

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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THE FINAL ASSAULT IS DELAYED.

Difficulty in Forwarding Supplies the Cause.

But the Lines Are Being More Tightly Drawn and the End Is in Sight—Strength of the Invading Army—Hobson Honored.

NEW YORK, June 29.—A Playa del Este special says: Delay in the attack upon Santiago has been caused by the inability of commissaries of subsistence to keep pace with the army in its advance upon the city. The condition of the roads, or rather an entire absence of roads over which vehicles can pass, has rendered it impossible to forward supplies until the engineers had prepared the way.

But within a few days the engineers, assisted by such pacificos as could be pressed into service, have accomplished wonders. Serviceable bridges are being thrown across all the waterways and deep ravines, and a good military road has been constructed over what a week ago was only a mountain path, affording a perilous footing.

Gen. Shafter has no intention of calling upon the troops to make a supreme effort in front of Santiago until each man has at least three days' rations in his knapsack. Up to the present this has been impossible, but the work of the engineers is now nearing a stage that will enable wagon trains to reach the front. When they can do that the assault upon Santiago will be no longer delayed, for the general is evidently most anxious to anticipate the arrival of Spanish reinforcements from the garrison at Manzanillo.

For the investment and capture of Santiago de Cuba Gen. Shafter has an army of 18,365 men. The list includes 1,300 men of Gen. Duffield's command, who were landed by the Yale near Santiago last Tuesday. The force is as follows:

Regular infantry	11,000
Volunteer infantry	2,000
Second U. S. cavalry	500
First, Third, Sixth, Ninth and Tenth U. S. cavalry, two squadrons each	2,000
First U. S. volunteer cavalry (Roosevelt's), two squadrons of four troops each	500
First U. S. light artillery, batteries E and K	150
Second U. S. light artillery, batteries A and F	150
Fourth U. S. heavy artillery, batteries G and H	200
Engineer battalion	205
Signal and hospital corps detachments	300
Part of Gen. Duffield's command	1,300
Total	18,365

The backbone of this army is made up of 16 regiments of regulars and two of volunteers, having a total number of 13,000 men. This body of men composes the Fifth army corps.

WASHINGTON, June 29.—A precedent that will be historic was established by the senate at its session today. For probably the first time in the history of the senate a resolution was adopted tendering thanks to common seamen, specifically naming them in the resolution. The resolution elicited several patriotic speeches, in which the private soldiers of the army and the common sailors of the navy were glowingly eulogized. Consideration of the general deficiency bill was concluded and the measure was passed.

In accordance with the recommendations of the president, the senate, at the beginning of its session today, took action in recognition of the distinguished services rendered recently by officers and men of the navy and revenue cutter service.

Frye of Maine reported from the committee on commerce a joint resolution recognizing the gallantry of Frank H. Newcomb, commanding the revenue cutter Hudson, and of his officers and men; also retiring Capt. Daniel B. Hodgson, of the revenue cutter service, for efficient and meritorious service in commanding the cutter Hugh McCulloch at Manilla.

The resolution extends the thanks of congress to Lieut. Newcomb for his heroic gallantry in the action at Cardenas, when he and his crew rescued the Winslow and such of her crew as had not been disabled and killed and provided for a suitable medal of gold for Newcomb; silver medals for his officers and bronze medals for the members of his crew. It also places Capt. Hodgson of the McCulloch on permanent waiting orders at full pay. The resolution was adopted without debate.

Hale of Maine, of the naval committee, then reported favorably a resolution tendering the thanks of congress to Naval Constructor Hobson, who, with his crew of seven men, sunk the collier Merimac across the harbor of Santiago and providing for the transfer of Hobson from the construction corps of the navy to the line. The resolution was also adopted.

INCOMPETENT BUT HONEST.

A Defender of Mr. Fawcett Makes the Best Plea Possible Under the Circumstances.

Dawson, July 9th, 1898.

EDITOR KLONDIKE NUGGET, Dear Sir,

In your special issue giving the history of what you are pleased to call (emphatically I should imagine) the Dominion "middle" you have I think made a fundamental mistake in laying all the blame on the Gold Commissioner. Perhaps Mr. Fawcett is not well enough up in the technicalities of mining and staking of claims to fill his position to the best advantage, but—sir, I venture to say that there are few men in the District who have been here during the past year who will deny that Mr. Fawcett and his staff have worked harder and more conscientiously than any other officials of the Dominion Government. Perhaps Mr. Fawcett may be incompetent but at least we believe him to be honest, and to be doing his very best. He has been handicapped in every way, not only by insufficiency of office accommodation but also by the inadequateness in point of numbers of his staff as well as by the difficulties and complications bound to arise from the fact that he has held office under four different sets of mining regulations all passed within the space of twelve months, and that no one seems to know at what date any one of these different regulations came into force. In spite of all these disabilities Mr. Fawcett has done nothing that can be complained of on the score of anything but lack of experience, and the rulings that have excited dissatisfaction seem to have been made chiefly with the view of easing in a slight degree the enormous strain his office has had to bear.

I am, sir, with the usual apologies, Yours,

Fairplay
[In courtesy we devote our valuable space to the foregoing but would suggest to "Fairplay" that it is but a re-threshing of old straw to suggest the "honesty" of Mr. Fawcett. He-Hell is paved with good intentions just so surely has this world ever been damned by honest incompetence.—E.]

Government Aid For Fire Protection.

The gentlemen in charge of public affairs at Dawson have for the second time come forward with funds for a good purpose. Elsewhere in our columns it will be seen that the hospital benefits to the tune of \$5,000. It was about decided on Monday to devote another \$2,500 to one of two purposes—the improvement of the main thoroughfare or to helping pay for the extensive fire-fighting plant recently ordered for Dawson. New arrivals should know that the order for this plant included a large and first class steamer, a large double cylinder steam engine, half a dozen hand engines and buckets, grenades and hook and ladder gear. The whole thing was to cost about \$12,000. It was about decided by the officials that the street could be safely left to the citizens to take care of and its improvement was only a matter of three or four months utility anyhow while fire protection is needed the whole year round. On the subject of fire protection the Nugget will have more to say in its next issue.

To Be Prosecuted for Cutting Timber.

Notwithstanding the stand taken by Crown Timber Agent Willison, in refusing to issue any more permits for cutting timber and in ordering all cutters off the Klondike River, there has been a lot of timber stealing going on and he has found it necessary to call in the aid of the police to enforce his proclamation. Any person found cutting timber for sale in the proscribed district is to be prosecuted by law and his timber confiscated.

A New Telephone Line.

Dawson begins to look quite metropolitan, with her second telephone line. The new line is being erected by the Klondike Telegraph and Telephone Co., who already have forty miles of wire on the ground and expect twenty miles more at once. The company is putting in the plant under the charter of The Canada Western Co., and the whole outfit is of the latest and most improved type. The extent of the business expected can be guessed by the presence among the other material of a hun-

dred drop-switch-board capable of being doubled in capacity at any time.

At present the line will be strung to the forks of Eldorado and Bonanza with the intention of later running it out to Dominion, Sulphur and Hunker creeks, and eventually to connect with the parent line, the Canada Western. The company is essentially a mining one and consists of the following gentlemen: Alex. McDonald, general manager; Geo. DeMars, 9 Eldorado; John Ericson, 10 Eldorado; Chas. Anderson, 29 Eldorado, together with the other well-known gentlemen, Dr. LeBlanc, W. H. McPhie with E. Leroy Pelletier for secretary and treasurer.

Another Proclamation.

The gold commissioner's office is responsible for another proclamation by which it is evidently hoped to offset some of the evil effects of former edicts. It reads as follows:

OFFICIAL NOTICE.

Where protests arise respecting claims for which applications have been filed and the protestor proves to be well founded, the recording fee of \$15 shall be forfeited to the crown. Those filing protests shall deposit with the protest the sum of \$20, under the following provision of the mining regulations. The complainant shall, at the time of filing his complaint, deposit therewith a bond fee of \$20 which shall be returned to him if the complaint proves to be well founded.

It is evidently intended to lessen the enormous amount of contention which has arisen at the recorder's office. It is a sort of double-ended regulation in that one or all of the contestants may by a decision of the commissioner be made to forfeit his deposit of \$15 or \$20. Such powers are perfectly safe in some men's hands—and there are others.

"Time-Owner" Says Organize.

EDITOR NUGGET.—One thing that is retarding the development of this country more than anything else is the delegation of power to a few men, against whose rulings it does the people no good to raise a voice. They are afraid to do so personally, and to get redress through the higher officials at Ottawa takes much time. The absence of the freedom one has in any other part of Canada lessens the chances of obtaining one's rights. Goldsmith must have had the conditions of this Territory in view, when he wrote:

"Ill fares the land to hastening ill a prey;
Where wealth accumulates and men decay;
Princes and lords may flourish or may fade;
A breath may make them, as a breath may make."

But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed can never be supplied.

By the change of a few words these lines express the condition of things here exactly. If the people are not to be crushed out of existence or driven from the country, they must organize solidly and put on a bold front, sending such a roar to Ottawa as will bring about a quick change. We want and must have a local form of government. A city of 12,000 to 20,000 people under present conditions is something heretofore unheard of. Let us organize and send such arguments through the press and delegates to Ottawa as will bring about the reforms the country needs.

I am yours,

A CANADIAN MINE OWNER.

PERSONALS.

E. E. Keeley and Frank Steers left for Munook in a skiff on the sixth inst.

T. W. Williams of the London Globe paid the Nugget office a pleasant call one day last week. G. E. Thompson and T. A. Melvin, of Spokane, Wash., arrived safely down the river on Saturday evening.

Ernest Sorelle, correspondent of the Times, Cape Town, Africa, and South Africa, London, is in the city.

The irrepressible rustler, M. B. Crane, of Tacoma, came up on the Alice, after having followed the stampede to the American side.

James Bogue arrived on the Alice Wednesday last. He has been at Fort Cudahy and Circle City all winter, in charge of N. A. T. Co. affairs.

C. F. Thomas, of Palm Valley, Regina, extensively known through the Northwest as a raiser of horse flesh, arrived in Dawson Wednesday last.

Mr. A. F. Mitchell, who has been representing on \$7-bitow on Sulphur, was in town on the 9th inst. Mr. Mitchell enjoys the reputation of having constructed the most artistic cabin on the creek.

L. McNeal, well known to Washingtonians, arrived at Dawson last week, after an adventurous trip. A brother, Mr. C. L. McNeal was killed in the snowslide at the Seales, and another brother, H. J. became disheartened and returned to civilization.

Will W. Ewing, who came to Dawson last fall will leave in the Orin for Seattle. Mr. Ewing goes out for the transaction of business and expects to return before the river closes. He has secured interests on Hunker which will doubtless yield him a good-sized homestead.

Mr. F. R. Burnham, of London, Eng., leaves for his home across the water today. He has been looking over the ground in the interests of British capital and takes back with him a number of copies of the KLONDIKE NUGGET as a good reflection of conditions as he finds them here.

Mr. E. C. Stahl arrived in town a week ago, having made the trip from Bennett to Dawson in just six days and twenty hours, in an ordinary open boat. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Wilcox accompanied Mr. Stahl, and the party report the loss of twenty-four hours on the trip, or it would have been made quicker.

Moved to Better Quarters.

The success of the Gatty sisters as popular entertainers is shown by their quarters having become much too small to accommodate the crowds who throng to hear them. This evening they open up in the large and commodious Horse-Shoe saloon, and a successful run is assured to them. The place has been overhauled and made suitable for their entertainment and a large attendance is assured.

WHY NOT LET FAWCETT RETIRE?

His Career of Usefulness Is Ended and a Change Is Required.

The State of Public Opinion Is Next Thing to Dangerous and Calls for a Change at Once to Restore Public Confidence.

The Nugget special of Saturday has been the occasion of an immense amount of comment favorable to the Nugget. Not one man in Dawson has been found to come forward and champion the cause of the gold commissioner though several have suggested what is certainly not an original proposition—that it is nothing more than a "childish incompetency." From the Nugget's point of view the result to the miner is just the same as though Mr. Fawcett had been guilty of criminal duplicity and malfeasance in office. Did we so desire we could fill our columns for the next ten issues with accounts of his official incapacity as demonstrated beyond peradventure by the thousands of individual cases brought to our knowledge of his disregard of even the rudimentary principles of right and fair play which control his important office. Rulings have been made and reversed before the person interested could leave the office. Important papers have been deposited with the office as required by law and lost without even a record of them. Men have come in miles and miles to record and have not been permitted to do so yet within a few hours new rulings would let other men record the same ground. The charge of incompetency preferred by the Nugget has been so amply verified without a single dissent that in the name of the people of the Yukon district the Nugget calls upon Mr. Fawcett to retire in favor of someone of experience. Friends of the gold commissioner urge the opinion that he acted honestly up to his best judgment in all matters. If this is the best he can do, the quicker he steps down and out the better, for no man can improve on his own best, and an immediate improvement in the conducting of the recorder's office is positively imperative if the peace of this community is to be preserved. If this is his best then Lord preserve us whenever he falls short of his superlative efforts.

The Nugget special of Saturday quoted Major Walsh as saying "The administration of affairs on Dominion Creek have been a mess from start to finish and I am sick and tired of the whole business." The Major sought an interview with the Nugget man on Monday morning in which he showed a disposition to shield Mr. Fawcett wherever possible from the storm of public disapproval which the Nugget simply claims the word "administration" in the above quotation and a reference to our notes proves him correct. The word was simply added in elucidation and is our own. Mr. Walsh further claims the responsibility of the proclamation in which permits to prospect would be issued July 11. But we fail to see wherein the case of Fawcett vs. the people is improved thereby. Had the permit system been carried out as proposed by the Major there would have been no storm of public disapproval as was occasioned by the secret promulgation of an edict days before its publication which over-ruled the Major's best judgment, and contrary to his intentions brought about a "scoop" by those "on the inside."

In the interview Mr. Walsh clearly showed himself to be as indignant over the betrayal of public confidence as the yerpest stamper amongst us. He said "Under the permit system, which I advocated as the best means out of a difficulty, there might have been a rush and scramble of applicants right here, but I can't see that the situation was improved by transferring the scramble to the hills of Dominion creek."

The Nugget quietly awaits Mr. Fawcett's resignation.

A Romance of the Trail.

Abraham Gordon is a mine owner in the Klondike district and also the possessor of some promising properties on the American side, having been in this corner of the world for four years. When he left for the outside last fall his heart was as free as a Yukon zephyr in January. Gallant to an extreme, as are all Alaskans, he yet escaped all the blandishments of the fair sex during his short sojourn in the States. On his return this Spring over the trail he found a lady named Mrs. Berrett, and her bosom daughter, who were during the terrors of the pass in order to reach this land of gold and zinc. Of course they had to be helped over bad places and encouraged over dangerous ones and also, of course, Miss Minnie, being the younger needed the most encouragement, and who so able, wisely advise and encourage as our gallant Alaskan who had repeatedly been over the route and knew every menacing rock and rapid? But Cupid is a cunning little imp and delights in the roar of canyon or cascade just as much as in the perfumed flower gardens of milder climes. And so it came to pass that on Wednesday evening, about nine o'clock, there appeared at the Episcopal church a dashing young man and a fair young maiden and at the pastor's word of command they two became one—which one is yet to be known. Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Gordon left on the Steamer Alice, Thursday, for the American side.