

The Klondike Nugget

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From Monday and Tuesday's Daily.
"MEET IT FAIRLY."

The News wants the incorporation question met fairly. That is all any of us desire. If the News and Mr. Clarke will conduct their pro-incorporation campaign on the same fair lines which those who are opposed to them have observed, there will be no complaint from anyone.

The difference in the tactics pursued by the opponents and advocates of incorporation is worthy of notice. The former have communicated their views to the Yukon council through a signed petition, upon which is represented the great majority of Dawson's heaviest tax payers. Every individual or firm concerned is on record by signature and the council through examination of the lists will be enabled to determine to what extent the signers of the petition are representative of the material interests of the town.

On the other hand we have the pro-incorporationists in the form of a committee endeavoring to convince the council that they, and not the signers of the petition represent the wishes of the public.

This committee which assumes such extraordinary responsibilities was appointed at a meeting of 50 or 60 persons, a number of whom are known to be opposed to incorporation. As to those who attended the meeting and were favorable to the measure, we do not believe that the committee itself would have the temerity to claim that they represented ten per cent of the taxable interests of the town.

We are quite agreed to the theory that in questions of government, other interests aside from those of the taxpayer are to be considered. But in matters of a purely local nature we submit that the heavy taxable interests are of first consideration.

If the News and its coadjutors wish to meet the question fairly and squarely, let them frame a petition setting forth their views and present the same to the council exactly as has been done by the opponents of incorporation.

A comparison of the two petitions may then be made and an intelligent conclusion reached as to the merits of each. That is the only way in which the question can be met fairly and if the advocates of incorporation are in any respect sincere in what they say they will lose no time in placing themselves on record before the council at the earliest possible moment.

ENTITLED TO RESPECT.

Andrew Carnegie has presented to the city of Seattle the sum of \$200,000 for the purpose of establishing a new public library for that city. While the gift is a princely one and will in all probability more than compensate for the actual financial loss resulting from the late fire, it is, but a small item in the numerous benefactions which have been placed to Carnegie's credit during the last few years. He has given millions for similar purposes and each year sees the scope of his charities constantly increasing and expanding.

Carnegie is only one of a number of American multi-millionaires who have given and are giving freely of their wealth to the enrichment and betterment of humanity. Nevertheless it has become a popular thing of late years to decry the rich man. Silver tongued orators and fluent writers have sought to educate the people to the belief that the man of wealth is a menace to their liberties and institutions. All manner of theories have been advanced to prove the dangers of wealth in the hands of the few, and the passing of the so-called "good old times" when no one had anything, has been bitterly deplored.

In all good faith it must be said that immense wealth contains within itself a power which if misdirected, is capable of producing widespread evil. But on the other hand the same force contains even greater possibilities for the accom-

plishment of good. It is human nature, whether found in the rich man or the man of poverty, to desire the respect of one's fellow men. The man who through his own efforts or through the favors of fortune finds himself possessed of immense wealth, is presented with golden opportunities for perpetuating his name, and so far as the millionaires of America are concerned it must be said that as a class they have made creditable use of their opportunities.

As long as we are able to point to such institutions as the Stanford University and Rockefeller's immensely endowed University of Chicago, as also the Carnegie libraries scattered over two continents, we must seriously question either the logic or good faith of the critic who holds that possession of wealth is sufficient evidence upon which to condemn the holder thereof.

Immense riches cannot remain for all time with one man or one family. Sooner or later through natural processes distribution takes place and the masses, who are the producers of all wealth come again into possession.

Just now it is the fad among rich men to give princely endowments to educational and charitable institutions, with which fad we doubt if the most enthusiastic socialistic propagandist will be able to find fault.

To our way of thinking, a man even though he be a millionaire, who parts with his money for such purposes is entitled to no small degree of respect and has a right to consideration as a valuable member of society.

TIME TO WORK.

The man who will first demonstrate the presence of a paying quartz lode in the Klondike district should be entitled to a prize. The quartz possibilities of the country have been discussed very extensively during the past three years, and all manner of claims are made for various classes of ore samples of which have been brought forward for exhibition purposes. This is all well enough in its way but what is wanted is some one with sufficient faith in his property to start in developing it upon substantial lines. A few stamp mills in operation or a reduction works under construction will do more for the advancement of the interests of the territory than all the nicely phrased prospectuses that can be issued in a year. We have talked "quartz" for a long time. Now, let us have something done.

Nicola Tesla is endeavoring to solve the problem of sustaining human life without nourishment other than can be obtained from the atmosphere. If Tesla will come to Dawson and give a successful demonstration of his theory, a fortune awaits him greater than Croesus ever dreamed of possessing. We doubt, however, if the scheme would work here in winter time, unless some plan could be devised for raising the temperature of the atmosphere. Under present conditions it is bad enough to take the air externally without figuring on internal doses.

The determination of the authorities to enforce the dog pound ordinance at this time will meet with general approbation. The number of cases of parties being attacked by vicious dogs has become so large as to require stringent measures. It will work no particular hardship for owners of dogs to keep the animals tied up for a time until the malady which seems to have been induced by the cold weather abates.

It appears that extreme heat and extreme cold have about the same effect upon dogs. At any rate Dawson is overrun with canines which exhibit distinct hydrophobic symptoms. A number of people have already been attacked by the animals and in fact the malady among them seems to have reached sufficient proportions to warrant immediate attention from the council.

We are still waiting to know what Mr. Sifton had to say in reply to that long French and English telegram sent by the News. In the reply doesn't appear in print pretty soon we shall begin

to suspect that our contemporary must have had another dream.

In spite of the intense cold the mail came in yesterday according to promise. We hereby express our most respectful admiration for the mail carriers who have the courage to keep on the trail during this weather. Greater devotion to duty is seldom seen.

By the way, is it cold enough for you?

WAS NOT LIBEL.

(Continued from page 2.)

The proof of the prosecution fell short in many ways. "First," he said, "the paper, as it has been proven, is not the property of the defendant, but belongs to Mr. O'Brien, the defendant, merely occupying a position on the staff. Further, there is no proof that the defendant wrote the article complained of. Lastly, the article did not state that Joseph A. Clarke had defrauded friends in Brockville, that he had received bribes or any of the other things spoken of. It had merely said that (meaning the writer) had not been guilty of these things."

Justice Craig said that everyone interested in the publication of a newspaper was guilty of libel when libelous matter appeared in its columns. Publisher, editor, even the man who carried the paper to the printer, and the only way they could get out of it was through a sustained plea of innocence.

Joseph A. Clarke addressed the court and jury, saying: "The motion to dismiss the case constitutes about as strong a case as can well be made out in my behalf."

The most malignant charges had been made against him that could be well brought against a British subject in his own country. The defense had based their case upon the statement that publication had not been proven. He considered that it had been proven. He said he would not attempt any flights of oratory even if he was able.

Attorney Walsh then made his argument, commencing with the statement that the private prosecutor was within his rights in bringing the present charges if he saw fit.

Then he went on to show that if a man convicted of forgery should be spoken of by a newspaper as being a thief he would have the right to charge the paper, or its management, with libel.

Replying to Mr. Clarke's statement that he had not been fairly treated, Mr. Walsh said that he did not believe the prosecutor foresaw that it would result in the narrative which dropped from his lips in the witness box yesterday being brought forth.

Referring to the career of Clarke in the Yukon, the attorney asked the jury which they would prefer to have published the matter complained of as libelous or the story he himself had told.

Speaking of the trip to Fort Yukon referred to by Clarke yesterday the items of a dog, charged up in his bill of expenses at \$450, and the tent at \$50, the attorney said that by the showing of the prosecutor these charges were false.

He had been heard to say, according to his own admission in the bank, "Hurry up! There are ten men waiting at the 'ten dollar door.'"

In reviewing the statement of witness concerning the Brockville friends, he said: "According to the testimony of witness he received \$1200 from Brockville friends, which he was to use in locating and securing mining property jointly with them. This money had been spent in paying his expenses into the country, and in outfitting himself with the exception of what was used in the location and recording of two claims, the procuring of a license and some development work, amounting to about \$125 in all. No part of the balance of this money had ever been returned to the Brockville friends."

Justice Craig told counsel for the defense that he could refer to these things as going to show the general character of the prosecutor, but not to prove the truth of the matter complained of.

In charging the jury the justice referred to the letter written by Clarke which appeared simultaneously with the other matter, and said that if the jury believed that Clarke had brought the matter upon his own head by the issuing of that challenge, then the accused was innocent. The jury, however, could not consider the question of whether the matter complained of was true or not.

At the close of the charge to the jury that body withdrew to deliberate, and the court adjourned till 2 p. m.

The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, after deliberating about an hour during which time the case was fully gone into.

Today's Weather

Last night was a weather record breaker such as caused every sour dough in the country to throw up his hands and admit that colder weather was never before known in this part of the country.

The official record this morning, as carefully kept by Sergeant-Major Tucker, as well as Commissioner Ogilvie's thoroughbred sweepstakes thermometer at the other end of the city, shows 64.5 degrees below zero, colder by 7.5 degrees than the weather of one year ago today which was the coldest of last winter. In the same place with the official instruments last night was a common thermometer which reached 75 below, but later froze and pushed up to 1 below where it now remains stationary.

The coldest weather yet reported is at the Forks where the thermometer at the Gold Hill hotel is stationary at 150 below zero. This is vouched for by reputable citizens of the Forks including Mayor Geisman and the police officers. Other and more conservative thermometers at the Forks have reached 59 below. From Gold Run this morning 68 was reported. On the Dome at 7 o'clock this morning it was 50 below, but had risen at noon to 32 below, at which time the sun was shining brightly. Two four-horse loads of freight were despatched on the Dome yesterday, the drivers taking the horses away to await moderation of the weather. On Dominion work has been suspended on account of the severe cold, 60 below being recorded. On Sulphur about the same temperature prevails, although considerable work is still being done.

Notwithstanding the severity of the weather, no casualties or even serious injury from the cold has as yet been authentically reported. Many rumors have been started, among them one to the effect that a driver for Orr & Tukey had frozen on his seat, but investigation has proven them to be without foundation.

There has been but little moderation in the weather since morning and at 3 o'clock today indications are that tonight will be fully as cold as last.

THE STORM.

Cold blows the gale from out the north;
Wild upon the forest, vale and moor.
Fierce spirits wander boldly forth,
Grim monsters scream at every door.
Against the tempest's hurrying might
God keep the helpless poor tonight.

Cold creep the waves along the shore;
Wild about the breakers in their gloom.
Fierce swells the voice of ocean roar,
Grim stalk the shades along the lee.
Against the storm's tempestuous might
God guard the sea-tossed ships tonight.

Cold mists are turned to rattling hail;
Wild voices call in every gust.
Fierce forms resist the shouting gale;
Grim faces toward the sea are thrust.
Oh, God, against the ocean's might
Protect the staggering ships tonight!

Ah, cold the sea's embrace and chill
The winds that wildly howl and sting.
As wrecks are tossed and forms now still
To spar and mainstay sadly cling.
Ah, yes, for aye, from tempest might
Thine own are safely housed tonight.
—Emily A. Warden in Philadelphia Ledger.

Concession Granted.

Information lately received from Ottawa at the gold commissioner's office is to the effect that the application for a concession on Foster creek opposite the mouth of Hunker has been granted, but that in the concession is not included any placer claims located prior to the application being made for the concession. It is said that the best part of the creek is covered by the placers.

Watch It Go Down.

Fearing that his thermometer would go out of business before registering the degree of coldness which is possibly yet to come, Jeweler Sale has attached to it a strip of cardboard with the degrees marked off down to 340 degrees below zero. The people are anxiously waiting to see the indicator drop.

Sale got the above idea from an Arkansas farmer who had a cow so old that the yearly rings or wrinkles extended to the ends of her horns, so he put corn cobs on the ends of the horns for the wrinkles to run out on and the cow lived another 27 years.

Victims Identified

Although Inspector Rutledge and Stenographer Blackman who went to Hunker to conduct inquests on the bodies of the men caught by a cave-in on claim 22 below on last Thursday, are not expected to return before this evening, it is known that both bodies have been recovered and that the names of the unfortunate men are William Levy, aged about 50 years, and Frank Swop, aged about 25.

In his capacity of coroner Inspector Rutledge will make a careful investigation of the claim and all circumstances surrounding the death of the two men, and if any carelessness is apparent the blame will be attached where it belongs.

A Birthday Party.

Last night Mrs. L. N. Lowell, whose husband is proprietor of the roadhouse on 51 below on Bonanza, surprised her liege lord with a party, it being the occasion of his 43d anniversary. A very enjoyable evening was spent, elegant refreshments being lavishly served by the hostess. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Lowell, Mr. and Mrs. Lowden, Mr. and Mrs. Kenyon, Messrs. Walkinshaw, Roasted and Barispaugh.

Loyalist Factions Upheld.

Philadelphia, Dec. 25.—The national judiciary of the Senior Order of American Mechanics, which heard evidence to determine which of the two factions in this state is entitled to recognition of the national board, today made public its decision in which what is termed the "loyalist" faction is upheld.

The decision enjoins William A. Pike, S. D. Wood, H. S. Heckman, S. B. Mench and E. Z. Badger from assuming or attempting to exercise the duties of the offices of the state council to which they claim to have been elected.

The difference arose over the refusal of the "insurgent" faction to pay the national council per capita tax under the present system of representation.

A Child's Letter.

A little Eastern boy, aged 7, who is evidently being taught phonetically, writes to his auntie in Dawson. Following are facsimiles of some portions of his letter:

Dear Aunt edy—I got the nukets and doler Bill you sent me. I have a sore throat and a kold and did not go to school the smorning but will go the safternoon.

Mother wanted me to take some castor oil the smorning and was going to give me ten cents but I only wanted five cents be coes it wasant worth it. It wasant worth five cents but I took five cents. I took it in wiskey. If you ever have to take castor oil take it in wiskey. You dont taste it hardie a tall. If wiskey is to deer there take it in milk. Dallos nose gets bunged up at night and he snors all night. We dont want to stay in this old house any longer. It is such an old house, the kitchen is so smol. we have a big paking case we call it our toy cuberd. Father is going to by me a stashey finger for a krisman present. you cant fool me now a bout santy cles be coes mother told me all a bout it. It is our mother and our father. from REX.

POLICE COURT NEWS.

Magistrate Starnes presided in the police court this morning at which time there was but one case up for hearing.

John G. Albertson, a turkey-trodden looking individual from Grand Forks, was up on the charge of stealing an armful of wood, the property of Max Endleman. The evidence was "dead fernist" the prisoner as the arresting officer had taken him in the very act. It also came out in evidence that Albertson has no business other than boosting around gambling houses. Although the wood stolen was only valued at 25 cents, the court expressed the belief that a man who steals one armful of wood will continue along the same line ad infinitum and is, therefore, better off by having the thumb screw of restraint applied. For the next 30 days Albertson will be privileged to handle wood for his board and he was given that period at hard labor.

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