

The Klondike Nugget

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1900

CONCERNING IMMIGRATION.

In a report addressed to parliament prior to the dissolution of that body, Minister Sifton laid great stress upon what has been accomplished in the way of encouraging immigration during his control of the interior department. In the aggregate, foreign immigrants to the number of about 25,000 were brought into Manitoba and the Northwest territories in the period covered by the report, at an average cost to the government of about \$7 per capita.

A large proportion of these people were furnished with everything required to start them in the work of developing the farms which were allotted them, and, in fact, many of them are being practically maintained and cared for during the first year at government expense. Minister Sifton, accordingly, points with much pride and satisfaction at the results of his efforts toward populating the sparsely settled districts of the Dominion, and figures out with much apparent satisfaction how his Galician proteges will multiply and increase during the next ten years. In this connection it is interesting to note the results which have attended the Minister of the Interior's labors along similar lines in the Yukon Territory.

Mr. Sifton has exerted himself just as strenuously to drive people away from the Yukon as he claims to have labored in bringing them into Manitoba and the Northwest. In the original rush to this country, the average cost to every man who succeeded in landing in Dawson was not less than \$500.

Thousands of men, the great majority of whom were aliens, outfitted in the Canadian coast cities, which thereby were rescued from a condition of business stagnation from which they had suffered for years. None of these men, so far as history shows, were assisted by Mr. Sifton to the extent of \$7, nor 7 cents for that matter. Neither is it on record that any one of these thousands sought assistance.

Mr. Sifton's contribution toward lightening the burden of the Klondike stamper's journey into this country consisted in the publications issued by direction of his department, and in which were set forth in glowing terms the attractions and advantages of the Edmonton and Stickine routes. There was also a choice collection of fairy tales about pans of dirt yielding \$1000 or \$2000, and a series of beautiful arithmetical calculations respecting the probable output of a claim which would yield an average of from \$5000 to \$10,000 to the cubic yard.

All these things served to surround the Klondike with a species of halo which lasted until the expectant stamper reached Dawson, where he was rudely awakened from his dream as though suddenly brought out of a trance.

But there would have been little or no complaint had ordinary opportunities been allowed the army of gold seekers to profit by the results of their individual enterprise and efforts. The contrary, however, was the case. A series of regulations was brought out from Ottawa which effectually rendered nugatory all the endeavors which they might put forth. Then began the exodus from the Yukon, which has continued until the present time, when it appears that at last the Minister of the Interior has been brought to see the evil results which have accrued to the territory and the Dominion at large from his policy.

There is no legitimate reason why the Yukon Territory should not possess three times its present population. Had Mr. Sifton been one-tenth as solicitous for the welfare of the men who surmounted the difficulties of White and Chilcot passes in '97 and '98 as he claims to have been for his non-English speaking immigrants whom he has located in other portions of the Dominion, the Yukon question would never have come prominently before parliament nor would it be now an issue which threatens to retire the present government from power.

The Tacoma News, the parent stem from which the Dawson News sprang as an offshoot, gravely assures its readers that the latter paper is the only real, genuine newspaper published in Dawson. There is no human weakness so easily excusable as the natural partiality of a mother toward her own offspring. As the Irish woman remarked: "If its meself that don't praise me on, Patrick, then who would?"

There ought to be warm storage facilities in Dawson of sufficient capacity to furnish the local market with potatoes, onions and similar vegetables during the entire winter. If the evaporated article can be relegated to a place among those things which have been, but no longer are, we shall have taken a very long stride along the highway of civilization.

In view of the near approach of the election, the Nugget suggests the advisability of allowing the grand stand on First avenue to remain until after the campaign is over. All manner of oratorical floods are anticipated from the various candidates who are expected to offer themselves for election, and the grand stand will enable them to hold outdoor meetings at very little expense.

Consul McCook Writes.
Washington, Aug. 5.—"Alaska is destined to be a wonderful mining country," says United States Consul McCook of Dawson City, in a letter to the state department. The Tanana district he says is creating a stir and is dividing honors with Koyukuk country. "The great necessity now in Alaska," says Consul McCook, "is good roads, good camps, and the prospecting of comparatively unknown sections."

Great dissatisfaction was expressed at Dawson this spring, he says, after the washup, among the miners who worked for men who had leased mining claims from the owners. The laymen sign contracts to work so many feet of the claim during the season, the owner to receive 50 per cent of the gold coming out of the claim and the lessee agreeing that all men working the property will be employed under a written contract by which they proposed not to hold the claim in any way liable for their wages. It has turned out in hundreds of cases that the cost of working the claims has taken more than 50 per cent of the output, the fessees' shares. Thus the men employed on the claims have been deprived of their wages.

Wholesome cooking tastefully prepared at Germain's restaurant.
Meals at all hours. The Criterion.
Brussell's squares at Oak Hall, opp. S.-Y. T. Co. dock. McCandless Bros.

STROLLER'S COLUMN

"Do you know," said a lawyer to the Stroller last night, "that this is a great country in which we live?"
"To what do you refer?" inquired the Stroller.
"To the fact," continued the disciple of Blackstone, "that this is the only country, unless it is China, where special legislation is enacted to protect officials whose acts will not stand for the searchlight of investigation; in other words, where special legislation is enacted which outlaws or wipes out any crooked work that may have been done in the past and for which the official's conscience tells him he should be made to answer—a subterfuge law, so to speak which serves as a shield behind which he can take refuge and say what are we going to do about it? I think I am safe in saying that never before in the history of the English speaking people has such a law been passed, or such an open confession of past official chicanery been made—not that restitution may follow but that protection from prosecution may be afforded."

"I wonder," continued the attorney, "if anyone is so ignorant as to think for a moment that the higher courts of Canada would sustain or even countenance such a law, which is fully as far from being constitutional as it is from being other than a very raw bluff. The passage of such a transparent measure is so weak that it is an insult to the intelligence of the community in which it was perpetrated."

"The question is simply this: If there is no cause for fear, and if the official conscience is clear of all compunction why in the name of all that is embodied in the one word justice was such a thing conceived and passed?"

"It is astonishing the way people outside think they are posted on what is going on here in Dawson," remarked a man who had just returned from a six weeks' visit to the Sound.

"When I reached Seattle," he continued, "I learned new things regarding the habits of men here with whom I come in contact every day. I won't mention any names but will give a few illustrations, using fictitious names: 'John Smith, who hasn't been in town from his claim on Eldorado since last Christmas, and then he came down to buy a pair of rubber boots and was here only two hours, was said in Seattle to have spent half the winter and \$8000 in the Dawson dance halls' last winter. Fortunately John is not married or his wife would have a divorce long ago."

"Bill Johnson, who to my knowledge, has not had a dollar since last summer and who would have starved to death ten months ago, but for me and a few others of his old friends, is reported outside as having made a small fortune in Dawson real estate. He is said to have written such statement to his wife's people with whom she and her five children are living."
"Bob Jones, whom every one here knows to be the soul of honor and virtue, has the reputation outside of living in a four-room cabin here and of employing a housekeeper, cook and chambermaid and of wearing golf pants and striped stockings. Although his wife hears from him regularly every week she had heard this report and I saw her just in time to forestall her in beginning proceedings for divorce."

"I won't say what had been circulated about me out there, but when I got ready to come back to Dawson my wife packed her duds and came along, so you can form some idea of the reports that were in the wind; and even now, if I am not home by 9 o'clock I get a shower of dark, ominous looks darts at me."

California's Length.
Editor Daily Nugget:
To settle a bet, please state the extreme length of the state of California, and oblige,
SUBSCRIBER.

(The length of California is a fraction less than 692 miles, although it has a coast line of 900 miles. The state is bounded on the south by latitude 30 degrees and 30 seconds, on the north by latitude 42 degrees.—ED.)

Getting at the Facts.
He—How I envy that man who just sang the solo!
She—Why, I thought he had an exceptionally poor voice!
He—Oh, it isn't his voice I envy; it's his nerve!—Chicago News.
Shoff, the Dawson Dog Doctor, Pioneer Drug Store.
Best Canadian rye at the Regina.
Your Sunday roast at Klondike Market.
Bicycle hose, a large variety. Oak Hall, opp. S.-Y. T. dock.
We fit glasses. Pioneer drug store.
Stetson hats, latest styles. Oak Hall.

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Koyukuk District
Koyukuk, Bergman
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Fortymile, Dawson

Dawson Post Is Fitted With Public Safe Deposit Vaults.

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R. W. CALDERHEAD, Agent

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All kinds of RUBBER GOODS, from ZEPHYR RUBBERS to HIP BOOTS
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Dawson Electric Light & Power Co. Ltd.
Donald B. Olson, Manager.
City Office Joslyn Building.
Power House near Klondike. Tel. No 1

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