

# The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)  
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.  
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(From Friday's Daily)

## AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION.

Two years ago, at this time, the trail leading from Skagway to the summit of the White Pass was thronged with hundreds of venturesome spirits intent on reaching Dawson at the very earliest possible moment. Hundreds of tons of supplies were sledged and packed over the trail at an immense cost, it being no uncommon thing to pay as high as 25 cents per pound for delivery of goods at Lake Bennett, which but marked the starting point for the real trip into Dawson.

With the completion and successful operation of the White Pass & Yukon railway from Skagway to Bennett, the rate at which freight could be brought to Dawson from the outside was immediately lowered. At the present time work is being pushed as rapidly as possible on the extension of the line to Whitehorse, and its operation to that point is promised at an early date after the opening of navigation in the coming spring. When this is accomplished it will be possible to bring freight to Dawson from Skagway with but a single handling after leaving the last named point. As a natural consequence another material reduction will be made in through freight rates.

The Nugget is of the opinion that the development of the Yukon country will hinge to a very great extent upon this question of freight tariffs. It is altogether probable that as yet the Yukon has not paid its way. By that we mean that in the aggregate the expense bill to the territory has been greater than the total gold output. This fact is no indication of any lack either in quantity or value of resources. It merely serves to force upon our attention the fact that expense of production must be lowered. Prices of all commodities, machinery, etc., are governed almost exclusively by the existing freight rates. Competition may be relied upon to keep prices at an equitable figure in so far as the Dawson merchants' profits are concerned, but one thing is absolutely certain, the merchant cannot go below the cost of landing his goods in Dawson, and remain in business.

When freight rates are cut 10 per cent it means an almost proportionate decrease in the cost of living in Dawson, and a similar decrease in the cost of development of our single resource. With every increase in the mileage of railway which is gradually penetrating into the heart of the Yukon country, the outlook for the country becomes brighter.

## SMELTING WORKS.

The suggestion has been made to the Nugget by a practical man of affairs that Dawson may at no distant period of time become the center of large smelting and reducing plants. He bases his theory upon the belief that there have been quartz discoveries made of sufficient value to warrant their being worked on a large scale just as soon as a reduction in freight rates makes it possible to land machinery supplies on the Yukon at a reasonable figure.

From a perusal of the article on the theme and character of the fuel supply and of Dawson which appeared in a recent issue of the Nugget it is clear

that in so far as that particular feature of the matter is concerned—and it will be granted that it is a most important feature—the question is practically settled. Coal has been located in sufficient quantities, as has been amply demonstrated by the preliminary development work already done, to furnish fuel in Dawson for all possible purposes for years and years to come.

It will not be long before active work will be begun in the development of the copper ledges at Whitehorse. At the present time freight charges are so high that to ship the raw ore to the outside at a profit is an impossibility.

It will be equally difficult to land coal at Whitehorse for reduction purposes. The key to the situation lies in the coal resources near Dawson. Ore can be floated down the Yukon from Whitehorse much more cheaply than coal can be taken against the current the same distance.

The Nugget is of the opinion that an investigation into this matter would be a wise move on the part of the Board of Trade. If Dawson has what we believe she has to offer capitalists as an inducement for the establishment of enterprises such as suggested, it would be well to have the facts brought out and clearly laid before the public.

The following is taken verbatim from the local columns of the last issue of the ex-organ, the Yukon Sun: "Rev. Father Gendreau went up to Dominion Creek for the purpose of officiating at the dedication of the Catholic church built by Father Corbeil on Sunday." After a perusal of the above rhetorical gem it occurs to the casual reader to pause and wonder for a moment as to exactly what idea the writer desired to convey. There is apparently an intention upon the part of the Sun's "local" writer to lead the public into the impression that the Rev. Father Corbeil has been guilty of violating the Sunday ordinance, which expressly stipulates that all work, such as the construction of buildings, and we do not think that churches are excepted, must close on the day set aside for public worship. Yet between the lines there is a very clear endeavor on the part of the Sun rhetorician to "square" himself with the reverend gentleman, for he credits the latter with having completed the construction of the church, alone and single handed, in the course of one day. The Nugget has not as yet secured possession of all the facts in the case but we are strongly impressed with the belief that a certain element of exaggeration enters into the story as related by the Sun. We agree with the "better the day, better the deed" theory, but we were not aware before that a man could accomplish more work on the Lord's day than on any other. Father Corbeil's priestly office may have something to do with his capacity for Sunday church construction, but still we feel inclined to the opinion that the Sun man in some manner or other has the facts twisted.

The Nugget's attention has been directed again to the matter of abandoned shafts on the creeks. Mention was made of this some time ago in these columns. Through the carelessness of individuals, a great many shafts, often of considerable depth, have been left exposed, furnishing pitfalls for the unwary traveler which already have resulted in a number of

accidents. At this season of the year when the openings to those shafts are very likely to be almost if not entirely concealed by reason of snow, they become particularly dangerous. We again urge upon the Yukon council the necessity of an ordinance whereby parties abandoning claims will be compelled to protect the public against danger from open shafts.

If some one will come forward and solve the question of getting currency into general circulation without working a hardship upon the man who is a producer or holder of gold dust, he will be entitled to the lasting gratitude of a thankful community. It is a natural duty devolving upon the government office at which the miner may effect an equitable exchange of his dust for currency. Experience has proven, however, that the things which should be done are the ones that are left undone, and vice versa. The solution of the gold dust problem therefore will probably come through other than governmental agency.

Now that we have had a taste of what it means to be in touch with affairs on the outside the shutting off of communication by wire, seems to work a veritable hardship. The wire has been down for a matter of more than ten days and meantime in so far as recent affairs on the outside are concerned we might as well be in the same condition as last winter. Today the wire is down between Dawson and the first station up the river, so we are more isolated than ever. We shall be very much disappointed if war news of the most stirring kind does not come singing over the wire when the line is again in working order.

A quiet investigation among business men in Dawson reveals the fact that while little or no talk of "good business" is being made, the state of trade in general is every bit as flourishing as was the case at this time last year. It is quite safe to assume that there will be from this time forward a steady increase in the volume of business transacted. Within less than 60 days we opine that Dawson will feel as jubilant as Uncle Sam does after a Republican victory.

An anxious public has been waiting with a very commendable degree of patience for some decisive movement on the part of one or the other of the belligerents in the News-Sun telegram episode. If no developments occur within a short time, a suspicion will begin to take root in the minds of people that the whole affair has a very strong taint of advertising fake attached to it.

## Police Court.

More soothing than are the effects of the balm of Gilead was the effect of the police court's red hot stove after the long trip down Front street this morning, with mercury nestling under 50.

The honor (?) of dedicating Magistrate Perry's brand new record book fell to James McCann, who, according to his own statement, kept sober 50 years and got drunk yesterday. The deviation from the paths of sobriety so effected the formerly staid James that he became boisterous in the Pavilion and greatly disturbed the gambling tables, and, while, to the unsophisticated, it may appear somewhat incompatible, yet the gamblers invoked the strong arm of the law to protect themselves and their games from the onslaught of the man who was never before drunk.

In court this morning James had no recollection of his actions of yesterday further than that he arrived from the Forks during the day. Had he possessed that fertility of brain so often exercised on similar occasions he would have added that he was nearly frozen on reaching town, and just took a "mere dhrap" to warm himself, and never having taken any before it had proven too much for him; but he didn't. A fine of \$10 and costs or 14 days at hard labor was imposed. The cash was paid and James will probably permit another half century to come and go before he again permits himself to look upon the flowing bowl.

Foster Power, of whom mention was made in yesterday's paper as being up on the charge of cruelly beating a dog, was fined and paid \$10 and costs.

A. F. George brought suit against the Allen Brothers for the sum of \$161 alleged to be due as a balance for services rendered. Mr. George claimed that he had been employed at a salary of \$300 per month. It was shown in the evidence that the rate of compensation at which Mr. George had been employed was \$260 per month; it was also shown that Mr. George had performed certain services in Seattle last summer, for which he had been allowed the sum of \$100; it was also shown that the further sum of \$175 had been advanced to Mr. George in Seattle prior to his departure for Dawson, leaving, according to defendants' statement a balance of \$71 in their favor. The court held that he had no jurisdiction over the Seattle transaction, and after figuring the time which the plaintiff had worked in Dawson at the rate of \$260 per month as claimed by defendants, found a balance for Mr. George of \$47.10.

## Concerning Black-Jack.

It will be amusing as well as of interest to the many devotees of Dawson, to that game in which "hit me," "come again" and "rough here," are current expressions, to know that the question of its being a "gambling game" has ever been raised, but such is the case, as will be seen by the following late telegram from Vancouver, B. C.:

"A decision was rendered today by Justice Irving in the gambling test case brought to have a judicial determination as to whether or not black-jack is a gambling game. It was contended that it was a game of skill, not of chance, and that, as in the test case, no "kitty" was operated, and the bank was not kept by the house, but moved with the deal, and could not be considered a banking game. The court, however, ruled that black jack is gambling, and, as a banking game, is illegal."

Possibly the Vancouver judge would hold that even faro and stud poker are gambling.

## Sulphur the Banner Creek.

George Noble came down yesterday from a several days' visit to the creeks, the greater of the time being spent at his own claim, 12 on Hunker, where he says most satisfactory progress is being made. Mr. Noble operates a thawer on his claim, and now he can not see how any progress was made in former years by the old process of thawing by means of fires in the shaft.

Mr. Noble says that Sulphur will turn out more gold at the cleanup than any of the other creeks and a large amount more than was Eldorado's output last year. There are over 100 steam thawers now being operated on Sulphur and very rich dirt is being added to the rapidly growing dumps.

Mr. Noble is well satisfied with the quality of dirt being hoisted from the shaft of his claim, and when the cleanup is over in the gentle spring time he will be several thousand dollars better off than at present.

## Superior Court.

The case of Purden vs. the A. E. Co. for \$2131, which came up for trial before a jury in Judge Dugas' court yesterday is still being heard today. It is thought the conclusion will be reached by this evening.

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Two Places.

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Corner Second Street  
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Inspect Our Complete  
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