

# The Klondike Nugget

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(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)  
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## From Thursday and Friday's Daily. FAIR TREATMENT.

Hope is held out in our telegraphic advices today that reductions in freight rates will be announced by the White Pass Railway management, before the opening of navigation. No schedules have as yet been issued nor have any specific figures been given out, but Manager Hawkins is quoted as saying before the Board of Trade of Victoria that reductions will be made, the extent of which is yet undetermined. The probabilities are that if a substantial cut is not made it will be by reason of opposition among the London shareholders. The immense earnings of the road have thus far gone entirely into construction work and no actual dividends have been paid. It is something new that a railroad should be expected to pay for itself within a single season, but that is what was hoped of the White Pass line by the people who advanced the money for its construction. The published reports of the management indicate that the earnings thus far have been phenomenal. It is satisfactory to the people of the Yukon to know that the railroad has proven a profitable investment. They simply ask that the railroad people fix their rates at such figures that it will be profitable to patronize the line, or in other words, that it may be profitable to remain in this country. Fair treatment is all that is asked.

## PASSING OF THE SPECULATOR.

The condition of the local market indicates very clearly that the present winter has not been favorable to speculative investments as was the case last year and the year before. There are few commodities in which any considerable shortage is apparent and in many lines the market, if anything, is overstocked. In consequence the consumer is now having a word to say both as to the quality of goods which he will buy and the prices he will pay.

Legitimate competition has brought the various lines of trade in Dawson, down to a basis fair to dealer and consumer alike. The feverish condition in the markets due to fear of shortages and corners has about disappeared. The dealer must be content with a reasonable profit, and success over his competitors must now be attained through fair treatment and intelligence in catering to the customers' wants.

"Any old thing" is no longer good enough for Dawson. To command ready sale, commodities must be the best obtainable and the price must be such as will convince the purchaser that he is receiving value for his money. In other words the successful merchant in Dawson now conducts his business exactly as is done in any other settled community—on strictly business principles. No other method will succeed and in fact no other method can succeed.

As a result of this change in conditions, individual speculators are no longer making the enormous profits which once were theirs, but on the other hand a much larger number of legitimate merchants are enjoying a fair profit from their various lines of trade and the consumer has the satisfaction of knowing that he is receiving the benefit of keen and close competition.

The passing of the speculator and corner man is one of our very least regrets.

The report that the blockade at Whitehorse has been broken and the mails are coming through is decidedly welcome news. In days gone by it did not make a great deal of difference if the mails were a month or two in reaching Dawson. It was the customary thing, and whatever custom decrees is usually accepted without much question. Now that we have fallen into the habit of seeing the mails arrive once, and sometimes twice a week, anything in the nature of a lengthy delay is decidedly wearisome. We have come to rely upon the mail service, with very good reason, and in consequence any hitch which results in delays is all the more annoying. It is to be hoped that the railroad may be kept open during the balance of the season and further difficulties in that respect obviated.

Reports of accidents on the creeks have been coming in of late with rather alarming frequency. In fact, the number of deaths and serious injuries which have resulted from lack of protection to men at work in shafts and drifts, is sufficient to warrant attention from the authorities. Unless greater care is exercised in the prevention of accidents it will become necessary to institute some system of regular inspection whereby claim operators who will not voluntarily take proper measures for the protection of themselves or the men in their employ, will be forced to do so by law. We are opposed to anything in the way of unnecessary stringency, but human life is altogether too valuable to risk for the mere lack of care in timbering or ventilating a shaft or drift.

Susan B. Anthony hopes that the twentieth century will see woman released from thralldom to man. It is her highest hope that her sex may cease "from being slaves." Why Susan should thus unnecessarily stry up the masculine vanity, it is difficult to see. It certainly is flattering to man to say that woman is his slave, but like all other flattery there is no truth in it. The servitude of which Miss Anthony speaks is purely fictional. Such talk serves, however, to make man think himself much bigger potatoes than he really is and probably does no actual harm.

The decision whereby the greater portion of the business district of Skagway has been granted to the original town-site applicant has come, apparently, as a distinct shock to the people of that town. They have bought and sold property so long on squatter's title that to be compelled to recognize rights acquired by legal processes will naturally come hard. There is an ancient adage about going ahead after making sure that you are right. We doubt if there will be much consolation to the Skagway people in being told of this wise saying at this particular point in the proceedings, but it may come in handy for them to have it stored in their memory for future reference.

W. A. Clark has been elected to the United States senate by the Montana legislature. After Clark's disgraceful manipulations of a year ago and his practical expulsion from the senate, his return to that body is an insult to the honesty and intelligence of the entire country. His grip on the throat of Montana is so strong that no power seems sufficiently strong to cause it to relax. As a matter of fact Montana is no longer a sovereign state. It is "Clark's reach," and will so continue to be until its people come to realize that there are better things on earth than the patronage of a man with an illimitable purse.

It is apparent that the end of Queen Victoria's reign is not far away. The Prince of Wales has assumed the regency which is tantamount to official announcement that the sovereign's physical and mental powers are practically exhausted. Great Britain never flourished before as under the Victorian regime. The prestige of British arms and the glory of British statesmanship were never so widely famed. The new sovereign, soon to be, has no easy task before him if his reign maintains the luster which has remained undimmed through the long years of his illustrious mother's rule.

The decree of the department of justice in the Storah case will meet with general approval from those who have followed the affair through its various stages of development. It was quite evident at the time the original verdict was rendered, that a doubt remained in the public mind as to the absolute justice of that decree. The commutation of sentence will afford opportunity for the friends of Storah to throw any light upon the case which may be within their power. It is satisfactory to know that the man is not to hang as long as the most infinitesimal doubt remains as to his guilt.

When the new bridge is in position across the Klondike Dawson will be linked to a regular system of boulevards many miles in length. Fire escapes are being placed on several buildings in town. This is a move in the right direction and should be followed by owners of buildings generally. Every day sees Old Sol linger a few minutes longer above the southern horizon. Dawson never had a more welcome visitor. Now is the time to feed your horses white hay and oats are cheap.

Sanctum Stories. Tuesday night while the editor of The Tribune was waiting at the post office for the mail to be distributed Jonas Williams approached us and put his fist against our nose and said he could whip us in two minutes. We have been criticised for turning away from him without replying, but we wish it understood that we promised our dying first wife never to strike a man in anger, and we felt that she was looking down upon us from heaven and expecting us to keep our promise. It was no lack of courage on our part, but simply that we remembered our promise and restrained ourself.

The Beacon congratulates Mrs. Elmer Clymer on her heroism. Although only the wife of a humble carpenter, she is possessed of those traits of character that made Joan of Arc world famous. On Saturday night last, as Mr. Clymer was descending the cellar stairs to bring up some potatoes for breakfast, he tripped and pitched forward and landed in a barrel of soft soap. Only his heels were visible as the heroic wife ran down to his assistance, but instead of losing precious time by calling out for the fire department, of which we are foreman, she grabbed those heels, heaved away, with a prayer in her heart, and after a terrific struggle brought her loved one out of the barrel. He was insensible, and she worked over him for half an hour before he recovered. He was all right next morning, however, though still feeling soapy on the inside. But for the presence of mind of his wife—but for heroism without a parallel for the last hundred years—he would now be lying in his grave. We are willing to give a quarter to head a public subscription to give the heroine a testimonial—a shell back comb, a new corset or something to be treasured as a souvenir.

Family Night. The innovation inaugurated in Dawson theatrical circles by the management of the Standard last night is the most popular movement in the way of providing pleasant entertainment ever made in the city and from now on "Family night" at the Standard will be the big event of the week. Every box and a large part of the first floor last was occupied with men and their wives, children and representing much of Dawson's fashionable society; and so pleasantly were they entertained that all spoke in none but terms of praise and compliment of the management whose forethought had made possible such a mid-week pleasure.

The play produced last night, "49," is the product of Joaquin Miller's fertile brain and is typical reproduction of scenes as they were in the early days of mining in California. Each member of the cast was well up in his or her respective part, especially fine work being done by Alf Layne, Ed Lang, Harry O'Brien and Miss Vivian. An announcement on behalf of the management by Leroy Tozier that a similar performance will be presented each Thursday night, when the bar will be wholly covered and no liquors sold, was loudly applauded. As a winner, the Standard's "Family night" is entitled to first money.

# Old '49 Robbed

While Ed R. Lang was delighting a full house of attentive listeners last night in the second act of Joaquin Miller's celebrated drama "49" at the Standard theater, his room in the same building was being robbed. It is well the robbery took place when Lang was poor and before he struck a vein of solid gold in the left corner of his tunnel, otherwise the thief would have got a million, and Lang would never have been able to buy the Astor house. James Duncan, a former "prop" man at the theater, was in police court this morning charged with being the individual who robbed Lang's room, and arranged on benches around the courtroom was the entire male cast of the Standard, including the proprietor, the lowbrowed villain who, like Mary the Maid of the Inn, laughs in "fiendish delight," the ladies' man who makes love on an empty stomach, the black-faced comedian to whom life is not a summer dream, the shirtless youth who sweeps the dance sand off the stage—all were there as witnesses. The tragic lady who turns out the whites of her eyes, wrings her hands and says, "Oh, Love! Oh, Fate! Oh, Death!" and the man who sits in the gallery and mentally says "Oh, h——" were not there. Constable Hendricks was the arresting and prosecuting officer and to his credit it can be said that he is a most careful and painstaking officer. The thief had not entered Lang's room, but had entered the loft above and sawed a board from the ceiling through which, by means of a "grappling hook" fastened on the end of a fishing pole, he had "gigged" the actor's clothes, drawn them up, rifled them and dropped them back. The only item stolen from the clothes was an imitation diamond which Lang said he had made to represent a real stone which he owns and which he produced in court. The article stolen from his room was found on the prisoner and identified by its owner. After hearing the testimony of the above mentioned witnesses, Magistrate Scarth held the prisoner for trial before the territorial court.

PERSONALITIES. Henry Miller, who died at Chappaqua, N. Y., the other day, was the inventor of the steam and air brake in 1855.

Benjamin D. Stillman, the oldest living Yale graduate is also probably the oldest practicing lawyer in the country. He is 95 and lives in Brooklyn.

Li Hung Chang, the Chinese statesman, is of humble origin. His father was an ignorant woodchopper, and his mother spent her girlhood as a servant.

Alfred L. Jones, the Liverpool ship-builder, has offered £1000 a year for five years toward a fund for establishing a comprehensive system of technical education in Wales.

Lord Salisbury, in speaking of the social side of English political life the other day, said that there is really very little of it. He has never so much as spoken to John Morley and never even saw Mr. Parnell.

Rev. F. S. Hatch, pastor of the Congregational church of Monson, Mass., has resigned in order to become the general secretary of the Christian Endeavor union of India, Burma and Ceylon, with residence at Calcutta.

Every second Tuesday is a reception day of the king of Sweden. Any of his subjects may call upon his majesty on that day. The only formality required is to send in one's card, the visitors being received when their turn comes in the order of arrival.

The salaries paid to the Prince of Wales out of the British treasury add up \$680,000 a year, and he has a private income besides. Nevertheless Andrew Carnegie, the laird of Skibo castle, could buy him out several times over and still have enough left to give away a library or two when he felt like it.

Henrique Amal, 14 years old, a native of Pecos, Tex., has a business that is in itself unique and that is certainly practiced by nobody else of his age. The lad acts as interpreter and guide for parties of emigrants from Europe. He has crossed the ocean several times and always brings a large colony of French settlers with him.

# RECEIVED BY WIRE.

## Condition Precarious

London, Jan. 19, via Skagway, Jan. 25.—The official bulletin regarding the queen's health says her strength was fairly well maintained during the day and there are now indications of slight improvement. Her majesty is at Osborne, Isle of Wight, to which place the Prince of Wales went this evening for the object of practically assuming the regency. He will take the power of signing all state documents. Emperor William and the Duke of Connaught are en route from Berlin in a special train with their suits and the speediest available cruiser has been dispatched to Flushing to meet and convey them to the Isle of Wight. An urgent telegram has been sent recalling the Duke of Cambridge from Paris.

The great anxiety manifested indicates that the condition of the queen is more serious than the bulletins state. It is now known that the queen suffered a paralytic stroke two weeks ago.

London Cables. New York, Jan. 19, via Skagway, Jan. 25.—Several evening papers publish cables from London announcing the queen's death, but cables tonight deny the rumor.

Cullum's Walkover. Springfield, Ill., Jan. 18, via Skagway, Jan. 25.—Senator S. M. Cullum has a walkover in his re-election, Cannon, Hitt and Prince withdrawing.

Senator Strikes Rock. Skagway, Jan. 25.—The steamer Senator which arrived here yesterday evening, struck a rock on the way up in Lynn canal and was forced to put back to Juneau for repairs. She was delayed about 10 hours.

## Draining Zuyder Zee.

From time immemorial the Dutch have had to struggle with the ocean. Inch by inch they have fought the advance of the waves, and with each victory they have added fertile meadows to their little kingdom. Now the cabinet has submitted to the ministry a plan to drain the entire Zuyder Zee. This is a tremendous undertaking, and it is estimated that it will cost no less than \$100,000,000. For the last half century there have been many plans of this kind. What is known as the gulf of the Zuyder Zee was once a thickly populated district. It was in 1287 that a great storm from the north swept away the protecting dikes, the water was literally piled up in the inlet, and the gulf as it now exists was formed. It is a body of water 60 miles long and 12 1/2 miles in circumference.

Until recently the plans laid before the royal commission were only in favor of a partial drainage. The main idea was to construct an embankment, or sea wall, 25 miles long, running across the mouth of the gulf, and then four enormous "polders," which would drain and utilize what were the best parts of the Zuyder Zee, from an agricultural point of view, and still leave the deep water channels as at present, while the Yssel and some smaller river would be free to run into a lake to be known as the Ysselmeer, an outlet therefrom being provided by locks and sluices at one of the ends of the embankment.

It was thought that the work would not take much more than 30 years, and that it could be completed within the reign of the young queen. According to the recent dispatches, however, the new scheme of draining the entire Zuyder Zee seems to have completely taken the place of the others plans.—LX.

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