

The Klondike Nugget

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FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1900

AN OFF YEAR.

As noted some time ago in these columns, the Democratic national convention has relegated the question of free coinage of silver to a secondary position in the platform and will conduct the presidential campaign largely upon the anti-imperialism and anti-trust issues. It has been a matter of difficulty for the Democracy to formulate a platform of any considerable strength by reason of lack of material with which to work. Instead of bringing national disaster upon the country, as was so freely predicted four years ago, President McKinley's financial policy produced a wonderful effect upon business and gave the states four years of almost unexampled commercial prosperity. As long as general prosperity continues the people will not complain of the national financial policy, and in consequence the cry of 16 to 1, which produced so much enthusiasm in 1896, now provokes but little interest.

The scandals which have been brought to light in connection with the New York Ice Trust have also had the effect of placing a damper upon the ardor of the great unwashed Democracy.

There is scarcely a Democrat of prominence in New York who was not in some manner or other connected with the ice trust, either as an officer or shareholder. When the trust was securely organized the price of ice was doubled in the midst of the very hottest of hot New York weather. This action provoked an investigation, which resulted in an exposure and collapse of the trust, which leaves the Democratic party in a bad way when it becomes a question of seeking support from the country upon an anti-trust platform.

What avail the anti-imperialism plank will be remains an open question. The country in general has accorded such cordial support to President McKinley's Cuban and Philippine policy that it is scarcely probable that a proposition to annul what American arms and American prowess have achieved during the past three years will be very heartily supported. Altogether conditions seem to be very much against any hopes of Democratic success, which accounts largely for the fact that Bryan met with no opposition for the presidential nomination. The year 1900 will certainly go down in Democratic annals as an "off year."

Late issues of newspapers published at Nome give detailed accounts of the wreck of the bark Alaska, which occurred in plain sight of the business portion of the town. Contrary to rumors which have gained circulation in Dawson, no lives were lost in the wreck. The revenue cutter Bear, which was in port at the time, proceeded to the rescue and succeeded in taking off all the crew and passengers in safety. There

were all told forty-five persons aboard the ship.

Local devotees of outdoor winter sports will hold a meeting in the rooms of the Board of Trade tomorrow night. It is the intention of the promoters of the movement to organize early and prepare for the construction of an ice rink in front of the city as soon as the river closes this fall. The Nugget wishes success to the idea and hopes that all athletic enthusiasts will attend the meeting.

Every boat which arrives in Dawson brings its quota of heavy machinery to be installed on the creeks. Together with the supplies, which will be forwarded to the diggings, the amount will run into thousands of tons. Notwithstanding this fact, there is still no public bridge for crossing the Klondike, and the ferries and toll bridge still continue their grafts upon the public.

Dozens of inquiries are made daily in Dawson for men who have disappeared from all knowledge of their friends on the outside. Many of these have left for Nome or other parts of the lower country without giving any information to their friends as to their intentions. Such negligence is inexcusable.

During the past few days Dawson has held the distinction of possessing a full-fledged chicken ranch with about 200 inhabitants. Considering the fact that "culled gemmen" are a scarce commodity in Dawson such an institution ought to be a paying investment.

The Paris exposition must have resulted in something like a frost. The festivities should now be at their very highest, but it is very seldom that mention is made of the exposition in the outside newspapers. The Dreyfus affair apparently had its effect after all.

Many Letters From Nome.

The steamer Cudahy which arrived yesterday from St. Michael brought many letters from Nome and, while a very few of the letters state that it is a great country and a good mining camp, the majority of the writers advise their friends to shun the place as they would the shade of the deadly upas tree.

E. B. Condon, of this city, received two letters, both written in Nome on the same day and by men who left here after the opening of navigation. One of the letters describes Nome as being the greatest and richest mining field on earth and says a man can get rich there at almost anything he undertakes. The second writer says that Nome is not a fit place for the abode of either man or beast; that there is little if any snow there for a man to make a living; that pillage and starvation will soon stalk rampant unless the government sends relief boats before fall and lastly, that the writer expects to come back to Dawson without delay.

The reason for the divergence in the tone of the two letters is that the man who saw refulgence on every weed and pebble has a good paying position, while the other man, the man who sees nothing ahead but gloom, with an occasional spoonful of beans on the side, has not been able to secure work.

Chas. T. Suter, of this city, was yesterday in receipt of a postal card containing the following:

Nome, June 24, 1900.
Dear Charles: Don't think of coming down. Beach is very spotted. Only one out of a hundred get anything; lots of disgusted men; people are starting for home; the creeks may show up yet, but they lack water; the climate is cold and windy; couple of smallpox cases in town; typhoid fever is increasing. They say next month the rain starts in. Had a few jobs, but not steady. Might be back soon. Tell Bill Burke not to come.
HENRY WHITE.

A. V. Buel, the young man who attained name and fame in Dawson by the cartoons and caricatures published in the Nugget during the past year, and who left for the beach city six weeks ago, writes back to old associates and says "Don't come, as the place is no good."

The Nugget, if it cared to print all the letters from Nome which were yesterday and today brought to the office, would be able to put out a "Special Nome edition," filled with discouraging news of that place.

BACK FROM THE TANANA.

Conditions Which Now Prevail in the Diggings on That Stream.

Good Pay Struck but No Grub to Be Had—Mosquitoes Hinder Operations—Hard Country to Reach.

G. E. Ward, formerly employed in a local grocery store, returned on the steamer Cudahy from a brief trip into the Tanana country. Mr. Ward left Dawson on June 4 and proceeded to Circle City. At the latter point he purchased a horse with which he packed 150 pounds of grub up to the diggings. He looked over the principal creeks, viz: Homestake, Faith, Hope and Charity, and is of the opinion that considerable gold will eventually be taken from them.

The principal operations were confined to Homestake and Faith creeks, upon each of which he saw men shoveling in from \$60 to \$100 per day. The diggings are located 60 miles above the confluence of the Tanana and McManus rivers. There is little or no grub in the country and it is so difficult to get in during the summer season that in consequence but little work is possible at the present time.

The mosquitoes are something frightful and several instances are reported of men being driven insane as the result of attacks from the pests. On some of the claims work had to be abandoned on account of the mosquitoes.

Ward's party met a man who was entirely without grub excepting an owl and a camp robber, which he had killed and with no clothing save a badly torn suit of underwear and a worn-out pair of gum boots. His face was literally eaten up by mosquitoes, and the man apparently was out of his mind, being unable to tell his name or from what part of the country he hailed. He was given some salt pork which he devoured raw. In spite of invitations from the party he refused to accompany them along the river and went his way alone.

Mr. Ward says there is much open country still unstaked, but until better means of communication are established the development of the country will be slow. The Tanana, in his opinion, will never prove a Klondike, but will give employment to a great many men as soon as natural obstacles have been sufficiently overcome to admit of free access into the country.

Circle City will be the supply point for the Tanana country, which in winter time can be reached very handily from Circle.

The Stars and Stripes.

"There goes what I should call an unintentional charade," said a man who stands around and looks wise, as Marion Tracie and a member of the N. W. M. P. passed along the street.

"How do you make that out?" asked another man who always wants to know what is going on. "Easy enough," was the answer. "The solution of the charade that couple are unconsciously presenting is 'Stars and Stripes.'" Then both the theater bands played at once and chaos reigned supreme.

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