

The Klondike Nugget

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1902.

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KLONDIKE NUGGET.



MR. CARNEGIE'S OFFER.

It is an old saying that a gift horse should not be examined too closely, which proverb the Nugget bears in mind in applying itself to discussing the offer of Mr. Carnegie to supply the sum of \$25,000 for the purpose of constructing a free public library building in the city. The offer is certainly a most generous one and in every way worthy of the donor's record as a philanthropist.

It appears, however, from the letter which contains the offer that the entire sum is to be available for the construction of a building only, and that the equipment of the institution is left to the city. If such is the actual conditions which Mr. Carnegie lays down, an effort should be made to secure a change before the offer is definitely accepted.

Ten thousand dollars would be a sufficiently large sum under any circumstances to expend on a building for library purposes. For that amount a building could be erected which would supply the wants of this community for an indefinite number of years to come.

If that amount or something approximately thereto could be secured for a building and the balance expended for books and other equipment the results would be far more effective and satisfactory than can possibly be attained through the expenditure of the entire sum for a building.

The Nugget is fully alive to the importance of the question and is thoroughly aware of the obligation under which the community rests to Mr. Carnegie. But we would point out also that the maintenance of a \$25,000 building in itself would amount to a larger sum than \$2,500 a year, and from what source the necessary equipment for the proposed library is to be obtained is not apparent.

If half of the amount which Mr. Carnegie offers can be made available for the purchase of books and other necessities, the library will be a veritable God send.

HOUSE NUMBERS.

In connection with the action taken by the city council last evening in ordering that the matter of numbering the residences and business houses of Dawson be proceeded with at once, it will be well to remember that many property owners have already placed numbers on their buildings. A scheme for numbering was adopted two years ago by the Yukon council and it is in accordance with that plan that the work has thus far proceeded. In view of this fact it is desirable that no change from the old system be made in order that those parties who have already been to the expense of numbering their houses may not be compelled to do the same work over again. There will be no disagreement, we think, as to

the necessity of having all places of business as well as residences numbered. The inconvenience of the present system is so apparent that discussion of the question is entirely superfluous.

It is almost as difficult to locate a home in Dawson as to find the proverbial needle in a haystack. The houses should have been numbered long ago and probably would have been had it not been for certain inadvertent circumstances. Now that the city council has taken the matter up it is to be hoped that no further delays will ensue.

The motive for the delay in announcing the date when the election is to occur is not apparent. It is, in fact, cause for surprise that the date was not set in the act of parliament which provided for the election. Unless the writ is issued very shortly it will be impossible for the election to take place prior to the close of navigation.

The drop in the temperature which occurs every evening immediately after sunset indicates quite plainly that winter's advance agent is in the field.

GENEROUS DONATION

Andrew Carnegie Will Give \$25,000

Toward Establishing Free Library Here if Site is Provided and Institution Kept up.

It rests with the taxpayers of Dawson whether or not they will have a free library commensurate with the growing importance of the city and territory at large. Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the well known philanthropist, has signified his willingness to donate \$25,000 for that purpose if the city will provide a suitable site and agree to attend to its maintenance in a proper manner. He asks that the city bind itself to expend not less than \$2,500 annually in such maintenance, but in view of the costly conditions attached to this country it is considered that that sum would not be sufficient for the purpose and the amount of the appropriation required is placed at \$4,800, an average of \$400 a month throughout the entire year. The attention of Mr. Carnegie was first secured through Mr. A. F. Nicol whose uncle is a very old friend of the aged philanthropist and whose country home adjoins the lands occupied by Skibo Castle in Scotland. In all his charities during the past year, which amount to many millions, Mr. Carnegie has made it an inflexible rule to help only those who are willing to help themselves. His gifts are more than liberal but he insists that proper steps shall be taken by which the result of his donations shall not be lost in future years.

From the letter received from Mr. Carnegie's private secretary it will be seen that the gift of \$25,000 is made for the purpose of erecting a free library building and it is not stated whether or not a portion of the funds would be available for the purchase of books and other equipment required. The letter was presented to the council last night together with a communication from Mr. A. F. Nicol, who has been conducting the correspondence, and is as follows:

"Skibo Castle, Ardgay, N.B. A. F. Nicol, Esq., Dawson, Y.T. Dear Sir: Yours of April 18 received. Mr. Carnegie's will has been to

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give about \$15,000 for a population such as yours, but as it is more expensive to build in the Yukon, Mr. Carnegie will give \$25,000 to erect a free library building. If the council pledges maintenance of library at a cost of not less than \$2500 a year and provides a suitable site for the building. Respectfully yours, JAMES BERTRAM, Private Secretary.

Mr. Nicol's communication goes considerably into detail and makes the suggestion that the city assume the responsibility of the existing library at once and also that the Yukon council be appealed to in the matter of assisting in the appropriation required. Its contents are self-explanatory.

"I beg to enclose copy of a letter I have recently received from Mr. Carnegie, through his private secretary, in which he offers under certain conditions to establish a free library building in Dawson. Last September when I first took this matter up a strong feeling was being expressed by citizens in this territory that the condition of the Dawson free library deserved substantial improvement, and with the conviction that the feeling was real I decided to approach Mr. Carnegie, and was successful through a private channel in gaining his ear. He accepted negotiations at the present stage it now remains for the public, through their appointed representatives, to carry the matter to a successful conclusion. The conditions attached to Mr. Carnegie's offer are: First, the granting of a suitable site; second, a definite pledge by the community of a permanent maintenance. The minimum guarantee to be \$2500 per annum. This \$2500 is the usual 10 per cent. per annum required by Mr. Carnegie, but I feel sure, gentlemen, you will agree with me that the costly conditions attached to this country should be spontaneously taken into account, and that if Mr. Carnegie's offer be accepted the community should pledge itself up to the full cost of maintenance of his library.

"At the present time such maintenance would not be less than \$4800 for twelve months. I am aware, gentlemen, that you will be averse to pledging the whole of the necessary amount from the revenue of the city, but I feel certain you will find Acting Commissioner Wood and the territorial government ever ready to come forward and substantially aid the movement.

"While on this question, I would urge the city council to decide to assume the responsibility of the existing library at once, and on the same lines. The board of control consider, and rightly so, that they should be freed from the necessity of soliciting private subscriptions for a public institution of this nature, and that the management should in the future be under the direct auspices of the city council, with perhaps unofficial assistance, which should, with the help of the Yukon council, provide for the entire cost of maintenance, which is, roughly, about \$400 a month, on the average for summer and winter.

"Commending this matter to your favorable consideration, I am, yours respectfully, A. F. NICOL, President Dawson Free Library."

"Every member of the city council is anxious and more than willing to accept Mr. Carnegie's generous offer, but before it can be done the will of the voters will have to be consulted. The council has no power to vote a perpetual appropriation of any kind except by the consent of the taxpayers and with that end in view Alderman Wilson moved that the city solicitor be instructed to draft a by-law to be submitted to the ratepayers in order to ascertain their desires in the matter. The election will be held at the earliest possible moment and if the voters express themselves as willing that the appropriation be made, the donation of Mr. Carnegie will become available immediately. It is up to the ratepayers to make the decision.

One Month for Wells

John William Wells, the man against whom Dr. Isadore McWilliam Bourke preferred a charge of indecent exposure, and who was yesterday morning convicted in Magistrate Wroughton's court, was in the afternoon sentenced to one month at hard labor.

Wells is a cook by trade and occupied a cabin in the rear of the Hotel Metropole.

Notice of Meeting

A general meeting of the Dawson Amateur Operatic Society will be held Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock in St. Andrew's hall for the purpose of considering plans for the coming winter. Every member of the society is urged to be present. C. W. MACPHERSON, Secretary.

Don Cesar de Bazaan - Auditorium.

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WAS NOT A FAKE

The P. I. Sporting Editor Denies Report

Nothing Has Yet Appeared to Indicate That Fitzsimmons Lay Down.

The San Francisco Examiner having declared in emphatic language, and emphasized it with yellow paint, that the Jeffries-Fitzsimmons fight was a fake, it is safe to assume that the fight was strictly on the square. If there had been—and I am satisfied there had not—the slightest suspicion of trickery the course taken by the Examiner was just the thing to prove conclusively that there was no basis for the breath of suspicion.

If the Examiner could have branded the fight a fake, and done it in a way to convince a reasonable person of the correctness of the allegations, it would have accomplished one of the greatest newspaper feats in the history of journalism. Thousands of dollars would have been paid gladly for affidavits giving prima facie if not conclusive testimony of the swindle.

Look at what the real situation shows. The Examiner rested its case on the strength of a letter, more properly an anonymous communication, alleged to have been written by a woman, in which she said that Fitzsimmons would lie down in the eighth round.

At first glance, in view of what actually took place in the ring, one cannot but be startled. How should the writer know when the fight was to terminate if she had not received definite information? Those who do not care to go into the question find an easy retreat behind the wall of "wisdom," signalized by wise looks and the solemn affirmation: "It looks queer; somethin' doin'."

Let me ask you one or two questions. How did a few people who are always bothering themselves with the future foretell the assassination of President McKinley, the destruction of St. Pierre and, to go still farther back, the Seattle fire?

While you are bothering your head with these little problems, and I dare say, not finding a very good explanation from a scientific standpoint, let me talk a little shop. If a story is worth printing it is worth investigating. If you can't verify it completely, then get hold of as many corroborative facts as possible and arrange them in such a way that they show some kind of a train of thought with at least a little powder to give force.

The Examiner had a point to work on. It either fell down miserably in its investigation or it was too lazy to work, and fell back on a sensational declaration, which to ninetieths, yes, more than that, of sporting men was nonsense, pure and simple.

Prior to the fight Fitzsimmons knew of the existence of this "letter." Such being the case, if there had been a job, the news would have been communicated immediately to Jeffries, and the result would have been an entire change of program.

Of all the sporting writers at the ringside, the Examiner man was the only one to see fake. It is true that he has been looking at ring battles for a good many years, and on many occasions has been on the wrong side of the fence. Such, however, is the fortune of the sporting element. It comes to all, but as a rule wise men do not say much about a proposition that rests on uncorroborated allegation.

The fight itself disproved the cry of fraud. Jeffries' face told a story more eloquent than words; Jeffries was rushing around like a mad bull. He looked like an amateur before the old man of the small head, slender legs and muscles of steel. For eight rounds there was something doing all the time. There was no child's play about it, and the man who thinks it a fake is simply avoiding the evidence before his eyes.

You do not have to go beyond the betting to see that there was no stock among the betting men of anything crooked. The odds remained steadily in favor of Jeffries. The job would have been for Fitzsimmons to win; then the short-end men would have raked in a big pot of money on a moderate investment. With Jeffries winning, there was no special action on the money.

Fitzsimmons is not only more popular today than at any other time in his career, but he is rated even higher than ever as a king of

fighters. Jeffries holds the championship; Fitzsimmons is the idol of the gallery and pit. Did you ever hear of a more striking scene than that witnessed in the big pavilion in San Francisco? The champion had reasserted his right to wear the laurel, but the crowd paid no attention to him. There were eyes for none but the aged old gladiator who had gone to his defeat with colors flying. He was cheered to the echo; he was followed to his dressing room; a thousand hands were ready to give him assistance; he had the sympathy of the crowd—and yet he was the dead dog in the pit. And what is more, all this happened in the state where Jeffries was born, grew up and became a fighter.

The public is a strange creature. It does about as it pleases, and in the battle for the world's championship it left no uncertainty as to where its heart lay. On cold-blooded judgment it backed Jeffries because he had strength, youth and weight. It seemed as if he could pick up old Fitzsimmons and crush him, but along came the old man, with age hovering over him, and until he received the blow which gave him himself the victory over ex-Champion Jim Corbett, he made the present champion look like a butcher's chopping block. Fitzsimmons is the greatest fighter in the world today, but he cannot, neither can any other man, knock out the big, lumbering giant, Jeffries, who is to thick-skinned to feel the tap of a sledge hammer.

—Portus Baxter in Seattle P. I.

In Memory of Humbert

Rome, July 29.—King Victor Emmanuel and the Dowager Queen Marguerite together visited the Pantheon today and joined in a solemn service in memory of King Humbert, who was killed two years ago today. The service was strictly private. After this service there was a public one.

Many wreaths were placed on the tomb. The crowd present was very large, and as the heat was intense many persons were prostrated.

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