

## PROPERTY BEING IMPROVED

### By Those Who Suffered Loss in the Recent Fire.

#### The New Dominion Building Completed—Work Commenced on the New Opera House.

It is about two weeks ago—indeed it is just two weeks and two days—since Dawson experienced the conflagration which reduced to ruins some of the largest and best buildings on her principal business street. After the disastrous fire, it was freely predicted that the unfortunate property holders would refuse to erect new structures. The fulfillment of such predictions seemed probable, for conditions and circumstances were different from those which had existed at the time of other fires. The late disaster occurred in the middle of an exceedingly cold winter; and new improvements might be swept away, as were the old, before the spring season, when owners expect to be remunerated for their investments. Then again, thousands of people will go to Nome as soon as the river breaks, and it was thought by those who are conservative that this probability would deter men with money from investing in Dawson property. It was reasonable to believe that the devastated district would remain a heap of ruins—ugly monument of its former glory—until the coming summer time. Then, materials will be cheaper, the weather will not retard outside labor, and it will be possible to gauge investments by estimates of the probable volume of business. But all the calculations made, two weeks ago have been altered.

Capital, which is so timid and fearful elsewhere, is bold and fearless here. The charred ruins were still smouldering—the loss occasioned could not have been estimated—when the energetic realty owners commenced the erection of new buildings in the places of those which had been destroyed. Knowing the enormous expense which would be incurred in building new structures at this season, aware of the possibility of another and similar disaster after their new houses are completed, realizing that at least three months of dull trade will be experienced before business will return interest on investments, the property holders on Front street, confronted by these disheartening conditions, have not hesitated to expend thousands on the improvements of their realty.

It is safe to say that within six weeks, the burned district will be rebuilt as compactly as before. Before the middle of next summer, business will be conducted in two story, substantial structures just as it was a little while ago.

The men who first gave positive proof that their confidence in the future of Dawson had not been affected, were Messrs. Tom O'Brien and Sam Bonifield. Their former building, richly furnished, suffered destruction; but it is replaced by a structure which is as well built and as nicely appointed as the old Dominion building. The new place will be opened this evening under the same management and with the assistance of the former employees.

The site of the building, formerly occupied by the up-town branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, is being improved, and the new structure is rapidly nearing completion.

The property immediately south of the Dominion is being rebuilt.

Ben Levy has commenced to clear the debris off of his lot, upon which the former Board of Trade was situated. He will erect a two-story building which has been leased for theatrical purposes.

W. S. Phillips has almost completed the construction of a small building, which he will occupy before the end of the week.

To these enterprising men who have backed their faith in the future of Daw-

son by the investment of large capital is due great credit.

#### The Three-Seated Cutter.

Its a pleasant ride to the Forks in the Nugget Express three seated cutter. Plenty of fur robes, a good driver and quick time is making the Nugget Express service the most popular between Dawson and the Forks. Stage leaves Forks daily at 9 a. m. Leaves Nugget Express office calling at all the hotels, at 3 p. m.

#### William Toltz on Quartz.

Eldorado Creek, Jan. 18, 1900.

Editor Nugget: I beg leave to differ with some of the quartz theory advocates in so far as that there has never been any quartz found in the country yet that contains gold, for there have been ledges found in different parts of the country which carry more or less free gold and some of them give good prospects. I will admit that the ledges that produced the gold which is in our rich creeks have not been found to my knowledge.

But if the bluffy hillsides along the Yukon river and other places where the formation comes to view have ledges which contain gold, and the gulches in the vicinity of such ledges have colors of gold in them, why is it not reasonable to think that somewhere on the rich creeks of the country there should be ledges of quartz of the same character as that which is found in the nuggets, and these ledges containing gold of the same character as that found in the creeks, even if the bedrock in most of the country is hidden from view by earth on the surface? It will take time and possibly a great deal of work to find them, but they are here, just the same.

Ever since I first came to the country in '97, I have been prospecting and watching the working and developments of the country with a view to forming an idea of where the gold came from; and from what I have seen of the country and the gold that is in it, it is my opinion that the gravel on the benches was made by the same action of the water and by the same stream as the wash that is in the creek, and that the gold on the benches came from the same ledges as did the gold that is in the creeks. I will admit that there is some difference in the appearance of that on the benches from that in the creeks, being that it is on high, dry ground and is cleaner and brighter; but that on the benches assays practically the same as that in the creeks. The gold on Eldorado's benches is very coarse and there is great quantities of nuggets the same as in the creek; while on Bonanza, above the Forks, the gold is fine and that in the benches compares with that in the creek very nearly the same as Eldorado's benches do with that creek, and in Bonanza, below the Forks, the two golds are generally mixed and have moved down the stream together, which proves beyond a doubt that it has come down the streams from above, and has not been carried here by an ocean or a glacier passing across the country, from the northwest and moving the gold up Bonanza, as some think. It would be impossible for any such action to move the two golds along together, mixed as they are, until it would get to the Forks and then separate the fine and richer grade and run it up Bonanza and the coarse up Eldorado and not get any of the pieces in the wrong stream.

The gold in the creeks is conclusive evidence that it is from no other source than quartz ledges which are tapped somewhere by the stream in which it is found, and is not from benches of quartz scattered through the general mica formation of the country as other advocate; for as much bedrock as there has been drifted and taken up and as many bunches and stringers of quartz as have been found by this drifting, there has never been a single bunch found in the country yet that had the least sign of gold in.

The quartz that is in connection with the gold is of a different character from those stringers of bull quartz that are

found all over the country. Judging from the quartz that is in the nuggets, it appears to have been cracked all to pieces from some cause of nature, making the edge a perfect mass of small pieces of quartz, there being cracks and crevices running all through it in every direction, and the gold seems to have been melted and run in and through the crevices and left them filled with the yellow mineral; and the largest nuggets have come from where the largest crevices were, and the largest pieces of this quartz that have been found is where the gold is massive enough to enclose the pieces of quartz and keep them from crumbling apart and the seams between those grains in a nugget are gold lined wherever there was space enough between them for the melted mineral to get in. The quartz in some nuggets is so cracked up and loose in places that one can pick it all out one grain at a time with the point of a knife.

Nuggets taken from the farthest point up the creek where gold is found is very rough and jagged, having flat sides, square corners and needle points on them and as new and bright as if they had just been broken from the rock, which shows plainly that it has not moved far from where it originated. A little further down the stream the pieces be in to show some wear, and the further down one goes the more plainly it shows the effect of travel; and nuggets taken from the lower part of the creek are battered around and the rock in them is worn round where it is solid enough to stick together. But a great many of the pieces through wear and rough travel have become dislodged and gone, leaving the impression in the gold where they came out; while on the upper part the rock it is clean broken and shows little or no wear, and there is more quartz in the nuggets on the upper part than on the lower.

The reason there has never been any of those ledges found is because there has never been any bedrock drifting done in the part of the country where they are and the bedrock is so covered up on the surface that it crops out to view no place, and to sink holes in this country to look for a ledge is almost a useless undertaking, for a man might sink a hole and strike bedrock within two feet of a ledge and then not know that it was there. But some day some one will accidentally drop on to one of them when he is not looking for it, and then is when the Klondike will have its gold excitement. Just imagine what the rock would look like where all of those nuggets came from, a ledge of quartz with gold sticking out of it like icicles. A display in a jeweler's show window wouldn't be a comparison to it.

WM. TOLTZ.

#### A Peculiar Case.

Joseph Williams, a deaf mute, was picked up on Front street by the police a few nights ago just in time to save him from death by freezing. Besides being very cold Williams was also very drunk. When taken to the guard house and thawed out, Williams' silence was much wondered at, but when sufficiently sober to write he made signs indicating his desire for pencil and paper which enabled him to explain his condition. Besides being deaf and dumb, Williams is also considered a little short on "head bait," and such being the case, he will be held at the guard house until his brother who is out on one of the creeks can arrive to take care of him. When asked in writing his name and age, the unfortunate man scribbled in answer: "Joseph Williams, 32 old years ago." An effort was made to learn the source from whence he got his whisky, but it was not successful.

Best imported wines and liquors at the Regina.

#### The Down Town Bank.

The business of the down town branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, will until further notice, be transacted at the main office near the barracks. The books and records of the branch were removed to the main office before the fire.

When in town, stop at the Regina.

## Nugget Express Daily Stage

BETWEEN

Dawson and the Forks

Leaves Office, Boyle's Wharf, at 3 p. m. Leaves Dewey Hotel, Forks, at 9 a. m.

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