

# SEPULCHER OF ICE AND SNOW

# Awful Avalanche Buries a Great Host An of People

#### A MOMENT'S WARNING CAME WITHOUT IT

The Saddest Incident Not Only of the Great Rush to the Gold Fields But in the History of Alaska and the Northwest Territory

The horrible calamity that happened warned of the danger the were in, but the a low rumbling sound. Someone shouted was unbounded. She cried and begged uncertainty about the number actually buried and how many remain in ings were unheeded. their icy graves wrapped in their shroud of spotless white, adds to the horror of the awful catastrophe. Every family who has some member en route to the gold fields, will grieve even more than those who have actual tidings of death. Realizing the anxiety which will be felt, THE TRAIL will endeavor to give as correct a list as possible of those who lost their

have gone forth in regard to the acci- were a little uneasy ab ut the heavy fall dent, particularly from Skaguay. State- of snow, myself and partner Mr. Joppe ments and flagrant untruths that should did not apprehend any danger for our put to shame the authors; but Skaguans' have no shame. Their ambition seems to which occurred during the night gave us be to heap misery apon others-they uneasiness about our neighbors who were glory in publishing false statements; they in tents. About four o'clock in the mornare ghoulish enough to wish that there ing one of our neighbors came rushing had been 5,000 buried if it only happened to our cabin and yelled 'for God's sake to on the Chilkoot trail. What care they come and help him; that a slide had for the thousands of anxious relatives buried the Maxsons in their tent.' We at home? They show no respect to the hurried with shovels to the rescue and dead; but apparently take hellish delight extricated Mrs. Maxson and two others in magnifying the awful fiction, and in fearing another occurrence of the kind. the hour of death to take advantage of We aroused the camp and concluded it this sad calamity, by advertising their was as safe to remain longer and confever-stricken hole of hell.

we will take them with us on the trip The Chilkoot Tramway construction gang from Dyea to the summit-try and paint came down from the summit, and urged snow slide, and of the trail the entire follow them. They gave us a long rope house which is worthy of publication, for buried in the cometery at Dyea. way to the interior of Alaska.

on March 30th, went to the summit and and made everyone who could procure had bought with her carnings -was one summit. was back ip Dyea the same day.

last Sunday at Stone House, where, fifty warning was unheeded. The Indian 'snow slide,' but I thought it the howl- for him to come back to life-to look at or more persons were buried alive under packers quit work and that locality two ing of the wind and answered back to her. She unfastened his shirt, and in a tremendous avalanche of snow and ice, days before the occurrence. Sam Heron that effect. I had hardly gotten the frenzied grief began to rub him. She is now the absorbing topic-not only in and Jack Cavanaugh, two of the most ax words out of my month when I found worked upon him as only a true woman Dyea but all over the world. The sad perienced and noted guides and pioneers myself buried to the hips in a solid will--moving his arms this way and that: messenger of death is on its way to anx- of this country, have frequently warned mass of snow and ice. I did not have pressing his chest and breathing into his ious mothers, wives, sisters, children and people who were camping there of the time to think before I was pushed over on lungs until three o'clock in the morning. friends in all parts of the couptry. The danger of the snow slides which occur in my ide by another mass and covered to She was then rewarded by his opening that vicinity-but, somehow, their warn

Mr. A. Mueler, of Vancouver, who was buried six feet in the avalanche, and was rescued alive, gives a most graphic description of the terrible affair. He was dug out after being imprisoned three hours. Mr. Mueler was conducting a restaurant at the Scales, and his story is as follows:

'I had one of the most substantial Many erroneous and injurious reports buildings at the Scales, and, although we selves, but the constant small snow slides cluded to pack up and make for Sheep hours. They took out seven alive that In order to give our readers the facts, Camp, while we were preparing to leave.

fate in a moment. I knew it was not my- Everyoody shed tears of rejoicing." self alone that was buried, but thought that perhaps those on the last end of the rope were not covered, and that the construction gang, who were ahead of us, would be ahead of the slide and possibly save us.

"I thought of home and friends-every act and hope of my life crowded into my mind in a moment-but I did not give up the hope of being saved. I could not move hand or foot. I was held as fast as if I were in a plaster-of-paris cast. I did not shout or cry out as I realized I needed all my breath and strength. I could hear people near me groaning and praying; but in only a few minutes all was still, and I became unconscious. I fully realized my position-it was not at all torturous, but simply that of going to sleep. When I awoke I found myself on the floor of the power house; and it was sometime before I could realize how it all happened. I was c ns derably bruised and was black and blue all over; but I feel that no permanent injury will result. They tell me I was buried just three were on the rope with us: but four of the seven afterward died.

"A singular and romantic episode octhem a pen-picture of the scene of the us to move at once, and we concluded to curred after I was taken to the power length, and thus enable them to gain a to enable us to keep together and started the deserving little heroine. Miss Vernie fairly good idea of the only natural pas- ahead of us, about fifteen minutes after Woodward, who has been on the trail fo: we got into line. I concluded that we over a year, packing freight on her back. The writer left Dyea on foot at 7 A. M. might need shovels to clear drifts with, and managing five pack horses which she one do so. After procuring the shovels of the first to reach the scene from Sheep The scene of the accident is about 18 we took hold of the rope and started with Camp. She came to the power house to Dyea harbor will, teshaps."b ap, reci off-there was no object in using it; no draw-a low ravine just above the O. & I. long time, and was very much attached high dry and sandy beach, in a beanti-

a copth of' six feet. I realized the awful his eyes and speaking her name 'Vernie.'

. The little heroine and hero were at once taken to Sheep Camp. Mr. Jappe is out of danger and Miss Woodward is the heroine of the hour.

Forty-eight bodies have been taken out up to the present time. The names will be found on the first page.

Mr. P. Young who was one of the first to arrive on the spot and who extricated Mr. Muller says that in fifteen minutes after the slide occurred there were 1.500 men on the spot, working like heroes to extricate the sufferers. Some of them were busied 30 feet deep. He says that those people were instantly killed by concussion-the mass of wet show that came down was almost beyond comprehension. It came down the steep mountain side 3,000 feet and covered ten acres. It came with such force that it solidified at once almost like ice. Mr. Young thinks there are many more still under the mass of snow, but it does not think they can be recovered till the summer thaw.

The Chilkoot Tramway people aided in every way possible; they spared no expense in trying to rescue the victims and will keep a force of men at work until they are satisfied the last one is out.

Many of the bodies were taken to Dyea and sent home to friends, and others were

The trail, which had been closed for the time, was opened again yesterday, for trifiac and packing was resumed over the

A brief description of the trail from miles from Dyea, and two miles above Mr. Joppe in the lead. We proceeded aid and comfort the wounded, and dis- ated at this time. Dyea, t e n west, Sheep Camp. It did not occur on the down the trail about one thousand feet covered in the row of dead the body of most pretentious, and most northern main trail, but in a draw-a kind of cut below the Scales, where we came to the Mr. Jappe, whom she had known for a city in the United States, is situated on a necessity at all. and the people were power house. As we entered it we heard to. When she recognized him, her grief ful valley, at the head of Lynn Canal-

nestled and sheltered between towering eternal snow-capped mountains. The Weisman and other living glaciers tower high ou either side. Two branches of the Dyea river flow to the sea on either side of the city. The valley is about one mile wide and extends to Canyon City, a distance of nine miles. The summit can be seen from Dyea. It is not as high by a thousand feet as the mountains on each side, and has the appearance of a saddle in a gap of the mountain. The city of Dyea has some very fine and substantial buildings, and there is scarcely a vacant lot for a distance of three miles. At that point we come to the famous Kinney bridge over a thousand feet long-a toll bridge, which the prospector must cross in the summer time-this bridge crosses the west or main branch of the Dyea river to an island of about 60 acres which is heavily timbered. In fact, the entire bottom lands on both sides of the river are well-timbered. From the island the trail runs along the edge and river bed clear to Canyon City. The river is low in the winter months and frozen over. It is very shallow in most places and changes its channels frequently making the bed of the river, which is full of boulders all the way, from a half to three quarters of a mile wide. Most of the teaming is done in the winter and spring time on the bed of the river.

About five miles from Dyea we come to Finigan's Point, which makes out from the mountains to a deep and rapid place in the river. This point has been located and a short toll road built across it to what they call "head of navigation"called so because Indians sometimes in the summer manipulate their canoes up this far. From this point the trail leads up the old rocky river bed, in a go-as-youplease zig-zag way, to Canyon City- a very picturesque spot. Here we find, at the foot of towering mountains a new and not unpretentious city-there are comfortable hotels, restaurants, saloons and business houses. The mammoth power house of the Chilkoot Railroad and Tramway Co. is located here right in the mouth of the canyon. In going into the canyon you find only room for a single team. The road is only available in the winter when the river is frozen over. In the summer it rushes madly through the canyon in a tremendous volume, which makes it utterly impassible after the ice breaks up, which is generally about the first of May

The Canyon is simply a scene of grandeur-only about forty feet wide, with perpendicular mountains rising thousands of feet, and almost closing together at the top. The canyon is very crookedwinding, like a cork-screw-for a distance of four miles. Going through the canyon the first thing which one will notice is that he is going up hill. Emerging from the canyon at the upper end you come to Pleasent Valley-a romantic spot covered with spruce and cotton-wood trees, making it an ideal camping spot. One mile further on and up at the foot of two towering mountains we come to the famous Sheep Camp, called so from the fact that years ago a party drove a flock of sheep through to Dawson, and camped on this spot for several weeks.

Sheep Camp is a rough, rugged, rocky spot, with little space for a towncite, and to-day there is scarcely an inch of available ground. It is covered for over a mile square, with tents so thickly set as to prevent one passing between them in any instances. There is but one street,

and that a semblance of one-it being only about sixteen' feet wide and winds haphazard along the bank of the river. Numerous small stores do a thriving business here, as well as the many saloons. There are two drug stores, a hospital, fifteen hotels and restaurants, coffe--stands and lodging houses too numerous to men-There are also two laundries, a bath house ond several store houses.

Outfits are hauled to this point on sleds and from here are packed on sleds, dogs, etc., to the Scales, four miles above. Here begins the real hard work for man and beast. About a mile from Sheep Camp we come to what is called "Stone House," This is a great boulder or immense rock setting high up by itself, and deriving its name from the fact that it has an overhanging shelf which affords some shelter in heavy storms. Nearby is the beginning of what is called "long hill," and is some thing the shape of a whale back. It is the most tedious and tiresome strip of the whole journey-even more so than the summit. It is about halt a mile wide and slopes off right and left toward the mountains, forming on each side a sort of ravine. Here many prospectors would pitch their tents and cache their of goods, dragging them by peacemeal on log sleds to this point, then go back to Sheep Camp for another load, and when they have gathered all their stuff together they stake a tackle and fall on the top of the hill, fasten their sleds to the rope and by merely taking hold of the up hill end walk down and draw the sled loads up and continue this until it is all over.

It was in one of these dranghs, or ra vines, that the awful slide occurred. From the top of Long Hill, which tak s about an hour to walk up, they go down a short incline and then up another even steeper than Long Hill, but not so difficult to climb. Over this hill and you are ar the Scales.

The scales is like a big basin, in the top of the mountain. There is from ion to twenty feet of snow here most all the time. Shacks and vents are mostly eight and ten feet below the surface of the snow, and the sam - thing exists at Sheep camp. The town is composed of about where possible to obtain it, is as follows 4° tents and five or six buildings. Messra Fuller and Jappe had a fine restaurant there and did a big business.

The Scales derived its name from the fact that in times gone by the packers had a pair of scales at this point to waight the ireight.

There are three tramways in operation from the Scales to the op of the summit, and they do very effective work. They have a capacity of 20 tons per day, and the big Chilkoot Tram, which has its cables laid from Canyon City to Crator Lake, and which is now about ready for Meu can easily pack 150 operation. pounds up and over the summit. Steps are made in the snow, and in good weather there is a continual string of people going up these snow stairs -- men women and children. the packers go up this way, and in coming back slide down a suice or a rut made in the snow-it is like going to the top of a big hill and coasting down again on the seat of your panta-The distance is about a quarter luons. of amile.

The trip is very fascinating and not at all difficult. I would not miss the grand-eur of this trip for thousands of doltars. The top of the summit is c mpletely covered with outfits-some of them buried 30 and 40 feet in the suow. The Canadian Customs officers are stationed here in their tent. The are not any too comtortable but manage to endure the exalted and stormy position. They have their wood for fuel packed to them from below Sheep Camp, and pay five cents per pound for it. From the summit down to Lake Linderman (nine miles) is a very easy trip, being all down a gradual grade.

#### THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.

Prior to the appointment of the Citizens Committee at Sheep Camp to take charge of the disentombed bodies and their effects. A number of bodies had been taken from the slide, and it is alleged on good authority that some of them were looted of money and valuables. But every suspioion of this kind of work ceased with the appointment of the Citizens'

Committee, which was composed of the most prominent and respected men of Dyea and Sheep Camp. This Committee examined each body cerefully, made a mighte memoranda of all personal effects and made the best disposition of the same that was possible under the circumstances. Death certificates were also issued, and a complete record of all the transactions kept. The names of the Committee are given in this issue. 'I he Committee did not handle the bodies of the Chilkoot Tramway Co.'s dead. That company looked zealously after the victims who had bee\_ in its employ. A list of the principal effects found on a number of the bodies, and a record of the Committee's work will be filed with the United States Commissioner's office at Dyea-The principal effects found on a number of the bodies is here given. As far as possible it includes the bodies hanaled by the Committee, but not those of the C. R. & T. Co., which has kept a fai hful record of all effects of its unfortunate employes.

#### FOUND ON THE BODIES.

THE TRAIL herewith precents as accurate a list of the dead as could possibly be obtained. The list has been compiled with the greatest care, and has been checked and compared with the lists of the Citizens' Committee, at Sheep Camp. and that of the Chilkoot Railroad and Transport Company. The number of lead according to our figures is fortynine. This was up to Sunday morning, April 10th. We give no list of the persous reported missing, for the reason, that much uncertainty would attach to it. It is best to await results and cause no one useless anxiety.

The list of dead, with place of residence

C M Holt, Tacoma, Wash J B Pearce, Tacoma, Wash Albert F King, Tacoma, Wash J E Doran, Tacoma, Wash Albert Englund, Tacoma, Wash Gus Ziebarth, Seattle, Wash Frank Sprague, Seattle, Wash C P Harrison, Seattle, Wash W L Riley, Seattle, Wash - Stevenson, Seattle, Wash Con Gepfert, Seattle, Wash E J Hudson, Seattle, Wash R L Esterbrook, Scattle, Wash Oscar Johnson, Seattle, Wash Chris Johnson, Seattle, Wash C L McNeil, Elk River, Minn Mrs Anna Maxson, Jefferson Co, Pa Ras Hedgard, Baker City, Or Thomas Cullinan, Portland, Or John A Morgan, Emporia, Kas L Weidelin, Kansas City. John Reddy, Kansas City, C Beck, Florida E D Atwood, New York O A Ulen, Woolley, Wash

J K Clark, residence unknown W F Warner, Menlo Park, Cal Geo Eggart, Menlo Park, Cal John Merchaut, Grizzly Bluff, Cal Austin Preston, Grizzly Bluff. Cal Tim Glynn, Portland, Or G F Smith, Sedro, Wash Geo Lewis, Spokane, Wash Mark Welch, Butte City, Mont Frank Millet, Butte City, Mont C W Kenney, Prescott, Arizona Henry Jaeger, Los Angeles, Cal Jeff Saling, Weiser, Idaho Joseph Smallwood, Portland, Or William Falke, San Francisco, Cal John Vogel, Los Angeles, Cal W A Dahlstrom, Lincoln, Neb S M Grimes, California William Carroll, San Francisco, Cal Curtiss C Turner, Omaha, Neb Albridge D Bissell, Palatine, Ill Thomas J Wall, Hazel, South Dakota O A Anderson, San Francisco, Cal Andrew Anderson, San Francisco, Cal

R. L. Esterbrook-Gold filled watch and chain; belt containing \$61 currency and \$1 silver and gold ring. Turned over to Allan Gray and A McVicker of Seattle. Outfit at Scales. Esterbrook

and A. D. Bissell, also killed, were said to be partners.

Austin Preston-Pocketbook contain-ing 20 cents and a bill from "Red Front," Dyea, and portion of a letter

William Carroll-Pocketbook contain ing \$15 in currency and 50 cents in silver Belonged to Longshoremens's Union No. 1. of Skaguay; ticket No. 62, signed by Geo. L. Buzard, Secretary.

Geo. Eggert-Nickel watch and chain; belt containing \$55.20 ond two keys; pocketbook containing recommendations, etc.

Andrew Anderson-Gold watch, chain and charm; \$60 gold, \$5 in silver. fit of \$600 or \$700, mixed with outfit of John Grouros.

Con Gepfert-Photograph, custom house receipt, letter for W. A. Clark, Dawson; gold watch and chain; belt containing \$25 in carrency, miner's license and draft for \$100 in favor of C. N. Gepfert on Scandanavian Amelican Bank of Seattle; also \$8.05 in tronsers. Gepfert was going in with G. F. Compton. Outfits all on summit. Remains were taken fr m the morgue by Compton and all effects enumerated herein were given to him to be sent home to the deceased's family.

W. F. Warner-Silver watch, belt containing \$40 in gold, purse containing \$20 gold piece and 5 cent piece; several pa pers showing that he and Eggert were partners; gold ring with two hearts en graved.

W. A. Dahlstrom-Tobacco sack con W. A. Danistrom - too too and the training \$50. Parents live in Lincolu Nebraska. Worked with Thomas Linville, Astoria. Clothing and bedding at the books and 99 Restaurant at Scales; also books and notes; no outfit; was a packer.

Frank Millett-Silver watch, \$5 cur rency, \$1.50 silver; magnetic ring on little finger of right hand; snow glasses. Part ner's name is Mark Welch. Millet's brother and parents live in Minneapolis. He was a member of the Butte Miners' Union. Outfit on Crater Lake: duty is paid.

E. J. Hudson-Pocketbook containing \$5.23; gold watch, chain and diamond charm; belt containing \$200 in currency; wallet containing \$120 currency and note for \$166 unsigned. Customs receipt, miner's license, receipts, deeds to placer claims in Birch Creek districts and other papers of value. Body and effects all turned over to his partner, G. F. Comp ton.

Curtis C. Turner-Gold watch and chain; \$90 in currency. \$20 in gold and \$5.65 in sllv: r. Body and effects turned over to Wm. Preston of Skaguay, his partner.

Albridge D Bissell-Odd Fellow's pin: belt containing \$20 in currency, \$40 in gold, \$5 in currency, \$5 20 in silver and a one dollar gold piece. Body and effects turned over to Odd Fellows' committee.

Oscar Johnson-Purse with 15 cents: pencil

Chris Johnson-Nothing on body; had a restaurant above 99 Restaurant at the Scales; wife in San Francisco

Mark Welch-Gold filled watch, jack kuife, customs receipt; in pocket \$2 10: tent near Stone House: outfit on Crater Lake, duty paid for both himself and Millett; wife and three children in Lead-ville; known to Mike Foley

L. Weidelin.-Buckskin sack, contain ing \$27.05 Body and effects turned over to Wm. Blodgett.

C. P. Harrison .- \$5 in silver. Body turned over to F. P. Porter.

John A. Morgan.-\$1.35 in silver Body and effects delivered to Masons.

W. L. Riley .- Men. book, tooth brush, pocket comb. Partner of Porter and Harrison.

S. M. Grimes .- Silver watch and chain, \$12.10 in silver coin; \$10 in gold; Body and effects delivered to F. M. Grimes, of Dvea.

Times are slow. J. W. Snook hasn't killed a soldier this week.

Knabel is always ready for you when you are hungry. Give him a trial.

Ross Higgins & Co. were obliged to move their meat department in order to make room for their increasing trade.

The Treadweil mill, on Douglas island, has given to the world in gold more than the original cost of Alaska.

Alaska is the poor man's mining country. It is the hope of the United States, and hundreds of thousands of people will, inhabit and develop it.

J. B. Agner and Edward L. Ensel are putting Yukon outfits over the summit. They are going to the interior, but before starting down will visit Dyea for a couple of weeks. B. A. Whalen will have charge of their interests in this part of Alaska until their return.

Spinal Meningitis Elsewhere.

Strange reports come from below, Exchief of the fire department, Breumm, of Tacoma, is said to have died from spinaj meningitis, and a letter received by a gentleman in Dyea states that there are cases of the same disease in San Bernardino, California.

Dyea's New Cemetery. Dr. Ernest L. Reyber took matters in his own hands this week and established a new cometery for Dyea by thirning over to the city five acres which he had located as a hospital site. Dr. Reyber appreciated that the time, had come for action in the matter of stopping further burials in a plot right in the heart of the city, and, as a result of his energy. Dyea now has a cemetery in an ideal location.

For sale. On account of removal, I offer my entire stock of Post Office Stationery Store; for sale at cost, *I*. Mrs. L. A Wallace.

Rev. Charles Larsen, of Dyea, went to Wrangel recently, and established an M. E. church. A building is now in course of erection. The reverend gentleman's labors in the cause of Christianity are meeting with much success.

Alaska is vast. It has a total of 615.500 ( square miles, about equal to the area of all the States north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi.

The page of news in last week's TRAIL on the prospective development of Dyea's gold fields has given impetus to the local mining situation, and it is with an effort that prospectors are restraining themselves from going on extended trips into the hills. The fresh fall of snow on Saturday last will delay the beginning of prospecting operations somewhat, and the anxious ones will be compelled to more or less confine their operations to the foothills, Notwithstanding this limited field, good indications of mineral are daily being brought to light, and when Assayer Charles Bridges is ready to open he will find dozens of specimens waiting for the exercise of his skill to tell what may be hidden within. In almost every cabin in town may be seen pieces of quartz which have been picked up in the Dyea hills. 'Some one of the specimens may be the Aladdin's lamp which will reveal great golden riches.



Frank Sprague .-- Cash \$52.50; miscellancons goods in haversack, belonging jointly to Ziebarth and Stevenson. Body and effects turned over to Odd Fellows' committee.

Stevenson. - Gold \$140, cash \$16.70; miscellaneous goods in haversack belong-ing jointly to Ziebarth and Sprague. Body delivered to E. C. Pickard, O. S. Johnson, H. J. Hunt, and M. Searle.

Gus. Ziebarth .- Miscellaneous good in haversack belonging to Stevenson and Sprague; silver \$2.75; receipt for ox; silver watch; trifles.

C. Beck .- Nothing on person.

E. D. Atwood. - Cigar holder, wallet, pocketbook.

Tem Cullinan.- \$83.40; rocket knife, silver watch, chain- these things found on trail and turned in by Henry Desborough, honest man. Cullinan has a daughter, Kate, at No. 42 N. 5th st, Port-land, Or. Miners' license and pocket-book; duty receipt and miners' license cont to fast factor. sent to Capt Belcher. Cullivan was a member of Portland Longsboremen's Union.

Ras Hedegard-Krife, key-ring, pocketbook, silver 31 cents.

One Man's Experience.

Said Mr. Black, a man who was taken out alive and well:

"I was one of a large party which had started trom the Scales. We were lined up along a rope. It was snewing and the trail was almost obliterated by the freshly fallen snow. I had no warning of the avalanche. It was upon us before we knew it. I found myself buried, and realized at once what had happened. My legs and one arm were outstretched. The outstretched arm lay across the body of a woman, whom 1 afterwards learned was Mrs. Maxson. My other arm was doubled on my chest. I could breath only with great difficulty. After a great deal of patient effort I worked my hand up from my chest and removed a little of the snow away from my mouth and nostrils, which gave me great relief. Encouraged by this I completely exhausted myself in efforts to work my legs and other arm loose, but 1 failed to budge them. Tired out, I dropped off peacefully to sleep. Several hours afterward I awoke greatly refreshed and distinctly heard the sound of the first rescuing shovel stuck into the snow. A very distinct change had taken place while I was sleeping-all was silent when I awoke Not a voice was to be heard under the snow. Before I went to sleep the voices of the entombed reached me from all directions. Many seemed to be praying and some were muttering good-bye to relatives at home. Everyone was talking It was the most ominous and impressive time of my life. I shall never forget it I did not suffer any pain. My agony was mental."

It is said that when Mr. Black was uncovered, he laughed and told the rescuers to pass him by in favor of others wh needed more attention.

#### Harry Holt.

Harry Holt, who was taken out dead was one of the most popular young men, in Tacoma. It is said that on the morning of the avalanche he told his comrades that would be his last day at work for the Chilkoot Railroad and Transport Company; that he intended to start for Tacoma at once, where he was to be married, and would return with his bride and go into the interior. His wedding day never came. Instead, his dead body was sent to Tacoma on the City of Seattle. He came from one of the oldest, best known and most respected families in Tacoma.

Effect of the Avalanche on Dyea.

During the first few days after the avalanche the citizens of Lyea were too much oppressed to consider any other phase of route to the inside. It is nature's route. the catastrophe than the great loss of life involved. Eut now that the early feelings of intense grief bave necessarily given way to energetic action looking to the recovery of the dead and the proper | lanche may have a transitory influence disposition of the remains, a few words regarding the probable effect of the avalanche upon the city of Dyes and the trail, which starts here, may not be out of place, perticularly is sene of our friends in Skaguay are busily spreading the report that the Chilkcot pass, will be blocked indefinitely.

To begin with, the trail is not blockaded. Respect for the entembed dead dictated but one course, and that was that every man, won an and child vie was able should turn in and help to bring to light and life, if possible, every unfortunate under the mass of snow. An imperative mandate was therefore issued that no man should go over the pass until this bumanitarian work was accomplished. Few, if any, wanted to do otherwise than rescue the unfortunates; but for fear that some utterly selfish sold-seekers might be forgetful enough of their duty to the dead, it was deemed wise to prchibit all further travel for the time being.

With inexcusable selfishness, this incident has been seized upon for a pretext to declare that the Dyea trail will be blocked for a month or more. The trait was never closed. "I wenty minutes after the avalanche men were passing by in entire ignorance of the fact that a side had occurred. From Lyea to the lakes the trail is now as open as it was a week ago, when thousands were making april progress over it to Lakes Linderman and Bennett. That it is oven is attesed by be notorious fact that contracts to land goods on the summit for five cents a pound are eagerly snapped up ly teamsters and packers.

And now as to the ultimate effect of the avalanche on the trail and the city of Dyea: There is little doubt, we believe. that temporarily its influence will be bad. This influence will not only affect Dyea, but will have, perhaps, a decided tendency to considerably Issen the rush to the gold fields of Alaska and the Northwest Territory. The St. Michaels route will likely benefit largely as a reresult of the avalanche and it will not ba a matter of surpise if a few persons now in the Lyni canal cities take some other route to the interior.

But these effects will only be temporary. It cannot beotherwise. The St. Michaels route is herely a summer incident of travel and traffic to the interior. It is too long, circuitous and uncertain to be depended upor as a means of getting in or out of the gld fields, besides which it has the seriors impediment of being closed ten montis in the year. This effectually bars i from consideration as a permanent rote to the interior. With the St. Michels route out of the way, there is positively no route worthy of the Chilkoc/pass. In the face of the avalanche of spril 3d, it is fortunate for Dyea that this is so. Were there any other trai that compared in any way with the lyea route, it would be a natural thing fc the greater number of goldseekers to seek that other route. But nature lways furnishes a "best" in everything. She has done that for Dyea's trail. There is nothing that can undo

this work, and no work of man can make any other route its equal. Dyea is the gateway of the only feasible, practical This is irrefutable. The great natural law that labor seeks the line of least resistance will continue to operate in its favor 'as beretofore. and, while the ava against it, it will soon recover, and the eager thousands will ever seek it as the way to the great interior. It is altogether a case of must. This is the only way the gold fields can be reached with certainty and economy. The avalanche will therefore have no permarent ill effect upon the Dyea trail. On the contrary, it will have an effect which will be not only to the interest of Dyea, but to every person soing or coming from the interior. It will hasten the construction from Dyea of a transportation system which shall begin at the waterfront and end at the lakes-or, perhaps, at Dawson City. In a year from to day it will be possible to send supplies from Dyea to the lakes for a trifle in comparison with the present rates. This is no piece of guesswork. It is a certainty. The route which nature has made the best will be improved by engineering skill at an early day, and the problem of ingreas and egress to the gold fields at all seasons of the year will be solved to the satisfaction of all. The avalanche will hasten the day; that is all.

People of Dyea, be of good cheer. The ault for the great catastrophe lies not with us. Let us take it as a warning and do what is in our power to see that human lives are not hereafter sacrificed by carelessness. It could have been avoided and would have been but for the unwise eagerness of the people which lad them to imperil their lives by attempting to travel when common sense plainly dictated the opposite course.

#### Ed. Doran's Warning.

Ed Doran and his father had both been working in the construction gang above Sheep Camp, but recently the younger man advised his father to go to the canyop, as it was his opinion there might be some dangerous slides. The elder Doran took his son's advice, and is to-day ali ve while the son lies in the Dyea cemetery.

#### Albert F. King.

Albert F. King, of Tacoma, was another unfortunate C. R. & T. man. He was one of the best foremen in the company's employ. He was bright, industrious, sober, and capable and was liked by his employers and by the workmen under him. John Reddy, who worked under him, used to sing:

> "King'll be my boss, Or I 'll have no boss at all."

And in this he echoed the sentiments of all the workmen.

# John Reddy.

John Reddy, of Kansas City, one of the C. R. & T. Co.'s men, was a witty, jovial fellow, and a good workman. He leaves, a wife and children. He came here in consideration except that via Dyea and December, and was an expert cable splicer.

13

In the Dyea Cemetery. Beneath the brow of the mountain,

and with the west branch of the Dyea river flowing peacefully at their feet, the following victims of the avalanche are buried:

Mrs. Anna Maxson. Mark Welch. Frank Millet Austin Preston Henry Jaeger C W Kenney S ohn Reddy

A D Bissell William Falke John Vogel John Merchant J E Doran Timothy Glynn Jeff Saling Thomas Cullinan Oscar Johnson Thomas Wall Chris Johnson W A Dahlstrom Q A Anderson O A Anderson W H Warner Geo Eggert

The last two, Warner and Eggart, are not yet buried, but as they appear to have no friends, and no money or anything was found as belonging to them. They will likely be interred in the Dyea ceme-tery, by Undertaker Hart, who says he will see they are given a Christian burial. They are now lying at his undertaking

# Form of Death Certificate

SHEEP CAMP, Alaska, April 4, 1898. To whom it may concern:

Health officers, transportation com panies, etc: In the absence of a notary. public, coroner, or health officer in this amp, we, the undersigned hereby certify that \_\_\_\_\_ was killed by a show slide at the foct of Chilkoot pass, on the third day of April, 1898. Signed and sealed by J. A. Cieveland, Chairman. J. E. Maples, M. D. C. W. Young.

John W. Nee.

C. F. Wilks. C. Derchmiller.

H. L. Zimerly.

Citizens' and Miners' Committee.

Stickeen Railroad Stopped. The Mackenzie-Mann project to build a railroad on the Stickeen route, has come to a sudden stop. By a vote of 52 to 14 the Dominion parliament has vetoed the land grab. For the present, at least, a Canadian railway over an all-Canadian route looks like a very unlikely propo-sition. As THE TRAIL has often predicted, Dyea will get the first railroad to the gold fields.



# THE WAR CLOUD.

In the States every matter of interest is overshadowed by the questions involved in dealing with Spain, Cuba and the destruction of the battleship Main. Party politics, the money question and the tariff are wholly forgotten or ignored Everyone realizes that the country is on the brink of a foreign war. The country, is ready for hostilities to commence and should war result from the present complications with Spain, President McKin ley and his administration will receive the unanimous support of the people throughout the Union. Even Wall street the great financial center of the country, is awed into quiesence by the evident earnestness of the mass of the people. That Cuba shall become a free and independent country is the universal wish of the American people.

Should war occur between the United States and Spain there is little fear of any European government taking an active part in aid of Spain-the cost to them would be too tremendous. Although the German emperor undoubtedly would like to play that vole. The Austrian government unquestionably sympathizes with Spain, the queen regent of the delta country, being a daughter of one of the Austrian royal family. Money investments in Spanish bonds causes the financial influences of France to side with the Spanish; but the ever-possible presence of the daring Yankee privateer who would sweep the commerce of any nation from the seas, will restrain every other nation from armed intervention. Spain and the United States are two of the great nations who did not agree to the convention for the prohibition of privateering.

# Card of Thanks.

I desire to express through the columns of THE TRAIL my sincere thanks to the many friends who during my beloved son's lingering sickness, indicating their sympathy in so many ways, and who so kindly assisted in making his last days (in this "far-away country" as he called it during his last hours) as comfortable as possible. Especially do I wish to extend the warmest gratitude of an afflicted father to Mrs. B. W. Leavens, Mrs. Doll. Miss Snell, Mr. S. L. Keller, and to Doctor E. L. Reyber our physician, in his untiring efforts to counteract the disease, and save our dear boy to his friends and loved brothers and sisters. To one and all who assisted in the last sad rites, I ex-tend my thanks. Truly in this land of strangers it is breed upon the waters But-

"Cast thy bread upon the waters You who have abundant store; It may float on many a billow, It may strand on many a shore. You may think it lost forever; But as sure as God is true, In this life, or in the other, It will yet return to you." C. E. PACKARD.

This season will demonstrate to the gold-seekers of Alaska that Dyea is the logical place for miners to procure their outfits. The next season will place Seattle and other Sound points in the same position in furnishing outfits now held by San Francisco and Portland. There is about as much sense and economy in miners outfitting for their Alaska trip in New York or Chicago, as at a point eight hundred miles away from their actual starting point. Dyea should thoroundly advertise her advantages as the point for outfitting.

The Dyea Trading Co. are constantly receiving new goods, and their elerks are kept busy day and night packing up outfits.



#### THE HUMOR OF IT.

A Wagon-Road Advertisement Through which a Coach and Four Might be Driven.

The Skaguay scheme of catching the poor Klondiker--that is to say, the Brackett wagon road, is being advertised below quite extensively, in an effort to counteract the grand rush for the only trail over which it is possible to go withoutspending a fortune and wasting a lifetime. The Humbert Yukon Transportation Company is doing the advertising now, to sort of shift a little of the burden from the wagon-road company's shoulders. The Humbert company is the farcial affair which made itself the laughing stock of the country, and wasted many thousands of dollars by attempting to take an expedition over the Dalton trail early last winter. Failing there, what was left from the wreck was transferred to Skaguay, and there it is now, exploiting itself as the tail of the Brackett kite. The Humbert concern has a large display advertisement in the Puget Sound papers telling how it can send freight over the "great Brackett wagonroad" from Skaguay to Lake Bennett, in five days and then in large black types asks the unwary Klondiker to read the following contract:

> READ THIS CONTRACT. BILL OF LADING.

HUMBERT-YUKON TRANSPORTA TION CO.

#### 110H O

SKAGUAY TO LAKE BENNETT. Bill of Luding, No. ----

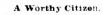
Received from---

The property described below, in apparent good order, except as noted, (contents and conditions of contents of packages unknown), marked, consigned and destined as indicated below, which said company agrees to carry from Skaguay to Lake Bennett and guarantees to deliver the same at Lake Bennett within five days from the date of the delivery to and receipt of the same by said company at Skaguay, unless delayed by fire, floods, storms, destruction of the road or any part thereof, or by riots, mobs, strikes, stoppage of labor or other labor disturbances. It is mutually agreed in consideration of the rate of freight hereinafter named that any service to be performed hereunder shall be subject to all the conditions of this company's published freight tariffs, and to all the conditions, whether printed or written, herein contained, and which are hereby agreed to by the shipper and by him accepted for himself and his assigns as just and reasonable.

The strange thing is that any man would sign such a contract. Ordinarily, on a railroad or steamship line, such a bill of lading is safe enough; but on the alleged Skaguay route, which is no "route at all, but merely a trail of travail, untold hardship and disappointment, it is a snare in which no same man should be caught. When a man consigns his goods to such a contract he simply is in luck if he over sees them again. And if he is green enough to do it he doesn't deserve it.

Alaska is a land of great opportunities, possessing a wealth of resources which can and will in the near future form the basis of support of hundreds of thousands of men and women. Those opportunities offer such a wide field for industry, enterprise and capital that they can be briefly outlined. Mining will continue to be the great industry. Alaska is very properly known as the poor man's mining country, because it is the poor man who first penetrated the great Yukon basin and dug for himself the gold that nature has there bestowed so lavishly. What a few hundred men have done in the past, thousands and tens of thousands will do in the future.





Among those large generous hearted argonauts that were located at Sheep Camp, when the awful avalanche, that took half a hundred lives, occurred on Sunday last was Dr. J. E. Maples, who at once, in the cause of humanity, placed his skill and medicines at the cause of those who were fortunate enough to be taken out alive and needed medical skill to maintain what little life remained within them. The Doctor was also selected by the citizens of Sheep Camp as one of a committee to look after the bodies of those taken (at from beneath the snow, and so well did he do his duty that all relatives and friends of those who lost their lives in the awful calamity, will bless him when they learn how carefully he and his fellow-committeemen looked after the dead, who were thousands of miles from home and loved ones.



Postal Inspector John P. Clum has been busy for some days overhauling the Dyea postoffice. Many desired changes will be made in the service, as Mr. Cium has authority to inaugurate any improvements his judgement dictates. A system of lock boxes will be installed and the force of the office increased, so that mail can be handled expeditiously. The people of Dyea may congratulate themselves upon the good fortnne of a visit from Inspector Clum.

A Heavy Sack

James O'Brien arrived from Dawson on Fridav with 104 pounds of gold dust. consigned to the American National Bank of Helena, Mont., by the North American Trading and Transportation Company.

#### Reindeer Dying

Reports from Pyramid Harbor are to the effect that the Government reindeer are dying off very rapidly for lack of proper food. It is said they are going at the rate of five or six per day.

#### Captain Ray Arrives.

Captain Ray, of the U.S. Army, stationed at Fort Yukon, arrived at Dyea on Friday. He had the pleasure of viewing the greater part of the relief expedition, which he believed necessary to prevent starvation in the Klondike.

Probably over five hundred Elks have passed over the summitt but not one of them was unfortunate enough to be caught in the snow avalanche at Stone House.

Dr. J. A. Cleveland was one of the most indefatigable workers of the rescue party who devoted his energies and money to the noble cause.

Nelson Bennett, manager of the Chilkoot Tramway Co., devoted his entire time to the rescue. He detailed all the forces of the company for work day and night. and has hired a gang of men to push the work of recovering any more bodies that may remain in the mass of snow.

HOTEL



HILKOOT

THE LEADING HOTEL IN THE CITY.

First class rooms. The table supplied with the best the markets afford. Cen rally located on the direct trail to and from the interior. D. H. MCDONALD. SHALLCROSS, MACAULAY & CO

Manager.

# IN MEMORIUM.

Wilbert Garfield Fockard, aged seventeen years, beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. C E. Packard died Sabbath morning, April 3d, of celebro-spinal meningetis after a imgering illness of five weeks.

Wilbert drove his father's team to Sheep Camp on February 38th. Enveloped in his big fur coat, he unloaded his sleighs and throwing open his coat, made it possible for the cold, cutting wind from og the Chilkoot mountain to find its way to his young blood, and, as he turned his horses homeward, he little thought it was his last trip over the trail he had learned to love, and that his life's work was finished; but such it proved be, for on his way back he was stricken with a chill, and when he reached home we knew that we had cause for alarm, and from that moment everything that loving hands and the best of medical skill could do was done for his recovery, but without do was done for his recovery, but without avail, and Easter morning, April 3d, his tired, fluttering heart refused to do its work, and so peadeful and quiet was it, that we scarcely knew that his spirit had left the body and goue to swell the great chorus of hozannahs to a Risen Christ.

His inflamed brain during a portion of his long sickness, made him unconscious of his suffering; but during all his illness he was the same quiet, gettle, uncomplaining boy of old. During the last dap and night his mind was clear and his last hours were especially happy ones. Friends and neighbors said the last sad rites, and laid him away to rest. We buried him Monday morning at 11

We buried him Monday morning at 11 o'clock. It was fitting that he be buried in the morning when the subships was shedding its rays over the valley and on the monstain top, for his life was one of subships to all around him. So we laid him away to rest in the valley, between the snow-capped mountains—for high up the mountains spoke of a mantle of purity, and the gentle south breeze had dispelled the snow far up the valley, and here and there an opening bud tells of the life beyond.

So we laid him away to rest in the morning sunshine in the valley, when the buds were opening to a new life, and the south breeze pushes back the chill of the summit winds, and his spirit has gone to our God who gave it.

# The Avalanche.

C. E. P.

The terrible catastrophe near the summit of Chilkont pass on Sunday last, is a subject which the editor of THE TRAIL would fain have others write of. It was simply awful. In no way we can now think of is there any consolation to be found for this indescribable horror. Nearly a hundred brave spirits were crushed to death without the slightest warning. It is the saddes incident in the history of Alaska, and a whole world will stand aghast as the death-roll is tallied off. In every city, town, village and hamlet in the land will the names of the dead be awaited in agony, for fear that some loved one may be in that awful list, and many an eye will be transfixed with borror as it gazes upon the page that tells of the fearful fate of the lad who left home but a short time since with a heart full of hope and courage to win fortune in the gold fields. It is painful to ponder upon the cruelty of this most fearful casualty. It is tragic in its every respect, and it is with feelings of relief that we quit the theme for the time being.

Funeral Notice

Wibert Garfield Packard, beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Packard, died Sunday morning, aged seventeen. Buried from his residence, corner of Main and Third streets, on Monday, April 4, 1898. Los Angeles and California papers

please copy.

The Chilkoot Trading Co. continues to do an enormous amount of outfiting business.

