

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1900

FOR THE COMMITTEE.

The citizens' committee, while waiting for returns from the communications sent to Ottawa, might give some attention to the question of local incorporation. The Council evidently feels disposed to grant the town municipal rights, but the terms upon which it will be done are of such a nature as to render the advisability of incorporating extremely doubtful. These doubts may be removed by a clear and distinct understanding as to the exact powers and responsibilities which would be vested in the municipality should an incorporation ordinance be passed.

The citizens' committee could fill a useful purpose by conferring with the Council and ascertaining the exact status of affairs. We do not believe that there will be any general desire for incorporation expressed should it develop that the town would have to depend for its revenues entirely, or practically so, upon the levying of direct taxes upon real and personal property.

The present method of administering the affairs of the town by appointees of the Federal government is unsatisfactory—as much so, we believe, to the members of the Council themselves as to the citizens in general. At the same time we would not favor a change which would involve a radical increase in taxation. What we want is the best form of local government, administered as economically as possible. The citizens' committee might devote some time to securing information upon this subject with considerable advantage to the community.

A reliable statement as to the sources of revenue upon which the municipality might count, and an estimate of expenditures with which it would be confronted, would form a basis upon which an intelligent opinion might be founded. The work is, we believe, quite within the province of the committee now acting by appointment of a public mass meeting.

A PUBLIC BRIDGE.

A public wagon and foot bridge across the Klondike river is an important and urgent necessity, to which the Council should give early attention.

The gold producing creeks, to reach any of which the Klondike must be crossed, have been famous the world over for more than three years. During this time they have yielded in gold sums almost fabulous in amount, and a number of them have scarcely been prospected as yet. In the judgment of men whose experience entitles their opinions to every consideration, the country has before it a prosperous existence for an indefinite number of years.

In the face of these facts it seems odd that practically the only means of reaching the trails leading to the creeks should be a toll bridge, which is only a makeshift and unsuitable for the present requirements.

A bridge is needed sufficiently strong to permit the heaviest

loads being hauled over it. Single pieces of machinery will be required on the creeks this summer which could scarcely be taken across the present bridge. Moreover, considering the taxes which in various ways are collected from the miners now engaged upon the creeks in question, a toll charge of any nature is wholly wrong. The government is in duty bound to provide easy and economical access to the creeks.

There may possibly have been some excuse for a toll bridge when the franchise for its construction was granted. At that time the government of the territory had scarcely been organized, and revenues had not reached their present amount. This reason, however, is no longer valid. Statements of government receipts and expenditures in this territory show that revenues are now greatly in excess of disbursements. Consequently, there should be no hesitation on the part of the government in undertaking so important a public improvement as the construction of a bridge over the Klondike.

Such grafts as "tramless trams" and toll bridges were bad enough in the dark ages of Yukon government, but they should be relegated to history now.

If the freighters continue to cross the Klondike on the ice very much longer, some of them will find themselves minus a team. There have been several narrow escapes during the past few days, and each day the ice becomes weaker. It would be well for the police to investigate the condition of the ice, and if it is found unsafe and dangerous further use of it should be prohibited.

News from Kentucky is of a decidedly belligerent nature. The fact that the opposing political parties are making preparations for resort to actual hostilities would seem to indicate that blood will yet flow before a satisfactory solution of the present difficulty is reached. If warlike Kentuckians do not get together and settle their difficulties soon, the strong arm of Uncle Sam will be felt in Kentucky in a way that will bring a reminder of the days of '61.

Automobiles Coming.

The French steamer Aquitaine, which arrived at New York a few days ago from Havre, brought three Frenchmen who say they intend to make the attempt to go to the Klondike by automobile. They are, says the Alaskan, E. Janne de Lamarre, who has been to the Klondike, and was for a time editor of the Klondike Review. Rapha Merville, who is a brother-in-law of M. de Lamarre and who holds a fast automobile record, and L. Crom, private secretary of L. de Lamarre.

The three travelers sent ahead of them an automobile of five horse power. The vehicles have been sent to Vancouver, whence they will be sent to Skagway and on to Lake Bennett by way of the White Pass & Yukon railway.

M. de Lamarre started from Montreal and on April 19 starts by automobile from Lake Bennett for Dawson.

"The automobile will go in front, the motor cycle will follow and a sleigh carrying provisions will bring up the rear," he said. "At places where we must travel by water, I intend to place the automobile in a large flat canoe and use the power of the machine."

Mystery of Number Nine.

Among the magicians and soothsayers of ancient times both the figures nine and three had a certain amount of mystery and sacredness attached to them, and volumes have been written in explanation of their meaning in connection with the history of men and the world. Apropos of this, a curious coincidence is noted in the fact that nearly all the great mining discoveries of recent times have been made in years ending with the magic figure nine. Thus the famous gold find in California fell in the year 1849. Ten years later, in 1859, remarkable discov-

eries of the same metal were made in British Columbia, causing a great rush of fortune hunters to these points, says Leslie's Weekly.

In 1869 the famous Comstock lode find became known to the world; in 1879 the gold-bearing region around Leadville and Tombstone, A. T., began to attract attention, and in 1889 the diggings at Clover Creek and in Lower California became the objective points of great multitudes of excited and anxious seekers after sudden wealth. And now again, at the end of another decade, history repeats itself once more. The remarkable gold finds recently made at Cape Nome, surpassing in richness and extent anything yet discovered in the Yukon district, bid fair to make the year 1899 as notable as any in the annals of gold mining.

U. S. Customs Regulations.

The local customs officials have been notified that the United States treasury department has sent the following communication to the collector of Customs at Sitka, Alaska:

"Goods destined for British possessions—Designation of Skagway as a port from which merchandise may be forwarded to the British possessions: Treasury Dept., Feb. 24, 1900.

"In order to facilitate the entry and transportation of merchandise destined for the Northwest territories and under the authority contained in section 3005, revised statutes, Skagway is hereby designated as a port at which merchandise destined for places in British possessions of North America may be entered for transportation through the territory of the United States, without the payment of duties thereon, and the regulations prescribed by department circular No. 129, of October 27th, 1899, are hereby made applicable to such transportation from the port named.

(Signed) O. L. SPAULDING,
Acting Secretary.
The above is simply a confirmation of the regulations for bonded privileges which have been in force for some time past, under provisional permission, Skagway Alaskan.

Democratic Issues.

Senator James K. Jones, chairman of the Democratic national committee, of St. Louis, submitted to an interview with the Post-Dispatch. When asked what would be the position of the Democratic party on the issue of expansion in the coming campaign, Senator Jones said:

"The Democratic party will be opposed to imperialism, and by that I mean the acquisition of territory remote from this country and its government either as a part of the United States or as colonies. The Democratic party has always favored the extensions of our commerce, while the Republican party, by its protective tariff policy, has always opposed and discouraged it. The Democratic party will continue to favor every legitimate means of expanding the commerce of the United States."

"Will silver be as important an issue as it was in the campaign of 1896?" he was asked.

"If you will come to me about the 15th of next November I will be better informed on that point," answered the senator.

"Do you think silver has paled any as an issue before the American people?"

"You know as much about that as I do. Conventions and platforms do not make issues. The wishes and opinions of voters make them. The Democratic party is the party of bimetalism, and its declaration in the next platform on this question will be as strong as it was in 1896. But whether silver, or opposition to trusts, or imperialism will claim most attention from the people is something I cannot tell you."

"Will Bryan be the next Democratic nominee for the presidency?"

"I think so."
For gentle slumber try the Fairview.
Get your eyesight fixed at the Pioneer drug store.

Same old price, 25 cents, for drinks at the Regina.

The Holborn Cafe for delicacies.

Spring Styles Arrive.

The Star Clothing house has received today its first consignments of gent's furnishing goods over the ice. They comprise fancy shirts in swell patterns from the famous Neustadter Bros' factory, the very latest in neckwear, hats of the latest block, and a full line of high-class clothing. A. S. Levine is the enterprising proprietor of the establishment.

When in town, stop at the Regina.

Electric lights in all the rooms at the Fairview.

Sliced Lubeck potatoes and Crown flour. Royal Grocery, Second ave.

Best imported wines and liquors at the Regina.

The most popular house in town, the Fairview; new management.

Shoff's Cough Balsam; sure cure.

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How About Your Watch?

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