

The Stikeen River Journal

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF WRANGEL, SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA, AND THE ALL-CANADIAN ROUTE TO THE YUKON.

VOL. 2, NO. 43.

FORT WRANGEL, ALASKA, SATURDAY, OCT. 21, 1899.

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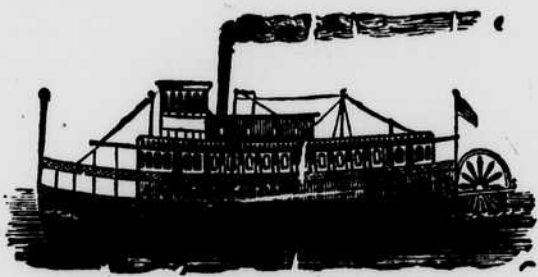
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Two Old Friends Meet.

Of a truth this is but a small world, and its area is daily getting more circumscribed owing to more rapid means of transportation. A striking proof of aforesaid smallness of this earth occurred in the office of this publication yesterday evening, when Mr. Louis Watson, of Watsonville, who has just returned from Dease lake met Mr. W. J. Smith of the Wrangel Fish Curing Co. The two men were well acquainted on the diamond-fields of South Africa 30 years ago, where they were both engaged in mining for the precious stones during the stirring times of 1869-1876.

It is needless to state that they were both delighted to have a talk about old times, and we could not get in a word edgewise, in fact much of what the two gentlemen talked about was Greek to the scribe.

Mr. Watson is a man of brilliant attainments and wide personal experience and we would be glad to have him stay with us, but we are sorry to say he has left on the s.s. Cottage City to resume his duties on the staff of the "Victoria Colonist."

Art in Wrangel.

If any one imagines that the artistic spirit is dead in our city they have but to cast their eyes around our streets and note the varied business signs designed and executed by that past-master of his art John Stephens, among numerous others may be noticed his two latest achievements, viz: the sign of the U. S. Saloon, and even better yet the blazon of the "Hunters' Rest" in itself a veritable work of art. Mr. Stephens is one of our best known and respected citizens, and it gives us great pleasure to give praise where credit is due.

Kaake Mission.

S. R. Moon of the Kaake Mission has just returned from Kansas where he has been visiting friends and relatives.

Mr. Moon has been engaged as missionary among the Kaake Indians continuously for the past eleven years and undoubtedly deserved the vacation and rest from his pastorate duties. He speaks in the highest terms of his congregation, and says that they are the brightest and most intelligent of Alaskan Indians.

The Edson Academy.

Prof. Edson intends in the near future erecting a building to be utilized as a Terpsichorean Academy. We have been privileged to examine the plans and specifications of same and they are most ornate. It will be a circular building with waiting, dressing and refreshment rooms included. The floor of the building will be composed of ingrain work, polished after a secret process of the Professor's own. The interior decoration will be mainly composed of classic reproductions of Correggio and Titian. The apartment which will be devoted to the dispensing of light refreshments will be a miracle of art, to attempt to depict it in accordance with the plans would simply beggar description, we may however state that among the numerous paintings will be that "Chef de oeuvre" of Althemy Jones, "Napoleon crossing the Alps in an open boat." The waiting and dressing rooms will be a marvel of combined elegance and comfort, and the whole will be a great evidence of the enterprise and public spiritedness of our worthy citizen Prof. Edson, and will also be yet one more building of which our city may justly feel proud.

The s.s. Al-Ki arrived at her berth last night, and left for the north 7:30 this morning.

Coming Down.

We shall to day have the pleasure of welcoming to Wrangel quite a number of distinguished personages, who are now en-route to our city via the Stikeen river. It goes without saying that we shall be more than pleased to see these gentlemen in our midst if only for a few days, they are well and favorably known to most of us, and for the past two years have done some magnificent pioneer work.

Warburton Pike Esq., the celebrated author of "Barron Lands," is accompanied by the following gentlemen: Mr. Marriott, manager Casca Trading Co., Telegraph Ck.; Mr. Higgs, manager Casca Trading Co. at Lake-ton; also Messrs Maher, Gibney and Grainger, who are connected with the above mentioned company; Mr. Johnson, the able accountant, Mr. Chas. Walker, prospector; Mr. Laing, a say-er for the Cassiar Central; Mr. Albert McCleary, himself a mighty hunt-er of renown, and a prospector of wide and varied experience; and last but by no means the least, the celebrated mining expert Mr. Hamfield who has been looking after the interests of the Cassiar Central.

A Large Assembly.

The usual weekly assembly dance took place in the Sylvester block on Saturday last. The attendance that evening was the largest since Professor Edson took it in hand to teach the people the graceful art of tripping the light fantastic. Everyone appeared to have left their business cares behind them, and one and all joined in having a good time. Light refreshments were served during the evening; and as the clock sounded the midnight hour, everyone retired to their respective homes feeling, no doubt, that these weekly dances are like an oasis in the desert of life.

Professor Edson.

There remains not a shadow of a doubt but that Prof. Edson is one of the best and most efficient dancing instructors on the Pacific coast, judging from the rapid progress his pupils have made during the past month. Mr. Edson is certainly a past master of the art; he having had many years experience in several of the coast cities.

His lectures on ball-room etiquette are also certainly good; and Mr. Edson truly puts into practice what he preaches.

Six Giant Grizzlies.

Hunter Smith, he of the genial presence and the profound knowledge of seven-up, is in town, together with his partner Brewster, he took a flying trip up the Iscoot river, and they made a killing: six enormous grizzly bears, averaging 1,400 lb apiece, having fallen victims to their unerring aim.

Good boys! more power to your elbow.

Hunters Return.

W. P. Watson and E. Langworthy of England, are registered at the Fort Wrangel Hotel. These gentlemen came to Wrangel some six or seven weeks ago and went up the Stikeen river to the Dease and Teslin lake country where they have since been hunting with indifferent success, having only secured one black bear and a moose.

Their lack of success as hunters was no doubt due to the fact that Mr. Langworthy was suffering from a lame foot, the result of an injury of years ago.

M. Le. Grippe has made his appearance in this city. We hardly need state that he most emphatically an unwelcome visitor.

Farewell Party

One of the most enjoyable functions that has ever graced Wrangel society took place on Wednesday evening last, the occasion being a farewell conversation and ball tendered to Miss Hofstad by her numerous friends, a most pleasant evening was spent by a very large gathering. We had prepared a complete list of the ladies and gentlemen assembled and had intended to especially mention those who seemed to derive the most pleasure from the gathering, but it would be invidious to make comparisons for everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy it and lend themselves with such eclat to the proceedings that no descriptive language of ours could do justice to the details of a most delightful reunion.

We can only trust that amidst the delights of the golden State of California Miss Hofstad will sometimes remember her many Alaskan friends.

Dear Mr. Editor:

Having to day arrived in your city direct from Dease lake and thinking your readers might like to know a little about the goings on in the neighborhood of the Stikeen, including Glenora, Telegraph etc., I venture to write up a few items; although there, has been a terrible epidemic of scurvy raging the past year I am happy to say the sufferers have all been well cared for and sent out via Wrangel, thanks to the energy and consideration shown by Mr. James Aorter, the B. C. Government agent on his own responsibility immediately the trouble occurred, and much sickness was averted, and I am happy to say that only one death occurred out of sixty cases treated. In July, other scurvy and frozen cases were reported, but this time came from the Edmonton trail. The Dominion Government showed much energy, and alleviated the many cases that came to Glenora. The Casca Trading Co. under Mr. Scott Simpson, being first to the rescue, I must not forget to mention Dr. Barr, of Scotland, who gave up his intention of travelling with his party, in order to render all the medical aid possible. He also invariably refused any remuneration whatever, although he never at any time begrudged a twenty-mile tramp in the snow to relieve and succor a fellow traveller, he is in very truth one of nature's noblemen.

The Hudson's Bay Co. under Mr. Robson's management at Glenora, must also be given credit for much Good Samaritan work. In regard to mining matters I may say that the prospects are most reassuring; several companies intend establishing hydraulic plants next year, among these might be mentioned the Cassiar Central Railway Co., and the Casca Trading Co., there are also several miners returning next year having good prospects, but stopped by the approach of winter: the Casca Trading Co.'s outfit with Mr. Warburton Pike were to have left Telegraph creek last Wednesday, and may arrive at any time, we passed them in our splendid canoe which was most ably navigated by Capt. Bradley, a boat containing among others Mr. and Mrs. Robson and family at the time we passed they were having a rather rough time, but as their boat was manned by a splendid crew, commanded by Deputy Sheriff Malcolm McLean, we trust to hear that they may arrive safely in Wrangel. I shall have the pleasure of renewing my acquaintance with my many Wrangel friends, early next spring, when I return to Dease lake.

—LOUIS WATSON.

Try an add. in the JOURNAL.