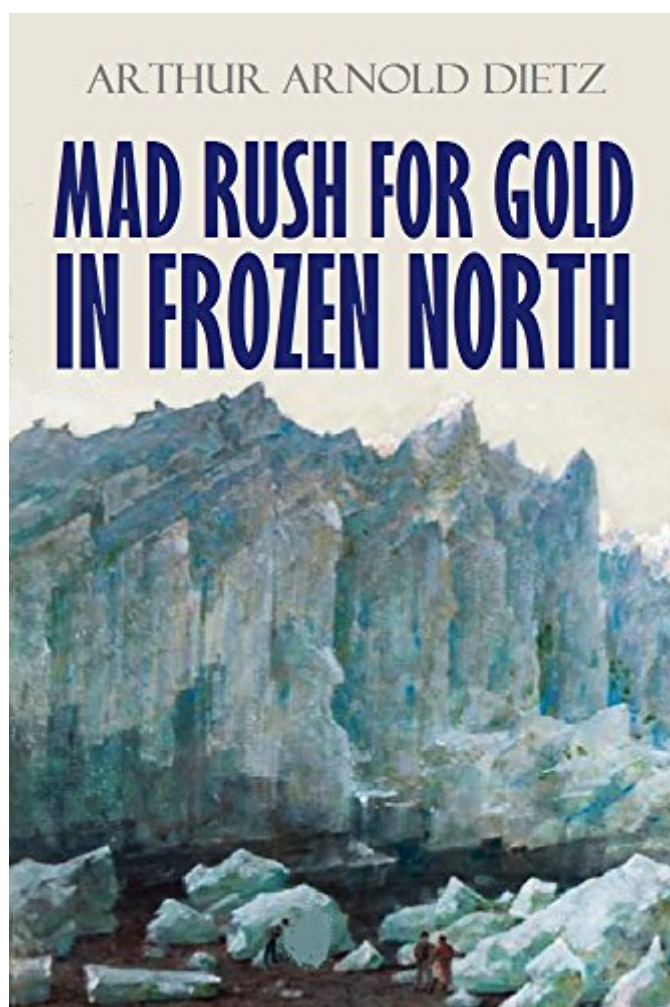


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Mad Rush For Gold In Frozen North (1914) (Linked Contents)



Synopsis

Arthur Arnold Dietz was YMCA director in New York who in 1897 left for the Klondike goldfields with a party of 18 goldseekers. In 1914, Dietz published a book of his true life survival adventures entitled "Mad Rush for Gold in Frozen North." Of the eighteen men who started out, only four of the party ever reached civilization alive, and of the four, two are totally blind, while the other two were left with very poor sight, due to the glaring effect of the sun on the snow and ice. The party traveled many miles into the very heart of Alaska, crossing immense glaciers, which had never been crossed by white man before. This wonderful true adventure is far more absorbing than any of the fiction that has been written about Alaska and has a decided educational value. During the time he was away Mr. Dietz kept a diary in which he recorded his adventures up until the time when he lost all record of time in the great Arctic night, but he kept a record of every incident for the two years and two months that he was away. The city of Seattle, during the gold rush is vividly pictured with all its vices. A heartbreaking trip by boat to Yakutat, Alaska. Meeting the natives and the missionary and their mode of living. The start over the great Malaspina Glacier, where some of the party met their death by falling into snow-covered crevices. After untold sufferings they reached the interior and were engulfed in the arctic night, which held them frostbound for seven months. Their miraculous escape to the outside world through the assistance of a tribe of interior natives and their final rescue by the U. S. revenue cutter Wolcott, then patrolling the Alaska coast protecting the seal industry. For a month before the rescue, the remaining party were compelled to eat their faithful dogs and dead fish found on the beach, and after spending two weeks in a hospital at Sitka, Alaska, where they were taken by the Wolcott, they again reached Seattle, only to hear that they were reported lost two years before. Dietz writes: "One year after my return from Alaska, I was greatly surprised and provoked one morning to read in a New York newspaper that a party of scientists from Washington, members of the E. H. Harriman party, were reported to have discovered four large glaciers in Disenchantment Bay, which had not been seen before by white man, and then giving them names after members of their party and friends. The fact is that somewhere, in the third glacier over which the Manchester and our party had traveled, lie the bodies of several of our party and their dogs and loaded sleds which went down those treacherous crevasses."

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