

and but little fear is felt that the water supply will be short at any time during the season.

Stage Lines.

The means of passenger transportation between the city and the various mining centers are varied, as in summer a large proportion of the traveling public walk, and in winter the dog team is resorted to by many, yet the stage lines do a thriving business.

Of these there are several, two lines, namely, those of Orr & Tukey and H. H. Honnen, running to Grand Forks, and at least one continuous line to Dominion creek.

Naturally, in the winter the roads are better than in the summer, and a trip which in the summer months require ten or twelve hours, is often made in two or less in the sleighing season.

From a Social Standpoint.

Owing to the great incoming of families and respected femininity during the year now so nearly passed, the present social season in Dawson far exceeds in all those things which go to make life tolerable, and which have been to a great extent the great beckoning finger which silently called upon men in the past to leave the land of gold and cold for the older settled countries, all previous seasons. It may be and fortunately is less fast and lurid, but it is better, and every one knows it.

This season there are three dancing clubs as permanent organizations, and with each of these giving a party once a week, there is no lack of opportunity to dance. Then there are the athletic clubs, and teams organized for the various sports, a score of individual projects for social entertainments during the winter, besides the clubs which are up to an exceedingly high standard. When, added to these things one numbers the churches and the Free Public Library concerts, and the evenings sure to be spent in private social intercourse (for Dawson has its entertainers—none better), the social possibilities of the city assume rather imposing proportions.

Places of Amusement.

Dawson has three theaters, two of which are open for the winter, and while the third one is closed for the present, there is reason for believing that it will not long remain so, as the city has a very large theater-going class, and is most liberal in its patronage of all classes of amusement. In all probability before the present winter closes the Orpheum, but recently refitted and opened for a short time, will again be open to the public.

The Savoy, formerly the Palace Grand, is the present home of the O'Brien-Jackson Vaudeville Company, which is perhaps the strongest both financially and in numbers ever coming to Dawson.

When the Savoy troupe left Vancouver for Skagway it had 42 members, and did what few theatrical companies can afford to do. It chartered a steamer for its sole use and came to Skagway en route for Dawson in that way.

Since coming here the combination has prospered and made a place for itself which there is no doubt of its ability to hold, and, therefore, in planting one more Savoy in the northern world Messrs. O'Brien and Jackson have nothing to regret.

The Standard theater, formerly known as the Pavilion, is at present being run as a theater for the production of legitimate drama, as well as vaudeville specialties. Some productions have been staged there under the present management which call not only for first-class talent but a large and costly collection of scenery, stage gear, and properties, and when the plays have been seen by those who have seen them staged by other players, they will stand well in the light of any unbiased criticism.

During the winter months there are maintained the open air skating rink where the hockey matches are played between the numerous rival teams, and the canvass covered curling rink.

All have their admirers and enthusiasts.

The Lumber Industry.

With the broad Yukon flowing past its front door, Dawson becomes the center of the lumber industry for the district. Along the banks and on the tributaries of the noble river there grows an abundance of the different varieties of spruce, which the river affords a ready means of transportation to the mills in Dawson of which there are five. The Yukon Saw Mill & Lumber Co., the Ladue Lumber Co., the Canadian Lumber Co., Klondike Mill Co. and O. W. Hobbs.

All have on hand large stocks of plain and dressed lumber, cut from native wood, and all are provided with the latest improved machinery. The Yukon company has lately erected a new building in connection with the

mill in which all kinds of planing and moulding is to be done.

Newspapers.

The city has three newspapers namely, The Klondike Nugget, the pioneer newspaper; the Dawson Daily News, and the Yukon Sun.

The Klondike Nugget is owned and edited by Geo. M. Allen, and is published daily and semi-weekly.

The Dawson News is published daily and weekly, and is edited by Sam Wall and managed by J. H. Caskey. The proprietors are Messrs. McIntyre and Roediger, formerly owners of the Tacoma (Wash.) News.

The Yukon Sun is a weekly paper owned by Thos. O'Brien. Henry J. Woodside is the editor and W. F. Thompson business manager.

Sports.

Dawson is essentially a lover of sports and a patron as well.

Last fall a strong effort was made to form an athletic club, but this, for some unknown reason fell through. It was proposed by those who had the matter in hand to erect a club house and gymnasium, but the matter was dropped in its infancy. The principal athletic sports of the winter consist in hockey matches played between teams of which there are many. The matches are popular and are played before large audiences.

Curling is another sport with many lovers in Dawson, but owing to a misfortune which befell the curling rink early in the season the game has been little played thus far.

Population.

Since early last spring when the census was taken there has been nothing upon which to base an estimate of the population which has greatly increased. At that time there were about five thousand inhabitants, but according to those who are in positions which enable them to form accurate opinions on the subject, the population of Dawson at this time will reach about 7000, formed almost wholly of American and British subjects.

The Cost of Living.

The cost of living is generally counted high here, but whether it is higher than in other places, all things considered, is a question not yet decided to any degree of satisfaction.

Of course to the man without an income the expense of living seems high, but then there is little excuse for anyone's being without an income in Dawson, because, being a city of rapid growth and constant change there are many and varied opportunities always.

Good meals may be had at the restaurants at a dollar apiece, and furnished rooms at a trifle more per day. The cost of maintaining a family here can scarcely be arrived at with any degree of accuracy because the extent of the cost depends so largely upon the tastes and manner of living of those most concerned.

It is the general opinion, however, that the cost of living in Dawson will compare very favorably with that of other communities when the increase of income, which keeps pace with that of expense, is considered.

Wages.

The wages formerly paid to miners have been reduced somewhat during the past year, but with the reduction in the matter of wages has come a material decrease in the cost of living, so that the matter is as broad as it is long from a wage-worker's standpoint.

The wages paid to other kinds of labor remain about stationary, the average being from seven to ten dollars per day.

Climate.

So much has been said regarding the climate here, and such widespread misapprehension concerning it seems to be prevalent among people of the outside world, that it may be well to correct some fallacious ideas. That the temperature goes very low here there is no gainsaying, but that any suffering is necessary in consequence is most strenuously denied. There is no reason whatever why if one is provided with proper clothing any great degree of discomfort should result from the cold of winter. Nature in some manner effects a balance for most extremes, and Dawson's climate is no exception to this rule, for while it is very cold at times, we have, in the winter months, little or no wind, and the atmosphere being very dry, the cold is not felt more than in other locations where the thermometer never reaches zero.

The summer, though brief, is one of glorious, almost uninterrupted sunshine and balmy breezes. There is no time in the 24 hours that one may not read by daylight, and the songs of wild birds, some of them wonderfully sweet, are heard always.

If nature, in a moment of unpropitious mood, gave us long, dark and cold winters, she relented in time to make all the amends possible when she ordained our summer season one of perpetual light and warmth.

The Dawson Postoffice Building

The newly completed government building, locally known as the postoffice, was built upon plans by its architect, Mr. Fuller, to whom because of the dispatch and thoroughness of his work the citizens of Dawson as well as his employer, the government, are greatly indebted for the present modern postoffice which is so far ahead of the building from which that, and other public offices so recently moved.

The exterior of the building adds materially to the appearance of that part of the city in which it is situated, and the interior arrangement is a model of up-to-date convenience both for the public and those who occupy it.

In the basement are two large furnaces placed there for the purpose of supplying hot air for heating purposes to the building above. These furnaces were so heavy and the ground so yielding that it was necessary to sink two large metallic boxes in which to rest them.

The first floor is the one which will be most used by the public, as it contains the postoffice and the telegraph receiving and delivery offices. The postoffice occupies the south side of the building and the telegraph offices the north side, the room being entered from a door facing the corner of Third street and Third avenue, and by another opening on Third street.

The postoffice contains a total of 1775 boxes and drawers distributed as follows: Eight hundred and ten lock boxes, which by reason of the beauty and brightness of their design greatly add to the appearance of the room, 100 lock drawers, intended for the use of newspapers and others whose bulk of mail make them desirable; 65 lock drawers designed for the convenience of the larger companies, and 800 call boxes. The office is provided with the most modern fittings known for convenience and dispatch, and a large vault of brick and cement, built upon a foundation of stone is one of its features.

This vault is built right through into the rooms above where it is divided in the middle by a wall and provided with a door leading on one side, into the registrar's office, and on the other into the office of the crown land's office.

Back of the postoffice is the private office of the postmaster and at the rear of the building is a room intended for the use of the customs appraiser.

On the floor above are ten offices divided up between the telegraph service, the custom service, the crown lands offices and the registrar's office. On

this floor all the real work of the government done in the building aside from the business of handling the mails, is carried on. The sending and receiving of telegraphic messages is all done here, the messages being sent and received from the public office beneath by means of a small elevator, and all the vast amount of clerical work done in the other offices mentioned is carried on here in warm, clean and commodious rooms, which are no doubt a great and good change from the last quarters occupied by the various offices.

The floor above is the attic floor, and aside from the tower at the northeast corner, which constitutes the caretaker's room, the floor is devoted to the storage of the batteries of the telegraph office.

Altogether the building is as comfortable and well regulated on inside in the matter of construction as it is handsome and substantial appearing on the outside, and is a credit to Dawson and the government.

A Bear Story.

On the shore of a snug little cove on Windy Arm some 25 tents were stretched and 25 boats were in various stages of construction. Axes and hammers were ringing and saws were merrily buzzing. It seemed as though a miniature navy yard had suddenly sprung up and that the life of a nation was hanging upon the rapidity with which those boats could be constructed.

Directly opposite the camp and plainly within sight of the workers, a huge mountain arose, the sides of which were still pretty well covered with snow. Suddenly one of the men dropped his hammer and gazed across the Arm at the mountain. High upon the snow an object with four legs could plainly be seen moving leisurely upwards.

The man called the attention of his partner to the object, and both simultaneously yelled "bear." Axes, hammers and saws were immediately dropped, a rush was made for tents, and 25 men all-armed to the teeth were soon hurrying across the ice in hot pursuit of the game. High up the mountain side the shaggy monster climbed, and when a goodly altitude had been reached dropped behind a rock.

The attacking party concluded that they had above them a specimen of the famous silver tip, and having heard of the traits of the animal decided to move cautiously to the attack. For mutual strength and safety they divided into groups of five and moved in a semi-

circle up toward the place where the animal disappeared from sight.

After an hour's arduous climbing the first group came within a distance of a hundred yards of the spot. Cautiously object of their search curled up behind the big rock. A hasty council was held and it was decided that they would only be fair to the other hunters to wait their arrival before actual hostilities were opened. Also in order not to frighten the game it was deemed best to withdraw from sight. A half hour's delay brought the remainder of the party up, and with rifles cocked and revolvers and knives within easy reach a simultaneous advance was made upon the enemy's fortress. At 50 yards every man suddenly stopped and raised his rifle to his shoulder. The monster had risen and turned his back toward them.

A moment later 25 men were silently picking their way down a mountain side and a large Newfoundland dog was frisking at their heels.

It was not safe to mention "bear" in that camp for some time afterwards. The Klondike Nugget, June 16, 1898.

Thirsty Dawson.

Men with money to buy whisky, and no whisky for sale, was the serious condition of affairs which confronted the inhabitants of Dawson only a short time ago. It was indeed a sad sight to see some of the old-timers walk up to the bar and call for lemonade with a far-away look in their eyes, and the apologetic manner in which their orders were filled by the accommodating barkeeper, was enough to convince an onlooker that unless relief arrived soon serious complications would surely arise.

On Monday night, May 31, the Operahouse saloon was opened and five barrels of good whisky came to light. In less than six days the smiling attendants would shock the prospective regaler with the remark: "We have no whisky. What will you drink?"

The 16 barrels brought in by the May West were emptied at \$1 per drink, but the recent arrival of boats from above and the cargo of the Weare have placed Dawson in her normal condition, and we now have plenty of liquid refreshment and are willing to let the future take care of itself. The Klondike Nugget, June 16, 1898.

Electrical Motors.

The Dawson Electric Light & Power Co., Ltd., has within the past four weeks placed several electric motors in operation which have given the greatest satisfaction to those who have installed this power. This edition was printed by that means, one of the motors being now in operation in the Nugget pressroom. The "fluid" is wired from the power-house near Klondike bridge.

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