

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

VOL. I. No. 36

DAWSON, Y. T., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1898

PRICE 25 CENTS

MINERS WILL HAVE A HOUSEWARMING

The New Building Will Be Opened on Next Monday Night.

A Brief Resume of the Events Leading Up to the Organization—What it Has Accomplished and is Now Doing.

The new and commodious Miners' Institute will be formally opened for the use of the Miners' Association on Monday night next. The new building stands on a lot donated to the association by the government and is located on Church street, near the slough, about two blocks back from the water front. The building is made from sawed logs, is two stories high and the dimensions are 18x24 feet.

It has been decided to open the building with an informal meeting at which all members of the association and the public in general are cordially invited to be present. A committee on entertainment consisting of Messrs. Armstrong, Hutchinson, McGregor and Allen has been appointed and arrangements are about perfected for an entertaining program. The meeting will be entirely social in its nature, and an enjoyable time is promised all who attend.

The opening of the Institute will mark the culmination of months of hard work and personal sacrifice on the part of men who long ago saw that such an organization as the Miners' Association is absolutely necessary for the protection of the miners and mining industry of this territory. The association grew out of a series of public meetings held in the early summer, at which the burdens under which the industry of the country was being hampered were freely discussed, and officials who had been derelict in the performance of their duties were severely condemned. At the conclusion of these meetings a committee was appointed and directed to proceed with the formation of a miners' association. Frank J. Dunleavy, who had been a prominent figure in the public meetings, was appointed organizer, and served without compensation until sufficient members had been enrolled to justify the adoption of a constitution and by-laws and the election of regular officers. On the 5th day of September a meeting of members was held in Pioneer hall at which time the organization of the association was perfected and the following officers were elected for the current term of one year: President, Geo. J. C. Armstrong; vice-president, Col. McGregor; treasurer, Capt. Galpin; secretary pro tem., Joe Biddle; auditors, Geo. M. Allen, E. Leroy Pelletier; standing committee, Messrs. A. N. McCuen, John Cameron, E. H. Langley, E. Leroy Pelletier, Dr. McDougal, Geo. M. Allen, P. R. Ritchie, John Van Eidenstine and Mr. Courtney.

The necessity of the association having its own building became at once apparent, and active steps were immediately taken in that direction. Bids were called for, and the contract for the building was let some four weeks ago. The Miners' Association has no cause to feel ashamed of the record it has thus far made in this community. It has been recognized as an influential body since its formation, and in matters of public importance its opinion always carries weight.

On Mr. Ogilvie's arrival in Dawson he was interviewed by the standing committee and presented with an address of welcome and a statement of grievances from which relief was asked. Mr. Ogilvie expressed much surprise that matters were in such condition as represented, and promised to right things as soon as possible, but advised the committee that it would require time. Since that time a gradual change has taken place in the public offices, and business can now be transacted much more satisfactorily and expeditiously than was the case formerly. Several clerks whose dealings were more or less open to question have been removed; the facilities for handling and distributing mail have been largely increased, and other improvements have been made that commended themselves highly to the public. There is much more to be accomplished along the same lines, and the association is taking active steps toward completing the work which has outlined for itself.

The association has taken a leading part in securing incorporation for Dawson, and has interested itself in securing an exhibit from the Klondike at the London Mining Exposition, to be held next summer. It has endeavored to secure local representation in the Yukon council. Whether this will be granted or not remains yet to be seen.

A permanent secretary for the association has been elected in the person of Mr. E. M. Hutchinson. Mr. Hutchinson is an old-timer in the camp, and has a large acquaintance among the miners and holders of mining interests. He came to Dawson representing the New York Tribune as special correspondent. He will devote his time to the interests of the association, and will begin immediately the work of increasing its membership.

Started in to Handle Mail.

The Arctic Express Company has taken hold of the Richardson mail contract, and sent out a man to accompany the eight sacks of mail on the Ora. His orders were to see that the mail went right through to the coast. The probability is that the Ora will make the trip successful, but if the ice hangs her up anywhere he

is to hire Indians with canoes, with dog sleds or to pack the sacks on their backs, any way at all so that the mail goes through.

His instructions also were to find out where the over due return mail is hung up. It was to come down on the Ora but vague rumors are going the rounds that it was held at Ekagvay, though who would have authority to hold government mail deponent sayeth not. After locating the return mail, which may be in charge of some one of the company, it is to be urged regardless of expense.

The Arctic Express Company is now prepared with dogs, drivers and stores of provisions all along the river and lakes, and to a Nugget representative the manager stated the determination of the company to start teams out in opposite directions immediately upon the arrival of the first snow and firm edge ice.

The Nugget the Pioneer.

Our contemporary, the government organ, at various times has referred to itself as the "pioneer" paper of Dawson. While the matter, in itself, is of small importance, still it may be well to set the public right once and for all. The KLONDIKE NUGGET was published and read by hundreds of the citizens of Dawson several weeks before any other paper appeared in any form whatsoever in this city.

True, the NUGGET was not at that time printed on a press, nor were there a great many copies of the paper issued for each edition. But, nevertheless the NUGGET was on the ground and doing business, while the plant of our contemporary was still held by the ice up in Lake Tagish.

To settle all doubts on the matter we reprint below a portion of the first issue of the NUGGET which, for lack of a press, was written out on paper and bulletined in front of the Mine Exchange, on May 29th—nearly two weeks before any other newspaper plant reached the town:

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

THE FIRST NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN DAWSON.

Until our plant arrives items of interest which may come under our notice will be bulletined from day to day. It is hoped that we may be of some benefit to the greatest mining camp in the world and that the venture may prove of slight benefit to the publishers.

E. C. ALLEN, Business Manager.
U. K. STORRY, Chief of Staff.

LOCAL NEWS.

THE POLICE GAZETTE TABOARD.

Early this morning a stalwart constable might have been seen walking along the water front with about 25 copies of Richard K. Fox's famous publication under his arm. Inquiry developed the fact that they were not for sale but had been confiscated under a law which prohibits the selling and passing through customs of literature of an obscene and immoral character.

THE DOMINION MIDDLE.

Major Walsh states that the complications existing in regard to claims on Dominion being unraveled as speedily as possible. Engineer Gibbons is now on the ground and, as soon as his report is filed, ruling will be made.

THE ROYALTY.

Major Walsh stated in an interview to-day that the royalty will be collected on all claims leases or renewals of which were taken out subsequent to August 15, 1897. The question as to the claims which this decision does or does not affect will be thoroughly investigated and announcement made to-morrow.

BREVITIES.

Bulletins will be changed each evening at 8 o'clock.

Scales of prices of lots in the government addition for which applications have been received are being prepared and will be announced in a few days.

As it has been decided to improve the Dawson City trail, a suitable site will be selected on the flats back of town for a cemetery.

Judge McGuire, Capt. Constantine and Customs Collector Davis left yesterday morning for Forty-mile. They will return by the first steamer.

The foregoing is only a part of the issue of May 29th, but enough is reproduced to prove conclusively the claim made by this paper, viz.: The NUGGET is Dawson's pioneer newspaper.

A Vote of Thanks.

Capt. J. E. Hanson, Superintendent A. C. Co., City: Dear Sir—Recognizing your prompt and energetic efforts in the establishment of a fire department, and the public spiritedness which prompted you to tender the temporary use of a building gratuitously for the fire apparatus, and appreciating the courtesy with which a committee of the volunteer fire department was received and the promptness with which their request and suggestions were acted upon by you, at a meeting held Thursday evening, October 20, 1898, it was unanimously voted that the thanks of the organization be tendered you, feeling that we had your sincere sympathy and hearty co-operation.

DAWSON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT,
B. H. Moran, Secretary.

A Jury Decides Who Caused the Fire.

A jury of six men, good and true, was impaneled in Justice Harper's court on Thursday to inquire into the cause of the recent disaster by fire which has visited Dawson. George Noble was made foreman. A number of witnesses were carefully examined and the jury decided in a verdict that the fire "was started by a guest of the hotel (Green Tree) leaving the candle burning in her room when vacating the same about 3 o'clock, a. m. of the 14th inst."

They were also of the opinion that "severe criticism is due the proprietor for the gross and careless manner in which the hotel was allowed to be run."

They would also beg to bring to the notice

of the council of the Yukon the necessity of a law being enacted compelling hotel keepers who use candles in the bedrooms of their hotels to provide proper fire-proof holders for the same, as from the evidence produced at this inquiry it is evident that had such been in use at the Green Tree hotel no fire would have occurred." Geo. Noble, foreman; Geo. J. Armstrong, Albert E. McKay, Arthur P. Hughes, Thos. A. Hinton, Dennis Puffer.

It appears that Tony Page had gone to bed and was awakened by her friend Belle Mitchell along toward morning, accompanied by a male friend named La Font. The trio then repaired to Belle Mitchell's house in Klondike city, where they were proved to be at the time of the fire. Tony Page's room was illuminated by a candle fastened upon a block of wood and there was much conflict of testimony as to whether the three really knew whether or not the candle was extinguished before they left the room. The verdict shows the jury to believe it was not extinguished for they found that the fire was started by Tony Page neglecting to blow out a candle in her bedroom before she left. The management of the Green Tree was also censured for their negligence in allowing the use of their rooms by persons irresponsible from liquor.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

The stout, tight little Burpee has been hauled out of the water for the winter.

A wayside hotel has been opened at Selkirk for the benefit of travelers over the ice.

There is a rumor that the reason the Ora did not bring down mail as usual was that for some unexplainable reason it had been stopped at Skagway.

Wednesday morning the Yukon was seen to be rapidly clearing of floating ice. Thursday morning it was quite clear and communication by boat with west Dawson was re-established. The thaw has killed all skating and the edge ice is under water.

A new postmaster arrived on the Ora. Mr. Hartford is a gentleman who has seen long postal service in Ottawa and he comes to us fully equipped with that practical knowledge of postal administration, without which an office of the importance of Dawson cannot be operated.

It is hoped the unexpected clearing of the Yukon river of the ice which has been running for the past week will allow the arrival at Dawson of the many tons of butter which are known to be at Bennett and en route. In fact, there are many articles which, though not actual necessities, yet which we would all like to see here in greater profusion.

It is claimed by the friends of Belle Mitchell that for several weeks prior to the fire, she had not been an occupant of any room or rooms at the Green Tree. They account for the mistake by the persistence of some of the attaches of the house always speaking of a certain room as Belle Mitchell's room that being supposed to be the room where the fire originated.

The case of Mrs. S. Lichtenstader is exciting the interest of some of our good people. The young woman was left a short time ago by the husband who had to go out on an important business. He left her with a comfortable building, a winters outfit, a nice stock of goods and a good business on Front street. The morning of the fire the shouts of scurrying people and the noise of hurrying feet failed to awaken her and everyone was too busy to think of knocking at the door and awakening the woman. When she woke up the fire was so close she just had time to save a couple of trunks when the building and entire contents was involved and went up in the general conflagration. The lady is young and energetic, and there is a movement to again re-establish her in a building on the site of the store. Mr. Lichtenstader will eventually become a wealthy man, as he holds a half interest in the two-and-a-half mills of a concession on Hunker, but is involved in a lawsuit over his title and is thousands of miles away in London, Eng., where he is absolutely powerless to aid his wife in her misfortune.

PERSONALS.

Mr. James Barrett came in on the Ora.

Judge Dugas, who came in on the Ora, was accompanied by his son, Alvin Dugas, and Mr. J. A. Longpré. Mr. Longpré will act in the capacity of private secretary to the judge.

Capt. J. E. Hanson, manager of the A. C. Co., who has been confined to his home ill for the past week is again at his accustomed post of duty, and the machinery of this immense concern feels the impetus of his ever energetic personality.

All over Puget Sound, but especially in Seattle, there is no more popular and well-known a gentleman than Capt. B. K. Howard. The captain has permanently located at Grand Forks, where he is engaged in handling mining properties.

Prof. D. H. McCumber, leader of the Monte Carlo band is perfecting one of the best musical organizations of the kind in Dawson. Being a brother "mouth-piece" ourselves, we congratulate his musicians and himself in their creditable musical work.

Andrew Young, who is selling large numbers of each issue of the NUGGET was successful in mailing a large number of papers to addresses given him by his patrons. Prior to the sailing of the Ora a mail sack was opened for the introduction of a lot of late mail and Young's letters got safely away.

Homer Bean left for Forty-mile Monday. Homer has a number of promising properties on the American side and has taken down an outfit, with the intention of doing much development work this winter. His many Centralia friends wish him good luck and bespeak for him the smiles of the goddess of fortune.

Mr. O. S. Osborne, of London, who is the owner of 26 acres on lower Bonanza is a guest of the Fairview, having arrived on the Ora. Mr. Osborne left Dawson last August and spent several weeks outside devoting his time to private business. While in Victoria and Vancouver he availed himself of the opportunity of criticizing some of the mining regulations of the Yukon district, and with an earnestness commendable, placed before a number of influential business men and others in official circles, some of his objections, bringing to bear logical arguments in support of his position. Mr. Osborne will spend the winter on Bonanza, preparing his claim for ground-slucing next spring.

I have several good cabins for sale. Best location in Dawson, at snap bargain prices. Call at once and secure first choice. HIRSH, Nugget office.

A FIRE DEPARTMENT AT LAST.

"Fire Laddies" Volunteer to Drill and Run With the Apparatus.

Captain Hanson Overhauls a Warehouse for an Engine House—Apparatus Out of "Hook"—Twenty Men Stand Good for the Money.

Wednesday and Thursday nights the volunteer fire brigade held meetings in the upper hall of the Regina Club and discussed means and plans whereby they could render more effective aid in time of fire than by unorganized individual effort. A committee had been appointed to confer with the citizen's committee which had in charge the matter of getting the apparatus out of "hook." Thursday evening Mr. Moran reported for the fireman's committee that he had met the citizens in the afternoon, and they had just about completed the raising of the necessary funds and the apparatus would then be turned over to them for their disposal. The money is loaned at a very low rate of interest by the Canadian Bank of Commerce—the bank being secured by a note for the amount signed by twenty public spirited citizens. Mr. Moran reported that plans were yet vague, but it was being looked, that pending the incorporation, the men, whose names had secured the funds, should be empowered to act in all fire protective matters. Mr. Chute, for the citizen's committee had thought it unfortunate the volunteer department had already chosen an engineer, as he believed the men who were standing good for the engine should certainly have the choosing of the man to run it. Mr. Moran reported further that the citizen's committee had expressed themselves as pleased that a volunteer department had been already organized willing and able to work with the apparatus.

Mr. Eschwege, for the committee on fire alarms reported a conference with Captain Hansen. The captain had in his presence promptly instructed the day and night policemen who watch the A. C. Company's stores to make it their special duty to ring a continuous alarm in case of fire to call the department together. Captain Hansen had also then and there hired six men to work as nearly continuously as possible to convert the most northerly of the company's stores into an engine house. The men were put to work to enlarge the doors and, in fact, overhaul that whole building so it would comfortably house the engine, the chemical engines, the hose-carts, the hook-and-ladder trucks, and, in fact, the whole department.

On Mr. Eschwege's motion the volunteer fire department unanimously ordered the secretary to direct a letter to Captain Hansen thanking him for his ready compliance with the wishes of the volunteers, and more especially for his generous plans for their future benefit. After informal discussion of a variety of subjects the meeting was adjourned until Saturday night at the same time and place when the volunteer fire department may expect a report of the committee which has in charge the securing of the co-operation of the men who practically control the apparatus.

The result of the many meetings held by various committees, etc., in the past week is that Dawson will, in a few days, have a large and effective volunteer fire department, with apparatus second to none in the entire north-west.

A Pointed Communication.

Enron Nugget:
I would like to call your attention to a strange order issued recently along the water front. I and others have bought some firewood on which the royalty had been duly paid and no question of ownership has ever been raised. To us a bus, and they cost 10 per cent. While awaiting a favorable opportunity to get the wood onto the bank we have been notified to either get that wood out of the river at once or it will be confiscated.

There is no traffic upon the river nowadays, so that the presence of the wood along the river bank is injuring no one. The only excuse offered for the peremptory orders of confiscation is that an ice gorge or sudden raise in the river might carry the wood down the river. Now, Mr. Editor, I would like to know if that is in your estimation sufficient to warrant the confiscation of property which is admittedly ours by all the laws of the land? Has anyone a legal right or a moral right to confiscate our property when it is injuring no one on earth? Is not this threat of confiscation an abuse of power which is intolerable to all with one drop of British blood in their veins?

Knowing your paper's attitude in all matters wherein the rights of the people are concerned, I presume to address you as above, and I beg to remain your most obedient servant.

WALTER F. JOHNS.

(In cases of emergency, public opinion amongst the English-speaking races sometimes allows the overriding of the laws framed for the protection of individual rights. The officials have no legal right to confiscate your wood. If an emergency really exists the public might grant them a moral right. No one knows of the existence of such an emergency, and, though it is advisable to take your wood out of the river, we hardly think your property will be really confiscated even if you don't do so.—Ed.)

High grade meats at popular prices at Portland market.

Are you buying your drugs at the Pioneer Drug Store?

When laying in your winter's outfit, don't forget a subscription to the NUGGET is an essential. Twice a week by carrier—\$1.00 per month.

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