

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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NOTICE.

When a newspaper offers its advertising space at a nominal figure, it is a practical admission of "no circulation." THE KLONDIKE NUGGET asks a good figure for its space and in justification thereof guarantees to its advertisers a paid circulation five times that of any other paper published between Juneau and the North Pole.

REASON FOR THE NOME FEVER.

The Nome fever is reaching out over the Klondike with daily increasing virulence. It is permeating all classes and conditions of people and bids fair to develop into a veritable epidemic before spring.

It is not difficult under ordinary circumstances to diagnose this peculiar disease, and in so far as its prevalence in the Yukon territory is concerned that is easily understood.

The Dominion government has assumed such an attitude toward the Yukon that it has already driven hundreds of men in despair out of the country, and a large portion of those who remain do so by reason of the fact that they are tied down by various interests and are simply unable to leave. Had Sifton and his advisers at Ottawa sought a means of depopulating the territory they could not have been more successful than the conditions at the present time show them to have been.

One blow after another has been struck at the Yukon until it is simply staggering from the effects. With malignant persistency laws have been passed which eliminate almost all possibility of a man single handed and alone accomplishing anything for himself.

On top of all the prior wrongs that have been heaped upon the head of this devoted country is the recent enactment prohibiting the relocation of any unrepresented ground. It all goes to the crown now, and the prospector, the man by whose efforts the fact that gold exists upon the Klondike was made known to the world becomes a past issue.

It is no wonder, therefore, that the Nome fever has struck deeply in Dawson. Men who have worked and struggled and endured all manner of hardships in order that they might reach Dawson, watch in silent despair as they see closing in front of them by the iron hand of government one avenue after another of possible success.

There is no reason why men should talk of leaving the Yukon territory in so far as the territory itself is concerned. There is wealth here sufficient to sustain four times our present population. But fear lest some man might make a competence, and ignorance as to what was actually required from a legislative standpoint, have combined to place the country in the present deplorable condition. It is to be hoped that the master mind whose genius has so thoroughly solved the question of governing a mining country is satisfied with its work.

RIGHTS OF CANADIANS.

A great deal has been written and said concerning rights accorded Canadian citizens in Alaska. The following ex-

tract from a circular issued from the General land office at Washington is self explanatory.

Section 13 accords certain mining rights within the district of Alaska to native born citizens of the Dominion of Canada, and provides:

Sec 13—That native born citizens of the Dominion of Canada shall be accorded in said district of Alaska the same mining rights and privileges accorded to citizens of the United States in British Columbia and the Northwest territory by the laws of the Dominion of Canada or the local laws, rules and regulations; but, no greater rights shall be thus accorded than citizens of the United States or persons who have declared their intention to become such may enjoy in said district of Alaska; and the secretary of the interior shall from time to time promulgate and enforce rules and regulations to carry this provision into effect.

By the laws of the Dominion of Canada citizens of the United States are, with all other persons over 18 years of age, permitted to lease mineral lands in British Columbia and the Northwest territory upon the payment of a certain royalty to the general government, but the laws of that Dominion do not authorize the purchase of mineral lands in British Columbia or the Northwest territory.

The existing laws of the United States do not make any provision for the leasing of mineral lands in Alaska either to citizens of the United States or to others, but they do provide for and authorize the purchase of such lands in Alaska by our own citizens.

Since this section accords to native born citizens of Canada "the same mining rights and privileges" accorded to citizens of the United States in British Columbia and the Northwest territory by the laws of the Dominion of Canada, and since under the laws of the Dominion of Canada the only mining rights and privileges accorded to citizens of the United States are those of leasing mineral lands upon the payment of a stated royalty, and since the laws of the United States do not accord to its own citizens the right or privilege of leasing mineral lands in Alaska, and since this section also provides that "no greater rights shall be thus accorded" to citizens of the Dominion of Canada "than citizens of the United States or persons who have declared their intention to become such may enjoy in such district of Alaska," it results that for the time being this section is inoperative.

A TRAGEDY OF ERRORS.

The fate of the Moffat party brings forcibly to mind again the beauties of the Edmonton route as set forth by the government apologist and organ. The story of this party, although it involves almost every form of hardship and suffering to which men could possibly be exposed is yet only a little worse than what hundreds of others who miraculously escaped with their lives can relate.

The Nugget has stated before and repeats the statement now that no approximate estimate of the number of victims of this so-called route to the Klondike can now or ever will be made. Day after day letters from grief-stricken relatives and friends are received by the police and newspapers of Dawson asking for information of men who started for Dawson via the Edmonton route. The number of those who have been found is comparatively small, proving beyond a doubt that a large number must be

counted amongst the dead. It must not be forgotten that this enormous sacrifice of life was entailed by reason of the fact that the Edmonton trail was exploited throughout the Canadian press and from the platform as well as being the most feasible of all the routes to Dawson. If some of the editors and lecturers could come to Dawson today and see the emaciated, broken down victims of their alluring word pictures they might be troubled with very severe pang of conscience. It almost passes human belief that men could be so wrought upon by prejudice as to permit themselves to recommend their fellows to embark upon such a journey. But prejudice—and that is the only word that expresses it—prejudice against admitting the practicability of any route passing through American territory, lay at the bottom of the whole matter.

There is a peculiar fatuity in the fact that most of the victims of this Edmonton Tragedy of Errors were British subjects.

VIVE L' NEWS.

Our valued contemporary, the News, whose editorial utterances for the most part bear the earmarks of premeditated nothingness—to coin an expression suited to the emergency—has at length risen up with all the dignity of outraged innocence and purity and "gone and went and done it."

The News has squared itself around, planted both feet firmly upon the floor, rolled up the sleeve of its good right arm, dipped its pen in the vitrol bottle in place of the customary ink, and splashed the all consuming drops upon the Yukon council in quantities which certainly ought to make that august body feel that it has been struck by something. Bully for you, Brother News. You have at last, after many weeks of Rip Van Winklian slumber awakened to a realization of your surroundings. We had thought from a perusal of your recent issues that you had once more, in spirit, betaken yourself to the scene of your former activities mid the sylvan fastnesses of Tacoma, but we are now convinced that it is all a mistake. You are in the Yukon territory and you know it. You are in Dawson and you are aware of it. You are living in a country where laws and regulations are such fearful and wonderful contrivances that the whereness, and whatness and whenness and whyness thereof no man is able to say, and at length you begin to realize it. We are glad to see that the contemplated Yukon legislative experiment to regulate the newspaper business in Dawson has caused you to awaken from your slumbers.

For ourselves, we do not believe the experiment in question will become a

CHRISTMAS IN THE KLONDIKE.

Throughout all Christendom the custom of celebrating Christmas by the presentation of gifts has obtained for ages.

Kris Kringle, St. Nicholas or Santa Claus—by one of which appellations the children's patron saint is known throughout the world—has for time immemorial, according to childhood's tradition, had his home in the frozen regions of the northland.

In the Klondike the greatest of all the world's holidays has heretofore been little more than a name, but this year thanks to the growth of Christian sentiment the good old customs of the outer world will universally prevail. Giving and receiving Christmas presents is to be the rule this year. The beneficent Klondikers will give full expression to his generous hearted sentiments and the Yukon will ring with joyousness on Christmas morn.

Perhaps the reader, animated by the desire to do good, credit to his bountiful impulses may be at a loss to know just what will be most appropriate. Let us help you. Call at the A. E. Co.'s mammoth store and examine our magnificent line of holiday goods. It will do you good, even if you don't want to buy.

law. It is a peculiar weakness of human nature that men who, when by themselves in their individual capacities are reasonable, sensible beings, are sometimes willing to allow themselves to become ridiculous when in the company of others—in which case they are able to console themselves with the reflection that at least "they are no worse than the other fellows."

We can scarcely believe that any single member of the Yukon council would care to shoulder the entire responsibility of such a measure as is contemplated. Whether the council, as a body, is willing to go on record as placing such a law on the statute books remains to be seen. Meanwhile we congratulate our brother newspaper on at length having seen an emergency and risen thereto.

The Sun reporter whose "popular comment" column is disavowed and repudiated by the Sun editor, endeavors to extricate himself from the mire into which he tumbled last week in quoting "a prominent American citizen." According to prehistoric custom on the Sun the reporter's desperate struggles during the extricating process only land him more deeply still in the mire. He starts out by saying that he published something which had been told him by a certain party in confidence, and which the party had no intention or expectation should be published. Having admitted, therefore, that he has openly violated a rule which every genuine newspaper man holds sacred, this reportorial phenomenon goes on further with his "explanation" apparently in an endeavor to pick a grammatical flaw in a recent Nugget editorial. Failing to make his point clear he stumbles around for a few more lines and then suddenly stops, presumably called down by the aforesaid editor for occupying so much space. You had better let the editor try it next time Mr. Reporter.

The Nugget suggests to the Yukon council the framing of a law whereby a duty shall be charged upon all imported ideas. In support of this proposition we submit to the council that ideas are bad things for anyone to have in his mind. Domestic ideas are bad enough, the Lord knows, but the imported variety certainly ought to be made to pay a little duty anyway. Here is a chance for revenue which the council has overlooked.

Oom Paul seems to be doing business at the old stand yet. Evidently Oom will be in the game as long as his chips hold out.

We are headquarters for musical instruments. Cribbs & Rogers, 3d ave., opp. Pavilion.

Time and money saved. Trading at the Ames Mercantile Co.

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