

The Klondike Nugget

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1900

BETTER DAYS.

Without doubt there are better days ahead for the Yukon Territory. It has taken two years to force the government to realize the fact that its policy toward the territory has been wrong. It has required mass meetings, petitions, delegations to Ottawa and newspaper discussion, covering the entire history of the Yukon and its administration, to bring matters to a point where the government could see the folly of its way. But it has come to pass in the fullness of time that a change of heart has been experienced, and the government apparently intends making amends for its past misdeeds.

The story of Yukon laws and Yukon administration is as familiar on the outside as it is in Dawson. There is not a newspaper in Canada, Liberal or Conservative, which has not published at some time or other a chapter of Yukon history. Such wide publicity could do nothing otherwise than, in the end, accomplish results.

The movement which began on the sidewalks of Dawson in the summer of '98 has been kept alive ever since, and today the results are coming in.

Continual dropping of water will eventually wear away the hardest stone. So, in this instance, by keeping everlastingly at it, we have accomplished substantial results, with more important ones to follow.

CHANGES.

The days of enormous profits in handling merchandise in Dawson are over for all time. Competition, close and keen, is here in every branch of trade, and its presence will become more apparent as time elapses. In the early days an article was worth and was sold for what it would bring. If a man required anything, the problem which first presented itself to his mind was to find the man who could supply the want—not what would be the price for which it could be had. Buyer and seller, once together, had little or no difficulty in reaching a bargain, for, once a price was named, it was either accepted or rejected on the spot. The same article might be purchased elsewhere for half the money, but the buyer ordinarily did not know or care, for that matter. Once he found what he wanted, price was no object. There were no fixed rates for commodities of any kind, and prices would often vary a hundred per cent in different stores.

Now, however, things are changed. Ordinarily speaking, the same prices prevail in all the stores on general commodities, and if there is any variation it is only slight.

Dawson's business houses are wide awake to the fact that they must meet competition and reach out for trade if they keep up with the procession. People are becoming more critical. They demand better quality and more reasonable prices than those which used to satisfy them. It is to the credit of our business concerns as a whole that they

realize the new conditions and are rapidly adapting themselves thereto. Show windows are being decorated, better goods are being placed on the market, and printer's ink, the recognized stimulant for business the world over, is being used more freely every day, and with satisfactory results.

There is a certain romantic halo which shrouds the recollection of the old Dawson; but, nevertheless, the new Dawson is every bit as good, from a business standpoint, as the old.

RUMORS OF WAR.

The dispatches again assume a warlike tone, and now Russia is said to be sharpening her pruning hook and getting ready for a tussle with John Bull. War is contagious. The great European powers, with their immense standing armies, which so long have served only for police purposes, have been filled with a longing to try their strength ever since the war in the Transvaal began.

There is no more reason at the present time for war between Great Britain and Russia, or between the former and France, than there has been at any other time during the past six years. The fact that in the early part of the Transvaal war the British forces met with serious reverses, cannot be considered as any indication of what would follow a declaration of war between Great Britain and one of the continental powers. In such an event the war would, in all probability, be confined to a trial of the naval strength of the opposing powers.

In the present war, Great Britain's navy, in which lies her principal strength, has been practically useless to her. The Transvaal, without ships and without seaports, has been accessible only to land forces.

A nation which can be reached by British warships, even though it be ten times as powerful as the Transvaal, would suffer far worse than has the latter.

UNCLE SAM'S ISLANDS.

The Democratic party seem to have united on a definite policy regarding the future of the Philippines, while the Republican policy is still somewhat uncertain. The Democrats will favor the entire withdrawal of the United States forces from the Philippines and the acknowledgment of the independence of the islands as a republic under the protection of the United States, American protection simply implying an American guarantee that no other power shall annex the islands or interfere with them in any way.

The Republicans have undoubtedly decided upon retaining control of the islands, but exactly what form of government will finally be decided upon if the Republican party remains in power is still an unsettled question.

The probability is that the scheme of government adopted will be somewhat similar to that of the territories of the United States. Possibly it may be exactly the same. This would allow the Philippines autonomy in local matters, with a legislature of their own, and two representatives in the United States congress, who might speak, but could not vote. If the Philippines were divided into several territories, each of them might have two non-voting representatives in congress.—Montreal Star.

When in town, stop at the Regina.
Electric lights in all the rooms at the Fairview.
Ladies' belt purses. Pioneer drug store.

STROLLER'S COLUMN

"This is the season of the year in which every man should take some sort of 'blood' medicine," said Druggist Rudy Kalenborn one evening this week to a group of idlers who were loitering in his store. Continuing he said: "See that row of big bottles over there next to that box of Parker's horse powders? Well, one bottle of that, if taken according to directions, would make Sam Bonfield as big and fleshy as Tom Chisholm. The stuff is really worth \$10 a bottle, but I am selling it to friends at \$4."

If the druggist expected to hear a half dozen men say "Gimme a bottle," he was mistaken, for nobody said a word for fully a minute. Finally an old man who had been nodding by the stove for half an hour said:

"This thing of swallowin' buckets of cheechawker medicine in this country is all poppycock. Still that will make a man well and strong-back in the states will kill him in this country, just the same as pisen would. The klootch I had up to Fortymile 18 years ago knowed more about blood doctorin' in the spring than all the pill peddlers that ever hit the country. Just as soon as the spring thaw set in she would take to the woods and bring in a bale of roots of trees and yarbs as big as a tucker barl. After she had scraped all the bark off she would bite it for a couple or three days, and say: 'That stuff, if taken in doses of 10 drops every four hours, would make a man outen a clothing store dummy. I uster calculate on gainin' 40 pounds for every quart of it I drank. I could only take a little of it, as I uster always get too big for my clothes and would have to wear a blanket or go without. Like a fool, I never got the receipt for makin' the spring tonic and when Sore Eyes died, the secret went with her, and I have been dryin' up ever since, till now I only weigh 91 pounds.'"

By the time the old man had finished, the loafers had all dropped out and the druggist was licking a label, having finished compounding a prescription which called for six drachms of sals volatile and two ounces of aqua pura, for which he charged \$4.50.

Last Sunday afternoon, on the roof of the Aurora building, the Glacier branch of the mighty Hogan order was duly organized. The society has a select membership, and no doubt will exert great influence in the social affairs of Dawson. Particular interest centered in the election of officers, indeed the contests for some of the positions were quite lively. For the ensuing year the following gentlemen will direct the destiny of the order: Daddy Hogan, Joe Lowe; Boss Hogan, Frank Campbell and William McCrea; heir-apparent, Ed Goggins; directors, Fred Bermudy, Sam Veady and Mike O'Donnell; legal advisers, Bob Cahill, Arthur Fields and Harry Edwards; Molly Hogan committee, Tom Sparks, Frank Wadley and Ed Scott; sergeant-at-arms, Martin Anderson; assisiant sergeant-at-arms, Charles Dellone; treasurer, Henry Simonds; secretary, Frank Smith; committee of sympathy, George Woodworth; committee on refreshments, Tom Chisholm; mascot, Seven-Up Kid; spite bean, M. Hildebrand; chief knocker, Curley Monroe. The Billy Hogans who entered as charter members are Ed Thomas, John Kerwin, Frank Feeney, James Coffey, John Kent, William Callen, George Gillen, David Kennedy, George Treat, P. R. McGill, David Hatfield, William Burke, David Kay, John Hinds, William Barbazon, John Campbell and James Campbell. The Molly Hogans are Bessie Pierce, Jacqueline, Beatrice Lorne, Cecil Marion, Florence Brocee, Dot Pyne, Myrtle Drummond and Mamie Hightower. The directors were instructed to secure the use of the cave across the river for future meetings. The refreshments committee submitted a substantial report, after which the lodge adjourned till next Sunday.

While the Stroller and "Sergeant Mac" were strolling along Front street yesterday afternoon, the sergeant, who is an Eagle, was stopped by two Hogans, who informed him that a tug of war was to take place in a few days between a team of six Hogans and six Eagles, and that the Eagles would not have a ghost of a snow. Quite an animated discussion took place between them. The sergeant offered to bet large odds that he could get four Eagles who could pull any six Hogans in town, but they would not accept his offer.

Finally the Eagles (old bald heads and fledglings) came wandering along until there was a dozen of them. One of the Hogans got such a headache that he excused himself and made a sudden bolt for home, and the sergeant finally compelled the other Hogan to stand treat for the crowd.

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