

The Klondike Nugget

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NOTICE.

When a newspaper offers its advertising space at a nominal figure, it is a practical admission of "no circulation." THE KLONDIKE NUGGET asks a good figure for its space and in justification thereof guarantees to its advertisers a paid circulation five times that of any other paper published between Juneau and the North Pole.

WHO WILL BE YOUR CHOICE?

Who are going to be the nominees for the two elective positions upon the Yukon council? There are plenty of men willing to accept the honor—and do as little of the work as possible. There are factions in our midst which will try to make their choice the choice of the voters, but this can be largely obviated or nullified by the public freely taking advantage of the privilege of nominating whom they please. The Americans are disbarred from themselves casting a vote, but they are so intimately connected by business or friendship with those who have a vote that it behooves them to take an interest in the nominees as though they had the final decision as to who should occupy the vacant chairs.

To be a suitable representative a candidate should first of all be a man with the time and inclination to attend the weekly and semi-weekly sessions of the council. This may seem an easy requisite to procure, but in truth, is not so in a community where every man is so engrossed in his money-making pursuits as in Dawson. There is no leisure class to choose from, and many otherwise suitable men are kept on the creeks by their numerous important mining interests.

Undoubtedly our elective representatives should be men heartily in sympathy with the people of the Yukon—men who are well known to be so by past experience. It is to be regretted that oftentimes a "dark horse" is more easily elected than a well known citizen for the reason that nothing, either good or bad, is known of him. The result too often is an unsuitable representative.

Again, to be suitable the man should be of such a calibre, of such a public-spirited build, as to already have marked him as such an one. A man's light cannot be hidden under a bushel, and that citizen who has lived one year on the Yukon and has continually regarded the iniquities which prevail here with complaisant indifference is utterly unsuited to be placed upon the Yukon council as a check upon the local government. Numerous special taxes are to be imposed upon our people and we must know that in the law-making body we have men whose hearts are right, and who will take care, if it is in their power, that no taxes are imposed simply to furnish spending money for the council, or simply to endow some sinecure of an office for attaches. Above all, our representatives must be honorable men, who can be depended upon neither to sell out or be coerced into a wrong course by those with vested interests, or by the powers that be. They must be men who love light rather

er than darkness so that the secret star-chamber methods of the council just dissolved may never again be duplicated. We want men with convictions so frank and above board that they themselves have no fear of publicity, and who will insist upon the light of public intelligence being turned into that secret council chamber—a chamber which, for impenetrability, would put to shame the council poring over the secret dossier of the Dreyfus trial.

To sum up we want a man and not a mouse to represent us. Such men are here and it is to the interest of every man in the country that the ring candidates be turned down as fast as nominated.

CAPT. HEALY ON THE ROYALTY.

Capt. J. J. Healy, the founder and manager of the N. A. T. & T. Company, differs from The Nugget as to methods of influencing the government for the best interests of this country and has not been at all averse to making known his difference of opinion. The Nugget has similarly differed with the captain and has likewise not been withheld by modesty from publicly stating those differences. But there can be no question or doubt but that the prosperity of the Yukon territory is equally near the heart of both, and recent utterances of the captain to the representatives of the officials of Ottawa may well serve as a text for even the strongest journal and journalist. Said the captain:

"I believe that the two great and burdensome taxes are directly opposed to the best interests of the country and are contrary to justice. I refer to the royalty on the output of gold and the tax on timber. Without the one the other becomes useless. If we had no gold we would have no use for the timber, and similarly, without the timber we cannot get the gold. The steamboatmen, the merchants, the saloonmen, the gamblers—in fact all the enterprises which live upon the men who delve in the earth for gold are left practically untaxed, while the very commodity upon which we all exist, gold, is taxed almost to the breaking point.

"In Manitoba the cost of arable land is \$1 per acre. Here it costs \$10 per acre. Is it the intention of the government to exclude the possibility of men making this land a permanent place of abode or a desirable land to inherit? I believe that the country can be made an agricultural country, and that instead of being migratory, from which all are striving with all human means to escape from it can be made a desirable land for homes and happiness.

"I believe 50,000 men will be at Cape Nome the following year. You will find the Nome district to be the greatest mining camp the world has ever seen. If this was the 1st of September instead of the 15th, you would find your specially taxed mines thrown back to you and there would not be men enough in the country to work the 10 per cent from the ground.

"I am a mountain man—or rather Western man. I expect to die and be buried in this country. I am unhappy when away from the country in which I have spent the best years of my life; but before I die I should like to see the wrongs righted which are inflicted upon this people, and that will not transpire until the miners are allowed to delve in mother earth and bring forth hidden

treasure freely for a free people. Utilize without special taxation the timber lands of the country, and give to the people the arable lands that they may make the Far Northwest, as I said before, a land of peace and happy homes."

The foregoing is forcible and to the point, and might well be listened to by our law-makers, for already the drain of men from this camp to the freer land of Nome is seriously affecting the working of Klondike mines and if the stories of Nome's wealth being equal to that of the Klondike are borne out by this winter's development we are forced to agree with the captain that many of the insecure leases of these claims will be voluntarily relinquished by discouraged miners to a too grasping government.

WHISKY PERMITS.

The government at Ottawa a few months ago was vigorously engaged in turning out prohibitory laws for this territory. So vigorous and sweeping were the measures adopted that those who had bought and paid for retail licenses here were actually alarmed for a while, seeing that if the measures were carried out, the licenses would be rendered valueless. Importers were stopped with their wares at the gateways into the country, and reports poured in of the A. C. being blocked, N. A. T. the same, Alex McDonald ditto, and innumerable smaller dealers all in the same boat, and the territory going dry. But every drop of the liquor has since arrived safely in Dawson, and now it appears that no prohibition was meant at all. The country fathers were simply "out with the big mitt," as the expression goes. The Yukon council was issuing whisky importation permits upon the payment of a stipulated sum and all comers were treated upon an equality. This missing of such a splendid opportunity for a "graft" displeased the Ottawans and the defect was quickly remedied. The process now is to proceed to Ottawa either in person or by deputy. After an interview with Sifton, the permit seeker is referred to Confidential Agent Riley. A palaver and a release of a stipulated amount of filthy lucre is made about which the world knows nothing. The emissary is then placed in possession of a piece of paper which passes a stipulated amount of liquor and the permit can either be used or peddled out to the highest bidder.

It is such a pretty plan. No one importer knows what another one paid for the same privilege and consequently is in a position to be freely bled for the good of the cause. It is a pretty scheme and is most instructive to our local body of law makers. It gives them to understand that if they don't take advantage of the goods the gods offer, then the opportunity will be taken away from them and given where it will surely be utilized. It is needless to remark that since importers have learned the road to Ottawa all the stopped whisky has been allowed to reach Dawson, and most of it is on sale.

A GREAT DEMAND.

Probably not many more than a hundred of the steam boilers for thawing and hoisting plants have arrived out of five times that number ordered. There will of course be others come in yet but the lateness of the season and the condition of navigation precludes

the possibility of a very large number putting in their appearance before navigation ends for the season.

Two thousand thawers could be profitably used this season. Indeed the thawer is the only possible solution of the labor problem which has been brought into prominence by the Cape Nome stampede. Contracts for \$1.25 per hour, to include the washup in the spring have been offered and refused on Dominion. A thawer to lessen the number of men required to thoroughly work a claim is most essential on much of the Klondike ground which it has been proved cannot possibly pay all the taxes against it and then pay the wages which it is very probable will rule this winter. Men can be seen on every hand hustling for thawers and many favorable offers of lays are made for men with such machines to pitch in and work out a claim that the owners may clean up and leave the country for other fields.

A year ago, as winter was settling in with a resistless regularity seen nowhere else on earth, there was noticeably a foreboding feeling of almost fear—a sensation of being helplessly locked up in prison—which pervaded the community and which is particularly conspicuous this year by its absence. No more is it possible, as last winter to be absolutely without communication with the outside world for four long months at a time. Anxious husbands and fathers have viewed with satisfaction the completion of the telegraph line and the perfecting of the mail carrying system, which is to leave no gap between summer service and winter service. Indeed so many of these husbands have been joined this summer by their wives and children that for a large proportion of us there is no more anxiety now in many a camp which last year was gloomy and foreboding. Each year this land becomes more and more fitted for a human habitation and the improvement is so rapid and startling that no man is found to bold as to try his hand at a pen-picture of conditions one year from date.

With the advent of frost disappears all danger of typhoid fever excepting where the seeds of the disease are already sown. Never was the sanitary knowledge of the nineteenth century better demonstrated to be founded upon scientific fact than here. Compared with the summer of '98, the summer of '99 has been strangely free from the disease which put sickly fear into the heart of many a strong man only a year ago. Proceeding upon the theory that typhoid was simply a filth disease and that where there was no filth there would be no disease, regulations were made and enforced which at times appeared hard, but which time has proven to be amply justified by results.

A "Parachute" Road.

In a communication from a friend up the creeks which was not received until the subject matter became a little old for publication we find the following trenchant paragraph: "We are today paying \$20 taxes here per man to one outside. Our best ground is being sold by the government at Ottawa amongst themselves. We are not allowed to have a voice in our government; and what money is expended is used * * * in building a parachute road across country, so that our local government may ride the ridges and inspect the country without coming in contact with the great unwashed masses." Excellent service and moderate prices at the Cafe Royal.

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