

The Klondike Nugget

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THE YUKONER AND FAKE NEWSPAPERS.

The Yukoner is a man above average intelligence, and as such is always after something to read, and pays liberally for any kind of a paper that is liable to contain the information he desires. Just at this time the war between Spain and the United States is the all absorbing topic, because of the vast number of Americans in the various Yukon camps. The papers in the States know of this desire for news, and have sent out large quantities of papers which have been brought in by couriers and sold at prices ranging from one to two dollars each. This was all right so long as the papers were legitimate issues and contained authentic news. But now, with newspapers published here in Dawson, run by practical newspaper men, the field for outside publications becomes more limited, and it is painful to know that such large dailies as the San Francisco Call and Seattle Post-Intelligencer have resorted to "faking" in order to sell large numbers of their "special Klondike" issues at fancy prices. The war issue of the Call, while it contained good information and detail, was so garbled to meet the fancy of the Yukoner (who is supposed to know nothing of the outside world) that to a man posted up to date it was ridiculous. But the worst "fake" of all was the edition of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, dated June 4, which reached Dawson on June 16, making only 12 days from date of paper to arrival in Dawson. Of course the reader thought it required great enterprise to get the news in here so quickly, but it is a fact that that paper was printed on Sunday, six days before, and dated ahead, so that it contained news so later than May 29, and the P.-I. of June 1 only reached here on the 19th inst. Yet the dear people paid one dollar more for that "fake" than they pay for the regular issue. News from the outside is desirable, and The Nugget will supply it as fast as obtainable, not in extended form, but the pith of it, and warns its readers against "fakers" from the outside. "Fakes" have had their day on the Yukon, in a newspaper way at least.

THE CHANGES OF A YEAR.

The past year has been filled with events of exceeding importance to the Northwest Territory and Alaska. From a comparatively unknown region this vast district has suddenly sprung into such prominence that even its small streams and their tributaries have become household words throughout the civilized world. Heretofore the mention of the Northwest Territory and Alaska has conveyed but a vague idea to the minds of most people. Nearly everybody knew that those places were located on the map way up toward the north pole somewhere, but beyond that knowledge their desire for information did not extend. The chief products of the country were supposed to consist of Esquimaux, polar bears and icebergs and as none of these contributed materially to the knowledge or comfort of the world they were allowed to rest in comparative peace and quiet. Along with the general ignorance concerning the other features of the country, the mighty river system that drains it was, to a great extent unknown. Most people could tell that there was such a

stream as the Yukon, but its source and outlet, its tributaries and the resources of the country they drained were matters of which the general public knew nothing.

Since the announcement of the gold discoveries on Bonanza and Eldorado creeks, however, the situation has assumed an entirely different aspect. Within less than a year's time the Yukon river has become one of the world's great highways of commerce. Its shores heretofore the retreat of Indians and bears are now echoing to the busy sawmill and the ring of the hammer. Its forests are yielding of their abundance to supply the demands of civilized men while its waters are dotted with various kinds of craft loaded with provisions and other articles of commerce.

In dealing with these sudden changes in conditions that have existed so long, practically the same, new methods are required. Better means of communication with the world must be established, mail service is to be improved, the rocks and shoals upon which so many boats have been wrecked this spring should be removed or marked; in short the Yukon Valley as one of the inhabited portions of the civilized world must be brought into direct contact with all that is necessary to the comfort and happiness of civilized man.

It must not be expected, however, that all this can be accomplished in a day. Time will be required, capital will be required, labor will be required, just as they have been required in the development of other new countries. That it will all be brought about there is little room to doubt. Capitalists are already investigating the feasibility of a railroad to run to the coast in conjunction with boats and it may not be too much to hope that the man who stays on the Yukon until the dawning of the 20th century will have the opportunity of returning home, at least part of the way, in a Pullman sleeper.

THE NEWCOMER IN DAWSON.

There are many men in Dawson at the present time who feel keenly disappointed. They have come thousands of miles on a perilous trip, risked life, health and property, spent months of the most arduous labor a man can perform, and at length with expectations raised to the highest pitch have reached the coveted goal only to discover the fact that there is nothing here for them. For these men the Nugget has a feeling of sincere sympathy, though we are of the opinion that the conditions now existing in and around Dawson are only such as any one might have supposed had he given the matter a few moments of calm and deliberate thought.

It is a fact that for selfish ends newspapers and communities on the outside have taken every opportunity to herald abroad in the most alluring language, the great possibilities for the man of moderate means in the new gold fields of the north. But it is also a fact that fair and truthful statements have been published as well. And had there been no such statements made, any man of ordinary judgment might well have reached the conclusion long before he set out for Dawson that every creek and gulch adjacent to the city would be staked months before he could possibly reach it.

The gold is here beyond question or doubt. The richness of the creeks is no longer a matter of speculation. The difficulty lies in the fact that these things were known and advantage taken of that knowledge long before the present rush began.

Notwithstanding this, however, there is no necessity for discouragement of the newcomer. If he came into the country with the intention of making a business of prospecting, there is plenty of room for him yet and doubtless will be for years to come. There are other creeks besides those immediately adjacent to Dawson, and it is highly probable that important developments in other districts will be made before the close of the prospecting season.

But here, as elsewhere, a great deal depends upon the man himself. If he came into the country with the expecta-

tion of becoming suddenly wealthy without any considerable exertion on his own part he will fall in nine cases out of ten. On the other hand if he brings with him a due amount of pluck and energy and a willingness to endure hardship and privation, in the long run the chances are favorable for his success.

Many complaints are heard from the men who worked on lays during the past winter. It is undoubtedly a fact that on an average the men who worked for wages are better off today than the laymen. The conditions of a lay contract were such that a claim, unless a very good producer, yielded the layman little or nothing.

We point with pride to our list of Seattle advertisers. It shows the interest taken in Seattle in the future of this country, and the faith of the reliable houses in the success of The Nugget. Such enterprise deserves patronage, and when you visit the Queen City do not fail to remember those who remembered this paper.

When John Bull and Uncle Sam stand shoulder to shoulder the rest of the world must take off its hat. The Anglo-Saxon race holds the balance of power in international affairs and from this time on may be expected to show a united front in dealing with other nations.

The improvements that have recently been made in the gulch trails are worthy of mention. Incidentally it might also be said that the trails are worthy of much more improvement of the same kind.

One of the boats that recently came down the river brought with it a large supply of fireworks. We presume that when the 4th of July rolls around "there will be a hot time in the old town."

Newcomers who go up the creeks should be very careful in the matter of building campfires. Considerable loss has already resulted from carelessness in leaving campfires unextinguished.

Encouraging reports continue to arrive from the lower country. A good town somewhere on the American side will be the result if indications may be accepted for anything.

We wonder that no one has started a sausage factory in Dawson. There are enough quadrupeds roaming the streets to supply such an institution for at least a year.

We venture to say that there are more ship builders and ship owners in Dawson than in any other city of equal size in the world.

JUST FROM DAWSON.

A Dawson City mining man lay dying on the ice. He didn't have a woman nurse—he didn't have the price. But a comrade knelt beside him, as the sun sank in repose. To listen to his dying words and watch him while he froze. The dying man propped up his head above four rods of snow. And said, "I never saw it thaw at ninety-eight below. Send this little pin-head nugget that I swiped from Jason Bills. To my home, you know, at Deadwood, at Deadwood in the Hills."

"Tell my friends, and tell my enemies, if you ever reach the east, That this Dawson City region is no place for man or beast. That the land's too elevated, and the wind too awful cold. And the Hills of South Dakota yield as good a grade of gold. Tell my sweet heart not to worry, with a sorrow too intense. For I would not thus have panned out had I had a lick of sense. Oh! the air is growing thicker, and those breezes give me chills. Gee, I wish I was in Deadwood, in Deadwood in the Hills."

"Tell the fellows in the home land to remain and have a cinch. That the price of patent pork chops here is 80 cents an inch. That I speak as one who's been here scratching around to find the gold. And at 10 per cent. of discount I could not buy up a cold. Now, so long," he faintly whispered, "I have told you what to do." And he closed his weary eyelids, and froze solid p. d. q. His friend procured an organ box and e. o. d. d the bills. And sent the miner home that night at Deadwood in the Hills.

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BAD WRECK

Fire Destroys

Accidental Shoot—Strange Crime Brought In

On May 28 a plate tailor's outfit was wrecked at the boat. The outfit became lodged in the shock and the occupants became the owners of Jas. Murray and the shore they were distance to "D" days they were finally reached a secure provision reached Dawson.

Big Fire

A fire occurred resulting in the 41, 42 and 43. The which had been up the gulch for claim. Three 42 and live on 42 the claims and over the creek rainfall. At last ceased burning.

Mr. H. J. Gray

Mr. H. J. Gray accidentally shot at the head of a route for Dawson picking up a shotgun. The charged into it. Graves was at Portland and at Dawson, reached has been doing Richards.

The

Dawson is the success of the matches, the of the 10-rod a noted young who met and Francisco. His vest and conscience Frank Allen, a years was box world-famed C trained many a oral finish fight. Both men at their set-to to bet of \$5000 each.

June 25 a ret and Coolgardly by the clever vion might go-1 can fight and a hard blow. ation last time eision" Smith at nothing, al well as to give can best Roo seen.

The fights wi

back of the Ho
One day last water front, the stern wheel a the current an opposite the Y attracted a lar hunting she m inquiry develop eight tons of f to Clarence B 5 and 6 Eldora of some of her One of the Robert Fulton 20 inches in di by diminutive pike poles in t among the t summer there der the sun.

The machin power to the v on the Berry ready been se Following I steamer-sew Hess, Wesley Harry Say, El Dr. Blewett. W. J. Berry wife and sist nearly 30 days boat, bringing and their min at the safe ar

An item in that of the that she was the trip from in this regard Mr. Frank At Bushnell of I