

There is no coin in circulation less than 25 cts. Never was I in a place where necessities were so high. Freight is five cents a pound and then there is a duty of 30% on everything so that things are double what they are outside. Bread is 10 cts. a loaf, milk 25 cts. a quart, butter 50 cts. a pound. There is no fresh butter. Oranges and bananas have come down to \$1.00 a dozen and lemons are only 50 cts. " " Cucumbers are 50 cts. each.

I have found in and around Dawson ten species of willows three of which are allied to species that I know and the others all new to me. They are the most beautiful in flower of any willows I have ever seen and vary a good deal. Some species have rare bushes with monoecious catkins also wholly pistillate and wholly staminate on the same bush. Collecting willows is an almost endless task.

Dawson, Y. T. Canada,
June 24, 1914.

My dear Mr. Dean:-

You will wonder why your most welcome and delightful letter has not been acknowledged. I hope that the above address explains, measured by the time letters take to reach me this place is more distant from my world than any yet visited. I have been here since April 18 and have seen winter, spring and summer in these few months and before autumn begins I'll be back again in S. F. and so happy to be at home again.

Prof. Sargent asked me to undertake the study and collection of the Yukon trees and shrubs particularly the willows and he pays the expenses of the expedition. It was necessary for me to be here at the very beginning of vegetation as the

[Rec'd in Shelburne N.H.
July 9, 1914]

willows are first to bloom so I
had to come from Skagway over-
land and the journey was
by train a comparatively short
distance (a half days ride)
and then 340 miles in an
open sleigh. We were six
days on the road stopping
over night at the most ex-
pensive road houses where
the accommodations were very
poor. We had to pay \$4.50 a meal
no matter if it were only a cup
of tea or coffee, and \$2.00 a night.
One road house was built
without any windows and
the logs were green so that
dampness permeated every-
thing as the place never could
be aired or dried. We had a
snow storm three days and
evenings and mornings were
below zero but as we had a
charcoal stove at our feet ~~we~~
and were well wrapped up
we did not suffer. I was sorry
for our driver who had no

stove and very little protection
except his great fur coat. His
cheeks were scarred from the
removal of frozen flesh.

The hotel at Dawson is also
expensive and no place for
my work so I sought a furnished
cabin and found quite a nice
little place of two rooms in
which I have been living a
hermit life for two months.
There were many cabins to
rent but most of them
were not fit for anyone
but a man who could live like
a pig. Mine has a nice green
partition across one side of the
living room so that the bed
and kitchen door are concealed.
The furniture is fair (I have three
rocking chairs) but the dishes
are odds and ends. There were
three knives, two being huge
carvers and the third a tiny
little silver plated butter knife
with the brass more evident
than the silver. I had to buy
at outrageous prices, sheets, pillow
cases, towels and three steel
knives.

speaking to nobody but the waiter at the restaurant the man at the library window, or the storekeeper from whom I bought what I needed for breakfast.

I expect to leave in two weeks but it will be August ere I am in S.F.; for I shall stop to collect on the way. I return up the river to White Horse and Skagway.

Tomorrow I hire a saddle horse for three days and go to the higher mountains about thirty miles away. There is a road house, twenty-four miles from here where I can stop over the two nights.

The tundra vegetation is so similar to that of the high peaks of your eastern mountains or the flowers of northern Maine, I sent for Gray's manual to aid

I have had to tag the bushes and from some have made three collections, flower, fruit, leaves; for in some the leaves did not fully develop until after the seed was ripe. It has been so interesting following up each species from the winter bud to full development. Of course, I have collected almost everything else, even made an attempt at mosses and fungi when I had plenty of time. Now, I am too busy to pay any attention to them. I have made ten sets which means thirty specimens in several instances from one bush. I got a lot of the little round dry-wood tags and they seem to have escaped everyone's attention except mine. I'd have missed them too if I hadn't also gashed the stems low down

and added some identification mark in my note book.

My cabin is on an elevation at one ^{north} end of Dawson and commands a view of the whole town and of the river up and down. I see all the boats come in and go out when I am at home.

I had planned to go to the top of the highest mountain of the ranges surrounding the town, on the night of June 21st to see the sun go down and come up again in a short time. It has been rainy during all these longest days of the trip and had to be given up. On the night of June 21 there were 20 people ~~at~~ holding a religious service at midnight on the summit but they saw nothing and it was damp and cold.

It has been raining all

day. Now at 10 P. M. the sun is shining and I see a rainbow spanning the sky. The sunsets are most beautiful here and are continuous with the dawn. It is not dark at all during the night. People don't know when to go to bed or get up. Base-ball games begin at 8 P. M. and indeed that is the time for all shows to begin. The movies satisfy the craving for dramatics. I have heard no music nor seen any kind of a show since I've been here. The Carnegie library has been my relaxation. Now, I have no time to read; but before the vegetation got so flourishing I read a book each day. Letters were so infrequent until the river was open to navigation. I was more lonely and homesick than I have ever been. After I'd pass days

as it seems to rain every day
more or less now.

I keep perfectly well but am
thinner than I was, as the belts
of my skirts are all too large
and have to be pinned on to
my waists with safety pins.
I think it comes from lack of
the proper amount of sleep. No
matter how dark the room,
my mind cannot be made
to realize that it is sleep
time when it is so light
that I can see to read.

I must close and go to bed
as it is past eleven and I should
be up early in the morning to
attend to the plants that are
now in felt driers. I'll leave
them in the corrugated while
I am gone and they will
be ready to take out when
I get back.

My kindest regards to
your wife and my most
heartily thanks to you for your
kindness in writing to me
as ever faithfully
Alice Eastwood-

in identification and I've
found all the bog species
identical. There are strange
species on the hills, some
of which have been named
by Greene from a collection
made by Mrs. Sorman. There
is a *Polemonium* too which
I named. I never saw wild
roses bloom so profusely as
here but their season was
very short. I have some
wonderful rose specimens
I use both the felt driers
and the corrugated boards
also the cotton batting sheets
and my specimens have
preserved their colors and
I've been able to get along
with a small outfit. It cost
\$22.00 to bring it in on the
sleigh and I was lucky to
have it brought in on the
stage. There was great
danger of its being left be-
hind until river navigation

was open in June. What I could
have done without it? I'd
have begun to beg old papers
from door to door. Papers are
scarce too in the winter.
For weeks no second class
mail could be brot in and
when it did get thru it filled
5-43 sacks and took the office
free a week to distribute.

However, there is a daily
paper and a telegraf line
so that some news from the
outside world comes in.

There are lots of wild fruits,
the blue berries, raspberries,
currants (red & black) low
salmon berries and the low
cranberry (*V. vitis-idaea*) also
the *Viburnum*. In the winter
they freeze them and then
chop out blocks of ice-fruit,
thaw and cook the mass, all
the meat is frozen and
besides the common meats
includes moose, bear, caribou,

mountain sheep, ptarmigan and
several kinds of grouse. I've had
some of all. There are fish
in the rivers, such as grayling,
trout and white fish and at
some seasons wild ducks are
plentiful.

In a cabin near mine a man
has a captive bear which he
is fattening to kill in the fall.
The skin will be valuable and
the meat also. One day, he
had it out to graze and it
began to run and gave him
a lively time to keep hold of
its chain. He took it down to
the river for a bath and it
almost drowned him. Now,
he keeps it chained in the
cabin all the time. It seems
cruel but isn't worse than
any other keeping of wild animals
in captivity. It is now eleven
and the sunset glow is
very bright. I do hope that
I may escape the rain while
I am on the proposed trip
but it does not seem possible.



Eastwood, Alice. 1914. "Eastwood, Alice Jun. 24, 1914." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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