

Bad Men
Alaska

A very pretty little story which promises to develop into an interesting trial comes from Alaska. It is to the effect that about three years ago a man named McPherson sailed from San Francisco and eventually landed on one of the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska. Mr. McPherson's entire outfit consisted of a suit of clothes, an American flag and cheek enough for a regiment together with a paper purporting to have been signed by Attorney General Garland, appointing him United States commissioner. As soon as he landed on the island he raised the American flag with a great deal of ceremony and took command of 600 natives and compelled them to address him as "King McPherson."

Each season he exacted a heavy tribute from the natives, and altogether he seems to have been having a lovely time. Things went along very smoothly until a few months ago, when the report is, he had some kind of trouble with three of his subjects and fearing there might be mutiny he hanged the three rebellious ones. The report of McPherson's rule reached the treasury department and a special agent was sent to the island to investigate. This agent recently reported the facts substantially as they are given above, to Secretary Windom. Now it is said that a revenue cutter will be sent to the island for the purpose of arresting McPherson. It is the intention of the authorities to take him to San Francisco and try him for murder. April 18, 1889, TheHerald, Yakima, North Yakima, W.T.

The passengers of the ship, George W. Elder which arrived yesterday from Ashcroft Alaska, bring the report that Special Correspondent Bruce of the Omaha Bee has been lost in one of the awful chasms in the glacier coming down Mount Fairweather. A party left the steamer to hunt for the last man in hope that he might still be alive.

The story is that one Dick Willoughby, who had lived at Juneau for a dozen years or more and is well acquainted with the country and its traditions, had while up on the glacier on Mount Fairweather about twenty miles from the base seen a wonderful mirage of some foreign city.

That the mirage appeared at certain stated intervals and when Prof. Willoughby had seen it upon several occasions and had taken a photograph thereto that Bruce came to Juneau as correspondent of the Omaha Bee and had met Prof. Willoughby who had divulged to him the secret of the mirage and they had made arrangements to climb up the glacier to the point where the mirage could be seen, when they would separate about ten or a dozen miles and each take photographs of the weird city above the clouds, thus getting a system of coordinates started and exact location of the city could be demonstrated/ They accordingly provided themselves with photographic cameras, provisions and supplies. They reached the position and each went his way. That was the last ever heard or seen of Bruce. Willoughby with two Indians returned to the Elder, after waiting two days for Bruce to return to the meeting ground. Willoughby had succeeded in taking a very fine view of the mirage which stood out fairer and more marked than ever before.

The report of the loss of Bruce caused a sensation aboard the steamer. and it was proposed to organize a large party of Indians to go out and make a search but Willoughby was of the opinion that

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During our trip up the river we saw some strange characters and shook hands with a noted individual named Senatee. He has killed at least 14 men, and in one winter killed and ate two of his wives.

The old fellow is past seventh but is still the terror of all the Indians on the river. Last year the old man took a fancy to the wife of one of his sons and forcibly added her to his well stocked harem. The women up this way are hideous beyond description--Corres. in Yakima Herald, Feb. 20, 1890.

Alaska

At the base of a great moisture-steaming mountain on Douglas island ~~three~~ miles distant on the other side of Gastineau channel is the Paris gold mine, or as it is commonly called in Jeneau, the Treadwell mine.

The property is immensely valuable. It is owned by Col. J.D. Frye, an urbane white haired San Francisco millionaire and several other nabobs of California. It has been operated only for a few years.

The largest stamp mill in the world, 240 stamps, has been erected on it and it is producing such rich returns as to put themine up in the aristocratic neighborhood of \$10,000,000.

The Paris enters at a narrow gulch into the base of one of the rugged mountains which makes up Douglas island. The vein of ore is 47 feet wide and has been followed downwards to a depth of 280 feet without the bottom of the ore being found. Is it any wonder that Col. Frye wears a smiling countenance just above his neckline?

The ore is of low grade, yielding from \$6 to \$12 per ton of quartz but the immense quantities of the rock which are crushed make the gross product immensely profitable, the cheap chlorine process being used to extract the metal from the pulverized mass. As each stamp breaks two and one-half tons per day, and as the Paris has 240 of these iron and steel mastacators, Col. Frye can get away with 600 tons of Douglas island every day that his mill runs at its full speed capacity.

Douglas island is six miles ~~wide~~ and twenty miles long. How much of the rock is auriferous nobody knows. Claims have been staked out in every direction. An English company is now erecting a 120 stamp mill on the claim adjoining the Paris and expects to pick golden eggs out of the Bear's Nest as its property is called.

The history of gold mining on the island is not a long one. About eight years ago some prospectors discovered traces of loose placer gold

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There are only ten horses and one milch cow in the whole territory of Alaska.

The longest and only road in Alaska is only four miles in length-- from Juneau to the Silver Bow basin company's mine. The grade of this road averages over 1,000 feet to the mile and cost something like \$10,000 per mile to build. Many portions of the road are made by blasting out the sides of the mountains, which are narrow and exceedingly dangerous to travel over.

The United States government prohibits the importation and sale of whisky in Alaska; yet there are twenty-two saloons in the town of Juneau alone. Twenty-five cents per drink is the usual charge made.

Forst Wrangel boasts of the only brewery in the territory.

There are ten thousand Indians in Alaska who hunt and fish as a means of sustenance.

The most westerly newspaper in the United States is published at Sitka.

The Silver Bow Basin mine, located four miles from Juneau, is the largest and most profitable placer mine in the world.

Merchants in Alaska pay no license for the privilege of selling goods and no taxes are collected on lands.

The largest and richest quartz mine in the world is on Douglas Island, just opposite Juneau. Three hundred stamps are used for crushing the ores and 750 tons are treated each day.

The glaciers of Alaska exceed over a hundred times in volume all other glaciers in the world. During late years they are receding at a wonderful rate.

Up the Yukon river, some 200 miles in the interior of Alaska, the snow never melts and some places it is said to be fully two miles in depth.

Alaska

Jeff McDaniel, Nels Short and Jack Stinsel propose going to the Yukon country, Alaska in the spring. If those who are making calculations to go to the mines upon the opening of the season do not slip up on their plans, there will be an exodus of not less than 300 young men from in and about North Yakima which will make quite an inroad into our population--
Yakima Herald, Jan. 30, 1896.

Marion Cary, a cousin of G.W. Cary, left for Yukon, Alaska on Tuesday after purchasing horses and equipment for a pack train which he will operate between the Yukon mines and the coast. Mr. Cary secured seven horses here and supplied himself with packsaddles, rope and other paraphernalia. He visited relatives here for two weeks--
Yakima Herald, Feb. 6, 1896.

Marion Cary with his seven pack horses and equipment purchased in Yakima sailed from Tacoma on the steamer Willapa last Friday.

The Willapa took out fifty passengers bound for the Yukon country and it is claimed there will be not less than 5,000 people go there from this state and Oregon in the spring. Of this number several will be from Yakima--Feb. 20, 1896.

Alaska

A letter was received here yesterday from J.J. Tyler who with I.H. Dills and Jas. Simmons are in Alaska seeking for a buried pot of gold and a fabulously rich mine.

The letter was dated May 8 and written on Pelley river where they had found the first bare spot of ground encountered on their trip to the interior. The snow was within twenty feet of the river but 12 miners had located there and were working away as placers.

At this point the party had spent six days in building a raft to navigate the river and when the letter was written were feeling in excellent spirits. They had killed two bear and plenty of small game and were revelling in flesh and fowl.

They were inland bound in search of the rich deposits of gold which an old time miner had spoken of while coming over and croning over a camp fire--Yakima Herald, August 13, 1896.

I.H. Dills and James Simmons returned on Saturday last from Alaska . They were bearded, bronzed and rugged and considerable heavier in weight than when they left. The party which included J.J. Tyler and Will Coddington traveled a thousand miles inland from Juneau, sixty miles of the distance being made by steamer and the balance on foot with sledges and dogs. They found many good looking prospects but none of the richness anticipated. Messrs Tyler and Coddington remained in Alaska and are now working in the mines at Chilcot Inlet for \$50 per month and board each--Yakima Herald, Sept. 3, 1896 .

Alaska

W.I. Wadleigh of Seattle is developing his claim on Douglas island, the Yakima and othe s which are located back of the Mexican and Ready Bullion. He is accompanied by a New York expert--Seattle PI, August, 1896.

The tales told by Ed Thorp since his return from the Klondike, a marvelously rich district in Alaska, have set Juneau wild according to reports.

Here is what he says:

"The stories in circulation concerning the extraordinary richness of the recent discoveries in the Klondike district have not been exaggerated in the least. Gold in good paying quantities has been found in a number of creeks above Bonanza, but interest centers almost entirely in that stream and Eldorado, its first and principal tributary.

The amount of gold contained in many of the claims which can be computed with reasonable degree of accuracy by sinking a dozen or fifteen prospect holes in various portions of the pay streak and taking an average number of pans from each is almost incredible.

When it is remembered that dirt that averages 10 cents to the pan is considered very rich what must it be when it runs \$4 and \$5 to the pan?

On Clarence Berry's claim, No. 6 Eldorado, all the men that could be had were given employment this winter at \$1.25 an hour. He has sunk some fifteen or twenty prospect holes to bedrock and has located the pay streak for a width of 150 feet and averaging three feet in thickness and full length of his claim.

Pay dirt is encountered immediately under the muck which in that locality is about nine feet thick, that goes from 8 to 25 cents to the pan but the pay streak is not considered to have been struck until 75 cent dirt is reached.

Pans taken from the bedrock on the claim almost stagger one's belief that they not infrequently run as high as \$150 and \$200. The heaviest pan washed out so far in the entire district came from No. 6 and weighed \$438, one nugget alone in the pan weighing \$238. Gerry's expenses this winter have been from \$100 to \$150 a day and he settles with

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".. How are the mules getting along and is the dog Jack with you yet. Dogs were worth \$100 here last winter. They had to haul grub over 200 miles. Flour was \$60 a week and everything else proportionately high. Last winter was not as severe as usual, 60 degrees below zero being the coldest.

I know I am going to make a stake here but there are lots of men in the country who have been here for five and 10 years and are still in debt for their grub, but we struck it lucky and won't have to stay so long.

Some make a big stake in one year by selling and I guess the old man and I could sell now for \$20,000 and get our pay next fall but we can do better to work the claims one year and then we can sell and get out.

Y..the next letter is dated June 17th.

"Well Jack, a steamer came up the river at 4 o'clock this morning and brought some grub and now we will get a little to eat. Board in this town is \$1.40 a meal or \$25 a week. Wages are \$10 a day and \$15 on the creeks but will be less soon I hope for I intend to

hire men next month. I have only worked eight days for wages. That was last winter to pay my meat bill. Life is too short to work for wages in this country.

"One hundred dollars here won't go as far as \$5 in Yakima. I am paying 25 cents a pound to get my grub packed to my camp a distance of 12 miles--Yakima Herald, July 22, 1897.

Alaska

A letter received in Spokane from a friend in Alaska gives the following account of the country and the trip there. The letter is dated Circle City.

It is eighty miles from Juneau to Dyes at the head of Lyn canal and 27 miles over the coast range to Lake Linderman, the head of navigation, for rafts and small boats headed down the Yukon. Here a huge scow was built capable of holding two tons and in it our party consisting of three men and two women started our trip to Fort Cudahy, a distance of 650 miles at which place we arrived safely. Three other boats and seven men accompanied us.

Miners and others coming over start as early as the middle of March hauling their blankets and supplies on hand sled. An upright pole is often placed in the sled, a sail improvised out of a blanket or square cloth and with favorable wind the trip is rapidly made down to open water, generally at the lower end of Lake LaBarge, a distance of 164 miles. Here boats must be made by whipsawing lumber. After the lakes and rivers are clear of ice boats must be built at Lakes Linderman and Bennett. There are three short portages to be made on the way down but with care boats and cargo can be taken over the rapids at these places with safety.

It is known that five men have lost their lives on the way here this year, one by falling from a horse into the Dejae river, one by running into the ice with a canvas boat, two by swamping of a boat at the White Horse rapids and one at Rink rapids in the same manner.

At Lake Linderman we leave Alaska and pass the boundary into the Northwest territory of the dominion government and pass out of it forty miles below Fort Cudahy at the 141st line of west longitude.

At Cudahy there is an English custom house official, a squad of mounted police consisting of 20 men who under the command of Captain Constantine have erected commodious and comfortable quarters, the best in the

Flour sells at \$8 per hundred pounds, bacon per pound 35 cents; ham 40, beans 12; sugar 20, coffee \$1; corn and oat meal 20; butter 50, common tea \$10; rice 30; Whiskey sells all the way from \$10 to \$20 a gallon.

Looking to the west over a low wooded and swampy country, a distance of 100 miles, is seen a range of mountains the highest points of which do not rise more than 2,500 feet. At their base are the streams which produce the yellow metal that has caused so many people to come to this isolated and frozen region of the north.

There are four of these creeks, Mastodon, Independence, Deadwood and Boulder, each varying in length from six to ten miles which are known to be very rich. Mastodon has so far been the largest producer, owing to the fact that it was first to be discovered and worked.

Wages at the mines during the summer are ten dollars a day and a claim that does not yield that amount will not pay to open. From the middle of January until the last of April is the most favorable time to prospect which is done by sinking holes and burning timber in them to thaw the ground out down to bedrock without being troubled with water.

Until the snow leaves it costs 10 cents a pound to have supplies freighted out to the mines which is done with dogs hitched to sleds. Each dog will pull an average of 200 pounds and travel 25 miles a day. A number of men who have been in the country for several years have their own dogs.

Nearly the whole country is covered with a thick growth of moss and vegetation under which the ground never thaws. During two months of the year the ground air is so full of mosquitoes as to often darken the sun. Men have been known to be driven almost to the verge of insanity by these blood sucking pests.

It froze up solid on the 16th of October last year and from then until De

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Ed Webster passed through the city a few days ago bound for the Alaskan gold fields.

N.N. Brown, formerly landlord of the Hotel Yakima was a passenger on the steamer Mexico bound for the Clondyke. W.J. Milroy sailed on the same boat.

John Reed came down from Cle Elum Sunday and reports that the Clondyke fever is very virulent there while five men have already gone from Roslyn and others are making arrangements to go.

Charles Thom won left for Spokane Thursday night to complete arrangements for his journey to the Clondyke.

Ex Sheriff Dan Simmons has started for the British mining mecca having joined an Ellensburg party which includes Charley Pond, John Souver and brother Joe Shull and Mr. Mathieson, a mining engineer. They take fifteen pack horses with them.

George Guiland is another of the lucky ones who have been staked for the Clondyke. He left this morning for the sound and will sail on the Willamette, August 3 in company of a lot of good fellows, including Milroy, Cameron, Thompson and Simmons.

Dr. J. Jay Chambers, formerly a resident and councilman of this city is now practicing medicine and conducting a pharmacy in Dawson city. The doctor had a narrow escape from the Indians a year ago while traveling the frozen north as they came to the conclusion that he was a bad medicine man owning to one of their number dying.

The Willamette on which most of the Yaki people start for the land of gold has heretofore been used as a collier by the Pacific Coast Steamship company but she was taken off that work, refitted and arranged for Alaska passenger traffic. She accommodates 500 passengers. The list is already filled.

Attorney R.B. Milroy left yesterday morning for Seattle where he will take the steamer Willamette on August 3 for Dyea. He is staked to \$1000 by five

Alaska

Owing to the number of railway engineers and firemen who have resigned their position with the Northern Pacific railway company to go to the Klondyke, the company has found it necessary to refuse the customary summer leaves of absence to employes in this line of work--
Yakima Herald, August 5, 1897.

Alaska

On Wednesday there passed through the city loaded on freight cars the steamer John C. Barr, bound for the Klondike country.

The boat is a river steamer from some stream in Ohio and was built three years ago, but was recently purchased by a Klondike navigation company for \$10,000 and will upon its arrival at St Michaels be put together and ply upon the waters of the Yukon river between that point and Dawson City.

The boat was accompanied by a crew of ship builders and it is said the cost of transportation and setting up the craft will exceed \$30,000.

The boat is 225 feet long, 38 feet wide and draws but 19 inches of water. She will carry 800 passengers and has a very large freight capacity. It is said the same company purposes buying two more steamers of like ~~capacities~~ character with which to handle the immense business that is expected on the Yukon with the opening of the spring--
Yakima Herald, Sept. 2, 1897.

There is a new book keeper at Coffin Bros. big store owing to the fact that Mr. Condon ,who has filled that position so long and so well has resigned to start for the land of gold and famine.

He has made up his mind to join the party to which belong Messrs Smith and Cameron who are buying Yaking horses for the expedition.

Sam Failing who has been in Coffin Bros. employ as a sheep herder and Harry Fry, who has been their night watchman have also determined to go and Geo. Carey, J.D. Medill, Al Whitson, E.E. Grover and others are thinking of joining the party.

The present plan is to start from North Yakima Saturday morning with the 300 horses that belong to the syndicate. These will be loaded on the company's own vessel at Seattle and at Victoria 250 cattle a large number of dogs and food for man and beast will be taken aboard.

A large stock of provisions will be taken for the purpose of the company which is English and is said to be backed by the Rothchilds is to land such a stock in Dawson City during the coming winter.

The steamer will carry the expedition to Chilcat where the long trip over the mountains will begin. This is the same trail that has been used by Thorpe of which a description was given in last week's Herald. The expedition carries tents for its men and also for its horses and will establish stations and man them along the trail so as to facilitate future operations. When Stewart river is reached, which they expect will be the latter part of December , the cattle will be killed and they will be taken into Dawson City with other provisions, by means of dog sleds. . Yakima Herald, Sept. 30, 1897.

Alaska

Ed Thorp, son of Willis Thorp, has returned from the Klondike and the reported \$130,000 he was bringing down has dwindled to about \$20,000, divided among four.

An attempt was made to interview Mr. Ed Thorp who went to the diggings last year with Mr. Stewart and who is interested with him in mining property. Mr. Thorp appears to be a pleasant conversationalist but as stated, the interview was early broken into by the young man's father who stood by and admonished his son not to talk to the reporters. "Stay clear of them" he said "and tell them nothing."

This advice was given to the others. After leaving the dock the party went to the Thorp residence at 1011 Twenty second avenue and as they went the elder Thorp said:

"If any reporters come out there we will set the dogs on them."

"Willis Thorp is a nice old man but he's got 'em bad."

The Thorp party went north with a drove of cattle to sell to the miners. The cattle were driven in overland and after having been disposed of the men turned miners and dug for the yellow metal--Seattle Times, Sept. --1897.

A letter dated at Skaguay, Sept. 24th and addressed to A.B. Wyckoff is at hand from Peter Norby and contains many items of interest.

He states that all of their goods are within four days of the lake and says that only four parties that went up on their steamer are ahead of them.

Besides Norby there are in the party McDaniels, Jungst, Krober, and Miller. Two of these are about to begin the construction of boats while the others finish packing and the plan is to go down in two boats.

They are still in hopes of getting through this fall though they may conclude to stop on Stewart river.

Pete's trip down to Skaguay where the letter was written was for the purpose of getting oats which cost him \$40 for two and a half sacks.

They have fed two tons of grain and have lost seven out of 15 horses. There are 1,500 dead horses on the trail. Yakima Herald, Oct. 3, 1897.

George Guillard returned to Seattle by the steamer Rosalie from Lake Bennett last Saturday on the fruitless journey to the gold places of the Klondike. George looks none the worse notwithstanding almost incredible hardships of the White pass or Skaguay trail. He is slightly lame from a sprain.....

The great mistake of our party was not going further up by steamer six miles to Dyea; had we done so we could have been now in Dawson. The townsites boomers of Skaguay bay however told us that Dyea was an impracticable route; that there were tons and tons of freight there which the Indian packers could not pack over the summit before November. We were assured we could get over White pass in three weeks easily.

Jack Splawn drove 1,000 goats to winter quarters on the Nelson place near the Natches bridge last Sunday. They are Angoras and every one is a beauty.

Early in the spring they will be taken into the Klondike country and marketed there, this stock having been selected for the venture because of its hardy nature.

On the way in they will either carry packs or draw sleds--Yakima Herald, Dec. ~~20~~ 9, 1897.

Alaska

Dawson City Nov. 21 1879CQ

Friend George (G.W. Cary)

According to promise I will pencil you a ~~few~~ lines to let you know I am still O.K. We landed here on November 1st having been on the way from Lake Bennett where we built the boat sixteen days. We floated eight days in the ice. Timber was scarce and in order to construct out boat we had to carry it from about 1 1-2 miles back on the trail, but I hear there is plenty of it up Lake Linderman.

It is no trouble to bower a boat from Lake Linderman to Lake Bennett with half a load. A 24 x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ boat is good for 5,000 pounds and five men.

You can run the canyon with a full load and White Horse Rapids with a half load. The Five Fingers Rapids are nothing unless the water is low, when it is pretty rocky.

The right hand side has the deepest and swiftest water and the fewest rocks. There are a great many islands and you should take the largest stream on account of bars and land on the left bank at White Horse just before the river bends to the left, with a high bank in front on the right side. The portage is one mile long over a very good trail which is level after a climb of thirty feet up the bank. Camping grounds are good all the way down.

As I were coming in again I would come over the Dalton trail to the mouth of the Pelly and bring ponies enough to pack my goods. The trip would cover 350 miles but it is over a fine trail with plenty of feed. Kill your horses and dry the meat for dog feed as it will be worth 25 cents per pound to you in here. It is worth 50 cents now.

It is told here that Jack Dalton and two other men were killed this fall on the way out. They had quite a sum of money, but the Indian that was with them ran when the fun began and got away and came back to Pelly River and made the report, which some doubt.