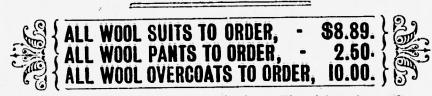
VOL. XXIX. NO. 12.

ELLICOTT CITY, MD., SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1898,

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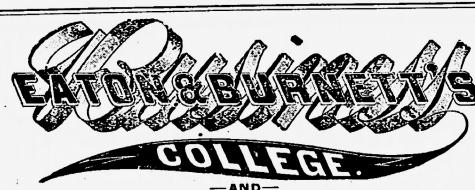
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THE RISE OF SKAGUAY.

Sudden Development to a Bustling and Populous Seaport.

PRAVEL BY WHITE PASS TRAI

The Bost Popular Route to the Klandike at This Season - An Experience on the Dollon Trail ... Interview With General Merriam of the Government Expedition.

[From Our Special Correspondent.]

SEATTLE, Wash., March 12. From a disappointed argonaut who has just returned from a sojourn of several months at Skaguay I have received an interesting and picturesque description of that sudden town. It appears that what at present is a bustling, hustling, but wild, woolly and rampanttown was last August merely some 20 huts string along the beach. Now three wharfs lead to deep water, and several warehouses shelter freight as it comes in. A sawmill sings merrily in the distance, an electric light plant is in full operation, and a telephone gives connection with Dyea, just across the water. There are about 100 business houses of various kinds in Skaguay, quite a good newspaper, a church, a public school, a

postoffice and about 20 of those "advance agents of prosperity" and subsequent distress, saloons and gambling louses. The latter are run wide open. Of course there is a law prohibiting the importation of liquor, but sinuggling gees on constantly.

Some 400 log cabins and frame cotages comprise the residence portion of he town, thrift and enterprise are displayed on every hand, and 2,500 would e a conservative estimate of the number of inhabitants. And just at present Skaguay is where the people flock, for at this season the Skaguay trail by way of the White pass is far more attractive than that by way of Dyea and the Chilkoot. As soon as warmer weather sets in, however, conditions will be reversed unless steps are taken to cordutoy or otherwise improve the swamps.

The Canadian police now pay 35 cents per pound for taking their freight to Lake Bennett over this route. A good orse with a "cavuse" as a leader will haul 1,000 pounds to Lake Bennett in about eight days. Few prospective miners are able to pay that rate, however, and consequently much freight is being dragged on hand, sleds, 200 pounds being a fair load and the time about the same as that made by the borses. The Relief Expedition.

The Skaguay trail is the one selected by General H. C. Merriam for taking in the advance portion of the government relief supplies, some 50 tons of provi-It is proposed to use mule and horse

power for this transportation. Each animal is to carry enough forage for 35 days, or, allowing 22 pounds of hay and grain per day, say, 800 pounds in all. Clover, Timothy, Orchard Grass, Kentucky Blue Grass, Red Top and other Field Seeds, and dealers in Fertilizers. Agents for the Franklin Mills Fine flour of the Entire Wheat. And also their wheatlett.

We will enable an animal to haul but about 500 pounds of provisions in addition to his forage," said General Morrism to me. "We intend to take Merriam to me. "We intend to take ice breaks up," he continued. "Then rafts or boats will be constructed, and we shall proceed down to Dawson City as best we may. Late? Of course it will

> that will be far in advance of anything that can be got up the Yukon from St. Michael's. '' "What are the facts, general, to the best of your knowledge, as to the need

be late before we get there, but even

of food at Dawson City?" "The latest information I have-and I have been in communication with every one I could get hold of who has just come out—is that there is no pressing uced of food, and this has been the tenor of my advice to the war department. I have learned that the stores that were so long closed in the hope of higher prices have all been opened, and that lour that was selling in December for \$1.50 per pound is now worth but 35 tofore when we have attempted to penetrate a new country we could rely upon grass-an almost indispensable condition for easy and speedy transit-for forage. Now we must not only take in every ounce that men and animals need

for food during the journey in, but forage for the return trip likewise. "How about the reindeer?" "I strongly favor the idea of taking them into the country, though not for carrying food supplies. I am reliably informed that the moss they require for forage grows in Alaska, and I am satisfied that their introduction is a measure which the government can well afford to undertake. As to the Laplanders who accompany them-well, we'll try to

manage them in some way." Great activity has been displayed in building the wagon road along the right bank of the Skaguay river. At least 350 men were employed. Hundreds of blasts were made every day, and millions of tons of rock were broken up and either hurled down the embankment or used

to level bad places. Skaguay Overcrowded.

People are sailing for Skaguay on every steamer by hundreds, and the town is full of idle men looking for work as well as idle men who would avoid work if any chanced to come their way. Hundreds would go back to the Pacific coast provided they had enough to pay their passage. Every newspaper man there has written his paper warnliminution of the influx. Man is gre garious. Misery is tempered in the mass. The river from the town to the foot of White pass is lined with tents. Late arrivals must either pay exorbitant prices for rude bunks, hire houses or 'move on," like poor Joe. They are not allowed to pitch tents within sight or ound of the town. Yet the mass of humanity is marching forward, but, oh,

*lowly! With exemplary industry and patience they wend their way up the river, pulling, pushing, struggling, in some cases lighting and cursing. If not too heavily loaded, the third bridge from Skaguay is reached in six hours. The distance is 12 miles. From there to the foot of plain, "I am well on in years and afflicted White pass the distance is three miles,

it. Goods and provisions can be taken thence to Lake Bennett without transferring. Yet even there the wearisome journey has but just begun.

It is the prevailing opinion that the three trainways on the Dyea trail were plained more for speculation than for

actual service. Of course the proud and baughty packers hate them as his satanic majesty hates holy water. The Dalton Trail.

The Dalton trail from Pyramid haroor along Chilkat inlet and the Klahuna river and thence up a gradual incline of about 8,600 feet around the Chilkat pass to Dalton's house is considered by many the best way to get into the interior. I bave just seen a man who came out over the Dalton trail last month. He says he found no difficulty on account of steep grades, but in many places fallen trees seriously interfered with his passage.

"There were three of us," he said, and, although we were packed light, it was no easy tramp, I assure you. We slept out of doors and in sleeping bags mostly and did not suffer greatly from cold. But my pack—well, I would have sworn it weighed 100 pounds. When I got to Pyramid harbor, the first thing I did was to weigh it. And what do you think? Why, the whole thing weighed only 18 pounds.

Why it is," he continued, "I am unable to say, but there is something about the trip—the air or the monotony, I am unable to say which—that tries one's patience awfully. I have seen a man get into a frenzy because he stuinbled over a rock or a fallen tree, or perhaps the constant tapping against the body of something slung on his back would seem to drive him wild with rage. Partnerships have been dissolved. long friendships terminated and obligations broken over the most trivial circumstance. I have had to use all my powers of self control before now to prevent an outbreak that what little common sense I had left told me would be as ruinous as it was silly. I know no reason for it except that the body becomes worn with fatigue, and this acts upon the brain."

"Are you going back?" I asked. "Yes, just as soon as I can get a stock of goods together. There's more money in selling clothing to miners than there is in mining itself, although I have a claim which I hope will pan out well. By the way, we met Judge McGuire, who was on his way to Dawson City, as we came out. The judge's first criminal case will be the trial of Lord, the bartender who robbed 'Nigger' Jim and other miners of \$24,000.

Speaking of crime, the lawlessness in Skaguay has been much exaggerated. Indeed I am inclined to think that a man is safer there at night than he would be roaming around the darksome thoroughfares of Chicago. Nor do I believe that the dreaded Chilkoot pass has any more horrors than the dizzy cobweb elevated railway at One Hundred and

Tenth street in New York. I am told the Klondike boom is being vastly overdone. The amount of gold thus far taken away from Alaska is small. The amount that remains but about 500 pounds of provisions in there is an unknown quantity. Considering the cost of living, wages in Skaguay and Dyea are less than in the the goods as far as the river before the States. Those who have just returned tell me that there are two workmen in Dawson City for every day's work. A. A. Hill.

> Essentials of Life. Irritability, or the response to ex-

ternal stimulus, is an attribute of all living organisms. In the method and degree of response variations occur. These variations favorable to the division of labor and the adaptation of the animal to its surroundings are seized and fixed by natural selection. In this way on the basis of a diffused function an organ is built up and the organ itself is specialized and perfected. The mind and consciousness of man grow out from the irritability of the lower animals. They are developed through series of successive differentiations and integrations. All the higher animals are colonies of co-operating and question orders, but to obey them. We co-ordinated cells. In such colonies of are proceeding with all haste, but the units the functions of sensation, thought conditions are without precedent. Here- and motion are relegated to series of the most sensitive and most highly organized cells. This alliance of cells is adequate for the work it has to perform. The brain is always adequate for the mind, for the one is the organ, the other the function, and the development of the two must go on together.—David Starr Jordan in Popular Science Monthly.

> A Chinese Feast. It may have been the privilege of some of you to have indulged in all manner of gorgeous feasts, to have supped with potentates, to have enten of the rarest dainties procurable, but I venture to state that few have partaken of viands the like of which were laid before the present

writer at Peking. The dinner lasted for three hours. There was no stiffness in the feast, it being quite courteous, after you had taken the birds' nest soups and the shark fins, to toy with chopsticks, affect an appetite and smoke in direct, profuse British fashion while the attendants stood over you waving peacock

You began with cake, with apricot kernels and watermelon seeds washed in salt for a relish; then came a group of courses -ham garnished with bamboo sprouts, smoked duck and cucumbers, pickled chicken, shrimps with leoks, spiced sausage with celery, fish with fir tree-cones and sweet pickle. After this came peaches in honey, pomegranates, water chestnuts, fresh thorn apples and honey gold cake. In my list of the 70 courses I notice that we were proffered birds' nest soup, roast duck, shark fins, mushrooms with pigeon eggs, baked white pigeons, lotus seeds, ham in honey, a fat duck, perch, sweet-meats, the stomachs of fat fish, pears in honey, whale sinews, soles of pigeon feet, lotus seed soup, eliced flag bulbs, salted shrimps, prune juice and almonds with

No Wonder She Wanted Helping Ont. An old lady traveling on the underground railway in London and finding that the train was approaching a station addressed herself to a man sitting in the farther corner of the compartment, her only fellow passenger, and said: "Would you tell me, sir, what is the next station

"Bayswater, madam," was the courteout reply.
"Then would you mind, sir, when we arrive, opening the door and helping me With pleasure," was the cordial assent "You see." the old lady went on to ex-

and I have to get out slowly and backward,

and when the porter sees me getting out

me a push from behind-and I've been

round the circle twice already!"-l'ear-

ing preliminary preparations. It is one of the few ceremonies still in existence among the uncivilized tribes in which the sun is directly the object of worship. The dance takes place at the winter solstice when the sun has receded to its farthest limit in the southern sky. Its object is primarily to induce the sun to recede from its southern march and retrace its steps toward the

CALLING BACK THE SUN.

The Modul Dance That Helps to Cause the Return of Summer and Harvests.

Dr. Tewkes of the Smithsonian institu-

tion at Washington returned recently to

Denver from the Moqui villages in Ari-

zona, where he attended the winter dances

of the Indians. He is one of the few white

men who have ever seen this remarkable

eremony, and the result of his visit will

appear in a detailed report on his return

The dance or ceremony is called the say

la-na, and is the most complicated of all

the religious ceremonies among the Mo

quis. It continues for nine days, includ

to Washington.

north, to bring joy, warmth and returning harvests to the Moquis. The secondary object is to extend a peace offering to the great plumed snake, a delty hostile to the sun, in order that his wrath may be appeased and he may cease to chase the sun away from the Moquis.

The main dance took place at Walpai of

Dec. 20, and on the 22d at Orlaba. It was held between 10 and 12 o'clock in the evening in one of the secret rooms of the khiva. A rude altar had been constructed in one end of the room, back of which was a partition of wreaths and flowers, through which the head of an efligy of the plumed scrpent protruded. This head was about 18 inches long and about 12 inches in diameter and made from a large gourd The upper part of the head was stained black, the lower part whire, and the mouth, with a hideous exhibition of teeth, was stained red. Behind this screen was an Indian, whose office it was to impart to the head of the reptile a swaying motion, as if the serpent was imbued with life. At the same time a number of Indians blew in to hollow gourds, which emitted a strange rushing sound to imitate the noise mad by the swift movement of a monster snake In front of the altar and the efligy of the snake appeared a warrior with a shield of which were represented emblems of the sun. These minor deities and the plumed

snako attacked the warrior representing the sun, and a battle ensued in which the lone warrior triumphed, beating back his enemies, and thus being enabled to return to the north to cheer the land of the Mo The next morning after the performance as the sun rises above the eastern horizon Indians offer up their prayers and sprinkle holy meal in its fore, and by these simple

acts of devotion welcome its return from

the southern skies, and with it also the re-

turn of the kachenos, the good spirits

who bring the Moquis rain, corn, abun

dance of harvest and all the blessings of life.—New York Sun.

Famous Washington Parrots. Chief Justice Fuller has a Mexican par rot of which he is very fond and of whose acquirements he is exceedingly proud. Its latest accomplishment is to call the chief justice "grandpa." The title was not so pleasing at first, but since his last married daughter, Mrs. Beecher, has presented the family with two grandchildren in two years he is perfectly resigned to the inevitable title, even from a parret's lips. There are several distinguished friends of the chief justice who talk parrot with him and swap bright sayings of their pets. For one, the British embassador has an exceedingly talkative and well informed bird. His name is Jacob, and he has been a pet in the family for 13 years. Not long ago Jacob was blown from the window seat of the lining room of the embassy and was picked up in the street by a boya good boy, as it happened-and conse

quently was restored after about a week in which the family nearly went distract-The good boy was rewarded by the finest name in it, as a reward of inerit, and the good boy is the envy of all his school-

The wife of the Mexican minister, Mme. Romero, has a parrot who is a fine linguist. He speaks Spanish and French and occasionally English. He is a beautiful Mexican bird and is quite the idol o the family. Miss Mitchell, daughter of J J. Mitchell, cousin of Mrs. Stanley Mat thews, has a parrot of rare attainments who talks and sings. Judge Advocate General Lieber also has a well trained par rot .- Washington Letter in Chicago Trib

What Zola Has Undertaken. The government is the smallest of M Zola's foes. He faces an angry nation, which, with exceptions that hardly count in the flood of passion and projudice, is ex-asperated against Dreyfus almost to the shedding of blood. His indictment, whatover may come of it, is a piece of the mos heroic courage in the annals of civil life. He has had a foretaste of the persecution that awaits him. Colonel Picquart, who was the first to expose Esterhazy, has been arrested and shut up at Mont Valerien. It is rumored that M. Mathieu Dreyfus is to be prosecuted, and, if possible, to be bled with a demand for damages fixed at £20,-000. But the most conspicuous figure of this group of brave men struggling for the justice of an open trial is the great writer who leads their forlorn hope. If the government give him an open trial, he may yet succeed in putting its methods to shame. It is more probable that it will bring his old age to ignominy and ruin.— London News.

The Curfew Bell. The Rev. Charles A. Crane, a Methodist minister of Boston, advocates the revival of the curfew bell in that city. "Boston. he said the other evening, "owes it to lerself, and especially to her boys, to pass and faithfully execute a curfew law which shall require all children 16 years of age and under to be off the streets at 8 o'clock in the winter and 9 o'clock in the summer. Lincoln, Neb., was the first city to adopt the curfew law, about two years ago. Omnha, Denver, Kansas City, Des Moines, Topeka and Evanston, Ills., are among the larger cities which have followed. The testimony in favor of the innovation is strong. The chief of police of St. Joseph, Mo., says that seven eighths of the people give it their sincere approval. There has been a reduction of 50 per cent in commitments to the reform school from that city."

"Now, just as soon as you are married," said the experienced husband, "the life insurance solicitors will be after you in "Is matrimony so dangerous as that?" asked the candidate for nuptial honors,

Both Satisfied. "I wish I wore an ostrich," said Hicks angrily, as he tried to eat one of his wife's biscuits and couldn's. "I wish you were," returned Mrs. Hioks.

"I'd get a few feathers for my hat."-Bos-

Free Press.

ton Travelor.

The wine cups of the Assyrians were shaped like our saucers and were of agate, other semiprecious stones, gold and silver. he shouts, 'Look alive, ma'am,' and gives A well constructed brick house will out-

list one built of granite.

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