

It again crops out a few miles from the bank of the main river, and at Fifteen Mile creek and at the head of the Thronday there are also outcroppings of coal.

Character of the Country. Regarding the surface of the country and the difficulties of prospecting he says:

Passing down the river in a boat one sees a succession of trees, 10, 12, 14 and 16 inches in diameter, and he naturally comes to the conclusion that it is a well timbered country, and so it is—along the margin of the river. But let him disembark and go inland and he will find the ground covered with what are locally known as "niggerheads," which consist of columns of decayed coarse grass peculiar to this region.

For the rest of the country, the surface is covered by from one foot to two of moss and underneath the everlasting frost. On this a scrubby growth of trees is found extending up the mountain sides to an altitude of from 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the river.

Above the timber line you come to the bare rocks—the crests bare save where clothed with a growth of lichen on which the caribou feeds.

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All the way through the so called muck we find trees lying in every direction. Those trees are of the same kinds of wood and present the same appearance of growth as those today growing on the surface.

From this we must infer that the gold deposit, or pay dirt, was made thousands of years ago, yet in it we find the bones of animals which are still quite common in the district and of others which are found farther to the south.

In one of these claims a piece of a rib was found in the pay streak, to which some of the frozen flesh still adhered. It crumbled away, however, almost immediately on exposure to heat and the air.

any evidence of the existence of man at any depth in those creeks.

Manner of Getting Out the Dirt.

Now, a few words on the manner of getting out the dirt in this region. As soon as the ground is frozen sufficiently to enable us to prosecute our work without interference from water we sink a hole to bedrock, as I have before described.

One claim holder may locate pay at the very first hole. The man adjoining may have to sink many. I know of one instance in which 11 holes were sunk across the valley without anything being struck in any of them.

Now, suppose pay is struck in one of the holes. The pay streak, as I have said before, is seldom more than three feet in depth. On the side of the hole which shows the best indications a fire is placed, which thaws out a few inches on that wall.

In this way the pay streak is taken from underneath the surface in the winter until the water begins running in the spring, finds its way into the shafts, and hinders operations to such an extent that they are closed.

A sluice box is about 10 inches in width and 12 feet in length, the boxes so made that they fit into each other like the joints of a telescope. In these are placed what are called rifle bars, which are strips of wood about 1 inch square and 8 or 10 feet long, nailed together at their ends so as to be parallel with each other and about one-half to three-quarters of an inch apart.

As soon as the sun has attained sufficient force to thaw out the surface of the dump it is shoveled into these sluice boxes. The water carries down with it to the tailings, as it is termed, the refuse—that is, the gravel, sand and other matter which is not wanted.

As soon as the rifle bars are filled, so that there is danger of the gold passing over and downward to the tailings, the flow of water is stopped, and what is called the clean up is made—that is, the rifle bars are lifted out and the contents of the sluice boxes gathered and the black sand and other refuse separated.

Extraordinary Strikes. In one instance 80 avoirdupois pounds of gold were realized from a single clean up, representing about \$16,000 in money. This seems extraordinary, but we must bear in mind that the dump from which this came contained only \$110,000 and took the united efforts of five or six men at \$1.50 per hour for upward of three months, not including the labor of sluicing, so that although it is tremendously rich it is not exactly all profit.

I saw the other evening in one of the papers that a man who owns a claim on El Dorado and another on Bear creek has sold out for \$1,000,000. He went into the country a poor man with the intention of raising sufficient money to pay off the mortgage on his place.

Although these creeks are rich, and as I have told you more men have made home stakes there than anywhere else in the world, I do not wish you to look only on the bright side of the picture. An American from Seattle came in June, 1896, to the Forty Mile with his wife, with the intention of bettering his condition. They went out again last July with \$23,000. I was well acquainted with this man, a very decent, intelligent chap. He told me one day that if he could remain in that country from three to five years and go out with \$5,000 he would consider himself in great luck.

On the other hand, an old Scotchman of the name of Marks has been in there for 11 years. I have known him well, and once when he was sick last fall I happened to ask him how old he was. Sixty-three years, he said. Then I asked him how long he had been mining. His reply was 42 years, in all parts of the world except Australia. In answer to a question as to whether he had never made his stake he told me he had never yet made more than a living, and often that was very scanty.

There are men in that country who are poor and who will remain so. It has not been their "luck," as they call it, to strike it rich, but I may say that that country offers to men of great fortitude, steadiness and some intelligence an opportunity to make more money in a given time than they could possibly make anywhere else.

No Agricultural Possibilities. The Yukon can never be an agricultural country, for the thermometer sinks so often below 40 degrees, at which temperature vegetable development comes to a standstill, that only the commonest garden produce, such as radishes, lettuce, small cabbages and small turnips, attain sufficient size for use.

The Alaska Commercial company has had a couple of acres under cultivation in the vicinity of Forty Mile for several years. On this it has sown oats, but they never ripened. Good fodder for cattle could be had in this way by importing barley and oats, but the seed would have to be brought in every season, as there is no kernel in the pod or shell.

Horses have been in use at Forty Mile for several years now, but the owners depend largely on the trading companies for the food for their subsistence. Mr. Harper has had several horses at Selkirk for several years, the fodder for which he cuts from ponds in the vicinity.

Mr. Harper also has a small garden at Selkirk, in which he cultivates potatoes of fair quality. To preserve them from frost he has had a large blanket, as it might be termed, made out of heavy ticking. Every evening when the sky is clear and frost threatens he suspends this just over the potato tops.

The farming area is, however, very small in comparison with the surface of the country, being entirely limited to the river bottoms, so that all vegetable food must be taken into the country, as it cannot be grown there except at an enormous cost, and therefore will not pay.

Animal Food. For animal food there are the caribou and the moose, but the moose are never within 30 or 40 miles of the mines, so that it takes two or three days going from the camps to hunt them. There are, too, white mountain sheep—pure white in color, but otherwise resembling very much in appearance the gray ones found in more southern latitudes, but with a finer horn, more nicely curved.

The natural products of the country as a food supply may be said to be valueless when compared with the demand which will soon exist for it there. It might indeed be said that all food will have to be imported. In the river are some small fish resembling the grayling, and the salmon annually make their way up as far as the canyon, some 2,000 miles from the sea.

The only timber in the country that is fit for mercantile purposes is spruce. There are a few poplars, which, however, are generally unfit for anything except fuel. The spruce is soft, weak and full of knots.

I came a good deal in contact with those men during my work about the creeks, settled many of the disputes arising between them, adjusted many differences, and everywhere and every time they had the highest respect for the law. Never but once was anything unkind or uncomplimentary said about what was done, and in that case the offender soon after offered a most ample apology.

In conclusion let me say that we have in the far north land a vast region comprising from 90,000 to 100,000 square miles of untold possibilities. Rich deposits we know exist in it, and for aught we know many more equally rich may yet be found.

OIL AND ASPHALTUM.

VALUABLE NATURAL DEPOSITS ON THE CALIFORNIA SEASHORE.

Oil Wells on the Edge of the Sea, Some of Them Below High Water Mark, Are Worked With Profit at Santa Barbara. Asphaltum Deposits.

The early settlers in California were familiar with the indications of oil, which were common at various localities up and down the coast, and the asphaltum from beds in the sea, where this product oozed up out of the bottom, formed an important factor in the household economy of the ancients.



OIL WELLS ON THE SEASHORE NEAR SANTA BARBARA, CAL.

Oil wells on the seashore near Santa Barbara, California, are worked with profit. The oil is pumped out of the sea and used for various purposes.

At Santa Paula oil wells were long ago developed, and later the oil producing belt was found at Puente and again at Summerland, below Santa Barbara, where a singular state of affairs may be seen.

Three wells at low tide are in the water and at flood tide are completely surrounded, the men working on platforms of various heights which they ascend when working as the sea rises.

This is probably the only place where oil is pumped out of the ocean. Undoubtedly the entire coast in this vicinity overlies oil producing strata.

Probably one of the most extraordinary sights of oil wells is seen in Los Angeles. Oil was first discovered in the western portion, in what was considered a choice residence part of the city.

California is without deposits of coal, if we except lignite beds, which crop out in various places, so that oil as fuel will supply a long felt want and become a factor in the rapid development of this growing city.

The Most Important Canal. No canal in the world—not even the Suez—approaches the Sault Ste. Marie, between lakes Superior and Huron, in the quantity of freight which passes through it.

Remedy For Tuberculosis. Salts of uranium have been used as a remedy for tuberculosis on 400 patients of Professor Landauer of Stuttgart. From an experience of seven years he hopes that he has found a lasting cure for the disease.

Live Stock Points.

We have heard of a race horse named Dress Goods. A man who would give a horse such a name as that ought to be pursued and kicked every night by enraged nightmarers.

A good horse feed is a mixture of ground corn and oats fed with moistened cut clover hay. It is a muscle making feed and easily digested.

At recent sales in Kentucky horses of blood and training have brought excellent prices. There will be henceforth good market for all horses that are worth the name, but they must be of a much higher order than those offered for sale half a dozen years ago.

The prize carload of fat steers at the Chicago show were Aberdeen-Angus and sold for \$6 a hundredweight.

The national congress of stockbreeders will be held in 1898 in St. Paul. It will commence Jan. 17 and end Jan. 22. The promoters of this worthy association are hoping for a gathering of stockmen from all parts of the country.

GOOD TIMES have come to those whom Hood's Sarsaparilla has cured of scrofula, catarrh, dyspepsia, rheumatism, weak nerves, or some other form of impure blood.

HOOD'S PILLS are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla. Easy and yet efficient.

Just try a 10c box of Cascarets, the finest liver and bowel regulator ever made.

Stock Hogs In Winter.

Inexperienced swine breeders make the mistake of either keeping their breeding hogs too fat or too thin during the winter. It requires a keen eye and good judgment gained by careful observation or long experience to tell when breeding stock is in just the right condition.

The aim should be to maintain the breeding stock in a healthy growing condition and with just flesh enough to keep them warm and make them good and strong at farrowing time. Oats make an ideal ration and may be fed without grinding. Wheat or any of its by-products is good.

In addition to sensible feeding give a warm bed in a dry, tight pen and a yard or field for plenty of exercise. When handled in this way, the pigs can be carried cheaply through the winter and the sows will come to farrowing in the best possible condition and drop strong, healthy pigs ready to grow from the start.

Don't Tobacco Spit and Smoke Your Life Away.

If you want to quit tobacco using easily and forever, be made well, strong, magnetic, full of new life and vigor, take No-To-Bac, the wonderworker, that makes weak men strong. Many gain ten pounds in ten days.

McREYNOLDS - Boarding - House. By Day or Week. 1342 N St.

Advertisement for McReynolds Boarding House, located at 1342 N St.

Advertisement for Scenic Line of the World, Denver & Rio Grande R.R., featuring Klondike connections.

HORSE'S HOOF.

From Birth to Death It Requires Faithful Attention.

From the birth to the death of the horse, says a fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the hoof requires attention if it is to be kept in a healthy condition. It is before the hoof is shod that the feet are generally neglected, and the animals suffer accordingly, because they are young and immature, and the bones and other tissues are soft and could be easily distorted to suit the conditions under which they are kept.

The prize carload of fat steers at the Chicago show were Aberdeen-Angus and sold for \$6 a hundredweight.

It would be as well to disabuse people's minds of a very popular fallacy—viz, that wet, soft ground and even manure yards are the best places to keep young horses, and some would even have the frogs and soles pared thin to allow the moisture to penetrate more easily.

Young horses require plenty of exercise, and unless they are allowed it the growth of the horn, etc., is sure to be defective. Then the question rises, When ought a horse to be first shod? The answer is, when the work required of the animal wears the horn away faster than it is formed or grown, or, in other words, so long as the horn of the foot can stand the wear required, it will not need protecting (shoeing). Moreover, if the young horses are not shod so early they will not be worked so hard, and lower would be raised in their youth, as is too often the case at the present time.

Many People Cannot Drink

coffee at night. It spoils their sleep. You can drink Grain-O when you please and sleep like a top. For Grain-O does not stimulate; it nourishes, cheers and feeds. It looks and tastes like the best coffee.

The coming of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha, is looked upon by Nebraska people who have farms, ranches, town property, etc., to sell as affording a grand opportunity to sell out to the thousands of homeseekers who will come there from the east to see the products of this and other states.

The show that Nebraska will make there will be the means of inducing a large immigration from the eastern and middle states, who will buy thousands of Nebraska farms within the next year.

The Power of the Press.

One of the most remarkable successes in the history of advertising is that of Cascarets Candy Cathartic, the famous ideal laxative now found in every home, absolutely unknown two years ago, this wonderful preparation achieved a sale in 1897 of over 3,000,000 boxes, and indications are that over 5,000,000 boxes will be sold in 1898.

Homeseeker's Excursion via Burlington Route.

On February 1st and 15th the Burlington will sell round trip tickets to all points in Indian Territory, Oklahoma Territory and Texas, and to certain points in Arizona, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri and New Mexico at one fare plus \$2.00.

Large advertisement for Scenic Line of the World, Denver & Rio Grande R.R., featuring Klondike connections and steamship lines.