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LIFE AT DAWSON CITY

ONE OF THE PIONEERS IN THE KLONDIKE GOLD REGIONS TALKS OF THAT COUNTRY

PERILOUS JOURNEY—NOT MANY CAN AFFORD TO BE SICK—FALSE REPORTS—DAWSON IS QUITE A PLACE FOR GAMBLING—THERE WILL BE SICKNESS THERE THIS SPRING.

In a recent interview, Mr. F. W. Hart, who is now in Toronto, said some things about the Klondike that are the more trustworthy because uttered by a man who has seen the gold regions from the beginning of the fever and been familiar with conditions there ever since. He went to Dawson in the spring of '98 and piloted the first steamer down the Yukon. He took the Iowa from White Horse rapids to Dawson City, a distance of 450 miles. Mr. Hart never had the least experience in piloting any kind of boat, but he said that he had the steamer loaded with his own goods, and insisted on seeing that nothing was neglected, and so he stood at the wheel. The steamer was not an exceedingly fast one, but Mr. Hart affirms that with the assistance of the very strong current on the river they made very fast time. All along the shores were prospectors and others who pleaded to be taken on board, among whom was a Catholic priest, who repeatedly cried for them to stop and take him to Dawson, but however willing they might have been the thing was impossible. The load of ten tons was safely brought by him from Dyea to Dawson, though they passed many wrecks en route.

WHAT ILLNESS COSTS.

Just as Mr. Hart was preparing to leave for home last September he was taken ill, and in a day or two he was in the hospital with the prevalent fever. The doctor ordered milk for him, and for forty-eight days he had a quart of milk a day, at four dollars a quart. The measure is not exact on the imperial scale, for a gallon of milk is served in six whiskey bottles. The reason that the price of milk is somewhat dear is that there are only two cows in Dawson, so that the quarts sent out are of a very "shy" quality. The doctor's bill for attendance during this period was \$500. A friend of the sick man supplied him with a Christmas treat of eggs and grapes, when he was convalescent. They were sent from San Francisco. However, every man has a chance there, and the prices for everything brought into the country were very fair indeed. For instance, a spring mattress, which cost a dollar here, easily brought \$40 there; an unholstered chair, without trimmings, valued here at about \$5 sold for \$80, while couches were eagerly bought up at \$75 each, all being made out of native Yukon wood.

OSTRACISM SOME STATEMENTS.

Referring to some articles regarding the Yukon, which Mr. Hart had seen in a Toronto newspaper, he said he would like to make a few corrections. It had been stated, he said, that mules and horses could pasture out on the Klondike fields all winter, and that on the shortest days there were 24 hours of daylight. Both statements were wrong, for after November the mules have to paw under the snow to get to whatever unsubstantial grass might be there. The sun there disappears on November 20th, and but for a constant twilight, there is no further evidence of it till January 10th, and all the saloons and places of business have during this interval to be artificially lighted.

KILLING THE HORSES.

The people up there were killing all the horses because hay costs 20c a pound, and there has been such a supply of meat sent into the country that it now sells at 15c a pound. Till February 1st horse-meat was worth 25c a pound for dog feed, and since dogs can be fed as cheaply as men, and can do better work than horses, the latter are being done away with. The market has been flooded with beef, and there has been an order issued to destroy whatever meat is left after May 1st. Mr. Hart said that hundreds of thousands of horses would consequently have to be thrown away.

LOTS OF GAMBLING.

"All the saloons are gambling houses," said Mr. Hart, "and it seems to me that gambling is the principal occupation of the country. Unless you own a faro game or roulette table you are not in it. There are about half a dozen big gaming houses in Dawson with saloons and dancing halls in connection. I saw," he continued, "thirty-eight thousand dollars won in one of the gambling places in but a few moments, and there are some 'fierce' games all the time. Drinks were all 'four bits' (25 cents), but a cut rate in January brought them all down to 25 cents, though some of the best houses still keep the prices up. Cigars are a drug on the market, and you can have them at your own price. When you go in to purchase you call for what you want and hand out your small stack of nuggets to the clerk, keeping the larger sack in reserve. The clerk gives the precious metal to the gold-washer, who takes out the amount due, but vouches for the dishonest gold-washer in the Klondike."

THE FEVER WILL RAGE.

Referring to the fever, Mr. Hart said that he predicted that two-thirds of the population of Dawson will suffer from it this spring, because they have absolutely no sewage system. At most the ground drains but 18 inches, and the water stands in pools with a thick green scum on it. Between three and four hundred died there during the six months before Christmas,

though about 9,000, or half of the population, were fever-stricken.

Mr. Hart, as an undertaker there, said his estimate was not far wrong regarding the deaths. He was the undertaker at the memorable Sheep camp avalanche, when 52 people were killed.

THE OUTLOOK FOR HORSES

A BUNCH OF VALUABLE OPINIONS ON THE SUBJECT

With the talk of auto-mobile carriages, compressed air, flying machines and other much-lauded means of transit and power the intelligent quadruped of the genus horse has had cause to have serious apprehensions for his future. His enterprising owner has also been disturbed in mind over the prospect of depressed prices. It is to put the latter in a more hopeful mood that the following opinions are published:

The Breeders' Gazette of March 29th last says: "The demand for handsome carriage and coach horses remains far in excess of the available supply. The shippers find that many agents of private buyers are scouring the breeding districts for choice horses, and offering in many cases much larger prices than a shipper can pay. This means that the supply is really shorter than it seems, as private buyers will often take a four-year-old that a shipper cannot afford to handle. The shippers are complaining that they cannot compete with private buyers, and that the latter are going wild in their competition for horses."

Western Agriculturist and Live Stock Journal: "Horse-breeding is reviving throughout the West; the draft horse importers and breeders have inquiries and visitors like old times; of course many have not yet got their courage up to paying importation prices, but those that have stallions know that when these are sold they cannot be replaced except by importation and we all know that horses are higher in all Europe than ever before. However there are so few stallions to be had and so many wanting the best that it is just a question of who buys them first."

The St. Louis National Live Stock Reporter: "The apparent scarcity of native horses, the recent advance in their values and the large demand and small receipts of western range horses have caused the latter class to also advance in value about \$5 to \$10 per head."

Mr. F. J. Berry, president of the National Horse Breeders' Association of the United States, in a recent address, says: "Great changes have been continually going on, business has revived, prosperity has returned, the year 1898 being the most prosperous and successful year in the agricultural and stock line that this country ever knew. It brought with it a great demand for all agricultural products. Stocks of all kinds have advanced very much; cattle, hogs and sheep are high, and the best kind of road, carriage and coach horses are as high as they ever were, also the best grades of heavy draft sell for as much money as they did in high-priced times, with a strong demand and good prices for blocky, smooth horses from 1,100 lbs. up."

Mr. J. H. Sinclair, a prominent Texas horse breeder, says: "Horse breeders should take courage. It is only sorry horses that are cheap. The bicycle and the horseless carriage have their place, but never will they drive out the superb roadster, the spanking team and the swift courier. Men and women love the saddle and the reins and they will pay well for good horsemanship."

The Farmer and Stockbreeder, London, England: "The foreign demand, which has been gradually improving, is confidently expected to make a big leap in the near future, and those in the know, while predicting a stirring trade in the fall of this season, feel certain that next year will see the trade nearly as good as it was in its halcyon days. It is at least safe to assert that there is a scarcity of horses in America, and the same will be found in this country when the long-looked-for 'boom' comes. That it will come is the firm belief of all, and this belief is not merely based on imagination, but principally upon advices from old customers abroad."

The Australian, Melbourne, Australia: "Horse-breeding has languished very much in late years, and, as a consequence, good draughts cannot now be had for love or money. If someone does not start breeding soon, horses will become an extinct race like the moa of New Zealand. In fact, they are now so scarce that one has to give a very high figure for an animal if it is anything of a good stamp."

An opinion more distinguished and not less trustworthy than those above is that of Lord Minto, the present Governor-General of Canada, who recently said: "I have had several opportunities of sitting behind Canadian horses, and have always found them good horses, showing excellent quality and speed. There is an inclination on the part of the gentlemen in England to buy Canadian horses for smart carriage work. I know of several friends of mine who have done so. They are no doubt influenced a good deal by the tremendous high prices the London dealers ask for carriage horses. Still, it is also fair to say that the general soundness and excellence of imported Canadian horses has a good deal to do with it."

—John Johnston of Verulam, who was sent to the hospital in Peterboro, arrived home on Saturday, in good health and in first rate condition. The operation he underwent for strangulated hernia was entirely successful.

District Happenings

—Mr. Charles Fairbairn of Verulam commenced ploughing on the 18th inst.

—Fall wheat in the Peterborough district has come through the winter badly, and much of it will be ploughed up and sown in spring crop.

—Mr. J. C. Anderson takes charge of the Bobcaygeon cheese factory again this year, and will have it open for the reception of milk on the 8th of May.

—1379 lbs. of butter were manufactured at the Campbellford butter factory the first four days the factory was running. This season: April 3rd 412 lbs., 5th 275 lbs., 7th 350 lbs., 10th 342. Evidently the farmers in that section, who have been patrons of the factory now for several years, have discovered that there is money in the business.

—Thos. Esson, and Geo. Winters, of Harvey, crossed the ice in Pigeon Lake on Monday morning 17th inst. There was open water for some distance at the shore on each side. Starting at Sandy Point, they paddled a small punt to the ice and then drew the punt over the ice to the opposite shore. It was a long pull but the ice carried them all right, and they got across.

—The Arthur D. Thompson, the young giant who has conferred distinction on Barrie by happening to be born within its borders, was home on a flying visit last week, en route to Baltimore, where he joins Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, and will be the king among the curious at \$35 a week and expenses. Mr. Thompson has just turned twenty; stands 7 ft. 5 inches in his socks; weighs 209 lbs. net, and is a very agreeable sort of a fellow all round. He doesn't let show life spoil him. The youthful son of Anak says he is still growing and will probably reach the eight foot mark. At which, as it is, he now poses among the patrons of the Yankee side shows.

—Mr. Robt. Beith, M. P. P., of Bowmanville, was one of the most successful exhibitors at Toronto's big spring horse show, winning first prizes with Squire Rickell, 2 yr old Cordelia, first on Jessica in harness for high stepper, sweepstakes for best Hackney bred mare and the English Association's gold medal for best Hackney mare bred in Canada. Mr. Beith also won second prize on best team over 15.2 and third in Four-in-hand. Mr. Beith made two good sales at fancy prices, selling Oliver and Roland to Mr. R. T. Reid for the Governor of Newfoundland and Dobbin and Mayflower to Mr. H. Horsman, Toronto. Mr. D. B. Simpson was a winner on his bay filly, May O.

—An order, while not large in itself, but of importance as an initial step in the exportation of Ontario pig iron, has been received by the Deseronto Iron Company. The order was for 1,000 tons of pig iron for malleable castings to be delivered in Liverpool, England. When the shipment is made it will be probably the first charcoal iron exported from Canada. It is this fact that makes the order of so much importance to Deseronto. It is to be hoped that more orders will follow, and that the spectacle of train loads of Canadian iron made from Canadian ore for export will be a familiar sight in the near future. The present output of works is about 1,000 tons a month. The consumption of charcoal for the same period is from 70 to 75 carloads.

—The village of Havelock is very much excited over an edict of the C. P. R., requiring conductors and brakemen, now residing in that village to move to Smith's Falls, so that they may run both east and west. F. P. Brady, assistant superintendent, visited Havelock last week and gave a few trivial reasons for the change. He stated that the move would not be a financial gain to the company, but might be a convenience. The Havelock Standard says that it looks as if it was a scheme to boom Smith's Falls, of which place Mr. Brady is a resident. The order if carried out will cause the removal of from 40 to 45 families from Havelock, and the town would eventually become a deserted village. A deputation of the council and the trainmen will wait on Mr. Tait, the general manager to try to avert the calamity.

—Mr. Josiah Perrin, of South Monaghan passed away on Wednesday April 12th at the age of 90 years. The funeral took place on Saturday to the Baptist burying ground, Baillieboro, and was largely attended. Deceased was one of the oldest residents of the township, having resided there for 51 years. He came from England with his parents in the year of 1819 and settled in the township in which he died and the present homestead adjoins that where his parents settled. Mrs. Perrin died some four years ago. Deceased was a devoted member of the Baptist church, and in politics he was a Reformer. Out of fourteen of a family, ten survive him, five sons and five daughters. The youngest son Hebert, and the youngest daughter, Elta, are on the homestead. The other sons are Mr. C. C. Perrin of Oakwood; Josiah Perrin, of Pontypool; Joseph and William of St. Mary's. The daughters married are Mrs. Barnhardt, of Peterboro; Mrs. Rutherford, of Dakota; Mrs. Joseph Byers and Mrs. Robinson who reside near the homestead.

—A very sad accident occurred at Burketon, Manvers township on Wednesday April 12th, which resulted in the death of an old resident in the person of Robt. Hall, in the 80th year of his age. A lot of cattle were being loaded at Burketon and two of them which were together, had become wild and broke

away. Mr. Hall who resided close by, saw them running in his direction and anxious to render assistance, seized a stick and ran out to stop them. It is supposed that he did not see the rope and they ran one each side of him, the rope striking him in the chest and throwing him to the ground. On running to his assistance, it was found that his spine was injured, and he was picked up and carried to the house, and medical aid summoned, but it was of no avail. Being a heavy built man his injuries were severe and he continued to grow worse, until death ended his sufferings on Thursday night. Mr. Hall was one of the oldest residents of this section of the county having come here with his parents from Cavan, Ireland, when a lad of three years old and settled in Darlington. On coming to years of maturity, he struck out for himself and farmed successfully on a large scale, until thirteen years ago when he retired from active work and he and his estimable wife have since resided at Burketon. He was a man of integrity, a good friend and a kind neighbor. He leaves a widow, three sons and five daughters.

—From all accounts there is apt to be serious trouble in store for parties involved in the death of an infant girl at Huntsville, Muskoka, last week, which a coroner's jury has determined was caused by "want of attention and wilful neglect." The wife of J. T. A. Couillard, a barber, gave birth to twins last December, one of whom died after 22 days. The other, a girl, expired on the 13th inst. The medical man in attendance refused to give a burial certificate, and an inquest followed. From the evidence it appears that the child was normal when born, but through lack of nourishment and proper care died as stated. Sores on the body were attributed to neglect, and Drs. Hart and Howland, who conducted the post-mortem stated in their report that the heart was natural, except from its anemic condition, and that death was caused in their opinion by a long continued hypostatic congestion of the posterior part of the lungs, which must have been produced by the child being kept too long in one position and not having taken suitable nourishment. The mother of the infant in her evidence, said she was not very strong. She had two other children to look after, and she did the best she could.

Risks in Feeding Alfalfa.

It is one of the risks of feeding alfalfa that it may act in too stimulating a manner on the kidneys and after a short time produce a soft, watery swelling under the jaws which indicates a bad condition of the blood, and whatever the special cause of it may be, whether from the liver or the kidneys, immediate treatment is called for. This should be four ounces of epsom salts dissolved in some warm thin gruel of oatmeal or linseed. Fifteen grains of podophyllin should be given in some soft feed or gruel. Give it mornings and evenings. Alternately with this give three scruples of iodide of potassium for three days. Feed moderately of oats with one-fourth the quantity of linseed.

Half Sick Half Well

Many persons have their good day and their bad day. Others are about half sick all the time. They have headache, backache, and are restless and nervous. Food does not taste good, and the digestion is poor; the skin is dry and scaly and disfigured with pimples or eruptions; sleep brings no rest and work is a burden.

What is the cause of all this? Impure blood. And the remedy?

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

It clears out the channels through which poisons are carried from the body. When all impurities are removed from the blood nature takes right hold and completes the cure.

If there is constipation, take Ayer's Pills. They awaken the drowsy action of the liver; they cure biliousness.

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A CARD....

The birds will soon begin to build. Perhaps you are thinking of doing the same thing. It may be you will put up a barn or house next spring. If so I am anxious to let you know that I have the Building Material you require, from Rough Lumber and Planks to make a silo, up to the finest Turned and Carved Stuff for the interior of an elegant house. Think over what you need in Doors, Sash, Mouldings, Shutters, Planed and Turned Goods, then drop in and get figures.

J. P. RYLEY,

THE VICTORIA PLANING MILL

CARRIAGES AND BUGGIES



FOR THE SPRING OF 1899.

I have something new in the above line of goods to offer this spring to intending purchasers. About four years ago I introduced the first set of the justly celebrated RICHARDS long distance axle, and they gave such satisfaction that I handled quite a number of them last season. Mr. Lang of Mariposa, Mr. Fanning of Cambray, Mr. Cayley of Ops, Mr. O'Connor of Ennismore and Mr. Howard Davidson of Little Britain were a few of the purchasers, and those gentlemen would not exchange them for any other axle made. They are a high price, but with a cheap axle, all their good qualities considered. They are guaranteed to travel 1000 miles with one oiling, and are perfectly dust proof. The oil is distributed from the cups in such a manner that it reaches just the spot where it is needed. This year I have gone into this style of axle very largely, and I want every intending purchaser to call and be convinced that it is the axle, and the only first-class axle in use to-day. Don't fail to see the 1000 mile axle before you buy. It will pay you to have a sett. I have something new in shafts that I want you to see also.

RICHARD KYLIE