

living thing. I looked across to where a bunch of dogs had been tied up a month and they were gone. Then I thought I had a show strike had been reported and the whole town had stamped out.

But on the river bank I found the harness sleds, packing outfits, etc. had not been taken, so it could not have been a rush. I must be crazy or dreaming.

I went to my shop. The doctor's clocks were ticking. To be sure I had a watch, but I was sure I had stopped the swinging pendulum. It stopped. When I started it again, the clock resumed its ticking.

Say, friend, you can't imagine the fearful thoughts that came over me. I was crazy. This town could not have been here. I had no idea of the place. I had 'gone bugs' and would be out on the first steamer for the crazy house at Portland. Lord, how I was frightened. The sweat ran down my face.

I went outside and looked around. Not a sign of life. I went down the hill to the river bank. Everything was fearfully quiet. The river was very high. A bill as the town was on the far above it, certainly no same person could be identified as the rising stream.

Then I went back to the looking for something. I was listening for some sound, when I heard a faint sound. I went looking up the hill. I saw a man saw a man washing his arms. I went and I was looking at him.

He need not have been a doctor. I have passed me. As I noted him, he disappeared over the hill. I followed and when I reached the top I was so exhausted and scared that I fell and could not get up.

When I got my heart action slowed down and my senses began to work, I saw the whole population of the town was behind the hill, with dogs, food, etc. each family with its few belongings.

Now I will shorten the narrative and anxiety and tell you the rest in short order.

The Northern Commercial Company had a large warehouse on the river bank. The ice had gorged in the river, held back the flow and the water had surrounded the warehouse. The company manager came in from the mines that night, had one look at the rising river and spread the alarm.

"There is carbide, dynamite and giant powder in the warehouse. If the water reaches the calcium, up goes the town. Run up the hill."

It didn't reach it. The ice dam went out and the river went down, and some too soon. These inches higher and the carbide would have exploded and as the story-teller said: "The barg would have went to where there is no nine months' winter and the map of Alaska would have lost another dot."

As I run over this remarkable happening I think: "What a frame for a short story." But I have spilled the beans—the Saturday Evening Post won't have it now.

And here is another one of the unusual while I am at it.

There was a German at Marshall who had lived in Alaska four or five years and had been in Marshall since the gold strike. He was universally liked and was a good citizen. Just before I arrived at the town he had left for Nome on a business matter.

Seeing the war excitement in Nome he told a friend he wished he had taken out his citizenship papers and could be a full American citizen. Doubtless some army official wirelessly the fort at St. Michael about the matter, for when the boat came in to St. Michael he was not permitted to land.

St. Michael is a government reservation and has a fort. Under the law no alien enemy is permitted near a fort or armory. The only way the German could return to his home was to transfer from the ocean steamer at St. Michael for the up-river boats, and the fort officials had forbidden this. For days while the steamer was unloading and loading the man was held aboard, line to get the oil to Nome, a what disposition was finally made of him I could not learn, but he was not aboard when I boarded the steamer.

One more of the strange ones then back to real things.

During the summer a half

locked up this great asset for a

inture) day, which necessity will develop it.

There are many coal deposits discovered in Alaska, but I was told that many of them were worthless, that they contained "green" coal that would have to be a few thousand years before it would be entirely worthless from the fact that they were too far from the river, and the cost of transportation and transportation would be so far above the price in the States that there would be no market for it. And in Alaska there would be little demand for the reason that wood and timber are the two most abundant things. A miner talked to me for three hours about a deposit twenty miles back from the river and when he was shown I showed him how the cost of getting it to the nearest river town would cut up its value, when he argued that doesn't make any difference, we could organize a company and get some money out of it.

I told him I was not a promoter.

Word has been received at the office of Niagara County Farm Bureau, New York State, that a tractor will be a tractor on the morning of the week of Jan. 21 to 22, from 9 to 11 a. m. to 1 p. m. inclusive. Several different types of tractors will be on hand.

Feating eggs was the advice given by the food administration in New York. With the price at from 30 to 40 cents a dozen retail, the administration struck areas from the list of necessities and listed them as luxuries. There's an egg famine in New York, officials state.

Two new voting districts will be created in the town of Aurora, the additional number being required to take care of the new women voters. This will make a total of six districts. The voting machines that have been in use for some time have been sold and six new ones of the horizontal type bought.

John R. Kilrane of Prince Edward island, is in Buffalo, he says, to look over sites for a large fur ranch. Towns in the vicinity of Buffalo will be inspected.

At a meeting of the chamber of commerce of the Tonawandas began a campaign which has for its object the amalgamation of the two cities which it represents.

If "the buyer" for your home is a perpetual student of the advertisement your home is prospering.

Elimination of the so-called Gary plan from the public school system of New York city was ordered by Mayor Hylan in addressing the seven members of the new board of education which assumed their duties.

J. C. Darcy, Allegheny county's first administrator, has ordered that the county's day night or night day schools and that all lights in tax pits be shut off on these nights except those necessary for comfort and safety.

The total number of enrolled voters in the city of Great Falls was 767. Of these, 1,750 are affiliated with the Republican party, 1,492 are Democrats, 182 Socialists, 91 Progressives and 232 failed to express a party preference.

Charles P. Miller of South Byron has been appointed the representative of the state food commission in Genesee county and has accepted the appointment. There is no salary attached but he will be allowed necessary expenses in making investigations.

The holiday vacation for schools should not be extended for the purpose of economizing fuel, was the opinion expressed by Commissioner of Education John H. Rinley, in response to several inquiries from superintendents of schools throughout the state.

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worked-out claims and lost every dollar, then he drifted down the river to Forty Mile, got interested in dredging proposition which never got further than on paper, and relatives sent him money which he was quickly separated from.

To pond to go back an acknowledge his second blessing, he gave up "let go" married an Indian girl and began to work in the stores, managing pool rooms, etc.

It is a fact that there are many such drifters in Alaska. North of Nome, far up in the Indian country are several high-born Englishmen, who have taken prizes and gone back to barbarism. These men were supposed to be "remittance men" who honestly, but foolishly, got their London friends in on some bum investments and were out off from their "downways."

Now they are almost on a level with the natives, seldom come out forgetting their language and they live in the squalor and filth of their Indian companions.

Up in this country north of Nome is unquestionably a big oil field. Many know of it, and many a capitalist has seen it, but none want it. An old timer who had been there told me that crude oil could be dipped up from the crevices and that prospectors used it for fuel. He said the superstitious Indians were afraid of it and would not go near the "burning water."

The locality is such that it would be almost physically impossible to get in the needed machinery, on account of the roughness of the country. There are miles and miles over mountains where a dog sled could not be drawn and only men with light packs and with the aid of ropes can get over.

Representatives of an oil corporation went into this locality two years ago, thoroughly investigated it and abandoned the proposition. It was stated that it would require 700 miles of piping to get the oil to Nome, a distance of half this length and made of him I could not learn, but he was not aboard when I boarded the steamer.

One more of the strange ones then back to real things.

During the summer a half

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