

THE LURE OF GOLD

Romance and Tragedy of the Old Bonanza Trail.

A ROAD TO WEALTH AND CRIME

It Led to the Richest Deposits of Gold. In a Relatively Small Territory, Ever Discovered—Days of Strenuous Life and Frenzied Lawlessness.

The Bonanza trail began at Fort Laramie, Wyo. It ran east of the Owl Creek mountains, west of the Big Horn mountains, in a northwest direction to Livingston and Bozeman, then forking to the present Helena and Virginia City. In war and Indian department annals it is known as the Bozeman trail. Immediately, however, it was given the more romantic name, and for the best of reasons. It led to what were the richest deposits of gold in a relatively small territory, that the world had ever seen.

Out of Alder gulch and Last Chance gulch, within 200 miles of each other in Montana, was taken, in ten short years, considerably more than \$500,000,000 in pure gold. It was anybody's fortune, and the wonderful luck of the California gold diggers a few years before roused men to brave every hardship for these prizes.

It did not matter at all that these gulches were 2,000 miles from the nearest railroad and that other gold fields were far easier to reach. Here was the great El Dorado, and without a quail the gold seekers hurried into the unknown territory, defying Red Cloud and every other Indian, outlaw, renegade and holdup man.

How many lives were sacrificed along this trail to wealth will never be known. All that is certain is that there never was another chapter in the world's history like this. The long road into the mysterious country and the settlements of mining camps grew up almost in a single night. There were only five men in the little party when Bill Fairweather "wasbed" the first pan in Alder gulch and made a discovery even more wonderful than any in the palmy days of California or even in the later era of the Klondike.

Two years later Alder gulch, at one of the Bonanza trail's two ends, was among the most picturesque places in the country. The world was ransacked for men and women to give performances at the theaters, to offer free entertainment to the patrons of the various resorts. The gold hunters, gorged with prosperity, wanted amusements. Fine restaurants were opened and food brought in at great expense from beyond the seas. The smallest money was a twenty-five cent pinch of gold dust, taken from a pouch. It bought less than a copper cent does in any part of the United States today.

Meantime an unending stream of people poured into the new country. It is estimated by some that 90,000 in all took the trail at Fort Laramie.

The days of the trail were those of frenzied lawlessness, and many are the picturesque stories that have come down. Over the big road disputes about cards were of daily occurrence. The man who started an argument did so with the knowledge that it was his life or the other man's, for he was calling into question the "honor" of the "stark." Swindlers sold "mines," fought with their proposed victims and killed without compunction.

Armed robbers ran off stock, stole horses from one class of immigrants and sold them to another. As the horse was the sole means of transportation and valuable beyond human life, "boss stealing" was set down by the "districts" as a crime punishable by death. There were few courts, and such as there were were miles from the trail. A jury would hence be at once impeached among those present, the man tried and if found guilty hanged to a tree without ceremony.

Hotels flourished and were prosperous beyond imagining, for every one spent money, and there was much flaunting. In the higher grade establishments beverages were served in cut glass; champagne was common. Every resort was crowded with people. The newcomers frequented these places in quest of information, paid 25 cents for a glass of beer made from barley grown by the ex Confederate soldiers at Bozeman and sold to the Virginia breweries for 8 cents a pound, and not enough could be received to supply the demand. Table board cost \$7 a day for the very cheapest, and if one slept in a chair in the hotel lobby at night, when the rooms were all rented, he paid \$1.50 for the privilege.

Gold was the only medium of exchange. A pinch of it, between the forefinger and the thumb, as has been said, counted 25 cents. There would be a tendency with some men to take just a little bit more. When that tendency was noticed in a man he was given hours to leave town—and it was seldom over two hours. The wise man did not stand on ceremony or protest—“vamosed,” in camp vernacular.

The newspapers of the city sold for 25 cents a copy, red hot from the press, and full of news of lynchings, new diggings, “clean ups,” “bold ups,” “bad men” and gossip of a breezy character. Ham and eggs to order cost \$2.50. Eggs were worth 50 cents apiece and an ordinary meal of deer or buffalo meat, with potatoes or coffee and bread, was never less than \$1.50. A man was very poor to get down to fare so coarse as that.

It made no difference what a man might have been back in “the states.” If he was “on the square” in Virginia he was accepted at par.—F. J. Atkins in Harper's Weekly.

THE NEW DRY DOCK.

Canada's Giant Structure Second Biggest in the World.

The giant floating dock, Duke of Connaught, was formally christened and opened the other day in Montreal by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, the Governor-General of Canada, and now the great structure, the second largest in the world, is safely installed in its new home. And incidentally Canada possesses a piece of machinery which will be of immense value to her shipping industry.

This enormous structure was built at Barrow-in-Furness, Eng., for the Canadian Government by Messrs. Vickers, Limited, and was successfully towed across the Atlantic recently for the progress and protection of Canadian trade and will be located at Montreal near Maisonneuve, where a basin has been prepared for it in a sheltered place. Some 30 acres near by has been set apart for a ship-building plant capable of launching three ocean ships simultaneously so that the potential importance of the ceremony as far as the ocean-carrying trade of Canada is concerned is very great.

By the installation of this dock and this ship-building plant at Montreal, the great national port, one of the greatest reproaches to the country and the St. Lawrence carrying trade has been removed, and the leading port of the Dominion will be properly equipped with a competent modern outfit for the repair and examination of ocean-going vessels and the building of others.

The crying need for such a dock and ship plant on the St. Lawrence has been painfully demonstrated many times recently and within the last few weeks by the going on the rocks of the Canadian Northern liner on the Isle of Orleans. The installation of this dock at the metropolis will be a big impetus to the shipping industry on the St. Lawrence and it is hoped that before many years a large number of Canadian vessels built in Canada will be carrying our merchant flag around the world instead of vessels constructed in foreign shipyards.

The dock, Duke of Connaught, is a magnificent specimen and a credit to the world-famous firm that built the great steel monster. It is a perfectly massive piece of marine engineering and stood the strain of its very stormy passage across the Atlantic splendidly.

It was towed to Montreal from Barrow-in-Furness by two Dutch tugs which are said to be the most powerful of their kind in the world and the only ones that the underwriters would accept for the perilous task during the equinoctial gales.

Captain Jan Vershoor with his two little tugs and crew of fourteen Dutch sailors took 64 days for the journey with their cumbersome charge of mighty steel and in the terrific storms they encountered the hawsers on several occasions parted from the dock and left the great leviathan at the mercy of the elements for some hours. These brave Dutchmen were daunted by no dangers and stood to their task and in spite of all difficulties finally landed safely their charge in the port of Montreal.

The dock is of the largest type yet built and there is only one other of equal size in the world. It can accommodate the largest ocean vessels that float or several smaller vessels at one time.

Bottle Scarred.

The western papers are retailing with considerable glee a story of the Duke of Connaught's visit to the Pacific Coast. It comes second in popularity to that of the city father who wore robes of state and a gold chain to greet His Royal Highness. The duke reviewed a number of veterans at Kamloops. They were old men, and the Governor-General was doing his best to be particularly agreeable.

He singled out one old man who was more bottle scarred than battle scarred, and asked him several questions.

"You have served?" inquired His Royal Highness.

"Yes," replied the veteran rather ashamed.

"Where did you last serve?" was the next question.

"Right here in Kamloops, said the man in desperation.

Those in the ranks who knew his reputation could scarcely keep their mirth down to a smile over his very natural mistake.—Toronto Saturday Night.

The Name of Smith.

A plain sounding name is sometimes a valuable asset. At least this was the experience of Lord Strathcona when he was standing for Parliament in Canada.

At that time his name was plain Donald Smith, and one of his opponents sought to weaken his chances by demanding "Who is Smith? What is Smith? Why is Smith?" One of the candidate's supporters demolished this opponent by replying: "Always pin your faith to a Smith wherever you find him. There are no frills on a Smith. If you want boldness and pluck vote for Captain John Smith; if you want a master of logic vote for Adam Smith; if you want ability and patriotism vote for Donald Smith." The electors regarded this as sound advice and plumped for Donald Smith.

Japanese Enlist Indians.

That many Indians of British Columbia have a definite understanding with the Japanese and have been enrolled by them is the surprising statement of an Indian missionary who for 30 years has lived with the natives of the northern part of the province.

The Indians have been told that they are the same lineage as the Japs and regard them as brothers. They have no hesitation in saying to the missionary or justice of the peace, when rebuked: "Wait until our brethren, the Japs, come. They will fix you."

A TALENTED WOMAN.

Late Dr. Alice McGillivray Gave Her Life to the Unfortunate.

By the recent death of Dr. Alice McGillivray, Hamilton has lost a remarkable and highly-educated woman, than whom for extensive and varied scientific knowledge this country has had no superior and few equals. Deceased had been ailing for some time but bore up patiently and was automobiling at the time her disease developed suddenly an acute stage and she died in a few hours after being removed from her car.

From the early age of seven to her death at 51, Dr. McGillivray was a continuous and ardent student and an omnivorous leader in the broad field of science. As a scholar and student she was a brilliant success.

Born at St. George, where she attended school at the age of seven, she at once took her place at the head of her class, where she was never replaced until she left for the High School. After passing through the High School with the same success, she left for the Normal School at Ottawa, where she achieved equal distinction. Then for a time she gave all her energy and ability to the cause of the higher education of women in Canada, and her own brilliant writing and speaking produced the most convincing arguments that in brain power women were the equal of men.

Queen's University was the first to throw open its doors to women on equal footing with men, and Alice McGillivray, Elizabeth Smith and Elizabeth Beaty at once entered. The male students treated it as a joke at first, but when the results of the first examinations were published, and when it was learned that all three of the lady students were well to the top, and Alice McGillivray at the top of all with 100 per cent. marks, all she could possibly take, there was weeping wailing and gnashing of teeth among the male students. The medicals declared that lady students must be put out of the college, or they would all leave and go to a Toronto college. The feeling became so desperate, that through sympathy for the women attending the medical college, money was at once subscribed, and the Women's Medical College, affiliated with Queen's University, was endowed for five years, in the belief that at the end of that time, it would be self-supporting.

Examination still continued the same for men and women in the university, and Alice McGillivray still continued this habit, which was so objectionable to the male students, of coming out first in every examination.

Her ambition was not confined to the medical classes alone, for she completed in the arts classes at the same time, and carried off the gold medalist in arts as well as in medicine.

She was at once appointed professor of practical anatomy in the Women's College, which position she held for one year, and was then appointed vice dean and professor of diseases of women and children. This position she held for four years. She then went to Chicago for a time and, returning to Canada, started the practice of her profession, where she remained until the time of her death.

For the last fifteen years of her life she was very retiring, shunning society and publicity and giving all her time to practice, study and quiet charitable work. She was a friend of the poor and the wronged and though she had a comparatively large income from her practice, she personally gave the most of it to unfortunate and poor girls and women.

It was said by Rev. Dr. Smith at her funeral service "Were every one to whom she did some loving act of kindness, to bring a blossom to her grave, she would sleep to-night beneath a wilderness of flowers."

Genius and Insanity.

Dr. Daniel Phelan, surgeon of Kingston Penitentiary who is regarded as an expert on mental diseases, has issued a 38-page treatise entitled, "Genius and Insanity."

Some of his conclusions will be found startling to the lay reader, at least.

"One character of genius noted almost invariably, is a sudden drifting away from the ordinary paths followed by the majority of men," says Dr. Phelan.

"It is said that more people of great genius exhibit manifestations of insanity, than do persons of ordinary mental faculties. This is due to the fact that genius is the expression of a highly sensitive nervous system, and is therefore more liable to diseased conditions of all kinds.

"No man directly inherits true genius any more than the divine gift of prophecy; on the other hand, talent may be marked in successive generations."

Air Line For Mail.

According to recent reports, mail between Port Huron, Mich., and Sarnia, Ont., will in the near future be transported by aeroplane. A school of aviation, backed by several well-known capitalists, will be established next month, and Lieut. Ruel, an experienced aviator, will be the instructor. The flight will be made on the St. Clair River and Lake Huron, the machines being equipped as hydroplanes. The new school expects to secure the contract for carrying the mail, and the citizens of both towns expect to get letters via the very latest twentieth century improvement, the air line. The proposition will be a paying one in the winter, when the river is blocked with ice, and it is impossible for the ferry boats to cross.

British Columbia Coal.

As a producer of coal, British Columbia may soon take the lead among the nine Canadian provinces. Heretofore, that honor has gone to Nova Scotia, which in 1911 produced coal to the value of fourteen million dollars. The British Columbia returns for 1912 are expected to reach twelve million dollars.

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