№ 148.

Bank of British North America.

~~Address to the Manager~~
~~THE MANAGER~~

Dawson N.W.T. May 28th 1900

Dear Jim.

I got your letter just in time, for I expect to leave here in a few days for Nome. Any time after the Queens Birthday I may go. We are going to have a great celebration of that event. Maybe you have heard by this that another rich camp has been started, this time at the head of the Koyukuk river, which flows into the Yukon, and in American territory. Most people think it is alright, still it has to be proved a little better. The reports from there are so good that most of the Nome travellers are turning aside; it bids fair to out-class Nome, though it is a hard

country to get into, being about 800 miles from mouth to head of navigation, then 80 miles by pack or poling boat; or by ~~poling to~~ the overland route from Ft. Yukon it is 150 miles (packing).

Billy Dattering has just returned from a trip to Europe, where he had a good time. He invested most of his money safely and where it brings him good interest; he sold all his property here, and is keeping $20,000 ready cash to invest in the Koyukuk, and thinks that if it is as good as the Klondike was he will make a million. He wanted me to go along with him, to keep his books and look after his property, if he got any; but he would want me to stay in there next winter, while he went outside; but I didnt care to give up my trip home, or risk time and money on the venture. He will leave Dawson tomorrow on the Florence V. I wouldnt wonder if he did make another stake.

I have quit the bank giving notice early in April, so as to be ready to start down the river at the earliest possible chance. They could not get a man suitable to take my place at first, so I stayed a few days after my time was up, and they gave me $5.00 per day, etc. Then I went up the creek and got a job, shovelling in, on 17 Eldorado, at $1.00 per hour, the job would last about 2 months, but I only worked 5 nights. I wasn't feeling well so I quit. Ernest Reward is foreman, and offered me a job on the day-shift, if I wished to stay. This is the richest claim in the country. They wash every other day, and it is quite a sight to see the procession of 6 men each with a pan full, one from each of the string of boxes; the pans are not exactly full, but make a nice load. I am not sure whether I'll come back here or go to South Africa; it looks as if the war would be over before I could get there; or I would like to have a crack at

the Boers. That ought to be a good place to go to; there is sure to be lots of good openings, and I've no doubt there will be big crowds going there after the war.
The Canadian government seems to be doing all they can to kill this country, or it would be alright.
I am not sure how long I'll stay at Nome, but when I do come out I shall go to Victoria for 1 or 2 days, and will put up at the Angel Hotel, so if you move, you might leave your address there. I would not like to waste much time when I come; but will take a run up into Cariboo, and in the interval I will send a letter or telegram after ~~you~~ you so we ought to meet without much trouble and go home together. Take care of your money.
Lommie Fletcher and our Martha Ann say they have written to you and got no answer.
I dont expect to hear from you again, till I get out. So long, with best wishes.
Your Tom.