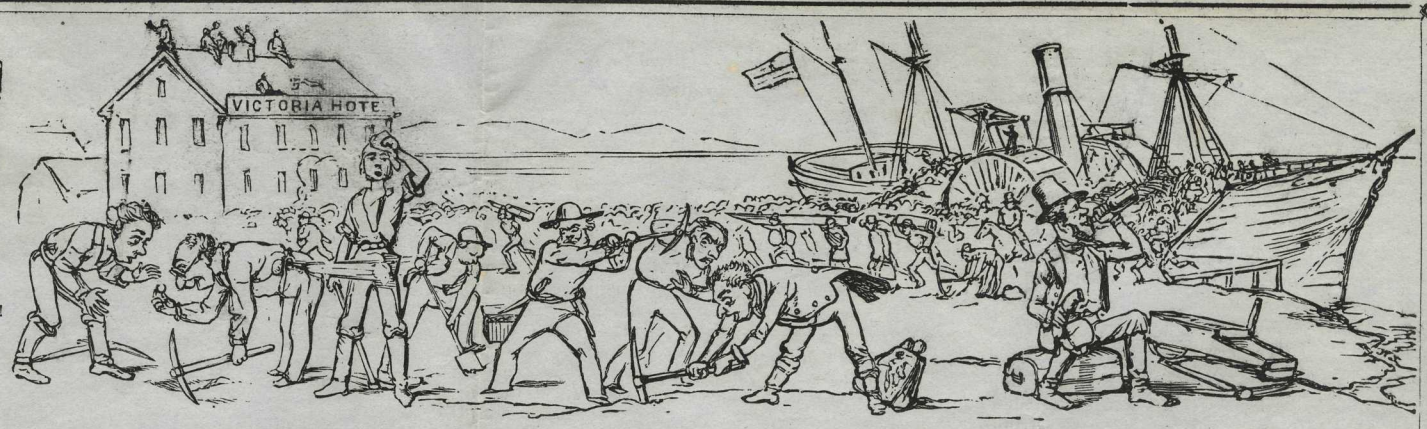
Leaves his family { I aint a goin' to wait for her, 'I swow,' / There's *gold* ahead—I oughter be there now !

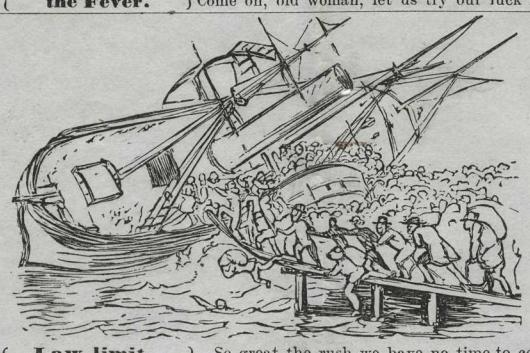


125. { **Wildest anticipations realized.** } Our hopes are realized—we've found the 'tin'! / But where's the bags to put our money in ?

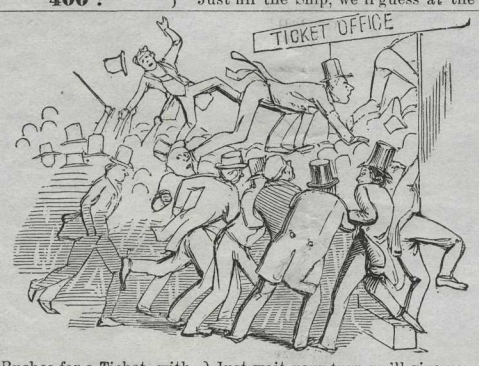
Gold by the cart load! } One half the truth to us was never told, / For here we are, all *ankle deep in gold !*

PRICE, 12 1-2 cts

120. { **Jonathan takes the Fever.** } Confound yer Steamboat ! guess I'll show my pluck! / Come on, old woman, let us try our luck !



110. { **Law limit, 400 !** } So great the rush we have no time to count, / Just fill the Ship, we'll guess at the amount !



100. { Rushes for a Ticket, with Mart Taylor's Local Lyrics. } Just wait your turn we'll give you all a show ! / See what a rush !—will every body go ?

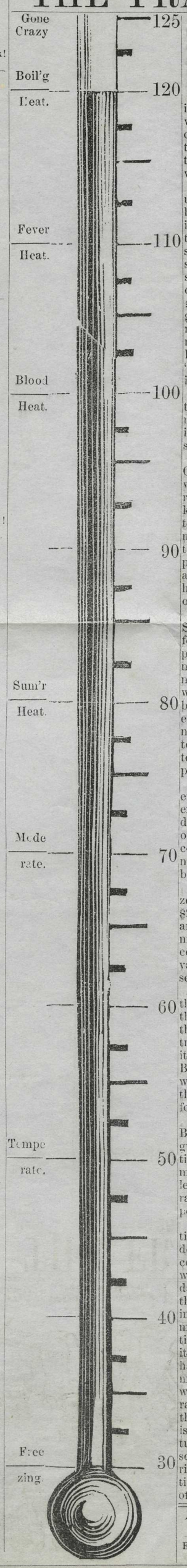
90. { **$500 per day to the man !** } Hurrah for Frazer ! let us shout and dance,— / We'll be the first to take a glorious chance !

80. { **Gets a Letter from his friend.** } Can I believe my eyes and what I read !— / It must be true—then I am off with speed !

50. { **Reports confirmed.** } News scribblers' tales are found immensely great, / Excited Suckers swallow down the bait !

40. { **The Bulletin Board.** } First news from Frazer ! Strangest tales are told ! / Of gold on river bars, and bars of gold !

Country Merchant—Waiting for customers,—or something to turn up!



THE FRAZER RIVER THERMOMETER.

GREAT GOLD DISCOVERIES OF 1858.

THE FRAZER RIVER GOLD MINES, AND THEIR HISTORY.

The fact that gold has existed in quantities among the countries bordering on the Pacific Coast, is not by any means a new discovery, although it is commonly so described. For nearly a century the whole of the vast country which forms the present possessions of the Hudson's Bay Company, has been considered a wilderness capable of yielding nothing but furs and peltries; and yet, as long ago as 1777 that region was visited by an English officer, Carver by name, who published a book in which he mentions the existence of gold in the Northwest Territory, and for which he was soundly berated, as one who indulged in fiction.

Once in a while, of late years—that is since California became a State—a faint rumor has reached us that gold was to be had for the seeking in the countries lying along Frazer's and Thompson's Rivers, but little attention was paid to it. At length, in April, 1858, some persons returned from the new mining region, where they had contrived to get together a small quantity of the dust. This they exhibited to their friends, without at all exaggerating the resources of the land from which they had come; but soon the story of their success was bruited about, until no limit was set to their acquisition, and the sands of Frazer's River were said literally to teem with the precious metal. As an example, it was stated by the Sacramento *Union* that there was in that city, on the 16th June, a young man who claimed to have just returned from a prospecting tour on Frazer and Thompson Rivers. He represented gold as being abundant some hundred miles or more above the junction of those rivers, but not to be gathered on account of the hostility of the Indians. The country, according to his report, was terribly rough and mountainous—"plenty of snow and cold weather, but no timber."—Rivers were to be passed, mountains scaled, canons passed through, in the course of which perilous experience the party he belonged to lost their mining tools and provisions. Nevertheless he saw the gold, which he described as "lying as thick as pebbles upon the bottom of the stream"—so thick that they could have dipped it up in a tin cup, if the Indians had not objected.

In spite of the miraculous nature of this story, the new excitement spread like wildfire. Parties in the interior and elsewhere, who at first had scouted the idea now became its warmest advocates, and newspapers whose editors had scouted every report, were seized with a sudden fever, which manifested itself in the reproduction of articles in which the capacities of the freshly discovered gold regions were set forth in glowing colors.

Our miners, however, did not trust altogether to the journals, or to mere hearsay. Numbers of Companies working paying claims immediately dispatched trustworthy agents, some of whom returned with full confirmation of the news. This was the signal for a general stampede. By the time the first reports were fairly circulated, great numbers of persons who had been considered prosperous were making their arrangements to depart. One man who owned a claim, which had been paying him from ten to fifteen dollars per day, sold it at a great sacrifice, and took the first conveyance, followed by many of his neighbors, whom his example had inoculated with the prevailing epidemic. The roads in the interior throughout the month of June were thronged by miners, journeying toward the nearest point of departure with all the implements of their arduous calling about them. The first steamers took away from San Francisco as many as one thousand at a time, and one conveyed away some thirteen hundred. The hotels were crowded to suffocation, and those establishments which dealt in miners' outfits were making money rapidly.

There was a succession of reports rather contradictory in their nature, but still the rush increased. Several mining towns in the state were depopulated. Even public officials abandoned their duties and followed with the tide. In the latter part of June, more authentic information was received. Several parties who had gone up to the mines returned to the city to purchase provisions, but, instead of magnifying the yield of gold in the new mines, most of them were very guarded in their replies to the many questions which were put to them. These made their purchases and hurried back to the diggings with all possible speed, thus adding still further confirmation to the miners. Some of the gold soon began to be shown about San Francisco. It is for the most part in very small scales, which renders its extraction from the sand a matter of some difficulty. Coarse gold, however, exists upon or in the neighborhood of Thompson's river, and large strikes are said to have been made. From one hundred to three hundred dollars are said to have been made by fortunate miners in a single day. Others, whose testimony is vouched for by competent authorities, claim to have made an average of twenty dollars per day each, during a period of several weeks.

The large numbers of persons who were pouring into the British Possessions now alarmed the Governor, Douglass, who lost no time in issuing a Proclamation, warning the adventurers, that they were encroaching upon the rights of the Hudson's Bay Company, and forbidding them to trade with the Indians upon any pretence whatever. They were also informed that they must obtain a paid-for permit of the officers of the company at Victoria, before ascending the river, and that no American goods could be introduced for the purpose of trade without the payment of a heavy license fee. This ordinance, which was just enough in itself, has undoubtedly retarded for a time the growth of Victoria, but at that point is destined, eventually, to flourish, one of the principal cities on the Pacific coast.

Advices from Frazer River to the 15th May, added fresh fuel to the flame. Several well known citizens returned, all of them having considerable sums in dust, and one being said to possess as much as $20,000 in Frazer River treasure. Three places on Bellingham Bay are contending for the superiority, and this is within the American limits, the public attention is principally directed that way. Companies of speculators had already started for those places, where they bought up all the land that was considered available for their purposes, and the prices of lots immediately rose from a merely nominal valuation to prices beyond the reach of wise men's purses. The names of these places are Port Townsend, Whatcom and Sehome; the two latter being near enough together to form eventually one city.

So great did the rush now become, that it was necessary to put on several steamers to accommodate the crowds that were going to seek their fortunes among the golden sands of Frazer's river. So far, the yield of the precious metal had been authenticated, but the miners now found a fresh difficulty in their way. It was ascertained, that during a considerable portion of the spring and summer, the country was liable to freshets, which would render it impossible for some time to get at the principal deposites. Gold, however, is said to have been found in the banks at some point above a place called Hill's Bar, in quantities, which yielded from five to fifteen dollars per diem to the man. Mr. Hill, from whom this bar took its name, returned to Bellingham Bay in the latter part of June, with a report that the river had risen too high to be profitably worked, and that it would be from six to eight weeks before the waters would subside sufficiently to answer the purposes of the miner.

Meanwhile thousands had ascended the river, and improvements were going on at Victoria, in the British Possessions, and at Sehome and other places on the American side of the line. A trail was begun from Whatcom, with the view of establishing a route to the upper mines overland, which by this time is nearly, if not quite completed. Some impetus has been given to trade by this unexpected movement, and persons going to the new diggings are comparatively at the mercy of traders. At Fort Langley, to which point the steamer *Surprise* has been conveying passengers from the Bay, flour has been ranging as high as $75 per barrel, and common salt pork at the extraordinary figure of seventy cents per pound.

The news received by the *Republic*, to-day, (July 2d,) does not in any respect contradict the particulars already received. Numbers of persons who left San Francisco with barely sufficient means to defray their passage to Bellingham Bay are described as being reduced to serious inconveniences in consequence—clams and other shell fish forming their principal diet. Wages for the severest kind of work, such as pile-driving, digging, etc., are only $2 50 per day at Whatcom, owing to the superabundance of labor. At Victoria a somewhat better state of things prevails, but the land is all bought up that is worth the having, and lots are held at extravagant rates. An attempt was made by the British inhabitants to induce the Vancouver House of Representatives to pass a bill authorizing the establishment of a system of Free Trade, for the purpose of inducing emigration, but that body paid no attention to the petition, although Governor Douglass was understood in some degree to favor it. The mines, it is said, will be in a condition to be worked by the middle of August; by which time the river will have fallen. A large yield of gold is then anticipated—with how much reason time alone can determine. A gentleman, long a resident in the Northwest Territory, several years since published a book, in which the climate of those regions is described as being very variable, and such as, in fact, to discourage the idea of a continued residence there. The winters begin in September and continue severe into the spring, during all which time the snows are heavy and the weather inclement. In the spring there is some pleasant weather and in June and July there are very heavy rains. The country which constitutes the gold region, as far as known, is mountainous and forbidding, but there is some interesting scenery upon the rivers, the banks of which are formed in some places by precipitous walls of rock, rising to an altitude of several thousand feet. Such drawbacks, however, only seem to whet the appetites of our adventurous miners, and thousands are still flocking, by every steamer, to the new El Dorado of the North.

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