

## IN THREE MORE MONTHS.

### Dawson Will Revel in Fresh Supply Delights.

#### But Those Who Revel Will Pay Fancy Prices for What They Procure From Early Craft.

In three more months, provided the season is not later than was that of last year, the residents of Dawson may confidently begin to whet their appetites for something fresh in the way of vegetables, poultry and eggs. It was during the last week in May of last year that the first scows got away from Bennett on the journey this way, Fred Clayson, the missing man of whom so much has been published lately, being among the first to start and the first by a little more than one day to arrive in Dawson. Following hard after Clayson came F. H. Vining, also from Skagway. Clayson brought vegetables and eggs principally, while Vining's cargo consisted principally of doors and sash, with a few cases of eggs. For the latter Clayson had received \$90 per case and the next day Vining disposed of his hen fruit at \$75 per case. For the doors and sash there was great demand at big prices. Ordinary cedar doors which sell even at Skagway for \$2.50 each sold readily here at from \$17.50 to \$20. Vining made big money on his stock and left immediately for the outside and brought back a similar cargo; but during his absence other cargoes of the same class of goods arrived, and on his second consignment he made but little in excess of actual expenses.

But last season was an unusually late one in the upper country, and long after the lakes and rivers were entirely free from ice Lake Bennett was so low that it was impossible to take even a light draught scow through the narrow strait which connects Lakes Bennett and Tagish, which condition was due to the cold weather which prevented the melting of the snow and consequent rising of the water. On the morning of the second of June of last year mercury went down to zero at the summit of White Pass, and late the following night a man with badly frosted feet was brought to a lodging house there, he having gotten his feet wet somewhere between there and Log Cabin. It was not until after the 10th of June that ordinary draught steamers could cross between Bennett and Tagish at Cariboo, and it was not until the latter part of June that such steamers as the Gleaner, Sifton and Nora were able to cross the little bar.

Should the weather in that part of the country turn warm this year early in May as was the case in '98, there may scows arrive here even before the time of their departure last year from Bennett. That there will be a large fleet of scows come down the river immediately on the opening of navigation is certain, for it is now known that many of the Skagway merchants are preparing to come with some merchandise or other, as already a number of them have written or telegraphed to acquaintances here inquiring what lines are short and asking for price quotations.

An erroneous impression appears to have found credence on the outside that Dawson is short on everything except money to buy at fabulous prices, when in reality the opposite is really the true state of local affairs. As a result of this erroneous impression on the outside, there will be dozens of scows loaded with produce landed here in about three months or soon thereafter, and the Dawson merchant who invests heavily and at big prices in goods brought down on the first few scows to arrive will find that he has exercised poor judgment, for the reason that the many importations will result in low prices before navigation has been open more than three weeks.

To the consumer this is pleasant prospect, but to the many who pilot their barges down the treacherous rivers where, during low water, rocks, sandbars and other obstructions are most discouragingly numerous, the venture may not prove by any means a remunerative one. However, the first few cargoes to arrive will be readily taken at almost any price the owners see fit to ask.

#### Dog Market Culled.

Only a few weeks ago Dawson could probably boast more dogs to the square yard than any white man's city in the known world. Many of them were the very finest that could be produced, having been gathered here from all points of North America. Today Dawson's dog market has been culled until, with the exception of less than half a hundred, there are none left but a measly, mangy, toothless herd of back door whiners—dogs either too old, too young or too small to make it worth while starting with them on the long trip to Nome. If Dawson was to be called upon now to compete at a bench show, she would be found wanting. So far as dogs are concerned, her glory has departed, gone down the river en route to the new American mining camp. And yet dogs no bigger than jack rabbits are being offered for sale, yes, and sold every day in Dawson at from \$75 to \$150, and in many cases they are so old as to be actually wind dried. If some outsider had possessed the foresight to have landed here two weeks ago with a flock of good, strong dogs he could have made a fortune out of the enterprise. In the meantime no complaints of loneliness on account of the decrease in the number of dogs have as yet been heard from the remaining citizens.

Two years ago this winter Joaquin Miller, who was then here, wrote to a friend on the outside a letter descriptive of Dawson in which he said: "There are dogs to the right of me; dogs to the left of me; dogs all around me; dogs in the dogs."

#### The Orpheum Opens.

The opening night at the Orpheum must have gratified the stockholders of that new theatrical enterprise; for the initial performance was a success in every sense of the word.

All of the available space was occupied. Some of the boxes sold for good figures. Tom Chisholm paid \$100 for two. Among others who purchased boxes were Messrs. Binet, William Gorman, Ralph Walker, and George Apple. Over a thousand dollars was received at the door.

The orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. W. Brennan, acquitted itself well. The opening march and the overture selections from "Il Trovatore" and "Semiramide" were exceedingly well rendered. Mr. Martin Hobbs evoked much applause by the artistic rendition of a trombone solo, "The Holy City."

The entertainment equaled if it did not excel any vaudeville performance ever given in Dawson. The actors were inspired to do their very best by an appreciative audience; and each performer was exceptionally good. Nat Goodwin's great comedy, "Whose Baby," was produced in such a manner as to avoid all criticism. The actors were well read in their lines and evidenced careful rehearsing. Paul Bordman as "Christopher Blizzard" and Blossom as "Rose," assumed the leading roles very successfully. Julia Wolcott, in the character of "Lucretia Trickeby," displayed exceptional talent, and undoubtedly to her is due the honors of the evening. Thomas Rooney portrayed "James, the Butler," exceedingly well. The others whose efforts made the comedy a success, were Jessie Forrester, Daisy D'Avara, Robert Lawrence, Alf Layne, Lew Traube and Frank J. Kelly.

The olio was varied and entertaining. Beatrice Lorne delighted the audience with her sweet soprano voice. Blossom and Julia Wolcott comprised a team, which gave some very amusing negro character delineations. Nellie Forsythie's

sentimental songs were enthusiastically encored by the numerous auditors. Jacqueline's appearance was greeted by her many friends with much applause. Cecil Marion was exquisitely gowned, and her singing was excellent. Bessie Pierce showed her wonderful capabilities as a contortionist. May Walker and Gussie Lamore acquitted themselves well of their respective turns. A "Dancing Cow," assisted by Bordman and Kelly, was introduced and afforded much amusement. Frank Kelly appeared in a rag time song and dance act.

As long as the management stages entertainments of such sort as is being run this week, the stockholders need entertain no fear of a lack of patronage.

#### Committee Reports.

The committee having in charge the celebration given in honor of George Washington's birthday, has made a report to Gov. Ogilvie, accompanying a remittance of \$434.25, the net proceeds of the entertainment. The total receipts of the entertainment were \$659.50; the total expenditures \$225.25, leaving a balance of \$434.25.

The committee's report in full is as follows:

Dawson, Y. T., Feb. 26, 1900.  
Hon. William Ogilvie, Commissioner Yukon Territory, Dawson.

Sir: The committee having in charge the entertainment given at the Palace Grand theater on the evening of the 22d inst., in honor of the one hundred and sixty-eighth anniversary of the birth of George Washington beg to present herewith the sum of four hundred and thirty-four dollars and twenty-five cents (\$434.25) as the net proceeds thereof, which sum we respectfully ask be placed to the credit of the "Kipling Fund" for the relief of widows and orphans of Canadian soldiers. Respectfully submitted,

LEROY TOZIER,  
J. LINDLEY GREEN,  
D. A. MATHESON,  
GEO. LAVFIELD,  
E. A. MIZNER,  
H. G. STEEL,  
E. C. ALLEN,  
EDDIE O'BRIEN

#### Gold Commissioner's Court.

Gold Commissioner Senkler resumed the trial of cases this morning.

Yesterday afternoon a decision was rendered in the action of Painter et al. vs. Harmon et al., which involved a dispute regarding the boundary line between No. 3 Eldorado and the adjoining bench claim on the right limit opposite the lower half. The decision is as follows:

"The question to be determined is the boundary line between the above claims. It appears Mr. Fawcett went to the ground and determined the boundary in the fall of 1897. Subsequently, in the spring of 1898, trouble again arose over this line, and Mr. Norwood, mining inspector, upon taking evidence, concluded that a straight line drawn from Mr. Ogilvie's lower post to his upper post as moved back by Mr. Fawcett 10 feet from where Mr. Ogilvie originally placed it, constituted the side boundary line of the creek claim upon its right limit. The plaintiffs claim that in determining the boundary line, Mr. Fawcett placed a third post at the upper end of the bench claim in question, about 12 feet lower down than the line as defined by Mr. Norwood, and that straight lines running from Mr. Ogilvie's lower post as originally placed and his upper post as changed by Mr. Fawcett, to this post, constituted the side boundary line of the creek claim on its right limit. On behalf of the plaintiffs, Mr. Kleinschmidt swears that he was on the ground when Mr. Fawcett determined the boundary line as the plaintiffs contend. On the other hand Mr. Bay and Mr. Mills swear that they were on the ground with Mr. Fawcett, and that he did not consider this third post referred to by the plaintiffs at all, but determined the boundary as stated by Mr. Norwood. If Mr. Norwood's decision in the spring of 1898 was, in the opinion of the bench claim owners, incorrect, I am at a loss to understand why the matter was not referred to Mr. Fawcett at once. The matter could have been settled without any difficulty then.

The evidence of what Mr. Fawcett determined is conflicting. The owners of the bench claim were at fault in not applying to Mr. Fawcett promptly after Mr. Norwood's decision. I think the boundary line should remain as determined by Mr. Norwood. The plaintiff's case is dismissed."

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