

JOHN W. MACKAY'S VIEWS.

WHAT THE VETERAN MINER SAYS ABOUT KLONDIKE.

Doesn't Doubt the Wealth is there — Man Will Fail and all suffer Privations they Little Expect.

John W. Mackay, the veteran miner, and now a great capitalist of New York, gives his views of the marvellous Klondike gold discoveries—his advice to the legions who are now rushing to the new Eldorado to seek their fortune, writes a correspondent.

Mr. Mackay, the last of the Bonanza kings, works from early to late every day as president of the Commercial Cable Company and of the Postal-Telegraph System.

No one in America perhaps, knows as much about the vicissitude of gold hunting or about placer mining. But he is so modest, so averse to having anything written about him, that he consents only once in ten years to be interviewed.

Saturday was that rare day. He has been literally besieged by those seeking advice about the new gold fields—both capitalists and would-be prospectors. Accompany this man of great fortune and great executive ability to his quiet home and you will see a millionaire of rugged health and boundless wealth contentedly sup upon a single chop, a bit of toast and a cup of tea. He is as much given to plain fare as the Pope, and from choice.

"What will be the fate of those who now rush off to the Yukon district?" I asked Mr. Mackay.

"Many will fail, and all will suffer privations which they little expect. The conditions in the Yukon regions are, of course, very different from those in California or Nevada, or any other American mining region. Primitive mining is always difficult, but in California we had a good climate, and I do not recall many instances where men suffered for lack of food. But the young fortune-hunter who went to California from the East, if he exhausted his resources and struck nothing, could at least write back to his folks for money to take him home. In Alaska it is different. For nine months of the year the rivers and lakes are almost impassible. The climate is damp, foggy and miserable. The nearest telegraph and even the nearest post-office is fifteen or sixteen hundred miles away from the gold fields.

DOESN'T DOUBT REPORTS.

"Do you credit the reports of the marvellous richness of the gold fields just discovered?"

"I have no reason to doubt them. I have had great confidence in the mining possibilities in British Columbia and Alaska—have always believed that those frozen, almost inaccessible regions contain heavy deposits of precious metals. Some enormous 'finds' of gold have undoubtedly been made there, and yet we know little or nothing of the possibilities of the country. Think of Williams' Creek, for instance, in the Caribou region in British Columbia. As long ago as 1860 something like fifty millions of gold were taken out. It was placer mining there, just the same as the Klondike."

"What proportion of those who go are likely to get anything out of it, judging by your own observation?"

"Nothing is more uncertain, except, perhaps, that the majority of those who go are certain to fail. In placer mining one man may strike very rich findings, while a score of others who work just as hard toil on with empty pockets. Severe labor is the lot of all. Industry in fact, the hardest kind of toil, is generally necessary on the road to success. At best, while one man finds \$500 ten or twelve will find nothing."

"The gold is right on the surface, it appears?"

"Yes. It is a mountainous country, overrun with lava at some remote age, and centuries ago probably the great forces of nature were at work and melted the gold in a natural crucible. The particles of gold are now washed out by the waters, and are generally found along the course of mountain streams. You will always find the best placer gold near the banks of streams and barren water courses. Scientific mining preserves a much larger portion of gold dust than formerly, and I presume it destroys a great deal of the individuality in a working miner. Thus far the Klondike region has seen only old-fashioned primitive mining, the men groveling in the dirt with their hands and washing out the gold dust in a simple pan, picking nuggets with their fingers."

"Will the modern mining methods be carried up to the Yukon country?"

"In time, yes. The recent discoveries prove that it is immensely rich. All parts of the country will be opened. Capital will always go where there is a chance for legitimate investment, and transportation facilities will increase as rapidly as the travellers."

ADVICE TO ARGONAUTS.

"What advice would you give to those who are going to the Yukon district?"

"To prepare for great privations and perhaps utter disappointment. The climate is intensely hot for a few weeks, and dreadfully cold for many months. There is certain to be a scanty supply of food next winter. No one should go who is not provided against Arctic weather and against starvation, nor without ready cash. The well and strong will naturally fare better than the weak. A dozen young men have asked me already about going there. I have told them that if a man had a thousand dollars, a good constitution and no wife and children he could go there or anywhere."

"Americans all seem excited by the discoveries. Is this interest likely to last?"

"It may increase. It depends on future reports. I see in it something like the excitement of the early fifties over the gold discoveries of the Pacific coast regions. The reports of rich individual finds are likely to continue, and the arrival of every ship loaded with fortunate gold hunters will stimulate the imagination, hopes and desires of the would-be gold hunters. We hear nothing of the failures, you know. One man who is lucky is more talked about than a thousand who fail."

"You think, then, that there are failures even in the Klondike region to-day?"

"My experience is, I think, that about one man in ten used to get on in the mining days in California. I do not mean that one man in ten became a millionaire. I mean made a living and a little more. The thrifless and careless ones go to the wall, while the hard workers, who have a definite purpose in view and who cling tenaciously to it, succeed in mining as in other occupations."

"But, as I said, in placer mining there is a good deal of luck in locating the claim. One man will take out a great deal and another man nothing. As to the limits of British Columbia mining I cannot say, but I think there are immense gold deposits yet to be found."

"I have been to Juneau, as you know, and know something about the country. The modern Argonauts in search of gold will have to traverse. Men will probably have to drag sledges and act as their own beasts of burden. Provisions will be enormously dear, and a good deal of food will be necessary to support life when the thermometer is 40 or 50 degrees below zero. Men in search of gold will, however, brave all manner of perils; their pluck will be fully tested in the Yukon region, and in some cases rewarded."

WOMEN OF TO-DAY.

The countries of the world where women already have some suffrage have an area of over eighteen million square miles, and their population is over three hundred and fifty million.

In Great Britain women vote for all elective offices except members of Parliament.

In France the women teachers elect women members on all boards of education.

In Sweden, women vote for all elective officers, except representatives; also, indirectly, for members of the House of Lords.

In Norway they have school suffrage.

In Ireland the women vote for the harbor boards, poor-law guardians, and in Belfast for municipal officers.

In Russia women householders vote for all elective officers and on all local matters.

In Finland they vote for all elective officers.

In Austria-Hungary, they vote, by proxy, for all elective officers.

In Croatia and Dalmatia they have the privilege of going to local elections in person.

In Italy widows vote for members of Parliament.

In all the countries of Russian Asia they can do so wherever a Russian colony settles. The Russians are colonizing the whole of their vast Asian possessions, and carrying with them everywhere the "mir" of self-governing village, wherein women who are heads of households are permitted to vote.

Women have municipal suffrage in Cape Colony, which rules one million square miles.

Municipal women suffrage rules in New Zealand.

Iceland, in the North Atlantic, the Isle of Man, between England and Ireland, and the Pitcairn Islands, in the South Pacific, have full women suffrage.

In the Dominion of Canada women have municipal suffrage in every province and also in the northwest territories. In Ontario they vote for all elective officers, except in the election of members of the legislature and Parliament.

In the United States twenty-eight States and Territories have given women some form of suffrage.

School suffrage in various degrees is granted to women in Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

In Arkansas and Missouri women vote by petition on liquor license in many cases.

In Delaware suffrage is exercised by women in several municipalities.

In Kansas they have equal suffrage with men at all municipal elections.

About fifty thousand women voted in 1890. In Montana they vote on all local taxation.

In New York they can and do vote at school elections. The question of the constitutionality of the law is still undecided. They vote also in many places in this State on local improvements, such as gas and electric street lighting, paving, sewerage, and municipal bonds.

In Utah, women voted until disfranchised by the "Edmunds law," when they promptly organized to demand its repeal.

In Pennsylvania a law was passed in 1889 under which women vote on local improvements, by signing or refusing to sign petitions therefor.

In Wyoming women have voted on the same terms with men since 1870. The convention in 1889 to form a State Constitution unanimously inserted a provision securing them full suffrage.

THE TRIALS OF GENIUS.

Friedrich—Why, what are you in such a fuss about? Anything happened?

Artist—Oh, botheration, yes! Everything! I was just getting some of my latest pictures read for framing and that confounded housekeeper of mine has so mixed them up I'll never in the wide world be able to tell the top from the bottom again.

About the House.

BABIES AND HOT WEATHER.

It is a difficult thing to keep the little baby well during hot weather. Different children require different care, and what would be death to some is life to others. This matter of dress is one of greatest importance. Too many mothers dress their little ones in summer exactly as they do in winter. The heat of the sweltering summer days almost drives grown people distracted, but very little effort is put forth to keep the baby cool in a proper manner. If he cries or whimpers he is called "cross," or "peevish." No wonder the poor little thing is that, dressed as he is in heavy woollens.

Few mothers recognize the fact that the little ones should be evenly clothed. It is folly to dress the child warmly in parts and leave others exposed. A child may healthfully run barefoot during the hottest part of the day, but as soon as the chilly winds come on, he should be properly clothed. Very thin clothing and as little as he can consistently wear will keep the tiny one comfortable during those stuffy, sultry hours. Much of this is, also, dependent on the constitution of the child. A strong, buxom baby will not need such constant care as the puny, fragile one. The strong child would suffer if dressed in flannels when the mercury registers 90, while the other would probably suffer without them. Of course, common sense, must always be exercised, and a mother ought to know best how to treat her own child.

Many mothers who do not dare to remove flannels altogether, make little shirts of thin, white cambric to slip on under the woollen ones. It seems that no matter how fine and thin woollen materials are they will irritate the tender skin and make the baby cross. Then, too, mothers are prone to overburden the little ones with clothing at all times. Their bodies should not be confined in tight bands, except for the first few weeks, and their clothing should be as light as possible. Dresses and skirts should never be so long that the little one cannot kick his legs to his heart's content.

Tiny babies, as well as older ones, should be given plenty of exercise. Some of the dear little ones are so good that one scarcely ever hears a sound from them, and they are the ones who are neglected. They are permitted to sit or lie in one position for hours at a time. This would be extremely tiresome to a grown person and certainly must be so for the little one. Take the babies up occasionally, let them roll around on the floor and kick for a while and they will grow up healthier children for it. Let them have as much fresh air as possible, guarding them from the strong sunlight, which is very trying on their eyes. It is always pitiful to see helpless infants lying blinking their little eyes in too strong a light. Shade their carriages or carry them so that this may be avoided.

No day should pass, unless the weather is inclement, that little ones should not be taken out for a few hours, either for a walk or drive, and then care should be taken that they are not smothered by too much clothing, about their heads. Let their wraps be warm and light.

Another thing is proper feeding. Babies should not be fed at all hours and at all times. Every time a baby cries he is not hungry. Have stated hours and feed him then. For very young babies every two hours is considered proper. Give the babies water once in a while, but let it be pure. Boiled water which has been standing on ice, but which has had no ice in it, is best. Any cow's milk given babies should be sterilized, in order that all disease germs may be killed. Babies should not be allowed to eat everything the older children do, such as sweets, nuts, pickles, etc. It is too irritable for their tender little stomachs.

SOAP.

How made: Dissolve eight pounds of sal-soda, two ounces of borax, one-half ounce of glauber salts, in five gallons of water; see that no lumps remain. Slice ten pounds of any common bar soap, the freer from resin, the better in thin slices, that it may dissolve quickly and melt in the above solution; keep stirring as to mix thoroughly, and when the soap is melted it is done; take it from the fire let it stand one hour; then pour into tin pails or butter firkins. Do not cut into bars to dry, as it cannot be dried like other soaps. It is better to keep it in bulk and in a damp place. A common wash boiler or large dishpan will do nicely to make it in, as it does not injure tin. The above amount makes about fifty pounds.

Directions for use: For a family of six or eight persons, put about one pound of soap into about three quarts of boiling water; when dissolved pour into the washing machine or tub; add enough water to cover the clothes. Put in the white clothes; let them soak three hours or over night; put into a clean suds, prepared as the first, only about one-half pound of soap; rinse, blue and hang to dry.

Put the colored clothes into the second suds; let them soak fifteen minutes; wash, rinse well and dry. Dissolve one teaspoonful of borax to each pail of water and add to the bluing water. For cleanliness and whiteness the clothes will compare with those which have been boiled. Woollen goods washed with this soap do not become stiff or yellow. But don't forget in washing woollens to stretch the threads in both directions before drying, and use lukewarm, not hot water. Many different soaps and washing compounds have been tried, but none is so good as the above.

VARIOUS RECIPES.

Breaded Fish.—This is a delicious way to prepare any sort of fish. Take one-half pint dried bread crumbs, one and one-half teaspoonful of salt, a pinch of pepper, one egg, two pounds of fish. Have the fish free from bones

and skin and cut it into nice pieces. Season with the salt and pepper. Beat the egg in a deep plate and dip the fish, one piece at a time, into it, see that every part is covered with the egg; then roll each piece in the crumbs and place on a plate. Have enough fat in the frying kettle to float the fish. When it is so hot that blue smoke rises from the centre put in the fish and cook for five minutes. Drain on brown paper and serve very hot. Tartar sauce is particularly good to serve with breaded fish.

A Good Tartar Sauce.—Take one-half gill of olive oil, four teaspoonfuls of vinegar, one even teaspoonful of mustard, one-half teaspoonful of pepper, one-tenth, one-half teaspoonful of salt, one-fourth teaspoonful of onion juice, one-half teaspoonful of minced capers, one-half tablespoonful of minced cucumber pickles, and the yolk of one egg. Beat the egg, salt, pepper and mustard together until thick and light; then add the oil, a few drops at the time, beat after each addition of oil until all is used. As the sauce thickens add a few drops of vinegar. When the sauce is smooth and thick, stir in the minced pickle and capers.

Apple Sauce.—Fill a small stone crock with sour apples that have been pared, quartered and cored. Turn over them a pint of sugar dissolved in a cupful of water. Cover the crock closely and place in the oven, in the early evening, and let remain until the next morning. The flavor and color of the apples are quite different to those stewed over the fire.

A THRILLING SPECTACLE.

A free fight on top of Nelson's pillar in Sackville street furnished excitement for a Dublin crowd one morning recently. The monument is 120 feet high, and the platform on which the statue stands about 13 feet square. A Carlow farmer, having made his way up to the platform threw down his hat and stick, climbed up the flagstaff, and when the keeper and a policeman interferred tried to throw them over the railing. They succeeded in holding him off till men from the street came to their help, and had a hard time getting the crazy man down after they had bound him.

SUNSTROKE POISONING.

A NOVEL THEORY ADVANCED BY A LEARNED PHYSICIAN.

Action of the Sun's Rays Causes the Poison to Form — Nerve Cells are Totally Destroyed by Its Action—Dr. Van Gieson of New York, Made the Discovery.

Dr. Ira Van Gieson, Director of the New York Pathological Institute, and one of the leading medical authorities of the day, has given out a distinctly new theory in explanation of the phenomenon of sunstroke, a question which he has investigated and experimented with for years.

According to Dr. Van Gieson, a person who is sunstruck does not die because of overheating of the blood, but for the reason that there has been formed in his veins by the fierce rays of the sun a poison so deadly that it destroys the nerve cells. It is what the doctors call an "auto-toxic" poison, but right there they are compelled to stop, for all efforts thus far made to analyze it have proved futile, and until they can succeed in the matter of analysis it will be utterly impossible to compound an absolute remedy for sunstroke.

It is a strange series of facts that this investigation has revealed. It has shown that the virulence of

THIS MYSTERIOUS POISON

Has often been as great as that which the rattlesnake instills into its victim, and, oddly enough, it is not unlike the venom of the rattlesnake in its effects. Yet there is a difference, and it is just this difference which forms the stumbling block over which the analysis have fallen.

Dr. Van Gieson states that the purple, swollen face of the sunstroke victim, the enfeebled heart action, the profound collapse and the fact that death occurred within one or two hours to convince oneself that what was seen was the result of the action of one of the most deadly of poisons. Said the doctor: "It is, beyond question, the most brilliant, straightforward example of an acute, intense, virulent poison, originating within the body, which acts most rapidly and violently upon the nervous system."

The very first point at which the poison strikes is that group of nerve cells which manage the heart. These are known as "ganglion" cells. Instantly the poison touches them the process of degeneration begins and continues at lightning speed. Sometimes the poison attacks the cells of the brain, and then there happens what medical men term degeneration of the cortical cells, meaning that the nerve cells of the brain are being killed and practically forced out of existence.

Occasionally it happens, too, that the sufferer from this sort of poisoning manages to cling to life, but he is always in a damaged condition. The poison cannot enter one's system without making a scar. It is certain to be the case that at least a few of the nerve cells are partially destroyed. The doctors call these structural changes. The layman knows that he is not as well as before, and friends say that

HIS MIND IS AFFECTED.

Which is very apt to be the case. Dr. Van Gieson said, when questioned regarding the matter: "The progress

of the past 10 years in bacteriology and physiological chemistry has gone far toward demonstrating that the great majority, in fact, if not most of the processes of disease in general, are due to toxic substances in one form or another. I would divide toxic substances into five groups, the most important of which are the auto-toxic. I consider that these poisons merit much consideration, because they will come ere long, to be recognized as a factor of great importance in the production of nervous and mental diseases. It is only through the most profound analysis of physiological chemistry, linked with caution and extended animal experiments, that we can slowly feel the way along toward the ultimate explanation of the auto-toxic group of diseases.

It only takes the very slightest change in the elements that go to make up the fluids and tissues of the body to cause a transformation from the useful to the injurious. When you stop to think of this, it cannot be considered strange that with all the complicated chemistry of the body, with the operations of

THE WONDERFUL MECHANISM

That controls it, it is easily apparent that it would be no difficult matter for the machine to get out of order slightly and sufficiently for development of abnormal poisonous chemical compounds.

Neither can it be considered strange that the poisons that come into existence under the usual conditions of the body are often not nullified because of the derangement of the organs whose functions appear to be largely if not wholly for the purpose of nullification. It occasionally is the case, too, that, owing to the failure of the liver or the kidneys to act properly, there is retained in the body certain waste that should have passed from it, and that waste in time becomes poison.

Now it is more than probable that the victims of sunstroke, as it is called—really the victims of auto-toxic poisoning—are persons in whose body, probably unknown to themselves, there exist certain conditions favorable to the formation of this mysterious auto-toxic poison. Just how far this is true, of course, we do not know. My profound conviction is that very many examples of mental and not a few instances of nervous disease are caused by the action of auto-toxins or poisons on the nervous system. This conviction is the result of prolonged study of the changes caused in the nerve cells by the action of poison.

It is plain enough why the nervous system is so susceptible to such poison as affects the sufferer in case of sunstroke. The most complex cell in the human body is the ganglion. It instantly feels the effect of a poison much more readily than is the case with the nerve cells that go to make up the majority of the tissues of the human body while the

NATURE OF THE POISON

Is entirely obscure, there is absolutely no doubt of the way it acts upon the nervous system. The poison produces an acute degeneration of the cortical cells, which in some instances goes so far as to utterly destroy the cell. Oftentimes nerve cells are only partially destroyed, and this is due to the fact that the duration of the action varies. While the poison may be intensely virulent, if it acts for a brief period only on the nerve cells, nature will often repair the damage that has been caused, up to a certain point. However much she may try, nature seems to be unable to place the cell in exactly the same condition as it was before it encountered the poison.

If the action of the poison continues beyond a certain period, the nerve cell cannot be saved from destruction. The sufferer either dies or continues to live either in a damaged mental condition or suffering from a permanent physical disability. I have no hesitation in saying that the whole question of life or death with a patient poisoned by what is called sunstroke depends upon the action of his internal organs in eliminating the poison from the system. The chances are, therefore, that a man in perfect physical condition will not die from sunstroke.

Apparently there is no greater safeguard against death from sunstroke than to keep one's kidneys in a normal condition. If the processes necessary to send this poison from the system are checked it means death or insanity in nine cases out of ten to the victim."

FOREIGN CYCLING NOTES.

In a New Zealand bicycle, designed greatly to increase the driving power, the cranks are much shorter than usual, and instead of terminating in a pedal has at the end a small roller fitted into a slot in a long lever, which has for a fulcrum a stud attached to the back fork. The pedal is attached to the lever, the short crank being carried around by pressure on the pedals. The up-stroke is very quick, and the down-stroke slower, but very powerful. Romford, England, claims the champion fat men's bicycle club, 24 pounds being the minimum admission weight.

Women furnish only 5 per cent of Italian bicyclists, but the number is increasing as the prejudice against feminine athletes vanishes.

Discarded bicycles are now dismembered, ornamented and suspended as drawing-room ornaments.

More than one third of the 28,000 applications for English patents this year are for bicycle improvements.

BACK OF THE EYE.

Behind the eye what is called the "retina" is lined with branching blood vessels, and a curious but perfectly simple experiment will enable you to see these. Place yourself in a dark room, opposite a dark-colored wall then light a candle, and holding it in your hand, shove it up and down before your eyes, all the time looking, not at the candle, but the wall beyond. After a little practice you will see appear on the wall a great branching figure in black on a reddish surface. What you are looking at is the shadow of these blood vessels at the back of your own eye. Perhaps the most curious part of the whole thing is that the part of the eye which receives the impression of light must lie behind these blood vessels;