

## BIGGEST GOLD BRICK.

Exhibit From Nome, Alaska, at Lewis and Clark Fair.

WEIGHS ABOUT NINETY POUNDS.

It is a Foot Long, Four Inches Deep and Five Wide—Nuggets That Attract Attention—Displays of Other Minerals Which Tell of Nome's Untold Wealth.

The biggest gold brick ever cast, nearly as large as two building bricks placed end to end, which contains \$25,000 worth of gold that is purer than the gold in a twenty dollar coin, recently arrived at the Lewis and Clark exposition in Portland, Ore., and is being exhibited by the Nome district of Alaska as evidence that Nome is still a great gold producing region, says W. E. Brindley. The gold brick is a foot long, four inches deep and five inches wide, and it weighs approximately ninety pounds.

The city of Nome, on the Seward peninsula, in the extreme north of Alaska, beyond the string of islands that stand out like the bill of a snipe, contains a population of from 2,500 to 3,000 people in the winter time and ten times as many people in the summer. The town has an enterprising chamber of commerce, which in fifteen days got together the most wonderful mineral exhibit ever displayed by one region.

While the gold brick which Nome is showing has attracted more attention than any other single article in the United States government building at the fair, three nuggets, worth in the aggregate \$8,000, stand second in popularity. These are exhibited in a small wire cage, and a man who wears in his belt a revolver of the size common to melodrama and wild west shows stands guard over them. The biggest nugget of the three, which weighs 182 ounces, is worth \$3,276. There is a hole in one side of the cage big enough for one to put his hand through it, but not large enough to enable him to take out the nugget. Over the chunk of gold there is a legend which reads, "You can lift the nugget, but don't take it away," and all day long people crowd one another for a chance to hold \$3,276 worth of gold for just a fraction of a minute.

The nuggets and the gold bricks constitute Nome's most interesting gold display. They are owned by the Pioneer Mining company and were found in Anvil creek, near Nome. Near the nugget cage is a table on which, under glass, are small boxes of pay dirt. This display is not so spectacular as that in the nugget cage—which, by the way, includes a host of smaller nuggets in addition to the three big ones—but it is remarkably interesting. The pay dirt shows no gold and looks like ordinary gravelly soil. One box of it is labeled: "Pay dirt from Anvil creek. Average value \$1.20 per bucket." One at once begins to figure how many buckets an ordinary man could fill in a day, and the figures are startling. Another box contains broken rock and is labeled, "Portion of bedrock from Portland bench claim—\$421,000 result of work of seven men for sixty days."

But gold is not the only mineral resource of the country round about Nome. Some 150 miles from Nome, at a place called Cape York, on Buck creek, there is a mountain of tin, where \$25,500,000 worth of the metal is in sight. The tin is found in a substance called cassiterite crystals, which contains 72 per cent of metallic tin, and from 40 cents to a dollar's worth of gold to the ton. There is a whole mountain top, ten miles long by two miles wide, of this cassiterite, which is worth \$441 a ton at the present price of tin, 30 cents a pound. Last winter 500 tons of the ore were taken out, and the magnitude of the industry is hardly to be conceived. Then, again, at Ears mountain, on Shismaroff inlet, 180 miles northwest of Nome, there is a ledge of cassiterite. The ledge is exposed to a width of 15 feet and runs 1,000 feet up the mountain, reaching an elevation of 400 feet. From this it is presumed that the ore vein is 400 feet deep.

And then there is quicksilver, another new proposition and a very profitable one from all appearances. Quicksilver ore is found on the Kuskokwim river, distant 800 miles southeast of Nome. Some of it runs \$400 worth to the ton, but \$100 is probably the average. The ore is found on the surface. It is burned in an immense caldron, so that the quicksilver vapors rise and are afterward precipitated or condensed into liquid quicksilver by being immersed in cold water. At the exposition the richness of the ore is demonstrated by a piece from which the quicksilver has been smelted. The rock is honeycombed like a pumice stone.

It costs 20 cents a pound on the average to transport coal from the mines in British Columbia to Nome; hence the importance of the discovery of a coal mine which produces a fairly good grade in the far north. The coal mine is located on Chicago creek, which flows into the Kugruk river, which in turn flows into Kotzebue sound. At the surface three tons of coal were found to be equal in heat producing power to one ton of Wellington coal. Now a shaft has been sunk 300 feet, and two tons of the coal at that depth are worth one of Wellington. By means of this coal, which is essential to winter mining in the far north, \$250,000 worth of gold was taken out last winter. The discovery of the coal thus opens up immense possibilities in winter mining. It assures a regular year round population for Nome.

Such are a few of the things exhibited by the enterprising city of Nome.

## THE DOG DAYS.

In the Course of Time Sirius May Rise in Midwinter.

Dog days begin, according to the traditions of boyhood in certain parts of the United States, when the green scum, algae, begins to appear on the surface of the lakes and rivers. Then it is supposed to be unsafe to go in swimming. And it is then that, according to the tradition of many adults as well as of boys, dogs most frequently go mad. All nations and races of civilization apparently have had a period during the summer known as dog days when many maladies were supposed to be common. But the madness of dogs, hydrophobia, was never associated with dog days by the ancients.

Dog days are a rather indefinite period, according to this green scum rule, but there is a disagreement of authorities as to when dog days really do begin and end. According to the dictionary, "dog days are part of the year about the time of the heliacal rising of the dog star, Sirius"—that is, when the dog star rises in conjunction with the sun or as nearly in conjunction as may be observed. Various dates from July 3 to Aug. 15 have been assigned for the beginning of dog days, and they are given various durations of from thirty to fifty days.

It seems to have been from the heliacal rising of Sirius that the ancients most commonly reckoned the dog days. Thus at the present time dog days would begin July 3 and will end Aug. 11. Sirius is the brightest star in the heavens, and it was easy to associate the mutual heat of the brightest star and of the sun with the hottest and most unkindly period of the year. Hippocrates (450 B. C.) declared the dog days to be the most unhealthy part of the summer.

Dog days are continually dropping farther back in the calendar. Now they are twelve days behind the schedule to which they held in the period of the pharaohs. In time Sirius may rise in the dead of winter. The Egyptians maintained that the first indication of the rise of the Nile took place on the morning of the longest day, when, as they said, the sun and Sothis (Sirius) rose together. They attributed the rise of the river entirely to the great heat generated by this star in conjunction with the sun.

Sirius is situated in the mouth of the constellation Canis Major (the "great dog"). The Latin name of dog days was "dies canicularis," and from this comes the term "canicular year," which was known among the Egyptians and Ethiopians. It was computed from one heliacal rising of Sirius to the next and consisted ordinarily of 365 days, every fourth year having 366 days.—Chicago News.

## Giants of History.

Turner, the naturalist, declares that he once saw upon the coast of Brazil a race of gigantic savages whose average height was over ten feet, some individuals exceeding twelve and a half feet. M. Thevet of France in his description of America, which was published in Paris in 1575, says that he was once present when the skeleton of a South American savage eleven feet and two inches in height was disinterred. The Chinese have a record of several giants between twelve and sixteen feet in height which have lived in the Flowery Kingdom within the last 300 years. Josephus mentions a Jew who was ten feet two inches, and Pliny was well acquainted with Gath, the Arabian giant, who was nine feet nine inches in height. Coming down to modern times, we find that John Middleton, who lived in the time of James I., was nine feet three inches and had a hand seventeen inches long by eight and a half broad. Murphy, one of the celebrated trio of Irish giants (Charles Byrne and O'Brien being the other two), was eight feet ten inches and O'Brien two inches taller.

## Old Thunder Notions.

The "Prognostication Everlasting of one Leonard Digges," published in 1556, tells us that thunder in the morning denotes wind, at noon rain and in the evening a great tempest. He goes further still and declares that "Sunday's thunder should bring the death of learned men, judges and others, Monday's the death of women, Tuesday's plenty of grain, Wednesday's bloodshed, Thursday's plenty of sheep and corn, Friday's the slaughter of a great man and other horrible murders, Saturday's a great pestilent plague and great dearth."

## The Blazer.

The name "blazer" was originally applied to the bright red uniform of the Lady Margaret Boat club of St. John's college, Cambridge. The brilliant scarlet which was the invariable characteristic of the Johnian "blazer" doubtless suggested the name, and as an expressive slang epithet it proved a hit. In course of time the application of the term widened and is now extended to any bright or pale colored flannel jacket, striped or plain, whether for cricket, football, tennis, boating or seaside wear.—London Standard.

## Distrusted Him.

"I don't believe Windy's tips on the races are any good."  
"Why not?"  
"Well, he said they were a sure thing and then he wasn't willing to lend me the money to bet with."—Detroit Free Press.

## The Main Point.

Victim—What has happened? Where am I? Doctor—You have been seriously injured in a trolley accident. But cheer up; you will recover. Victim—How much?—Cleveland Leader.

The man who tries to hide his religion will soon have none that any one could find.

# = ROUND TRIP = Ticket to Denver = FREE =

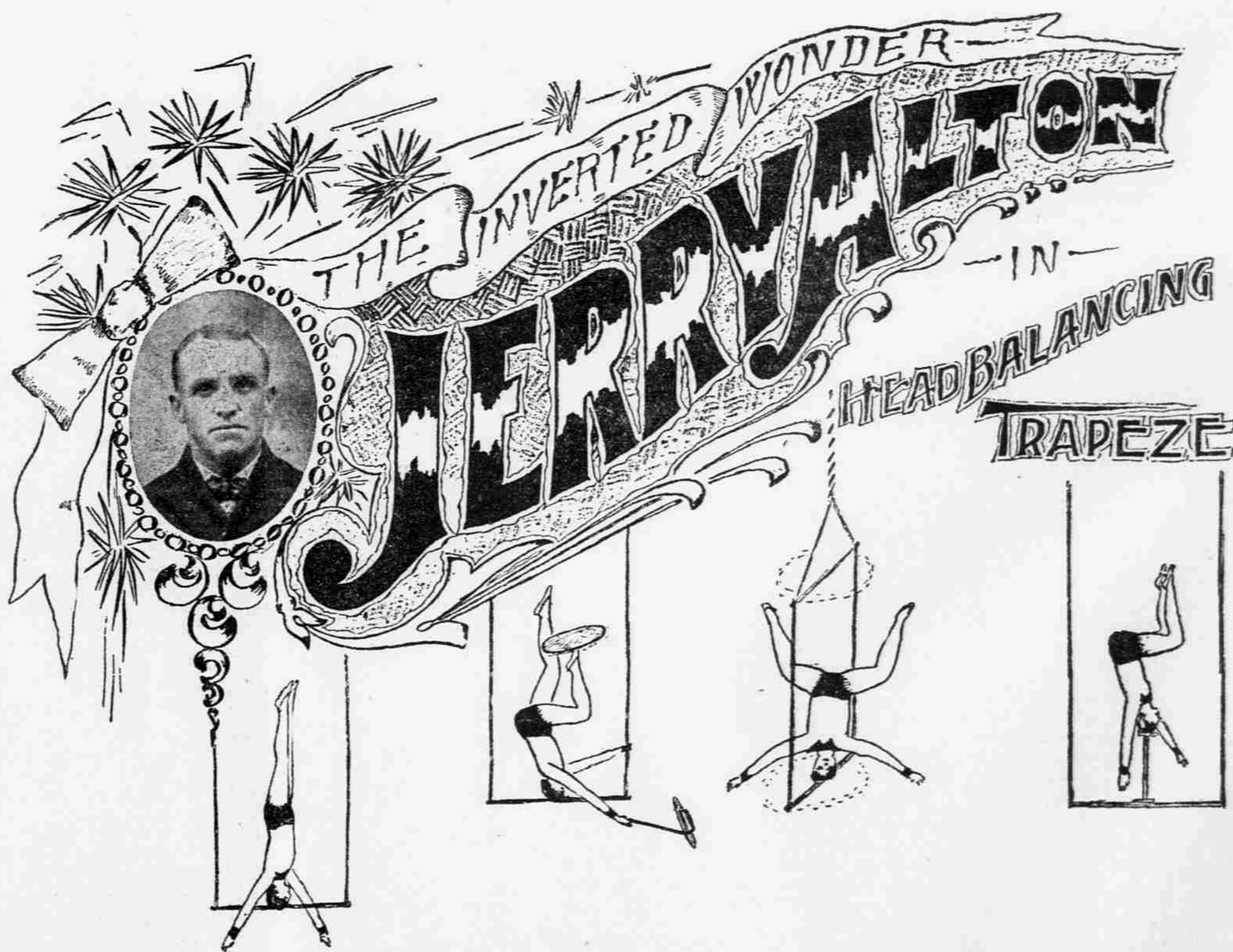
## W. T. Coleman, McCook

Has completed arrangements with several large eastern buggy concerns to make a great display of buggies in McCook, during the carnival week, August 28th-September 2nd. And with each buggy or spring wagon sold for cash during that week a round trip ticket to Denver will be given free. These tickets will be good to go from August 30 to September 4th; return good to September 12th. This is the opportunity of your life—you can't afford to miss it.

## McCook Street Fair and Carnival

### August 28 - September 2

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