THE KLONDIKE GOLD FIELDS IN ALASKA.

Territory of Alaska, Alaska has paid back her purchase money in gold four times, having produced during the time it has been a part of the United States about \$30,000,

000 of the precious yellow metal.

To-day the eyes of the world are turned toward our frozen acquisition n the north, for within its borders has been discovered an Eldorado, seem-ingly "richer than Pluto's mine." A few weeks ago the word Klondike, literally translated meaning Deer River, was known to geographers and a few miners on the Yukon; to-day it is on every tongue and is known as the designation, if the reports be but talf true, for a gold-bearing district greater in area and richer in character than any the world has known, with the possible exception of California. The reported gold discoveries of the

day in Alaska and the reported gold discoveries of '49 in California afford many parallels. To the average man the treasures of the coast State were seemingly as inaccessible as are the riches of the Yukon and its tributaries. One was more than 2000 miles across a trackless desert and over snow-bound mountain passes, beset by savages, whose deadly attacks marked the trail with bleaching bones across the Western States; the other is nearly 7000 miles by water, through a rigorous climate, or almost 4000 miles by land and water, with mountain passes to scale as daugerous as those of the Swiss Alps.

The fabulous tales of wealth sent out

by the California pioneers were no less onderful than those brought back by

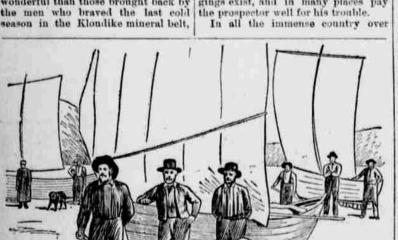
The United States Government in | border. They were discovered, as has 1867 paid Russia \$7,2000,00 for the been said, by a party of "tenderfeet," who, against the advice of the oldtimers in the district, wandered "over yonder in the Klondike" and struck it rich. From Klondike comes much of the gold and from Klondike seems to the gold and from Klondike seems to come all the excitement. A few "tenderfeet," going it blind, have stirred up the Nation. Out of the regions of their discovery has come, it is estimated, \$2,000,000 worth of gold during the present summer. Nearly all of that gold has found its way into the United States.

It is hard to tell where the Alaska gold fields are located except that in a general way the best of them are along

general way the best of them are along the Yukon. There are a few 'Iode' miners near Juneau and along the southeast coast of the Territory (the most accessible part of it), but the ore is of low grade and mining is made profitable only by the most careful management.

The placer mines, from which pros-pectors are said now to be lining their pockets with gold, are in the region emote from civilization, little known, and, on account of its uncertainties, dangerously alluring to the average This gold-producing country of the interior is in the vicinity of the Yukon near where that great river turns to the west in its course to the Before the discoveries in the Klondike the most productive districts had been along Forty Mile Creek, partly in British and partly in American territory, and the Birch Creek district, all in American territory.

Along all of the river in this section, tributaries to the Yukon, gold dig gings exist, and in many places pay the prospector well for his trouble.



AS THE MINERS JOURNEY DOWN LAKE LABARGE DURING THE WINTER.

and in both cases those who returned which the placer mining extends it is brought back with them great nuggets of the precious stuff that left little or no doubt in the mind of the hearer. The California miner in the song who had so many nuggets that he was ac-customed to "go a hatful blind" finds his parallel in the Yukon miner who claims to have "washed out" \$212 in one panful of dirt-a process that requires ten or twelve minutes,

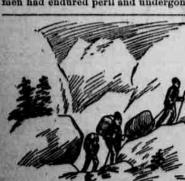
Poor Man's Mines.

work are few and of small cost. A reaching the outside world. It was placer miner can get along very well not long in reaching the miners along the miners alon with a pick, shovel and gold pan. If the dirt is not rich he can accomplish the dirt is not rich he can accomplish and they shouldered their picks and moved forward in a wild rush at the sluice box, but where the yield is in auggets instead of fine gold he prefers to "pan" it.

June 15, when a vessel called the Ex-celsior arrived in San Francisco laden last them a lifetime. Take as an ilwith miners from the Klondike, who in turn were laden with gold.

They told almost incredible tales of the richness of the newly discovered district, where fortunes had been ac-cumulated in a few months. Experi-enced miners and "tenderfeet" seemed to have shared good fortune alike, and with some justice, too, for the credit of the discovery of the new gold fields is due to the inexperienced men.

Another vessel brought to Seattle second party of successful prospectors and a ton and a half of gold. These men had endured peril and undergone



MINERS CROSSING THE CHILKOOT PASS

estimated that up to last year there were 2000 miners. The districts in which most of them worked were in a a broad belt of gold-producing rock, through which quartz veins carrying gold occur frequently. Through the gold-bearing rocks the streams have cut deep gullies and canons, and in their beds the gold which was contained in the rock is concentrated. The mining of this country consists, Placer mining is commonly called "poor man's mining," for the reason that it is done without machinery, while the implements required in the work are few and of small cost. A placer with the machinery and the news of it is instructed in the placer with the machinery and the news of it is instructed in the placer with the machinery and the news of it is instructed in the placer with the machinery and the news of it is instructed in the new of its instruction. ton are turned into the mints out on The great Klondike strike was made the coast, and men who never before nine months ago, but nothing was rose above the level of the commonest known of it in the United States until of miners have come back to civilizalustration this list of returned miners

1	from from	Value
	Alaska	claims.
T. S. Lippy		\$1,000,00
F. G. H. Bowker	90,000	500,000
Joe La Due	10,000	509,00
J. B. Hollinseed	25,500	*****
William Kulju	17,000	*****
James McMann	15,000	******
Albert Galbraith	15,000	*****
Neil Macarthur	15,000	
Douglas Macarthur	15,000	*****
Bernard Anderson	14,000	35,000
Robert Krook	14,000	20,00
Fred Lendesser	13,000	
Alexander Orr	11,500	200000
John Marks	11,500	30000
Thomas Cook	10,000	25,00
M. S. Norcross	10,000	20,00

J. Ernmerger	10,000	** ***
Con Stamatin	8,250	******
Albert Fox	5,100	35,00
Greg Stewart	5,000	20,00
J. O. Hestwood	5,000	250,00
Thomas Finck	5,000	50,00
Louis B. Rhoads	5,000	35,00
Fred Price	5,000	20,00
Alaska Commercial Co.	250,000	*****

who came on the Excelsion;

A Perilous Journey. Every one of these men has a story o tell of the vast riches of the new gold fields, but they tell another story, too—a story of hardship, trial and suffering through long winter days, when the sun was smiling on this earth's other pole and leaving them in miserable cold and darkness. They tell a story that had a dark as well as a bright side. To follow their example means a risk of wealth, health and even life, but for those who are willing to take the chances the prospect they held out is alluring.

Location of the Kt. trip it is to reach the gold fields, and when they get through the faint-hearted prospector, who isn't thoroughly convinced that he wants to undergo the trial, decides to forego the trip to Alaska and dig up his wealth at home or go without. Some of the gold-mad adventurers, though, rush on

unheeding, crowding into the Alaska-bound steamers without anything like enough supplies or enough money to see them through ten days of travel on land. Miners who have been there say that such as those will perish.

How to Reach the New Gold Fields. There are two general routes to the Klondike district. From Chicago both lead to Seattle, and there diverge. One goes by ocean steamer west and a lit-tle north, and passes through Dutch Harbor, at the extreme end of the southwest Alaskan peninsula. From there the steamer turns north and con-tinues on to St. Michael's Island, a little above the mouth of the Yukon, in Ber ing Sea. At that point passengers are transferred to the river steamers to begin the long journey up the Yukon, which winds northward and eastward, and finally brings the traveler to Daw-son City, now the principal town in the mining district, although sixty-five

miles from the Klondike fields.

The cost of the trip from Chicago this way, as prospecting miners usually travel, is \$251.50. It is divided as follows: From Chicago to Seattle (second class), \$51.50; from Seattle to Dawson City, \$200.

In time the trip costs thirty days— four from Chicago to Scattle, sixteen



THE RIVER ROUTE TO DAWSON,

from Scattle to St. Michael's Island. and ten up the Yukon to Dawson City by the fast boat. The distance in gen-eral figures is 2250 miles from Chicago to Seattle, 2500 miles to St. Michael's Island and 1890 miles up the Yukon to Dawson, a total of about 6600 miles.

The other way to the Klondike, the "mountain route," is shorter in miles, but equally long in the time it requires and a great deal more difficult. By this route the traveler sails more di-rectly north to Juneau, which is 899 miles from Scattle, and then goes by lake and river and over the mountains 1000 miles to the new mining terri-On arrival at Juneau the travchanges to a smaller boat and sails 100 miles north to Dyes. From there he has a portage of twenty-seven miles through the Chilkoot Pass. The last half-mile of this pass is over a glacier and the severest of climbing. Chilkoot Indians are employed to pack supplies to the top of the pass, but from there on the traveler has to pack his own load.

After getting through the Chilkoot Pass the traveler reaches Lake Lindeman. At that point is a sawmill, where boats are sold for \$75 each. Travelers who do not care to pay that price can purchase lumber and build their own boats. The lumber can be bought for \$100 a thousand feet, and about 500 feet are required to build a boat that will answer the purpose. Still other travelers carry whipesaws and get out their own lumber, and a man handy with a saw and hammer can build a boat in three or four days. To continue the trip, though, a boat

ake Bennett and amount of rollers to be had, though, for earlier beaters of the path have left them. This half mile overland brings the traveler to Lake Tagish, through which he goes six miles and over a quarter of a mile of portage to Mud Lake, and on to the White Horse Rapids. Here there is another portage of three-quarters of a mile, the traveler brings his boat to Lake Labarge. From there on the journey is through Thirty Mile River, the

The cost of the trip this way can-not be definitely stated beyond Ju-neau, because after that point it de-

pends somewhat on the bargain made

with the Chilkoot Indians, who pack

supplies through the pass, and the length of time the overland part of the journey requires. The cost from Chicago to Seattle is the same as by the other route, of course, \$51.50 second class and \$10 more for first class. The

steamer fare up to Juneau and on to Dyea is \$42. What it costs on the overland trip each traveler determines partially for himself, but the Indian-who set as guides and pack supplies do not work without big pay.

The Centre of the Gold Region.

Dawson City, the centre of the new mining region, although sixty-five miles distant from the Klondike, is said to be a typical mining camp— minus the guns. The British Govern-ment enforces its laws in Dawson, and those laws prohibit the use of firearms.

And speaking of Wrangle, among the so few men carry guns. The laws of things Alaska has done for this countrie camp are enforced by mounted potry aside from stirring up the present

but they do send delegates to the National political conventions. The judicial function there is exercised by a district court, established in 1884.

The court sits alternately at Sitka and Wrangle. [How odd for a court to sit at Sitka and Wrangle.]

And speaking of Wrangle among the



lice, whose captain is a civil officer. Though there are said to be 3000 peo-ple in Dawson, few houses have been built, for the principal reason that lumber is \$100 per 1000 feet. The general fear is, of course, that there will be great suffering there this win-The ter, and it will be increased, it is expected, by the rush of unprepared prospectors who sailed for the new fields immediately on learning what luck had befallen those who have but recently returned.

To give an accurate idea of the cost of living in Dawson City, the price list of a general store there is herewith

Market and the second s	
Flour, per 100 pounds §	12.00
Moose ham, per pound	
Caribou meat, per pound	.65
Boans, per pound	.10
Rice, per pound	.25
Sugar, per pound	.25
Bacon, per pound	.40
Butter, per roll	1.50
Eggs, per dozen	1.50
Better eggs, per dozen	2.00
Salmon, each	1.50
Potatoes, per pound	.25
Turnips, per pound	.15
Tea, per pound	1.00
Coffee, per pound	
Dried fruits, per pound	
Canned fruits	
Canned meats	
Lemons, each	
Oranges, each	.50
Tobacco, per pound	
Liquors, per drink	.50
Shovels	2.50
Picks	5.00
Coal oil, per gallon	1.00
Overalls	1.50
	7.50
Shoes	5.00
Rubber boots\$10 to	15.00

Alaska and Its Resources

In the purchase of Alaska, the United States acquired a Territory more than balf a million square miles in extent, a part of it within the arctic circle and in the region of everlasting ice and snow, where, during part of the summer, there is continuous day and during the winter continuous, dreary night. The Alaskan coast line is greater than our Atlantic seaboard, but the entire population of whites, Eskimos and fierce Indians, who are called the Apaches of the north, is not much more than that of a ward division in

In acquiring the Alaskan Territory, though the United States moved its center, figured in geographical miles, not in area or population, as far west as San Francisco. The country now extends from about the sixty-fifth deis necessary and by some means or other one must be had.

After securing his boat the traveler floats down Lake Lindeman and Lake Report and then has half a mile of the little island of Attu, 1000 miles of Att of portage where his boat has to be out in the Pacific, beyond the Hawaiian moved on rollers. There is any group, which, since the purchase of group, which, since the purchase of Alaska, has really been our western land limit.

The United States, therefore, may almost say with England that the sun never sets on its possessions.

The principal river in Alaska, the Yukon, up which prospectors have to work their weary way to reach the gold fields was called by Schwatka, the Alaskan Nile. It rises a little more than 200 miles above Sitka, in the southern part of Alaska, and then strikes northward, following a broad Lewis River, 150 miles to Five Finder Strikes northward, following a broad ger Rapids, to the Yukon at Fort Selkirk, and then down stream 250 miles into Bering Sea through an extensive delta. Six hundred miles in from the

coast it is more than a mile wide and

the volume of its water is so great as

to freshen the ocean ten miles out from

Juneau and Sitka. They are both thriving towns, and probably they will thrive from now on, for a time at least,

thrive from now on, for a time at least, as they have never thriven before.

Alaska is ruled by a Territorial Governor, who just now is J. G. Brady, recently appointed by President Mc-Kinley to succeed James A. Sheakley. The Governor's residence is in Sitka.

The citizens up in that frozen country do not vote for President of course, being under Territorial government,

The principal cities of Alaska are

DAWSON CITY, IN THE KLONDIKE GOLD REGION

gold excitement one of the most forward was to involve it in disputes with England on the boundary question and the seal fisheries business.

Both of these disputes threatened war, but white-winged peace settled over the situation in each case and brought the suggestion of that newly invented English-American institution -arbitration. However, the boundary question is not settled yet, and the British lion is even now roaring a little and angrily swishing its tail because of a diplomatic (the British call it undiplomatic) note from Secretary of State Sherman demanding that British vessels "keep off the grass" as it were in the seal fishing grounds.

The Boundary Question

It was not unexpected, of course, that the discovery of gold in the Klon-dike region would revive in a measure the old question of a boundary line be-tween Alaska and the British North-

west Territory,
The Klondike fields are considerably east of Fort Cudahy and Dawson City, and both of these are on British soil. Into the new regions, though, American miners first ventured and made the first discoveries of gold. Since then hundreds of them have trooped over the border, staked out their claims in the rich hills and begun to dig. Should the Canadian Government pass an exclusion act all of these miners, of course, would be dispossessed.

The difficulty of enforcing such an act, especially on miners who have staked out their claims, is at once ap-



MINERS CROSSING THE BORDER.

parent. The result in retaliation by the Government of the United States is also easily imagined. The Dominion Government has already established a custom house on the border, and is doing a fair business collecting duty on the goods that go into the new country, and miners think they will be satisfied with that. The exclusion of Americans would practically close the country for a time, for the best of the means of transportation to that frozen region are owned by American

In the past miners of any national-ity have been free to enter any new diggings and stake out their claims without restriction. Canadian miners are now free to work across the border in the Alaskan fields. What the result of an exclusion act would mean to Canada in a retaliatory measure by the United States, Canadians know better than they can be told.

It is not believed, however, that Canada will attempt to exclude American miners. It is true that the United States excludes Chinese, but Canada probably recognizes that keeping out Chinamen and barring the way for Americans are two different things.

Queer Place of Refuge.

The passengers on a Tenth street trolley car were treated to an unusual sight early yesterday morning. the car was bowling along in the vicinity of Parish street a couple of sparrows, one in chase of the other, swooped down in front of the car. The pursued, by a quick flank move-ment, cluded its tormentor by darting under the roof of the front platform, and before the motorman knew what was up the bird had perched on his hand which gripped the lever. There it sat contentedly, while the passengers craned their necks to get a view of the odd spectacle. The sparrow didn't seem to mind the fact that the motorman's hand was constantly turning around as he manipulated his lever, and, after riding on its queer perch for fully a block, chirped its thanks and flew away .- Philadelphia Record.

"Breakfast Pienies."

People get up early in the morning out in Nebraska, and from this habit some enterprising social leader has evolved an idea which has become a fad in the neighborhood of Grand Island, where "breakfast picnics" are in vogue. The guests start out at 4 o'clock, breakfast in the woods, and come home before the sun makes things too hot for comfort. - New York

Burglars Who Dynamited a Post-Office Safe Placed in Custody.

Two burglars who blew open the safe and robbed the postoffice at Barnesand robbed the postoffice at Barnes-boro, Cambria county, early Thursday morning, were captured at Lewiston Friday by Railroad Detective Andy Barr, of Tyrone. Detective Barr, who had been on their trail all night, cap-tured them on their arrival at Lewis-ton and brought them to Tyrone. The men refused to give their names, but had \$130 in money and a lot of stamps in a registered envelope addressed to Barnesboro postoffice.

The following Pennsylvania pensions

The following Pennsylvania pensions have been granted: Charles C. Simpson, Horton: George Ort, Allegheny; James Elliott, Pittsburg; William M. Walker, Allegheny; Seilec S. Scofield, Harrison Valley; John McCune, Johnstown; Joseph McKnox, Pittsburg; Robert W. Stewart, Rrownsdale; Hugh P. Lewis, Marion Center; John S. Colsan, Hillsdale; John Thompson, Young-wood; Robert H. Miller, Turtle Creek; J. S. Haver, Little Cooley; Reuben Edgar, Hoovers Run; Daniel H. Barnett, Clearfield; Ambrose Ball, East Hebron; John R. Fix, Mt. Alton; Schor Bennett, Everett; Riley Linn, Purcell; John J. Ryan, Jones Mills; Jacob Kiett, Philipsburg; Emanuel J. Scese, Fellx; Anna M. Polster, Allegheny; Sarah Charlton, Nineveh; George W. Land, Oakfale; Peter Kiper, Conemaugh; Frank E. Cunningham, New Castle; Robert J. Boggs, Avalon; John Reese, Johnstown; Elijah W. Martin, Natrons; Jos. R. Conroy, Frankstown; Henry Holden, Erie; Eli Schreckengost, Saegerlown; Andrew J. Reese, Peney; John P. Schumaker, Custards; Henry D. Elough, Johnstown; Nathaniel K. Lightner, Holbrook; Jacob A. Pennington, Homestead; John W. Elwood, Cont Center; Mary E. Book, Reaver; Julia Stein, Oll City; William H. Huff, William Jeremiah, McKees Rocks; Benjamin F. Campbell, Jacob Conrad, Sr., Pittsburg; Alfred Wood, Lyona; Sylvester A. English, Benezette; Jacobs Rollison, Riverview; Samuel Carmichael, Boucher; James Pence, Bradys Bend; Johnson Clearwater, Beaver; Charles C. L. Browne, Allegheny City; Randolph Hannes, Hollidaysburg; Shannon McFadden, Munderf; Susan M. Delcamp, Coryland; Charles Wiester, Manor station; Charles H. Hart, Pittaburg; Clark Randall, Union City; William, J. Gil, Jackson Center; George Swisher, Phillipsburg; Wallis Rogers, Johnstown; Agnes Karna, Jenners; minors of Robert McCartney, Clarka Mills; Mary Dougherty, Indiana; Lydia A. Benton, Hollidaysburg; Harrison Mong, Sugar Creek; Alexander M. Borland, Butter; Jackson Noble, Tidioute; George L. Woolsey, West Terry.

Four tannery employees at Falls Creek, two miles from Disoning, and several othe

vestigation.

The 7-year-old son of Mrs, George Ruthman, of Beaver Falls, inserted a bicycle pump into the mouth of a year-old baby recently and was filling it with wind when discovered by the mother. The infant was unconscious and its little stomach was inflated like a balloon. Consciousness was restored after several hours' of hard work.

The 13-year-old son of R. T. Baring, of Beringer, Indiana county, was killed by colliding with another boy while playing prisoner's base. His neck was broken.

broken.

Three miles from Blairsville the family of McClellan Colemans had gone to a funeral, and a Miss Ella Alexander and a hired man remained at home, the latter in the cellar grinding an ax. Suddenly the telephone rang, and the young lady answered it. The next moment lightning struck, coming through the 'phone, passing

The next moment lightning struck, coming through the 'phone, passing through her body, tearing her shoes off and passing off through the floor. The hired man, hearing the thud, went up and found the lifeless body.

The Allegheny county delegates to the Democratic State Convention met last week and adopted resolutions condemning the late legislaturs for attempted steals; reaffirming the principles of the National Democratic party and the platform adopted at Chicago, and agree to "stand by the gifted Spartan leader, W. J. Bryan." A resolution was also passed denouncing the government by injunction.

Annie Cole, a domestic, fell from the second story window of the Altamonte Hotel, at Altoona, the other day, and miraculously escaped uninjured, after turning a complete somersault. She was engaged in cleaning a window and fell backward. She caught a large electric light wire and hung for several seconds before dropping thirty feet. She landed on her feet and fainted.

A peculiar case of safe dynamiting was discovered at Janesville the other

feet. She landed on her feet and fainted.

A peculiar case of safe dynamiting was discovered at Janesville the other night, 24 hours after the deed was committed. James Correll, an Italian track walker, found an iron box containing Pennsylvania railroad bonds and other stock, amounting to \$5,000, in favor of the Janesville lodge of Odd Fellows. It was found that the safe had been blown open.

Calvin Neff, a well-known citizen of Tyrone, met a tragic death while attending the funeral of William Speaker at Alexandria recently. He was one of

tending the funeral of William Speaker at Alexandria recently. He was one of a small group that surrounded the open grave. After a vivid flash of lightning he threw up his hands and fell dead, aimost rolling into the grave. The mourners were horror stricken.

The Mercer Grand Army post received two cannons from the War Department. They are 32-pounders and were built in 1863. Forty-five balls accompanied each cannon. They will

companied each cannon. They will occupied a prominent position at the side of the handsome monument to be erected in memory of the old soldiers of Mercer county.

An incendiary fire at the farm of George Higenbotham, in Redstone township, the other day, burned the wheat crop which had been harvested and was ready for the threshers, and the threshing machine of John Noble. There were about 400 bushels of wheal consumed and the loss will reach \$20,800.

20,090.

Lloyd A. Kanuss, near Shippensburg, was attacked by two buildogs belonging to John Whiteman, his left ear was torn to shreds and his eyelid cut through to the eyeball.

Miss Leidigh, the sweetheart whom Russell Swerds wounded at Mt. Holly, Cumberiand county, is reported to have forgiven and promised to wed him.