

OFFICIAL MAIL IN THE LEWIS.

The River Rises Five Feet in Five Minutes and Swallows Everything.

Corporal Richardson Nearly Loses His Life—Outfits and Sleighs. All Lost at Last Reports—Wet to the Waist and Nearly Frozen.

A police courier has just arrived from up-river, bearing important tidings of the river at points above. A long report has been received by Colonel Steele, commanding the N. W. M. P., from Corporal Richardson, who, with special Constable Bell, left Dawson with official mail the middle of November. The report relates the entire loss of mail, outfits and sleighs and the narrow escape of Richardson and Bell with their lives. On the afternoon of November 30th the pair of intrepid travelers found Lewis river, in the neighborhood of Big Salmon, jammed to enormous heights. For many days they had been breaking their own trail, but now they had to get out their axes and chop a way through those upturned floes. Darkness found them still six miles from the Hootahinqua, abreast of the six-mile station. They had cut their way through a mile and a half of this mountainous ice and resolved to lay-by until the moon rose. At the station their plans were changed by hearing that the ice on the Lewis river above them had only stopped running the day previous and was in a bad condition for traveling over. They decided to lay over at the post till daylight before attempting the trip and proceeded down to the river to release the dogs and get their sleighs onto the river bank. About half the dogs had been released when a distant rumbling sound was heard. In a second the ice broke between themselves and shore and in five minutes the river raised five feet. They immediately found themselves to be traveling down the river in the darkness with some 20 or 30 feet of water between themselves and shore. On the floating ice they fortunately discovered an empty boat which was lashed and the sleighs and contents lifted in. Just at that moment a foe crushed in between the boat and the shore, staying the boat and lifting everything bodily onto the floating ice again. The first rush of water which broke the ice loose had covered it several feet deep with water before it rose to the top, and now Richardson found himself wet to the waist and in great and growing danger. A long tree was seen in the darkness to be overhanging the river, after the manner of a sweep, and the travelers caught it as they passed and pulled themselves into its branches. Bell had to assist Richardson to shore, as his frozen clothes disabled him from climbing. They followed down on the shore until the ice jammed against a mile below, where the dogs jumped ashore; but had seen no more of the mail, etc., at the time they forwarded their report. The official mail lost by this upheaval of the river was most important. There was the official notification to the attorney-general of Canada of the postponement of the hanging of the four men condemned to die on November 1st; and there were official advices to the government of the workings of the mining regulations, and a number of other most important matters. There was a lapse of over two months between the time the ice stopped steamboat navigation and when the ice could be traveled with sleighs, leaving a great gap of three or more months between advices received at Ottawa. Meanwhile Canada is boiling over with interest in Klondike mismanagement and no word from here at all. All sorts of stories will be afloat throughout the land before the correct story gets out of the postponed hanging, and on other matters also.

Knights Templar Services. It is customary the world over for all Knights Templar to attend divine services on Christmas day, and on which occasion the annual toast is given to the most eminent grand master of Knights Templar, and in accordance therewith Em. Sir William T. Perkins has promulgated the following address: DAWSON, Y. T., Dec. 6, 1898. To all Knights Templar of the United States of America now in the Yukon District of Canada. Greetings: You are earnestly requested to meet at the Fraternity Temple, Dawson, on Christmas morning, Sunday, Dec. 25th at 7:15 a. m. local time for Christmas service and at 7:32 a. m. sharp, corresponding to 12 o'clock noon Washington time, to participate in the annual Christmas toast to the most eminent grand master of Knights Templar of America, Reuben Hedley Lloyd. All Knights Templar of the world now in Dawson are cordially invited to join with their brothers of the United States in the observance of this beautiful Christmas custom. It is not to be our privilege to be with the loved brothers of subordinate commanderies or the still dearer ones of our own home circle on this great festival day of the Christian world, but let us not forget that we shall be remembered, and when the Sir Knights arise to drink that other toast—"To all Knights Templar, wherever dispersed throughout the wide world"—the absent one wintering in the far north will be uppermost in the thoughts of them, and therefore though the hour is early and the winter morning dark night, the occasion is worth the effort. Fraternally and courteously, Wm. T. PERKINS, Past Grand Commander, N. Dak. G. N. ALEXANDER, Past Grand Commander, Wash.

Free Dinner to Poor Men on Xmas Day. The Salvation Army is giving a free Xmas dinner to poor men on Monday, December 26th, at their Shelter, adjoining the Barracks and opposite the Methodist church. This will also be the occasion for the formal opening of the shelter, and will be one more added to the many new scattered all over the world, where

a man who by misfortune has found himself stranded, can get clean lodgings and food, and if he has no money can work for the same.

The dinner will consist of roast beef, plum pudding, etc., and will commence at 6 p. m. Prominent men of the city have been invited to be present and deliver addresses, after which a service of music and song will be conducted in the Barracks. Songs and solos will be given, also selections from banjos, mandolin, guitar, cornet, concertina, etc. Contributions of cash or provisions will be most thankfully received. Tickets are being issued for the dinner and can be had at the following places: The Bodega, Tivoli, Monte Carlo and Dominion saloons, also at any of the S. A. offices.

Can You Locate These Parties? The N. W. M. P. are simply besieged with inquiries from the outside relative to missing friends. If any readers of the Nugget can locate the parties named below they will confer a favor and relieve anxious writers who are seeking them. From Yapanui, New Zealand, is a letter from George McCormack inquiring for his brother William, who was last heard from at Sheep Camp January 21. Mrs. Anna McDermott desires to know about her son, although she does not give his Christian name. The letter is from Fountain, Fillmore Co., Minn. The young man left home two years ago, landed at Cook's Inlet, and has not been heard from since that time. Hugh Foley is another concerning whom a brother in Little Rapids, Ont., writes. Last heard of Hugh was in Dyea last spring. Theo. Sonstebj, auditor of Watowan Co., Minn., writes of a missing sister. The lady was with a party of three in a boat named Lama No. 2341, in charge of a Mr. Rasmussen. Left Bennett about June 2 or 4. The lady's name is Georgine Bryant of Mrs. E. J. Bryant. If any persons can give any information concerning the above missing people and will kindly communicate with the Nugget it will be appreciated by the N. W. M. P. department as well as receive the thanks of inquiring friends and relatives.

Sunday Benefit at the Tivoli. The Benefit given at the Tivoli theatre last Sunday was for Mrs. Walsh, a widow lady of this city. The following program was presented: Mulhigan & Linton, character song and dance; song by Miss Linton, "Nothing is too good for the Irish"; Mr. Biggs, "A Black Hill's sermon"; Mr. Janer, Irish Klondike song; Robert Townsend, song; Miss Stewart, song; Willie Everett, guitar solo; Miss Mertie Honck, song, since thou art mine; Geo. Nobles, song, "Free as a bird"; Miss Watson, recitation, and the popular Rudolphes, in French and English songs. The following occupied boxes: H. S. Turner and ladies, the Northern, the Aurora, T. J. Cozener; Huston & Yager, A. E. Pitty, Mike Bartlett and ladies and Miss Murney of the Fairview. At the conclusion of the program the drawing for the handsome benjo donated by Mrs. Walsh, was given to the one holding the lucky number—the numbers being printed on the admission tickets. H. B. Matchet was requested to draw one number, and after shaking the hat several times, drew out 28, which number wins the benjo.

Deseraint Warrants Out. Three waterfront properties are advertised for sale on December 24th on distrains for rent. The first is M. Resenthal's building, on lot 6, block 3; the second Ralph Rogers' place adjoining the northeast corner of lot 3, and the building occupied and owned by Dr. McWan Bourke. Wonder if either will be sold.

A Citizen's Opinion. Editor Nugget: As the only reliable exponent of public opinion, where the welfare of the people is concerned, the Nugget appears compelled to take the initiative in treating subjects which, although of great importance, would be wholly neglected or sidetracked if the easygoing and humble subjects in Dawson were not spurred into action from time to time after the perusal of its columns. Such being the case, it may be advisable to refer shortly to the contemplated incorporation of Dawson. The matter, although dealt with by the council as far as the forming of an ordinance is concerned, has not been taken into consideration, rejected or approved by the people, and the cause, appears to be the question as to the disposal of the revenue. If this is calmly thought over it will be seen there is no difficulty in eight or ten times the crown revenue would consist of customs duties, the fees, forfeiture, etc., of the courts, and that derived from all mining operations. On the other hand, the municipality would derive its support from the licenses paid by the hotels, saloons, trading corporations, small traders and pedlars of all kinds, theatres, dance halls, billiard halls, certain professions and occupations, wharves, etc., etc. A certain number of government police is all that would be necessary for government service, and the municipality would have its own police, watchmen, coroner, health officer, etc. It is quite certain that if the people cannot govern themselves, they will be governed perhaps always by tyrannical officials, far removed from any supervision or restraint, from the seat of the Dominion government. It must also be borne in mind that no community can exist without taxation, and that it is better to be taxed directly by a municipality than indirectly by irresponsible officials of government. What does confederation and responsible government in this Dominion amount to? Verily we have drifted back to one-man government, or else that of the hoodlum ring!!! Wake up, people, and help our honorable administrator who will help you. Delay is hazardous; there is much to be done in the way of sanitation, etc., before the spring comes and death is staring us in the face. In fear of a corrupt municipal administration and the schemes of wardheelers it would be preferable that the government, through its police, should control the holders of saloon and trading licenses, leaving the revenue to the corporation. This will be properly understood if the municipality should be unable to preserve the peace, through the bad conduct of saloons, and of more importance still, the traders who might continue to import unwholesome food products, and still resort to evading supplies for exorbitant profits. CITIZENS.

NEW MONTE CARLO THEATRE

THE partnership of Cavanaugh & Newman has been dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. Cavanaugh will continue the business, paying and collecting all bills.

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HALL, MCKINSEY & YOUNG, Proprietors. KLONDIKE CITY. Finest Brands of Wines, Liquors and Cigars.

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