, and is found in well-defined ledges.

Found Plenty of Gold.

Mr. Ehrlich and his partner staked off a couple of quartz claims of promise and then proceeded up the river in an Indian kayak in quest of placers. They went up as far as the Kellner River, prospecting the beach as they went. The sand was found to be impregnated with flour gold, which could easily be mined with proper machinery. It is the opinion of the miners now on the Copper River that the head waters of the Kellner River, which originates in the Klondike country, will be found to be as rich as the Klondike, but no prospecting has ever been done there, or any other place on the Copper River to any extent, and the real value of the country as a mining district is yet unknown.

An old hunter and miner named King, who has lived on the Copper River for the past seventeen years, says he has been to the headwaters of the big river, and reports rich finds. He sent for two young relatives who lived at Los Angeles, and they were passengers on the Queen, bound for that region.

Mr. Ehrlich says there are about seventy white men now on the Copper River, principally hunters, trappers and fox farmers, the latter being quite an important industry. It is his opinion that at the mouth of the river quartz mines of immense value will be found, and on the tributaries, near the headwaters, placers rivaling the Klondike will be unearthed. He himself will return this Fall, his partner being already there, and together they will look for placers.

Could Stand Ill-Health. She—Kissing is unhealthy. He—Let's get sick.—N. Y. Journal.

ONE OF THE RICHEST.

CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HAVE MONEY TO BURN.

Officer Churchill Arrives at Seattle with \$10,000 in Gold as the Result of Two Years' Service—He Is Worth Altogether Between \$50,000 and \$100,000—Stomachs Will Touch Backbones at Dawson City This Winter, He Thinks, as There Surely Will Not Be Enough Provisions—Drinks, \$100 a Round.

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 29.—A member of the wealthiest police force in the world arrived in the city last night with his \$10,000 in gold as the result of two years' service on the Klondike in the ranks of the Canadian mounted police. S. R. Churchill is the name of this lucky officer, who is worth anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000. He brought down a sack containing somewhat over \$10,000 for spending money. He was not proclaiming his luck from the masthead and the fact that he had money was overlooked by the press representatives who boarded the steamer yesterday.

Churchill is not the richest of the mounted policemen by any means. Some of the members of Dawson's police force are worth a million dollars; all of them have over \$20,000. When the strike on Bonanza was made Capt. Constantine, in charge of the police, allowed his men to stake out claims and file locations. They were not permitted to work them, but hired it done on lays. As a result the following claims are owned by policemen: S. R. Churchill, 52 above discovery on Bonanza; James Murry, one-half of claim 34 on El Dorado, 11 below discovery on Hunkers Creek and 53 above on Bonanza; J. Brothers, 37 above on Bonanza; A. Ward owns 38 above on Bonanza and an interest in 50 above; A. P. Zeller has sold his claim on Bonanza for a large sum. Others owning claims or portions of claims, none of which are worth less than \$20,000, are Policemen Pinkerton, Thornton, Webster, Sinclair and Gowler.

Hasn't Had Enough of It.

Mr. Churchill commenced spending his little stake last night by buying a complete outfit from top to bottom. He has a claim on Bonanza Creek, as is mentioned in the list above, and will return to look after his interests. He was at police headquarters all morning talking over the Klondike with Detective Cudihoe. He said:

"It will be a wonder to me if more than half the people at Dawson City keep their stomachs from touching their backbones if they remain there throughout the Winter. There surely will not be enough provisions. Even last year, when there were not nearly so many people and considerably more provisions per capita, there was suffering. Even the mounted police had to go on short rations. Well, I'm glad I'm out of it; if it is the richest camp in the world, it may also prove the deadliest.

That Wears Affairs.

"I was forty-six days coming out, which breaks the record. It happened that I was a passenger on the ill-fated Weare, which was hard aground on the Yukon flats thirty miles below Circle City. Going up two years ago we were forty-six days, but that time we were caught in the freeze-up, which was nobody's fault. This time it was decidedly somebody's fault. The steamer was coming down river one morning with the captain and an Indian pilot at the wheel, when suddenly in going around a sharp turn we ran aground, the Indian pilot having mistaken his channel. For seventeen days we sat around and swore at each other. For exercise we waded around in the Yukon, as the water was only six inches deep where we ran aground. The steamer was very light and stuck in the middle. They pried her bow off into deep water, and at the same time pushed her stern hard and fast on the sand bank. The Healy came along and we got started again. The accident to the Weare was caused by the ignorance of the captain, who did not know his business. It was a five days' steam to St. Michaels, but it took us eleven days to make it the way we came, only steaming a few hours a day, and tying up at night.

"Dawson is undoubtedly a hot town. Drinks are \$100 a round and the steamers have been carrying more whisky than provisions. There is death from starvation staring them in the face for this very reason. There was no caribou last season, and there probably will be none this year. There are a few moose around Dawson, but no birds and few fish."

BRIEF BUT INTERESTING.

In all their wars the British have won the splendid average of 82 per cent. of all their battles.

Of the 11,000,000 square miles of Africa only about 1,500,000 remain which have not been claimed by some European power and more than half of this lies in the desert of Sahara.

Sir William Thomson calculates that the number of molecules in a cubic inch of any gas is 100,000,000,000,000,000,000, and in each of these molecules there are several atoms moving among themselves at the rate of 70 miles a minute.

In the course of a bit of photographing a California physician placed a piece of gold-bearing quartz upon the plate. Upon developing the plate there were specks and spots at intervals within the outlines of the piece of quartz. This showed the presence of gold. By a series of experiments he has discovered that X-rays will show the presence of gold in rock without the expense that ordinarily accompanies such tests. A number of mining experts are arranging to use these rays in prospecting for the precious metal.

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