

The Klondike Nugget

TELEPHONE NUMBER 12
(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BROS. Publishers

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
DAILY
Yearly, in advance \$40.00
Six months 20.00
Three months 11.00
Per month by carrier in city, in advance 4.00
Single copies .25
SEMI-WEEKLY
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

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MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1900

AN EQUITABLE PLAN.

As will be noted elsewhere in this issue of the Nugget, the matter of incorporating Dawson as a self-governing municipality has been revived by Mr. Girouard and will soon be before the Yukon council in the form of an ordinance creating such municipality.

The Nugget has taken the position at all times that self-government for Dawson is most desirable, but until the present instance every plan which has been proposed by the Yukon council has been of such a nature as to preclude support being given thereto by any one who gave the merits of the matter unprejudiced consideration.

In March last when the question of incorporation was being discussed Commissioner Ogilvie stated through an interview which appeared in this paper that his idea of incorporation involved the control on the part of the Yukon council of the police court and the liquor licenses and the retention by that body of the revenues derived from these sources.

About all that would be left to the city would be the control of the fire department, and the right to look after the hospitals and such matters of public improvements as would seem advisable. In briefer words, according to the plan of the commissioner the council was perfectly willing to bequeath its sources of liability to the corporation so long as the revenues were retained. Naturally this theory of incorporation met with strong opposition and that opposition will be none the less strong in the present instance if the same ideas are pursued. If the council pursues the "take what we give you" plan, dissatisfaction is bound to ensue.

An equitable and probably satisfactory method would be the appointment of a commission consisting of leading citizens and representatives from the council, to frame an ordinance of incorporation upon lines as followed in the charters of other cities.

A commission so constituted could scarcely reach a one-sided conclusion. The interests of all classes could be entrusted to their care with the assurance that no unjust action would be taken.

Undoubtedly in the formation of a charter of incorporation there are certain rights and privileges which must be reserved to the Yukon council. On the other hand there are matters of equal importance over which the city must be given control or constant friction and annoyance is bound to ensue.

We submit therefore that the rights of all interested parties will be best conserved by leaving the preparation of the incorporation ordinance to a commission composed as above suggested.

In any other portion of Canada where it can be shown that a dozen or more children are located in a community no time is lost in perfecting arrangements for the establishment of a public school. Dawson appears to differ from the remainder of the country in this respect as well as in many other ways. For upwards of three years we have had school children in Dawson varying in number from 100 to 300. The facts in the case have been brought before the attention of the authorities by petition of citizens, through the Board of Trade and in the columns of the local press, upon so many occasions that the story has been worn almost threadbare. Still

no school has actually been established and the plan which finally is at length under consideration does not in any respect commend itself to the good judgment of the community at large. Dawson is old enough, large enough and rich enough to support a modern public school system on the same plan that is pursued in other cities of the Dominion. Nothing short of this will be acceptable to the people nor should anything less be contemplated by the authorities. After so long a wait there can be no reasonable excuse offered for the establishment of any other than a first-class school system.

The wind storm which occurred on Friday afternoon left a very broad track behind it to indicate the way it came. It struck the river somewhere in the vicinity of Selwyn and from that point down to Dawson followed the general course of the stream and incidentally paid its respects to the telegraph wire across which innumerable trees were thrown and which in several places was snapped in two. This cyclonic visitation together with the unusually heavy rainfall should bring forth some reflections on the proverbial oldest inhabitant. If any of our sour doughs can remember a summer in the Yukon that will duplicate the one just drawing to a close the Nugget will be pleased to hear from them.

The arches which have been constructed as a feature of the celebration in honor of Lord Minto's visit to Dawson certainly reflect credit upon the artistic taste of the designer. The appearance of First avenue ought to be in the nature of a very pleasant surprise to his excellency and party.

An Unforeseen Contingency.

Capt. Staysail—Yes, madam, the needle of the compass always points to the north.

Miss Sweetthing—How interesting! But suppose you wanted to go south?—Brooklyn Life.

Rush to the Kougarak.

Nome, July 22.—Pending decisive news from the creeks of known promise in this district the country attracting the general attention of mining men is that tributary to the Kougarak river. Fully 1000 men, outfitted for two or three months, have left Nome in the last two weeks for Kougarak. Hardly an hour passes, night or day, that a small pack train or a well provisioned boat does not make a start from here for the new district, about which no one seems to know a great deal, but of which almost anyone can give alluring hints.

From the most reliable news obtainable it would seem that the Kougarak offers to the prospector a vast, unexplored country with plenty of room for new locations. The Kougarak is a tributary of the Kusereim river, which in turn feeds a series of small lakes at the head of Grantley harbor, Port Clarence. For several years men of long standing in this part of Alaska claim to have known of placer deposits there, so the recent rumors of a big strike have not come as a surprise. Just what the "big strike" is, or its exact location, is not to be definitely fixed. It is a mannerism one soon learns in this country to wave the hand over three points of the compass and say grandly "some fellows have struck it off in there."

Taken in connection with the Golden Gate, Big Four, Unknown, Inland, Discovery, Anaconda and New Eldorado districts, the Kougarak may be said to constitute the vast interior mineral country which forms the girth arch of a semi-circle behind Nome. It is practically unexplored save for the Inland and the Big Four districts, which are said to have yielded prospects of high promise. Through all this interior country is a great chain of rivers and creeks and the prospectors trouble in there is said to lie not in under but in over-supply of water. The natural gate to the district or districts is Port Clarence and it is by that arm of Bering sea that a majority of these joining in the present rush are going. Another route lies by way of the Fish river, which heads up in the Big Four, Golden Gate, Inland and New Eldorado.

If the stories now current in Nome are correct the area of virgin territory to be covered by prospectors in the interior is all but unlimited and compensation will be found there for the many who have been disappointed in finding the country radiating in all directions from Nome staked.

Pack animals are the most convenient means of transporting outfits across the interior country, according to men who have returned from there.

The first discoveries were reported from Harris creek, a tributary of the

Kougarak. Pike and Snow creeks have prospected well, as has Idaho, which runs into the Kusereim a few miles below the mouth of Kougarak. Rosamond creek, emptying into the Kusereim a few miles above Kougarak, is also encouraging.

Dawson Taking Lessons.

Dawson's Board of Trade has evidently been taking lessons from the Skagway chamber of commerce. It is loading itself with facts and figures to present to Lord Minto, the governor general, when he arrives at that city. An effort will be made to secure the influence of his lordship to right the wrongs under which the Yukon country has been laboring since the establishment of government therein.

The royalty, the high miners' license fee, the system of charging a license fee for hunting privileges, fishing privileges and other privileges, the exercise of which are essential to the development of the country, will all be vigorously attacked. Representation in the Dominion parliament will be demanded, and a better system of local government asked for. An effort will be made to secure the opening of the crown lands.

This action on the part of the people of Dawson speaks well for the community. Petitions from the people, where they represent the unanimous sentiment or nearly so, cannot long be ignored by an Anglo-Saxon government. Never in the history of the English-speaking people have the demands of any considerable number of the people for that which is their right, been successfully defied very long, and it has not been tried since the foolish attempt of George III.—Alaskan.

The Future Possibilities.

With reasonable development of the natural agricultural resources of this section of the country the general cost of living would be very materially reduced. Sufficient experimental work has been done this season to prove beyond all doubt that the soil of this section of the Yukon valley is of the quality that produces very rapidly, and that there are four months' of growing weather after the ground becomes sufficiently warm to sprout germs in the spring. With scarcely any attention and encouraged only by the heat of the sun and natural fertility of the soil truck such as radishes, lettuce, onions, beans, etc. grow to maturity in from four to six weeks, while with artificial means the growth and maturity can be much accelerated.

Three miles back from West Dawson were to be found a few days ago as fine a quality of ripe red raspberries as were ever grown in the most carefully tended garden, and if vines will thus grow and produce in soil that has never been stirred, it is logical to conclude that, with ordinary care and cultivation, this same variety of berry could be made to yield luxuriantly and to financial advantage. It is well known that in all berry producing climates strawberries ripen from four to six weeks in advance of raspberries, and when the latter, without care or cultivation, ripen to perfection by the first of August, there is no apparent reason why Dawsonites should not revel in the delights incident to home grown strawberries early in the month of July.

The matter of cultivating hay is another to which the Yukon valley is certainly adaptable. Timothy and oats for hay could be made to yield profitably with proper cultivation, while German millet and alfalfa, either of which is of remarkably rapid growth, could be raised here even if the summer season was a third shorter than it is. The fact that this latter statement is true has been most satisfactorily demonstrated by Chris Sonnicksen on Stewart river, and by others who have attempted feed growing in this country.

The fact that there has not been a frost since early in April is evidence of the possibilities of this country as a producer during a period of fully five months of the year.

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