

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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A. F. GEORGE. Associate Editor

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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.

ALLEGED NEWS.

There is no humor so delicious as the unconscious humor of babes and fools. Our contemporary, the first of the week, published an extra containing about three lines of news, but of considerable importance, considering that it gave the names of five well-known Dawsonites as having been just drowned at Stewart. The following paragraph from another Sun extra of Wednesday night is self explanatory:

"A brother of the McNamara Brothers reported drowned, called at the Sun office and reports that his brothers are up the creeks and are safe. It is also quite possible that the names of all the others were given wrong, as it appears to have been guess work. Mr. Mortimer did not know the names of any of the people in the boat, but a woman whom he met further down the river claimed that she knew them and evidently gave their names to the police. * * * * * We are certainly sorry that any mistake was made * * * * * but that was not our fault.

This jumbled up explanation is worthy of the chart class at Father Gendreau's school. The humor of the denial might be from Mark Twain. But how about the 150 quarters filched from the pockets of our citizens by the sale of 150 copies of the spurious extra, containing the alleged news? And how about the anguish of alarmed friends of the supposed dead people who are some them working up the creeks from Dawson, and others have proved to be in camp at various known points not far from town?

But let us forbear. The foolish gossamer of the Sun is more to be pitied than "jollied. What it don't know about newspapers it makes up in knowledge concerning telegraphs. Sweet little plaything, it will grow up some day and its down will become feathers, and then it will look back with tender and pitiful sorrow at its young and callow days as the government-chosen superintendent of the Sun.

SYMPATHY FOR WEAK NATIONS.

It is surprising the amount of sympathy there is amongst the people of the Klondike for Aginaldo and Kruger. People are not by any means a unit in thinking that equity and right are upon the sides of Britain and the United States. Yet, in either case if put to a vote on the question of seeing the two big powers defeated an unequivocal No! would be the result. An analysis of the feeling in the matter shows a large measure of regret to be present that one cannot find something better than "expediency" with which to save ones conscience.

In the United States much the same feeling is apparent. An attempt is be-

ing made to cater to that better impulse by promulgating a doctrine of self government for the Filipinos, under an American protectorate. The insufficiency of all such weakling half measures has been proven a thousand times in the history of the world. It reminds us of a man shivering on the brink of a stream in which he has decided to bathe. He dips in one toe and then another, yet is afraid of the plunge which human experience has decided to be the proper way to enter the water. The United States, having decided that the Philippines are to be "absorbed, will only complicate matters for the future in absorbing those islands bit by bit, as the protectorate plan is designed to do.

Twelve centuries ago the small island of Britain was in the hands of seven kings—the heptarchy. Most of the world was in an equally undesirable condition. Under such a system there could be no security to either life, property or the pursuit of happiness. Where is the man so bold who will not admit that the subsequent system of conquest by which seven kings became one; by which seven countries became one, and so on, was the best thing that could have happened for the world at large. Men, while as patriotic as ever in the history of the world, are beginning to more and more regard the world at large as their country. Taking a long perspective, thinking men will all readily admit that it is best for that world at large that such semi-barbarous, petty principalities as the Philippines should cease, as petty principalities have ceased in Britain, as petty principalities have ceased within the boundaries of the United States.

Looking back over the history of the world, we find that the map of the world as we find it today is the result of this process of accretion or acquisition. From a million small kingdoms the world has progressed in this manner to some ten or twelve empires. Greater Germany absorbed all the smaller races of central Europe; and some philosophers teach that in the same way the ultimate destiny of the earth is—not a United States, but a United World.

THE YUKON STAR CHAMBER.

Rats and burglars choose darkness for their maulauding expeditions. A mole in his endless burrow straightway complains if daylight is let through by merciless man. Darkness is responsible for the devils own doings in the larger cities, and all the most heinous crimes are done under the sheltering protection of nightfall.

Secrecy is a species of darkness. The cunning hiding of his acts and motives from men is the principal stock in trade of every one of those unfortunate individuals whom society imprisons for its own protection. Only men fearful of the righteousness of themselves or their cause fear public inspection. Strong men, confident of their own integrity, do not become secretive and cunning the moment of their temporary elevation to office.

Here, in the Yukon, is a body of men "dressed in a little brief authority, who appear to be so sure of their holiness that they are afraid they might lose virtue by allowing the rabble—i. e. the public—to know aught of their deliberations. We refer to that local body of law makers of which we are all so proud—the Yukon council.

We have always maintained, and

maintain today, that when engaged in legitimate deliberations, that councils doings are as public in their nature as the columns of The Nugget. The ridiculous seclusions with which they surround themselves whenever they retire to consider the width of a public sidewalk or the letting of a ferry privilege from nowhere to nowhere, is akin to mummies play which amused our childhood. Why the toga-habited senators of the Yukon should require a padded and locked counsel room for their little talks, when the affairs of the immense British empire are conducted upon wide open lines, is only to be guessed at.

Is it that in legislating for the Yukon the council feels shy and out of place? Is the council like an old rooster we once owned, which liked to brood over the little chicks like a hen, but always got behind the barn door to do it? Or is the council into mischief, like some solitude-seeking children we wot of? Application for concessions are made every day. Is the council afraid to have the public know why certain ones are chosen for special privileges and others pigeonholed away?

Is the council so uncertain of itself as to fear an inkling of impending legislation might reach the people, who are so seriously affected by it? Or is it that the "high jinks" within those sacred portals will not stand to be seen of men.

We rather incline to the belief that certain of the members are so verdantly new to office that they fear their tottering efforts at statesmanship might provoke a public storm of ridicule, or, if correctly reported, set the nation to laughing. But there is something more serious than this at the bottom of all this secrecy and jealousy. The public has a right, and demands, to know what transpires behind those closed doors. The members of the council would be wise to remember that the present half publicity of the records in the gold commissioners office has done more to render that office honorable than a hundred years of secret legislation could have done. Public suspicion is on the Yukon council and nothing but publicity can remove it.

Men engaged in mining who are in possession of a miners license, and who use a town cabin as a base of supplies for their creek operations, should know that when a timber agent catches them hauling a little firewood and exacts royalty, he is going in direct contravention to the terms of the license, a license which is in the nature of a contract between the individual and the Dominion government. The timber agent who stops a miner hauling logs to his cabin and confiscates those logs is acting, not upon instructions from Ottawa, but upon an interpretation placed upon those instructions by Major Walsh when he was here. A miner should refuse to pay the royalty and replevin the confiscated logs.

A peculiar feature of the marked card case reported in our local columns, is the attitude of the "sports in the matter. While they emphatically condemn the man who was using the marked cards, he is blamed more for being found out—for not in some way protecting himself—than for the actual cheating. It is possible that a solution of this attitude taken by them can be found in the fact that in being found out he undermined the stability of gam-

bling in Dawson, as could be done in no other way. The footing of an operator of games of chance, is, in Dawson, very insecure to say the least, there being no license and every sport subject to all sorts of harassments and fines, even to the point of suppression. The result of the uncertain tenure has been that on the whole, gambling in Dawson has been "on the square." Its "squareness" being the foundation of its toleration, anything that shakes that foundation is deprecated by the "sports," hence the feeling of the sports toward Forrest.

Our contemporary, the News, must be laughing at itself and Dawson. Its leading news item on Thursday night, under double column headlines an inch high, was given in those headlines as "No News From Africa. It is quite customary to put important news under striking headlines, but we declare we never before saw the place of honor on a front page given over to an advertisement that the sheet had no news at all to offer.

The territorial court has been enlarged by taking out the partition between it and the police court. The contrast between the papered walls of the territorial court and the bare log walls of the defunct police court is most painful to those with the dignity of the court at heart. The government should attend some of these wall paper sales. A job-lot might be picked up cheap at some of them.

That expensive government ridge road is conceded on all hands to be an aid to miners on the distant creeks of the Indian river mining division; but it is a positive detriment to the creeks on this side of the divide since it divides the travel and it becomes harder to center attention upon the improving of the creek trails by private subscription, or otherwise.

Dawson officials are in danger of learning the lesson that the way to be popular with the appointive power at Ottawa is to do something here which will render them extremely unpopular with the people. In illustration of the fact we have but to quote the names of Col. Steele and Wm. Ogilvie.

Officers Elected.

At McDonald hall, on Tuesday evening, the charter members of St. Andrews Society held a meeting and elected the following officers: President, Dr. A. J. McDonald; vice-president, William H. McKay; secretary, Dr. Arthur Thompson; treasurer, James F. Macdonald; standard bearer, Thomas Chisholm; piper, Robert Anderson. The committee in charge of the arrangements for the concert and ball to be given on St. Andrews day, has secured the Palace Grand opera house for the occasion. This social event promises to excel anything of its kind ever attempted in Dawson. Music will be rendered by the brass band of the Yukon field force. A sumptuous supper will be served, in the Palace Grand, to the guests of the society.

The reception committee is comprised of Messrs. Nicol, Colin Chisholm, Mackenzie, James F. Macdonald, Dan Matheson, T. W. P. Smith, and Drs. McArthur and McCloud.

The decoration committee is composed of Messrs. A. Matheson, Rogers, Mackenzie, R. P. McLennan and A. D. Williams.

The next regular meeting of the society will be held next Tuesday.

No funny business with us. A druggist should be particularly careful. No mistakes made here. Reid & Co., chemists.

Woven wire mattresses, all sizes, at Jenkins & Johnson's.

Physicians recommend 99 cream, at Mohr & Wilkens.

TELEGRAM

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The trust held their r day night at R. Fulda. T ucation, co Allen, chai F. J. Hold which was board. The there are, a total of 16 Dawson, t provided w the Catholic that aside fr ividual chil supply of