

## A LETTER FROM ALASKA

(Continued from 1st page.)

About the first of June the ice began breaking up on the lake, and on the morning of the 7th we broke camp and set sail. After advancing two miles an immense ice jam barred further progress. A delay of seventy-two hours followed, then the wind changed, shifting the ice so that by breaking through more than a mile of floe we succeeded in reaching open water beyond. At the foot of this lake another delay of seventy-eight hours was caused by a vast ice gorge. At the head of Lake Tarkish and near the centre of Lake La Barge, ice fields delayed us thirty-six and thirty hours respectively. From this point to Forty Mile the way was unobstructed, and we made all possible speed, arriving at Forty Mile at 12 o'clock, June 25th, just eighty-three days from the time of our departure from Juneau.

On the way down the river and across the lakes we had some pretty close calls; several times I could almost hear the flaps of death's wings. We were in the greatest danger while in a severe storm on one of the lakes, when shooting our boat through the canyon, while plunging down White Horse Rapids and while going through Five Fingers. Through all these we passed safely and without our boat shipping hardly a drop of water. However, all are not so fortunate as we in coming through these places; almost every spring one or more luckless fortune hunters are drowned. Last spring two met their fate; three met death this season.

In company with four other men I started out prospecting, the third day after reaching Forty Mile creek. We have found nothing very rich yet. Most of our time has been spent working on the bars along Forty Mile creek. Some days we take out about \$7 in dust each; other days nothing scarcely. I do not expect to accomplish much this summer. Experience is about all one can hope for the first season. Next summer I intend to prospect in the districts where the richest diggings now are.

Wages are only moderately good in this country. At Forty Mile, common labor is paid \$6 per day, or \$100 per month; in the mines, \$10 per day, or \$800 or \$1,200 for the running season, which lasts four or five months. But there is only work for a limited number of men. Prices of provisions, etc., are very reasonable. At Forty Mile flour is \$8 per hundred pounds; bacon, \$40; ham, \$35; beans, \$10; dried fruits, \$20 to \$50; rice and sugar, \$20 each; cornmeal, oatmeal and salt, \$15 each. The traders charge \$25 extra per hundred for freighting to the mines. In these camps onions and potatoes sell for \$60 per bushel. Rather dear, are they not?

Old timers here pronounce this a very exceptional year. Last winter was longer and colder, and

the snow deeper than ever experienced before, while during the spring and summer high waters and floods have broken all previous records. Since my arrival here, it has, with but two exceptions, rained every day, consequently the waters are so high most of the time that but little mining can be done on the bars. During the last three days and nights it has been raining almost continuously, and Forty Mile creek has risen over six feet and is wild and raging. During a period of three consecutive weeks the temperature was down to 72° below, and at one time tumbled down to 77°. Rather frosty.

There is plenty of game in this country, moose, caribou, a kind of reindeer, wolves, and several varieties of bears, foxes, etc. Four species of salmon are found in these waters; one, the king salmon, is the finest the world can produce. It is so plentiful that it is used for dog feed.

The mineral wealth of this country has been greatly overestimated. There are not a dozen paying placer mines in the country. Already, many of the 350 men, who came in last spring, are leaving or getting ready to do so. They are badly disappointed. I expect to remain next summer and perhaps longer. I must conclude.

Give my regards to any of my friends you meet.

P. J. JEWELL,  
Ft. Cudahy, N. W. T., Canada.  
Care Messrs. Healy & Wilson,  
Juneau, Alaska.

### Sigma Chi Entertains.

The Sigma Chi fraternity entertained delightfully at their rooms in the Halter block last Thursday evening. The party was given in honor of Messrs. Saxton and Huff, who were in town at the time. The rooms are beautifully arranged for dancing, and as excellent music was provided there was nothing to mar the perfect enjoyment of the evening. The guests were Misses Camp, Burks, Whiting, Richards, Griffith, Ricketts, Marshall, Lau, Maine, Lottridge, Addie Whiting, Moore, Cropsey, and Fitzmaurice. The members of the fraternity present were Messrs. Low, Risser, Cullen, Bishoff, Packard, Andrews, King, Doubrava, Young, Pulis, Saxton, Packard, Mallalieu, Duff, Hebard, Frank, and Burget.

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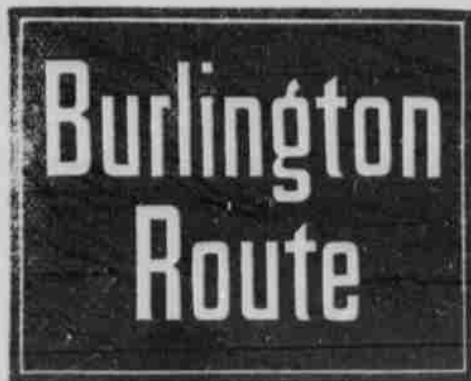
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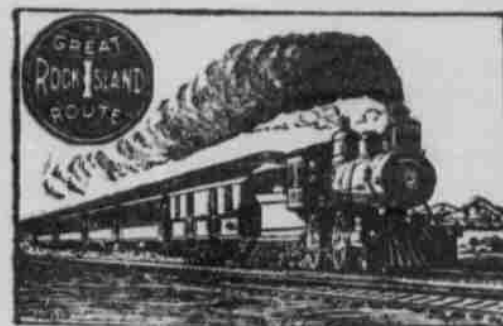
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