

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

DAWSON, Y. T., WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 1899

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OGILVIE AND THAT FRACTION.

"Nugget" Examines the Neighboring Claims and Reports Thereon.

No Water in the Suspected Shafts and They Are Open to Inspection—The Pay-streak Being Worked to Prove its Existence.

The *Nugget* representative on Dominion and Sulphur was instructed some time ago to visit the famous Swinehart-Ogilvie fraction and report conditions. The report has been to hand for ten days, but has been unused while the *Nugget* made an effort to secure a copy of the famous Swinehart-Ogilvie contract, the existence of which Mr. Ogilvie denies through his official mouthpiece, the *Sun*. Mr. Senkler was seen personally, and declined to show the document until Mr. Ogilvie's consent should be forthcoming. Naturally enough the contract is now being withheld on the plea that it is a private contract between the government and Mr. Swinehart, and though in the recorder's office the contract is not on record. Offers to pay the regular fees for an abstract have proved unavailing. Arguments that government contracts, in their very nature, are public, have not proved efficacious in securing a copy. Mr. Ogilvie thoroughly understands the value of withholding that contract from the public in view of his letter denying its existence.

The fraction in question occurs on Dominion, between No. 36 below upper and No. 13 above lower discoveries, and is the most valuable piece of ground owned by the government in the territory. Innumerable efforts have been made to record the ground and to purchase it; but signal failure met all attempts alike, until the making of the Swinehart-Ogilvie contract put men to work upon the ground without money and without price.

The pretense made by the commissioner in his letter and in his contract that the object of putting men to work upon the fraction was to protect the government and prevent "gophering" from the adjoining claims, is proven a fiction by the reports of the *Nugget* representative aforementioned. Mr. Ogilvie, in the letter over his own signature, says:

"A report having been made to the gold commissioner and myself that the fraction had to a considerable extent been undermined. The shafts (on adjoining claims) had been filled with water, which had become frozen solid, thus preventing an examination of them."

The *Nugget* informs its readers that the foregoing excerpt from the governor's letter is entirely misleading. In the first place the shafts of No. 13 did not fill with water, are not frozen up, have been examined by Mr. Cautley, D.L.S. and pronounced well within the limits of the claim and not encroaching upon the fraction. The holes on No. 36 near the line are as Mr. Ogilvie says, filled up and frozen, yet to show the bad faith of the entire proceedings, when the workmen sank on the fraction near this upper line and found no gold to any amount, the work of intercepting the drifts of No. 36 was discontinued and the whole force centered on the line of 33 where the ground is fabulously rich and where there could be absolutely no question of the government ground having been "tapped." The holes on 13 were open to the government and measurements could be made as well there as by working out the pay streak of the fraction. More than this, upon reaching bedrock at this lower line the workmen proceeded to drift along the streak of richness both up and down stream, getting out a good big dump and proving conclusively the insincerity of Mr. Ogilvie's actions in the entire matter.

First Build Sidewalks.

The regular weekly meeting of the Yukon Council took place on Saturday afternoon at the usual time and place, with all members present.

A communication regarding the establishment of a public school brought about a determination to confer with the clergy upon this important matter.

In a communication Col. Steele recommended the establishment of a proper hospital or asylum for the insane. The council thought there should be accommodations for six patients, and the commissioner will write to Ottawa concerning the matter.

D. W. Davis, chairman of the fire commissioners, recommended in a communication that a permanent fire engine house be built upon the water front, between Second and Third streets, with an incline to the water for the engine. A communication was also read from the fire department appealing from the decision of the fire commissioners in laying all the blame of the late conflagration upon Chief Fleischer by dismissing him peremptorily, when the failure of the water supply indicated that the blame, if any, attached to the engine men. Other matters were treated upon by the memorial, and Messrs. Ogilvie, Clement and Col. Steele were appointed a committee to look into the

causes of the failure of the engine and the other fire matters.

The public administrator, in a communication, asked for further instructions regarding the disposal of the effects of deceased persons, and pointed out that in many cases the absence of property or effects left him without his fees. Referred to the judge.

A discussion of the question of admitting to practice all members of the Northwest bar was had and the matter was referred to the judge.

The controller in a communication pointed out that no salary attached to the position of chief license inspector and suggested \$200 per month as a proper compensation. The council acted on the matter and at the suggestion of Judge Dugas made the salary but temporary until Ottawa could be heard from.

The council passed the sidewalk ordinance requiring the construction of complete sidewalks in front of all property on First, Second and Third streets within five days of the notification of the owners or renters that the commissioner had decided upon a proper grade. On First avenue (Front street) the walk must be eight feet wide and on all other streets and avenues mentioned must be at least four feet

was fixed for May 10, but in the meantime he will be arraigned on half a dozen other charges, which have already been described in the *NUGGET*.

P. Haussler, charged with securing valuable securities by fraudulent pretenses, elected to be tried by the judge after pleading not guilty, and his trial was set for May 10.

The case of Johnson vs. Steinfeld was a suit to recover \$345 claimed to be due on account; but defendant showed a receipt in settlement, and the judge awarded him a decision, with the complimentary remark that he is an honest man.

Body of a Baby Found.

A man lying in the lower part of town made a gruesome find on Monday, at a point near the base of the hill east of St. Mary's hospital. His attention was attracted to a pasteboard box partially hidden under a large rock, and at once his excited imagination began the formation of air castles as the object suggested the idea of hidden treasure. He was down on his knees before the stone at once, and his nervous fingers began to unwrap a solid substance which was contained within a copy of the *Sun*, little P. J. But as the last thickness was un-

PLACING THE RESPONSIBILITY.

A Jury Inquires Into the Cause of the Late Fire.

Many Witnesses Tell What They Know of the Affair—Two of Helen Holden's Virtues Are Referred To—An Adjournment Taken.

Captain Harper and six citizens conducted an inquest on Monday night to enquire into the cause or origin of the late conflagration, but they have as yet come to no conclusion. The most important evidence was given by George Harris, porter at the Bodega building, where the fire started. He said that at about seven o'clock, Helen Holden, who occupied rooms up stairs, entered the bar-room and, handing him a parcel, asked him to take it up stairs, which he did. About half an hour later he again went up stairs to get some liquor from the stock room and while there his attention was attracted by the sound of a suspicious crackling. He put his hand against the wall of Helen's room and found it hot; he then opened her door and found the room filled with fire overhead. He at once rushed down, gave the alarm and started up with a pail of water but by that time the flames were at the head of the stairs and he could do nothing. He said there had been no fire in the stove down stairs during the day.

Miss Holden was considerably agitated when she took the stand and talked with great earnestness. She said that she had gone out to lunch at about six o'clock, as was her custom, and upon coming back, stopped at the bar room in response to a call from within. Some friends were drinking there and she stopped for a few minutes. While thus engaged, the porter ran down stairs with the alarm of fire. She declared that when she left there was no fire in the stove and no lighted lamps in the rooms. It was her opinion that the fire started in the stock room, and it appeared suddenly that she believed it was due to oil, alcohol or some other inflammable article.

One of the jurors seemed to entertain the belief pretty firmly that the fire started in Miss Holden's apartments, for he asked her if she smoked cigarettes. A litter went through the audience as she replied rather vehemently that she did not, and it was repeated when Captain Harper asked if she curled her hair. Miss Holden, however, didn't see anything in the question to laugh at, and she answered very seriously that she did not—that her hair did not require curling, thanks to Mother Nature.

Billy Chenoweth, night bartender at the Bodega, had just gone to work a few minutes before the fire. He was asked if he had expressed any opinion about the oil used in the building and he replied that he had complained of it to Mr. Jourden; it made the lamp smoky and hot and he considered it unfit for use. He looked up the stairway when the porter gave the alarm and could see the fire above.

Ike Coravan, F. H. King and George Noble, who were in the saloon, told of the janitor giving the alarm.

Alonso Griffin of the Northern restaurant, was attracted by the smoke from the fire. He went up on the Northern roof and looking down, saw that the fire was situated about midway in the Bodega building, though the first smoke came from the rear. Miss Holden wanted him to go in and save her clothing, but he did not care to do so, as the fire and smoke were threatening.

A. F. George testified to the effect that the fire did not originate in the Tivoli, as some people had claimed. Seeing one of the Newman children go in there, he followed to look after the little fellow's interests. There was no fire and no artificial light in the place; everything was quiet and there was positively no fire in the place. Later on he went up stairs with the fire brigade and was there when the fire from the Bodega broke into the Tivoli. At this point, the inquest was adjourned to Wednesday evening, when further testimony will be secured and a plan of the building exhibited.

Libel Case on June 1st.

The famous *NUGGET* criminal libel suit came up before Judge Dugas on the first of May for the purpose of the defendant electing whether to be tried by a jury presided over by the judge or by the judge himself. Messrs. Allen and George chose to be heard by a jury and the calling of the jury was set for June 1st, after some disposition had been shown to continue it until the fall term of court. In argument by the defense against such a long delay it was urged that a scattering of witnesses would result besides which one of the defendants intended leaving for the outside shortly. The bonds, in the sum of \$100, were continued.

Notice.

The social dances given by the "Sour Dough Club" at Pioneer hall will be continued on Saturday evenings until further notice.

Patronize the Yukon Flyer. The miner's line.



wide and all of substantial construction. The landlord or renter failing to comply with the order within the specified five days to be fined not to exceed \$100. Failure to keep up the works after they are built to entail the same penalty. Renters who build sidewalks in front of rented property are given the right to offset the rent with the bill for the work.

Judge Dugas' Court.

The May term of the territorial court opened on Monday, and the room was crowded to the doors all day. A number of judgments were handed down from the bench, including one in the case of Edwin R. Gates vs. Henry L. Vinton, Edwin L. Dunlap and James Perkins. The facts in this case are that Vinton and Dunlap owned a claim opposite the lower half of No. 6 Hunker, and that on September 19 they gave Gates a twenty days' option on the property, accepting \$5 as part payment of the purchase price, which was to be \$150. On October 3, which was within the specified time, Gates offered \$150 in gold dust to J. J. Rutledge, who was acting as agent for the others and, while Rutledge would not accept gold dust, he had it placed in the hands of a third party and transferred the claim to Gates by means of bills of sale prepared for the purpose by Vinton and Dunlap. But while this was going on, Vinton and Dunlap received an offer of \$50 from Perkins and took it. Perkins also took possession of the claim, and Gates was forced to the courts for business. Judge Dugas gave a judgment in his favor, and took occasion to censure the defendants for their conduct which, though probably not fraudulent, was not regular. Attorney McKay was congratulated on his conduct of the plaintiff's case.

Emil Thomasson attempted to lodge an appeal from the lower court, where he was found guilty of living from the avails of prostitution, but Prosecutor Wade contested the action and the case was adjourned to August, in the meantime technicalities to take place in the meantime. The wages appeal case of Brown vs. Morrison was dismissed, and the sentencing of Roger Connors was postponed to May 5, at the request of Connors' attorney. The *NUGGET* case was set for trial on June 1.

Michael E. Eschwege was then escorted into court by a police officer and arraigned on three separate charges of fraud, namely, the securing by fraudulent pretenses of a fur robe worth \$150 from the A. C. Co., three hundred pounds of tobacco from another house, and board to the amount of \$42 from a hotel at Klondike City. He pleaded not guilty to all the charges and trial

folded his visions of riches and idleness melted away; for, instead of the expected treasure his eyes were greeted by the body of a little baby in the focus stage. Like a dutiful citizen the gentleman reported his find to the barracks, and Constable Skirving was detailed to look into the matter, which he did, but nothing important developed. The little body was turned over to Dr. Good. It was free from decomposition, but the doctor could not tell how long it had lain in the open.

Last "Sour Dough" Dance.

The last dance of the season given by the Pioneer dancing club was given on Saturday evening at Pioneer hall. The crowd was jolly and sociable; while the supper served at the Fairview hotel cafe by Fred Card, the caterer, left little to be desired by even the most critical. There were Klondike delicacies in salads, cold roast beef and game, confections of every description with olives, etc., in abundance. The affair was managed by the ladies of the Pioneers under the able leadership of Mrs. Wm. Huston and Mrs. Chas. Yeager whose successful management of such occasions has become a proverb with the sociable public. The only fault that can be found with the dance is that it is the last. No expense was spared by the management, but nevertheless a surplus of some \$119 was left over which was handed over to Minnie Deibert who has been at the hospital some six months with fever.

Fire Complications.

The last two charges of chemical for the fire apparatus are in the machines at the present writing and the river bank is in such a condition from garbage and the cutting of recent streams of water that an attempt to get the steamer down to the river for service would likely be attended with disaster. The demand on the chemical engines has been so great that what was considered sufficient for a 12-month's supply of the chemical has been exhausted in less than six. So much now depends upon the steamer that until the river opens and the engine is floating on a barge there will be little rest for many of our citizens.

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