

In Alaskan Grab



Martin Victor, Jr.

Here is another letter from Martin Victor, Jr. of Victor Bros., who is traveling in Alaska:

Flat, Alaska
March 8, 1930

Highland Park Press:

After leaving Ophir had to cross the Kushkowim Mountains, it was very interesting traveling above the timberline with nothing ahead and around but mountains, taking two days to cross, staying overnight in a former reindeer herder's cabin. It was about the same as sleeping out in the open as the wind howled through the cracks and the roof was caving in. When dawn came I could see the light through dozens of cracks. The weather was about 38 below and a bit chilly as the stove did not do any good unless you were on top of it. Passed a reindeer herd a few miles past the cabin, but it was too early in the morning to take any pictures.

The natives here are a bit different from the type I've seen so far, they are beginning to be more like Eskimos and will be purely Eskimos when I hit the Kushkokwim river towards Bethel. Am told that I will have to sleep in igloos in that district, trees are not found there as it is all tundras, everything is barren.

The district passed for the last week is all mining and inhabited by prospectors, etc. who are doing their prospecting during winter and working the claims during summer. At Iditarod only about five people are living where as during the gold rush the population was several thousand. Saw remains of the old town where willows are now growing, streets were numerous, but can not be found now. In this city there are about thirty houses left but quite a lot of gold is still being removed. Am here in time to see the whole town being moved as a mining company is going to dredge the property on which the town was located and the houses have to be moved about a quarter of a mile away.

Will have time to go to Poor Man, at which place the stampede is headed for, there is at present about 400 people already. It is believed that a greater amount will arrive as soon as the boats will navigate on the rivers, many people are engaged in trapping and will not leave until the season is over. While at Takotna

met three men bound for Poor Man. While in that town was shown some gold nuggets and gold dust, it was enough to hold in one hand, amounting to nearly \$400.

This letter will take about three to four weeks before reaching the railroad as it will go by relay of dog teams, each team taking the mail 150 miles, and it may be wet and unreadable as there are a quantity of overflows on the rivers, creeks and glaciers. Sometimes the water is eighteen

to thirty inches deep, where a glacier breaks and the water rushes over the creeks and the contents of sled thoroughly drenched. Towards Spring it will be quite wet and one has to wear native-made seal skin boots, waterproofed with seal oil.

Sincerely,
Martin Victor, Jr.

Bankers advise us to pay by check. But it's sometimes safer to receive in cash.

Mrs. Mary Jane Christian Keirl of 435 N. County street, Waukegan, died at the St. Therese hospital following a stroke of paralysis last week. She was born March 25, 1858, near Monaville, Avon, township.

Prisoners like music, especially that of the opening bars.

It is just as safe to guess that it is the headlight nearest to you that is out.

0-12



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