

The Klondike Nugget

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From Thursday and Friday's Daily.
MORE REFORMS.

Every boat that comes in seems laden with good tidings for the Yukon. With the arrival of Gold Commissioner Senkler today comes the best news that has yet been brought. Mr. Senkler states definitely and conclusively and in language which offers no opportunity for misconstruction that when the reports of the present season are all in, the royalty will be reduced at least one-half, and in all probability will be cut down to two per cent or three per cent.

This means that men who are now preparing for their winter's operations can do so with the full confidence that they will not be confronted next spring with a demand for ten per cent of their output. They can figure absolutely on one-half that amount and probably less.

Almost of equal importance with the news respecting the royalty is the matter of an appellate court from decisions of the gold commissioner. This cuts off all appeals to the minister of the interior and forever places a stop upon the suspicion that decisions in appeal cases are determined by personal influence.

The Nugget congratulates the people of the Yukon territory upon the success of the fight for right which they have won after three years of effort. Nearly everything asked for has been or will be granted shortly. The dawning of prosperity for the Yukon is just begun.

A WORD FOR THE DOGS.

The days when the malamute will be king are rapidly approaching. With the closing up of the river, communication between the different parts of the territory will be dependent to a very large extent upon the services of the faithful canines which are now roaming the streets of Dawson at their own free will. To what extent the development of this northern country would have been hindered without the services of dogs is difficult to say. During the first two winters after the discovery of gold on Bonanza creek the freighting of the country was done almost entirely by means of these intelligent brutes, owing to the absence of any number of horses in the country and the prevailing belief that they would not thrive during the cold season.

During the winters of '97 and '98 communication with the outside world practically have been suspended had there been no dogs upon which to rely for means of transportation in and out. In fact the part which the dog has played in the work of opening up the magnificent resources of this Yukon territory has been so important and has contributed so largely toward bringing to the world a knowledge that we believe some recognition of his valuable services is quite in order.

There should be in Dawson an organization akin to the society for the prevention of cruelty to animals. A systematic outlook should be kept for the man who mistreats his dog. Whenever a dog is maimed or injured in such a way that he is unfitted for work the community at large suffers in consequence. Such inhuman actions, and they are by no means uncommon, merit and should receive severe punishment.

In the summer time when the work of the winter is over and the services of the animals are no longer of material value to their owners, many dogs are turned loose to rustle a living for themselves as best they may, invariably to become victim of mange or starvation, or perhaps both.

We submit, therefore, that an organized effort should be made to secure humane treatment for the Klondiker's best friend.

AN APPELLATE COURT.

As published yesterday exclusively in the Nugget, the determination has been reached by the government at Ottawa to establish in Dawson a court of appeal from judgments handed down

in the gold commissioner's court. This appeal court is to consist either of one or both of the territorial judges and will have the same jurisdiction as is now held by the minister of the interior. That is to say, in the future, instead of carrying appeals down to Ottawa with all the expense and loss of time attached thereto, they will be taken immediately before the local courts and a decision secured from them.

The system heretofore pursued has been extremely unsatisfactory. The territorial courts, while nominally of higher dignity and broader jurisdiction than the gold commissioner's court, have in fact, been almost subsidiary to that court owing to the nature of cases over which the gold commissioner has exercised exclusive jurisdiction.

It has happened on frequent occasions that the time of the higher courts would be taken up in trying the merits of a case involving a few hundred dollars, when the gold commissioner would be sitting in judgment on a trial where many thousands of dollars were at stake. This condition was brought about by reason of the fact that almost all important civil litigation in the territory, has to do with titles to mining property and until the present time all such cases have come before the gold commissioner. If an appeal were taken, jurisdiction thereover lay with the minister of the interior at Ottawa, and in consequence the business of the territorial court was confined to criminal matters and civil cases outside those appertaining to mining claims. To our way of thinking this new ruling is in every way as important as the absolute announcement that the royalty is to be cut in two.

There should be no more long and expensive delays in securing decisions in appeal cases.

Expensive and long drawn out litigation is a drawback to any country and we are glad of the fact that hereafter lawsuits will become more economical and be settled in much shorter time than has been possible heretofore.

The man who decryes the federal government with that government in its present attitude toward the Klondike, simply demonstrates that he is a calamity howler for the sake of howling. The Nugget has fought the government with every possible resource at hand as long as the government's position toward the Yukon was hostile to the best interests of the territory. Now that the fight is won and our demands practically complied with, this paper has no hesitation in congratulating the government upon the wisdom it has shown in granting what we have asked. There are some matters yet which demand attention and they will be presented by this paper from time to time as strongly as possible. The wants of the country will be watched with the same vigilance as ever, and no opportunity lost to put in a word which may have a salutary effect upon the future of the territory. We want to go on record, however, as being willing at any and all times to acknowledge gladly and cheerfully every act of the government which is designed to promote the common welfare of our people.

The report published elsewhere respecting the stampede to Clear creek substantiates further the opinion frequently expressed in these columns that the Stewart river country will eventually develop a rich mining camp. It may be a matter of several years before development work progresses sufficiently to warrant the establishment of a town in that portion of the territory, but with the number of men now engaged in prospecting along the river, and the indications of the presence of gold already discovered, it is by no means difficult to foresee at some point along the Stewart a thriving bustling mining community.

Fighting has not quite died out in the Transvaal yet. A few adventurers who enlisted in Oom Paul's service at a stipulated price are still maintaining a show of fighting, but with no more

organization or effect than would be accomplished where conditions were as unsettled as they now are in the late Transvaal Republic. A few years of British supremacy and the application of British law will soon bring peace and quiet to the Transvaal which by nature is one of the most highly favored regions on earth.

The situation in Dawson with respect to the smallpox, while in no degree alarming, is sufficiently serious to warrant the exercise of the utmost care and caution on the part of the authorities to prevent the spread of the disease. No hesitation should be felt in adopting whatever measures may be considered necessary, no matter how stringent they may be, if by so doing a check can be placed upon the danger. The public will sustain the authorities in whatever stand they may take.

Claim operators can go to work developing their ground this winter with the knowledge that when next spring's cleanup is made their contribution to the government coffers will be not more than one half what it was the past season and quite likely will only be one-quarter as great. This knowledge in itself should serve to urge the undertaking of a much larger amount of work this winter than was formerly anticipated.

All candidates for the Yukon council will soon be up the creeks declaring themselves from the stump. The voters will be able to size up their men pretty accurately from their platform utterances although to the casual observer the programs as outlined by the different candidates differ but little in their material points.

THE WHOLE THING.

Who causes all the crops to grow?
McKinley.
Who makes the seasons come and go?
McKinley.
Who shapes the current of events?
Who regulates the elements?
Who takes the place of Providence?
McKinley.
Who makes it rain when it is dry?
McKinley.
Who shapes demand, also supply?
McKinley.
Who caused the Indian famine, which raised wheat and corn to such a pitch?
It made the farmers all get rich,
McKinley.
Who gives the people industry?
McKinley.
Who makes the world's prosperity?
McKinley.
Who placed the gold down in the ground and then got out and scratched around?
Till Cripple Creek and Nome were found.
McKinley.
Who sailed into Manila bay?
McKinley.
Who sunk Cervera's fleet one day?
McKinley.
Who fought against the war, then came at a late hour into the game and took the glory for the same?
McKinley.
Who is the source of every good?
McKinley.
Who wants that fully understood?
If any benefit befall.
Somewhere upon this mundane ball
Who is the creature sleek and small
That has the monumental gall
To claim the credit for it all?
McKinley. —Denver News.

Death Warrant of King.

Some time since the Nugget published a telegram from Under Secretary of State Pope, confirming the death sentence passed by Judge Craig upon Alexander King. The telegram stated that the writer would later confirm the telegram by an official letter. The letter has been received, and yesterday the sheriff received from Judge Craig his warrant for carrying into effect the sentence of the court passed the 31st of last July. Following is a copy of the death warrant:

To the Sheriff of the Yukon Territory:
Whereas, Alexander King, being a prisoner in the common gaol of said territory, committed for trial on the charge of having on or about the 15th day of July, A. D. 1900, on the Yukon river, at or near the mouth of the White river in the Yukon territory, murdered one Herbert Davenport, and having been brought before the Hon. Mr. Justice Craig, on the 26th day of July, A. D. 1900, and being arraigned upon the said charge, pleaded "not guilty" thereto; and that, upon the 31st day of July, A. D. 1900, the said Alexander King being again brought before the Hon. Mr. Justice Craig and a jury for trial, the plea of not guilty having been duly entered, and after hearing the evidence adduced, in support of said charge as well for the prisoner's defence, was found to be guilty of the offence as charged, as aforesaid, and sentenced by the said judge, to be confined in the gaol of the Yukon territory until the second day of October, A. D. 1900, and upon said second day of October, A. D. 1900, to be hung by the neck until he was dead.

You, the said sheriff of the Yukon

territory, are hereby commanded that on the second day of October, A. D. 1900, you cause to be carried into effect the sentence of the court pronounced against the said Alexander King, by hanging him by the neck until he is dead, and for so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant and authority.

Given under my hand and the seal of the said court, at Dawson, in the Yukon territory, this 31st day of July, A. D. 1900. By the court.

JAS. CRAIG.

The gallows is almost complete and by next Tuesday everything will be in readiness for the transit of Alexander King into the realms of the great unknown.

It has been said that this old man who slew Davenport so deliberately and who pantomimed the performance afterwards to the horror of a crowded courtroom, would weaken and break down at the last moment. Those who know him best, and have studied him the closest, have little doubt that repentance—at least so far as letting anyone know of it goes—is something that King will leave undone. If he breaks down it will be due to sheer nervous exhaustion.

From the Pacific Islands.

J. A. Griffin, formerly of the editorial staff of the Advertiser, Honolulu, arrived in the city on the Warrimoo the other day and registered at the Queen's. In speaking to a Times representative he gave some interesting facts regarding the present condition of trade and commerce in the Hawaiian islands.

The city of Honolulu, he said, has changed a great deal since the annexation. It now presents the appearance of a lively Yankee town, having a population of about 40,000, out of which only 10,000 are white, the majority of the others being Japs, Chinamen and natives.

There is a great amount of speculation going on now among the Americans, who are organizing companies and selling shares without having the slightest connection with any sugar plantation.

Mr. Griffin says annexation did not really take place until June 14th of this year. Before that was a period when everything legal was in a mixed-up condition. People did not know whether to apply to the United States government officials or to resort to the old laws.

Since June 14th, however, a great change has taken place, and these matters have been established on a firm basis. The Japanese element of the population were imported prior to the annexation, for the purpose of working the big sugar plantations. When the Japs were brought into the country in this way they were forced to work for a certain period—generally three years—for about \$10 to \$14 a month, out of which came their board and lodging.

After June 14th the Japanese caused a great deal of distress among the managers of sugar plantations by discontinuing work in large numbers, and going over to other companies.

After tolerating this for a while the authorities began to consider the expediency of importing negroes from the Southern states, or coolies from India, but this project was never carried out, for the Japs were eventually persuaded to resume work.

A vital question in Honolulu at the present time is how to prevent the great influx of Japs, as they are pouring into the country by hundreds. Mr. Griffin said it was not an unusual thing to see about 5000 Japs debark from an Oriental ship and pour into the streets of Honolulu.—Victoria Times.

COMING AND GOING.

Al Burke, of Bonanza creek, is laid up with rheumatism at the Good Samaritan hospital, and Orderly Robinson of that institution is suffering with typhoid fever.

The firm of Holms, Miller & Co., on First avenue, is doing a flourishing business. A large force of men are kept busy attending to the numerous orders pouring in to the firm from town and creeks.

A. B. Hamilton, of the N. A. T. & T. Co., is in a precarious condition at the Regina, where he was taken suddenly very ill at an early hour this morning. Mr. Hamilton only arrived a day or two since on business connected with his company.

Among those who are going to the outside on business and pleasure bent, is Mrs. M. P. West, one of Dawson's few really successful business women, who takes her departure this evening. Mrs. West is not only well-known as having taken an active part in business affairs here, but is popular from a social standpoint as well, having a great many warm and staunch friends here. Among other movements with which she has been prominently connected is the public library of which she has the distinction of being the only American director on the board. She goes to Seattle to visit her mother and little daughter and expects to return over the ice in January.

Sour Dough Letter Heads for sale at the Nugget office.

SEVERAL ITALIAN PROBLEMS

Which Show the Bad Financial State of That Country.

Her People Are Noted for Their Unrest and Discontent—Professor Villari's Views of Situation.

The recent warnings of Prof. Villari in the Nuova Antologia have directed attention to the real causes of the growing unrest and discontent manifest to all who interest themselves, even from afar, in the affairs of the Italian kingdom.

Prof. Villari, who is a senator of the kingdom of Italy, is neither a pessimist nor an alarmist; nor would any of his countrymen presume to style him a visionary or a doctrinaire. In the language of far-sighted and practical statesmanship instinct with simple patriotism, and free from "fanfaronade," or narrow partisanship, he has exposed to his fellow citizens some of the more flagrant existing evils, and the dangers that attend them. The unquestionable authority of the exponent, and his universally acknowledged moderation in historical and political criticism, preclude any thought of exaggeration.

The budget is the mirror which reflects not only the financial, but also the social and political conditions of a country. Therefore, for a clear appreciation of the existing evils we must cast a public weal. After a series of unglance at this important register of the pardonable errors (to use Signor Villari's words), the deficit in 1888-89 was computed at 470,000,000 lire. By a long-applied series of economies, and by dint of prodigious feats of financial gymnastics, successive governments have contrived an equilibrium. "And yet we are more discontented than ever!" exclaims Signor Villari. Consequently, the realization of this acme of administrative bliss has not proved the panacea for the social and political maladies undermining the state. Nor has it perceptibly ameliorated the general economic conditions, except in certain local and special instances, which, although individually important, are of small significance in the mass. The reasons for this are obvious. Economics alone, however sweeping, could not accomplish this much-heralded equilibrium; it was necessary to devise fresh taxes or to increase the burdens of those in force. Italians now enjoy the unenviable distinction of being the most heavily taxed nation in Europe. The interest on the perpetual debts alone amounts to 450,000,000 lire. Signor Fortinato, the deputy, estimates the budget at 1,600,000,000 lire, out of which 800,000,000 are devoured by the interest on the public debt in its various forms, including pensions. Deduct another 160,000,000 reserved for the payment of redemptions, and but 600,000,000 remain for the expense of the government, including the army, navy, public works, prisons, public security, etc. This is not only meagre, but absolutely insufficient. While declining to discuss the bearings of the greatly hampered financial resources upon the general efficiency of the army and navy, Prof. Villari asserts that the medical clinics and laboratories, as well as the schools, all stand in more or less need of essentials, while there is not a public library in the kingdom which can afford to keep abreast of the times. Even the state archives are in many instances allowed to mould and decay in damp vaults for want of funds to provide suitable storage.—Forum.

Hall Misunderstanding.

Through a misunderstanding of the Eagles' committee in charge of McDonald hall, there will be no meeting of the Arctic Brotherhood tonight, the hall having been rented to other parties who will give a dance in it tonight. Nothing was known of the conflict until the promulgators of the dance had their printing done and other arrangements made. The A. B.'s will meet as usual Friday night of next week at 8:30 o'clock.

From Nome via Seattle.

Among the many passengers arriving at noon today on the steamer Sybil were a number who left Nome on the 5th instant and came back via Seattle and Skagway. From one of these it was learned that on the date of the sailing of the steamer from Nome there were about 15,000 people there, of which number not more than 2000 or 3000 were arranging to go below this fall. One man just from Nome remarked that the government will not send a relief transport to Nome and that none is needed.