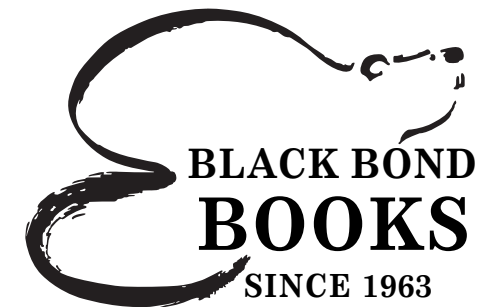




GOLD FEVER. A fully-loaded pack train of mules stands in front of the George E. Trorey jewellery store and the Johnston & Kerfoot Klondike outfitters store in the 100 block of Cordova Street, 1898.

The 1898 Klondike Gold Rush

BETWEEN THE FALL OF 1897 and the spring of 1898, tens of thousands of people caught gold fever and began preparations to head to the Klondike goldfields on steamers leaving from San Francisco, Seattle and Vancouver. Many Vancouver stores made fortunes selling goods to Klondike gold dreamers who bought the required year's supply of food and equipment before departing on their adventurous trip on a steamer for the far north. Pericles Pantages borrowed money from mistress Kate Rockwell, afterwards known as "Klondike Kate," and started a music theatre in Dawson. Upon leaving the north, Pantages opened two theatres in Vancouver that mushroomed into a chain of 70 vaudeville theatres across North America. He abandoned Kate, and according to her, never repaid the loan.



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