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LIGHT ON THE MEDICAL PROSECUTION

A Review of the Situation Up to the Present Time.

Interesting Comment by a British Physician—There Was More Than a Desire for Justice Back of the Prosecution.

PACIFIC HOTEL, Oct., 1898.

Editor Nugget:—It is presumed that the legislative arrangements of the new Yukon district are matters of interest.

Allow me to place, before your readers a review of how the legislative machinery has moved in the attempt to establish laws relating to the practice of medicine and surgery.

Formerly the Yukon District was under the jurisdiction of the North West Territories, and only those qualified to practice in this district were legally qualified to practice in this district.

But it was found to be impracticable in this district to enforce a law which at best is only relative in spirit and protective to a small class of men, and is in no sense formed for the protection of the public health.

That the public may fully understand the position of affairs it is necessary to go into the matter in some detail.

Last Year Messrs. Chamber, LeBlanc, Richardson and Norquay, were practising without licenses. The inference is that Canadian, as well as American physicians thought it was unadvisable to have a law which would require a license to practice medicine or surgery, and that the conditions of life and the exigencies of practice were such as to render registration unnecessary.

In point of law they were in the wrong. The Canadian as well as the American physicians were offenders against the law and were just as liable to prosecution as their fellow-practitioners from the other side of the boundary.

But it seems that nobody preferred a charge against any medical practitioners until after the arrival of Dr. Lindsay, who came here in June, 1898, to examine the certificates of the practitioners of the district.

Dr. Lindsay accepted registration fees and gave receipts for their money to Canadian physicians who had not passed the necessary examination. But he was not in a position to give them the official certificate. Why he accepted their fees without requiring them to pass the examination, I do not know.

But it is said that he left the money on deposit in Dawson to be returned in the event of the law being enforced in their case.

After Dr. Lindsay's arrival, the game of discrimination between American and Canadian began. Dr. Lindsay refused to accept registration fees from American physicians. That was an act of discrimination. Then followed a series of most undignified prosecutions against men who had been here practicing as honorable members of their profession, recognized and encouraged in their work by the public and by the officials of the Dominion government.

From the Canadian point of view it became a case of "our own dead fish for our own seagulls." The American gulls were required to beat away from the Canadian carcass.

Now observe the legal aspect of the case. Dr. Norquay, as prosecuting witness in the case of Dr. Aetymus, admitted in court that he had received \$500 from Dr. Lindsay, who it is to be remembered, arrived here in June, 1898. That Dr. Norquay should have given evidence against Dr. Merriman for the same offence that he himself had committed for a whole year, passes my apprehension.

If Dr. Aetymus had known his case he would have retained by posing his assistants. An impartial court was found to convict them, and is bound to convict them still—the six months have not yet elapsed. It was a most ungracious act on the part of Dr. Norquay. But it may be that some extraneous influence operated on an unjust judgment to make Dr. Norquay pose in such an unbecoming position. At any rate the dignity of Canadian law has suffered, in so far as the law was made the instrument to carry a "blow." Such is the legal aspect of the case.

Now let us look at the question in a nearer and more interesting aspect. When it was decided to separate the Yukon district from the North and South Territories, and endow it with a certain amount of local government what ought to have been done was the establishment of a "college" of physicians and surgeons. We had a good precedent in the case of British Columbia, whose medical laws are, in other respects, as ridiculous and as arbitrary as those of Canada and the United States. When the practitioners of British Columbia formed themselves into a corporation and obtained a protective charter eleven years ago, they admitted on the register every bona fide practitioner of whatever nationality, practicing within their territory. In that respect we ought to have followed the example of British Columbia. There should have been our American fellow-practitioners co-operating with us in the suppression of quackery. Whatever would be our opinions as to their fitness we can surely put them down as common quacks. The needs of the district brought them here. I suppose they will return home to suit our convenience. These matters required their services. Do we suppose they are going to stare at our mandate in the midst of their countrymen? The people of Dawson and the servants of the Dominion government encouraged them in their work. Can they now be brought to look upon themselves as aliens and intruders? If we drive them to depart in an illicit manner, what will be the result? As illicit practitioners they will become unscrupulous. Under the shadow of others will come into the country without diplomas of any description whatsoever, and will declare themselves to be American doctors, but not registered because of the Canadian animus against them. Will that be for the benefit of the public? Will it improve the condition of the medical profession in the Yukon district? Time and misfortune will answer these questions.

I said that in forming our first register we ought to have followed the example of British Columbia. What ought we to have done in the matter of future registration? The ordinances ought simply to state what degrees and qualifications throughout the world would be accepted on payment of the registration fee. But no, we must needs have an examination. Well, what is required in a candidate to allow him to appear for this examination? At the time of his graduation his college must have required a four year's course of study. The leading British schools require five years, but it is not so very long since any medical school on the American continent required more than three years. Still, in the days of the three years course, many confined their studies to two or four years. Are they to be barred from practice by an act of retrospective legislation? No, those who obtained their diplomas with three years work and have since been in active practice, are they to be barred from appearing before the examining board of the Yukon district?

Examining board, indeed! Who are the examiners? Are they capable of teaching any of the medical sciences? Are they able to examine? Will some of them not remember disastrous encounters with examiners in their

own student days? The peculiar grudge that examiners bore against them of old—will it not kindle within their breasts a proud flame of conscious power that may consume their victims? Are the decisions of these men to be final? Will they be no victims, and that all candidates are to pass with credit, what about the "heavenly passage" that they let loose on the public? Will any other civil set community consider him a safe and proper person, etc., etc. I am afraid not.

Though some are trying to go in the wrong direction, it is to be hoped that in time we shall have a central board of registration, receiving high attainments, for the whole Dominion of Canada. That is the ideal to work for.

Necessity will by and by settle all these matters in her own way. Perhaps it is the only way. For a man might speak with the wisdom and foresight of the old god Oceanus, and to some of his fellowmen his voice would be less articulate than the voice of winds and tides. Very truly yours,

WILLIAM CATO,  
M. A., M. B., & C. M., Edinburgh.

What Became of the Blankets.

Tommie Deering, the Monte Carlo bank dealer, was one of the coolest fire fighters at last Friday's conflagration. With customary forethought, before betaking himself to the scene of action he was removing his blankets to a place of safety, foreseeing in their perfection in the future. He had hardly left his place of abode when Sullivan, the popular weigher in Tom Chisholm's Aurora, realizing the advantage of wet blankets as a protection urged Tommie to repair to the roof of the Aurora with his twelve pounders and help save the building.

Without a word the suggestion was acted upon and for several hours Tommie worked like a Trojan and even gave up an elegant pair of moosehorns to a bystander in order to secure his assistance. When all danger was over, Tommie, thinking he was entitled to some liquid refreshment, indulged in a drink of Chisholm's best and recalled that he had better protect his own property and returned to the roof for his blankets. Imagine his surprise to find absolutely no trace of them and to this day he has failed to discover the man who has his moosehorns.

Tommie is wondering where he gets off at and is pouring his little tale of woe into the ears of many sympathizing friends.

Huskies Attack a Horse.

The peculiar traits of the native dog were clearly demonstrated on Friday night last. A horse owned by George Forman and French Pete was attacked by a band of huskies and literally torn to pieces. The horse by some means had become lame and was lying on the ground unable to rise. In this condition the huskies found and attacked it. There were about six in the pack and it was not long until the horse was being torn almost limb from limb. After some time the hounds left their victim, which lived until morning when it was discovered and its sufferings ended by a bullet.

NOTES ON THE RIVER.

A fortunate jam of ice about a mile up the Klondike river has enabled the continued operation of the ferry boats. It was expected that long ere this the running ice would have driven everyone to the bridge.

The Burpee abandoned the idea of getting to Thistle creek after she had gotten as far as Stewart. It was seen that if she wanted to get back to Dawson at all this season she must quit the floating ice and float with it down stream.

The spunky little steamer "Burpee" succeeded in getting back to Dawson Saturday night, bringing back with her a snow loaded with coal, etc. The property of J. Macaulay. A landing at Dawson was effected by cutting a canal in the ice to the shore.

The trip from West Dawson has become exceedingly risky from floating ice. On Friday Dawson was seen to be burning, yet the river was hourly getting more and more impassable and only the bravest could dare make the trip after the details.

The water of the Yukon is becoming strangely clear and sweet. Old timers are authority for the statement that the clearness of the water is due to the river freezing on the bottom thus locking up from the river all muddy sediment. After a while much of the "anchor ice" will rise to the surface bringing with it large quantities of mud and even rocks.

Quite a number of barges are tied up at various points along the river awaiting a stop in the present run of ice. The owners are fully aware it would be next to impossible to land their cargo if they could not get down. Old timers say the ice is liable to stop running for a while after the Stewart, Pelly and White rivers freeze up.

A number of rafts have been going by the city. The edge ice prevented them getting out on by town. The Burpee saved a large raft Sunday which was out in the middle of the men aboard. The Burpee is strongly built and has an abundance of power, and she brought the raft ashore at the hospital.

A gentleman called at the Nugget office for papers just after the first edition of 1000 copies had been exhausted. Another thousand were in process of printing but there was not a single copy he could get to take back over the Yukon with him. He amusingly complained that he was almost afraid to return without the papers, for while it would be safe to neglect the commission for food supplies, medicines, clothes and everything else, it would be unsafe to return without the regular issues of the Nugget. He waited nearly two hours for the second edition, and then took a bundle in triumph across the river to the news-hungry inhabitants of West Dawson.

Sunday found the river with large patches of smooth ice along its banks and the fortunate possessors of ice skates were not slow to avail themselves of the rare opportunity for a spin. Altogether for the past few days the river has proved an interesting spectacle. The persistent efforts of botmen to cross and recross showed a high order of courage. If not cross showed a high order of courage. The ice floes would have meant the loss of life to the botmen, for none of the spectators on the shore could have reached them through the thickly running ice. In the center of the river the ice has been for days almost impassable and persistent hard work is required to get through it all. Meanwhile the boats drift a mile or more down the river.

Staple and Fancy sundries. Complete stock Kelly & Co., Druggists, Front street.

STORES GOING UP ON THE WATER FRONT

Mr. Ogilvie Permits Burned Out Merchants to Rebuild.

Two Men Go Down the Yukon With the Ice—How Dawson's Sick Are Being Taken Care of.

Mr. Ogilvie has modified his former mandate that there should be no rebuilding upon the water front. Burned out citizens waited upon him, and suggested that his orders were working a hardship upon men who by reason of the fire had already suffered severe loss. Mr. Ogilvie went to the townsite company and made arrangements whereby the burned-out merchants could rent lots if they desired; the rent to apply as part payment in the spring if they wished to buy. By Mr. Ogilvie's new ruling the burned-out merchants are permitted to rebuild, though the lots will not be permitted to be occupied by strangers. The intention apparently is to leave the ground vacant wherever possible, though there is a weak spot in the plan. Suppose Dave Johnson decides not to rebuild; Tom Peterson wishes to occupy the vacant lot, and simply builds in Johnson's name. From the building activity being displayed upon the water front it would now appear that the cleared place will again soon be all occupied.

Drifted Down. Stream. On Monday morning at about 3 o'clock cries were heard from the middle of the river evidently emanating from parties in distress. A boat was seen by Col. McLaughlin of the N. A. T. & C. Co. drifting down with the ice. It contained two men and from appearances the occupants had about given up hope of reaching the shore. Owing to the imperfect light the situation of the men could not be accurately determined. Some attempt was made toward securing a boat to put off from shore but it could not be done. The boat finally drifted down the river out of sight of the men on shore and up to this writing nothing has been heard from it. It is possible the men succeeded in landing on rounding the turn in the river below Dawson.

Hospital Notes. There is food for reflection in the report of St. Mary's hospital for the past year. There have been treated since August 20th, last year, a total number of 635 indoor patients. There are in the hospital at present some 123 patients and 382 have been dismissed. The total number of deaths for 14 months is just 75. But the one item above every other which the people should take to heart is that \$42,083 of hospital bills remain unpaid. Of 557 patients dismissed or buried 261 have left their bills unpaid.

Father Judge has done an enormous amount of good work, but it is unjust to expect him to bear the expense of bringing back to health Dawson's sick and injured. True he can be depended upon to do all in his power and to accept any and all comers, with and without means, as long as he can keep rooms warmed to put them in; but civilized society has long ago adopted the principle that the care of the destitute and sick is a public duty, and the expense should be born by our citizens equally.

His Property Gone. Editor Nugget:—Dear Sir:—We are very sorry to chronicle the loss to Jack Patterson by the recent fire. Mr. Patterson has been sick in bed for several months past, and had only been out a few days when the fire broke out and he lost his property and the New England also, with a loss of \$12,000. Jack Patterson is a Y. T. Pioneer, having made his first trip into the country in '86. Before that time he was employed at the Black Diamond Coal Mines, near Seattle, when Ben Jones was superintendent.

A miner from boyhood up; always on the frontier, an old timer in Colorado and the quartz states, a staunch friend, an upright and honest man. For a number of years he, in conjunction with J. W. W. conducted the New England, in Seattle, where he has a host of friends. Mr. Patterson is an Odd Fellow and a Knight of Pythias. His many friends in the lower country will deeply regret his loss, and if they were near, a helping hand would be sent to assist him in his hour of distress, as it was a well-known fact that equal Jack's purse-strings were always open when the fire-bred struck Seattle, Spokane and Ellensburg.

His many friends in Dawson and at the mines regret the unfortunate loss he has incurred, and it is hoped that he will soon be able to resume his business. Jack Patterson is a man of honesty and integrity, a good friend, always the same, ready to help when anyone is down. A FRIEND.

Notice. Dr. J. Brown, dentist, has secured quarters in the new A. C. Co.'s office building, Office room 13.

Certificate of Marriage. HEADQUARTERS OF THE KING OF THE KLONDIKE. September 27, 1898. I, Siwash George, king of the Klondike, at Dawson, Y. T., do hereby certify that, on this 27th day of September, A. D., 1898, at 11 p. m., in the city of Dawson, Yukon Territory, Louis Haber, aged twenty-four years, born in New Orleans, and now residing in Dawson, and Malama Annie, aged nineteen years, born in Moosehide and now residing in Loustoun, were united in marriage before me and in my presence, by Bishop Bumpus, who is authorized by law to perform such a ceremony.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal at Dawson, this 27th day of September, A. D., 1898. [SEAL.] SIWASH GEORGE, King of the Klondike, Per CUPID.

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