

The Klondike Nugget

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From Monday and Tuesday's Daily. NOME A GOOD CAMP.

According to the latest advices received from the new diggings on the Alaskan coast, upwards of 6000 or 7000 men will winter at Cape Nome. This number, while it is but a small fraction of the great masses of enthusiastic gold seekers who left during the summer and spring for the Nome diggings is sufficiently large to bear out the opinion that Nome is, after all, the center of a mining country of exceptional richness. This is the mature judgment of almost all those who spent sufficient time in the new coast camp to give them anything of an accurate idea as to its possibilities.

The same difficulties have been encountered at Nome which were met in Dawson in the days of the early rush and which have not entirely been overcome as yet. Thousands of men went to Nome just as they came to Dawson, who were not prepared in any respect to encounter the stern realities of life as they are in a new mining camp. A fitting process necessarily ensued just as the same thing occurred in Dawson and by the working of perfectly natural laws conditions at Nome have been brought down to something of a normal basis, as has been the case with Dawson.

A greater hindrance to the development and growth of Nome has been the effect of the mining laws which govern the location of claims in Alaska.

The Yukon territory has suffered during the past three years from laws which have tended to repress the exercise of individual rights. Alaska has been injured to even a greater extent by regulations which have gone to the opposite extreme. The law whereby claims may be located by power of attorney has been frightfully abused and has resulted in tying up immense tracts of territory which otherwise would be in process of development. As an object lesson to the United States government, "Lucky" Baldwin, the California speculator who went to Nome in the early spring, has engaged himself during the summer in demonstrating how one man can locate as many as 100 claims by power of attorney. There is but little question that he has succeeded in carrying out his design.

The practical effect of this law has been to tie up the Nome country in such a way that a small portion only of an immense extent of rich ground is being worked. In time, however, Nome will work itself out of its difficulties just as the Klondike has done and the beach city will be the center of an industrious and thriving community. There is no longer doubt that it has a rich gold bearing district back of it and that is the essential point to the growth of the camp.

THE DIFFERENCE.

The gold commissioner's office has an appearance of life and activity about it at the present time which is decidedly in contrast to the conditions which prevailed in that department of the public service six months ago. The reason for this is not difficult to discover. It does not indicate that there is more gold in the country than there formerly was nor does it prove a greater willingness on the part of the miners and prospectors of the Yukon to devote their efforts toward opening up the country.

It simply goes to show what the application of fairly broad and liberal laws means to us. Men are crowding to the gold commissioner's office to do business because the laws as they stand at the present time are of such a nature that new territory can be prospected and ground which heretofore has remained idle can be profitably opened up.

The fences which until recently surrounded the district have been let down. The prospector has been allowed to enter and if he is let alone and guaranteed protection in the enjoyment of

the fruits of his labors, the future of the country is assured.

The capitalist can take care of himself. He will not place his money for investment unless he sees that a profit will accrue therefrom. The prospector on the other hand has no capital but his own labor. He has no surety that his efforts will result in anything, but at the very least he is entitled to know that whatever he finds will be his to enjoy. Heretofore in the Yukon territory he has possessed no such guarantee. The workings of the law have been against him.

Now the tide has turned in his favor. The laws are being made for his protection; hence, the difference in conditions at the gold commissioner's office. The story is simple, but it is fraught with consequences of greatest import to the Yukon.

WILL BE RETURNED.

Indications from the outside press point to the prospect that the present government will be returned to power with a strong majority. Such being the case we may well congratulate ourselves in the Yukon territory that the government has taken us underneath its protecting wing. Outside political questions do not affect us to any great extent, but it is certainly cheering to know that the party which in all probability will again be placed in charge of Dominion affairs is favorably disposed toward our interests. It has taken us three years to bring about this happy state of affairs, and if by any chance the present government should be defeated, we would in all probability be compelled to do the same work over again. Our long and arduous campaign of education is now reaching fruition and it would be unfortunate should its results be neutralized by the accession of an entirely new regime to power.

It has been suggested that if the gold discoveries on Stewart river amount to anything Dawson's supremacy as a distributing center is apt to suffer. Even should such prove to be the case there would be no argument against locating all the gold on the Stewart or anywhere else that can be found. As it happens, however, the discoveries thus far made in the Stewart country are so situated as to be naturally dependant upon Dawson as their source of supplies. The nearest route to Clear creek is overland from Dawson, and comparatively little work would construct a splendid winter trail to the new diggings. The same thing is true of McQuesten river. If the claims made for the upper tributaries of that stream prove to have been made on substantial grounds Dawson will be the headquarters for the trade which will naturally result. The site upon which Dawson is located seems to have been laid out as though by inspiration.

The work accomplished by the free reading room last winter was eminently satisfactory and in every way worth while. Hundreds of men whose leisure moments must otherwise have been spent in the stifling atmosphere of densely crowded bar rooms were afforded the opportunity through the free reading room to pass their time with pleasure and profit to themselves and under refining influences. The Nugget regards the free reading room as one of Dawson's most important institutions and we hail with pleasure the knowledge that plans for the extension of its scope of influence are in contemplation with every prospect of reaching successful maturity.

The report published in yesterday's issue of the Nugget respecting the condition of the local market for potatoes and other perishables is very satisfactory. It is undoubtedly true that prices will advance materially within the next few weeks, but it seems clear, at least, that the exorbitant figures which ruled last winter will not prevail again. People in Dawson have become so accustomed during the summer to the taste of "chechako" vegetables that to the average person the idea of again reverting to the "specially prepared

for the Klondike" variety is anything but pleasant. The knowledge, therefore, that real, genuine potatoes are stacked up in our warm storage warehouses by hundreds of tons carries with it a very consoling effect. Such knowledge enables us to view the closing of the river with equanimity.

The Nugget's presidential contest has brought forth some spirited letters from adherents of the opposing candidates. We are pleased to give publication to these communications, as they serve well to gauge the feeling among Americans as to the merits of the two great parties now engaged in the struggle for control of national affairs. It is a remarkable fact that no one thinks of attacking the personality of either of the candidates. Judged as individuals, both Bryan and McKinley are examples of the best there is in American manhood.

Elsewhere in this issue is published a communication from a lady respecting the movement for the formation of a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, inaugurated by the Nugget some time ago. We are pleased to give space to the letter, with the sentiments expressed in which, we are in hearty sympathy. The organization has before it a useful and successful career, and from the manner in which it has started off it is quite clear that its members are fully alive to their opportunities.

The movement in the direction of giving some adequate protection to dumb animals is certainly a step in the right direction, and the ladies and gentlemen concerned in the matter are worthy of every encouragement from the public generally. Dogs in particular are so important a feature of life in this country that they are specially entitled to recognition. Abuse of these faithful animals should be made a serious offence.

Just at this present time, water is king in Dawson just as surely as coal is king in Pennsylvania. This is indeed a hard blow at the heretofore unquestioned supremacy of whisky, but it has to be acknowledged.

The Correct Stroke in Swimming.

The correct stroke of the legs is exactly like that of a frog's hind legs. Watch one of these frogs and copy his style. You cannot do better. The legs are drawn up together slowly, not with a jerk, until they are gathered in close under the body. Then with a sudden, quick spring they are shot out behind, the ankles being turned so that the soles of the feet present as flat a surface as possible to the water and so offer more resistance from which to make progress. As the kick is made the legs should be spread out in the shape of a letter V, but not allowed to sink far down under the surface of the water. If they kick downward at an angle instead of out straight behind much of their energy is wasted in unnecessarily forcing the body out of the water instead of forward through it.—Harper's Bazaar.

Suits of Armor.

The last occasion, it is believed, on which suits of armor were worn in battle by European soldiers was in 1799. The incident, according to chroniclers of the Napoleonic wars, took place in that year, when a small French force was holding the little fort at Aquilla in the Abruzzi against a rising of the hostile peasantry of the district.

The French were not strong enough to fight their way through the lines of their opponents, who outnumbered them 20 to 1, while, as the latter had no guns, the French could hold their position with confidence.

There were, however, left on the space lying between the opposing forces some dozen or so guns which the beleaguered had not been able to take with them into the fort.

An attempt was made by the besiegers to remove these guns by means of a long rope worked by a capstan placed in a house a short distance away, and, though their first endeavors resulted in failure, the French realized that the ultimate capture of the ordnance would seriously jeopardize the chances of the fort holding out.

The necessity of spiking the guns was apparent, but a sortie in the face of the overwhelming musketry fire of the insurgents was out of the question. At this juncture an idea occurred to an artillery officer. He remembered having noticed, making an inspection

of the magazine, some old plate armor, and, selecting from the best reserved 12 suits, he determined to try whether they would not afford sufficient protection for his men to attempt to work under cover of their own guns.

Twelve stalwarts, therefore, marched out clad in this cumbersome, unaccustomed accoutrement, taking with them the necessary tools, and succeeded in executing their purpose under a hail of bullets from the besiegers.—Ex.

Turn on Your Back.

A guest at my summer place a few miles from Palbo while bathing was carried out to sea, and when almost out of sight and all hope had fled, to our surprise, we suddenly saw his body impelled forcibly toward us. Then we saw it recede a few feet, and then again, as it were, shoot 20 feet toward the shore. This continued until my son and myself, at last able to reach him, bore him insensible to the beach.

After recovery his story was that after losing all hope, guided by some mysterious impulse, he had turned upon his back, when he felt himself carried rapidly forward. He had then turned over upon his face to get his bearings, when he was carried out farther from the land, and on again placing himself upon his back the surface waves brought him rapidly to the shore, a rescued man.

It is an error that the drowning man is attacked by cramp except in very cold weather. He drowns from heart failure, induced by the violent exertion and the upward pressure of the water upon the abdomen diminishing the space and impeding the action of the heart. By turning over on the back this pressure is removed, the back being almost entirely a strong wall of bone and muscle; also when on the back the entire body is nearer the surface, and the surface waves tend toward the shore, the undercurrent out to sea, even the legs when upon the back being less exposed to the current that tends toward the sea. By floating gently upon the back the heart, relieved of its pressure, becomes calm and quiet, and the swimmer can regain his strength and float for hours. The bather whose heart is weak should always present, when standing erect, the right side of the body to the waves and thus avoid the Sullivanlike blows of the incoming waves upon a crippled heart. In every bathhouse should be posted the injunction, "In case of exhaustion or accident turn upon the back."—Ex.

Chinese Mechanical Skill.

Whatever may be his lack of moral perception and originality of idea, the heathen Chinese certainly excels in imitative power, and is often very much alive to the excellencies of mechanical devices that he never saw before. In the American Machinist Oberlin Smith affords an illustration of this fact.

Some years ago Mr. Smith sent Henry A. Janvier to China to assist in the erection and operation of coining plants for brass and silver currency. One of the tools which Mr. Janvier took with him was a micrometer caliper, made by a well known firm in the United States, and capable of detecting differences of a thousandth of an inch in the thickness of a piece of metal. The superintendent of one of the shops which Mr. Janvier established was named Wal, and he proved a very intelligent fellow. During an interval of about six weeks he borrowed the caliper almost daily, and was rather tardy in returning it.

Finally he exhibited to the American a reproduction of the instrument which was perfect except in one respect. Certain tables figures stamped into the steel by the Yankee maker of the original were omitted from the copy, and in their place were several Chinese characters. The imitation had been made with the rudest of tools, but was a marvel of accuracy. Mr. Wal proposed an exchange to Mr. Janvier, and the latter agreed to the proposition.

Better Late Than Never.

"I spent a portion of last summer in Skagway," said a Dawson business man this morning, "and while I was there a man was burned to death as the result of an accident. Last night I was regaled with a full account of the cremation in the Daily News. There is nothing like serving news when it is hot."

Magistrate Starns presided over the destinies of lawbreakers this morning, there being but two cases up for hearing.

J. C. Burnett, who operates a steam wood-saw, had obtained a permit to prosecute his calling yesterday in that he presented to the authorities that he desired to operate on the beach where there is wood in danger of being lost in case of an ice jam; but instead of operating on the beach the busy hum of industry was heard on the corner of First street and Third avenue, where there was no danger from jamming ice. For playing "foxy" after obtaining his permit, and for practicing bad faith Burnette was fined \$50 and costs which he paid.

To the charge of allowing a female dog to run at large Edward Guick pleaded guilty, but said he had just returned from the creeks on Saturday and was not aware of conditions. As this was the first time a similar charge has been preferred in the local police court, the defendant was allowed to go on suspended sentence, but warned that for a similar future offence he will be severely punished.

Yesterday Thos. Richard, a young man who looks as though he carries a traveling card issued by the Corn Flowers' Union, entered the Fairview hotel and attempted, in the exuberance incident to an overdose of the oil of joy, to create a disturbance. A peace guardian in the person of Constable Borrow chanced along and Thomas was "custodianized." This morning he paid \$50 and costs after his case had been diagnosed by Magistrate McDonell.

T. E. Thebo and W. A. Marble engaged in a fistic encounter "on the banks of the Yukon, far away" yesterday. In court this morning there were no marks to indicate that violence had been done, but each pleaded guilty and paid \$50 and costs.

A Happy Event.

Mr. and Mrs. August Bjeremarck gave a pleasant little "at home" last night in their pretty home near the corner of Fourth avenue and Sixth street, the occasion being the anniversary of the birth of their cousin, Mr. Gladwin, who makes his home with them. Social games, music, recitations and readings were the order of the event. Excellent refreshments were served between 11 and 12 o'clock, after which the games were continued into the "wee sma." Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Bjeremarck, Mr. and Mrs. Ogilvie, Mr. and Mrs. White, Mrs. Clegg, Mrs. Reid, Miss Holmes, the Misses Larsen, Messrs. R. P. McLennan, Messrs. Matheson, Robt. Dick, Harry Dick, Cole, Staedecker, Chisholm, Muir, Jones, Harry Jones, Hagel, J. S. Cowan and Frank Cowan.

No More Newspaper Mail.

The winter mail schedule went into effect yesterday, and the last newspaper mail went in yesterday morning. Hereafter, newspapers will be sent as far as the railroad goes, that is to Whitehorse, but they will be carried no farther. Only letter mail will be taken in during the winter months. The schedule time for the carriers has not yet been fixed, nor have any plans been yet made as to how the mail will be carried after the steamers tie up and before the ice is sufficiently strong to make a trail on. These will be announced in a few days.—Alaskan, Oct. 13.

Canadian Notes.

Quebec, Oct. 1.—Sir Wilfrid Laurier speaks here on Wednesday, October 3d.

Hamilton, Oct. 1.—Hamilton's population is 55,561, an increase over last year of 1104.

Toronto, Oct. 1.—The population of Toronto is 199,504, an increase of 6136 over last year.

The Tip Top Copper Mining Company and the Kitchie-Gammi Gold Mining Company, each with a capital of \$1,000,000, are seeking a charter from the Ontario government.

St. Louis de Beauharnois, Oct. 1.—G. Cook, aged 5, a native of Argyllshire, Scotland, is dead.

London, Oct. 1.—A valuable car replacer or wrecking frog has been invented and patented by Ed Best, auxiliary car foreman of the C. P. R. in this city. By actual test, in presence of General Manager McNichol and Thos. Tait, manager of the eastern lines, on Friday last, six cars which were thrown off the track were replaced on the rails inside of 15 minutes by use of the new invention.

Ottawa, Oct. 1.—Thirty or forty merchants here were victimized on Saturday night by having unloaded on them bogus \$50 bills of Molsons Bank.

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