



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1903-03-29

Letter from [?] to John Muir, 1903 Mar 29.

Unidentified

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431 - 61st St Oakland Cal.

Mar 29 - 1903

Prof. John Muir
Martinez, Cal.

Dear sir

It occurred to me
that you might give me some light
regarding how the ground at Nome
Alaska became frozen to a depth of
100 feet and more.

Professor J. T. Lemon my good neighbor
urged me to write to you regarding this
(to me) strange phenomenon.

Two years ago in Dec. and Jan. I sank
a shaft on Dry Creek ^{about} one mile from the sea
nearly 100 ft. deep all in frozen ground, am
quite sure the bottom is below the sea level,
at times the deposit was sedimentary and
again it was slide. some strata were made
of pure ice.

On the thirty foot level I afterward drifted

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Twenty-five (25) feet and struck water and was obliged to quit.

In sinking another shaft about three miles from shore on the sea on same channel but in foot-hills and higher up and entirely off the tundra I encountered only eight inches of frost on surface. Found some conglomerate gravel about 30 feet down, which the miners at first thought to be frost.

How could the ground at shaft No. 1 freeze so deep?

Of course the water I encountered was from dry creek channel thawed down by the presence of water and surface gravel. Last winter I erected on Snake River near shore for the Wild Goose Mining and Trading Co. a 500 H.P. pumping plant for hydraulic purposes.

The ground was same as at shaft No. 1, we put 18 feet of concrete into an excavation so far it is O.K., but in time water may thaw it some, I am watching it and will

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