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SECOND AVENUE

WOMAN GOLD INSPECTOR IS UNIQUE PERSON

Mushed to Yukon in Gold Rush of '98 and Lived Many Years in North Country.

Known to all the "sourdoughs" of the Yukon territory as the only woman who participated in the famous gold rush of '98 and, in addition, noted as the only woman gold inspector, Miss Katherine Ryan, of White Horse, Yukon Territory, is spending a few days in the south during the course of a four months' leave of absence from her duties.

Woman Gold Inspector.

When seen by a reporter, Miss Ryan displayed a modest reticence as to her achievements and experiences. While admitting that her position as gold inspector is unique in the history of women's work, Miss Ryan lays no claim to any superiority over her sex by reason of having held this position for the past fifteen years. Gifted with that broad vision and open mind which is the corollary of her varied experiences in the open spaces of the Northland, she strikes one as being eminently suited for a position which calls for an almost unerring judgment of human nature.

The Rush of '98.

Twenty years in the Yukon, during which she has lived among the miners, has provided Miss Ryan with an intimate knowledge of conditions extant in this vast hinterland—a knowledge which forms an invaluable asset in her work. At the time of the rush of '98 Miss Ryan was, as she frankly stated this morning, entirely dependent upon her own resources. Being gifted with indomitable pluck and an iron determination, coupled with a shrewd foresight, she decided to seize the opportunity afforded by the opening up of the North. And quite alone she set out on an All-Canadian route, not knowing where she was going but, as she says, "just going blindly on." Finally, after incredible hardships she arrived at Glenora, then continued her journey from Teslin to Atlin.

Tribute to "Sourdoughs."

Referring to the hardships of the trail, Miss Ryan said that food was an uncertainty and it was a case of every man for himself in that grim struggle against the elements to follow the beckoning finger of fickle Dame Fortune. Of the men who participated in the rush Miss Ryan has high praise. Though perhaps lacking in the veneer of the higher social attainments, these prospectors, said Miss Ryan, were men in the true sense of the word. The hardships of the journey called for the exercise of those fundamental principles which lay hidden beneath the surface. Neither the very old, the very young nor the weak-minded could take part in that struggle, and Miss Ryan looked back with pride to the fact that she, a woman, had been able to endure with the hardest.

Womanly Touches.

In her unique position as the first white woman in the camps at Teslin, Atlin and Glenora, Miss Ryan found many touches treasured by even the most hardened miner. Despite a total lack of nursing experience she was called upon to minister to men taken ill on the trail, and she treasures among some of her proudest rec-

ollections the knowledge that she was able to perform these little services for the men "who were so square in their dealings with her."

In the course of conversation Miss Ryan mentioned that she had suffered a recent bereavement in the loss of a sixteen-year-old nephew who perished in the Sophia disaster. This boy was one of a family of four orphans whom she adopted when the eldest was but seven years of age and whom she has brought up and educated.

A Patriotic Worker.

As may be expected, Miss Ryan is one of the many women of the Yukon who have for the past four years contributed so much to the winning of the war. In this connection The Weekly Star (White Horse) may be cited: "During her long residence here (15 years) Miss Ryan has been prominently identified with all charitable and patriotic movements, and her departure will be a severe loss to the local branches of the Red Cross and the I. O. D. E. in both of which societies she is a life member. During the past four years Miss Ryan has under the auspices of the I. O. D. E. conducted a rummage sale at her home and yesterday turned over the last \$50 instalment of the \$1,000 she has thus raised for war work." Speaking of her work for the Red Cross, it transpired that Miss Ryan has raised more money for patriotic purposes than any other person in the Yukon. Despite the demands made upon her time by her Government duties she has during the past four years been instrumental in raising \$22,000 for patriotic purposes. Most of this she raised among the mining camps, "mushing" many hundreds of miles alone with her dog team for this purpose.

Six years have elapsed since Miss Ryan last came out of the Yukon, and while on leave she will seize the opportunity to visit relatives in the East.

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