

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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A ROUND-UP OF THE CREEKS.

The True Status of Dominion and Sulphur Creeks.

What Claims are Being Worked - Laymen Leaving the Lower Creeks - Some Pertinent Facts Concerning the Diggings.

A Nugget representative has just completed the round trip down Dominion, up Sulphur and back by way of Gold Bottom.

Work is progressing on all of the creeks, although on both lower Dominion and Sulphur the water has interfered and set the work back to a great extent.

Between discoveries on Dominion almost every claim is being worked and several good strikes are reported.

On 18 below upper the laymen are quite jubilant and men are being put on the lower half at wages. The pay streak has been located on 18 below and also on 21 and 22, but strange to say several holes on 18 have failed to locate the hidden treasure.

The biggest thing yet reported is the date and on 33 below upper. On this claim there are six holes. Three of them have located the pay streak and pans from \$25 to \$50 taken out, the pay streak averaging upwards of \$1.00. Wage-workers are on the claims both above and below this one but haven't yet located the streak. The claims just above discovery are mostly in the hands of laymen and they are all hard at work sifting. The next month will undoubtedly bring forth very pleasing results from this vicinity for very good prospects were reported.

Below lower discovery nothing startling has been found and the farther down the less are the chances for a strike being made this season. The creek gradually becomes wider and as there are so many claims "not open to record" it makes prospecting very difficult. One man cannot undermine enough ground to give a claim a fair test. We must act in co-operation with the adjoining claim owners, and if this done, and such is the case in many instances, it is simply "potluck" if he strikes it. In the hundreds of claims being simply represented, which means one or two holes to a creek, although several claims are let out in lots and will be a little better prospect. Quite a few laymen have returned to town disgusted with the creek and deserted cabins are quite frequent.

Messrs. Rasmussen and Holt, formerly of Seattle, are sinking on 131 below lower and have several holes under way. They are undoubtedly the optimistic moose hunters on the creek for two fine moose, hanging in front of their cabin, are the fruits of a successful hunting trip.

In the two hundreds the claims are being represented, and those near the mouth of Gold Run, 226 to 228 are being prospected more thoroughly. The reason for this sport is the recent finds on upper-Gold Run, Nos. 46, 48 and 49 have uncovered good pay-streaks of coarse gold and nuggets weighing 32 have been taken out. Pay is also reported on several other claims on that creek.

A good trail leaves Dominion at No. 226 and leads to No. 117 below on Sulphur, two claims above the mouth. Here the claim-owners were sifting, but no prospects had been found. This is the rule of almost every claim from 11 below to the mouth and disheartened laymen are returning to Dawson almost every day. The creek is quite wide, and, like Dominion, has not been thoroughly prospected.

On 35, 36 and 37 below six holes have been sunk across the channel and one more is being put down but a more disheartened set of laymen could not be found. The same is true of 18 below, where four laymen have put seven holes down. Fair prospects have been found on 11 below and from here to discovery pay has been struck in several places. The several fractions below report very good pay, and on 3 below Mr. Brimstone reports fair pay with bed rock only 12 feet. He will summer sluice the claim, and in the meanwhile, helps entertain the guests in a road house, where the Nugget man spent a very pleasant evening.

Strange to say nothing is being done on McDonald's high-priced claims, Nos. 7 and 11 above, but from 15 to 20 above the workers are fast getting on the pay-streak. Robert Meinzie who owns No. 17 has two holes down on the streak from 38 inches to 4 feet thick that will average 25 cents. On 18 the pans were averaging 51 cents and on 19, 51 cents, the best pan being \$1.25.

The richest claim on the creek, so far, is 30 above, owned by Charles Nelson. He is employing nine men and has three lays let on the claim. The pay-streak is a thick one and very wide and averages over 50 cents; one hole showing up still better and \$1 dirt is found. It was on this claim that Ted Marjensen, the man who was recently hurt by a fishing bucket was employed.

On 36 above there are two holes to bedrock, one of which pans 1.4291, the other from five cents to 50 cents. Here seven wage laborers are employed and four lays are being worked. Upper Sulphur will be pretty thoroughly prospected, but the water has kept the work back and is still proving a great hindrance.

There are three road houses on Sulphur, one on No. 2 below, one on No. 32 above and one almost at the head of the creek on No. 75. From

here a good trail leads up to the summit and another one drops down directly into Gold Bottom.

Considerable work is going on up Gold Bottom and strikes are reported from 6 to 8 above discovery.

Good prospects are found at intervals along the creek, but the best ground seems near the mouth, Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 have each struck pay dirt and No. 2 is reported to be quite rich.

Taken as a whole the Dominion and Sulphur country is not showing up as well as was expected and claim-owners are not feeling as rich as they did some few months ago, but nevertheless the gold may be there for no man can say that the lower country has been prospected as it should be and from present indications it will not be this year.

Creek Notes.

W. G. Crabb, who has been sick at the Saunders sisters road house since Oct. 15th, at Last Chance, is now rapidly convalescing.

The following are among the more recent strikes upon Dominion: No. 3 above upper discovery, Mr. Chisholm washed \$10.40 from one pan, and a little over \$5.00 in another.

Last Friday on No. 5 above upper, a pan of \$20.50 was cleaned up.

On 12 above upper last Saturday, one pan showed \$3.40.

Within the last few days good pay has been struck on 12 above lower.

On 25 below upper, 14 holes had been sunk without finding any pay, when suddenly the streak was struck in three holes!

On Hunker Mr. L. Confure, of the North West House, has commenced building a new road house at the junction of the new "cut off" and old trail, two miles from the mouth of Hunker.

J. S. Williams, 35 below on Hunker has completed and in operation, a "sled-tramway" from his shaft to the creek bed, by means of which he is bringing down his pay dirt.

Nearing Completion.

Mr. S. D. Grout, who has charge of the construction of Fraternity temple, is rapidly getting the building in shape for occupancy. He is working a force of men and now has the hall entirely enclosed. The windows are in place and the workmen are now engaged in calking the seams of the building with oakum.

The temple is a two-story structure the dimensions being 22x44 feet. The lower floor will be used for a reading room and as a place for social gatherings of members of the different orders. The second story will be divided into a lodge room and ante rooms. The work of constructing the building was not done by contract but is the result largely of voluntary contributions of labor from the members of the organizations which have joined forces in erecting it.

The first meeting in the new hall will occur on Saturday next when the Masons will hold a social session. The grand opening will take place about Christmas.

Christmas Night.

On Christmas night there will be given a carnival of minstrelsy at the Fraternity temple for the aid of St. Mary's hospital. There has never been a minstrel show in Dawson yet, and the gentlemen who are booked for the evening's entertainment are devoting their time and thought to it without reservation, and it undoubtedly will be the one great event of the season par excellence. It is often remarked that an abundance of all kinds of talent there is in Dawson and never will this be more transparently true than on Christmas night next. Already arrangements have been made for handsome costumes, and nothing is to be spared.

A Fortunate Raize.

A party consisting of C. Everett, J. W. Burwell, J. Lewis, R. Lamber and G. Davis, arrived in Dawson Saturday from below Circle City. The Robert Kerr is laid up for the winter some 40 miles below the round city, and is the only one of the Moran boats which failed to make Dawson last summer. The party left Circle City 21 days ago and for the first hundred miles had to break their own trail through the soft snow. From there to Dawson was found either a beaten trail or the ice had been overturned, covering the snow and making it ideal traveling.

An interesting story of good fortune is told of the Robert Kerr. The freeze-up found her high and dry on a bar near the center of the river in such a position as guaranteed destruction in the early spring when the ice broke up. Supplies were reluctantly taken from her and cached on the bank and the same with her cargo. Just below was a convenient blind trough. It had broken away and formed a vast jam right across the river. Immediately the water backed up behind, soon it was raising on the bar which held the Kerr upon its crest. Inch by inch, then foot by foot, and with a suddenly increasing speed it rose around the sides of the helpless boat and raised her bodily from her sandy bed. The phenomenon was so sudden and unexpected that nothing had been prepared for the involuntary trip down the river. Steam engines were dead and she just floated without anyone being able to direct her movements. To everyone's surprise and delight she made straight for the very slough she would have been placed in had she been morose, and when the ice jam gave way and the river sank as suddenly as it had arisen, the Robert Kerr was within a few feet of where she should have been fast fast, and this without the help of anyone.

Messrs. Everett and Burwell are leaving again for the coast in a few days.

New Gold Commissioner.

Constable Piper arrived in Dawson Monday night with two prisoners, Troam and Kenney, who have got mixed up in a dog scrape. He reports the new gold commissioner and his party at Sixty-Mile when he left Monday morning. Besides these gentlemen there are five members of the N. W. M. P. along with 16 packs of Canadian mail. Piper easily made the trip in one day and the party is expected to arrive here any minute.

Constable Piper was recently dispatched to Stewart and reports the McQuestion detachment at that point with Constable Hilyard recovering rapidly from the frost-bitten feet which some 40 days ago compelled him to turn back to McQuestion when but a day's journey out. Hilyard is accompanied by Constable Mapley.

The Gold Commissioner Arrives.

Mr. Edward Senkler, the long-expected new gold commissioner, arrived in Dawson on Tuesday afternoon about 4 o'clock. With the exception of Mr. Baker the balance of the official party stayed behind at the last stopping place between Dawson and Sixty-mile. Mr. Senkler was anxious to reach Dawson and pushed on with the two members of the N. W. M. P. who brought in some 26 or 27 sacks of mail which left Victoria in September. This is the mail which might have come down on the Ora, but did not owing to the existence of some ditch at Skaguay. The salt weather and the high wind of Tuesday has made traveling anything but a pleasure and bone too safe and Mr. Senkler was much too weary to be seen by a press representative until somewhat later.

The mail carriers bring in word of 1700 pounds more mail lying at Tagish in charge of E. C. Richardson's men.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

The Elks Club of Dawson will meet at the Lodge on Thursday evening, to hear the report of the committee appointed to arrange for a social session.

The public library and reading room has passed into the hands of the First Presbyterian church and has been removed to the top of the A. C. Office building.

On No. 22 below Sulphur, a large buffalo horn was found 4 1/2 feet down. A various bones of some exact counterpart of those of the American bison or buffalo, only several times larger.

The skating rink is no more, at least the remains of the rink. Along came the "typhoon" of Tuesday afternoon and away went the tent into shreds. Several narrow escapes from injury by pedestrians from flying signs are reported.

The window on Sunday evening at the Monte Carlo, was greeted by a gale of wind. New pictures were introduced and new songs by Mr. Fred Tracy. By request he repeated his favorite of a week ago: "It's a picture of My Best Girl."

Local mail from Circle City, Ft. Yukon and intermediate points, reached Dawson Saturday in the care of Mr. Hawley, representing the Arctic Express Co. Mail for Circle City and intermediate points left Dawson on Monday in care of Mr. Robertson.

The Twomb bar is being altered this week into a Bazaar which will be a novelty to Dawson. It is illustrative of Manager Dill's enterprise. There is to be a grand raffle on December 24th of \$10,000 worth of useful presents and cash: Furniture, furs, jewelry, diamonds, etc. Announcement will be made later.

The net proceeds of the hippodrome sparring contest of two weeks ago, amounting to \$247.75 have been turned over to St. Mary's hospital as promised by the referee, Mr. James Donaldson. It will be remembered that the referee decided the matter "no contest" and awarded the receipts to the hospital.

A fire that might have resulted disastrously but for the prompt action of "shorty" the porter, occurred at the Monte Carlo Thursday night 5 o'clock, Sunday last. Sparks had fallen into an open crack in the roof and smoldered into a blaze. Prompt application of water from the buckets with which the house is well provided arrested the flames.

Frank Slavin reports that Little Blanche and Canon are showing up very well, but the pay seems to leave the creek and take to the benches, for wherever the creek cuts into the benches, good ground is found, but Quartz is bench ground good and many of the laymen are leaving. He also says No. 2 Little Eldorado has struck six feet of pay dirt averaging 30 cents.

Andy Young, the energetic and successful local paper seller, says he knows his falling and has turned over a new leaf. He wants his friends to take notice of this fact and refrain their generous impulses to pass the bowing bow whenever he puts in an appearance. He says the holidays are coming and then will be plenty time enough to celebrate; till then refrain from that familiar remark: "Well, Andy, what are you going to do?"

The captain of the Columbus Navigation Co.'s steamer Sovereign is having all kinds of trouble down at Circle City where the boat is laid up for the winter. He has been arrested several times on various charges. Among other accusations that are brought against him he is charged with collecting money from the company for wood which the dock hands had cut. Also with selling a library which the company had sent up for the use of the men and appropriating the money. He has been up before the courts at Circle City nearly all the time the boat has been there. The company affairs have been taken out of his hands and placed in charge of Mr. Stoffey.

Remember the event of the season will occur at the skating rink Dec. 22. The management will spare no pains nor expense in making the grand masquerade a great success.

COULD NOT BE TAKEN IN.

Belated Travellers Refused Admission on the Steamer John C. Barr.

An Unfortunate Man is Compelled to Lose Both Hands and Feet - He Will Probably Not Live.

The character of a corporation oft shows clearly in its employees. In the first place the employee is generally chosen for his aptness in taking up the wishes of the employer without too elaborate instructions, and especially in this case of the employee holding a place of responsibility. The particular occurrence which calls the above to mind is a little incident which occurred on the river just below Forty-Mile during the recent cold snap. Mr. O. J. Eldersh relates the story and others bear him out. A cold, bitter night found the party aboard of the John C. Barr laid up in winter quarters. They went aboard and were received heartily by the crew. They asked permission to lay their blankets on the floor for the night and to get out of the people aboard not only consented but were anxious to see the travellers under shelter. But the captain was to be seen, and gruffly commanded that the travellers "move on." They begged him to name a reasonable charge, as they had both money and food but desired shelter. Prayers and protestations alike were in vain and the party were ushered out into the darkness.

There are some things which are wrong only under certain circumstances and the recent arrivals in Dawson who experienced the inhospitality of the captain of the John C. Barr believe this to be one of those cases. Mr. Eldersh says this is not at all the first occasion of the kind, for other passers-by, and at least two of them with frozen feet, were greeted with the captain's anticlerical "Not over there! I'm keeping a hotel!"

Contrast the foregoing with the actions of the master of the Rock Island No. 2, laid up in winter quarters at Forty Mile. On the night of Nov. 26 a peculiar cry of moaning distress was heard by anyone going on deck. A cursory examination around the ship showed all clear and no cause for the occasional groan. The captain was still unheeding and directed a search with lanterns in an ever widening circle. At length a deep groan near by was found a man in a badly frozen condition, semi-conscious and weakly calling for help. Tenderly yet hastily by the captain's orders the unfortunate man was hoisted aboard the ship and the ship's surgeon, Dr. Marshall, hurriedly summoned. Everybody volunteered into a corps of assistants and everything was done to restore the circulation in those poor frozen extremities. For days and nights the attentions of the sick man were unremitting but on the third day the doctor decided both hands and feet to be dead and endangering the life of the unfortunate Madison. On November 26 both feet and both hands were removed and only a helpless trunk left to fight the battle of life. The poor man was despondent and determined he would rather die than live such an awful life of helpless uselessness as it now before him. Fearing that a powerful frame and strong constitution would pull him through, he was refusing positively to eat anything at all when the last arrivals here were leaving Forty-Mile on November 30th.

The unfortunate Madison has a brother on Forty-Mile river, who owns some properties considered to be good. Madison had been drinking a little upon the night of his sailing, but it is not known whether he fell down the slough in which he was found or whether he wandered down there and went to sleep. An inquiry into the doings of the saloon keeper is pending, as some contend there is criminal negligence in allowing a man to leave the house with a low temperature prevailing outside when he is not fully able to care for himself.

A Pleasing Surprise.

The Elks Club gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson on Monday night, to engage in a very pretty presentation ceremony. Upon the occasion of a recent benefit performance given by the Elks there was a lady who worked indefatigably for weeks to make it the success it was, and the lady was Mrs. Wilson, the hostess of the Monday evening gathering. As was stated in the presentation address, the Elks never forget the helpless and never overlook a disinterested friend. The lady was presented with a charm moon's nugget pin, both of Klondike gold and Dawson manufacture. The charm is in the form of a shield, bearing upon the obverse side a spray of three diamonds for gemstones. Upon the reverse side, upon a smooth polished surface, are engraved the words "Your Brothers." There was much good speech-making, but Mrs. Wilson's simple words of acceptance told more of ungenerous disinterestedness and earnest self-forgetfulness than a much more brilliant oration would have done. The "Best People on Earth" evidently thought so too. The festivities were kept up until early morning and were enjoyed by all.

Evangelical Services.

Evangelical services have been commenced this week in the Methodist church. It is the intention to continue them until Christmas. The public are cordially invited to attend.

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