

Stroller's Column.

While the Stroller invariably uses a pencil he sometimes takes his typewriter on his knee to express a few emotions. This time it is to say that too many of his friends and acquaintances in Dawson are prematurely going to seed.

There are men in Dawson who, on the outside, had their pants pressed every day and gave parties in honor of themselves every few weeks, but here they only shave twice a month, cut their own hair with a knife and fork, wear trousers like the latest in recherche baseball circles and who in many other respects show the "serge and yellow," so far as years are concerned, they are still in the pink tint springtime of life, the fizzy period of their existence.

We have all seen a young matron standing in her door whom we can readily see is growing prematurely old but we see the cause when we note the trimming in the way of half a dozen lispng offspring hanging about her skirt. There is occasion for her washed-out look and in many cases the meal ticket's look is in unison with that of his wife.

But this is not the class of people to whom the Stroller refers. The people in Dawson who are noted to be going to seed as a rule are not encumbered with the kind of skirt trimming above mentioned, for the ageing process is noted principally on the part of our male population that is not compassed about with vines, neither do they repose beneath fig trees—that is, not their own fig trees.

The Stroller could name a quarter of a column or more of young men in Dawson who are prematurely ageing and who look as though they had dizziness, ringing in the ears, dry lips, dark brown tastes, disinclination to sing "Happy Day," lack of appetite, cold feet, tendency to yawn, dislike to salt pork for breakfast, an unpaid laundry bill, an account for board in Dick Brown's possession, a returned engagement ring and fears of being "fired." The Stroller said he could name a quarter of a column of such men who come within his range of knowledge, but he will not take the time to do it—not at the present sitting, as his typewriter weighs upwards of 160 pounds.

A Kansas statesman lately framed an epigram that will live because it is true. He said: "You can't vote yourself rich or out of debt. Think of that, you fellows, who have been trying to accumulate by marketing your franchise year after year for the nominal sum of two dollars."

The above statement may apply to Kansas but it does not fit in this country where votes are proportionately high with cucumbers on the side or fricassee of native raspberries a la mode tout ensemble with burgoisse of pure can milk.

The man who expects to go to Ottawa, sit on the Yukon council or put himself in position to have his own avenue rescued from the slough in which nature left it at \$2 per vote will be sadly disappointed.

In the Yukon there are no cheap foreigners with whom to compete in the matter of voting. We, the plebeians, run against this element on every corner, in every walk of life, but we do not fear meeting them at the polls for they have no business there demanding their presence.

Any rise or fluctuation in the vote market will be duly noted by the Stroller for the benefit of his constituency who, after the election, will continue to work for a living as they have done in the past unless they can be appointed to some position such as scow snubber by his excellency, city egg plucker, territorial fox-terrier curtailer or some such sinecure that will enable the incumbent to throw tin cans into his neighbor's yard with impunity.

Grand Forks, August Heinze.

Dear Stroller: I do not write you to while away an idle hour, neither do I write with a view of opening a correspondence with you. But if you see fit to answer this letter you may do so. That will be the extent of my correspondence and when we meet, if we ever do, it will be as strangers. What I ask is your opinion on the following: In the first place, when I came to the country it was to find a husband and a home. While this was not printed on my calling cards, it was my motive in coming to the Klondike. At first it seemed easy—almost too easy to be interesting—so I began to act in a cold, distant, independent style; but I fear I overdid the cold, distant act for my admirers dropped off and now there is nothing doing at our house in the way of young men dropping in to spend the evenings. Instead, I have sent shirtwaist after shirtwaist to the laundry that never came in contact with

a strong arm or a grain of black sand. One young man who appeared to admire me very much at first has shovelled in his last dump and will leave for the outside next month. I would like very much to have the right to put my clothes in his trunk and go with him but fear he is afraid of me.

Now, if you care to assist me, you may write and advise me how to recover lost ground.

Yours in mental perturbation,
EX-QUEEN OF BONANZA.

The Stroller is of the opinion that you are an ex in every sense and but for the fact that you say you will not write again he would not answer you this time. It looks very much as though you threw off the pedro when you decided to get gay and independent and now you realize that the game is going against you.

Although the season is late, you might restate yourself by wearing a pair of Oxford slippers and star-spangled-banner hose. Understand right here that your time is short and that no woman ever captivates a man when she is wearing felt shoes. In fact, a pair of low, wide-heeled, broad-toed Dolge felts on a woman is very apt to blight any feeling of sentiment that is not deeply rooted.

Try the low cuts with a terra cotta colored shirtwaist, a bunch of sweet peas on your breast and a sort of vining hyacinth or twining ivy look in your eyes, and the chances are that you may yet have an opportunity of storing your raiment in the trunk you mention.

If you fail, stay with the same attire but move over on to Hunker and your independence air won't last a week. When it comes to scattering black sand around over a parlor or reception room Hunkeries are not excelled unless it is by residents of Dominion, which creek is said to have more hot tonales per claim than any in the district except Gold Run.

The recent dry weather has caused the streets and avenues to become sufficiently dry to enable them to be found by the council in case there is a movement on the part of that body to have any of them put in the same class with the municipal favorite. The Stroller suggests that now that his street is fairly free from water, the street committee locate buoys on it for future use as this dry weather may not be expected to continue all fall.

If the members of the committee do not know the location of the Stroller's street, he will enlighten them. It rises in a glacier on the hillside, meanders placidly westward and empties into Third avenue. It is navigable as far as James Falls.

No. 32 above on Hunker creek, August 24th.

Dear Mr. Stroller: I find great pleasure in reading your answers to letters sent to you by different people, asking you questions, so I thought I would ask one myself. Old H. Smith when he was on 22 above always said that writers are people who right things, so there must be something in it. Now I saw a piece in the Nugget that the police are handing around blue tickets and I want to know if it takes an inside pull to get one. We will be through sluicing in about three weeks more, and as I am going to try to get back to Old Webfoot this fall, I thought I would reach for one of those tickets and I suppose they mean a free ride, at least as far as Whitehorse. If the police require credentials as to past and present conduct, Bro. Hill the printer has known me since '97 and J. C. Shaffer not quite so long but a good deal better. I hope you will give this your attention. I have a kick coming I would like to tell you about to see if something could not be done about it. I give you my word it is not high treason or lese majeste, so we would not get into trouble.

HUNKER. As you appear to have a good case the Stroller sees no reason why you should not present it to the police. Start some morning early and patronize every roadhouse bar between 32 above and Dawson and if you do not have a case when you start, you will have one when you arrive, and the Stroller guarantees that you will receive distinguished consideration at the hands of the police. It may be in the form of a blue ticket or it may be in the form of a saw. Rest assured you will not draw a blank.

He likened her unto a rose, And he was truthful, I suppose. For in the vase we often find The withered, drooping, faded kind.—Indianapolis Sun

Margie Newman at Auditorium. Job Printing at Nugget office.

COUNCIL MEETING

Important Matters Definitely Decided

Water Bylaw is Passed—His Worship Will Communicate With Mr. Carnegie.

The meeting of the city council last night was not very lengthy but that august body certainly did do business while the session lasted, taking definite action on a number of important matters that have been pending for some time. The Carnegie donation for a free library was dealt with, the numbering of the city was decided upon, the contract with the Dawson City Water and Power Company for installation of the system of water works agreed upon was closed, the lack of proper drainage in the city was handled without gloves and City Engineer Rendell was hauled up with a short turn and the riot act read to him in no uncertain terms. Taken altogether it was quite a prolific session, short and sweet but deliciously to the point. All the members were present.

Communication and petitions were few and for the first time in many moons there were no new bills presented. Among the former was a letter from Charles Goldstein who is very desirous of opening a banking establishment where small loans may be made upon approved security, called a pawshop by some and a hockshop by others. Uncle Charley with becoming naivete offers the council \$37 for a license for the balance of the year, stating that the business will not warrant him paying the full fee of \$100 for the four months yet remaining in the fiscal year. If his desires are not acceded to he will be compelled to wait until January 1 before entering business.

Frank J. Nolan filed a protest over the continuation of the present drainage system in vogue in the vicinity of Harper street and Eighth avenue. He stated that a spring in the side-hill back of his premises was slowly but surely groundsluicing his lot away and also doing irreparable damage to Harper street and other property contiguous. He desires that attention be given to it immediately.

A letter addressed to the mayor signed by S. A. D. Bertrand was read requesting that the premises at present occupied by the tax collector and his assistant in the Administration Building be vacated by September 1. The crown timber and land agent has outgrown his present quarters in the postoffice building and the tax collector's office is desired by him.

The finance committee was the only one of the standing committees which had a report to make. The following bills were recommended paid: Dawson Water Co. \$ 15.00 Yukon Sun 65.00 W. S. Paddock 11.80 Electric Light Co. 29.90 J. P. O'Connor 300.00 Dawson Hardware Co. 9.75 Dawson Hardware Co. 10.70 Klondike Mill Co. 173.13 Klondike Mill Co. 11.52 N. D. T. Co. 12.00 Wm. Campbell 10.00 Dawson Sawmill Co. 103.80 Dawson Sawmill Co. 107.45

Under the head of motions Alderman Macdonald offered the following resolution which met with the approval of the entire council: That the council of the city of Dawson very highly appreciated the generous offer of \$25,000 for the erection of a free public library in this city made by Mr. Carnegie, and this council hereby tenders to Mr. Carnegie the thanks of the citizens of Dawson for the offer of so generous a donation, and be it further resolved that the city clerk is hereby instructed to forward a copy of this resolution and of the resolution respecting the same subject passed at the last previous meeting of this council to Mr. Carnegie.

The resolution was passed though

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not without considerable discussion before such action was taken. In reference to the assistance in the library's maintenance that could be depended upon from the territorial government, Adair said he had interviewed Acting Commissioner Major Wood upon the subject who had said there need be no fear that the government would not do what was right in the matter. Macdonald suggested that the mayor be instructed to communicate with Mr. Carnegie and ascertain, precisely upon what terms the \$25,000 is offered and to secure if possible an appropriation of a portion of the sum offered to be used in the purchase of literature for the library. His worship thought that a part of the funds was always utilized in providing the books, but Wilson replied that he had understood from Mr. Nicol that in all of Mr. Carnegie's gifts for the establishment of free libraries throughout the country the donations had been made applicable to the construction of the building alone. Macdonald corroborated Wilson, saying he had seen the correspondence had with Mr. Carnegie which was on file in the office of the city solicitor and that in it there was no intimation of any portion of the funds being used for the purchase of literature. Communication will be opened with Mr. Carnegie's agent at once and it will be ascertained more complete particulars of the donation. It may be taken as settled, however, that the library will be built as both the city council and the representatives of the territory have signified their willingness to comply with the requirements demanded by the generous philanthropist.

A decision in regard to the petition of Mr. Goldstein for a reduction in the fee for a pawnbroker's license was handed right off the bat. The city clerk was instructed to inform the gentleman that such could not be done as it would be an injustice to those who had already paid the fee in full.

A number of business houses who are entitled to pay a license have been dilatory in the matter of taking out the same and these are to be prodded up by the license inspector. Murphy gave notice that at the next regular meeting he would make a motion to have the license inspector push the matter of collecting the licenses. Reference was made to the difficulty the inspector sometimes encountered in securing the fee he often having to call a half dozen times before he was successful. The council had been very lenient since the passage of the license bylaw but there was a limit to endurance and patience and that limit had certainly been reached. Some people evidently thought the council was to be played with and when the inspector would call they would always have a "big jolly" ready for him about hard times, no money and they could not pay the fee, etc., and he considered it had gone far enough. It was unfair to those who had taken out their licenses for others to be privileged to go on without one.

In reference to the request from Mr. Bertrand that the city clerk and tax collector vacate the room at present occupied by him, his worship said he would see Mr. Bertrand and endeavor to secure an extension. To move on the first of the month gave them but little time in which to secure other quarters that would be desirable. Several places were suggested, among them being a suite of rooms over the Bank of Commerce and the McArthur building on Third avenue.

There are about \$5000 due in delinquent taxes and the city is going after them with a vengeance. His

worship suggested that a list be at once prepared and the city solicitor be instructed to proceed immediately in their collection. Murphy brought the matter to a focus by moving that the tax collector proceed forthwith to sell all real estate upon which there are arrears in taxes unpaid. Owners of property so sold are given three months in which to make a redemption by paying the taxes, interest, penalties and costs of making the sale.

The water bylaw was given its second and third reading, was passed and numbered 71.

The question of numbering the city was definitely decided, the matter being referred to the streets committee with instructions to proceed at once. The plan adopted some time ago by the Yukon council is to be carried out and the metal numbers brought inside by Mrs. Ferguson will be purchased from her, a figure having been already agreed upon. King street will be the diving line, north and south and the streets running east and west will be numbered from the river back of the hill. A number is given each 25 feet, they will run in hundreds to the block and numbers may be purchased from the person having them in charge at \$1 per set. A bylaw is to be passed immediately making the numbering of each house compulsory and a man will be appointed to attend to the same so that it may be done uniformly and without error.

There is an unimportant clerical error in the license bylaw which Murphy gave notice that two weeks hence he will correct by offering an amendment thereto.

Jim Hall wants to put a cross-walk from the Auditorium theatre across King street to the postoffice building, but it will have to be put in according to the instructions of the city engineer or not at all. Several days ago he started the building of the walk but as the material used was flimsy one-inch boards he was stopped. If he desires the walk it will be put in by the city and then he can foot the bill.

A few moments before adjourning his worship remarked incidentally that he had spoken to Comptroller Lithgow in regard to the proportion of the funds secured from liquor licenses that would be turned over to the city. The comptroller had said that he considered 60 per cent. about the proper proportion.

Goes South.

Governor Ross, accompanied by Dr. Pare and Major and Mrs. Snyder and family, arrived from Whitehorse yesterday, and the entire party with the exception of Major Snyder, sailed on the Princess May. Major Snyder will return to Whitehorse today. Governor Ross and Dr. Pare, with the former's two sons, will go to Victoria, where the governor will remain a month, in which time it is confidently expected he will complete the recovery from his recent attack, from which he has made such satisfactory gains. After a month in Victoria Governor Ross will go to Montreal. Mrs. Snyder and children will visit at Vancouver—Alaskan.

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