

The Klondike Nugget

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NOTICE.

When a newspaper offers its advertising space at a nominal figure, it is a practical admission of "no circulation." THE KLONDIKE NUGGET asks a good figure for its space and in justification thereof guarantees to its advertisers a paid circulation five times that of any other paper published between Juneau and the North Pole.

AN UP-RIVER TRAIL.

As noted elsewhere in these columns, a petition has been prepared and presented to the Yukon council asking for an appropriation for the construction of a trail up the river.

The petition sets forth the facts relative to the amount of freight known to be cached at various points along the river and very reasonably argues that the public welfare requires the expenditure of public money to relieve the situation.

The quantity of mining machinery alone is sufficient to justify some effort on the part of the authorities to assist in getting it down.

It would be apparent at once that the failure of all this machinery to arrive means a decided decrease in the output of gold for next spring. Claims which would be working and turning out gold in large quantities will of necessity lie idle and undeveloped if this machinery is permitted to remain all winter up the river.

The petition is well worthy the consideration of the council, and if it should be found inadvisable for the government to undertake the entire task of constructing a trail a substantial contribution, at least, might be made.

BOYS AND CIGARETTES.

Liberty is not license. When these northern camps were made up exclusively of grown men and a few grown women, the man was considered a "crank" who would object to the large measure of license which was claimed by many. Personal liberty knew few of the restraints imposed in civilized communities, and each man was allowed in a large degree to follow the bent of his own mind without loss of prestige.

Today, things are different. We have a juvenile population growing up in our midst. Complaints from mothers have poured in upon The Nugget that tobacco dealers are supplying young lads with tobacco and cigarettes in quantities only limited by the financial ability of the boys to purchase.

Since receipt of the complaints a careful watch has been kept on the boys met on the streets and in public gatherings. It can be easily seen that the complaints are justified. We find that minors are unable to purchase liquors since it would endanger the license of the dealer; but we also find that no restraint is attempted in the matter of supplying the boys with tobacco. The fumes of the demoralizing cigarette are seen rising from any gathering of boys one happens to run across, while the pale lips and sallow cheeks of many of the boys bespeak the devotee. Undoubtedly the mothers have not been far deceived and their complaints are well founded.

A tobaccoist who, for the paltry gain of a few cents, will sell to an immature boy of 12 the wherewithal of his own destruction, is undeserving of the slightest consideration either at our hands or at the hands of the police. If the general law of Canada against supplying minors with tobacco or liquor is found insufficient for the case, let a special ordinance be passed and let the penalty be sufficiently severe to at once put an end to the traffic. Not an argument can or will be advanced against the measure, and it would at once relieve many an anxious mother.

Boys caught in the act of smoking should be made to reveal the means whereby they became possessed of the tobacco. It is an evil much more easily remedied now than later, when it shall have become more firmly established. It is a small matter, on account of the comparative scantiness of our juvenile population, yet it would appear as if we owed this much to our growing metropolitan proportions and dignity.

THE EDMONTON ROUTE.

With this issue we begin the publication of a description of the Edmonton route to Dawson, via the McKenzie and Porcupine rivers. The author is a reliable man and tells his story in a straightforward way, which admits of no doubt as to its authenticity. It is the first detailed narrative upon the subject yet published, and we feel certain will be read with interest by every man and woman in the territory.

The half of the horrors endured by men who were induced to take that "all Canadian route" will never be told. The men who went through the terrible experience as a usual thing dislike to refer to the horrors which they experienced.

The whole story is one of danger, hardship, privation and suffering from beginning to end. Miles and miles of rapids and canyons were encountered, and the wonder is that the death list, large as it is, was not larger still.

But the story of the trip speaks for itself. It will interest our readers to know from the experiences of men who were there, just what degree of truth was in the fairy tales which were told concerning the practicability of the all-Canadian route via Edmonton. We have yet to see the first man who came over the Edmonton route and has a good word to say for it. Or, to place the matter in a still stronger light, we have yet to see the man who came over the Edmonton route and who has not the very strongest condemnation for it.

The story is not only interesting but instructive as well, and should be read and preserved for the benefit of other deluded mortals who might at some future time be persuaded to tempt fate by setting out for the Yukon via the Edmonton route.

BRITISH PATRIOTISM.

During the troubled period, some years ago, when Britain occupied a position of "splendid isolation" amongst the nations, the sneer was freely flung by the European press that far from the colonies of Britain being of any use to her in case of a life-and-death struggle, they would prove a source of weakness and embarrassment.

Twice has the lie been hurled back in the teeth of that prejudiced press, on both occasions by the volunteers of Canada and the Australian colonies, and again it is being, as it were, thrust

down the throat of that mendacious press by the spontaneous action of Canada and Australia. New South Wales has already in the field a body of her stalwart young sons, and before long they may be engaged with the enemy. Canada, notwithstanding the atrocious misstatements of the disloyal press, lost not a day in intimating to the imperial government that it had only to call and Canada would be found ready, rifle in hand, for the distant battlefields of the Cape.

It is alleged that the Russian and a certain portion of the German press, are eagerly speculating upon possibilities of the present juncture for wiping off old scores against Britain, because they think Britain will be too busy at the Cape for awhile to be able to protect the other portions of the empire. Fortunately those sections of the Russian and German press do not control the destinies of those countries, or the consequences for those countries would be the reverse of pleasant.

After the present war, when Great Britain will be able to draw a line from the eastern boundary of the German possessions clear across to the mouth of the Zambesi and call all south of that British (as Portugal having now fingered a million or two of British gold, for Delagoa Bay, will probably be only too glad to repeat the experience for the remainder of Lorenzo Marquez)—When this shall be accomplished, the continental critics will see the longed-for disintegration of the British empire farther off than ever.—Victoria Times.

Developments show that the United States officials at Nome exercised the wisest discretion in turning over the prisoner, John Sarga, to the Canadian authorities. Having received word that the Last Chance murderer was in American territory, the whole machinery of government was let loose for his apprehension. Having secured the man, an informal inquiry was made into the case and the authorities decided that justice would be best subserved by waiving all formalities and turning the prisoner over to the Canadian police. The man's open confession of his crime shows the right thing to have been done in the right way, at the right time. By such working hand in hand of the authorities of the two countries, there is an added security in both countries to both life and property. The waiving of technical objections on either side is distinctly to the advantage of both. Long may this mutual understanding continue.

Dogs are aggravating, of course, and one feels like excusing a whole lot of sulphurous expletives in the drivers, but the howling of beaten dogs in our ears night and day suggests the enforcement of the Northwest ordinance against cruelty to animals. There is no more faithful servant in the North than the dogs, nor any so hardly used. Horses would die in a month if subjected to a third of the hardships which dogs cheerfully undergo for their master's benefit. A little interference by the police would act as a wholesome restraint on the 200-pound bullies who in anger will maim a 50-pound dog.

Miss host Burke of the Ho born restaurant gave another of his celebrated dinners last Sunday to the evident appreciation of his numerous guests. The occasion was enlivened by a stringed orchestra which rendered excellent music during the repast.

THE STROLLER'S COLUMN.

It was at the preliminary hearing before the committing magistrate and Thos. Russel was being tried for using marked cards in gambling. Constable Boothe was explaining their use.

"I don't understand what you mean by 'hold cards,'" remarked his honor.

"Well, you see the face cards count ten, and you want to make nearer 21 without getting over that amount than the dealer, and"

"You'll have to show me," his honor rejoined, he evidently being from Missouri.

With a smile, Constable Boothe took the deck and dealt himself and the magistrate a hand "Want any more cards?" asked the dealer.

"No, I've got enough."

Then the dealer looked at his hand. He had 17. The mark on the back of the topmost card showed it to be a fourspot. Of course he drew a card and beat the judge who held 18.

"If we were playing for keeps," he remarked with a smile.

Several more hands were dealt, always with the same result, and now his honor knows more about "black jack" than many of the devotees of the game.

The Theaters.

Never before were Dawson amusement circles run at the high pressure of today. The only unfortunate thing about the matter is the smallness of the theaters which will not comfortably seat the large crowds which desire to attend the excellent productions on the boards.

At the Opera house this week an excellently mounted play is produced under the direction of the pains-taking favorite, Paul Bordman. "A Fair Rebel," in four acts and five scenes is a drama of distinct merit, giving Blossom, Bordman, Lucy Lovell, Julia Wolcott, Bob Lawrence, Layne, Mullen and Hillyer a splendid opportunity for the display of their undoubted talent. The situations are charming, often pathetic and always interesting. The ability of Paul Bordman's productions to fill the house shows Dawson to have a high appreciation of well-acted legitimate drama. The olio is long and, besides all the old favorites includes the Dawson City quartette, Rooney, Forrester and Palmer. One must go early if a seat is expected. Later, one is fortunate to find standing room.

The Monte Carlo this week produces Denman Thompson's great play of "Joshua Whitecomb," with J. B. Shaw in the title role, and Conchita as Little Tot, the crossing sweeper. With such a host of clever comedians as Mulligan, Eddie O'Brien, Matretus and Shaw—each one a show in himself—it is probable that nothing more uproariously funny was ever produced. The olio is long, but of a high order of excellence, which precludes tiresomeness. Conchita is inimitable in her characteristic songs. The theater should be double as large to accommodate the crowds.

Safe in Dawson.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Sun in two separate issues informed its readers that a party of five, including two ladies, had perished in the river above Stewart all the parties concerned are alive and well in Dawson.

Mrs. Dumbolton was the last to arrive and denies strenuously that she was drowned at all. In proof of that fact the lady herself walked into The Nugget office on Tuesday. She is in splendid health, and with the exception of lost personal effects is none the worse for her trip.

Col. Evans Advanced.

Col. Evans, commander of the Yukon field force, has been summoned to Toronto to assume command of the Second military district of Canada. Col. Evans assumes the position recently held by Col. Otter, who was despatched to the Transvaal at the head of the Canadian contingent. Col. Evans will leave for the outside over the ice in a short time. It is not altogether without the bounds of possibility that Col. Evans himself will be ordered to the Transvaal should it become necessary for Canada to contribute additional men.

Major Hemming assumes command of the Yukon force.

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Owners of Go Points on in Getting

A movement who have fre caught in the secure aid from getting their son.

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