

**THE LAND OF NOME; A NARRATIVE  
SKETCH OF THE RUSH TO OUR BERING  
SEA GOLD-FIELDS, THE  
COUNTRY, ITS MINES AND ITS PEOPLE,  
AND THE HISTORY OF A GREAT  
CONSPIRACY 1900-1901**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649188611

The land of Nome; a narrative sketch of the rush to our Bering Sea gold-fields, the country, its mines and its people, and the history of a great conspiracy 1900-1901 by Lanier McKee

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**LANIER MCKEE**

**THE LAND OF NOME; A NARRATIVE  
SKETCH OF THE RUSH TO OUR BERING  
SEA GOLD-FIELDS, THE  
COUNTRY, ITS MINES AND ITS PEOPLE,  
AND THE HISTORY OF A GREAT  
CONSPIRACY 1900-1901**



THE LAND OF NOME



7198

# THE LAND OF NOME

A NARRATIVE SKETCH OF THE  
RUSH TO OUR BERING SEA GOLD-  
FIELDS, THE COUNTRY, ITS MINES  
AND ITS PEOPLE, AND THE HIS-  
TORY OF A GREAT CONSPIRACY  
1900-1901

BY  
LANIER MCKEE



THE GRAFTON PRESS  
NEW YORK

C15025

## PREFACE

**A**FTER returning from his first experience in Alaska in 1900, the author was prompted to write from his diary, primarily for his friends, a sketch of the rush to the Cape Nome gold-fields and the character of the country and its people. This account, with some modifications, forms the first half of this book. The second half, parts of which were written in the atmosphere of the situations as they arose during the following year, has been recently completed upon the adjudication of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Pacific Coast, which, in effect, finally frees northwestern Alaska from one of the most



## PREFACE

dramatic and oppressive conspiracies in recent history.

The writer believes that the discovery of this El Dorado of Bering Sea has created an epoch in the development of our national domain, wonderful and unprecedented in various phases, and but little understood or appreciated by the general public. Because of its uniqueness, it is a difficult matter to treat adequately. Certain features of the subject can hardly be exaggerated; for instance: the magnitude and blindness of the stampede of eighteen thousand fortune-hunters in the summer of 1900, and the almost indescribable scenes which attended their arrival on the "golden sands"; the marvelous richness of some of the placer-gold deposits; the dreariness and barrenness of the new country;

## PREFACE

and the enormity of the judicial conspiracy, whose proceedings the United States Circuit Court of Appeals has declared "have no parallel in the jurisprudence of this country."

Special laws concerning Alaska, the local methods of mining, and various other matters pertaining to the country and its people, are dealt with herein, probably with sufficient fullness for the general reader. The book, however, as a whole, is in narrative form; and personal experiences and character-sketches (especially in the second part) have been freely utilized for the purpose of illustrating characteristic conditions and typical people.

If the narrative in places seems too personal, this, perhaps, will be pardoned, for the reason that an account of the

## PREFACE

actual experiences of a few individuals — tame, indeed, compared with those of many others — may better suggest the atmosphere of a weird land than a mere résumé of impersonal facts. Finally, it is hoped that this book may, in some small measure, prove of service in directing attention to the past neglect and present needs of our wonderful Alaska.

L. McK.

NEW YORK, February, 1902.