

BANKER McMULLEN'S VIEWS:

Says Fifteen Dollars Is Fair for Commercial Dust.

In Many Cases Ten Per Cent Is Lost in Assay—Best Dust Not Much in Circulation.

From Tuesday's Daily.

The proposal to accept gold dust at the rate of \$15 per ounce instead of \$16, which has been the prevailing rate heretofore, has brought forward considerable discussion from parties interested on both sides of the question. With a view of securing as general expressions of opinion as possible the Nugget has from time to time published the views of leading business men and miners, the former almost invariably favoring the idea and the latter opposing it.

Mr. Thomas McMullen, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, was asked his views upon the matter by a Nugget representative this morning.

"I have followed the discussion of the gold dust question with considerable interest," said Mr. McMullen.

"I have read many of the letters which have appeared in the daily papers and while all of them seem to convey the sincere convictions of the writers, I must say that there appears to be a misconception in the minds of a great many people as to the actual value of gold dust and the method by which the same is determined.

"To illustrate the point, I have before me a series of assay certificates covering shipments of hundreds of thousands of ounces of gold dust to the various assay offices of the United States.

"On each of these the valuation of the dust is indicated at so much per ounce. These figures are misleading to this extent that the valuation marked on the certificates is found after the dust has been melted, all black sand, base metal, etc., having been removed in the melting process. The loss thus caused from melting runs from 1 1/2 per cent to as high as 6 per cent, which means that the dust carries sand and other worthless substances for which a deduction of from 25 cents to \$1 per ounce must be made. This deduction must be made in receiving dust over the counter or the person who accepts the dust is the loser to that extent.

"Many people have the impression that after the black sand is removed from gold dust nothing but pure gold remains. This is entirely erroneous. For convenience a standard of '1000 fine' as it is called is assumed by which the purity of gold is determined. Absolutely pure gold assays 1000 fine and is worth \$20.67 per ounce. United States gold coins carry an alloy of 10 per cent copper and are worth \$18.60 per ounce. Commercial dust sent out from Dawson seldom brings as much as \$15.50, which gives it a purity in the neighborhood of 750. That is to say, a portion of such dust, approximating 25 per cent, has practically no value.

"In a single melt of 400 ounces a loss of 10 ounces after melting is not infrequent, which will furnish some idea of the proportion of base metal carried.

"I consider that \$15 is a fair valuation at which to accept the average dust used in Dawson as a circulating medium. It is a noticeable fact that the higher grade dust does not get into the channels of trade, but is sent out for assay either by the miner direct or through the local banking houses. The only claim owners who will be affected, therefore, are those whose claims produce a low grade of gold, and certainly they should not expect to get the same value as is received from a higher grade of gold. The average assay value of gold in circulation as a medium of exchange in 1898 was about \$15.30 to \$15.50 per ounce. These figures were arrived at by test assays of dust by some of the trading companies and banks as well as accepting the Seattle assay office certificates. It is well known that in 1898 there was much less adulteration of dust than occurs at the present time. In my opinion the merchants of Dawson could better afford to discount their prices from 2 per cent to 5 per cent for currency rather than accept commercial dust even at \$15 per ounce.

"I noticed," concluded Mr. McMullen, "a statement in a local paper from a claim owner who says that he can sell his dust for \$15.60 currency and wants to know if he is to lose 60 cents an ounce on his dust hereafter. The thing for him to do is to continue selling for \$15.60 and make his purchases in currency. He will find that he can make better bargains for his goods even though he were paying his bills in gold dust at \$16 per ounce."

Nome's First Divorce Case.

Nome's first divorce suit was filed this morning in the district court.

Mrs. M. J. Beaumont wants to be legally separated from T. H. Beaumont on grounds of desertion, abuse and criminal intimacy with another woman. The complaint filed goes into detail to substantiate allegations on these heads and tells a tale of marital infidelity that would make the angels weep.

Mrs. Beaumont says she was married to T. H. Beaumont in Rotterdam, Holland, June 5, 1889. The first three years appear to have passed without incident save that soon after marriage the husband "began treating the plaintiff in a cruel and inhuman manner." The first specific act of violence alleged took place aboard a steamer between San Francisco and Juneau, March 1, 1892, when Beaumont, she says, beat her about the head and shoulder.

The two came down the Yukon river to Fort Yukon, and on February 25, 1894, there was another domestic outbreak which culminated in the husband, so the complaint says, taking their child Louise, 2 1/2 years old, and sending it down the river in care of natives. A period covering about three years then elapsed during which Mrs. Beaumont seems to have no cause to complain, and at the end of that time Beaumont went to San Francisco to be gone six months.

At the end of a year and a half or in July, 1899, he came back and with him was a woman, "Mabel Doe," whom Beaumont introduced to his wife as his daughter by a former marriage. Mrs. Beaumont, however, learned through other sources, so she says, that "Mabel Doe" was really Beaumont's mistress instead of his daughter and in August, 18, she finally separated from her faithless spouse.

There are three children in the union, Louise, Henry and George. The oldest is seven years of age and the youngest three. —Nome News.

Teddy Lewis on a Vacation.

E. G. Lewis, formerly in the employ of the A. C. Co., was a passenger south on the Centennial. Lewis was accompanied on his trip by Bessie Pierce, a well-known vaudeville artist with whom Lewis became infatuated. Many of his former acquaintances regret "Teddy's" abrupt departure, he having previous to his flight borrowed all the money he could in order to make the pathway of himself and Bessie more easy when they shall have reached the effete "outside." —Nome News.

Frank Golden Sandbagged.

Some time since the Nugget mentioned a report of Frank J. Golden, formerly of this city, having been sandbagged at Nome. The following account of his misfortune is from the Nome News of August 7:

"Frank Golden, who used to run the Yukon bakery in Dawson, but who is now a resident of Nome, had an experience Saturday night with a couple of thugs which left him minus \$700 and with a sore head. Golden was coming down the alley from the California bakery just back of the Beau Mercantile Co., about 12 o'clock Saturday night, when two men met him, one passing on either side. There next thing that Golden knew was about a half hour later when he found himself lying in the mud in the alley, his pocket-book gone and a welt left by a sandbag across the top of his head.

Natural Gas Wells Run Dry.

Ten years ago the daily capacity of the natural gas wells in the Findlay, O., fields was 200,000,000 feet. Now it is down to a few million feet, and the pressure is so low that the supply is almost useless. This year will mark the passing of natural gas as a fuel in all of northwestern Ohio. The big pipe lines which carried gas to Toledo, Tiffin, Sandusky, Norwalk and many smaller places are fast being abandoned and the pipes taken up. The pump stations of the Northwestern Natural Gas Company are shut down, as are those of the city of Toledo, which cost the municipality \$1,500,000. The gas would have lasted many years longer if in the early years of its discovery it had not been wasted. The famous Krag well, probably the greatest gas producer ever opened up, was allowed to burn unconfined for months at a time, millions of feet going to waste daily. All through the natural gas belt, in the early days of the craze, the streets were lit by great torches, the flames from which sometimes flared up 30 feet into the air. —Chicago Tribune.

The Old "Eagle Tree."

People of East Moriches are mourning the fact that the old historic "eagle tree" is now dead, and that in a few years it will probably disappear altogether. After weathering many a storm and withstanding several fierce fires, it has at last succumbed to the elements and is gradually disintegrating.

The tree was first occupied by a pair of eagles late in the last century. It was the last known resort of the great American bald headed eagle on Long Island. Each year after they first appeared in the old tree, the eagles returned and built their nest and raised their young. When the Manor & Sag Harbor branch of the Long Island railroad was built only 100 yards from the tree the eagles abandoned it and sought a new retreat. But they did not seem to be pleased with their new quarters, and in 1886 or 1887 they returned and once more set up their home in the broad branches of the aged tree.

Those who came to Riverhead and Moriches would frequently see the white-feathered head of the eagle family soaring majestically over the country or else perched with dignity on the gnarled branches of the oak and keeping watch over his mate. About six years ago the family was broken up through the cruelty of a hunter, who wounded the eagle so badly that he afterward died, and his body was found at the foot of the tree which had been his home for so many years. Everyone felt a sense of personal loss, and it would have fared hard with the hunter had he appeared about this time.

After that a pair of ospreys took possession of the nest for awhile, but it soon fell apart.

J. Buell Terry, of East Moriches, owns the land upon which the tree stands. He says that the old tree has been marvelously hardy. It has, however, reached its last days, but Mr. Terry says that he will never allow it to be cut down. —New York Tribune.

Regarding Gold Dust.

The following letter has been received by the Board of Trade in answer to one forwarded to the Yukon council regarding legislation to prevent the adulteration of gold dust:

Dawson, Y. T., Aug. 24, 1900.

F. W. Clayton, Secretary Board of Trade:

Sir—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your communication containing a resolution asking that the council take some action towards the prevention of the tampering with and adulteration of gold dust, and to say that it is not within the jurisdiction of the council to legislate on this matter. Your obedient servant,

J. N. E. BROWNE,
Territorial Secretary.

The following resolution has been passed by the Board:

Whereas, The Board of Trade of Dawson has carefully considered the communications and arguments of the various persons objecting to the reduction of the rate of commercial gold dust from \$16 to \$15 per ounce, and while there is some argument against it, by far the better reasons appear to favor it, and especially as the reduction will help a man who works for wages and takes his pay in dust and who is the real producer; and

Whereas, The resolution passed Aug. 22d and circulated for signatures has been signed almost unanimously by the business houses and firms of Dawson representing all kinds of classes of business including mine owners; and

Whereas, It appears from a communication received from the territorial secretary that nothing can be done by the council to prohibit the adulteration of gold dust; and

Whereas, Gold dust of greater intrinsic value than \$15 per ounce can readily be disposed of at its proper valuation in Dawson; and

Whereas, There are several reliable assay offices in Dawson where any one having gold dust which he believes to be of greater value than \$15 per ounce may have its true mint value ascertained.

Now, therefore, the Board of Trade of Dawson for and on behalf of the business community hereby declares that on and after September 15th, 1900, the rate of commercial or trade dust shall be \$15 per ounce.

Married Last Night.

When Chas. Reid left Nova Scotia in 1898 to carve out a fortune for himself in the Klondike he left his heart's affections in the keeping of Miss Mary Beatrice Sutherland, the beautiful daughter of a prominent Nova Scotia Presbyterian minister. Mr. Reid was more fortunate than many who came before him, with him and after him for the reason that he secured good mining property on Adams Hill and the sunlight of prosperity beamed upon him. A few days ago Miss Sutherland having made the long journey across the continent and northward nearly to the Arctic circle, arrived in Dawson. Last night at 7:30 o'clock, Rev. A. S. Grant officiating, the happy couple were united for life in the Dawson Presbyterian church, the attendants being Mrs. Leslie and Mr. Reid, a brother of the groom. A new vine and fig tree will be at once established on Adams Hill where Mr. and Mrs. Reid will be at home to their friends.

Gone to Whitehorse.

Mr. M. L. Strickland, a young business man of Dawson, has purchased the entire general merchandise stock formerly owned by Miss M. Eversole and next week will remove it to the building on Front street now occupied by the Star restaurant. Mr. Strickland is a brother of Accountant Strickland of the Canadian Bank of Commerce and is a welcome addition to Whitehorse business circles. —Star.

The Klondike Nugget

TELEPHONE NUMBER 12
DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BROS., Publishers

MUST ALL BE ELECTED.

Dawson's first real public school was opened this morning. It has required more than two years of laborious effort on the part of the Yukon council to reach finally a point where so important a problem could be successfully solved.

But the school has finally been established and for that we may be properly thankful. The history of the school matter in Dawson serves to emphasize the absolute necessity of a readjustment of our local governmental machinery. Had the Yukon council been an elective body composed of men dependent upon the people of the Yukon territory for their positions it would have been a matter of absolute impossibility that the school question should be so long delayed in reaching a satisfactory solution.

As a matter of fact there is every reason for belief that there would even now be no school were it not that the council has dwindled down to less than a quorum and the members now remaining act only in the capacity of a committee. It has been demonstrated time and again that the council as at present constituted is able to accomplish more real work when half of its members are on the outside than when the roll-call of our august legislative assemblage finds no vacant chairs. This was amply proven last summer and in the present instance history is but repeating itself.

The Yukon council will never be satisfactory to the people of the Yukon territory until its entire membership is elective. The theory of empowering with legislative authority men who already hold positions under the government by virtue of appointment is altogether wrong. Every man who is at the present time a member of the council is also responsible to the government for the conduct of a separate and distinct office. That they cannot fill both positions satisfactorily is, we believe, no more patent to the people of the territory than to the members of the council themselves.

The natural and logical end of the matter is the establishment of an elective legislative body empowered with the same authority that is accorded to representative assemblies of other territories and provinces. The election of two members on the council will be the first step in this direction and that step must eventually be followed by the election under popular ballot of the entire membership of the council. The manner in which the school question has been handled is only one of many examples which might be cited to indicate the pressing necessity of this change.

It remains now only to place upon the council at the approaching election two men who by their fitness for the position will prove the desirability of entrusting to elected members the full responsibility of handling our legislative affairs.

Wood is quite likely to be wood in Dawson during the coming winter. The steamboat trade has taken such an immense amount of wood during the present season and the prices paid have made it so profitable for the loggers to cater to steamboat business that as a consequence the local market has to an extent been neglected. While there is no likelihood of a scarcity, it is the opinion of those who are in touch with the market that the prevailing price for wood will be every bit as high this winter as last. One thing must be reckoned on, however, and that is the fact that coal is now being quite extensively used and as time progresses will come into more general use. We are informed that there is an abundant supply of coal stoves in the city, the demand for which is steadily increasing.

When the telegraph system now in process of construction by the United States government is completed almost every point of importance in our neigh-

oring territory will be connected with the others by the subtle electric fluid. It now takes the governor of Alaska almost a year to make a tour of the territory, and in going so he is compelled to pass out of American territory or else subject himself to great inconvenience and delays. When the telegraph line is completed the government will be in constant touch with all parts of Alaska and many annoying difficulties will be overcome.

The election for two members of the Yukon council is set for the 19th day of October. We think this will be pretty tough on defeated candidates. The ice is due to close up in the river about that time and they will not be able to get up or down for thirty days after.

Those people who invested their spare change in cabins when the rush for Nome was at its height have good reason now for congratulating themselves. Cabins in Dawson are as good property as wheat when the crop in India and Russia is a failure.

A. C. Company Officers.

Rumors were current on the street this morning in reference to changes contemplated by the A. C. Co. in some of the important officers of that institution. Mr. Wilson was seen and when asked what changes were contemplated said the rumor originated in the fact that Mr. Herron was going outside for the winter, but who would take his place during his absence he was not prepared to say at present.

Creek Freighting.

Considerable freight is still being forwarded from Dawson to various points on the creeks, but the work is being attended with considerable difficulty owing to the bad condition of the roads and trails. A large part of the freight is being delivered either by pack trains or six horse or mule teams, six being required to move what two ordinary horses will take when the roads are in fair condition. As soon as snow falls there will be hundreds of tons of freight rushed out to the creeks.

River News.

The steamer Columbian, Anglian and Gold Star arrived in a bunch last night. On all three boats there were but five passengers. F. Blous, C. Achenwell and N. Macauley were on the Columbian and two more on the Gold Star. The Anglian did not carry any. Three sacks on the Columbian and four on the Anglian was the mail consignment. The Columbian carried 150 tons of freight, the Anglian 40 and the Gold Star 60. The Anglian and Gold Star are unloading at the lower end of town. The Gold Star will not sail for up river until tomorrow.

The delay of passengers is occasioned by the washout on the W. P. & Y. R., all the boats arriving last night having pulled out of Whitehorse before the road was rebalasted to allow the arrival at the terminus of the passenger train. It is questionable whether the Mary Graff will sail for the lower river again this season as she may be held here by her owners to await the opening of navigation in the spring, when she can in all probability make a remunerative trip down river with passengers and freight for way points.

The following was received by wire: The Canadian arrived at Whitehorse at 9:30 this morning. The Yukoner left that terminal at 6:30.

The Zealandian and Closett passed Selkirk coming down at 8 a. m. today.

The Bailey and Sifton passed Five Fingers going up, the former at 9 o'clock last night, and the latter at 9 this morning. The Lightning passed down at 7 this morning.

Arthur H. Smith Buried.

The funeral of the late Arthur H. Smith, formerly an employe of the Ames Mercantile Co., was held this afternoon from the Church of England, service suitable to the sad occasion being conducted by Rev. Naylor. The employers and fellow workers of the deceased attended the funeral in a body, the company's business being suspended for the afternoon. Interment was in the cemetery on the hill.

Back From Koyukuk.

Victor Virgil Lowry who was one of the first to leave Dawson over the ice for Koyukuk early last spring, returned to Dawson yesterday on the steamer Graff. Being early on the ground Mr. Lowry succeeded in staking a number of claims in the district and so far as he has been able to prospect, a number of them show promise of being very valuable. He has great faith in the future of the country and expects to return over the ice again this winter. A large number of prospectors, Mr. Lowry says, will come out this fall but the majority will return in the spring to further develop their property.