

# The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)  
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WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1900.

### MAKE A TEST.

If, as suggested at the mass meeting on Saturday night, there exist good grounds for contesting the legality of the royalty regulation, it appears to us that a test case should be brought at an early date. The amount of royalty which is to be collected this season will, in all probability, aggregate a far greater sum than in any previous year. At the same time, the cost of operating has been very largely increased, which means that the actual profit to the claim owners this year will probably be smaller than ever.

In a number of cases we have been assured that the royalty will represent the entire margin over and above expenses. This has been brought about as a result of two conditions. First, from the fact that much ground of moderate richness only has been worked during the past winter, and, second, from the introduction of immense quantities of machinery, at a tremendous aggregate cost. Many properties are still heavily encumbered by reason of the outlay involved in securing machinery and other expenses, with the result that, generally speaking, the royalty is this year a greater burden to the mine owner than ever.

If there is a fighting chance to win a test case against the royalty, the same should be brought immediately, without the loss of time.

### AT MAFEKING.

According to the last reports from the seat of war, as published in yesterday's issue of the Nugget, the little town of Mafeking, which has been under siege almost since the beginning of the war, is in a very serious condition. The garrison has been reduced to very sore straits, and, unless relief is brought to them at an early date, the results of the siege are quite likely to prove very disastrous. Bloemfontein, at which place Lord Roberts' present headquarters are located, is situated some 250 miles from Mafeking, and Kimberly is nearly 200 miles from the same point. The column which was sent ahead long ago, for the relief of Mafeking, has not been heard from for some time, but, according to last advice, had been forced to retire. Lord Roberts is being urged to extreme measures to effect the relief of the little garrison, which has been defending itself so long and bravely, and probably will take action in the very near future, if he has not already done so, to effect their immediate relief.

If the Transvaal Boers were an enlightened, intelligent community; if they had many among their leaders as able and acute as the late General Joubert, they would not persist in shutting their eyes to the fact that the

sympathy of foreign nations, and even of their own kinsmen, is slipping away from them. In the continental press there are now few signs of enthusiastic faith in a cause recognized to be a losing one. In the circumstances the advent of Mr. Davitt, who has been welcomed to Pretoria by State Secretary Reitz, and who, after visiting Kroonstad, proceeded for some inscrutable reason to make a long stay at Johannesburg, will not, we imagine, exercise a decisive influence over the fortune of the war. If President Kruger desires to use dynamite, is he not sufficiently well acquainted with the subject not to need advice from Mr. Davitt or anybody else? In spite of his vaunted language, however, we have a shrewd notion that he is conscious of having come near the end of his tether.—London Times.

Last year the ice broke in front of Dawson on the 17th of May, and the first boat from Lake LeBarge reached here on the 23d, or six days after the break-up. According to this precedent, there should be a boat in Dawson this year not later than the 14th inst. However, precedents are bad things to go by in this country, as was clearly demonstrated yesterday. All the sour doughs in the country, figuring upon precedents, had confidently placed the break-up around the 15th of the month. The cheechakos, on the contrary, knowing nothing about Yukon precedents, figured the moving of the ice for an earlier date, and events have proven that they were wise in their day and generation. In view of these circumstances, it would be dangerous to suggest the date when a boat will get in. It would not, however, be surprising to see one arrive at any time after the next 24 hours.

The public is urged to attend the entertainment to be given next Sunday night at the Palace Grand for the benefit of the sufferers from the recent Ottawa fire. As noted in yesterday's issue of the Nugget, Mayor Payment, of Ottawa, has wired the facts in the case to Gov. Ogilvie, with a request that Dawson and the Yukon Territory contribute as generously as possible to the fund now being raised throughout Canada and the states to relieve the destitute. The committee in charge of the entertainment is arranging a program which will be well worth listening to.

### Decoy Dogs in Foxes' Skins.

There are still left in England about 30 "decoy dogs," whose intelligence is their queer trade is something remarkable. It is the decoy dog's life work to catch ducks. He is usually a red dog and is besides sometimes "dressed up like a fox," with a fox's skin on his back and a fox's brush tied to him. Thus fantastically arrayed, or in his native colors, if he is foxlike enough, the decoy dog jumps about at the mouth of a stream leading to a pond favored by the ducks.

So far as known, only one decoy dog in England now actually wears a fox's skin when on business, and he is a marvel worth studying.

Drawn by curiosity as to the antics of their ancient enemy, the ducks flock nearer and nearer, until the hidden hunter is actually able to catch them in a net.

There are many kinds of wild birds which seem unable to keep away from a fox when they see one, and these will sometimes "mob" a red dog by mistake.

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## STROLLER'S COLUMN

Ireland is not a large country, but her sons are found from the river unto the ends of the earth. Compared with the East, "Nu-yarck," for example, there are very few Irish in the west, but where there is a party of half a dozen assembled it invariably seems that the majority of them can trace their ancestry or one branch of it, directly to the emerald isle. Here in Dawson the Irish are as numerous, or more so, than any other race. A number of Irishmen attended the mass meeting Saturday night and, like everybody else, they were disgusted; but unlike the majority of those who were present, they, especially those of them interested in the matter of governmental affairs, have since done considerable talking about the manner in which the meeting was conducted, and many of the expressions wanted to the ears of the Stroller would wreath in smiles the face of a grave image.

One son of Erin was heard to declare: "Sure, if Oi had been cbeerman o' that matrn, Oi'd kept ardhur or brooke the face av ivery mon that failed to obey me; ye's can-bet that wid me in ther cheer ordher would hev reigned."

Another man who glories in wearing a shamrock on the 17th of March, expressed the belief that if the meeting had adjourned an hour before it met it would have been better for "us poor devils of moiners."

A third was heard to say: "Faith an the mon who was so dhruunk he coodn't spake at all at all made the best spache aye the matrn."

Some people appear to be particularly sensitive on certain points that by others would not be considered worth a moment's consideration. For instance: At the meeting Saturday night one ultra-sensitive individual mistook the calling of his own name and imagined someone had suggested that he should be on the woodpile, when the name had been heard only in the imagination of him who should read on the bottom of his plate at least three times each day the "Honi soit" motto of his country. In fact, only timely explanations Saturday night are what prevented the long, pent-up spirit of the warrior from leaking in a dozen places; in which event the electric lights would have probably been extinguished by flowing gore.

But to return to the woodpile which, in itself, is one of the most guleless institutions in the city, possessing no terrors and absolutely no meaning to the man who walketh in the straight and narrow path of righteousness and honesty. But every man knows the secrets of his own life, and to this was probably due the fact that in a distorted imagination the name "woodpile" is ever present, hence the sensitiveness exhibited at Saturday night's meeting.

One day recently a dog entered a Dawson meat shop and hastily picked up with its teeth a fine porterhouse roast with which it fled into the street. The knight of the cleaver hastily followed, and with the aid of a few persons which were standing around on the street talking about the ice or the late mass meeting, managed to intimidate the dog to such an extent as to cause him to withdraw his long teeth from the succulent roast and drop the same precipitously in the mud, where it was found and recovered by the owner and carried back in triumph to the shop. Those who eat that particular piece of meat will probably never know its history; but if they develop symptoms of hydrophobia the Stroller for one will entertain strong ideas as to how it was contracted. Dog saliva is all right in a dog's mouth, but it is doubtful if it will ever be popular as a diet.

The old timer's face wore a look of deep disgust yesterday. In the evening when it became noised abroad that the whole river had broken up and was moving out, chechakos ran with all speed to its banks; but the old timer somewhat slowly sauntered down, cast his one eye at the moving mass for a minute, then uttered a few disgusted mutterings, walked back up town and resumed his favorite stool in a barroom where half an hour later he remarked to the Stroller:

"There haunt been a goin' out of the ice fer seven years that has been worth lookin' at. Time was when seem' the ice go out was a sight. Many's the time I've seed pieces a mile long come down and strike the bluff below town and rear up and fall on top of the bluff and break square in two, the top piece fallin' over and down tother side of the bluff. I am goin' to give it one more show, an' if she don't get the old time move on her in 'nuther year, I'm goin' to git. Wheneven the river gits to actin' like chechakos it aint no place fer me."

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