The Klondike Nugget

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LETTERS

And Small Packages can be sent to the Creeks by our carriers on the following days: Every Tuesday and Friday to Eldorado, Bonanza, Hunker, Dominion, Gold Run, Sulphur, Quartz and Canyon.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1901

$50 Reward.

We will pay a reward of $50 for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of any one stealing copies of the Daily or Semi-Weekly Nugget from business houses or private residences, where same have been left by our carriers.

KLONDIKE NUGGET.

YUKON'S PROSPERITY.

Our despatches during the last few days have conveyed several items of news of peculiar significance. In our issue of Monday the sale of a controlling interest in a fine Bonanza claim was reported. In last evening's issue the details of the transfer of the greater part of Gold Hill to an Indiana syndicate were given in our telegraphic columns as also the facts in reference to preparations now on foot for beginning construction work on the Dawson-Forks railway.

These facts are significant as noted above for the simple reason that they bear striking evidence to the fact that a distinct and positive revival of interest in Dawson and the Klondike mining district has taken place in the outside money centres.

The three transactions noted above involve the expenditure of a sum of money which may be roundly estimated at one million five hundred thousand dollars—and they are merely the records of two days.

As a matter of fact, an era of development and resultant prosperity is opening before the territory which—lacking every semblance or suspicion of a boom—will, nevertheless, eclipse anything of a boom nature that the Klondike has ever witnessed.

The Nugget has always taken an optimistic view of Yukon affairs and we feel inclined now to a feeling more hopeful than ever.

To anyone who has kept in touch with the progress of events since the first discovery of gold was made on Bonanza creek, the outlook for the territory at the present time must be very pleasant indeed to contemplate.

For the first two years of its existence everything was opposed to the growth and progress of Yukon's material interests. The mining laws were unfair to the individual miner and their tendency was to discourage all prospecting and make the work of opening up new territory a practical impossibility.

There were no roads by which provisions could be taken to the creeks, and in consequence the rates of freighting were so high that none but the very richest ground could be worked with anything like success. But even during that dark period progress was made and the scope of mining operations continually widened.

Under present conditions the territory is absolutely certain to forge ahead as it could not possibly do when it was fettered by the handicaps noted above.

The area of working ground is constantly increasing and the reductions in operating expenses which have been made possible by the reduced prices of commodities and the construction of good roads have made it profitable to develop low grade ground which in previous years was allowed to be idle by reason of the fact that no one could afford to work it.

There is no longer any doubt as to the future. Ten years hence Canada will have occasion to look upon the Yukon territory as one of the most valuable portions of the Dominion.

The arrival of winter has occasioned an appreciable rise in the value of dogs, consequently it may be expected that disputes over the possession of canine property will figure with more or less frequency in the courts hereafter. In summer time dog flesh is at a very large discount in Dawson but when sleighing time arrives the meanest looking mongrel in town immediately comes into possession of commercial value. Every dog has his day at some time or other and the Klondike dog is no exception to the rule. His day begins with the first fall of snow and continues uninterruptedly until the snow is off the ground.

It is a remarkable thing that it has been found possible for the lower river contractors to forward their mail without difficulty while the contractors who are responsible for bringing the mail to Dawson have been unable to do anything. The sum paid for handling the mail is based upon the expectations that the contract is a hard one to fulfill, but the contractors seem to act upon the theory that everything they do is for sweet charity's sake. The government should pass a vote of want of confidence in the White Pass Company and entrust the mail to some individual or company who will have some regard for their obligations.

If the mail contract were taken from the White Pass Railway Company and entrusted to some other concern the railroad octopus would be taught a well-deserved lesson. From the very beginning the White Pass Company has acted toward this territory in a manner absolutely unjust and arbitrary. It would be a satisfaction to the community were some means found of resenting the indignities which the railroad company has so generously heaped upon it.

The library concerts promise to continue as successful as they were last winter. Dawson has a number of public institutions in which it takes a great deal of pride but in none does it rejoice more sincerely or more deservedly than in the free library. That most worthy enterprise has been conducted in a manner entitling it to public support from the day it was first established.

Gambling should have been closed down for once and all when the order of last June was placed in effect. Under existing circumstances to compel all the games to close on three days notice works an unnecessary hardship. At the least it must be said that the new order promulgated by the authorities is anything but consistent.

Like Bancho's ghost, the Boers bob up with a persistency that is anything but satisfactory to the London war office. It is rather a hard task to conquer men who are able to sleep in the saddle and who flourish on a diet of jerked meat. Great Britain has not had such a hard nut to crack since the days of the Sepoy rebellion.

It speaks well for the solvency of Dawson that the tax assessor does not expect a single sale of property by reason of non-payment of taxes. The towns of the size of Dawson which are able to make a similar showing are very few and far between.

The A. B. hall was dedicated last night amid pomp and ceremony well befitting the occasion. The Arctic Brotherhood has certainly become a power in the land.

Train Wreck.

Larimore, N. D., Oct 23.—At five o'clock this morning a light engine coming east ran into the rear end of the Great Northern eastbound flyer, killing Fireman W. B. Josselyn and Brakeman Claude Whittaker, and breaking one of Engineer Thomas Doan's legs. The wounded were brought to Grand Forks.

President J. J. Hill's private car was on the rear of the train, occupied by the porter, who was slightly injured. This car is built of steel, made to withstand wrecks, and was but slightly damaged. Had this car not been on the rear of the train many lives might have been lost. Conductor Driscoll says the crew on the light engine did not heed a signal to stop.

Shoff, the Dawson dog doctor. Pioneer drug store.

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PEOPLE WE MEET.

COL. DONALD MACGREGOR.

The subject of our today's sketch scarcely requires an introduction from us, as he is well known to many of our readers. He was born at the historic town of Williamstown, Ontario, and came to the Klondike with the "rush" of 1898. He has been prominently before the people of the Yukon territory in one public capacity or another for over the past three years, taking a leading part as he did in nearly every movement for reforms. On the most important State occasions, notably the visit of Lord and Lady Minto, The Victoria Day, etc., he as master of ceremonies on behalf of the people of the Yukon territory discharged the function of his office with credit to all parties concerned.

He Has Convictions.

Editor Nugget:—

I most heartily concur in the sentiment expressed in your editorial of yesterday under the caption "An Ill-Advised Order." I do not for a moment desire to be considered as favorable to either open or suppressed gambling and as one evidence that what I say is true, I have never in over three years residence in Dawson played a game of any kind in a public house.

But the main feature connected with the lately issued order which is to go into effect tonight is: Have the authorities done right, after allowing restricted gaming to be operated here as it has been since the order of last spring was modified, a toleration which lead from 200 to 300 men to believe they could follow the same pursuit during the winter, thus causing them to be here after navigation closed, to summarily shut down on this army of men with only three or four days warning? I for one do not believe they have done right, for I well know that these men can not, even if they desired, secure honest employment immediately. Personally I have had applications by the dozens, and from good competent men, in the past two months or ten weeks, men who worked on the creeks during the summer months but desire inside positions during the long, cold winter. Every position of this kind in Dawson is filled with the result that there is nothing left. Steamboats, which usually employ an army of men are now out of commission, in fact, I believe I am as closely in touch with present conditions here as any man in Dawson, and actually if I was in quest of employment today by which to earn my daily bread I would not know which way to turn to secure it. The 200 or 300 men turned out of their means for earning a living, humble though it may be, will not be able, one man in 20, to secure employment by which he can live.

The question then arises: What will these fellows do? To drive them peremptorily from the city at this season of the year, and with mercury as it is, 40 degrees below zero, will be not only inhuman, but heartlessly brutal. For this army of men to scatter around over the creeks will work hardships on the residents of the creeks where, in many instances there are no police within miles to furnish protection and maintain peace in case their services should be required. And yet if these men remain in Dawson where it is not possible for all of them to secure honest employment, they will, I am informed, be arrested for vagrancy and put to work on the woodpile. Truly, the outlook for the man who presumed on the attitude of the government toward short card games and arranged to remain in Dawson during the winter, is not encouraging. He is very much in the position a man would be were his house to burn when there was not another to be had on any terms.

I believe every thinking man in Dawson will agree with your article that the order is ill-advised and that a rigid enforcement of it will result in more lawlessness between now and spring than would result from four times the amount of gambling that would be carried on in the same period.

The officials probably mean to do what their judgment tells them is right, but in this case they have, to use a Mosaic expression, erred exceedingly.

HUMANITARIAN.

His Conscience Was Clear.

"My friends," said the condemned as he stepped forward for a few last words before the noose was adjusted, "I ain't no speechmaker, and I ain't got much to say. I've stole hosses and drunk whiskey and played keards and bin a tuff man, and if I'd lived a year longer I should probably hev bin sent to the legislachure. Thank the Lord that I've escaped sich a fate and kin still look you all in the face, and now, Jim, you kin go on with the hangin and be durned to you."

Special power of attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

Government Did Not Appear.

New York, Oct. 23.—It has just been learned, says the Herald, that the indictment against George C. Thomas, a broker, for refusing to pay the stamp tax on sales of stock has been dismissed. The government, fearing, it is said, to try the case, which involved the constitutionality of a section of the war revenue law, failed to appear on the day set for the trial.

Bankers and brokers have followed the case with great interest. Mr. Thomas, a broker of the Consolidated Exchange, was advised by his lawyer last spring that the stamp tax on sales of shares of stock at the rate of 2 cents of $100 face value was not constitutional. Acting on his lawyer's advice, the broker stopped paying the tax in May and determined to test the law. An indictment was found against him by the United States grand jury on October 9.

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THIS coming season promises to be unusually active in Social Events. There are many high functions in contemplation among the smart set, consequently if you have any ambition in that direction you might as well get in on the start.

HERSHBERG, CLOTHIER

TROUBLE OVER WILL

Irish Uncles Want Money Left by Dead Klondiker.

Seattle, Oct. 24.—A contest in which sensational allegations are made has been instituted over the estate of Elias Thomas, a Klondiker who was drowned in Stewart river two years ago. The thousands which Thomas delved from the gold fields of the north are now in the possession of Mrs. Sarah Hicking, of this city. Yesterday a petition was filed in the probate department of the superior court, asking that the will by which the property came into Mrs. Hickling's hands be set aside.

The petitioners are the four uncles of the deceased, William, John, Robert and Elias Thomas. They claim to be the next of kin to their nephew. They allege that he never made a will but that a forged document purporting to be a copy of an alleged lost will of the deceased was the means by which the probate court of King county was induced over a year ago to distribute the property.

Thomas went to the Yukon several years ago. He met his death while fording Stewart river. He was quite wealthy. The beneficiary of the alleged will, which has been probated, befriended him, it is stated, while he was in need. He had for years been absent from his home in Ireland, where his uncles reside.

Highwaymen Again at Work.

Seattle, Oct. 24.—Highwaymen were at work again last night in the lower part of the city, and within the brief space of thirty minutes held up and robbed a Japanese restaurant on First ave. south and a pedestrian on Grant street bridge. From the former $11 in small change was secured, while the latter delivered up some small change, managing to conceal a $10 bill in a pocket of his trousers.

The first hold-up was reported at the police station by the proprietor of a Japanese restaurant at the corner of First avenue south and Weller street. While the proprietor was engaged in the rear of the room the robber entered by the front door and began to rifle the money till. As its owner advanced the robber leveled a revolver in the proprietors face until the operation was completed. He then disappeared.

Thirty minutes later Policeman Bevan reported by telephone at the police station that H. Donnelly, a mill hand residing at Ballard, encountered two footpads on the Grant street bridge, a few rods south of the Bay View brewery. Neither wore a mask, and one was armed with a large club, which he used to intimidate the victim. The robbers made a search of Donnelly's pockets, occupying fully three minutes at the task. They secured 85 cents, overlooking a $10 bill.

Bears a Charmed Life.

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 23.—Charles Suto, a naturalized Japanese, seems to bear a charmed life. Three times in as many years have attempts been made on his life. The third occurred today, when an unknown assailant, lying in wait for Suto at his home, sprung upon the Jap from a dark corner and cut his throat from ear to ear. Suto's cry was heard and prompt medical assistance will probably save his life, despite the fearful gash in his throat. His assailant escaped and the police cannot find him, nor have they any clew to his identity. Suto is a restaurant keeper.

In the winter of 1898 he was attacked in his restaurant by one of his countrymen with a meat hatchet. A bad scalp wound was the result and the aggressor is now doing penal servitude for the deed. Only a few months ago, while sitting in his restaurant, he was fired at with a revolver by a woman. The bullet struck in the wall only a few inches from his head, but the woman escaped.

Effects of Travel.

"He's getting awful sporty, isn't he?"

"Yes, since that hand organ tour he's always talking about clothes and society, and he comes home in the middle of the night and wakes up the whole jungle with his college yell."—Chicago News.

Two of a Kind.

Tom Kirkpatrick can now sympathise with the Czar of Russia who, when he lately heard a faint and feeble squalski hurriedly asked the attending physician: "Pray, sir, is it a boyski?"

AMUSEMENTS

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LENGTHY CRUISE

Made by Whaling Schooner Geo W. Preston.

Seattle, October 24th. — One of the longest cruises without communication with the civilized world has just been completed by the whaling schooner George W. Preston, which reached port yesterday from the far North. For four years the Preston sought whales in Arctic waters with varying success. During her absence her owner, John Smith, of Whatcom, died. The vessel was commanded by Capt Angus Douglass and the master is now searching for her owner's heirs. It was in May, 1897, that the Preston sailed from San Francisco for the whale fisheries of the Arctic. During that period she had many narrow escapes from wreck and an innumerable number of battles with the elements. Each winter she was ice-locked for weeks and sometimes months. Her catch of whales each year would be taken to either Alaskan or Siberian ports and then sold for barter and trade. On one occasion she went as far south as the Japan coast, the most northerly point of her cruise during her search for whale being Cape North.

At one time the Preston was ice-imprisoned for eight weeks, during which time a member of the crew died. For a fortnight the crew was reduced to hardtack biscuits and a small portion of flesh from a stray seal, the long period of half starvation being broken by the arrival of the United States revenue cutter Bear.

The winter of 1900-01 was passed at Teller. With the opening of spring the Preston's crew has deserted, all of the sailors having stampeded to the Nome, Kougarok and Bluestone gold fields. However, Capt Douglass, her master, secured a new crew and returned to the Arctic for the summer's cruise.

The Preston, because of her many battles with Northern elements, is more or less damaged. Between now and spring she is to be repaired and thoroughly overhauled for another Northern voyage.

Booker Washington Dined.

New York, Oct. 23.—Booker T. Washington, who is attending the Yale bi-centennial celebration, was a guest of Morris F. Tyler, treasurer of the university, at a dinner at Mr. Tyler's residence on Monday evening. Former Postmaster General Bissell also accepted an invitation to dine with Mr. Tyler that evening and met Mr. Washington. Mr. Tyler said today that the invitations were sent accepted about ten days before Mr. Washington dined with the president at Washington.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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SOCIETIES

THE REGULAR COMMUNICATION OF Yukon Lodge, No. 79, A. F. & A. M., will be held at Masonic hall, Mission street, monthly, Thursday, on or before full moon, at 8:00 p. m.
C. H. WILLS, W. M.
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