

# The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)

ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.  
ALLEN BROS., Publishers

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.  
Yearly, in advance.....\$40.00  
Six months.....20.00  
Three months.....11.00  
Per month by carrier in city, in advance.....4.00  
Single copies.....25

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MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1900.

## NIGHT TAKE A LESSON.

It now appears that Roberts has a long and arduous campaign before him, which must be carried out before he can expect to engage the Boers within the Transvaal proper. The approach of the bad season renders his task more difficult than ever. The loss of the Boers' two best generals does not seem to have disheartened them to the extent that was anticipated. The London papers are again becoming critical at Roberts' movements. If they would leave the commanding general alone and allow him to work out his plans without having each and every one subjected to an analytical process by war "experts" on the London newspapers, the results in the long run would doubtless prove far more satisfactory. In direct contrast with the English parliament and the English newspapers, the colonial legislative bodies and leading journals have accorded a hearty and almost unanimous support to the war, and left the determination of war measures and policies to those in whose hands they properly belong.

Ever since the war began, the home government has been in a constant turmoil, brought about through efforts to make the war a political issue. This apparent division of sentiment which has been made manifest in the British parliament will doubtless result in prolonging the war to a greater extent than otherwise would have been necessary, as the Boers have taken renewed courage by reason of the activities of opponents of the present British government.

The politicians of England might well take a lesson from the unanimous expression of loyalty and patriotism which has been made manifest in the colonies.

Mr. Bell, the assistant gold commissioner, will doubtless derive a great deal of satisfaction from a knowledge of the fact that every man [or woman] who has profited by crookedness in the gold commissioner's office lauds his recent action in closing the public records. The public in general, however, holds an entirely different view of the matter. Mr. Bell's pretentious assertions that he proposes "to protect the public interests" are so transparent that even he who runs may see through them. If Mr. Bell has any more similar pronouncements to give out, he would do well to withhold his reasons for his action. The reasons he advances for his late action are so weak as to be almost pitiable.

Easter was very generally observed yesterday by individuals, as well as by the various church organizations. All the churches were well attended, and some of them were so crowded that many people were unable to gain admission. Whether this was due to the fact that Easter bonnets were known to be coming out in large quantities, or whether it

resulted from a sudden spiritual awakening in the town, does not matter. At any rate, the bonnets were out, and were very deservedly admired, not only by those who attended the churches, but by hundreds who made the church hour a convenient time for a stroll.

In today's issue we present a review of Sulphur creek, written by our special correspondent after a personal inspection of the creek. In consequence of the earnest work that has been done upon Sulphur during the winter, this much abused creek occupies today a very enviable position. Last year disappointed men could be found on every corner in Dawson, who had placed their hopes upon Sulphur and had failed to see those hopes realized. It appears now, however, that in many of such cases the fault lay not in the ground, but in the failure of the men who were at work on the creek to prospect sufficiently.

Choice fractions are now being given out "in compensation" to parties who have lost claims through "clerical errors" and other similar means. Doubtless, the recipients of the said fractions, at least a portion of them, will be among the number who will loudly applaud Commissioner Bell's peculiar style of conducting his office "for the benefit of the public, and against the newspapers." Here, indeed, is a second "Daniel come to judgment."

Improvements along the water front indicate that the steamboat companies are preparing for a big business during the approaching season of open navigation. The preparations now being made by big mining and commercial concerns for next season's business go to show that the anticipations of the steamboat people are well founded.

Americans in the Yukon will welcome confirmation of the Nugget's prediction that Admiral Dewey will not consent to allow his name to be used in connection with the coming presidential campaign. Dewey is now the beau ideal American hero. He cannot afford to become a defeated presidential candidate.

The ice in front of Dawson begins already to assume that tired appearance which presages the approach of the break-up. A few more weeks of sunshine and warm breezes will serve to break the icy fetters that for so many months have held the river bound, and steamboat time will again be here.

## Many New Arrivals.

Since Saturday at noon it is estimated that from 30 to 40 travelers have reached Dawson from up the river. A number of horses have arrived with sled loads of provisions and merchandise for the already overstocked market. The trail for the few latter days of the journey is reported to be in very bad condition. The river is open at many places and water covers the trail nearly the entire distance from Reindeer to Dawson. In the neighborhood of Five Fingers notices of warning have been put up at various places by the police, and it is reported to be very risky to travel over many parts of the ice trail. Those who are any great distance up the river with heavy outfits will experience great difficulty in landing them in Dawson over the ice. It is reported that one out of ten tons has been stopped at Scow island where it will be loaded on one of the many scows stranded there last fall, and floated on to Dawson when the river breaks. What disposition the party proposes making of his horses is not stated.

Chewing tobacco \$1 per pound. Royal Grocery, Second ave.

## For Sale.

Steam launch, with boiler and engine complete. Apply Nugget office at 4 p. m. Table de hote dinners. The Holborn.

# STUDIED FROM A DISTANCE.

## Habits and Customs of Former Unstudied Country.

## More Interesting Information Regarding What Is Seen Where the War is Waged.

While on the subject of the progress of the war in South Africa the reading public is fairly well posted, there is a vast fund of information regarding the country that is the present scene of war which has never as yet been generally imparted.

The last issue of the Victoria Times received in Dawson contained a full page article from a Mr. de Noon who had just returned from the country where war is being waged, and from whom the Times secured some interesting information regarding habits and customs prevalent in that country which have not before been known to the people of Canada and the United States. The Nugget presents today another extract from the interview with Mr. de Noon, which is as follows:

"The man who shows fear to the African native will probably be murdered before he has gone far into the country, but the man who shows a contempt for them is as safe in the wild as on the streets of Capetown. The custom prevails among most African villages that any arrival after nightfall is accounted an enemy. Many chiefs demand that all visitors shall not enter the village until permission has been given, and some have been known to keep men waiting a ridiculously long time, saying that the gods ought to be spoken to, or something of that sort. Lobengula has been known to keep men waiting as long as two months, and Kama and others have held the desiring visitor as long as three months. Mr. de Noon made it a rule never to stand on ceremony and wait, and found that it gave him a better standing with the black man than if he had.

"In all the villages he visited he never took any of the chiefs by surprise. They all knew of his coming; all had a full description of him and his boys, and even in the most removed parts of the country they knew of his intention of visiting the tribe months before he came.

"How the news travels so rapidly does not long remain a surprise to the traveler, for he soon finds out that the natives have telegraphic system of their own. The rapidity with which news is carried for hundreds of miles by these blacks has long been a mystery to the uninitiated. To quote an instance of the rapid carrying of news by the blacks, Mr. de Noon tells of how the natives sent the news of the defeat of a Matabele force in the Mashonaland rising to the blacks at Bulawayo. The telegraph wires were down, the natives having cut them to make bracelets of the wire, and it was not until the wires could be repaired that the field force were able to communicate the news of their victory at Bulawayo. Imagine the surprise of the troops when the operator at Bulawayo replied to their operator that they had known of the victory for some days past and could tell the loss on either side. The news had reached Bulawayo three days before the troops could send it.

"Another instance remarked by Mr. de Noon of how the natives had carried the news of a battle over hundreds of miles, faster than the telegraphers could send it. This was when the unfortunate 24th were wiped out at Isandhiwana, in the Zulu campaign.

"On the day after the battle a number of the blacks at Durban told their masters that 'away up in the hills there was in one place a field filled with many white men lying dead.' The blacks were not believed, and it was not until ten days later that the sad news was confirmed by news from the British troops.

"Mr. de Noon says it is not by the beating of drums, as many have said, that the blacks carry the news, but by shouting what advices they have from range to range. The runner coo-oes until his cry is answered from the succeeding ranges, and thus the word is passed along. This is the working of the Kaffirgram.

"Many are the strange customs of the blacks. And because of one of those customs more evidence is obtainable of the great antiquity of the native races of Rhodesia. Whenever the black is about to cross a mountain traverse, a thick, and probably animal infested wood, or whenever he is overtaken by nightfall, the traveling native throws a stone, or places stones in the branches of the trees to 'emblemize, as it were, a prayer.' At the approaches to moun-

tains, jungles, and other places where the black dreads danger, great main tains and cairns of stones are to be seen. The average prayers of the journeying blacks are for protection from lions, protection for friends and relatives left behind, or more frequently, that his legs may be strengthened for his journey. Some of these prayer stone cairns have attained a prodigious height, showing that the stones must have been accumulating for at least 5000 years.

"The novel 'She' has been taken by the general reader as fiction, pure and simple, but in the travels of Mr. de Noon he has found that in some measure this character of Rider Haggard has a foundation in fact.

"There are many tribes who believe in a woman such as 'She' of Haggard. The Basutos, who seem to have been one of the primitive races, from whom many other tribes as time has rolled down the ages, have sprung, are strong in this belief, but those who entertain it most strongly are the people of Mount Wondza to the north of Rhodesia. They believe that this great white queen, who lives forever, reigns in the fastnesses of Mount Wondza, and none but the religious heads of the tribe ever see her. They believe that she has eternal life. She is, however, different some what from the 'She' of Haggard, in that she has four breasts, and never under any circumstances appeared without being muffled up from head to foot. She was thought to have power to give rain or withhold it at will, and many other supernatural powers. It was, however, difficult to learn what other attributes this great undying queen was claimed to have, or what were her surroundings and history.

## Cold Storage.

The refrigerating steamer Lotta Talbot is now being utilized for cold storage the machinery having been started Thursday morning. For rates and space apply to Alaska Meat Co. c16

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