

The Klondike Nugget

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DEMOCRACY PROGRESSING.

There are mutterings among the ranks of Democracy which foretell of growing discontent with the leadership under which that party has gone down to defeat during the last two presidential campaigns.

The present "reformed" Democratic party is as far removed from the Simon pure organization of Cleveland and Carlisle as day is from night. As constituted at the present time the party is what may be termed a negative quantity. It does not stand for any particular principles or legislative policies except such as are opposed to the tenets of the dominant party. When the Republicans announce a determination to pursue a certain line of action, the Democrats as a matter of course adopt the opposite tack without regard to the merits of the case. This policy, while appealing to large numbers of men of radical tendencies does not carry weight with the great masses of intelligent voters who are quite able to understand that a cause is not necessarily wrong because it is espoused by a certain political party.

The Democratic leaders of the present day have lost incalculable prestige for their party by proving themselves false prophets on too many occasions. The dire results which were to follow Republican success in 1896 failed in a most signal manner to materialize, and the course of events in the States at the present time indicates that the unwashed foretellers of evil have been again badly mistaken.

These conditions and circumstances have combined to effect a growing distrust in the minds of the rank and file as to the capacity of their present leadership. A desire is becoming manifest among them to drop the eternal cry of calamity which has been sounded in their ears so long, and to reach forward to better things.

Influential Democratic newspapers have already begun the preliminary work of preparing the party mind for reorganization and this campaign of education will be industriously prosecuted during the next four years.

The party machinery is still in the hands of the radical wing and will be until the presidential campaign of 1904. When that time arrives it is quite doubtful if the men who now call themselves the fathers of Democracy will be able to recognize their own child.

THE NORTHERN TRADE.

Another fine new steamer will be placed on the Seattle-Skagway run early in the coming spring. This fact indicates that the first named city is determined to do its utmost to maintain its trade with Dawson in spite of the duties which must be paid on imported goods.

The trade of this town which means the trade of the territory at large, naturally belongs to Vancouver and Victoria. With the advantage of the bonding privilege through the small strip of Alaskan territory, between Skagway and Bennett, there is no reason why the cities of British Columbia should not control the lion's share of Yukon trade, were they but alive to their opportunities.

The strongest influence in favor of Seattle's continued strength as a competitor for this trade is the superior transportation facilities which that city possesses. Several swift lines of steamer ply between the Sound metropolis and Skagway, and if the demands of traffic require greater accommodations, the same are invariably forthcoming.

Scarcely a day passes but some steamer from the north arrives at or departs for Seattle and it is that knowledge which induces many people to make their purchases for this country in that city.

The U. S. assay office has also been an important factor in directing the trade of Dawson to Seattle. Most of the gold taken from the Klondike dis-

trict in the past three years has been sent to that office, and naturally where the gold goes there is the trade. A little more energy displayed by Victoria and Vancouver would help those cities out wonderfully in securing their share of the northern business.

They should look to their transportation facilities and interest themselves more strongly in the matter of establishing an assay office in Dawson. They have a competitor which is wide awake, and which is looking closely and successfully to its own laurels. The earlier these facts are realized the better it will be for the future of those cities.

The Jack Wade country will experience a substantial boom during the coming summer according to all reports which have recently come from that district. Engineers who have made the overland trip state that the Jack Wade country might easily be made tributary to Dawson by constructing a trail. It would add materially to the aggregate of business transacted in Dawson if this town could be made the point of supply for that section of the country. As the crow flies the diggings on Jack Wade are much nearer to Dawson than they are to the town of Fortymile.

Independents in Montreal are urging separation from the mother country and the establishment of "the United States of Canada." Considering the progress that has been made in the scheme of imperial federation since the outbreak of the Boer war and the enthusiasm with which Canada contributed her share of men and money in the prosecution of that struggle it would appear that the Independents are at rather a bad time for the realization of their hopes.

Chicago now rejoices in a corner on beans. Two or three years ago that fact would have been of more than passing interest to the average Klondiker, but in these days of chechako spuds and fresh cow's milk, beans, be they brown or white, have fallen from their high estate and are now consumed only on occasion and not as a tri-daily staple. Chicago may corner all the beans in the market and the Klondike will still live.

It is about time for the sour dough to rise up and point out the fact that Dawson is due for a big flood during the coming spring. As a matter of fact there is quite a possibility that something of the kind will occur. The snow fall at the present time is heavier than for three years past and the winter is not half gone. Dawson will certainly be fortunate if it escapes unmolested by high water in the spring.

Dawson is badly in need of adequate facilities for caring for the insane. The local hospitals are not equipped for the purpose and detention of demented persons at the jail is to be countenanced only as an emergency measure. The first available funds which the council secures should be devoted to the erection of a building where proper treatment may be given these unfortunates.

It is a remarkable thing that the most ultra-promincorporationists have only good to say of the way in which Dawson is now cared for by the Yukon council. If there were any scandal or lack of efficiency in connection with the present system of administering local affairs, a case might be made out in favor of incorporation. Under present circumstances it cannot be done.

The Yukon council is in a bad way for funds. Expenses of all kinds are cropping up and the wherewith to meet them is not in evidence. What the council should do is to secure the services of the financial experts who spoke at the incorporation meeting on Monday night.

Free beer would be a fine thing, but what's the matter with municipal ownership of mines and free distribution of gold dust. With Woodworth, Clarke, etc., at the helm, Dawson would soon be Utopia realized.

CURRENT COMMENT

"Many people toughen and spoil the flavor of caribou steak by not cooking it properly," said a housewife famous for her cooking. "I find that the same meat which, put in the pan when frozen, comes to the table tough and unpalatable, is juicy and tender when thawed out over night and fried quickly over a hot fire. The same can be said of any kind of meat. The reason lies in the fact that frozen meats, if allowed to thaw while cooking will not form the crust which is essential in retaining the juices of the meat."

"Women are peculiar and I never could quite understand them, in fact there are very few men who do. I knew a man once, however, who knew more in a minute about femininity in general than most men could learn in a life time." The speaker was Harry Hershberg. "I have seen a string of women in line two blocks in length waiting for Chester Cleary's store in Seattle to open on the morning of an advertised bargain sale. Policemen had to guard the place and keep order, for the women would actually grab articles out of the hands of each other and fight for position at the counter. The strange part of it all to me was the fact that only a few cents could be saved on some special stuff, which was soon sold out, but the excitement continued long afterwards and almost anything with a sale day price on it was eagerly purchased."

"I don't have to worry anymore about shortage in any line of merchandise I handle," said Shindler. "Just as the market is cleared out on any line along will come some trader from Whitehorse with the very thing I most need. Only yesterday a man came in here with a stock of marten traps, the last thing in the world you would expect anyone to bring in over the ice. You see they find out by wire what is needed and purchase accordingly."

The following conversation was heard in a butcher shop: "He is the meanest and most hypocritical cuss I ever met. You bet I know him. I loaned him money and gave him credit to go into business; so the other day I called on him to help me out. Here is what he said: 'Certainly! Certainly! Why, my dear boy, to be sure I will. My wife unfortunately is out just now, and as she has several thousand dollars with her I will tell her to give you the necessary amount. You can have any amount, my dear friend, any amount. Be sure and call promptly at 1 o'clock. I will esteem it a personal favor.' At 1 o'clock I unexpectedly overheard the following: I promised to loan \$5 to a man but I find he is not up to my expectation as a gentleman I fear he is worthless. Cut him out. Refer him to me. Tell him I am in my private chamber and cannot be disturbed.' Then those malamutes smiled knowingly and admiringly at each other." "I see you know him," said the butcher; "that sounds just like him."

"My little girl came very near having her eye put out yesterday," Mrs. Geotzman was heard to say. "A boy threw a frozen slice of bread at her which struck her in the face, making an abrasion on the child's eyeball, which nearly blinded her. A little while ago another boy knocked her down and a nail which protruded from the sidewalk penetrated her hand. Both accidents were caused by grown children at the high class of the Mission street school who are very boisterous and given to rough play. I have complained to the teacher who promises better conduct from the pupils in future."

A Jail Cure.
The late Sir John Bridge, the well known London magistrate, was fond of telling his friends of a curious letter he received not long before his retirement from Bow street. It ran:

"Sir—I am sorry to occupy your time, but I feel I must write to thank you for having looked up my wife for six months. My wife had often come before the court for drunkenness, but after being fined she was worse. You were kind enough to give her six months, and she came back to me a reclaimed woman and is now the best wife in England."

This letter was all the more valued by Sir John Bridge because he was ordinarily a lenient judge.

His Candid Admission.
"I suppose your constituents will be prepared to kill the fatted calf when you get home?" said the amiable friend.

"No," answered Senator Sorghum; "my constituents aren't violent people. Besides, they haven't got anything against the fatted calf. I'm the one they're after."—Washington Star.

When Ignorance is Bliss.
Fudge—Do you believe in love at first sight?

Budge—Cert. It is then that neither party knows what kind of a person the other is. Why shouldn't they fall in love?—Boston Transcript.

Public Nuisance

Complaints are made that in many places in the city the sidewalks are now in a dangerous condition owing to the fact that some people keep their walks free from snow and ice while others have allowed the accumulation of the winter to remain until it has formed into regular glaciers. The dangerous feature is that where the ice is cleared away a step several inches high must be taken to surmount the glacier and unless the pedestrian has his eyes open he will invariably be tripped in ascending from the lower to the higher plane. To such an extent have a few property owners neglected their sidewalk on Third street, between Second and Third avenues as to cause them to be unsafe for pedestrians and making the middle of the street the most acceptable portion of that thoroughfare. This state of affairs is due to either carelessness, stinginess or criminal negligence, and the people who had their walks cleared along that street are being misused when their neighbors neglect to interfere with the course of nature. A glacier on the sidewalk is as much an obstruction as a load of wood or anything else that obstructs traffic and owners who have not sufficient pride to keep their walks in respectable condition should be made by the authorities to do so.

Patently Waiting.

There is a small army of men in Dawson at present who were last season employed on the Flyer line of steamers, the Bonanza King and Eldorado, and who are now simply waiting for pay for their services. They are living in the hope that the affairs of the company will be shortly adjusted and that all bills due will be settled. Among all these disappointed men none are heard to speak in tones other than respect of Nels Peterson, owner of the steamers, and of regret that his steamboat venture has proven so disastrous from a financial standpoint. It is thought the employees will be paid in full within the next few days, as it is said money is being sent in by Peterson for that purpose.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

Crown Prince Chulafa Maha Vajiravudh, of Siam, has arrived at St. Petersburg from the West.

A lumber steamer on the Pacific recently picked up \$27,000 worth of ambergris.

A dispatch from Warsaw says that 52 Poles have been arrested there, being accused of participation in a political conspiracy.

The famous \$30,000 Clark bribery money is to be used to aid in Montana's exhibit at the pan-American exposition.

Obrecht-Reibon, a prisoner charged with attempted felonious assault, committed suicide in his cell in a New York city station house by hanging himself with his handkerchief.

Lord Curzon of Kedleston, viceroy of India, in the course of a speech, said that since the appearance of the bubonic plague, in 1898, 25,000 deaths from the disease have occurred in the Mysore state.

A prominent Montana woman was arrested in Minneapolis for shoplifting, when in reality the goods found were purchased for her wedding trousseau. Her friends are indignant.

James Baxter, formerly of Chicago, and lately of New York, who was sentenced at Montreal some time ago to five years in the penitentiary for his connection with the Banque Ville Marie frauds, has been released on "conditional pardon" from St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary.

Rear Admiral Albert S. Barker, U. S. N., commandant at the Brooklyn navy yard, who, with his wife and daughter, is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Proctor, Utica, N. Y., over Christmas, was tendered a brilliant reception at the Fort Schuykill Club, Christmas eve.

The employees of the Bourne Mills, Fall River, Mass., who are entitled to a part in the profit-sharing plan in use by the corporation, have received a bonus of 3 1/2 per cent on the wages earned from June 9 to December 8 of this year. This is the 23d semi-annual dividend that has been paid by the corporation under this plan.

An Off Night

In discussing a suitable night in the week for holding meetings at the meeting of the Odd Fellows last night President J. S. Cowan told a short story which every lodge man will thoroughly understand and appreciate.

A new organization of some sort had been formed in an outside city and the question as to the night of its meeting was being discussed.

Monday night conflicted with Masonic meetings.

Tuesday night was the occasion of the meeting of Odd Fellows.

The A. O. U. W. met in secret conclave on Thursday nights.

Friday nights were taken up by the Elks.

Three different political clubs held meetings each Saturday night.

"What is the matter with Wednesday night?" asked the secretary.

A meek looking man in the rear of the hall arose and said: "Wednesday night is the only night in the week on which it is impossible for me to attend. Gentlemen, Wednesday is prayer meeting night."

And without further discussion the chair announced: "The regular meetings of this association will be Wednesday nights."

I. O. O. F.

The Odd Fellows Relief Association of the Yukon met last night in Dr. Cassel's office and was attended by many who have made the pilgrimage to Jericho. Many members of the order who could not be present in person sent in their names and dues and were enrolled on the list. As it is desired that every Odd Fellow in the Yukon become a member of the association the nominal price of \$1 was fixed as the membership fee and \$1 per month dues, the funds to be used in alleviating the distress of needy brothers. At the request of E. J. White he was relieved from the office of secretary and Burne Pollock was elected to the position. Mr. Pollock's office is with Peter Stell on Second avenue near the Pioneer drug store where all Odd Fellows may call and sign the roll. Geo. Moffatt of Grand Forks, was appointed to enroll members and collect fees and dues at that place, those joining there to be eligible to any and all benefits that may be needed by them. An executive and visiting committee which will have charge of the affairs of the association was appointed, its members being E. J. White, George Murphy, J. A. Greene, R. M. Brown and Dr. W. G. Cassels. Hereafter the association will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday nights of each month.

Missing Persons.

Inquiries are made for the following persons through the N. W. M. P. Anyone who can give any information regarding their whereabouts should call at the N. W. M. P. town station.

- Mark S. Pierce, Ridgefarm, Ill.;
- Christian B. Hansen, Chicago Ill.;
- Christian W. Schultz, New Orleans, La.;
- N. W. Powers, Denver, Col.;
- Gustave C. Gerick, Sonoma, Cal.;
- S. Victor Pinsonneault, Fulton Chain, N. Y.;
- Ernest Richards, Ashtabula, O.;
- James Madison Donalson, Seattle, Wash.;
- Thomas Parker, Egremont, Cheshire, England.;
- S. Holden, Innisfail, Alberta.

Two Months More Winter.

If the present winter is anything similar to last there are yet two full months of severely cold weather to be endured before fur overcoats can be pawned with safety to the owner. It will be remembered that last winter and until March 12th or 13th the mercury ranged with but little variation in the neighborhood of 40 below zero. About the time above mentioned there was a sudden warming up and the thermometer raised from 30 to 40 degrees within 48 hours, nor did the mercury again pass the zero mark, but continued to raise as the spring advanced. Wagers are now being made that the ice will move in the river by May 10. Last spring it started from in front of the city the morning of the 8th.

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