

# IN THE NOME COUNTRY

Asa Gardner, an Alaskan Miner, Returns to Hermon.

## LIKES LIFE IN FAR NORTH

Gold Mining in Nome Has Been Abandoned Because the Claims Have Been Worked Out and the Miners Are Back in the Interior Again.

Asa Gardner, formerly of Hermon, this county, has lately returned from Nome, Alsaka, to his old home, after spending fifteen years or more in mining operations in the West. Mr. Gardner was in the city Friday calling on friends and related his views of the Nome country, where he has been largely interested in the mining business. Mr. Gardner was among the first to discover gold in that part of Alaska, now known as Nome, which was a wild, unexplored region at the time the yellow metal was found. A peculiarity of the discovery in that place was that the gold was found on the ocean beach in a comparatively small territory. It was evidently carried into the ocean from the interior of the country by the rivers which flow in that direction. The ground in which gold was found at Nome was quickly worked, so that today mining is substantially ended. The people who discovered gold at that point have gone into the interior of the country and are now engaged in placer mining along the banks of the streams, where they are meeting with very fair success. Mr. Gardner mentioned one instance when he and his companions were offered a claim for \$4,000. They declined to purchase it, but subsequently it was bought by another miner for that sum, and within two years he sold it for upward of \$600,000.

The winters at Nome are so cold that it is very hard for an ordinary white man to remain there, and as many as can, leave in the fall and come down to Spokane and other coast ports, where they remain until July 1st. Then they go back to the gold fields and work three months, returning to the United States at the end of that time. Mr. Gardner says the winter before last was so cold in Alaska that little mining was done last summer, owing to the fact that the streams were frozen the year around. He is still engaged in mining in Alaska, where he expects to return about July 1st next. While the Nome country is wild and the weather at times very severe, Mr. Gardner is much pleased with life there and expects to be interested there for many years to come. He does not have much faith in its agricultural possibilities, but says it is a great place for minerals and the greatest spot in the world for fine fishing. He is satisfied our government made no mistake in purchasing Alaska from Russia.