

LIGHTNING ROD MAN TALKS

To the People of Jericho and Scores a "Point."

But While the Matter Is Being Discussed the Old Hog Roost Tumbles Down and Is No More.

(From Friday's Daily.)
 It was a lightning rod man who started the schoolhouse discussion. He came along the other day and saw that the schoolhouse was without a rod, and he went to the town board and offered to put one up for so much. The town board wrestled over it all day without coming to a conclusion, and when it got to be known all over Jericho a big crowd assembled at the post-office in the evening to talk the matter over. It was Deacon Spooner who called the crowd to order and said:
 "As it appears to me and to a majority of the citizens of this town that an epoch in the history of Jericho has arrived, I call upon the lightning rod man to state his case."
 "There ain't much to state," replies the man. "I've offered to put up two rods on the schoolhouse and warrant it a good job for \$40. Bein' as a schoolhouse is an emporium of knowledge and being as the cause of education may be said to be the bulwarks of liberty, I've knocked \$15 off the reg'lar price."
 "I take it that he's made a p'int," says the deacon as he tunks on the floor with his cane. "Emporium of education and bulwarks of liberty seem to come in jest right and hit the schoolhouse on all sides at once. I fur one am standin' neutral in this bizness, an' I'd like to hear both sides of the question. Mebbe Silas Lapham, who lives next door to the schoolhouse, would like to make a few remarks."
 "As fur me," says Silas as he rises up, "I'm ag'in the idea of a lightning rod. That there schoolhouse was built 13 years ago, and during them 13 years we've had 72 thunderstorms. If she's dodged 72, why can't she dodge 200? Why can't she keep right on dodgin' till she tumbles down of old age? Forty dollars fur a lightning rod means more taxation. That's such a thing as an emporium of education, but that's also such a thing as an emporium of taxation. Jericho is out of debt and no one kickin', but let the hand of excessive taxation clutch her throat, and how long would it take to strangle the life out of her. I'm asking you to pause and ponder afore it is too late."
 "Silas, you've made a p'int and a strong one," says the deacon when the applause has subsided. "If the schoolhouse has dodged 72 thunderstorms, that's no reason to think she won't keep up the record. Yes, it's a p'int, and mebbe the lightning rod man would like to answer it."
 "I don't think much of the p'int," says the man as he gets up ag'in. "That's 80,000,000 people in these United States, and because none of 'em fell down stairs last year it don't foller that a heap of 'em won't tumble down this year. I've known a man to go on dodgin' mule's heels fur 16 years and then git 'em both in the stomach at once. Mebbe your schoolhouse will dodge a hundred more thunderstorms, and mebbe we will skallyshev sought our virtuous couches this night before a thunderstorm as big as a bar'l will go drivin' through her and leave nuthin but a heap of splinters to mark the spot where your emporium of education once reared its proud roof to the blue vaults of heaven. I said \$40 to the town board today, but in order to show my interest in the cause of education and to prove to you that my hand is ever stretched forth to uphold the prestige of a nation of freemen I'll make the price \$38."
 "He's made a p'int, gentlemen—he's made a p'int," says the deacon as he winks on the stove and looks round.
 "Yes, sir, when he talks about our schoolhouse rearin' its proud roof to the blue vaults of heaven he's made a p'int, and I'm more favorble to the lightning rod than I was. I think this crowd would like to hear from Enos Williams."
 "I'm with Silas Lapham," says Enos as he shets up his jackknife and gets his feet under him. "I'm fur lettin' sartin things dodge or bust. They wanted to insure the meetin' house 24 years ago, but my advice was to let her dodge. She's thar yit. I've got a barn 20 years old, and she's never had a lightning rod or been insured—jest had to dodge or bust all these years—and she's thar yit. Seventeen years ago, when I built my house, I put a oell on the front door. Nobody has rung that bell to this day. It would be the same

if we put a lightning rod on the schoolhouse—you wouldn't see a thunderstorm around here fur the next 15 years. I'm all right on the emporium of education bizness, and I can see that thar schoolhouse rearin' its proud roof to the blue vaults of heaven as plain as if it wasn't 9 o'clock at night, but I don't see no call to pay out \$38. Let her dodge or bust!"
 "Thar's a p'int thar, Enos—that's a p'int," says the deacon as he hits a cacker bar'l with his cane. "Yes, sir, thar's a good deal in your theory about dodgin'. When all the cows around here was bevin' the lump jaw, a feller offered to protect mine ag'in it fur \$3. I said I'd let her take her chances, and she come through all right. I observe Moses Forbush among the audience, and, as Moses built the fence around the schoolhouse, mebbe he's got sunthin to say."
 "I ain't ag'in lightning rods," says Moses in his slow way—"I'm not ag'in 'em fur what they are. It 'pears to me, however, that we'd better begin at the bottom instead of the roof. Thar's about 20 hogs nestin' under the schoolhouse, and thar's about 20 holes in the floor. I sorter like the idea of a lightning rod, and I sorter like the idea of new floor and drivin' the hogs out. One idea sorter balances the t'other, and I don't want to cast my vote either way."
 "You hev'n't made a p'int," says the deacon, "but nobody expected you to. I take it, however, that you go in fur an emporium of education, bein' you got the job of buildin' the fence and hev seven children goin' to school."
 "Yes, I think I do," replied Moses. "I've allus felt that it was my duty to uphold the Magna Charta of liberty, and when it comes to boostin' the wheels of progress and civilization I'm good to lift a ton."
 It was then suggested that the lightning rod man might want to say sunthin more, and he went at it and made a reg'lar Fourth of July oration. He pictured George Washington, John Hancock, Thomas Jefferson and half a dozen more goin' to school to learn how to spell such words as "liberty," "freedom," and "bulwarks." He pictured them schoolhouses bein' struck by lightning fur the want of rods, and he had tears in Joab Warner's eyes in less'n five minits. Then he pictured the happy children of Jericho crowded into the schoolhouse on a summer's day. Among them was future lawyers, doctors, editors, statesmen and poets. They was drinkin' in deep drafts of education when a black cloud appered over Jim Taylor's barn, a rumble of thunder was heard, and a minit later a thunderbolt shot out and struck the schoolhouse, and thar was a tragedy to convulse the world. The town had saved \$38 on a lightning rod, but whar was the schoolhouse, the school'm'am and 40 scholars. Some was shoutin' and some was wipin their eyes when the man sot down, and after Deacon Spooner had declared that it the strongest p'int he ever heard he made ready to put the question to a vote. Jest then in comes Lish Billings, and the deacon turns to him and says:
 "Lish, we are hev'in a meetin' about that lightning rod on the schoolhouse. As you painted the buildin' mebbe you'd like to say sunthin. Are you fur it or ag'in it?"
 "Neither one," answers Lish after awhile.
 "Are you standin' neutral?"
 "Not exactly."
 "Then, how do you make it out?"
 "Why, the durned old buildin' fell down about an hour ago of its own self, and I don't reckon thar's any call to waste any breath about the matter."
 M. QUAD.
 "Big Mac" Dangerously Shot.
 Port Townsend, Wash., Aug. 24.—Steamer Tacoma has arrived with \$600,000 in gold dust and 65 passengers from Nome. Most of the gold came down the Yukon from Dawson to St. Michael. While on the way a shooting occurred on the Tacoma, on August 15th, which came near ending the life of Angus McDonald, of Dawson. McDonald, while intoxicated, threatened to cut William Keenan, of New York, who shot him in the shoulder.
 (The Angus McDonald above referred to came to Dawson in the summer of '98 and for a long time was employed by the Yukon Mill Co. as teamster. He was a business rustler of more than usual ability in his line and was accounted one of the best transfer men in Dawson. He left with his wife and little son for Nome early in July, the latter two going direct from St. Michael to the Sound. "Big Mac," as he was known, went to Nome and later started for below, and it was on the trip down that the trouble above mentioned occurred. He has hosts of friends in Dawson who will be pleased to learn that the shot was in the shoulder instead of a more vital point.)
 Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

BETTER MAIL FACILITIES

Are Being Arranged For by the C. D. Company.

Will Endeavor to Cover Trip Between Dawson and Whitehorse in Three Days Over Ice.

The C. D. Co., is now engaged in perfecting arrangements for the hauling of government mail this winter. There is a possibility that a semi-weekly service will be put in operation, the C. D. Co., having ample facilities for the handling of the same. Before this can be accomplished, however, the Dominion government will be required to increase the contract price, as the agreement now in operation is only for a weekly service during the winter months. During open navigation the mail contract calls for a semi-weekly service.
 It is the intention of the mail contractors to use dogs at the early part of the season until such time as the trails become hard, when horses will be substituted. The best time made last year was four days and twenty hours from Dawson to Whitehorse. This year it is hoped to cover the distance in less than three days.
 Mr. French, who has charge of the mail at this end, says the company has now in Dawson four swift horses awaiting the close of navigation and safe travel on the ice, when they will be dispatched either singly or in tandem to Whitehorse with the mail. A relay has been established every 24 miles and Superintendent Pulham claims the mail this winter will beat the fastest time made this summer by the crack steamers of the upper river.
 While the contract with the C. D. Co. calls for but one shipment a week in winter and two in summer months there has been 16 deliveries made in August and 15 in July. Way mail, however, has been delivered only twice a week at points between the terminals, as the cost of stopping each steamer carrying mail at small stations would amount to a large sum at the end of the season. The price paid by the government for the mail service is \$76,000 annually. The contract calls for the delivery of one mail a week in winter time, with a time limit of 20 days. The time limit in summer, coming in, is five days.
 The C. D. Co. have handled the mail very efficiently ever since it took the contract and no doubt its contract with the government will be renewed at the expiration of its time.
 POLICE COURT NEWS.
 Yesterday afternoon Murray Eads, of the Standard bar, was convicted on the charge of conducting a disorderly house and fined \$100 and costs.
 The hearing of a similar charge against the proprietor of the Fairchild saloon was continued this morning until later in the day.
 There was as despondent appearing an array of chestnut sorrel tresses on the front row this morning as has been seen in the courtroom. Magistrate Scarth presided and made short work of the docket.
 Gus Johnson was the first called. He had wrapped himself up in yesterday's sunlight and lain down on the street to woo nature's sweet restorer after having looked upon the slumber brand of home brew until his eyelids became heavy. Had he not been taken in he would, in playhouse parlance, have experienced a frost last night. He was assessed \$5 and costs or five days at the end of a royal saw.
 Three times and out. That is the record made by Joe Farley, a freckle-faced son of Erin. When Joe was fined \$5 and costs Wednesday morning for being drunk and asleep on the street the previous night it was supposed to be an accident. When Joe was fined \$20 and costs yesterday morning for having been drunk and asleep on the street the previous night it was considered a coincidence; but when he was brought in this morning for having been drunk and asleep on the street last night, the court decided it was a habit, and, thinking that Joe's system required that he sober up and keep awake for a while, sentenced him to ten days at hard labor, during which time Joseph will not be given an opportunity for lying around the street at night either sleeping or studying astronomy. With a sigh that started below his belt, Joseph went over to the guardhouse where he was armed and equipped with an imperial saw.
 A man named Ellis, who has passed the hey-day of his youth was in court this morning with a grievance against T. J. Kearney, who, he alleged had been playing in his back yard, swinging on his gate and otherwise taking the position which the head of the Ellis family would, in recherche circles, be naturally supposed to fill. Ellis stated that he and his wife have been at "outs" for a few days and that when he went home last night she was drunk. Kearney was in the house and to his eagle eye things looked very suspicious. No action was taken in the matter and the head of the Ellis family is keeping his optics peeled for further evidence.

The Klondike Nugget

Telephone Number 12
 (DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
 ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
 ALLEN BROS. Publishers

THE CONVENTION.

The meeting at McDonald hall last night was highly satisfactory. The men selected as delegates to the convention which is to be held tomorrow are well representative of the various interests of the city and can be trusted, we think, to act with judgment and discretion.
 It should be no difficulty for the convention to find two men who will unite the support of all voters who are in sympathy with the movement for reform legislation. There is no doubting the fact that other things being equal, the voting strength of the community will stand in almost a solid phalanx behind the candidates who are placed in nomination by the convention tomorrow. The people have confidence in the convention and are willing and anxious to support its actions. The convention will represent the organized forces of reform and upon it rests the responsibility of placing a ticket in the field around which every voter who is interested in the future welfare of the Yukon, may feel justified in rallying.
 The enemies of reform have centered all their hopes in the possibility that tomorrow's convention may fall into the error of nominating a weak ticket. They are fully cognizant of the fact that two strong men put forward tomorrow will carry the territory by a splendid majority and are counting wholly upon the possibility that the convention may make the mistake mentioned. The Nugget does not believe that such will prove to be the case. A glance over the list of delegates assures us that the convention will be composed of men of standing in the community, who are well aware of its requirements and who are thoroughly imbued with the necessity of securing legislative reforms.
 We are thoroughly satisfied that these men will go into the convention with no thought other than a desire to forward the interests and welfare of the entire community. From what we know of the delegates we feel satisfied that individual preferences will be sacrificed whenever necessary and a unanimous effort made on the part of the convention to leave no loophole open for adverse criticism after its labors shall have been completed.
 THE LESSON OF HISTORY.
 The consummation of efforts extending over a period of three years is approaching. During that length of time the work of moulding public opinion has been carried on in the Yukon territory so continuously that at the present time it may be truthfully said there is little or no division of sentiment respecting matters of public moment. The people of the territory have watched with care and attention the legislative enactments which have come down from Ottawa for the government of this territory. They have seen laws passed which might well be compared to the dictations of feudal rulers. They have witnessed a systematic effort put forth upon the part of the federal government to wring from this country, while still in its swaddling clothes, every dollar of revenue which possibly could be wrung, without regard to consequences disastrous to government and people alike.
 But they have also seen that unjust laws even when supported by the entire machinery of the federal government cannot stand forever before organized and well directed demands for reform. Three years ago the first cry for reform was raised. At first the cry was weak and the effect was nil. But the cry spread and gathered strength by spreading, until it embraced the whole population of the territory and then results began to come. Conditions in the Yukon territory are more favorable by fifty per cent today than was the case twelve months ago. It will be the fault of the people only if the lapse of another year

does not see a proportionate improvement.
 "We know now what can be accomplished by united action and by keeping everlastingly at it. We have precedents to point to, and from these precedents it is safe to argue for the future. Partial reforms have been granted because the demands for them have been so strong and so unanimous that the government could do nothing else but yield. There are still others to be obtained which will come with absolute certainty if we continue to present a united front.
 This is the lesson which the history of the past three years teaches and which we trust will be kept constantly in mind during the next few weeks by every man who desires to see the Yukon territory take its proper position in the line of prosperous and progressive British possessions.
 Requests have been made from several sources that this paper should suggest the names of men who would be suitable as candidates before the convention tomorrow. In respect to this matter we may say that the Nugget has strenuously avoided any reference to individuals in connection with the nominations. We have no preferences and desire simply to see that the best timber available be put forward. We have no hesitation in saying, however, that in our opinion the convention would act wisely in selecting one man from the creeks and one from the town. This would, as we view the matter, be the fairest possible way of dividing the offices, and serve admirably to concentrate the voting strength of the reform forces upon the ticket.
 Rich Quartz From Tanana.
 Rumors of a strike made in the Tanana country is coming in to Dawson by every steamer. The majority of these stories while attracting some attention are not backed with any tangible evidence of their truthfulness. The latest is that of a prospector named Dominic Burns who called at the Nugget office yesterday. He brings with him a sample of quartz cropping which in any mining camp in the world would attract no little interest. Mr. Burns said that the rock assayed here \$125 in gold, \$12.65 in silver and \$4.90 in lead.
 The rock assayed is not a true quartz but a conglomerate containing considerable galena and sulphides. The croppings were traced for 3000 feet and run across the trend of the creek named by the discoverer Quartz creek. The party who discovered the district, a Mr. Miller, known by the sobriquet of "Dick Lowe's Kid," is now in town as well as the man who recorded the claim. The district is described as being southwest from Circle City about 125 miles.
 Six or seven claims have been taken up and at a miners' meeting it was decided to not recognize powers of attorney unless \$1000 for each power of attorney recorded is paid by the holder; this amount to be used for the purpose of building roads. The country is reported easy of access and a promising field for prospectors.
 The claim from which the sample was taken was recorded by Will Pinkle, July 31st of this year.
 Innovation in Heating.
 Manager L. R. Fulda, of the A. E. Co., is making several innovations in the company warehouses and stores. He will put in this winter a steam heating plant which, while an expensive project on the start, will result in the saving of a great deal of money in the end. A huge boiler will supply the steam and the same will be piped to the different warehouses and store buildings. The boiler will be put up away from the buildings to remove the possibility of fire. The introduction of steam will, in a great measure, remove the possibility of fire, but an added precaution is contemplated. The company will put up a high pressure Worthington pump, which at different places will be connected a number of hydrants, the same as now in use in all the large cities.
 The water will be raised to a sufficient degree of heat in the condensers to insure its not freezing and will circulate through the pipes in an endless circle. Six of these hydrants are now here and 12 more are expected. From these hydrants, with the hose connections, six streams of one and one-eighth inches can be discharged a distance of 100 feet in height. Mr. Fulda said he was willing to co-operate with the Dawson city fire department and would make some suggestions later in the season whereby this plant could be utilized for the public benefit next winter.