

Nov 11th 97

Lawson N. W. T.

Dear Percival

Perhaps you will excuse me writing on a whisky bottle wrapper when I say it is the best I could obtain in town. It is so long since I have written you I hardly know what to write. It took me 45 days to bring myself and outfit to this city - 30 days packing it on my back 28 miles over the Hagen Pass and 100 coming down rivers and lakes at from 4 to 10 miles an hour. Of the perils hardships I had I will not burden the letter - suffice it to say I would not go through the same again for all the wealth on earth. I have been here now about three months and have not had a letter since my arrival although there are several papers in town dated as late as Sept 7.

Lawson city numbers about 8000 men
and 150 women. there being about 5000
men in the mines within a radius of
30 miles. all the buildings are log cabin
We have a theater, 60 saloons 3 churches
1 hospital. We are now having what the
pioneers call warm weather 20° below
which perhaps it is when one considers
that for a month at a time it never
crosses above 60° below. A young fellow
Norman Abrams is my partner - we have
a log cabin together and live on
the daily routine of beans, bacon & flap-
jacks - no fresh meat - or meat of any
kind for over three months. We
lived in a tent for a week while it
was thirty below while up Bonanza
but it was not pleasant
I have two claims now on Moose
Hide - whether they are worth

anything or not I don't know.

I intend to come out next summer and you may see me next winter if things turn out favorably here. There is a shortage of grub and many will starve. all food - even horse meat is from \$1 to \$3 a lb. candles \$1.50 a piece beer 50¢ whiskey \$1 and every thing in proportion. It is a great place to gamble every saloon has faro, roulette, black jack, poker, craps, pools, stud, lotter, Reynole and the miners gamble day or night no one thinks anything of winning or loosing \$1,000 dollars and I have seen one man pass 20,000 over the faro table without a twitch. Although in Canadian territory - they are mostly americans. The country is greatly overated while there are a few mines that are

almost pure gold there are ~~thousands~~ ^{thousands}
it would not pay to work. I can give
you this pointer - don't believe a newspaper
report - ~~they~~ ^{reporters here} are all under pay - don't
invest in any stock (for its intrinsic
value) don't grab stake anybody.

The Yukon is now blocked with walls of
ice. If you have any friends who would
think of leaving a position to come here
advise them not to. with the rush
next summer the country will be spoilt.
Two years up here will ruin most people's
health.

There is a Canadian mail now
write me old man you can't imagine
how one lings for outside news - put
in some newspaper clippings and
tell me of your trip to S.B. Merry Xmas
Happy New Year Arthur
Blawson City N.W.T. Canada

Cover 3 cents pink smudge cancel and manuscript Dawson 12 6 97

Nov 11th 97 Dawson N.W.T.

Dear Pereril

Perhaps you will excuse me writing on a whisky bottle wrapper when I say it is the best I could obtain in town. It is so long since I have written you I hardly know what to write. It took me 45 days to bring myself and outfit to this city-3 35 days packing it on my back 28 miles over the Alyea Pass and 10 coming down rivers and lakes at from 4 to 10 miles an hour. Of the perils, hardships I had I will not burden the letter- suffice it to say I would not go through the same again for all the wealth on earth. I have been here now about three months and have not had a letter since my arrival although there are several papers in town dated as late as Sept. 7. Dawson City numbers about 8000 men and 150 women- there being about 5000 men in the mines within a radius of 30 miles. All the buildings are log cabins. We have a theater, 60 saloons 3 churches I hospital. We are now having what the pioneers call warm weather 20° below which perhaps it is when one considers that for a ~~mo~~ month at a time it never crosses above 60° below. A young fellow Norman Abrams is my partner. we have a log cabin together and live on the daily routine of beans, bacon, flapjacks, no fresh meat, or meat of any kind for over three months. We lived in a tent for a week while it was thirty below while up Bonanza but it was not pleasant. I have two claims now on Moose Hide, whether they are worth anything or not I don't know.

~~I~~ I intend to come out next summer and you may see me next winter if things turn out favorably here. There is a shortage of grub and many will starve. All food, even horse meat, is from \$1 to \$3 a lb. candles \$1.50 a piece ~~55c~~ beer 50¢ whiskey \$1 and every thing in proportion. It is a great place to gamble, every saloon has faro, roulette, black jack, poker, craps, pools, stud, lotter, keynote and the miners gamble day & night no one thinks anything of winning or loosing \$1000 dollars and I have seen one man pass \$20,000 over the faro table without a twitch. Although in Canadian territory, they are mostly Americans. The country is greatly overrated while there are a few mines that are almost pure gold there are thousands it would not pay to work. I can give you this pointer- don't believe a newspaper report- reporters here are all under pay- don't invest in any stock (for its intrinsic value) don't grub stake anybody. The ~~Y~~ Yukon is now blocked with walls of ice. If you have any friends who would think of leaving a position to come here, advise them not too, with the rush next summer the country will be spoilt. Two years up here will ruin most peoples health. There is a Canadian mail now. Write me old man you can't imagine how one longs for outside news, put in some newspaper clippings and tell me of your trip to S.B. Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

Arthur

Dawson City, N.W.T., Canada

Case of Kessler & Co. Bros
5-4 Wall Street



1896
New York
Mr. Percival Meigs.

~~West New Brighton~~ N. Y.

1105

Brooklyn

~~N. Y.~~

~~U.S.~~

Miss H. Weston,

ANKK
725
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APR 29
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D. ST. V. S.
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D. ST. V. S.

NEW BRIDGE
DECISION
464
APR 30
4:30 PM
1898

ALASKA
191
DEA

Mr. Dawson
Lempson - Lollen
Copy given