

**WRITTEN BY A WOMAN**

**SHE DESCRIBES THE GREAT KLONDIKE GOLD REGION.**

**A Teacher of the Indians Draws a Discouraging Picture of the New Eldorado and Advises the Tender-foot to Stay Away Till Next Spring.**

**No Dream of Ease.**  
Among those in Klondyke, the newly discovered gold field in Canada, just over the Alaska boundary, who write back warning letters to their friends in civilization is Miss Anna Fulcomer, a graduate of the University of Chicago, who has been in Alaska a year as a teacher among the Indians under Government auspices. She has been located at Circle City, Alaska, but went to Klondyke in the first rush, hoping to "strike it rich." She writes as follows:  
"Those now leaving the United States for Klondyke are almost as certainly coming to hardship, privation and suffering. They cannot possibly get here before the closing of the mining season, and they will find every foot of ground known to be rich in gold staked off and held by miners of experience. They will find food and lodging so high and scarce that it will take

the gold fields will have to buy from them. The transportation companies will thus of necessity reap a rich harvest.  
"A dog, a dog, my kingdom for a dog," is the general cry here. Horses have practically proved a failure here as a means of transportation. They have to be housed in tents in which a fire is kept. The dogs, however, live on next to nothing and often make astonishing time. The relative value placed on men and dogs is shown by the fact that I could get an experienced man for my trip to Klondyke for nothing, but had to pay \$30 rental for a dog and had to make a contract to pay \$75 if anything happened to the animal.  
Miss Fulcomer gives a good report of the manners and morals of the camps. During her residence of a year at Circle City she knew of no murder being committed and little lawlessness. The miners make a law unto themselves, and all tacitly accept its unwritten mandates.

**SWITCH PRIED OPEN.**

**The Chicago Express on Big Four Wrecked by Miscreants.**  
The Chicago express on the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railway was wrecked at Thornton, Ind., Friday morning. Four were killed outright and several slightly injured. The dead are: Engineer Seth Winslow of Greensburg, Ind.; Fireman B. Crickmore of Indianapolis, and two unidentified tramps.

**MILLIONS IN SAVINGS.**

**Building and Loan Association League Meets at Detroit.**

The United States League of Building Associations held its annual convention in Detroit. President Michael F. Brown read his annual address and Secretary H. T. Cellarius of Cincinnati reported on the condition of building association interests generally.  
President Brown alluded to the organization of the league a year previous to the World's Congress of Building and Loan Associations at Chicago in 1893 and recalled the motto then suggested by President Dexter, viz.: "The American Home; the Safeguard of American Liberties," which motto had been adopted by all the leagues of the United States. The president quoted a statement of William George Jordan that Uncle Sam's people have 11,483,918 dwelling houses, which would make a double avenue reaching round the globe.  
President Brown gave a lengthy review of the more salient features connected with the progress of building and loan associations from their inception and of the mutual benefits derived from their operation. He said the past year had not been a home-building one, but rather a mortgage-creating period, in which nearly all the people had a hard struggle. Wage earners of the land had sacrificed during the last few years \$5,000,000,000, or ten times as much as the assets of all the building societies of the United States.  
The executive committee presented an important table of associations, membership and assets for 1896-97, covering those States whose laws require returns to be made by building and loan associations:

State	Assoc.	Members	Assets
Pennsylvania	1,169	290,639	\$105,000,000
Ohio	755	237,630	86,200,254
Illinois	718	191,732	80,105,774
New Jersey	394	111,777	40,967,023
Indiana	365	157,241	28,696,147
New York	313	94,364	38,452,917
Missouri	288	88,924	23,252,364
Massachusetts	122	63,105	22,200,622
California	135	19,957	17,072,310
Minnesota	72	10,800	4,825,719
Tennessee	41	7,198	4,405,749
Nebraska	76	12,145	3,771,823
Connecticut	16	10,415	2,797,328
Maine	24	8,226	2,391,416
Other States	392,245	115,215,680	
Totals	4,776	1,610,200	\$508,388,634

**GHASTLY TALES OF DEATH.**

**Starvation Awaits Many Gold Seekers to the Klondyke Region.**

Serious news has come from Port Townsend relative to the Klondyke excitement and it forecasts a horrible situation that in the near future will confront many gold seekers on route to the arctic El Dorado. As is known Dyea, which is a short distance from Juneau, is the starting point for the overland journey to the Klondyke region, and there, according to the report, is more freight piled up than the available force of Indian carriers can transport over Chilkoot pass in eighteen months. In the twenty-seven miles between Dyea and the head of Lake Linden

**STORM KILLS SEVEN.**

**ILLINOIS CYCLONE DOES TERRIBLE HAVOC.**

Home of A. C. McDowell is Destroyed and the Inmates Crushed—Bodies, Torn and Mangled, Are Scattered Far and Wide by the Wind.

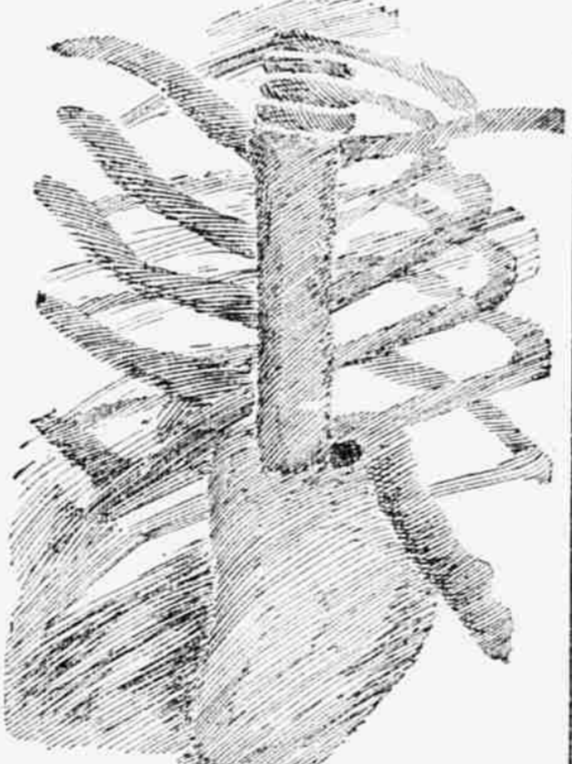
**Destruction Near San Jose.**  
A cyclone of terrific energy swept across the region around San Jose, Ill., at 7 o'clock Friday evening and left destruction and death in its wake. At midnight seven deaths were reported and three persons were severely injured. It is probable that there were other casualties in outlying districts.  
After a day of terrible heat, the clouds began to pile up in fantastic forms at about 5 o'clock and the air grew thick and oppressive. The heavy clouds in the north especially grew dark and darker. Every one instinctively feared the coming of a cyclone. About 7 o'clock darkness fell suddenly upon the earth, broken here and there by vivid lightning. Soon, with a rush and a roar, came a tornado from the north, carrying with it boiling and tossing clouds. Every one ran for a place of safety, many seeking refuge in cellars. San Jose escaped damage only because the storm rose north of the town and passed above it.  
Half an hour after the passage of the storm a messenger came galloping into the town on a foaming horse. He reported that terrible destruction had been wrought on the farm of A. C. McDowell, two and one-quarter miles north, and summoned the assistance of surgeons.  
A terrible scene was that at the home of the McDowells. The cyclone had struck the farm at its northern line and swept across it, cutting a pathway of destruction. The McDowell homestead was utterly demolished, the house being blown from its foundation and torn to fragments, its timbers and furniture scattered to the four winds. The barn had shared the same fate, and its contents blown out of sight. The seven occupants of the house were killed, and their mangled and torn bodies were scattered about the ruined homestead. Three injured were taken from the ruins.

**Crops Destroyed by Hail.**  
A destructive hailstorm passed near Sioux Falls, S. D., early Friday morning. The storm started three miles west of Dell Rapids, and went in a southwesterly direction, destroying absolutely everything in its path around Garretson. One branch of the storm passed over Sherman and Laverne, Minn. Here it went in two paths, one north and the other south, across Rock and Nobles counties. The path of this branch of the storm was over ten miles wide. It is estimated that fully 1,000,000 acres of crops were destroyed.

**WITH A BULLET IN HIS HEART.**

**A Chicago Man Bids Fair to Live to a Good Old Age.**

The medical men of Chicago are amazed by a case of almost unprecedented vitality in that city. Charles B. Nelson was shot in Washington Park recently. The ball lodged in some part of his anatomy, the medical men could not say just where. So experiments were made with the Roentgen rays, and the results have been most astonishing. A radiograph has been taken which shows the bullet imbedded in the heart!  
The strangest feature of the case is that the doctors believe that he has every



**BULLET IN NELSON'S HEART.**

reason to live to be an old man with a hended souvenir imbedded in his breast that will go with him to his grave. The bullet penetrated his body to a depth of two and a half inches from the surface. Then it penetrated the pericardium, or sack which surrounds the heart, and lodged between the center and left curve of that organ.



Sir Edwin Arnold, besides being a poet is a sportsman, yachtsman, traveler and cyclist.

The Duchess of Teck spends annually \$5,000 in philanthropic work—one-fifth the amount granted her by Parliament.

Prince Albert of Belgium will shortly set forth on a tour of the world. He will follow the route adopted by the present czar.

Mrs. Charles Stewart Parnell, widow of the Irish leader, is about to take up her residence at Tremont castle, near Plymouth.

Ellen Terry sells her autographs for 25 cents each, and with the money so obtained will endow a child's bed in an English hospital.

Miss Mary Rachel Dobson, eldest daughter of Austin Dobson and a graduate of London University, has joined a missionary settlement of college women in Bombay.

The Horticultural Society of Shropshire, England, has taken upon itself the expense of erecting a statue to Darwin at his birthplace, Shrewsbury. It will cost \$6,000.

Queen Adelaide, widow of Dom Miguel King of Portugal, has taken two vows at the Convent of the Benedictines, at Solesmes, France. She is 69 years old and is the mother of seven children.



**JUNEAU, ALASKA, WHERE THE TRIP ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS BEGINS.**

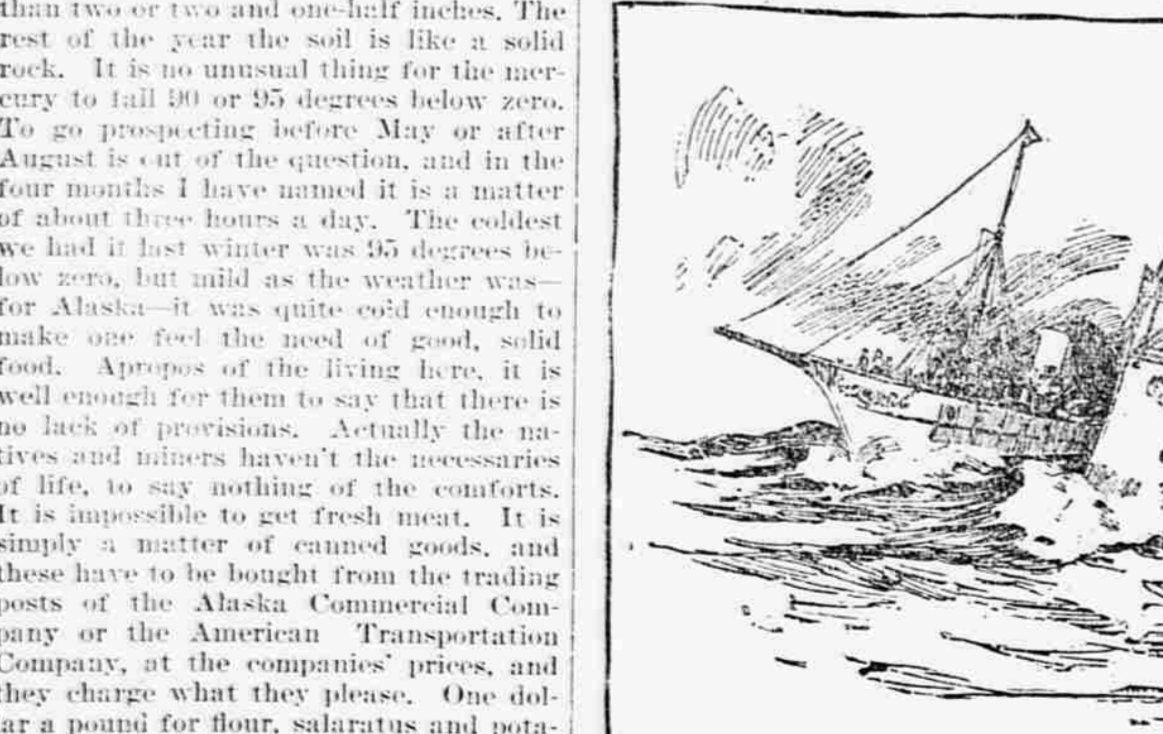
a small fortune to survive until an opportunity to return offers itself. There is gold in Klondyke—gold in abundance, dirt rich enough on some claims to yield from \$100 to \$500 per pan; but it is mined with difficulty, mined in a small way, mined slowly, so that for the average experienced digger the profits are swallowed up in the expenses. Men who had been mining in other points in Alaska and the



**YACHT RACE OFF CHICAGO.**

**Most Interesting Contest Ever Seen on Lake Michigan.**  
The Buffalo yacht Enquirer defeated the Pathfinder of Chicago in Thursday's big race on Lake Michigan. The latter abandoned the contest near Waukegan, and, reversing her engines, steamed back to Chicago.  
The start was made at 9:30 o'clock in the morning opposite the lighthouse in the outer harbor at Chicago and amid the tooting of whistles, waving of flags and the cheering of crowds on board the miscellaneous craft present, the Enquirer, owned by W. J. Connors of Buffalo, and the Pathfinder, owned by F. W. Morgan of Chicago, leaped forward and began the most exciting race ever witnessed on Lake Michigan.  
No yacht race ever excited such interest in Chicago. It is the first race of the kind ever to take place on Lake Michigan. It had a flavor of sport about it that suggests the contests that made the Mississippi river a famous course in the old days when the Natchez and the Lee filled their fire boxes with bacon and tied down their safety valves.  
The race was arranged after a long debate as to course. It was agreed that the owner of the losing yacht was to present the winner with a \$200 silver cup. Aside

man there will probably be many a tragedy this winter.  
The Alaska Commercial Company, which has already ten times as much business offered by the Yukon route as its river boats can handle, is doing all in its power to check the rush by the Juneau route. Many persons have already started by land route, lacking experience, sufficient provisions and proper clothing. Even when parties were small and infrequent it was necessary for them to wait days and weeks to get out lumber at Lake Bennett for boats or for violent snow storms to cease. With this sudden influx of Klondykers it will be utterly impossible for a fraction of the travelers to get dogs, Indians or boats.  
The delays will exhaust their supplies, and they cannot secure provisions of any



**EXCITING RACE BETWEEN THE YACHTS ENQUIRER AND PATHFINDER.**

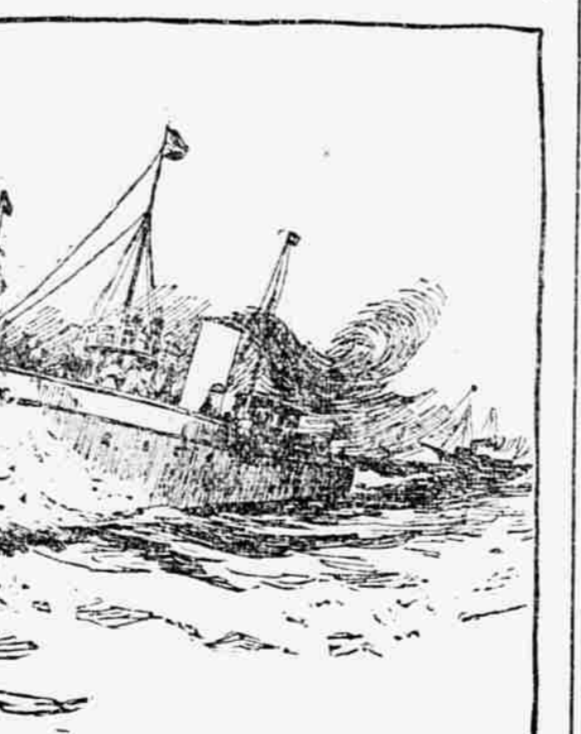
from this, it is estimated that more than \$5,000 had been wagered on the result by the admirers of the competing yachts.

Both of the yachts were built last year. The Enquirer was constructed in Buffalo and cost \$65,000. The Pathfinder was built in Racine and cost \$75,000. Each is 133 feet long. The Pathfinder is 18 feet at the beam and the Enquirer one foot less. The Pathfinder has a ram bow on the lines of that of a battleship, while the Enquirer has a clipper bow and an overhang stern.

The new fast train over the Santa Fe has reached Kansas City on its initial trip Wednesday. It carries passengers, mail and express and reduces the time between Chicago and Kansas City from fourteen and one-half hours to eleven hours and thirty minutes. The train overtakes the regular passenger train for California at Kansas City, and will work a material improvement in mail and express service.

**THE KLONDIKE.**

kind between Dyea and Dawson City. Unless relief stations are speedily established there will be some ghastly tales to tell of the mad rush, of the calamities of the Chilkoot, in blind blizzards and of miserable death in the hundreds of inhospitable miles that lie between the mountain pass and the Yukon.



**Straw with Skeletons.**

The widow of Lieut. Schwatka, the Arctic explorer, being interviewed at Benton Harbor, Mich., concerning the Klondyke gold regions, which country she has repeatedly visited with her husband, says the Government should stop the tide of immigrants pouring into the gold fields in Alaska. She says the mountain passes are strewn with the skeletons of unfortunate miners who perished from either cold, heat, malaria or starvation while trying to reach the golden region.

A slight earthquake shock was felt at San Francisco Monday.

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