

MARVELLOUS KLONDIKE.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE COUNTRY AND ITS DISCOVERER.

It is a Fascinating Story—Unfold Wealth in the Far North—Hardships of the Miners—Many and Bitter Disappointments—Stamped from Circle City—Told by a Special Correspondent of Harper's Weekly.

II.

Another man than Henderson would have been discouraged. He was still entitled, according to the custom and usage prevailing on the Canadian side, to his discovery claim on Gold Bottom, and as discoverer he was entitled to still another. On the other fork just spoken of he was entitled to a discovery claim and one more. He staked all four of these. The ice was commencing to form. Having made his clean-up and divided the money, he started to record. On the way he met Andy Hunker, who told him he had made a discovery on the same creek where Henderson made his second discovery, and he thought Henderson would not be able to hold discovery there. The whole creek was now called Hunker Creek, and Gold Bottom was a fork of Hunker Creek. Hunker had found the splendid prospect of three dollars in the pan. Henderson, therefore, being uncertain, and seeing the latter was probably richer, staked No. 3 above Hunker's discovery, which was two miles below his own. A discovery had been made by Solomon Marpak on Bear Creek, which enters Klondike between Hunker and Bonanza. Being entitled to a location here also, Henderson staked another claim. When he reached Forty Mile and applied to record, he learned that the law had just been changed; that he could hold but one claim in the whole Klondike. So, as it seemed to be the best, he recorded No. 3 above Hunker Creek. Henderson was sick all the following winter. In the spring, far from being disheartened by the ill luck that had befallen him, he went up the Klondike prospecting, finding some gold on Flat Creek, then known as "Too Much Gold," by mistake in description a smaller stream below it was recorded as "Too Much Gold," and now bears that name. Returning, he went up to Stewart, making a discovery on

HENDERSON CREEK,

which was named after him, and after going a long distance up Stewart River and staking a site at the mouth of the McQuesten, he returned. He applied to Ottawa for the grant of the town site, but his application was never answered.

From an injury he received on Indian River he was laid up, and started out of the country; but the steamer upon which he took passage was frozen in at Circle City, where he remained all winter under the doctor's care. He was unable to work or to prospect as before. I met Henderson then, and was impressed by the earnestness of the man. I asked him if he was not discouraged by all that had happened. "No," replied he; "there are as rich mines yet to be discovered as any that have been found." I am not quite sure that he believed that, but it was characteristic of the man to say so. He was obliged to sell his Hunker claim for a fraction of its value.

Again, in Seattle, I saw Henderson. He had just come from Dawson. Un-suspicious and trusting, he had been robbed on the steamer of all the money he had—seven hundred dollars. He had but one thing left. It was the golden square and myrtle leaves of the badge of the Yukon Order of Pioneers, of which he was a member. For some reason he insisted on pinning it himself to my vest, saying: "You keep this. I will lose it too. I am not fit to live among civilized men." He is now back at Aspen, Colorado, at the same mine he worked six years ago, before he went into the Yukon. The miners who knew have always given Henderson the credit that is due him. "Swash George would be fishing yet at the mouth of the Klondike if it hadn't been for Bob Henderson," is what one may hear.

From the moment the discovery on Bonanza was known at Forty Mile, even the most trustworthy report of Mr. Ogilvie, who was making the survey of the boundary, left Henderson entirely out. Reason was obvious—nothing was told about Henderson. But in a recent speech in Victoria, Mr. Ogilvie used these words:

"The Klondike was prospected for forty miles up in 1887, without anything being found, and again in 1893, with a similar lack of result; but the difference is seen when the right course is taken, and this was led up to by Robert Henderson. This man is a born prospector, and you could not persuade him to stay on even the richest claim on Bonanza. He started up in a small boat to spend this summer and winter on Stewart River prospecting. This is the stuff the true prospector is made of, and I am proud to say he is a Canadian."

Henderson himself sums it up in a letter that is almost pathetic: "That is all I have got after two and a half years' prospecting, living on meat straight."

HOW EL DORADO CAME TO BE STAKED AND NAMED.

The large fork spoken of before, came into Bonanza at No. 7 above Discovery, but none of the side gulches—or "pups," as they were called—were favored by the stamperers until Bonanza

had been staked as far below and as far above Discovery as was considered, in the light of past experience, to be worth while. The middle of the creek was considered the best part. Obviously, as there was small time to prospect, chance predominated. But as soon as the first holes to bed-rock began to show a richness greater than anything ever known in the Yukon, many of those who had staked blindly, as a mere speculation, without plan or knowledge, laughed, and all but cried, in their overflowing joy. Then, when the novelty of sudden wealth wore off, not a few began to think just as men do the world over. As the extent of the richness became more known, the more the wisdom they displayed in picking out such choice locations became evident to themselves. They looked wise when the chechakho arrived, and tapped their heads with their finger, so to speak, as if to say that any one might have had as good as they if they had known where to look. There is no end of stories of the curious luck that accompanied the filling up of Bonanza and El Dorado. The following account of how El Dorado came to be staked has more interest than ordinary in that it is told by one who was not only one of the first who staked there, but also who supplied the readers of Harper's Weekly with the first direct news and photographs from the new diggings—namely, William D. Johns. Mr. Johns was in the neighborhood of Forty Mile when word of Carmack's discovery arrived, and was one of those who did not believe in the truth of it. He was therefore not in the first stampede. Confirmation of the strike was daily being received.

"The 80's and as far up as the 70's, but I determined to go away and try some of the 'pups,' believing it is never too late in a camp as new as this. Fred Bruce, the man with whom I planned to go, said it was no use. So when, on the morning of the day that we were to start from Forty Mile, we found that our boat had been stolen, he threw up his hands and refused to go. But upon inquiry I found that it was still possible for us to go. I found some men who owned a boat, and they told us that if certain parties to whom they had promised the use of it did not return in fifteen minutes

WE COULD TAKE THE BOAT.

"The men did not turn up, and in half an hour we were towing the boat up the Yukon. Only two weeks before we had passed the mouth of the Klondike, and camped on the site of the present Dawson; at the very time Swash George was making his discovery on Bonanza—of course unknown to us. On the third day we reached the mouth of the Klondike, and camped in our old camping-place, and the next morning, after making a cache of our supplies and taking a pack, we crossed the mouth of the Klondike to the Indian village, where Klondike City now is, and then took the trail which leads over the hills and along the ridge parallel with Bonanza—a trail that is used at times even now in preference to the more recent trail in the valley of the creek. After a hard tramp we reached Discovery in the afternoon. Swash George and three Indians were working at the side of the bank, sluicing with two boxes in the crudest sort of way. I took a pan, and panned my first gold in Klondike, off the side of the bank, getting fifty cents. We went on to No. 3 above Discovery, and made camp under a brush shelter. That night two men, Anton, an Austrian, and Frank Keller, whom we had seen before on the Yukon, came to our camp, and sat for an hour and a half talking. Anton told us their camp was further up on upper Bonanza, we inferred. They said they had found ten cents to the pan on upper Bonanza, and they advised us to try there.

"Next morning we took our packs, and with two others, Knut Halstead and John Ericson, two Norwegians, prospected along till we got into the 30's. There we left everything but picks, shovels, and pans, and went up into the 70's, a distance of rather more than seven miles from Discovery. We prospected as we went, but found nothing. The boys agreed in declaring that if the ground had not been already staked they would not take the trouble to do so themselves. We returned to camp, and decided that we would prospect the large 'pup' that came in just above No. 7. Our attention had been drawn to this 'pup' before we got to Discovery, on the day when we had seen before on the Yukon. GOING DOWN THE CREEK.

"They were of a party of four Miller Creek men. We had asked them, 'How's the creek?'"

"No good, 'Skim diggings,' 'Bat diggings,' 'Moose flat,' were the answers received.

"Did you stake on the creek?' we asked.

"No,' they replied.

"Where are Demars and Louis Empkins?' we asked, referring to the two other members of their party.

"Oh, they have gone up a pup to stake."

"Why didn't you stake?"

"Oh, to be—l with the pups' was their answer as they went away down the creek.

"Pretty soon we met Demars and Empkins. 'Where have you been?' we asked.

"On that pup,' they replied.

"Any good?"

"Don't know anything about it; as long as we were up, we thought we might as well stake somewhere, and they hurried on after their companions. They were rich men, but they did not know it.

"Next morning, before we were ready to start, Keller came down to our camp dressed in corduroys, and with a rifle on his shoulder, as if he were starting out on a hunt. He inquired how we had made out. We told him we had found nothing. He still favored upper Bonanza; he thought it was all right. We asked him where his camp was; we had not seen it the day before. "Over on the other side," he replied, indicating the way, and we thought no more of it then. "Where are you going to-day?' he asked us.

"To prospect that pup,' I replied. "Do you know anything about it?"

"Oh, I found a five-cent piece on rim-rock, a mile up."

"He left us. We still thought he was off on a little hunt.

"We started toward the 'pup.' When we reached the mouth, we followed the tortuous course of the stream. Fred Bruce stopped and pointed to the brook.

"Some one is working; the water is muddy," said he.

"Like hunters who have scented game, we lapsed into silence, and, with eyes and ears alert, kept on. We had gone only a little ways, when suddenly we came upon four men. Three of them were standing around the fourth, who was holding a gold-pan. All were intently looking into the pan, and the other three were J. J. Clements, Frank Phiscater, and old man Swipple. When they looked up and saw us, they acted like a cat caught in a cream-pitcher. Seeing that we had found them out, they loosened up

TOLD US ALL THEY KNEW.

They showed us then what they had in the pan. There was not less than fifty cents. While we were talking, along came Keller. He had taken off his corduroys and was in his working-clothes, his attempt to steer us away having been a failure. The five men had staked off their claims Anton's was the highest up the creek. Above his were the two claims that Empkins and Demar had staked.

"Anton told Ericson that he might have his claim, as he was going to take stake. Pretty soon Anton came all a-sweating, and begged and pleaded with Ericson for his claim back, as the one should have Discovery but himself. Ericson cut his name off the stakes, and Anton restaked the claim—the present No. 6 El Dorado. Ericson 8, and staked 10. Bruce and I went on far enough to be out of the 11, and I 12.

"Regarding the discovery, it was the custom in the lower country—not only on the American side, but within Canadian territory—to allow a discovery, consequently a double claim, upon each gulch. But the edict had recently gone forth from Forty Mile that there could be but one discovery on a creek, and none on a 'pup' of a main creek. The discovery had been allowed to Swash George, so that there could be no discovery claim on El Dorado.

"Another custom was that if a person, after having staked in one place, before he could hold the second, cut his name off the other stakes, Anton, Keller, et al., had already staked on upper Bonanza, and so might have part of the creek as good. While according to old custom they might have held a discovery on El Dorado, they could not legally do so now. Consequently Halstead promptly jumped the so-called 'Discovery' claim that Whipple was trying to reserve for himself, still leaving him, however,

with one claim on El Dorado, besides his Bonanza claim. He was stoutly TRYING TO HOLD ALL THREE.

"A party of Finns soon came along, headed by a man named Cobb. They did not stake, but went on and turned up Bonanza. They were the only other persons on the creek that day. That night in camp we discussed naming the new creek. Old man Whipple wanted it called 'Whipple Creek.' But we were rather hot at the Whipple crowd for having used us so ill in trying to steer us away from the creek; and, besides, old man Whipple had tried once to jump Halstead and Ericson's claim on American Creek. After several names were mentioned, Knut Halstead suggested 'El Dorado,' and that was the name determined upon. I make this point, as certain later comers have claimed the honor of naming the creek.

"Next morning Fred Bruce got up at five o'clock and went down after McKay, whom the miners had appointed as their recorder, letting out the news on the way. Among the first to arrive were Cobb and his crowd. Hearing of the Whipple crowd had staked Bonanza also, Cobb stated emphatically to Whipple that unless his crowd took their names off Bonanza, he would jump their claims here. Just then Anton, Clements, and Keller came up to where we were talking, and Bruce and I, who felt that though they had tried to job us, yet they really had made the discovery, and were entitled to the ground, tried out best to persuade them to go up and cut off their names, or they would lose their El Dorado claims—they certainly could not hold both. Whipple kept insisting that they could. At this juncture Phiscater came along.

To be Continued.

SCIENCE AND INVENTION.

Fresh Notes of General Interest From the Libraries and Laboratories of the Savants.

The success of the bicycle and the automobile has led many inventors to attempt a resilient vehicle wheel, simpler than those in use. A promising improvement is described in an English journal. It consists essentially of two concentric shells at the hub, connected by radial webs which extend the breadth of the hub. Between each two webs is inserted a piece of india rubber, exactly fitting the sector shaped space. The outer and inner sides of the hub are covered by circular plates, into the centre of which is fitted the axle bearing. Bolts pass from the outer plate to the inner plate through the india rubber sectors, therefore, are interposed between the carriage, supported on the axle, and the wheel, and all vibration is effectually prevented.

Two cars, carrying local freight, are now in use on the Consolidated Traction lines of Pittsburg. Although freight stations have been established for the present, it is intended to ultimately make house-to-house deliveries—employing more cars as the service expands. It is said the United Traction lines will shortly begin a like service.

The Electrician describes an electrically warmed operating table, in which incandescent lamps supply the heat. The body of the table has the form of an air chamber and within it are six or eight incandescent lamps. These lamps soon raise the temperature to the proper point, when half of them may be switched off, the remainder being entirely adequate to maintain the proper warmth.

The English intend experimenting with an automobile gun carriage for army use. A tricycle, driven by electricity, forms the carriage and upon it is mounted a service pattern Maxim gun. The weight of the gun and carriage is only about 140 pounds, permitting quick movements and early readiness when in position. The Twenty-sixth Middlesex, cyclists' corps, will conduct the tests at the approaching volunteer maneuvers, at Aldershot.

Dr. Friedlander, of Wiesbaden, recommends galvanism to relieve the pain and irritation and to reduce the swelling caused by the bites of insects. The negative electrode is placed over the sting.

Acetylene gas, as is generally known, is produced by moistening calcium carbide with water. Some idea of its extensive use will be gathered when it is learned that there is being erected at Niagara Falls a plant for the manufacture of calcium carbide, which will have an output of one hundred tons per day. Electrical energy, equivalent to 25,000 horse power, will be required to operate it.

A new and expeditious method of driving piles is described in the instructions for the Russian Engineer Corps. On two sides of the pile to be driven are made longitudinal grooves of sufficient width and depth to receive ordinary gas pipes of one inch diameter, terminating in nozzles turned toward the point of the pile. The pipes are held in place by light staples, and to their upper ends are attached rubber tubes connected with a force pump, capable of delivering water under a pressure of seventy-one pounds per square inch. It is said that the outflow of this water at the point of the pile causes the latter to sink three or four times more rapidly than it would under the action of a pile driver.

A few blows are given, however, when the pile has reached the desired depth, to secure the necessary consolidation, when the gas pipes are withdrawn.

Didn't Dare Eat Meat.

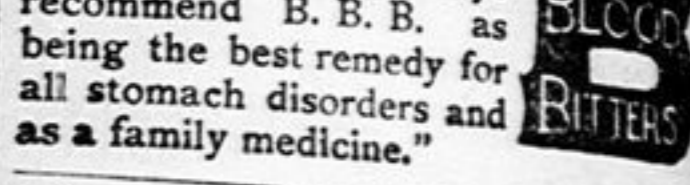
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THE RATIO OF ILLITERACY.

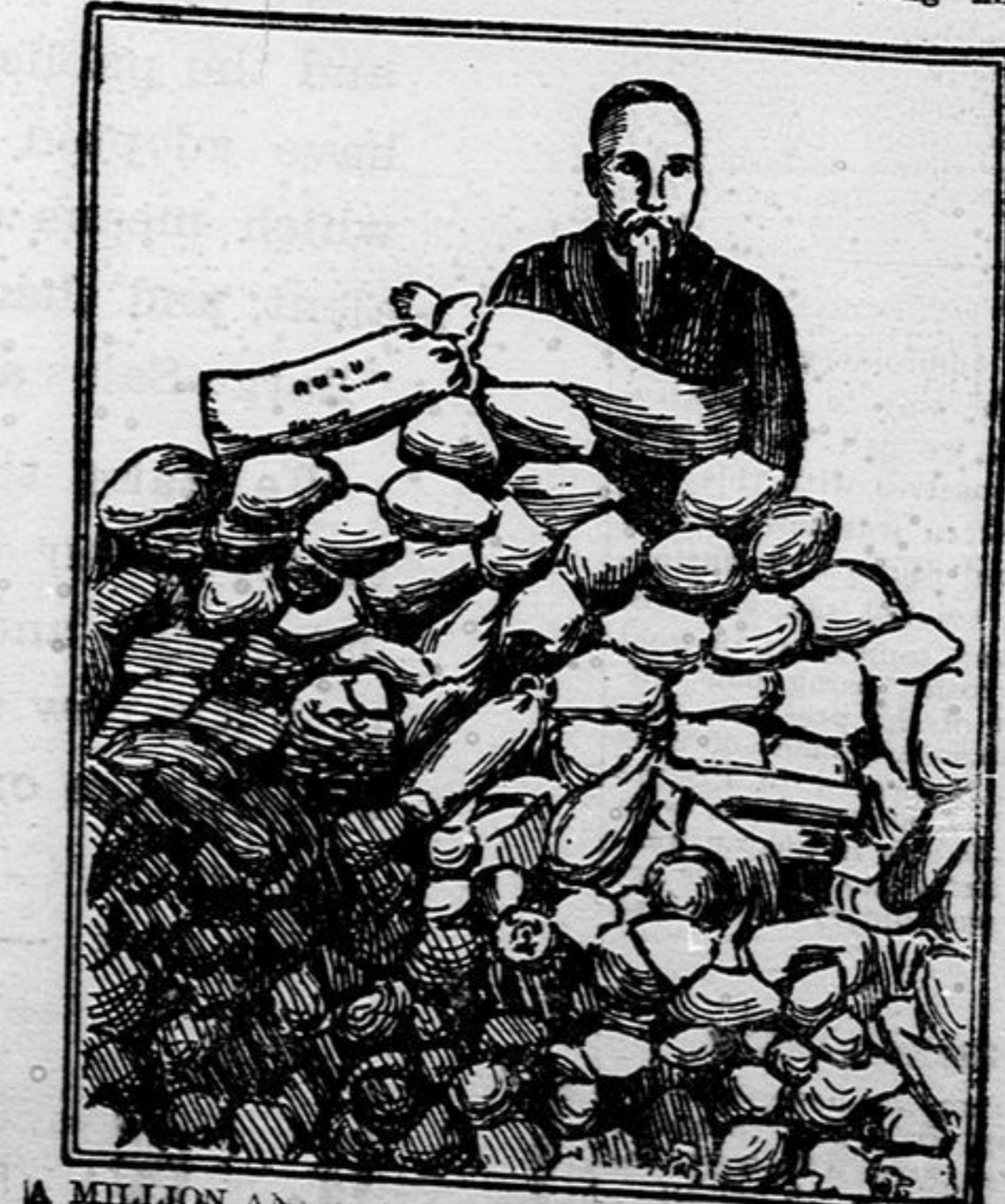
Statistics From Various Countries of the Condition of Education.

Statistics of illiteracy are sought in Continental nations of Europe in the case of soldiers recruited for service in the army. Among German recruits, for instance, the percentage of illiteracy is 1.1. Of 1,000 recruits, 989 can read and write, 11 cannot.

In Switzerland, the percentage of illiteracy is one-half of 1 per cent.; in France it is 5-1-2 per cent.; in Holland it is a little less—5-40, in Belgium it is 13.5; in Italy it is 38; in Hungary it is 28, and in Russia, it is 70. There are no authentic figures of an official or quasi-official character in Spain showing the illiteracy of army recruits. In Spain as in Great Britain in the test of illiteracy is the record of marriages from which it is seen that about 65 per cent. of the population of marriageable age seems to be illiterate.

According to the last figures of these signing marriage certificates in Scotland the ratio of illiteracy among them was only 35 per thousand. In England it was 58 and in Ireland it was 170, but since then, of course, the general diffusion of education has further reduced the figures, making them approximate those of Germany and other countries of the Continent. In Norway and Sweden the army percentage is nearly identical with that of Germany. In Denmark the ratio of illiteracy among army recruits is very little higher than it is in Switzerland, and in Austria, German provinces, the ratio of illiteracy is very low. In some other parts of the Austrian empire, however, Croatia, the Tyrol and Austrian-Poland, the ratio of illiteracy is much higher, bringing it up among army recruits generally to 12 per cent.

The Japanese are preparing to convert their copper ore into wire for domestic and foreign markets, instead of shipping it out of the country, as before. The Furukawa Smelting Works have for some time employed electrolytic refining, producing in the past year 880 tons, but they are to be now enlarged to four times their present size, and it is said that when the enlargement is completed their output will so far exceed the domestic demand as to permit a considerable export. As the government uses several hundred tons of wire a year, it may be inferred that the new works will have a large capacity.



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