A POOR MAN'S COUNTRY.

HOW YOU MAY MAKE A FORTUNE IN THE KLONDIKE.

Keep Sober and Work Hard — Then You Must Be Lucky and Have a Good Stock of Provisions—Laws as to Filing Claims — Costs of an Outfit and Average Wages.

Capt. J. J. Healy, one of the managers of the North American Trading and Transportation Company, and who is one of the oldest and most experienced of pioneers and a shrewd observer conditions in the Yukon River country is apprehensive of the future welfare of the thousands of people who are likely to come into the country next season says a letter from Dawson City, dated Sept. 23. He says that from present indications there will be from 10,000 to 20,000 people come to the Yukon next year and that it will be a physical impossibility for both of the commercial companies to bring enough food to supply half that number. Owing to the short seasons when navigation is practical it is impossible to build and equip steamers at St. Michael's, and have them reach this far inland, 2,200 miles, before the river freezes. The experiment has been attempted a few times without success.

Capt. Healy is a man of experience, a close observer of passing events and one of the best posted men in the north. He believes that there are vast opportunities for profitable investment of capital which will ultimately develop the mineral resources of this great mining belt west of the Rockies. When that time arrives there will be ample employment for thousands of men, with no fear of a famine. At present it is a poor man's country, conditioned that the man be industrious, lucky and well provisioned.

TERMS OF LEASES.

In leasing mines on lays most of the owners exact covenants that the claims shall have been thoroughly worked and completed by the 1st of June, 1898. If that policy is carried out about two-thirds of Eldorado, Bonanza and Hunker Creeks will have been worked out this season, and a considerable part of other creeks. Of course the supply of labor and provisions and the rate of wages will govern the question to a large extent. Most of the owners are anxious to make as large a "clean-up" this winter as possible and retire from active mining life next year. If all the people who are now in the Klondike realize their dreams of wealth and go to the Paris exposition of 1900 as Bonanza Kings the Yukon valley will be well represented in "Gay Paree." Mine owners and mine workers all have the same object in view.

The official, who, if he chooses, can exercise Czar-like power, is Mr. Thomas Fawcett, the Canadian Gold Commissioner. He is the officer before whom all mining claims are filed, recorded and adjusted, and his Government has placed enough confidence in his integrity and ability to instruct him to exercise his own discretion in all matters until otherwise instructed. He left Ottawa nearly eight months ago and since then has had no official communications. Although he is not a miner, yet he exercises utmost caution and care to deal out justice impartially and in a practical manner, and so far as I am able to learn the American miners have no more cause to complain of partiality than their Canadian cousins. His decision is practically final as an appeal to the higher authorities of the Dominion capital would involve a long delay and much expense. Up to this date 1,400 claims have been located and filed in this district. In the last two weeks, or since the stampede, 145 claims on Sulphur Creek have been recorded. And in the same period ninety were staked off on Dominion Creek and twenty on Henderson Creek. Regarding the enforcement of a law relative to the collection of a 20 per cent. royalty on all claims, as indicated in an Ottawa despatch of July 2, Mr. Fawcett said:

"I have not been advised of the adoption of such a law, and all that I know about the matter is the press despatch referred to. I am enforcing the old laws, or rather the laws that were in force last year, and unless a special session of Parliament was called it is hardly probable that such a law could be adopted before the regular session of next April. Laws cannot be passed or adopted except by the Parliament, and if any material changes had taken place it would seem that I would have been advised at the first opportunity."

THE PRESENT LAWS.

Under the present laws a miner can locate a claim 500x660 feet in each district upon the payment of $15 when first filing. Three months of continuous work, and the holder must remain on the ground all the time, must be performed during the year, when upon the payment of $100, a final certificate of ownership will be issued. Before filing the holder must swear that he has prospected the claim and found gold. The laws are not severe and in some respects are superior to those of the United States. Deception of any character, practised on the Commissioner, deprives a person of all rights and privileges in the district.

One thousand pounds of gold were brought down from Eldorado Creek today on the backs of four cayuses and together with about a ton of other gold will be shipped to Seattle and San Francisco in a few days. John Ericsson, a miner from Monte Cristo, and Fred Bruseth, a logger and ranchman from near Snohomish, are the owners. The latter, together with Thomas Blake, owns claim No. 11, and under their bunk in the cabin on their claim is $100,000 more which will come down to-morrow or next day.

On Eldorado between 30 and 36, the latter is where the largest nugget, of $583, was found, it is particularly rich and had it not been for a technical ruling of the Government the discovery claim would have been in about the locality where No. 30 is now situated. All along the creek, and particularly in this vicinity gold by the sackful is being taken out and shipped down to Dawson City.

A short distance above Eldorado and emptying into Bonanza is Skookum Gulch, which was discovered last spring and out of the prospect holes large quantities of gold, as large as and not unlike shelled corn, have been taken and pronounced the finest specimens of yellow metal yet mined. Skookum Creek passes through claim No. 2 above the discovery claim on Bonanza and is on the same side as Eldorado, where both gulches come together. The opinion is generally shared by old miners that Skookum Gulch will exceed Eldorado Creek in riches before the approaching season is over. Some of the largest nuggets found in the district have been taken out of Skookum and run $375, $192 and $166 respectively.

From all indications Hunker Creek is proving to be very rich and will no doubt equal if not excel Bonanza. Near the discovery claim much prospecting has been done and everything is in readiness for extensive winter drifting. The prospect holes have given up some fine nuggets, and are fulfilling the prophecy made by Inspector Strickland, of the Canadian police at Seattle last July when he arrived on the Portland and said that Hunker would be one of the richest mining camps on the Klondike.

Hardly a panful of gravel from off the bedrock has been taken out that has not contained from $1 to $5.

A SEASON'S OUTFIT.

As compared with prices in the States provisions are very high, but there is no place in North America where a day's wages can purchase as much food as in the Klondike. A season's outfit costs $450 on an average. The wages are $15 a day and thirty days' work buys a season's outfit exclusive of clothing. To ascertain what a day's wages will buy I visited the stores with miners who were purchasing supplies and secured the following quotations:

Flour, ten pounds	$1.20
Bacon, five pounds	2.00
Beans, eight pounds	1.00
Butter, four pounds	2.00
Coffee, two pounds	1.00
Tea, one pound	1.00
Milk, two cans	1.00
Roast beef, two cans	1.00
Assorted meal, four pounds	1.00
Dried fruit, four pounds	1.20
Small Stores	2.00
Total	$14.40

Old miners who have lived on the Yukon for years inform me that this list of supplies will last a man who is working hard anywhere from a week to ten days, and in case of an emergency probably twice or three times as long. The question then arises: "Can the goods be had?" The demand exceeds the supply. I've conversed with men familiar with the country, a number of people in this city and at the mines and in the gulches, and believe that at present there are about 4,500 people in the Klondike and Indian River districts. It is estimated that about 1 000 or 1,500 more will arrive from the coast over the trail and from down the river via St. Michael's. Those coming from Dyea and Skagua will probably average six months' provisions each. The managers of the commercial companies do not anticipate a famine, but admit the possibility of supplies being short next spring when the river opens. To illustrate how little food is actually required when it is necessary to economize, it is well to cite that three years ago at Circle City, where 300 or 400 men wintered, and the steamers were prevented from arriving on account of early ice, the supplies were divided and each man received one and a half sacks of flour, fifteen pounds of bacon and other supplies in like proportion. The men lived and worked seven months and but few suffered from scurvy.

ARE YOU GOING TO BE PHOTO'D,

"A veil imparts a patch appearance to the face," says a photographic journal. "Gloves make the hands appear much larger than they are in reality. It is unwise to wear a new dress; it always falls in awkward folds. Wherever possible it is money well spent to drive to the photographer. A feather boa or a lace fichu has a wonderfully softening effect on the features. Generally speaking the head and shoulders takes a far prettier picture than a full length portrait. Above all, if you want your picture to have a natural expression you must forget where you are. Unless there is any urgent reason for it, it is a great mistake to be photographed if you are either out of health or in low spirits. A just-the-mode-of-the-moment style of costume or coiffure will 'date' the photograph and soon make it look out of fashion. A white dress or one that takes 'white,' gives a ghastly effect, and one far from becoming, unless the sitter is young and pretty."

ABROAD.

Mrs. Westerly—Goodness! What an enormously big castle! What could they ever do with so much room?

Mr. Westerly—Perhaps they kept boarders or let out furnished rooms.

SCIENCE UPHOLDS BIBLE.

NO LONGER ANY CONFLICT BETWEEN THE TWO.

Startling Theories of the Author of "Genesis and Modern Science" — Six Days for Creation, Not Our Days, However — Interesting Conclusions Drawn by the Writer.

Was the earth created in six days? Is the Bible right, and are its critics wrong? Can the conflict between the Bible and science be amicably adjusted at last? To these queries an affirmative answer is given in a striking volume called "Genesis and Modern Science," which is just from the press. Warren R. Perce, a Newport, R. I., lawyer, is the author of this remarkable book. He has been at work on it for some twenty years, and his explanation of the process of creation and its literal agreement with the Bible is not only sensational, but has the ring of plausibility.

Mr. Perce interprets the Bible through the science of geology and astronomy. The theory that the solar system was created in six days, not days, however, as judged by modern standards, is scientifically demonstrated. The Bible, Mr. Perce avers, is not a text book of science. If the first chapter of Genesis had set forth the creation of the world in full detail, with the origin and laws of matter, the constitution and movements of the sun and planets, such statements could not have been understood at that time.

But the Bible must be consistent with science. The Scriptures need not say everything, but all they say must be true. Starting with the nebular hypothesis that the planets revolving around the sun were in the beginning rings of flaming matter thrown off by the sun, Mr. Perce holds that the earth and other worlds were formed by the cooling and condensing of these rings in the cold atmosphere. The inner part cooled first and drew together, leaving the outer mass still flaming with incandescent light. This was the creation of the first day out of primeval darkness—the outcome of the command, "Let there be light."

THE QUESTION OF LIGHT.

This may be said to explain away, in a measure, the point urged by some critics:—"How could there be light upon the earth before the sun shone upon it, which was not until the fourth day, according to the Bible?" Science and the Bible are at one here. But ages were consumed in this process. How can it be called a day? The day could not have signified the time between sunrise and sunset, for there was no sun—no earth in our sense. They were only masses of glowing gases. The real definition of day, according to Mr. Perce, must be a period of darkness, followed by a period of cosmic, or solar, light. The first day, then, was ages long, succeeding the night of chaos.

As the mass of the earth cooled down, becoming more dense, it glowed less and less, some of its substance passing from a gaseous to a liquid state, and the atmosphere was formed, reaching, doubtless, to the moon. Through these vapors the light of the earth grew dimmer and dimmer, and at last glowed no more. This was the second night.

The vapors cooled by the air fell in rain and cooled the earth, and then rose by its heat, forming clouds. The ocean was then boiling water, but as it cooled steam no longer rose, the waters were divided from the waters, there were clouds above, oceans and lakes beneath. Then first the sun's rays reached the earth, piercing the vapory clouds. This was the second day, and again science and the Bible agree.

But now the earth was still cooler, and the inner portion having cooled more rapidly than the outer the crust was not evenly supported, and fell in in ridges, like an apple when the pulp has dried and the skin becomes wrinkled. The ocean flowed into the valleys and the mountain tops appeared, just as the Bible states:—"Let the dry land appear."

Geology shows which portion of the authoritatively said to be the azoic earth thus first appeared. They are (without life) rocks which underlie Canada, Newfoundland and similar geological foundations. In this way the most solid part of the earth and the heaviest was toward the north, and as it emerged from the water the centre of gravity of the earth was changed.

THE EARTH SWINGS AROUND.

It had been revolving with its equator perpendicular to the ecliptic, the path in which the earth travels round the sun. It now swung around on account of the greater weight at the north, which was attracted by the sun, until the equator was coincident with the ecliptic. The consequence of this was that the northern hemisphere always turned to the sun, would have one unending day, the southern perpetual night. This is precisely the case with the moon to-day. The same side of the moon is always presented to the earth.

Science shows that the Arctic regions were formerly the warmest portion of the earth's surface. Their temperature, geologists say, must have been tropical. The great coal beds of green land and Northumberland prove this, for coal is nothing but tropical plants which have decomposed under water. Myrtle and tree ferns flourished in Greenland, and water lilies floated on what are now Arctic lakes. The theory that the sun shone upon the northern hemisphere alone is said to be the only explanation of the formation of coal in the north and its absence from the land south of the equator. The third day, then, corresponds to what the geologists call the paleozoic age, which was one long day for the northern hemisphere, where the vegetable life spoken of on this day in the Bible was created in great luxuriance.

And now comes one of the most startling of Mr. Perce's theories. This third day, he claims, might have continued forever if the earth had not again changed its position relative to the ecliptic. But just as it had swung round at the close of the second day, so again a change took place, though due to a different cause. The south, being in perpetual night and so far from the sun, was soon covered with ice. As this ice grew thicker and heavier the sun drew the great weight toward itself, and the earth's angle changed to that of our time.

Then first was there a variation of seasons as recorded of the fourth day in the Bible, and the stars and sun began to play their part upon the whole earth. Mr. Perce calls attention to the fact that here the Hebrew Bible uses the word for making or appearing, not creating. Geology, it would appear, also supports this view, showing that some great change took place at the close of the paleozoic age.

With the mesozoic age came the fifth and sixth days. The author frankly confesses that geologists find fish long before this, but he states that the Bible does not mention marine plants, and the word translated "great whales" must refer to the great reptiles, the ichthyosaurus and plesiosaurus. Then geology would agree with the Bible that birds and these reptiles belong to the fifth stage of creation. Geoolgy confirms the Bible also by declaring the creation of mammals last in order before man.

AS TO ANIMAL CREATION.

Both the Bible and geology distinctly affirm the separate creations of each species of animals and disprove the theory that the higher order of animals, including man himself, have been developed from lower forms. If it were true that one order or genus was developed into another, the book asserts, we ought to find somewhere in the rocks specimens of the intermediate forms which linked the old with the new, but such is not the case.

The Scriptural history of creation is one of phenomena, not causes or processes. It remains for science to step in as the interpreter, filling out the blank spaces in accord with the Bible. The tendency among geologists is to greatly shorten geological time, among theologians to lengthen their estimates of man's existence on earth. It would not be at all strange if all agreed that Adam was created about fifteen thousand years ago, and what has been called prehistoric man is really a descendant of Adam. Mr. Perce's theories are certainly startling, and the mass of scientific support and authority which he has called to his aid is overpowering. His book should arouse no end of discussion.

CHRISTMAS HINTS.

The custom of giving Christmas gifts is too universal to be challenged, and must be honored if one has but a dollar to spend, says a writer.

For a week past I have been going about the house ransacking closets, drawers and bags for superfluous articles that I could make use of as gifts, putting the little treasures into a large pasteboard box and labelling it, "Christmas Box." To my surprise, the box is filling up, and by actual count there are twenty-three articles already! A cup and saucer, a tiny glass mug, an odd-shaped cologne bottle, a cup and ball, a bonbon basket, half a dozen little toys, a bright colored hair ribbon, a baby's cap, a plaid necktie for a boy, etc. Every one gets tired of certain pieces of bric-a-brac, and with a little judicious thought, they could be made to do acceptable duty in some other home.

I shall make a variety of plain calico bags for a young housekeeper, dropping bags of different styles, bags for opera glasses, for fans and for fancy work. Then for evening work there will be bright-colored reins and wristlets from any odd bits of worsted and yarn.

Some older friends will be remembered with sachet envelopes decorated with some little wild-flower and tied with narrow ribbon. It does not take a real artist to copy a flower in water color and if it is to lie among one's laces and handkerchiefs, and not decorate the over crowded mantlepiece, it has use as well as beauty.

A pretty head dress for an elderly lady is made of fine bobinet lace or tulle about six inches wide, wound around the head and tied in a bow knot on top, or on the side of the head. The ends should be hemmed or tucked.

For bonbon boxes take clean strawberry boxes and color them with diamond dyes or gild or bronze them, line wtih sheet wadding and cover with crepe paper, or cheap bright colored silk. Put handles to some of them, and they will look very well on the tree. The candies for filling them if made at home, as they should be, cost but little more than the time it takes. Everything else should be done first, and the last few days devoted to making the mint drops, peanut nougat, walnut creams or any good candy you know to be a fovorite with your friends.

I sometime swonder why the rich so seldom buy home-made Christmas gifts. They are usually much better, and more interesting than the conventional pocket handkerchief and silver thimble! If they would look about them and get some of th ehard-working sisters to take orders for Christmas things, like children's and nurses's aprons, flannel embroidery, silk mittens, home-made candy, etc., it would prove a real blessing to many families.

A HAPPY GIRL.

Miss Amina Kelly Tells of Her Illness and Subsequent Cure — A Statement That Should be Read by Every Girl in Canada.

Miss Amina Kelly, a well-known and much esteemed young lady living at Maplewood, N. B., writes:—"I consider it my duty to let you know what your wonderful medicine has done for me. In April, 1896, I began to lose flesh and color; my appetite failed and on going up stairs I would be so tired I would have to rest. I continued in this condition for three months, when I was taken suddenly ill, and not able to go about. Our family doctor was called in and he pronounced my illness chlorisis, poverty of the blood. At first his treatment appeared to do me good, but only for a time, and I then began to grow worse. I continued taking his medicine for three months, when I was so discouraged at not regaining my health that I declined taking it any longer. I then tried a liquid medicine advertised to cure cases like mine, but did not obtain the slightest benefit. I had become terribly emaciated and weak. There was a constant terrible roaring noise in my head; my feet and ankles were swollen and I was as pale as a corpse. One day while in this condition my father brought home a box of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and asked me to try them. In less than a week I could sit up, and in a couple of weeks I could walk quite a distance without being tired. My appetite returned, the roaring in my head ceased, I began to gain flesh and color, and before I had used a half dozen boxes I was as healthy as I had ever been in my life. My friends did not expect me to recover and are now rejoicing at the wonderful change Dr. Williams' Pink Pills have wrought in me. If my statement will be the means of helping some other discouraged sufferer you are at perfect liberty to publish it."

The above statement was sworn before me at Maplewood, York Co., N. B., this 14th day of May, 1897.

Timothy W. Smith, J. P.

To ensure getting the genuine ask always for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and refuse all substitutes and nostrums alleged to be just as good.

LEPROSY PROBLEMS

Still a Matter of Doubt Whether This Disease Is Infectious.

The leprosy conference has pronounced that this terrible disease is infectious, says the London Standard. We do not yet hear now many members dissented, nor, in fact, is there any hint that the verdict was not unanimous. Henceforward, all persons who submit to authority know what to believe upon a very important matter. But we suspect that not a few of those who have to deal with leprosy will prove rebellious. No medical question is more disputable. The arguments and instances and experiments which satisfied a majority of the conference are not yet reported. But it is certain that Dr. Muskett, who directed the Leper Hospital at Hopetown for many years, finally convinced himself, after careful observations and numberless tests, that the disease was not contagious. So confident was he that he allowed visitors to spend as much time as they liked with his patients.

Bickmore made inquiries upon the subject in the Dutch East Indies, where lepers are terribly common, and he reports that the same opinion is held by most doctors there. A European soldier was attacked, nevertheless, to their bewilderment; but the most searching inquiry failed to show how he could possibly have come into contact with a leper. In South Africa, it has been observed, there is no hint of reference to the pest, for a hundred and fifty years after the settlement; then suddenly the government ordered a strict examination of all white people, when if we remember rightly, a male sufferer was identified and a girl was vehemently suspected. This does not suggest that contagion is much to be feared, and the Cape government dropped all its projected measures at once. But the conference has gone further. It declares also that leprosy is not hereditary. This is really astonishing. At a moment's notice the authorities at Hopetown or Robben Island could advance volumes of evidence, not opinion but hard fact to the contrary. The disease sometimes skips a generation. But the grandson, if not the son, always reappears at the hospital.

HER IDEA.

Mr. Honk, looking up from his newspaper—What barbarians those African natives are! I have just been reading that the Wallagi tribe, to whom Rev. Mr. Whoopler was sent as a missionary a few months ago, became incensed at the doctrines he preached and dragged him before their King, who, without trial, promptly cut off the clergyman's sacerdotal functions.

Mrs. Honk—Horrors! And was it fatal?

FOR TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS

DUNN'S BAKING POWDER

THE COOK'S BEST FRIEND

LARGEST SALE IN CANADA