

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY
On Wednesday and Saturday

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Subscription Rates

Yearly in advance	\$24 00
Six months	12 00
Three months	6 00
Per month by carrier in city (in advance)	2 00
Single copies	25

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1899

NOTICE

When a newspaper offers its advertising space at a nominal figure, it is a practical admission of "no circulation." THE KLONDIKE NUGGET asks a good figure for its space and in justification thereof guarantees to its advertisers a paid circulation five times that of any other paper published between Juneau and the North Pole.

The NUGGET has a regular carrier and express service covering Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail or express may be left at the Nugget Express office or given to creek agents.

THE INVESTIGATION.

It always requires the expenditure of much force to impart motion to any large body—as a scientist would say—to replace inertia with momentum. But there is a natural compensation to this, and that is contained in the fact that the initial force required in overcoming the inertia of the said large body also consumes a greater length of time in becoming spent. Applied to society it is just as true. It took seven months from the first issue of the Nugget to secure the commission of investigation which is now in session; but now that it is secured—judging by the interest being taken in it—it will take another seven months to expend the energy imparted. It is not yet half known upon the creeks that witnesses are exempt. It is desirable that this be understood by one and all, that no witness's evidence can be used against himself. When this is thoroughly understood there will be no waits for more charges—we imagine—as there were on Monday morning. The public must be made to understand that they are safe in the witness box—much safer than in the dock. The government has of course made another mistake in not also deposing to Mr. William Ogilvie the powers of inflicting summary punishment upon offenders, for we are altogether too far from the seat of government and too much isolated by natural barriers to be referring everything to it at every whipstitch of the road. All this is going to take time, just as it took an exasperating long time to start the ball a rolling, so it will take a long time before the last is heard of the evils of Klondike maladministration. Long after the investigation is over we will find it still echoing and re-echoing over the wires like the afterclap of a thunderstorm in the distance, and a pure official atmosphere must result.

The governor was asked why he did not include the exemption—or rather safety—of witnesses in his proclamation, and replied that he believed the press would give it sufficient publicity. So be it.

The laws of evidence under which this investigation is empowered to be held provide that a witness shall answer fully and without reservation any question put to him; but that evidence, no matter how incriminating, shall not, mind the words, SMALL NOT—hear it again—SHALL NOT be used against the witness. This must be understood by all or the investigation goes for naught.

Another element which enters largely into the problematical finis of the investigation, is the fairness and impartiality of the investigator. The Nugget believes Mr. Ogilvie disposed to administer exact justice between the interested parties. Did we not believe this to be so, this paper would not waste one effort in this new contest, for we always have our own court of appeal—public opinion—and our standing there and our correct and impartial treatment at the hands of that court goes without saying. We have tried and won many a hard case there and it is always open to us; so we say again to our readers that the very

fact that we have put in an appearance and preferred charges in the court of investigation demonstrates that we believe impartiality is to be the rule.

The investigation is not to discover or convict the men who have profited by buying clerks to prevent the recording of certain claims until they can stake them. It is to find out if the clerks really have done so. Neither is it to punish men who have bought their way into the gold commissioner's office, but to discover if this has really been done. It is not to punish the men who have profited by forming partnerships with men inside the office, but to find out if there really have been or are yet such partnerships.

Again, let it never be forgotten that the day has gone by when to anger an employe of the gold commissioner's office—the gold commissioner down to the door tender—was to forfeit one's rights in the country. With Mr. Senkler in the back office there is no more supercilious overriding of the public by the clerks at the windows. The word is not passed any more from window to window that "So-and-so is a troublesome fellow, so don't give him any satisfaction," as used to be the case. The fact is that just at this moment, owing to the sitting of the commission, there is little left to be desired at the gold commissioner's office excepting perhaps a set of workable regulations and the abolition of the royalty and reservation of claims. There hasn't been so much civility wasted upon these Americans since the discovery of the Klondike. It is really a pleasure to transact business there now—excepting for the long waits in line.

To sum up, there is no reason apparent at this time why this investigation should not result in not only a great change for the better in the administration of Klondike affairs but also in the restitution to defrauded miners of much of the illegally withheld ground. If the investigation at any time should take upon itself a new and objectionable course the public can depend upon this paper to announce it at once in no uncertain tones.

WHY NOT?

The conditions for transporting mail are much more favorable this year than was the case last winter but the outlook for getting in the large quantities of mail matter known to be piled up at coast points is not nearly so favorable as it should be. Travelers who have made the trip from the coast to Dawson state that the trail as a whole is much better than in former years. The river seems to have frozen over with a degree of smoothness unknown for some years. It must also be noted that the entire trip can be made with little or no food supplies to be transported. Road houses are located the entire distance at intervals of from 10 to 35 miles and from our own representatives now en route to Ottawa we have the information that the accommodations are uniformly excellent.

Such being the case it appears that it is only a question of supplying the men and dogs to secure something in the way of an efficient mail service. Whatever obligation the Arctic Express company or P. C. Richardson may have been under to the government it is apparent to the least observant that such obligation is not being met. In fact so far as our information extends no effort is being made by either of the parties named to handle the mail at all.

Due acknowledgment must be made of the efforts of Col. Steele and the N. W. M. P. to bring the mail in but it is quite evident that more means must be brought to bear to adequately meet the requirements of the situation.

The Nugget has had occasion in previous issues to refer to the presence in the Yukon Territory of a considerable body of soldiery. We have in fact objected to the presence of the troops on the ground that the Northwest Mounted Police have proven their ability to preserve order in the territory without any assistance, and in consequence the maintenance of the soldiers in this country, the most expensive on earth in which to

live, is only adding an unnecessary expense to the government budget.

But since the soldiers are here why not employ them in a capacity more useful than mere garrison duty. They cannot possibly be detailed for any more useful service than the transportation of mail. And in so far as fitting them for active service is concerned no drill or exercises they can be given will develop their powers of physical endurance to the extent that trail life would do.

We are inclined to the opinion that the boys themselves would enter with hearty good will into such an undertaking and would do their best to relieve the anxiety of thousands of residents of the territory who are anxiously awaiting the arrival of long-expected mail. The opportunity is at hand to prove the usefulness of the military. The men of the Klondike would be pleased to see full advantage taken of this opportunity.

A RAISE IN PRICE.

A perusal of our files shows that the NUGGET has steadily increased the amount of reading matter contained in each issue. As fourteen is to nine so is the amount of reading matter of this issue compared with our first number. Our subscription price and the price of single copies is found to be too nearly equal, from a business point of view, and a restoration to our former price of 50 cents per single copy is among the early possibilities. In the first place we do not believe Dawson to be a "two-bit" town and have no desire to see it become so. In the second place, the price of single copies is immaterial to most of our readers as they are regular subscribers and the price to them will not be changed.

INJUSTICE.

The correspondence from Stewart, found in our local columns, reveals a most unsatisfactory condition of affairs at that point. Here were a lot of men coming into a new country anxious to comply with its every law. Desiring to prospect the Stewart river they fix upon a point of land at its mouth building caches and cabins. The place soon assumed the aspects of a town and the people came to the conclusion that a city would be there some day, so it behooved them to look into the laws of the land about reservations etc. The law was found to be that the land was reserved as a highway along the river for 65 feet from the bank. Accordingly the builders paced off the ground and conformed to the law. Then Corporal Green appeared upon the scene with word that a survey was not far off and the men occupying lots would be considered the first applicants. Men wanted to build hotels and stores and other buildings and in conformity with the 65-foot law measured that far back from the river and put up their buildings, Corporal Green stating that he believed 65 feet to be the limit. On a recent date men appeared upon the scene and hauled logs to the rear of those buildings. Their intentions were easily detected when the new 100-foot reservation law recently put in its appearance, for the men in the buildings themselves on the highway and found the men with the logs on the lots.

It is evidently a case of the same old trouble; new laws in operation before the people affected thereby are advised of their existence. The injustice of making those men with buildings forfeit their lots or even move back is so apparent as not to need comment.

Must Record Partnerships.

Are you in a business partnership of some kind, or do you intend so engaging in the near future? If in a position to answer the query affirmatively, then you will be interested in learning that it is, or will be, your duty to cause the fact to be placed upon public record, with all its details, by entering a legal registration of the same with the proper official. This fact became known one day this week when Judge Dugas, in passing upon a lawsuit pending in the territorial court, said that such action was demanded by the territorial laws and that he proposed seeing that the law was complied with in the future. When a NUGGET man besought his lordship for more definite information on the subject, he was courteously escorted to the office of the clerk of the court and provided with a copy of the territorial

laws, within which and in chapter XII was found the following ordinance:

Section 1. All persons associated in business for trading, manufacturing or mining purposes in the territories shall cause to be delivered to the registration clerk of the registration district for the registration of mortgages and other transfers of personal property in the territories in which they carry on, or intend to carry on, a business, a declaration in writing signed by the several members of such partnership.

Sec. 2. Such declaration shall contain the names, surnames, additions and residences of each and every partner or associate, as aforesaid, and the same style or firm under which they carry on, or intend to carry on, such business, and stating also the time during which the partnership has existed and is to exist, also declaring that the persons therein named are the only members of such partnership or association.

The law further provides that such registration shall be made within six months after the date of the organization of such partnership, the one word "company" in the title of his business shall register the same, and that dissolutions of partnerships shall also be recorded. The penalty for a neglect of the ordinance is a fine of \$100.

"This is the law as it stands at present," said the judge, pointing to the page, "and if it is found that it does not properly apply to this region, another one for its substitution will be passed by the council." He further explained that the meaning of the law did not embrace individuals who employ themselves in actual mining, as do the majority of miners and who are partners only in a fraternal sense.

Was Not Dead.

An incident, we believe, not before published was the cruel result last winter of the absence of all mail communication between Dawson and the outside world. Those of us who were outside will remember that Frank P. Slavin was twice reported dead, and upon the second occasion the fatality was related with the minutest detail. So circumstantially was the story given to the public that Mrs. Slavin, living in London, was notified of the death of her husband, and went into mourning at once. For five months the widows weeds were worn when a Klondiker coming out over the ice heard the story and gave it to his. Knowing the Slavin family he at once cabled Mrs. Slavin that he had left Frank in the Klondike country enjoying good health, and the speediest dead man he had ever seen. Needless to remark that the mourning clothes were discarded at once for garments less sombre and a season of jubilee reigned for a considerable time thereafter in the Slavin household.

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DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER

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Our facilities for executing **JOB WORK** are the very latest. Prompt Attention Given to All Orders

If you are in need of any of the following articles they can be found at the Nugget office:

- Letter Paper, Note Paper,
- MEMO BOOKS, POCKET BOOKS, TIME BOOKS,
- TABLETS, PENS, PENCILS,
- KLONDIKE MAPS, CASH BOXES,

Bill of Sale Blanks, Document Envelopes, Deeds, Feather Dusters, Letter Files, etc.

THE "NUGGET"
Three doors north of A. N. T. C. Co.

THE POSTOFFICE

That Important Metropolitan

Postmaster Har

Chaos—Pro

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Readers of this paper have a notice wrong done servant wherever formed that it is to exploit and p same sources. I for at this time postoffice under Hartman. No conditions which prior to his arrival they could the absence of a in the undignis

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