

FROM THE LAND OF SHINING GOLD.

(Sitka, Alaska, Letter.)
The sudden finding of gold in a hitherto unsuspected country has made millionaires out of poor men. In a minute from poverty they came into affluence. The United States will have more multi-millionaires than ever, more plutocrats, and more "sudden riches." Canada has not struck it so rich, for the successful prospectors have almost without exception, been United States citizens and residents of the states. In the sudden making of millionaires it is difficult to tell who has struck it richest, accounts are so widely divergent. But all agree that no accounts have exaggerated the facts, so far as the finding of great quantities of gold is concerned. The richest man among the new Alaska millionaires is Joseph Ladue, the owner of the town of Dawson, and the finder of enormous gold deposits. Ladue is a resident of Schuyler Falls, Clinton county, N. Y., where, it is said, he is soon to be married to an old sweetheart whom he could not before afford to wed. When the gold fever broke out in a mild form two years ago he went to Alaska, after a failure in the Black Hills, and found enough to tell him of greater things later on. He returned to his home, but later went back to Alaska, took up a claim in the very heart of the country, paid for a certain quantity of land which was then for sale at a very low figure, and started in to look for gold. His first find brought settlers there by the dozen. "Dawson" the place was called, and as the owner sold off small portions of the land his fame grew and spread. He now owns Dawson, having sold but little, and is so many times a millionaire that his wealth cannot be estimated. He is the Barnato of Alaska, the man who struck it rich, and, knowing a good thing when he saw it, held on to it. It is only another tale of South African luck, but much nearer home—enviously near. The rush to the Alaska gold fields is such that all outgoing steamers are filled far in advance. These steamers run intermittently after the cold weather sets in, and there are long intervals when few Alaska voyages can be made. This accounts for the awful haste to reach there before the inland waters become un navigable. There is also an overland route, but this also becomes impracticable after awhile, owing to the lack of travelling accommodations and the long distances that must be gone over without finding a habitation. Alaska has never been "settled," owing to the great cold there, but it is thought that it might in time be made as livable as any of the other cold cities, and, indeed, as St. Petersburg or Christiania or any of the large North-European cities. But this is quite a step ahead, though not at all improbable.

At present, if you want to get to Alaska and become a Barnato, there are two ways of going. One is by sea and the other is overland. If you take the sea route you can start by steamship from Seattle, if you have been fortunate enough to secure accommodations ahead, and crossing the Gulf of Alaska, touch first at Unalaska, passing through the Aleutian Islands. From there the route lies directly north, getting colder and colder every minute. Here you will need all the arctic wraps you have brought with you. The ship's fare will be warm, nourishing food—cereals, chocolate, meats and spices. But for all that, you will need fur overcoats, fur hoods, blanket wraps, woolen mittens and big, warm, fur-lined bags in which to sleep. For one going from a very warm city into this region the change is so great and so sudden that there is sure to be great suffering, and many of the would-be Barnatos turn back here. The crew, on the other hand, enjoy it, being accustomed to a polar latitude—for you are now approaching the pole. In spring the weather would be getting daily warmer as the season advanced, but now you would find it steadily growing more biting. The steamship stops at St. Michaels; and here, within sight of Behring sea, almost within hailing distance of the Behring strait, you leave the steamship and start inland to search for gold. The Barnatos have

nearly all followed the Yukon. It leads into Klondyke, and one of its tributaries is the Klondyke river. Dawson, Joseph Ladue Barnato's town, is on the Yukon; and Circle City, another rich spot, lies on its banks.
Land is for sale here very cheap. Or you can do as many prospectors have done—start in hunting for gold without making too many inquiries. The find is so sudden that there is no sharp line drawn between that which is sold and that which belongs to the United States, and a man is free to hunt where he will. For your own comfort, however, it is well to have some definite arrangement made with the nearest authorities, so as to avoid trouble in case of a rich find. Another way to reach the gold fields is by the overland route. Many journey this way in wagons, as they went to "Pike's Peak or bust" years ago. The route begins at Seattle and follows the coast north past Sitka, past Juneau, and through the Chilkoot pass. And so north through the gold fields to Dawson. The "finds" here are rich, and when Klondyke is reached, on the other side of Dawson, a man finds himself in the very middle of the gold country. The distance to be traversed is great and the journey is a long, hard one, but notwithstanding this, thousands are struggling Alaskaward. It cost Ladue nothing to become a



ALASKA COMMERCIAL CO.'S HEADQUARTERS, ST. MICHAEL'S BAY.

ten times the sum required a year ago for traveling through the settlements of Alaska. One of the party should be a practical chemist, or understand the compiling of drugs, and one should be able to sew. A woman is of the utmost assistance, but few of the sex have ventured out. In the baggage which the four carry should be pieces of tanned skins, shoe leather, flannel, and wool, everything for repairing the Alaskan wearing apparel. One of the number should be able to cook, and the fourth should understand the art of putting up a quick shelter. All should be willing and ready to share and share alike in hardship. One of

who have already acquired property on the Klondyke by right of location and possession, if not by title from the government, and to prospectors who are proposing to go there. The right of the Canadian government to make such regulations is unquestionable; the policy is doubtful. There is a suspicion that they would not have been so severe if it were not that most of the miners in the district were Americans, and the rush of prospectors thither promises to be chiefly American also. It was, of course, to be expected that the Canadian government would take measures to reimburse itself for the expenses of administration in the new district, and there is a plausible reason for a departure from the policy of liberality in granting public mineral land for the purpose of developing the unsettled parts of the country, since it is likely that the Yukon district has few natural resources besides its mines, and when the latter are exhausted the district will be abandoned; but this looks only to the easily worked placer deposits, and fails to take into account the lodes whence they originated, which some day will require capital and industrial freedom for their exploitation.

The measures adopted, however, seem to us unwise, owing to the retardation in the development of the mineral resources of the Canadian Yukon which they will cause, and the hard feeling they are sure to breed among the American prospectors, who are likely to clamor for retaliatory measures. These will be, moreover, difficult and expensive taxes to collect, since it will be nearly impossible to watch every miner, and the Klondyke is so near the American frontier that clandestine exportations can hardly be prevented. It is a sound principle of government that revenue needed should be raised in the most inexpensive manner possible, and any other system is unjust to the people who have to pay the taxes.

Most of all to be regretted, however, is the possibility of friction arising between two nations whose interests are really identical; since recent history has demonstrated that rich gold mines are a prolific source of contention and hard feeling.—Engineering and Mining Journal.

The Rooter's Mistake.
He was a rooter if ever there was one. His enthusiasm was at a boiling heat all the time. He rooted with joy when the home team scored, and he rooted with disgust when the opposing nine added to its score. In every movement of either team he saw an occasion for rooting. He knew the game and understood it—at least he thought he did. He made his comments whether those around him liked his complaints or not.

The rooter always claims the right to be the critic of every one connected with the game, from the lordly umpire to the mascot who hasn't yet reached his teens, and including the barefooted, ragged urchin who gains admission to the game by recovering the ball that was batted over the fence. Our particular rooter exercised that right, not bothering himself a bit whether he was allowed or not.

The result of the game was in doubt, and the interest was intense. The Hardfords were in the field, and the opposing nine was at the bat. A batter made a "swipe" at the ball as it came like a shot from the hand of Vickery, winding into a graceful inshoot when it reached the home plate. The bat whistled through the air, but didn't come within hailing distance of the ball. Just then a sparrow rose from the turf and flew toward the left field. The death like silence was broken by the rooter shouting:

"Go for it, Pettit!"
Every eye was turned toward the place from which the loud base voice of the rooter came, and every one wondered.

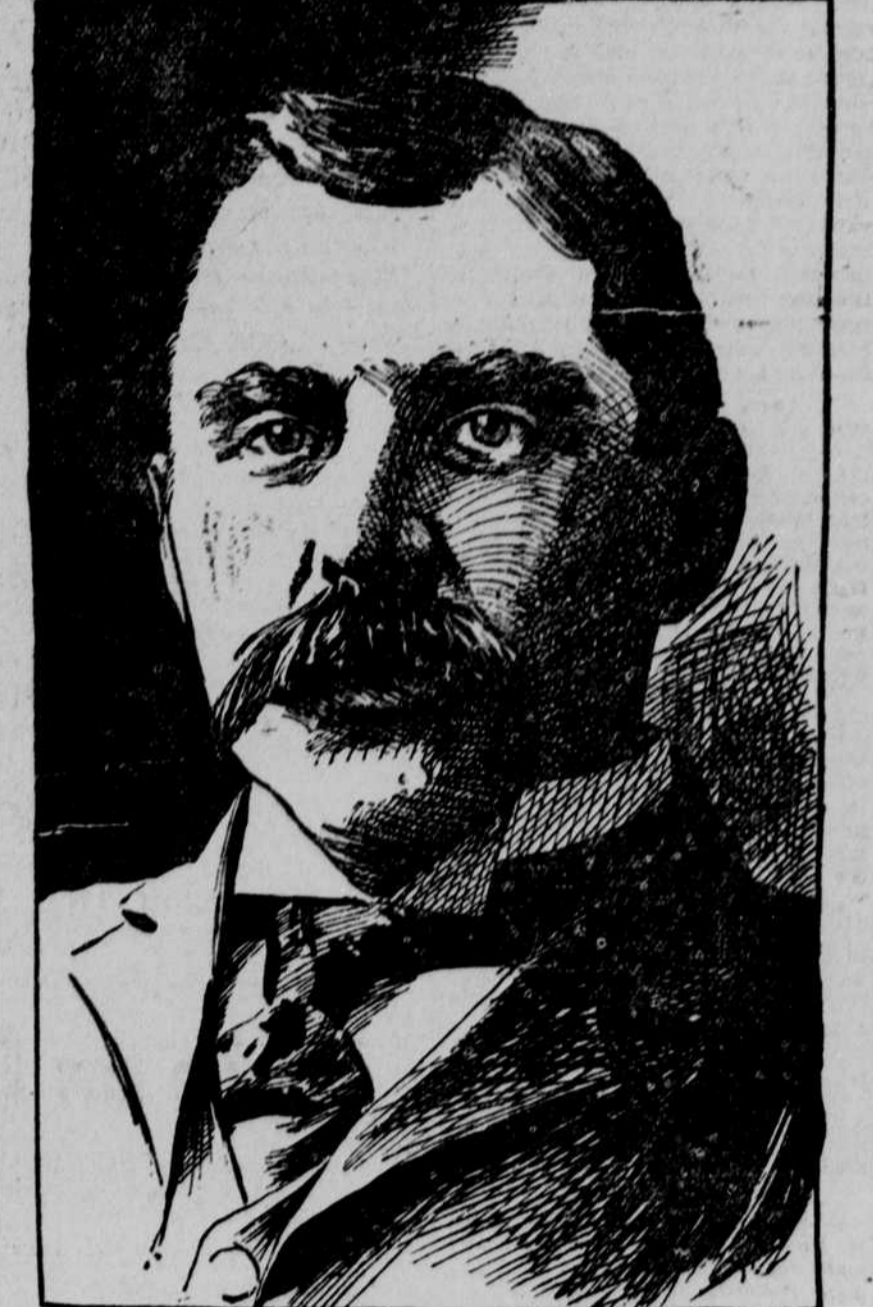
Bob didn't obey the command of the rooter, and this made the rooter mad. He began to abuse Pettit, and for a minute Bob's reputation as a baseball player suffered.

"What did you want to have him go for?" asked a person who was sitting near the censorious critic.

"Why, the ball that was batted into left field."
"The ball? Why, you blankety blanked chump, that was a sparrow," replied the other.

The rooter's rooting ceased.—Hartford Times.

Impossible—"See here. That horse you sold me runs away, kicks, bites, strikes and tries to tear down the stable at night. You told me that if I got him once I wouldn't part with him for \$1,000." "Well, you won't."—Detroit Free Press.



JOSEPH LADUE, The Gold King of Alaska.

Barnato. But those who want to follow in his footsteps will need something like \$1,000 in money. The country is more thickly populated now and prices have gone up, whereas they used to be next to nothing. At Circle City you must now pay \$40 for a fur coat, when you used to get one for \$5. And flour, sugar and spices, the absolute necessities, have advanced 50 per cent. The luxuries—tea, coffee, eggs and butter—are bringing fancy prices, so that a man now needs

the hardest things the prospector has to endure is the sight of the sacks of gold dust that are being shipped from every seaport and the tons of ore that are being sent down from St. Michael's and south from Juneau. In one day there came advices from St. Michaels that \$1,400,000 worth of gold dust would be shipped by the Wells-Fargo south, and that \$768,000 in dust was awaiting transportation. In one day there came down on the Puget Sound steamship \$200,000 in Alaskan gold. There is, as usual, a howl about the exaggeration in values hereabouts. But the facts are as stated and greater. It was so when gold was found in the West Rockies and in California. There really was gold and plenty of it, and so in Alaska. There is a chance for twenty Barnatos, but, of course, among 20,000—the present number of applicants that have applied at the steamship and overland offices—there must be many disappointed ones.

Even without making a Barnato fortune, a man may do well here, for there is a fine chance for Yankee ingenuity and the building up of fine American cities in the very far north.

LOUIS T. STOKES.

Canada's Policy is Criticized.

On July 27 the Dominion cabinet decided to demand a royalty on the output of the new diggings of the Yukon. Under regulation previously issued, a fee of \$15 per claim for registry and a tax of \$100 per annum were imposed. Now, in addition to this, a royalty of 10 per cent of the output is to be collected from all claims producing \$500 per month, and 20 per cent on those producing more than that amount. Moreover, every alternate claim on all placer ground is to be reserved as the property of the government, to be sold or worked for its revenue. The establishment of such a system, which is, we believe, without precedent on this continent since the end of Spanish rule in Mexico, is startling to those



TRADING STATION ON THE YUKON

THE IOWA POPULISTS.

THE STATE CONVENTION NAMES THE TICKET.

Charles A. Lloyd of Muscatine County Chosen as the Standard Bearer—L. D. Perkins Will Make the Race for Lieutenant Governor—Text of the Platform

For the Center of the Road.

DES MOINES, Iowa, Aug. 29.—Two hundred delegates were present to-day when the middle-of-the-road Populist state convention was called to order at 11 o'clock by Chairman A. W. Weeks of Winterset. A. W. Ricker of Iowa City, temporary chairman, addressed the convention in part as follows: "The present condition of society, where a few take all that the many produce, is the direct outgrowth of the competitive system. It is useless to apply palliative methods to this condition. Heroic treatment is demanded. Nothing short of the absolute destruction of the competitive system as applied to those things which are in themselves essentially public utilities or public necessities will relieve society from the load under which it is at present struggling. The competitive system is at variance with the laws of God, the tenets of Christianity and that very liberty which we hold sacred above all things else, and no reform party, I care not by whom championed or how aggressive may be its campaign, can ever succeed in holding the suffrages of the people unless it recognizes this fact."

The speaker denounced the fusionists and the Democracy as at present constituted and declared that Bryan was not now the Democratic party, as he was practically in 1896. He closed: "When the absorbing power of capital is constantly increasing no temporary revival in business can change the certain and fixed result. It is the capitalistic system which must go, and to relieve this condition and to change this system the Chicago Democratic platform offers not one thing. Its one cureall is the free coinage of silver. The free coinage of silver will increase the volume of money and raise prices, but will destroy no trusts, no monopolies, will in nowise deprive corporations of their enormous absorbing powers; in fact, could they but realize it, it would increase them. Free silver will destroy the power of no railroad king, nor will it in any degree lessen the burdensome tax which our railroad management has placed on commerce. Free silver will not deprive a single land baron of his stolen public domain. No party can ever succeed upon the single silver issue; for its inadequacy to relieve society of its stricken condition is apparent. Deeper and more far-reaching must be the reform, the banner of which will gather to it the countless numbers of the oppressed. Never again shall we consent to compromise with plutocracy, and from the dark night of the present system of consuming greed, of aggregated wealth and of cruel injustice, we will turn to the dawn of a brighter day, when the commonwealth of the people

For Governor—Charles A. Lloyd of Muscatine county.
For Lieutenant-Governor—D. L. Perkins of Lyons.
For Judge-Supreme Court—J. A. Lomborg of Wapello.
For Superintendent of Instruction—Wm. Bain of Marion.
For Railroad Commissioner—L. H. Griffith of Lee.

Adjournment was taken until afternoon. Senator Peffer addressed the convention, saying in part: "If recent discoveries of free gold mines should be as valuable as present appearances indicate, the silver question may soon be wholly eliminated from republican discussions, except, perhaps, as to those persons whose individual interests are at stake. Silver republicans want more metallic money and they would probably be satisfied with gold if there was enough of it."

"It is proposed that the populist party shall do two things—limit the range of our discussions to the silver branch of the money question, and ally ourselves with the democratic party."

"These are the propositions on which we are divided."

"I am opposed to both of them. I do not wish to see the people's party merged into any other existing organization. I would be willing to abide by the conclusions of a national conference of delegated duly appointed and accredited, fairly representing all the elements among voters who are opposed to the present gold standard, high tariff regime. But until that can be accomplished the populist party is good enough for me."

"The alliance with the democratic party in 1896 was only for the campaign. Now, though we may not be quite ourselves again, and in our right mind, we are free to determine our affairs in our own way as a party and as individual men."

The platform adopted reaffirms the St. Louis and Omaha platforms; declares for direct legislation; for a sufficient amount of sound and flexible money; for the issuance of money to state, county, township and municipal governments, the principal to be paid back to the government at two per cent per annum without interest; the said money to be a full legal tender. The Temple amendment is endorsed. The reduction of freight, passenger and express rates, and salaries of public officers is demanded and the reduction of mortgage indebtedness from assessed valuation is urged.

The "sublime Farts."
The empire of Turkey is called the Sublime Porte from the principal entrance of the seraglio being a huge pavilion with eight openings over the gate as parts. This gate, from which the Ottoman empire took its name, is very high and is guarded by fifty capidjis or porters.

Preaching.
No book, no written discourse, orally undelivered, can take the place of the living preacher. The flash of the eye, the gesture of the hand, the tone of the voice, can never be produced on paper.—Rev. John Stapp.

GENERATOR GAS.

The English Are Ahead of Us as Its Utilizers.

Though the use of ordinary lighting gas is customary in England in engines up to ten horse power, for larger sizes a small convenient apparatus has been devised for the production of a gas that cannot be used for illuminating purposes, but which gives very economical results when burned in the engine cylinder. This is known as generator gas, the best fuel from which to obtain it being anthracite coal and gas coke, as these yield no tar; the thermal efficiency is also described as low, it having about 160 heat units per cubic foot, as compared with 615 to 630 of London lighting gas, so that about four times the quantity is required to insure the same amount of power, the great quantity obtained, however, together with the small amount of depreciation and labor necessary for production, it is said, make it in many cases comparable in cost to gas at 20 cents per thousand.

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Dear of Dogs.
Maine has a law that authorizes any citizen to kill a dog that is engaged in hunting deer. The old sports in that state are a patient lot, and it angers them when a hunter from the city goes up there with a couple of yelping hounds to start the deer toward water. Many an imported dog has met a violent death in the chase and its owners did not dare to complain, because the game wardens are pretty stiff enforcers of the law.

The success of an educational institution is measured in no small degree by the numbers who give it their patronage from year to year. A consultation of the record books of the New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, Mass., reveals a student membership of something like 40,000 since its founding, with a present attendance of from 1,500 to 2,000 annually. This evidence, when taken in connection with the careful work done at the Conservatory, is convincing proof of the efficiency of the school and makes it little wonder that its reputation is world-wide.

Work of Preparation.
Friend—How soon will you graduate from the Highscience Institute? Modern Girl—Next year. But after that I must take a four years' course at a medical college, to be followed by a special course in surgery. "Do you intend to practice medicine?" "Horrors, no! I am going to write novels."

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