THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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FIRE PLAYS SAD HAVOC AGAIN.

Four More Water Front Establishments Laid Low.

The Loss Foots Up Nearly $20,000—Gallant Conduct of the Firemen Wins Them Praise on All Hands.

The waterfront had another tussel with its enemy, the fire fiend, on Thursday morning, and only the gallant conduct of Chief Fletcher's men prevented a quick solution of the waterfront controversy. The fire originated in the Dawson city barber shop and bath rooms, located opposite the Dominion saloon, at about 7 o'clock. There was nobody up but Peter, the man of all work, and he is believed to have started the blaze in some way while building a fire in the stove. From what followed, it would appear that be might have used oil in the stove, for the place was suddenly enveloped in flames that spread with the rapidity of lightning, the sleeping ones being just able to escape with their wearing apparel. The alarm was quickly carried to the fire station, but before the first tap of the bell had sounded a wall of flame had reached clear across the sidewalk, so rapidly did the blaze progress under the influence of the strong wind from the river.

The gravity of the situation was apparent at a glance, and Chief Fletcher had the fire steamer in position on the river in double quick order. So intense did the heat become on the street and so rapidly did the shell-like structures on either side unite that the firemen could do little, until the steamer was at work, but assist in saving the endangered stocks, which they did with a will. The water finally came with a good strong head, and the fire fighters went at their foe like a battering-ram, carrying the hose straight into the blazing mass.

By that time no less than four buildings were completely wrapped in flames, the heat was terrific and a shower of sparks was being carried by the wind across the street. Not a few of the spectators believed that a hopeless task confronted the firemen and were prepared to see the conflagration leap at any time to irrepressible proportions. But the firemen won from the start and the flames were gradually crowded back and down. Only once did the the flames reach beyond the bounds after water had been turned on, the fire then connecting with the Comet barber shop; but the attention of Chief Fletcher was called to the danger and the spread was prevented. In less than half an hour the victory was won.

LIST OF THE LOSSES.

The buildings destroyed were generally of a frail nature and all were single story with the exception of that of E. Adcock, which was two stories, the upper rooms being occupied by the law firm of Clement, Pattullo & Ridley. These gentlemen lost everything, including their library and papers, which, of course, cannot be replaced. Down stairs Mr. Adcock had a general stock of merchandise. Adjoining on the north was a building owned by Sidney Shuldenfry; one room in this was occupied by Y. Kawakami, a Japanese restauranter, while the other was vacant. To the south was a building owned by Rosenthal & Miller and occupied by them as a barber shop, laundry and bath house, while adjoining them was the establishment of F. H. Fancher, where, Mrs. Fancher kept a stock of wearing apparel, fancy goods, groceries, etc., and Mme. Rouseau conducted dressmaking apartments. The losses in detail are as follows:

Rosenthal & Miller	$2,500
E. Adcock	10,000
Sidney Shuldenfry	2,000
Mr. and Mrs. Fancher	1,500
Mme. Rousseau	400
Clement, Pattullo & Ridley	2,000
A. Goldberg (cash)	300
Y. Kawakami	500
Total	$19,200

To this might be added the loss sustained by the electric light and telephone companies in wires and poles; Pete McDonald of the Phœnix, and the Opera House block, in which buildings many windows were broken by the heat, and a large number of others who had wearing apparel at the Parisian laundry of Rosenthal & Miller. Mr. Goldberg's gold dust and money was under his pillow, and the fire was so sudden that he was forced to leave it. Kawakami, the restauranter, was the only one in the burned district who saved much in the way of stock.

FLASHES FROM THE FIRE.

Everybody who saw the work of the firemen have a word of praise for them. Even the fire steamer behaved admirably. Special praise was heard of the work of Assistant Fire Chief Stumer.

It was a terribly cold morning and the firemen found it anything but agreeable to stand in moccasins soaked with chilling water. At least the A. C. Co. and N. A. T. & T. Co., appeared to take this view of it, for they distributed a couple of dozen pairs of new ones among the fire laddies. Mr. McCormick, of the Portland restaurant, also served them with a breakfast. Ben Levy also gave out moccasins.

A pair of blankets from the *Sun-Miner* office were carried into the street, with other things, when the situation looked blue, and there caught fire. Later on they were taken back into the office and another blaze was narrowly averted before the fire was discovered and extinguished.

While the main fire was on, a cabin on Second avenue took fire from a defective stovepipe, but the blaze was easily extinguished by some men whose attention had been attracted to it.

Some dry goods piled too close to a stovepipe caused a fire in Louis Madden's store Wednesday, while a blaze in the roof of the Lynch building also caused a scare.

Chief Fletcher says that while the volunteer department is as good as any on earth, he must have more paid men before the department is what it should be. This has several times been demonstrated, and is now being considered by the government.

ADDITIONAL OUTSIDE NEWS.

SEATTLE'S LATEST PROJECT.

The U. S. house, in committee of the whole, has acted favorably on a bill to appropriate $300,000 for a public building at Seattle. It had already been passed by the senate.

WASHINGTON'S LOSS AT MANILLA.

The state of Washington sustained the following loss at the battle of Manilla: Corporal W. McGowan, Privates Ralph W. Symonds, of Co. A; George Reichert, Frank Smith, Matties H. Cherry, Sherman Harding and Edward H. Perry, of Co. I; Walter N. Hanson of Co. L; Arno H. Meecke), of Co. H, killed. Lieut. E. K. Erwin, John Klein, Wm. R. Fait, James F. Greek, S. H. McLean and Oscar Sowards of Co. A, wounded. The London *Telegraph* says the American volunteers fought with the discipline and gallantry of regulars.

WILL NOT INTERFERE.

OTTAWA, Jan. 24.—The government has decided not to interfere but to allow the law to take its course, in the case of Henderson and the three Indian under sentence of death at Dawson. [It evidently was unknown until long afterwards that two have since died, and the other two, together with Henderson reprieved till August 1st.]

THREATENED TO USE DYNAMITE.

TEXARKANA, Tex., Jan. 31.—Eight trainloads of drunken black troops passed through here today and stormed the town. The citizens subdued them by threats of using dynamite in blowing up the trains.

THE WHISKEY TRUST.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12.—The greatest whiskey trust ever organized in America is now in existence, Fifty-seven manufacturers have combined with a capital of $32,000,000.

A MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WRECK.

VIENNA, Jan. 26.—Prince Alfred, a grandson of Queen Victoria, arrived at Meran today on his way to Kaana's sanitarium at Martinsburn. Women and wine have reduced him to little less than a wreck, physically and mentally.

OF GENERAL INTEREST.

Gen. Caprivi, former chancellor of the German empire, is dead.

The sub-committee of the American commission has offered to concede a port on Lynn canal in exchange for Eastern fisheries. The people of the Pacific coast are protesting vigorously.

The Filipinos are believed to have been aggravated to their assault on the Americans on Feb. 4 by the seizure, on the part of Admiral Dewey, of a cargo of arms consigned to the insurgents. There is no doubt that the natives have been supplied with guns, ammunition and money by the Germans, and the American government has been apprised of that fact.

A Big Concern.

Mining on the Klondike is destined to take a radical change from the introduction of new methods. On Wednesday the NUGGET representative made a special trip to Gold Hill, for the purpose of witnessing the practical demonstration of the improved thawing machines in use on the valuable properties of E. Leroy Pelletier & Co. The firm has not only the largest plants in operation at the present time, but also own in fee simple and on options and lays a very large proportion of the richest part of the hill. The first plant visited starts into the earth with a tunnel on the sixth tier, the Miller claim, which was taken out on a percentage. A hundred feet and the tunnel widens out to a face on the company's own property. At the mouth of the tunnel is a machine shop, blacksmith shop, and a fine 25-horse boiler, together with engines and pumps galore. Covered piping conducts the live steam to the face of the drift. The capacity of this plant is 25 points, the points consisting of ¾ inch piping drawn to a perforated point, and connected by steam hose to the supply pipe. These points are provided with solid backs, which allow of pounding to a depth of three and four feet, where they are left until the ground is thoroughly thawed around. Convenient little dump cars and tracks carry the dirt to the "waste" dump or to the "pay dump," as the case may be, to be washed in the spring by tramming down to the creek. Of the wonderful success of this improved method of working the frozen earth we propose to say more in future issues.

The enterprising and progressive firm of E. Leroy Pelletier & Co. are amongst the very first to seize the immense possibilities of steam thawing over fire, and already have five such plants in active operation. The two on Gold Hill, some three hundred feet apart, are rapidly penetrating their four claims in the richest part of the streak, and heading for the 230,000 square feet which has been secured behind them. When it is realized that the most of this ground is yielding at the proportionate rate of from $70,000 to $150,000 to the hundred feet square, the importance of this firm's operations can be grasped. Winter or summer it can be worked, for already a depth of nearly a hundred feet of white quartz gravel is overhead, and the ground stands without timbering.

The firm of E. Leroy Pelletier & Co. are carrying on by far the biggest operations of the kind on the Klondike. On lower discovery on Dominion one plant is in use, while on No. 2 below there are two more entering the earth at an angle, and drawing the cars to the surface with a cable. The plants are each using from 15 to 20 men, and the crews will be doubled as the face of the drifts widen out.

The firm is now Messrs. Pelletier, Clear and Klinkowstein, a Mrs. Vincent having retired after a very unsatisfactory connection of some few months. From Mr. R. S. Ames, who owns the ground being worked by the company on Dominion, the unsatisfactory method of the lady in question is learned, which puts an altogether different aspect upon the story recently made public, though to the ordinary business mind the fact that the firm continues to do business in its own name, with immense attachable property on every hand, is ample refutation to any imputation made by the lady, seeing that only for alert police officers she would now be out of the country enjoying the money which the courts have since compelled her to restore to creditors. Mr. Ames is well known for his bluff integrity, and is very indignant at the lady's story that in the contract upon his claim of No. 2 below on Dominion she obtained anything but the most favorable terms to herself. From Mr. Ames himself and a perusal of the various contracts it is evident that the courts were correct in bringing the lady back from a fly-by-night trip to the American side to where she had obtained such valuable concessions, upon the pretence of being the possessor of immense wealth.

Mr. Pelletier, who is at the head of the firm, is probably as well known as any man upon the Klondike. Than he no man is more familiar with the thousand creeks of the territory. Last year he successfully conducted the largest mining brokerage business in the country, and his business acumen enabled him to advise many purchasers, who are now the possessors of great wealth through their investments. He has the implicit trust of his partners and the claim owners whose property the firm is working. His foresight and indomitable energy have often caused him to run counter to current prejudices, but time and perseverance have given him now a business position which naturally incites the envy of the small minded and the unsuccessful. However, nothing succeeds like success, and the firm is therefore destined to ride the top wave of popularity from this on.

A Tramroad for the Yukon.

A new tramroad scheme has been placed before the council, on which no definite action has been yet taken. The plan is an extensive one and embodies a system of roads running from Dawson up Bonanza, Eldorado, crossing the dome, down Sulphur, Dominion, across the Stewart and across country to a point on the Yukon river about Selkirk. Branch lines are promised to Thistle, Scroggie and the creeks of this district. Upon receiving the grant from Ottawa this company agrees to have the road in operation by December from Dawson to the Stewart river. While the charter is asked for a tramroad of wood, poles or steel rails, Mr. Carbeneau, for the company, states that the main track will be of steel and the rolling stock of locomotives and the usual cars and coaches. In return the company wants exclusive privileges and the use of the Dawson waterfront for an entrance into town and for depot, warehouses, etc. Nothing is said about a maximum tariff for either freight or passengers, so it is presumed to charge all the tariff would bear.

An estimate of a million and a half dollars is given as the probable cost of the road and a saving of many miles of crooked river to Selkirk is shown on the plans. Presuming the road to be in operation to the latter point it is urged that the time by river to the foot of Bennet where the White Pass railroad expects to reach this summer, would be shortened several days, reducing the actual time to the coast to well within a week of comfortable riding.

The company merely asks the council to recommend the proposition to Ottawa, where the charter must be granted, if granted at all; but a little bird whispers to us that the plan does not find favor in certain quarters and the plans may never rise above the surface of the table.

Rich Gold Find.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 1.—According to the papers which arrived today there is great excitement an Bathurst, Australia, over a rich gold find in Chambers creek. The gold exposed on the reef is two feet wide and resembles a jeweler's shop. The stone is literally hanging together with gold. The vein is on the same line of the reef where Holterman's famous £20,000 nugget was found. The assays show twenty-three ounces of gold to the ton. From present prospects the find is the greatest ever made in Australia, and if it holds out seems to be the richest mine ever discovered. Hundreds of mines are being gone over for placer gold. Other smaller discoveries have been made near by, so that a large camp may be opened up.

ARCTIC SAW MILL

UPPER KLONDIKE FERRY.

Sluice and Flume Lumber a Specialty.

ALL KINDS OF DIMENSION LUMBER.
LOWEST PRICES IN THE KLONDIKE.

City Agents: Stauf & Zilly.

Office at Mill — BOYLE & SLAVIN, Props.

A NEW STAR ON THE BOARDS.

The Water Front Drama Becomes Really Interesting.

A Citizen Appeals to Judge Dugas to Eject the Occupants—The Latter Sue for an Injunction Against Morrison & McDonald.

Another actor in the water-front drama, whose pretentions, too, are of the stellar order, appeared upon the stage Thursday, in the person of A. W. Taylor. The gentleman had his "part" well in hand and, with Judge Dugas for an audience, delivered himself substantially and melodramatically as follows:

"Sir, I am a resident of the town of Dawson and a subject of our gracious queen, Victoria. My inclination and my business unite in oftentimes inducing my presence at the banks of the mighty Yukon, popularly termed the waterfront. But my access thereto and my movements thereon are much impeded by various structures standing on said premises and occupied by divers persons whose names will hereafter be recited to your lordship. All this, I humbly pray, is in violation of the queen's lawns, in that the premises constitute a public hihgway, on which my footsteps should, by right be allowed to perambulate unimpeded. It has been made known to me that two citizens namely McDonald & Morrison did unlawfully acquire a lease of said water-front and that one Gibbons did lay it out in town lots at their behest, and that they have since allowed the persons, to be hereinafter named, to locate thereon under alleged color of right. I therefore pray your lordship that Messrs. McDonald & Morrison, and the other sixty odd persons unlawfully occupying said premises be ejected therefrom "that my lacerated feelings be soothed by the payment of damages in the sum of $50."

Mr. Taylor has engaged a prompter and manager in the person of Attorney Hulme, who prepared the pleadings and will look after the interests of his star in the future.

NIGGER IN THE FENCE.

Mr. Taylor had, metaphorically speaking, but just retired behind the scenes when he was followed by Attorney Woodworth, who has no previous experience in the play and has all his parts "committed to heart." He told his lordship that he came as a representative of the defendants named by Mr. Taylor and that they desired him, in their behalf, to set up: First, that the lease of McDonald & Morrison is and always has been void and illegal. Second, that the said McDonald & Morrison have not paid their rent to the government. Third, that they have been apprised by hearsay that the agents of Harper & Ladue, owners of the townsite of Dawson, hold that, if the water-front is not a public highway, that it belongs to them. Fourth, that they have been disturbed in their possession of the leased premises, which affords them the right and privilege of disputing the title of their landlord. Upon this evidence they pray the court to issue an injunction restraining Morrison & McDonald from enforcing writs of distress against their property for the collection of rents.

There will, doubtless, be not a few people who, upon becoming cognizant of these facts, will see in the appearance of Mr. Taylor and the petition of the water fronters a logical connection, strongly suggestive of "a nigger in the fence," as the water fronters had, heretofore, been denied the right of defense against the collection of rents on the ground that they had regularly entered into a lease and that they could therefore not question the title of the landlord.

As stated in the last issue of the NUGGET, McDonald & Morrison, through their agents, had begun service of writs of distress against all water-front occupants who are behind in their rents.

Important Decision.

His lordship has given a most important decision in the case of O. H. Anderson and V. Graham vs. Charles Lamb. The plaintiffs were laymen, and the contest was as to who should pay the royalty. The lay contract specified nothing of the royalty, and it was held that in the absence of any special agreement to the contrary, the owner of the claim must pay the royalty out of his share.

Judge Dugas also took occasion to deliver an opinion in the form of a dictum, which opens up immense possibilities. He holds that it is not at all certain that royalty can be collected legally from the holders of claims which were staked and recorded prior to the passage of this royalty law. In other matters regarding claims it has been held that they were yet under the laws in force at the time of the issuance of the certificates of record.

Will Carry Freight Free.

A letter from E. C. Hawkins, general superintendent of the White Pass & Yukon Railroad and Pacific & Arctic Navigation Co., to Col. Frank B. Miles says among other things: "We shall be pleased to do anything in our power to advance the purpose of having a mining exhibit in Paris from the Yukon country. All goods coming over our road will be shipped free of expense and we will probably take the matter up in even a more substantial manner."

Arrivals and Departures.

Messrs. Charles W. Carkeek and James Hubbard left on Wednesday for their homes in the States, probably not to return.