

## **Extract from The Morecambe Visitor**

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### **Progress of the Work : A visit to Klondyke and Dawson City**

Whatever Heysham may be in the future and the probabilities are that it will become a shipping port of no unpretentious character, it is hardly likely that it will ever be able to shake off the pseudonym of Klondyke by which it is known far and near. 'Klondyke Hotel' proclaims itself to the resident navvy when he has finished his daily toil, and to the casual visitor intent on having a look round, in bold white letters shaded in blue, from the gable end of the canteen. Close at hand 'Klondyke Bakery' holds up its head towering high above 'Klondyke Clothing Stores', 'Klondyke Butchery', the barber's shop and the Klondyke Police Station, the two last being cheek by jowl. It is Klondyke, Klondyke everywhere, except just across the hill there, where another canteen opens its doors and which is built in the centre of Dawson City.

It is only a few months since Messrs Price and Wills commenced their gigantic undertaking, but what tremendous progress has been made. Plant has been rolling up on to the scene day by day until the place now resembles an engineering works and timber yard combined. Well-made huts for the housing of navvies have sprung up like mushrooms in the heart of the Klondyke, and further away there is quite a colony of married folks occupying comfortable looking houses erected apparently with a strict regard to the building line.

Engine sheds are being built in close proximity to the offices of the contractors, where the pay is doled out Saturday by Saturday and near which is the pay box occupied every Saturday by the postmaster of Heysham to oblige those thrifty navvies and other workmen who desire to place a part of their hard earned wages in Her Majesty's Savings Bank. Up to the present moment there has been no inordinate rush for the Savings Bank, the bulk of the men making for Klondyke Hotel as soon as their pockets have been lined, and only leaving behind here and there a depositor to interview Mr Clarke. Mr Furness, the agent for Messrs Price & Wills, has now something like 200 men at work, and this number will gradually be increased until the figure reaches 2,000 or thereabouts. At the Near Naze promontory the work of forming the initial portion of the great breakwater is proceeding apace. Metals have been laid around the hill which has to be removed, engines are running backwards and forwards with full wagons to be emptied, and empty wagons to be filled. Here it is mostly spade work, though further on the presence of sandstone rock necessitates blasting operations. This great arm into the sea which has just been commenced will be one mile in length and right across the intended harbour stretching from Red Nab to meet the one from Near Naze, will be another breakwater one and a half miles in length. That too has already been commenced, and a couple of engines are engaged in drawing the wagons.

The steam navvies are at work ripping and tearing at the hillside which by and by will have disappeared, two million cubic yards in all, and have been transferred to form the breakwater which will protect the harbour. There is method and a system pervading the whole works which cannot fail to strike even the most unobservant onlooker, and a discipline, clear and defined, which must leave its mark behind.

Whilst the harbour works are proceeding so satisfactorily and so rapidly, Messrs Godfrey and Liddelow are pushing towards the completion of the line which branches off from the main line near Morecambe and will run right on to the pier to be constructed in the harbour, and which will extend to deep water.