

# The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES	
Yearly in advance	\$24.00
Six months	12.00
Three months	6.00
Per month by carrier in city (in advance)	2.00
Single copies	.25

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1899

### 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.

The NUGGET has a regular carrier and express service covering Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail or express may be left at the Nugget Express office or given to creek agents.

### SHOULD BE CHANGED.

The method of procedure in vogue in cases coming under the jurisdiction of the gold commissioner has been the occasion of much annoyance to litigants in the past. Among other features open to criticism is the ruling by virtue of which plaintiffs in contest cases are compelled to effect a personal service of papers upon defendants.

In a country whose population is so transient as it is in this territory it will be readily seen that a direct hardship must often be worked. A man may be in Dawson today, on Eldorado creek tomorrow and the next day over on Dominion or Sulphur. Under such circumstances to hunt him up and serve papers upon him, especially if he happens to be expecting the service, is next to an impossibility.

We have in mind the case of a certain party who was prospecting a claim under a permit from the gold commissioner's office. While so engaged the claim was staked and recorded by another man. A contest was immediately brought and the plaintiff was informed that he was obliged to serve the papers. Notices posted at various prominent places in the city and diligent personal search failed to locate the defendant. When the day of the contest arrived, Mr. Fawcett held that the case could not be proceeded with inasmuch as the papers had not been served.

The plaintiff in the case had spent a week's time in his endeavor to find the man who had jumped his claim and even then had to submit to another aggravating and expensive delay.

It seems that some more equitable arrangement could be made whereby this unnecessary expenditure of time and money could be avoided. Dawson has three newspapers through any or all of which notice of summons may be advertised more cheaply than a personal service can be effected and with far more satisfactory results. This having been done no further obligations should rest upon the plaintiff in so far as serving notice is concerned, and in case the defendant should fail to appear, the case should go to the plaintiff by default.

### THE CLAIM JUMPER

Every army has its camp followers, men of vulture-like instincts, too cowardly to fight, but ready at all times to fatten upon the misfortunes of friend or foe alike when it can be done with safety to themselves.

Akin to this breed of leeches is the professional claim jumper. Ordinarily he is a man who never handled a pick, who holds a shovel in contempt and would not recognize a gold pan if he should meet one. Unable to live by honest toil he depends upon his wits to secure for himself the results of the labors of others. He is found in every mining camp on the face of the globe and although often clothed in the garb of respectability, his true character is bound sooner or later to betray itself.

He usually has a keenscent for technicalities. Instead of devoting his energies to the discovery of new gold

diggings he bends his efforts to the discovery of flaws in the titles to property belonging to honest men.

Appropos of the above is the stamped case that occurred on Dominion and Gold Run last week. The claims on these creeks which were the objective points of the jumpers were all included in ground of proven value and for which in many instances large sums of money had been paid. Title to them in numerous cases has passed and repassed, each new purchaser acting upon the assumption that a certificate of record properly issued from the gold commissioner's office was a sufficient guarantee of title to justify the investment of money in the property. Mr. Fawcett's ruling as to the size of the claims may have been technically wrong but that ruling once having been made and grants to the ground having been given under it the government is bound under every principle of right and equity to place the seal of legality upon it.

Ordinarily the act of a duly accredited agent binds the principal even though the agent may have exceeded his authority. To just what extent this principle applies in the relations of government and government official is doubtful but in a case such as the one in hand we cannot believe that any court would rule adversely to the claims of men who have recorded or purchased ground upon the assurance of the gold commissioner that the title was perfect.

We are convinced that the jumpers have had their trouble for their pains.

### NOW WILL HE DECIDE.

A recent ruling of the new gold commissioner strikes us like a dash of cold water in the face. As is well known there are several creeks and hills which under Mr. Fawcett's administration were staked off in 100-foot claims. Take for instance gold hill. It was so staked and even since the advent of the 250-foot law Mr. Fawcett ruled that 100 feet was the law for that ground and would be continued. He was still more liberal and if a piece of unoccupied ground was found lacking 10 per cent of the prescribed size, Mr. Fawcett ruled that it was not a fraction but a claim and was eligible to location.

Again, when a 100-foot claim was abandoned or forfeited it was eligible for relocation. Mr. Senkler has made some changes which are anything but favorable to the miner. From this time forward all unrepresented 100-foot claims will revert to the government by reason of his ruling that a 100-foot claim is only a fraction of the 250 feet square allowed by the present law. It is as though he said you must stake 250 feet; anything less will be a fraction and you cannot record. Thus it will be seen that in order to locate on gold hill one must now find nine of these 100-foot claims vacant in a body in order to get the 250 feet square. More than this he has expressed himself as disposed to consider each of those 100-foot claims as a government fraction and even if a mile square of them should become vacant, the miner and prospector are not entitled to any portion of it at all.

We shall always be sorry to see Mr. Senkler cater in any way to the grab-all policy of his government by any such decisions. His recent decision not to record for Dominion claim jumpers as chronicled the past week has predisposed the miners of the community to regard Mr. Senkler's incumbency as distinctly favorable to the miners. We sincerely hope nothing will occur to break that entente cordiale.

### NO NEED FOR FEAR.

Many Americans have submitted without audible complaint to outrages and unjust treatment at the hands of petty officials in the Yukon territory. They are willing to admit that in their own country such a condition of affairs could not prevail for a day but seem to consider that being under Canadian rule they must submit to the inevitable and say nothing.

We are at a loss to understand such a position. It can be explained upon one supposition only, viz., the prevailing con-

dition that complaint at headquarters means personal loss to the complainant.

It is time that this feeling should cease. If men are to be overawed by the insolence of petty clerks and their rights jeopardized at the whims of these underlings then God save the country.

But we believe there is too much courage and manhood in the Yukon territory for this thing to be continued indefinitely. We have shown in our last few issues that some men at least are not afraid to tell what they know. Had the victims of the systematic plucking that has been going on for the past year been as willing to talk six months ago as they are now, the situation today would be far brighter, but as long as men remain afraid to call their souls their own and are willing to bow in humble submission before the awful presence of a bench claim recorder, just so long will they remain fair victims to be plucked.

The ice is now broken, however, and the facts long concealed are at length coming to light. The Nugget has by no means exhausted its ammunition and the recital of one act of injustice has invariably had the effect of bringing others still more shameful to the front.

The fight is by no means ended. In fact it has not yet begun. The Nugget has outlined a campaign for purity in the administration of affairs in this territory and it will continue the contest until it is brought to a successful issue or go down in the attempt. It is by no means a pleasant task that we have set for ourselves, but disagreeable as it may be that task will be completed.

### MUST HAVE A NEW ACT.

The action of the Miners' Association in publicly condemning the late Dominion creek stampereders shows a wholesome moral atmosphere among the members of that institution. The argument is simply that justice between men or between men and their government demands that the miners on Dominion be left in undisturbed possession of the property they took up in good faith and which has been improved and shown to be valuable by their labor alone. If the Canadian government had desired to perpetrate a lasting injury upon their Klondike subjects and had carefully laid their plans with that end in view they could not have exercised more devilish ingenuity than was done by the passage of regulations to immediately take effect and yet which could not, possibly penetrate to Dawson in less than from three to four months. However the thing is done and the way out of the difficulty appears to be for the legislature to pass a small act validating the acts of the ex-gold commissioner on that particular occasion when he allowed the recording of 500 foot claims after the law had been passed reducing them to 100 feet.

### A HUMBUG EXPOSED.

Gradually the days are lengthening and the light becomes stronger each succeeding 24 hours. The inhabitants of Dawson now have several hours of sunshine in the middle of each day, and old Sol's familiar face above the hills brings cheer and promise to all hearts alike. But this brings to mind the thought that in this matter of daylight the country has been deliberately maligned as in several other particulars. True it is that for a couple of weeks the sun failed to show up above our surrounding hills, but there was no time—excepting on cloudy days—when the sunlight could not be seen at some time in the day brightly streaming on the crest of the hills to the west, east and north of us. True it is that the sunlight penetrating the atmosphere at such an oblique angle lost much of its strength to the discomfiture of our photographers, but we are not all photographers and to most of us those long twilights appeared to be a very respectable six hours of daylight. While the light during the middle of the day did not appeal to the ordinary sense of sight, that it lacked illuminating and penetrating power was self-evident. Additional lights were necessary in stores and houses at a distance of 10 or 15 feet from the window, but this was

largely due to the smallness of the windows usually found in the cabins and other buildings here. To sum up, the past winter has destroyed numerous bugbears of this country and none have been killed so utterly as that humbug circulated upon the outside regarding the long months of darkness here.

It will be news to a great many people of Dawson and vicinity to learn that Edward Bellamy, the famous writer on social and political reform, is dead. Bellamy's "Looking Backward" created a profound impression and in fact gave rise to an almost distinct school of social and economic thought, although as a matter of fact he only crystallized a public sentiment that had been in process of growth and development for years. That practical results will ensue from his writings within the present generation is scarcely to be expected. Great reforms come slowly and statesmen in all ages have been chary of socialist ideas. Nevertheless Edward Bellamy has been a power for good in leading men to a realization of the fact that popular government as it exists today is anything but perfect. Profiting by his writings and those of others who will follow in his foot steps it may be expected that more attention will be paid in the future to remedying existing evils than has been done in the past.

A number of valuable claims on Dominion and other gold creeks have recently been left open for re-location in a most astounding fashion. That men with valuable claims on which have been done double and treble the amount of work necessary to obtain renewals should let the last possible date of renewal slip by without going through the regular formulated ceremony of renewal almost passes belief; yet this is actually being done nevertheless. It may be that we will not always have an obliging gold commissioner to stand between the neglectful owner and a would-be staker as Mr. Fawcett has done. His ruling has been that where the proper representation work has been performed, the claim is by virtue of that work "held over" for the benefit of the owner.

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DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER

The best and most accurate history of the Klondike country that ever will be written will be found in the files of the Nugget. Every miner should have the Nugget in his cabin delivered regularly by carrier on all creeks.

### Our facilities for executing

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are the very latest.

Prompt Attention Given to All Orders

If you are in need of any of the following articles they can be found at the Nugget office:

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MEMO BOOKS, POCKET BOOKS, TIME BOOKS,

TABLETS, PENS, PENCILS,

KLONDIKE MAPS, CASH BOXES,

Bill of Sale Blanks, Document Envelopes, Deeds, Leather Pastes, Letter Files, etc.

## THE "NUGGET"

Three doors north of A. N. T. Co.

## MINERS CON

And Their A  
Anyon

A Petition to O  
Retroactive  
if This is No

On Saturday evening of the Miners' Association late stampeders' creeks, the stamping the taking away one half of their was called on the case and on the 500 foot law of law and again on law. Mr. Fawcett law on Dominion received the 250 after its passage, eight months since been recorded with all. Men had been in many cases cases the claim of them were turned had been brought technical point of Mr. Worledge, a speech attacked here and offered which was afterw

Resolved. That strongly condemn who on an alleged disposed the m their claims, and association be attempt they be association.

Frank Bureau, the first 500-foot 1894 had asked the of Forty-Mile why line and work the pointed to the 100. The captain had p with the result th take up 500 feet. country had been Mr. Worledge sa not choice in their to hear blasphemy visit a miner's cab this country and it. The government o amateur government anyone was good c minister the laws. tent government h the tramroad in c had been granted the government se had the power to m ley of government or blunder through Mr. C. M. Woodw pointers upon the quest on had in 1 buyers and in each papers—whichever is by the governme sellers' right to dis right of the "jump then it would prov ing titles were abso capital would, of co lar in such worthie that though the c cases in dispute di of the claims—nor all the claims wer and that was the s Another point sho the illegality of a trick getting men t and build upon it prove it and then ate everything. It had desired to do not have gone ab than to pass laws 4 them instantly ope would be many no of it.

Messrs. Ritchie, A others spoke during Woodworth, George elected a committee government at Otti tice which will be w will arise if the m session and thereb It was further the Gov. Ogilvie woul through whom to f retroactive act val Fawcett in recordi law said less.

A Strong S The year 1898 was a of Pacific Coast ste Alaska passenger bu drafting into the ser in the care of all suit boats made but one disaster before its co were three weeks on and withal in some were crowded togeth cattle as though the stock. It was a pleas the discrimination; s creamable to patroni steamship company, garded as synonym comfort, and the dem