

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.

U. S. PROSPERITY.

All reports from the outside indicate a universal prosperity in all sections of Uncle Sam's domain. Every wheel is turning in the entire country and the hum of industry is heard throughout the land. There are several reasons which may be assigned for this prosperous condition of affairs. The war with Spain created an unwonted demand for all classes of commodities, and that demand has been continued and increased, if anything, by the unexpected extension of military operations in the Philippines.

On the Pacific coast, the Klondike and Alaskan trade has probably contributed more than any other influence toward effecting the unusual degree of prosperity.

The northern trade is now as clearly established as the commerce between San Francisco and Honolulu. Coast merchants hereafter will figure each year upon their business with the mining camps along the Yukon river with just as much surety as they have been accustomed to figure upon local business.

The war in progress in South Africa has also proven a factor in helping along the general condition of business in the states. Britain has need of great quantities of supplies which the United States is prepared most advantageously to furnish. Whole fleets of ships are now engaged in transporting supplies of American production and manufacture to the seat of war.

Naturally, along with all this prosperity, there is a widespread and general feeling of confidence in the administration of the government. During a period of general decline and stagnation of business people are prone to place all the blame on the government and conversely they will credit the same source with being the author of prosperity when prosperity returns.

The McKinley administration will be in a position to take the utmost advantage of the situation and the return of the president to another four years' term in the White House is an almost foregone result of the election which will take place next November.

The 100,000 men who have promised themselves that they will go to Nome in the spring will probably dwindle to 25,000 when the season opens, and it becomes a question of buying a ticket or remaining at home. Even, however, if 25,000 people are dumped upon the shores where the elusive gold dust is said to be so freely mingled with the ruby sand, there will be exciting times on the beach. Whatever these men may be able to accomplish during the summer, it is a foregone conclusion that Nome will be practically deserted in winter. In the natural course of events

a considerable number will turn their faces toward Dawson when the chilling September blasts begin to make it impossible to work the rocks successfully on the beaches. Many will come to Dawson to spend the winter both by reason of the prospects open here, for lucrative employment on the creeks and for the sake of being able to reach Nome early in the following season.

The year 1900 will prove a bad one for the expectation of the maiden of uncertain years who has been basing her matrimonial hopes upon the impression that the last year in the century is leap year. In order to make ends meet and keep the ledger account with Father Time properly balanced, the last year in the century, although divisible by four and filling all other requirements is not a leap year. February has but 28 days, and the above mentioned maiden is not entitled to "pop the question." Dawson will not be very strongly affected, however, as the visible supply of ladies, not married but willing to be, is rather small in the Klondike metropolis.

The theory that a wrong doer who happens to have worn an official uniform or carried an official title during the commission of his misdemeanor or crimes, must be shielded and his acts kept from the knowledge of the public is altogether wrong. More wrong doing has been masked under the "honor of the service," excuse than is good for that very same honor. There would be less occasion for resort to this extremity if some officials who turn up short in accounts or are found otherwise delinquent in conduct should occasionally have the batteries of public attention directed toward them.

The statement which appears elsewhere in this issue of the Daily Nugget regarding the departure of a large number of Americans to assist Kruger in the war against England opens up a possibility of serious complications. The state department at Washington will take care, however, that no violation of treaty obligations take place. This assurance has already been given to England.

One pleasant feature about this much abused northern climate is the fact that when the days begin to lengthen they go about it as though they mean business. A few more weeks and we will have sufficient daylight to do business from 8 o'clock in the morning until 6 at night, without the aid of artificial light.

The Dominion parliament is called to meet on February 1. There is quite a possibility of just as exciting times occurring during the coming session as happened last year, owing to the fact that the time for a general election is not far distant.

Plenty of Time for Nome.

M. A. Mahoney has probably had as much or more experience in traveling over ice as any man in the Yukon district. He made three trips between Dawson and Skagway last winter, bringing in on one of the trips 2200 pounds of mail for Richardson. He has also made half a dozen or more journeys over the ice between Dawson and Circle, and during the present winter he has made several voyages to and from Jack Wade creek.

Mr. Mahoney is going to Nome, but he says people are foolish to start before from the middle until the close of the next month. He says a person can

travel by easy stages and yet cover the route in from 35 to 40 days, and even if they should not reach Nome until after the middle of April the ice will still be safe and travelers will be in the country in ample time to be in the advance guard when the mining season opens.

THE STAGE DRIVER.

Here's a lyric for the man who's "driv" the stage:
For the hero of the webbin's and the whip,
Who has faced the wind and weather, fingers
calloused by the leather,
And in twenty years has never lost a trip...

Here's a tribute to the sway back, spotted boss,
Who has struggled up the stony gullied hills;
And his dorsal corrugations show the nature
of his rations—
When he stops he has to lean against the
thills.

Here's obituary notice of the stage,
Chief of hopeless and dilapidated wrecks;
With the cracked enamel awning and its
cushion ripped and yawning,
And the body bumping down upon the "ex"

Here's alas and oh, the ancient "buffer robe,"
With the baldness of a golden-wedding
groom;
When the rain and snow descended, then the
fearful smells were blended,
Till the stage was scented very like a tomb.

Here's a word for all the weary miles he
plowed
When the drifts had piled the stage road
mountains high,
When the night shut down around him and
the north wind sought and found him,
And the tempest chilled his blood and
blurred his eye.

There were only country letters in the bag,
And the bags were lank, and yet his word
was "Must."
And he felt as if the nation knew his fierce de-
termination
That he'd have the mail sacks through on
time or bust.

Here's rebuke to those contractors who have
skinned
The stipends of our Uncle Sam's star routes,
Till the men who drive the stages hardly get
enough in wages
To keep their little shavers' feet in boots.

Here's a lyric, then, for him who drives the
stage:
When you ride behind his ragged back, don't
frown,
But endure the bang and slamming, for the
man who's earned the damning
Is the contract-sharp who bid the wages
down.
—Holman F. Day, in Lewiston Journal.

The Golovin Bay Country.

E. A. Jackson, who recently returned from the outside, talks interestingly of the Golovin bay country. Mr. Jackson left here on the 17th of last June and arrived at St. Michaels before the beach diggings were struck at Nome. Instead of going to the camp which has since become famous he directed his efforts to placer mining in the Golovin bay district. He remained there for two months and then departed for Seattle.

In speaking of this section of the Alaskan territory, Mr. Jackson said:

"The mining district in the vicinity of Golovin bay has been known to a greater or less extent, for a number of years. The country offers no inducements to poor people, for money-plenty of it—is required to develop claims in that locality. The creeks are all large, and to work them successfully immense dams have to be constructed in order to carry the surplus water around the creek beds. It rains almost constantly, and unless these dams are well built the frequent floods will carry them away. Water is the great trouble against which the miners have to contend.

"The gold is not found in well defined quantities, but seems to be scattered. Ophir creek is the most promising creek in the district. The country affords opportunities for men who have capital, but it will be a disappointment to poor people."

Mr. Jackson left Seattle on Dec. 16th. He reports that times are good in the States, but dull at Skagway. The business men in the latter town, were expecting, at the time he left, that after the holidays a crowd would arrive from the coast on its way to Nome, but Jackson is of the opinion that most everyone who will go to the beach diggings will take direct passage on an ocean steamship.

The trail between here and Bennett City is said to be fairly good.

Death of John T. Wilson.

John T. Wilson, one of the best known citizens of Dawson, died at 1 o'clock this morning at St. Mary's hospital to which place he was taken on the 8th of the present month, at which time and for a week previous he was suffering greatly from disease of the liver, which disease claimed him as its victim this morning. Deceased came to this place in the fall of '97 from Juneau,

where he had resided for several years, having come there from his birthplace and boyhood home, Middleham, Yorkshire, England. On reaching Dawson he began acquiring property, one of his holdings being an interest in the late Opera house, and land on which it stood. As Wilson was taken to the hospital two days before the destruction of his property by fire, he never knew of his late loss. He left a duly attested will. He was 40 years old unmarried and had, so far as known, no relatives in this country. His partner, Mr. Gus Bakke, has taken charge of the body of his late friend and business partner associate. The funeral will take place from the M. E. church Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, to which all friends are respectfully asked to be present. Interment will be in the Dawson cemetery.

Another Missing Man.

George Steelsmith who left here some time the latter part of December for the outside has not been heard from since he started on his trip. The Semi-Weekly Nugget of December 30th contained a lengthy article regarding Steelsmith's object in going to Alaska, he being a Jack Wade creek miner on whom an injunction forcing him to quit work had been served, and it was in his own and behalf of others similarly situated that he undertook the trip, his destination being the United States district judge's office in Sitka, where he had hoped to have the injunction dissolved. As Steelsmith was to have kept friends here advised by wire of his progress on the trip, and as nothing has yet been received from him, considerable anxiety is felt for his safety, but 'tis hoped he reached his destination in safety.

Weather Report.

On Sunday the minimum temperature was 30.5 degrees below zero. At 9 o'clock this morning the instrument registered 23 degrees below, and at noon the needle rose five degrees.

Are you planning any improvements in the building line? Place orders for lumber with the Nugget Express. Office, Boyle's wharf.

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