

THE WHITE PASS AND YUKON RAILWAY

Between
Skaguay
And
Lake Bennett

If a railroad similar to the White Pass and Yukon, recently completed from Skaguay to Lake Bennett, had been built in any other region, it might have attracted attention. But up this way we have become accustomed to seeing great things performed in overcoming natural obstacles, and the work has been carried to

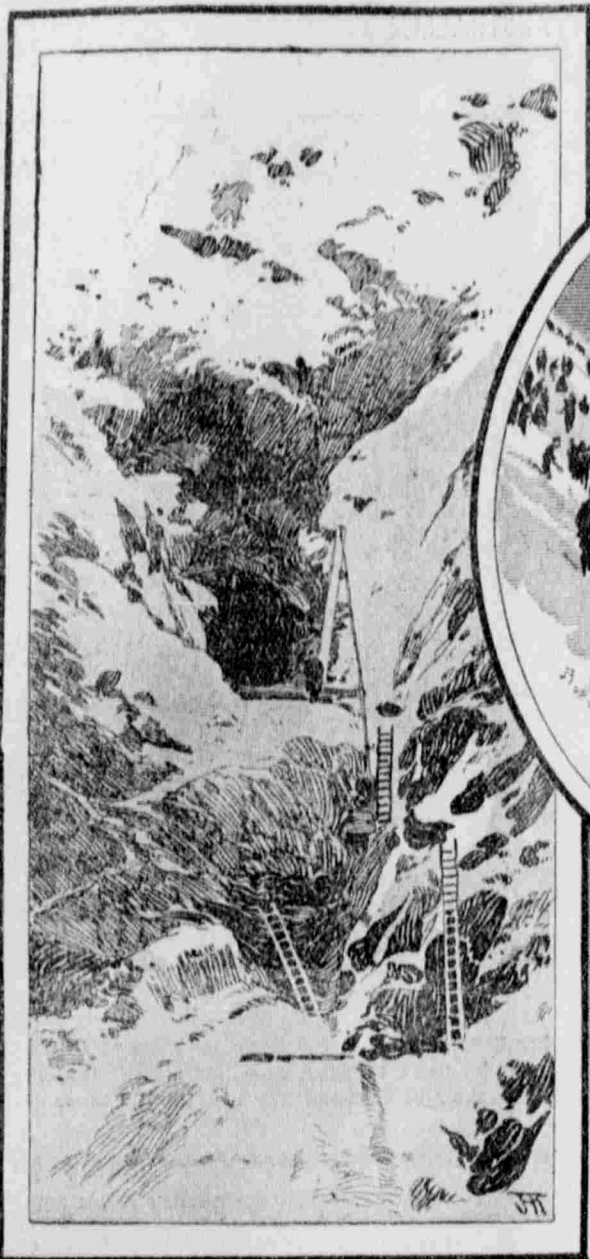
It used to cost \$1 a pound to get food over the passes to Dawson, but it is now smooth traveling now that no one would ever dream of the almost insuperable difficulties which were grappled with and successfully overcome by the engineers. In the first place, the preliminary survey, in the face of vast physical obstacles, was accomplished in

It is difficult to believe this now, with the present luxurious accommodations afforded, but there are the evidences, as stated. It is easy to credit the tales of risk and dangers incurred by the builders of the road, for they are told in the tunnels bored through the mountains, the escarpment of almost perpendicular cliffs and the torrential streams spanned by bridges at dizzy heights. Deep cuts were made in mountains which stood right across the route, in some instances whole slopes being blasted away. In opening one 16 foot

having to import nearly all their men from outside of Alaska, and at the beginning having only 250 available. At one time the total number employed was 2,500 men, but the next day came the rumor of a new gold discovery over the mountains, and 1,700 of them "lit out" for the placers. Some came back, and the places of others were filled by newcomers. So the work went on, and at last the projectors had the satisfaction of seeing it completed.

It is predicted—for we are great on predictions up this way—that there will be a great access of travel over this first railway in Alaska as soon as the season opens. There may not be any large addition to the mines, but Alaska, as is well known, has become a favorite excursion resort for summer time, and nobody will want to leave without taking the trip over the famous White pass, with its memories of suffering, its mementoes of terrible toil and its traditions of times connected with the first stages of the Klondike gold fever.

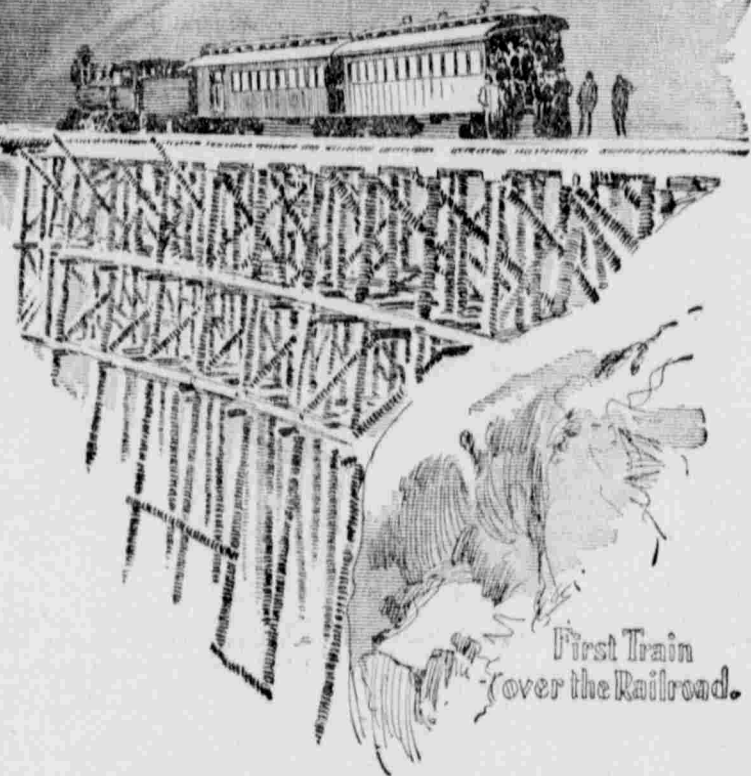
There are more entrancing views along this road—so say those who speak from experience—than in the Alps, the Pyrenees, the Rockies or the Himalayas even. There is a glorious watercolor looking back at Skaguay, there are deep gorges to cross on secure bridges, there are mountains that



A Tunnel through Solid Rock.



On The Summit of The White Pass.



First Train Over the Railroad.

a successful conclusion without causing any excitement whatever.

There is nothing, for instance, more wonderful than the growth of the town, or rather, city, from which the new railroad starts—Skaguay. Less than four years ago it contained hardly a dozen log and frame houses, a sawmill, six eating houses, four saloons, a dentist's establishment, several doctors' offices, a tailor's shop and about 300 tents filled with recent arrivals. Today it is difficult to tell just how big Skaguay is, but probably it contains from 1,000 to 5,000 inhabitants, has electric lights, waterworks, graded streets, steamship docks and other up to date luxuries.

But the railroad, over which the most perilous portion of the terrible Klondike journey can now be accomplished, is really a wonder even in a country where wonders never cease. Starting from Skaguay, it takes the traveler to the summit of the formerly dreaded White pass, which is 2,855 feet above sea level, over a roadbed the gradients of which are not more than four feet in a hundred and without a curve in it exceeding 16 degrees. Beyond the White pass the grade is easy all the way down to Lake Bennett, where boats may be taken for the golden Klondike and the rest of the journey made by water.

two months' time. Following close upon the heels of the intrepid surveyors came the engineers of the road proper, who pushed things so energetically that in about a year's time the work was completed. This herculean task was achieved at a cost of about \$2,500,000 and in spite of the prediction of experienced travelers who had been over the route that it was absolutely impracticable. Now, if you want to take the Klondike trip with the rough edges scraped off, it is only necessary to get into a car after breakfast in order to arrive at Lake Bennett in time for luncheon.

On the way in, however, one will be impressed with the horrors of antlered times as the cars roll over the rails. On every side are the bleaching skeletons of moles, horses and oxen, giving the scene the aspect of a battlefield. One may easily believe the story they tell at Skaguay that more than 3,000 were killed on the trail from the coast to Lake Bennett, which at one time was actually choked with the dead and dying. Not only dumb brute but men perished miserably here, falling in their tracks and with their faces turned toward that region of gold which has lured so many to destruction and enriched comparatively few.

cut through solid rock 250 tons of dynamite and blasting powder were used. A huge cliff is pointed out from which the entire face, 120 feet high, 70 feet broad and from 15 to 20 feet thick, was removed at one terrific blast. Many men lost their lives, and beneath one big rock alone lie the remains of two unfortunate laborers who were caught and buried by the falling mass. The managers of the enterprise had great difficulty in getting sufficient laborers,

place the clouds and seem to straddle the railroad, their crests in the region of perpetual snow. The word has been passed down from those who have taken the trip that if we want to see the grandest scenery in Alaska (and that means almost anywhere in the world) we ought to buy a ticket from Skaguay over the White pass, to Lake Bennett and return.

THEODORE MURRAY DENTON, Sitka, Alaska.

A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL NOVELIST.

Although Mr. F. Marion Crawford, the novelist, did not embark upon his career until he was 28 years old (he is now 40), he has certainly made up for lost time. To produce a novel of unusual interest is no matter of difficulty with this prolific writer, and he is equally facile in securing a publisher, though it is rumored he writes and brings out more books in a year than his devoted admirers, with all their enthusiasm, can read to read, the number up to date being 36. He is a victim, some one has said, of the "craze of Crawford," which leads him to imagine that his



mission is to write all the books the world desires, or at all events ought to read.

However, Mr. Crawford has made novel writing pay. He owns a fine residence in Italy, where he was born, sports a yacht and other expensive luxuries, and altogether is a conspicuous example of what the author ought to be—rich, respected and influential.

He is called by courtesy an American, but resides abroad. Personally handsome, a 6 foot blond with bright blue eyes, with a beautiful wife and a family of attractive children, Mr. Crawford is surely to be envied. It may seem superfluous to add that Mr. Crawford is now engaged in writing another book.

STATUE OF KING ALFRED THE GREAT.

It is a far cry from the times of King Alfred the Great to the present, for just a thousand years have elapsed between the time of his death and the erection of this, his latest statue. This work of art, which is reproduced from a photograph recently taken, adorns the appellate court buildings in New York city and calls attention to the fact, perhaps forgotten by most people, that Alfred was a great lawgiver as well as a great fighter. He made vast improvements in the administration of justice in England and caused the rights of property to be respected. It is certain that he invited scholars and literary men to his court from all parts of Europe, translated works from the Latin and aided struggling authors. For these things he deserves great credit and even a fine monument such as that with which the New Yorkers have honored him in one of their city's finest buildings.

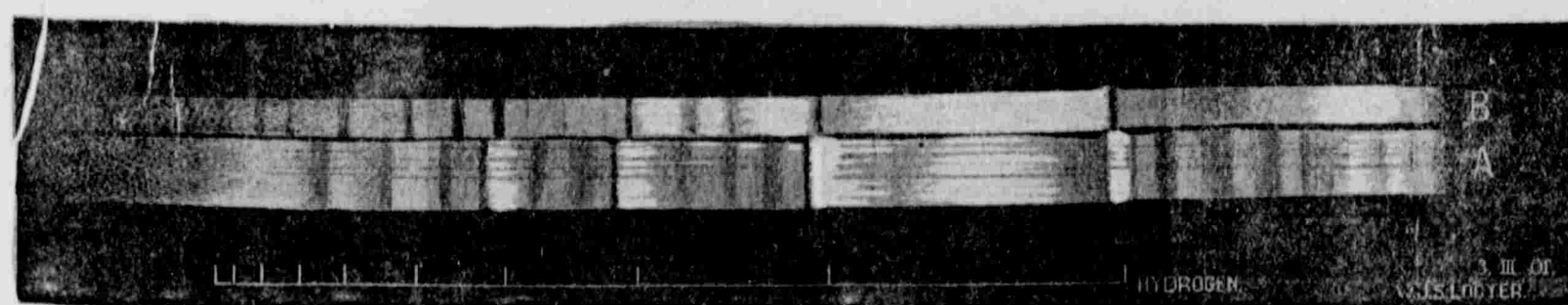


CLAUS SPRECKELS' HANDSOME GOTHIC-FRENCH CHATEAU.



The house represented in this illustration, home of the great sugar king, Claus Spreckels, on Van Ness avenue, San Francisco, bears the palm, it is said, in its special class of architecture. Built of red sandstone, steel and terra cotta, it is as nearly fireproof as a building can be, and at the same time is one of the handsomest houses in California.

SPECTROGRAPHIC REPRODUCTION BY ASTRONOMERS OF TWO STARS IN PERSEUS.



The latest achievement of astronomers is the spectrographic reproduction of the "nova," or new, "dying star" in Perseus, which is shown in the accompanying illustration, together with the spectrum of the brightest star in the same constellation, known as Alpha Persei. This new star was discovered on the 23d of February last—an auspicious date—but its brilliant light is already waning rapidly. By means of the spectroscopic, or, rather, the spectrograph, it was made to write its autograph, shown as "A" in the illustration, that of Alpha being indicated as "B."

JOTS BY THE WAY.

Already nearly \$40,000,000 has been invested in electric undertakings in the Argentine Republic.

In the Gettysburg National park 225 mounted cannons have been placed, and about 300 monumental tablets and monuments have been erected.

Greater New York will spend \$150,000 more at the World's fair in St. Louis.

Honolulu is keeping up with the trade procession of the day. It is to have a \$2,000,000 packing house establishment. Attempts are being made to free the streams of Louisiana and Florida from the water hyacinth. Hundreds of skulls and small vessels have been caught by

the water hyacinths and are unable to get out of the streams in which they are used. The drainage canals in New Orleans are in peril, and the logging industry of southern Louisiana is in danger of destruction.

Germany will endeavor to be its own "mold of form and glass of fashion." Berlin will soon see a fashion exhibit, by which it is hoped that special fashions for German women will be estab-

lished. The managing committee will include members of the highest society. In the matter of population Germany (\$56,345,000) ranks after European Russia (106,122,000) and the United States (76,300,000).

Texas now raises more than double the amount of cotton produced by any other state in the Union.

The grounds around Grant's tomb on Riverside drive, New York, are to be beautified. The trees will be planted, the steep embankment terraced and asphalt walks laid.

In Russia the sunflower is cultivated as a staple crop. The sunflower seeds are an article of diet, being eaten either raw or roasted. The oil is also used liberally in cooking, being practically equal to olive oil.

Russian newspapers are usually diplomatic. When the relations between

BORIS, THE BOY PRINCE OF DISTRACTED BULGARIA.

The sweet faced little boy whose portrait appears in this illustration is Prince Boris of Bulgaria, the chronic disturbances of whose country culminated a short time ago in a ministerial crisis and a threatened invasion. He is the son of Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, who was elected ruler over Bulgaria in 1887, and his mother was the Princess Marie Louise of Bourbon, who died two years ago, leaving, besides Prince Boris, now aged 7, three younger children.

While on her deathbed the unhappy mother, who had been obliged to con-



sent to her son's forced adoption into the Greek church against her wishes, said to him, "When you come to govern, my dear, try to be an exemplary ruler." But everything seems against the youth, who from the first year of his existence has been an object of contention, in the midst of continuous turmoil, in that most contentious of countries, Bulgaria, with its population containing 15 or 20 nationalities and half a dozen different religions.

Sixty years ago 95 per cent of all the sugar made was from sugar cane. Today only 34 per cent of the total product is from cane.

THESE CATS ONCE BELONGED TO QUEEN VICTORIA.



It is said that the most highly prized of the Cornwall children's recent acquisitions are the two charming cats depicted in the accompanying illustration. These were left them by their great-grandmother, Queen Victoria. The Duke of Cornwall is rich in his family relations and has inherited that love of domesticity which has always been a prominent trait of the Guelphs. His children are healthy and handsome, are fond of pets and have been encouraged to cultivate the acquaintance of all the four footed animals tolerated in the princely menage. They have ponies, rabbits, white mice, dogs, etc., but above them all they cherish these feline friends which were once petted by the hand of England's most honored sovereign.

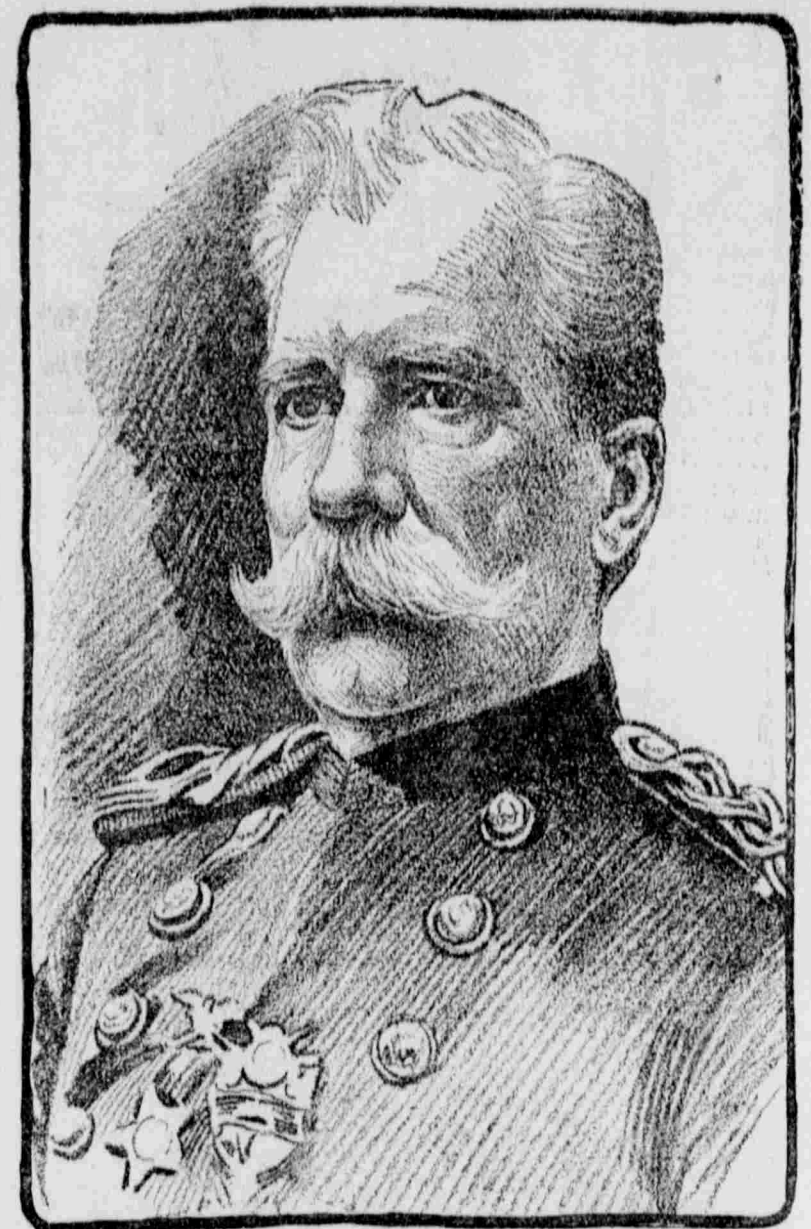
A CANADIAN LEADER.

To say that this is a portrait of Mr. Israel Tarte does not convey the same meaning on the American as it does on the Canadian side of the international boundary-line. This shows how an imaginary political division line can affect the sentiments of contiguous communities, for while on this side Mr. Tarte is comparatively unknown, on the other he is a very prominent personage, a member of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's cabinet and a leader among the Canadian French. He belongs, indeed, by right of what he has accomplished, to the French Canadian upper crust and, though a Liberal in politics, is or has been aesthetically courted by both parties. Though he has frequently urged the establishment of an independent Canada and has been accused of looking forward to being one of its first presidents, he declares that he is still loyal to old England and prefers the union jack to any other flag in the world. By some he is regarded as a "dangerous demagogue," by others as a great statesman.



COLONEL JOSEPH SMOLINSKI, WHO ADVOCATES A STATUE OF THE POLISH PATRIOT, PULASKI.

Colonel Joseph Smolinski is an enthusiast for an equestrian statue of the great Polish patriot, Casimir Pulaski, for the erection of which in the national capital 500,000 Polish-Americans have signed a petition. He enjoys the distinction of having been the youngest officer in the Union service during the civil war. Though born in Canada, he is a son of the celebrated Pole, General J. Smolinski, and is well known as one of the organizers of the Fenian



movement of 1868-7. He was also one of the founders of the organization known as the Union Veterans and of Lafayette post, No. 20, G. A. R., of Washington.

As a forceful writer and speaker Colonel Smolinski has been recognized both in this country and abroad. In 1899 he was honored with a diploma and made corresponding member of the Polish National museum, which is similar to the Smithsonian institution and is the depository of Poland's most sacred relic, the heart of Pulaski.

While connected with several learned bodies of Europe and America, Colonel Smolinski is at present principal assistant in the military information division of the adjutant general's office, war department, Washington.

A CHAIRBOOK TWO HUNDRED YEARS OLD.

In the Franciscan monastery of Madonna delle Palude, in Dalmatia, there is preserved a chairbook, two pages of which are shown in the accompanying illustration, which was the work of a monk who lived more than two centuries ago. It was completed just before



his death, in 1675, after 12 years of hard labor, and the coloring in the illustrations, which he obtained from the juice of flowers, is still vivid and as fresh as though laid on but a few years ago. The book is regarded as almost beyond price.

"GREEK" DESCENDANTS OF QUEEN VICTORIA.



Russian kinsman, the Grand Duke George Michaelovitch.

But the question of such importance is this: Does the fact of these children having been born in Greece make them Grecian? Their grandfather, the king of Greece, is a Dane, brother to the queen of England, and their father is married to the Princess Sophia, who was a German. In fact, these children trace their immediate ancestry directly back to Queen Victoria, for their mother was the daughter of the Dowager Empress Frederick and sister to William, emperor of Germany. Perhaps the Greeks have solved the question to their satisfaction. At all events they seem satisfied.

Uncle Sam and the bear are strained, they maintain that the feelings are most cordial between them. They refrain from vexing the situation.

An effort is being made to establish in one of the Scotch universities a chair for the study of the Scottish language and literature.

Archaeological circles in Rome are disturbed at the report that the temple of Castor and Pollux in the Forum is crumbling. To a certain extent this is true, and instructions have been given to strengthen the foundations.

There are signs that immigration from the north to the south, which has been notably large during the past five or six years, will be larger this year.

The first mulberry tree in America was brought from France in 1835, with the expectation of establishing mulberry groves in New York.