

# The Klondike Nugget

TELEPHONE NUMBER 12  
(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)  
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

## From Thursday and Friday's Daily. A CLEAN CAMPAIGN.

The campaign to fill two seats in the Yukon council may fairly be said to be on. The candidates have been announced, two of them are out with signed statements of the platform upon which they propose to appeal to the people for support and it is probable that the others will make public similar declarations in a short time.

The Nugget hopes to see the campaign conducted on open and fair lines without unnecessary mud slinging, and without appeal to the passions or prejudices of any man or faction.

The candidates are well enough known to the community and the interests which each represent will be made clear as the campaign progresses.

The issues represented in the different platforms will be carefully threshed out and the whole situation made clear to the voter so that the approach of election day will see every man in possession of the facts and able to cast his ballot intelligently.

The merits of the candidates form fair matter for discussion as well as the measures which each advocates. But such discussion can be carried on in a way that will reflect dignity rather than disgrace upon the community. This is the first election in which the people of the Yukon have been allowed to participate and we trust that it will be handled in a manner which will convince the outside politicians of the Dominion that we have really and truly arrived at a period when we have earned a right to self-government.

## WAGE CONTRACTS.

Laborers who are seeking employment on the creeks should exercise care in signing contracts. Last winter many men who were the victims of one sided agreements whereby the laborer was practically placed at the mercy of the employer, did not know the real terms of the documents which they had signed until it was too late for them to protect themselves. Contracts were entered into in a number of cases under the terms of which the right of summary discharge was left with the employer with a specific agreement made that accrued wages should not be paid until the cleanup. The laborer was thus left under the liability of losing his place at any moment and turned out in the cold without a dollar, no matter what amount may rightly have stood to his credit.

The Nugget is of the opinion that the number of employers of labor who would take such an unfair advantage of their laborers are few, but nevertheless it stands every man in hand who contemplates signing a labor contract, to understand exactly what he is doing.

The laborer has certain rights which he is entitled to have respected and which he need not forfeit unless through his own carelessness or negligence. There is no reason for him signing a one-sided contract, if he looks out for the rights which are properly his. Contracts were made last winter whereby the laborer agreed to stand an equal chance with the claim operator in the value of the dump. That is to say, agreements were entered into whereby wages would be paid if the cleanup proceeded sufficiently and if the dump failed to wash up as anticipated the workmen suffered accordingly.

On such a contract the laborer has no one to blame but himself if he fails to receive proper remuneration for his services.

The remedy in such cases is simply that every laborer who enters into a contract should acquaint himself with the exact terms of the documents which he signs and refuse his signature to any agreement so manifestly unfair.

## THE PLATFORM.

The platform adopted by the citizens' convention and published elsewhere in this paper is worthy close perusal and study by everyone who is in any degree interested in the welfare of the

Yukon territory. In that platform is represented the fruits of three years' work. The demands made therein for changes in existing laws are by no means new. They are the conclusion of long continued and exhaustive discussion and represent the deliberate and unbiased judgment of the great majority of the people of the territory.

There is no escaping from the fact that the various planks contained in that platform if made into law would meet the hearty approval of 99 out of every 100 men in the Yukon today. The platform represents the crystallization of all the efforts that have been put forward in the past. The terms in which it is laid down are plain and distinct. There is nothing said that is not intended and but little can be suggested that would add weight to what the platform contains.

The various questions of concern to the public weal are treated succinctly but forcibly and an examination of the platform leaves no doubt in the mind of the reader as to the meaning which its framers intended to convey. We submit to the votes of the territory that there is but one logical position for them to assume in this campaign.

The work of concentrating and organizing the people of the territory into an effective political movement has been accomplished only after the exertion of extraordinary effort. This movement knows nothing of the issues at stake between the great parties on the outside. It has nothing to do with Conservatism, Liberalism or any other ism that does not directly concern the welfare of the territory. The men who have banded together in support of the platform of the citizens' convention have done so because they know that in supporting that platform and the candidates who stand upon it, they are lending their assistance to the protection of the one industry upon which this territory depends for its very existence.

Self preservation is instinctive. It is natural for men to strike and strike the hardest blow of which they are capable when they know that their lives may depend thereon. The situation in the Yukon territory today requires a blow from every man who possesses the power to deliver one. It is a fight for right, the winning of which means a realization of our wishes and the losing of which means indefinite postponement.

We ask the voters to study the platform and candidates of the citizens' convention and give both their support to the end that the fight for good laws begun three years ago may reach a fitting climax in a magnificent political victory.

Tonight the four gentlemen who are to contest for seats in the Yukon council will hold forth in the Orpheum theater and show cause why the votes of the electorate of the Yukon territory should be cast in their particular behalf. We hope they will be greeted by a full house in order that the necessary inspiration may be present to call forth all manner of torrents of eloquence. There is nothing so disheartening to the spirit of a candidate as to be confronted by a ghastly array of empty seats. There is something in their mute vacancy that strikes a chill in the breast of the most eloquent. For this opening gun of the campaign, therefore, we urge that everyone who can, turn out and start the political ball rolling in a manner befitting the circumstances. The occasion may be accepted as the birthday of real politics in the Yukon, and so momentous an event is worthy a large and enthusiastic gathering.

The amount of summer work which has been carried on during the past season totals a remarkably large figure. There is no longer a close season so far as mining operations in the Klondike are concerned. Work is now carried on steadily throughout the twelve months of the year, which fact makes Dawson a better business town than ever. The winter work now in contemplation from all reports, will be fully as extensive as last winter, although fewer claims will be worked on lays and bet-

ter methods will prevail generally. It is certainly to be hoped that there will be no repetition of the difficulties which occurred last spring. The number of wage suits brought against unsuccessful claim operators, principally laymen, indicates plainly that business methods must be applied to the working of placer ground as well as in any other enterprise.

The Galveston tidal wave, horror without question one of the most frightful disasters of modern times. It is conservatively stated that the loss will reach the neighborhood of 5000 lives and the damage to property will run into an untold number of millions. The attention of the American people has temporarily been directed away from the presidential campaign by the appalling event and contributors from all over the States, and many from Canada also are sending money and supplies to the aid of the sufferers. In all probability the city of Galveston will never be rebuilt, as a possibility of a repetition of the recent disaster will prove sufficient to deter most people from a desire to locate in that particular locality.

The through telegraph line to Vancouver will be completed and in active operation not later than the first of November. Such at least is the present expectation of the agents of the Dominion line. It will be something remarkable, however, if the work is kept open during the winter, as the country through which it passes is heavily timbered in many places and almost constant patrol will be necessary if it is kept free of falling timber.

Dawson will not lack during the coming winter for places of recreation. Several clubs fitted with every luxury known in similar institutions on the outside have been established, while various forms of winter sport are in contemplation. Socially the approaching season of cold weather bids fair to prove eminently successful.

## A Confident Challenger.

Out at Skagway the people are not only sporty but in order to encourage sports they offer large odds and ample inducements. A late Skagway paper contains the following acceptance of challenge:

"I hereby accept the challenge of Dr. J. A. Cleveland to wrestle collar and elbow, and I will bet \$100 to \$5 that I lay him on his back nine times out of ten.

"I will also bet \$100 to \$5 that I can with bare fists, knock him out in one round, the proceeds to go to the Arctic Brotherhood.

"CHARLES WALKER."

## Steer Attacks Train.

A wild Texan steer attacked the passenger train from Whitehorse today, and came out second best in the encounter. Where the train crossed the trail the steer had full possession of the track. He succeeded in chasing the passengers who had gotten out of the cars to cover, and when the engine came down, he charged it. He got a horn under the cow catcher and attempted to dump the big locomotive down the embankment, but he didn't. It was found necessary to kill the animal after the brief fight. He was too much damaged to proceed further. The steer belonged to W. F. Temple, and was en route to Dawson.—Alaskan, Sept. 15.

## Skagway Still Harping.

The matter of the bonding privileges extended by the United States to Canada is the basis for a mighty grievance to the merchants of Skagway who, owing to the privileges mentioned, are practically debarred from doing business with and selling goods to the interior. At a late meeting of the chamber of commerce of that town a lengthy document was introduced and passed which concludes as follows:

"Of the many wrongs we have suffered at the hands of Canada, the chamber makes no special mention, but assures you that they are sufficient in our estimation for us to ask the rescinding of the bonding privileges granted to Canada, even had the Canadians given us real bonding privileges instead of empty promises. If the showing here made is not sufficiently thorough or conclusive to your department, we beg that you will immediately order a full investigation, and that upon being satisfied of the reality of our grievances you will at once take steps to save the American trade of the Yukon, and American shipping to this

port, from ruin. If it is not lawful to rescind, the bonding privileges granted to Canada, then insist that the Canadian government shall forthwith give every concession granted to it. If the bonding privilege must remain in force, then we must secure from Canada the right to enter our goods at their values in the principal markets of the United States, and the right to carry Canadian goods in bond at this port. Failing to do this, Skagway will soon become nothing but a memory of blasted hopes."

## From Far Klondike.

The Herald has received a copy of the Daily Klondike Nugget, published at Dawson, Y. T., and advertised by the enterprising publishers as having a circulation many times larger than that of any paper published between Juneau and the North Pole.

The very modest charge of \$40 a year or 25 cents a copy is asked for the privilege of reading Yukon news, while advertising space costs in proportion. Its editorial page is devoted to local interests. Gold diggings affairs share the space with news of the outer world, generally credited to New York papers. Typographically it is one of the prettiest newspapers we ever saw; it is clean and clear and is a credit to its publishers and the circumstances under which it is issued.

Mention is made of the fact that Ross E. Bryan, formerly of El Paso, has become the father of a fine boy, born June 7, at Dawson City.—El Paso Herald.

## Innovation in Theatrical Work.

The Orpheum theater which for some weeks has presented a dark and deserted appearance in marked contrast to the light and life of other days, is undergoing many changes in its appearance and interior arrangements, besides being thoroughly renovated.

A large portion of the front will be occupied by two drug stores, the entrance is to be changed so as to have no connection with the bar, and the whole inside of the theater proper is to be first thoroughly renovated, and afterwards papered or painted. The boxes are all to be decorated, and the stairway leading to them is to be changed. Altogether it is doubtful if the old Orpheum will not be so changed as to be difficult of recognition.

The saloon will be taken by Spitzel and Jones, and it is said, will be one of the handsomest places in town.

A theater without a bar and without gambling will certainly be a great change in such enterprise in Dawson, and one which will be welcomed by many as the beginning of a new era. It is one more evidence of the surprisingly rapid progress the city is making towards the dignity and standing of an age beyond her years.

The Orpheum will be under the management of Mr. Alec Pantages, who, although a young man, is still a veteran manager in Dawson. The house will lose nothing through being under his direction for Alec is popular with the public and has a host of personal friends.

Just when the Orpheum will again throw its doors open to the public is necessarily very largely a matter of speculation at present, as there is much work to be done first. There will be no unnecessary delay, however, and the theatrical people are all ready to make their bows as soon as the building can be got in readiness for them.

## Dangerous Sidewalks.

The proverbial stack of black cats is not in it when compared with the blackness of the nights which are being visited on this country at present, and people who are not provided with lanterns have no business outside after 8 o'clock. Already one serious accident due to the darkness and negligence in providing lights at dangerous points has occurred and as a result a poor, hardworking woman is laid up in a hospital with a broken leg.

Other and maybe more serious accidents are bound to occur unless immediate steps are taken to protect night pedestrians from the numerous pitfalls and death traps which beset the town. On Third avenue between Fourth and Fifth streets, there are not fewer than one dozen broken boards in the sidewalk and not a street light in sight. The deep ditch at the corner of Fourth avenue and Sixth street, where the sad accident of Tuesday night occurred is still unguarded, and is a menace to life and limb even in daylight.

The demand for something to be done and done at once in the matter of repairing sidewalks and providing lights is greater at present than at any time in the history of Dawson.

## Whose Letter is This?

By the mail yesterday came a letter directed thusly: "Grand Forks, Y. T., care of Nugget Mail Carrier, 40 above Bonanza." An effort will be made to find the person for whom it is intended, although the foundation upon which to work is quite limited.

RECEIVED BY WIRE.

# CLEARING AWAY

## Debris Remaining After the Great Flood at Galveston.

### MANY BODIES BADLY MUTILATED.

#### Ample Provision Is Being Made to Relieve Want of Sufferers.

### BIG COAL STRIKE IS ON.

#### Affects 150,000 Men and Will Be a Long, Hard Fought Battle Between Capital and Labor.

Galveston, Sept. 16, via Skagway, Sept. 21.—Several thousand men are working to clear the beach of debris.

One hundred and fifty bodies were found today in the beach wreckage. No attempt is being made to identify mutilated bodies. Relief trains are arriving from all over the country.

Newspapers are printing the names of all identified bodies, and they assert that the state health officer has placed the mortality at 8000 persons.

One American and one British steamer has been floated and will both be saved. Other wrecked steamers are in a bad way.

A train from New York carrying physicians, nurses and supplies arrived today.

All destitute persons wishing to leave the city are given free transportation.

## The Relief Fund.

Austin, Sept. 16, via Skagway, Sept. 21.—The governor made a statement denying that the relief fund has reached \$500,000; he says it is yet far short of that mark.

## The Coal Strike On.

Philadelphia, Sept. 16, via Skagway, Sept. 21.—The anthracite coal miners' strike began today. It is likely to be a long, hard struggle. The strike affects 150,000 men.

## Hangman's Scaffold.

The scaffold upon which Alexander King will be executed on the morning of the 2d of October is now almost completed. It stands just back of the jail and between that structure and the big barracks building, being directly up against the latter building. The scaffold is fully 20 feet high, the platform on which is the drop being about 12 feet from the ground. A heavy piece of square timber extends across the top to which the rope will be attached. It is probable that a drop of about six feet will be given. In a few of the States a prescribed drop is fixed by law, but as a rule the most satisfactory results are obtained from long drops. The last legal execution witnessed by the writer the drop was 7 1/2 feet and the affair was most successful. The trap door in the scaffold now being erected will be considerably above the regulation size, being about 3 1/2 square feet. It is probable that the scaffold and rope will be tested by the dropping of a heavy weight before being used for the purpose for which it is being erected.

In the meantime Alexander King sits in his cell within a few yards of where the scaffold is being erected, but the sound of the saw and hammer has no more apparent effect upon him than if they were not heard.

## Chas. E. Severance Capsized.

When Charles E. Severance reaches Whitehorse on the Bailey he will need a long poke well lined with dust to put aside the demands which have been wired in the form of capias warrants to Capt. Primrose.

Three are three of the deadly bars to progress, sworn to by The Yukon Iron Works, the N. A. T. & T. Co. and George Albert Esterbrook. The amounts respectively are \$507, \$1383 and \$1304.40, aggregating \$3194.40.