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THE MATTER OF FOOD AND FUEL.

Cooking Utensils of Aluminium—A Tent That Is Wind, Water and Mosquito Proof—Commercial Rivalry Between Seattle, Portland and San Francisco.

[From Our Special Correspondent.]

SEATTLE, Wash., March 5.

Let me tell you something about Klondike outfits.

We take as little clothing as seems likely to answer our absolute needs and of the best quality. Even the best authorities differ widely as to the kind of clothing needed. For instance, Captain Brainerd, formerly with the famous Greely arctic expedition, with whom I had a talk the other day, does not approve of skin clothing because perspiration will not pass through it. On the contrary, Mr. Clements and Mr. Brownfie, both practical and experienced men, think otherwise. The latter says:

"What a man needs are skins and furs. When you are out in the snow and ice, woolens and blankets will do you little good."

My own opinion is that it is advisable to take fur garments, but they should be large enough to be used as an outer covering only. One may exercise quite a choice in the selection of his outfit and yet not go far astray. If you accept all the advice that is offered, however, you may as well buy out an entire clothing store. Base your plans on the idea that the mercury range is wide and that in the long winter it runs down from zero to 60 degrees below. Consider the kind of clothing you would need if you were to live at home and largely out of doors in such weather.

We take plenty of warm woolens. They are of different sizes, so that one or more suits of underwear, shirts, sweaters, coats and pantaloons may be worn over those next the skin if needed. A suit of Russian dogskin, with a hood supplied with apertures for the eyes, nose and mouth, is taken for use in the coldest weather. It is to be worn outside of all woolen clothing. We have a good stock of strong waterproof boots and shoes, for much walking is to be done. In fact, we may have to walk back. We each have sleeping bags of Russian dogskin also, with a waterproof canvas covering. They are made with fastenings to permit opening out flat for cleanliness and also for use as a covering for a tent or cabin floor. Waterproof canvas wading boots and a light leather suit, flannel lined, are also taken.

The Cooking Outfit.

Our cooking utensils are small and light. They are of aluminium, and, although there are 50 pieces, they are made in nests, so that the whole outfit, which is quite enough for four people, occupies only about the shape and space of a peck measure and weighs but 8½ pounds. It consists of a coffeepot, a half dozen each of knives, forks and spoons, four kettles, six cups, two frying pans, six plates and removable handles for everything, together with salt and pepper shakers. We use the same kind of stove and oven that Peary finds so satisfactory on his arctic exploration trips. When packed for carrying, the stove is inserted in the oven, the whole occupying a space of about a foot and a half square. It burns kerosene made gaseous, which has the heat and force of a blowpipe. It is claimed that five gallons of kerosene are sufficient to last eight months for cooking purposes, but this remains to be seen.

Our tent is wind, water and mosquito proof. It is a tent within a tent, and the door is so arranged that it can be closed instantly upon entering. We carry a rifle, a shotgun and a revolver.

We take along a typewriting machine that, incased, weighs but 6½ pounds.

MR. HILL PREPARED FOR ARCTIC RIGORS.

It seems to do as good work as the heavy and large machines. If we find it too cumbersome at any time, we can throw it into a convenient creek.

We also have a compact photographing apparatus, which will supplement the work of the artist.

Fishing tackle has also been provided.

Our medicine chest was prepared by a well known physician, whose name I should like to mention were it not for the fact that physicians consider it unprofessional to advertise. It contains all the standard remedies in tablet form, and the good doctor likewise prepared and arranged a book of 12 pages to accompany it which gives minute descriptions of symptoms and directions for treatment.

The matter of food is of greater importance than that of clothing. We take a supply of the simplest and most nourishing. It is well to remember that he who can keep dry, warm and have a supply of wholesome food can be comfortable almost anywhere.

Of course we have snow glasses and a few woodworking tools for rough work.

Lastly, or firstly, I take my wife along with me. I take her because she wanted to go. She has thus far been just as useful as she was at home, and the man who has not learned that woman is by far the more cheerful and inspiring of the sexes has not studied her very closely.

An Elaborate Outfit.

Outfits vary widely. I met a gentleman in this city the other day from Brooklyn who secured his clothing and other requisites in New York, buying his food in Seattle. His clothing alone cost him about $2,000, and, judging by its appearance, it was worth the money. His sleeping bag is of lynxskin and cost $75. They sell these articles out here on the coast as low as $3.50. His medicine chest is of polished rosewood

MRS. HILL IN COLD WEATHER COSTUME.

adorned with a silver name plate and large enough to carry medicines for about all the ills humanity is heir to. It is covered with a fine sole leather case, and this protection is given to most of his goods. He has fur suits, wool suits and leather suits, with boots and shoes galore. He takes a Bible and a dictionary along, thus showing good literary taste. It may be supposed that the gentleman is a so called "tenderfoot," but this is not the case. He is an experienced mining engineer and has traversed the southwest frontier for a good many years in search of treasure, meeting with fair success. His outfit is a delight to the eye, but it will not look so pretty when it reaches Dawson City.

Perhaps the most interesting phase of the present excitement is the commercial rivalry between certain cities to secure Klondike trade. Seattle has profited most, and she deserves to. When the news first came from the Yukon, her alert and shrewd business men were quick to take advantage of their "coign of vantage." Even to this day more Klondike news goes out over the wire from this thriving little Puget sound city than from all other points on the coast. It may not all be accurate or reliable news, but it goes. Her chamber of commerce has strewn the country with maps, price lists, steamboat and railroad folders and other literature to show that the city is the natural point of departure for the gold seeker and the only place in which to look for outfits.

Scramble For Klondike Business.

Finally some of the other coast cities slowly opened their eyes and then began a merry scramble for business, with Seattle always far in the lead. One form of warfare is the price list of outfits. Seattle issues a list of prices; Portland follows, going her one better, and then come San Francisco and Tacoma, all offering goods of the same name at least, but with a curious difference in price and of course in quality. For instance, observe the ascending scale of sleeping bag prices:

Portland, sleeping bags from.....	$2 50 upward
Seattle, sleeping bags from.....	12 00 to 20 00
Tacoma, sleeping bags from.....	18 00 to 35 00
San Francisco, sleeping bags.....	45 00

The above figures are taken from authorized lists. The $45 bag is of foxskin. The $18 to $35 bag is of goat or dog skin, while the $12 to $15 bag is a combination of flannel and duck, which is practically worthless in very cold weather. Even the most unsophisticated would hardly care to invest in one at as low a figure as $2.50.

Of course a difference in quality makes a difference in price, so the lists are utterly useless for comparison when nothing is known of the quality of the goods.

The same may be observed in the case of other articles of clothing, as will be seen by the following taken from official lists of the cities named:

	San Francisco.	Portland.	Seattle.	Tacoma.
Mackinaw suit....	$7 00	$6 20	$5 75@8 50	$5 25
German socks.....	1 25	75	1 00@1 50	89
Rubber hip boots.	5 50	5 50	4 50@6 50	4 39

In these cases likewise the difference in quality causes the variation in prices, and the same is indicated in the leading articles of food. Competition is sharp in all the places named. But where the matter of freight is not of serious account I should advise prospective Klondikers to outfit in their own localities

A. A. HILL.

Crows and Caws.

"Why is it," asked the inquisitive one, "that a rooster crows and a crow caws?" It is true that a rooster roosts, but nobody ever heard of a crow crowing. This is a question that should occupy the attention of the scientific. A woman perhaps could answer the query, Why don't a crow crow? At a breath she would say, "Just 'cause."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Historic Walking Sticks.

Walking sticks have frequently been left by will. Franklin bequeathed his favorite stick, with a gold handle shaped like a cap of Liberty, to George Washington. The gold headed cane used by Drs. Radcliffe, Mead and others, whose arms are engraved upon it, was bequeathed by Baillie to the College of Physicians. Napoleon's walking stick of tortoise shell was sold in London in 1823 for £38. Honore de Balzac had the mementos he received from various fair admirers, which consisted in part of precious stones.

New Zealand Wages.

In New Zealand two persons working together constitute a factory; hours of labor for females are restricted to 48 per week; overtime has to be paid for at the rate of time and a half, but in no case must any employee receive less than 12 cents per hour for overtime, as well as 12 cents tea money.

Human Nature.

Boss Barber—Ten o'clock and not a soul has come in today.

Second Barber—Suppose we hang up a sign "No Admittance?" That'll bring 'em.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

QUEER AMERICAN RIVERS.

One Florida River That Seems Undecided Just What to Do.

F. H. Spearman tells of "Queer American Rivers" in St. Nicholas. The author says:

Every variety of river in the world seems to have a cousin in our collection. What other country on the face of the globe affords such an assortment of streams for fishing and boating and swimming and skating—besides having any number of streams on which you can do none of these things? One can hardly imagine rivers like that, but we have them, plenty of them, as you shall see.

As for fishing, the American boy may cast his flies for salmon in the arctic circle, or angle for sharks under a tropical sun in Florida, without leaving the domain of the American flag. But the fishing rivers are not the most curious or the most instructive as to diversity of climate, soil and that sort of thing—physical geography, the teacher calls it.

For instance, if you want to get a good idea of what tropical heat and moisture will do for a country, slip your canoe from a Florida steamer into the Ocklawaha river. It is as odd as its name, and appears to be hopelessly undecided as to whether it had better continue in the fish and alligator and drainage business or devote itself to raising live oak and cypress trees, with Spanish moss for mattresses as a side product.

In this fickle minded state it does a little of all these things, so that when you are really on the river you think you are lost in the woods, and when you actually get lost in the woods you are quite confident your canoe is at last on the river. This confusion is due to the low, flat country and the luxuriance of a tropical vegetation.

To say that such a river overflows its banks would hardly be correct, for that would imply that it was not behaving itself. Besides, it hasn't any banks—or, at least, very few! The fact is, those peaceful Florida rivers seem to wander pretty much where they like over the pretty peninsula without giving offense, but if Jack Frost takes such a liberty—presto, you should see how the people get after him with weather bulletins and danger signals and formidable smudges. So the Ocklawaha river and a score of its kind roam through the woods—or maybe it is the woods that roam through them—and the moss sways from the live oaks, and the cypress trees stick their knees up through the water in the oddest way imaginable.

Bookmaking In the Middle Ages.

It required a man of great parts to be a successful publisher at that time, as much as or even more than it does today. Such an institution, for example, as the Sorbonne or University of Paris required the highest guarantees of character, capital and literary capacity in the licensed bookseller. He must be an adept in all the knowledge and science of the period, as well as perfectly skilled in the mechanical needs of his business. The university, too, which was always in close touch with the church, even when its studies had begun to broaden, exercised a jealous censorship, lest some religious heresy should creep in. Whenever an error of this or even of a more trivial sort was found, the transcripts were burned and the bookseller heavily fined. Sometimes his privileges might be entirely revoked, indeed, and he himself imprisoned. The bookseller could not even fix a price on his own products.

Four of the guild in Paris, for example, were sworn as appraisers by the authorities of the Sorbonne to fix the selling value of a book, and any deviation from this was a penal offense. To students the price was fixed at two-thirds of the charge asked of the general purchaser. The booksellers could not dispose of their entire stock and trade without the license of the university, which must also approve the purchaser. As an additional help to students, the Sorbonne in the middle of the fourteenth century framed a law compelling all booksellers to keep books to lend out on hire, and this example was imitated at Toulouse, Bologna, Vienna and Oxford. In this way circulating libraries were established in the middle ages.—Harper's Round Table.

Voting In Greater New York.

Election day dawns, and it is a busy one for the police. To the average citizen of New York and to every small boy who can help build a bonfire an election means a holiday, but the policeman rejoices that it comes but once a year. For weeks previous to election they, too, have been busy in preparatory work. Every registration has been verified by a personal visit, and in cases where fraud seems to have been committed the evidence has been carefully prepared and warrants issued. The lodging houses, cheap hotels and like places have been under the most rigid surveillance for weeks in order to detect and prevent colonization. No person can vote from one of these places unless he is known to have been registered there at least 30 days prior to election day and to have lived in the county at least four months. When it is remembered that 12,126 men were registered in licensed lodging houses of New York on Oct. 2, 1897, and 14,395 more in the cheap hotels and unlicensed lodging houses, an idea can be obtained of the amount of this kind of work which falls upon the police. It is interesting to note that of this total of 26,521 floating male population only 10,665 registered to vote, and of these only 9,193 actually voted on election day.—"The Police Control of a Great Election," by Police Commissioner Avery D. Andrews, in Scribner's.

Eat Slowly and Be Merry.

At a recent meeting of medical men Dr. F. A. Burrall spoke of the amount of mischief done by the very common habit of eating the meals rapidly, according to the farmer's motto of "quick to eat and quick to work." Thorough mastication was of the utmost importance, and, of course, this presupposed a proper condition of the teeth. Gastric digestion was often weakened and much distress was caused by the ingestion of too much fluid with the food, particularly at the beginning of the meal. Another factor in causing dyspepsia was the habit of eating food in silence, or without that mirth and good fellowship so necessary to insure a nervous condition favorable to the normal action of the digestive organs. These little details might seem trite and unimportant, but it was the duty of the careful physician to instruct his patients in regard to them. The long continued and free use of digestive agents served to make the digestive organs lazy and inactive.—Medical Record.

Crossing the Line.

If the ships all moved in one direction—westward, I mean—the world would suffer a prodigious loss in the matter of valuable time through the dumping overboard on the great meridian of such multitudes of days by ships' crews and passengers. But fortunately the ships do not all sail west. Half of them sail east. So there is no real loss. These latter pick up all the discarded days and add them to the world's stock again and about as good as new, too, for of course the salt water preserves them.—Mark Twain in "Following the Equator."

Experiments recently made by two American physiologists proved that while insufficient light helps to fatigue the eyes of readers, a still greater source of fatigue is the small size of type.

Zoologists say that all known species of wild animals are gradually diminishing in size.

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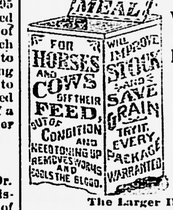

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RESOURCES, December 31st, 1897:

PAID-UP CAPITAL	$1,000,000.00
SURPLUS	1,000,000.00
RESERVE REQUIREMENT	461,427.18
UNDIVIDED PROFITS	37,099.15
	$2,500,524.33

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