

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER) ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY On Wednesday and Saturday. E. C. ALLEN, Manager. GEO. M. ALLEN, Editor. A. F. GEORGE, City Editor.

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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.

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.

INCORPORATION.

In a recent interview between the fire department and Mr. Ogilvie, the last named gentleman gave it as his conviction that it was but a matter of a little time before Dawson would incorporate and thenceforth handle her own affairs. To the student of affairs this consummation has been but a remote possibility. The situation appears to be that the Dominion revenues are wanted too badly in Ottawa to permit of the use of any part of them in internal affairs by the commissioner and council of the Yukon. Such moneys as they need they must raise themselves by special taxes, which are virtually metropolitan rates. This being so, in offering to surrender the government of the city last fall to the people themselves, the council and commissioner provided for a continuance of their own income, the new city to impose more special taxes if they desired any spending money for city purposes. There was an unmistakable public indisposition to such half-hearted, self government at the time, and the situation has not been changed since so far as we can see. Until the Dominion government sets apart a share of its Yukon revenues for the use of the Yukon government, and until the Yukon government lets go of its city revenues, the people of Dawson would rather see the government and care of the city stay with that body which enjoys its taxes.

"EXPANSION."

It is not entirely by unthinking Americans that the expansion policy of the present United States government is being opposed. From the tone of the press it may be concluded that the majority of Americans favor the policy, but neither all the brains nor all the patriotism is on that side of the question. It is comparatively easy to look back over the world's history and trace the evolution of governments, and to see how the absorption of small, barbaric principalities by some thrifty and aggressive race, was directly in the line of progress. But the selfish motives of acquisitiveness and greed which often actuated the absorption in the first place, tended to obscure the view of the actors in the drama, and they little saw that notwithstanding apparent avarice they were simply working out a page of destiny which in the light of future events would be found the best thing that could have happened at that time for both sides. And so it must be of America's expansion policy. The Spaniards say it is American hogishness; anti-expansionists say it is vaingloriousness; expansionists say it is patriotism, but in America's new policy the philosopher sees only destiny. If left alone it would take the Filipinos hundreds of years to reach the same standard of national advancement which they will now reach in a decade. The Hawaiians would never raise above the level of a lotus-eating, unambitious vegetation but for the fact that an energetic nation has her with a grasp of iron.

THE FUEL PROBLEM.

There is no doubt of the growing seriousness of the fuel situation on Bonanza and Eldorado creeks. The amount of fuel required there increased nearly ten-fold in one season, with every indication of a proportionate increase for next winter. Back further and further over the hills the miners have to go for this wood, and now there develops a factor in the situation which has not been present up to this time. In many places there has been precipitated a struggle for possession of the scattering timber in which the wealthy are able to badly outreach the poorer miners. To properly understand the situation one must take into consideration that there are no grants of this timber, nor is a special permit required to cut it. A miner's license entitles the holder to cut and use for mining purposes any Dominion timber wherever he may find it. Today it has to be brought many miles, and next winter the divides will

have to be crossed, and the timber on the other side have the additional expense imposed upon it of first being hauled up hill. As we have said, the scramble for the little timber still left up the gulches with a down hill haul to the mines, is on in dead earnest. The position taken is that whoever gets it slashed and piled first can hold it for next winter. The small miner finds himself handicapped by the want of money to hire this work done, but the situation would not be so serious but for the spirit of speculation which seems to have arisen. There is nothing to prevent anyone cutting. Doubtless what they will themselves require if they have the means to pay for the work.

It is quite possible that some method of regulating the matter may be undertaken, though the chances are that such attempts would not only prove abortive, but through the inevitable tendency of the men to wire pulling—and willing-to-be-wire-pulled attitude of the government—the second state of that section would be worse than the first.

CORRECT, AS USUAL.

The NUGGET, above all things, desires to be correct and exact in its statements of facts. In a recent issue we spoke of Mr. Ogilvie as being now an attorney by a law of his own making. We were not much surprised when Mr. Ogilvie denied it over his own signature, though we must confess to being somewhat mystified as to how he would reconcile his letter with the following ordinance which had just received his official signature:

Sec. 1.—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any law or ordinance in force in the Yukon territory, the legal adviser for the time being, or the Yukon Commissioner of the said territory, the crown prosecutor of the said territory, and any other officer or officers appointed by the government of Canada, shall be held to all intents and purposes, advocates duly entitled to practice in the Yukon territory, with all the rights and privileges pertaining to members of the legal profession in said territory.

While not impressed with the grammatical construction of the above section, we were pretty sure we understood it as any of our readers will do, and that the governor was now a full fledged lawyer without having to pass the examination of the bar association, or having to show any papers to prove his legal training in some legal institution of learning. The ordinance was duly printed in the government organ as above, thus establishing the law upon a firm and indisputable basis.

Upon asking for an explanation we find that while this is really the law as duly signed and published, it was contrary to the intentions of the governor and occurred by a simple clerical error. It was intended that the ordinance should read not "or the Yukon Commissioner," but "the legal adviser for the time being of the Yukon Commissioner." Intentions are nice things to have in the family, but it will be seen that the NUGGET is correct in its statements, and that as a matter of fact Mr. Ogilvie is a legal luminary of the Yukon territory until he shall be unmade by the same powers which have made him such. In view of these facts it is not pleasing to have the governor deny his newly acquired legal attainments. A public undoing of the ordinance in question is, to our thinking, the least that can be suggested—unless, indeed, Mr. Ogilvie has a desire to practice.

CHANGES IN SENTIMENT.

There is a growing belief among our population that first impressions were wrong and many of us are destined not only to become Sour Doughs but Monarchs of experience before we get through with the Yukon. The general impression among the new arrivals last summer was that with few exceptions we were all one—or at most two-year men, and what wasn't accomplished at the end of that twelve or twenty-four months might just as well be left undone. A remarkable change has taken place in those who have succeeded in securing anything at all to tie to, and in business circles it is becoming an accepted axiom that he is wisest who lays the foundation of his business upon at least a ten-year plan. Dawson is rapidly becoming habitable, and this summer is going to witness such an influx of wives and families as to once and forever effectually put at rest the mooted question of the "livability" to coin a new word—of this particular corner of the earth.

The comforts of life will be as plentiful in Dawson next winter as in a city of the same size on the Sound—though it is to be hoped there will be no similarity of prices. What was a luxury in the winter of '97-'98 was decided to be a necessity by the courts in the winter of '98-'99, and what was a luxury in '98-'99 will be of common enough use in the long winter of 1899-1900. The scenes of '97-'98 will never be repeated, excepting in story around some comfortable fireside.

WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS.

From the dispatches it would appear that there is a movement afoot to withdraw at least a half of the Yukon field force to where they can be rationed and provided for in a more economical and satisfactory fashion. Soldiers, in times of peace, are decided to be a necessity to a greater or less extent, but it is not customary to quarter them in the most expensive quarter of an empire, and saddle the expense of their support upon the already overtaxed inhabitants of that region where a man's food and keep costs ten-fold what it does elsewhere. It is true that the less than a hundred police are

overworked in caring for such a vast territory as the Yukon, but it must be remembered that the presence of a camp of a hundred soldiers last winter failed to move a mail sack a quarter of an inch. The soldiers themselves were willing and anxious to do a little of the "mushing" because of the greater personal liberty which would follow; but sledging mail for civilians is probably contrary to the regulations in such cases made and provided, and at any rate was not allowed. An increase of the N. W. M. P., and the entire withdrawal of the troops, would show the government to be at least awakening to the needs of the service, and is something which should have appealed to their reason long ago.

GUNNERY.

The following from the American press, shows that the late war is to be made a profitable object lesson by other nations than those directly engaged:

Our British cousins mean to profit by the lessons taught them by our navy during the war with Spain. They were surprised by the gunnery of the Americans, and began to make comparisons between the records made by American war vessels in target practice and that of their own navy. They learned that the best English record was 52 per cent of hits, the best American record 53 per cent. All the big ships of Admiral Sampson's fleet had records ranging from 70 to 83 per cent, while the general record for the English fleet for 1898 was but little better than 28 per cent. The result is that the British naval budget for the present year shows an increased allowance of \$800,000 for ammunition for target practice.

As will be seen from our local columns Commissioner Ogilvie has been clothed with remarkable powers for peremptory action in a variety of matters. As a general proposition it may be laid down that the creation of one-man power is opposed to the general principles of the race. In this case it may be regarded with equanimity since the very last thing one would expect from the governor would be peremptory action in any matter. But after Mr. Ogilvie will come other Pharos who "knew not Joseph," and it is not everyone can be trusted with absolute powers in any matter. It is altogether too easy to make laws. The only thing that is easier is to let them lie on the statute books unenforced and unrespected. At some future time they can be unearthed and made a source of discomfiture to some unsuspecting citizen who cannot be expected to know how many dead and mangled laws may be lying buried in some old dusty archive of the council chamber.

The decision of the gold commissioner some time ago, that upon the establishing of certain facts the rights of a free miner to stake a claim in the district could be restored, proved a popular measure. However, it would seem to one that if those rights are to be restored at all they should be restored upon a reasonable and equitable basis. On a recent occasion an applicant for restored rights showed that the ground was so deep that one of the holes he had put down measured 165 feet. He thought three such holes entitled him to give up the ground and stake another piece, but was informed that he must sink again. As it would cost from \$500 to \$800 to put down a shaft upon what he had decided to be barren ground, and as rights can be bought for from \$10 to \$30, it is not surprising that the miner declined the offer.

A Northern Tragedy.

An old sour dough prospector lay dying on the trail. There was "nary" squaw to miss him or young halfbreed to wail. But a Siwash bent beside him, in the north wind's icy blast, And whispered Chinook jargon while the prospector froze dead. The dying man was thankful, as a dying man could be, And he said my feeble cabin is a home no more for me. Take a message and a totem to the friends outside I know, And tell them to avoid old scurvy, yes, and seventy-four below.

I've lived here long as Jack McQuestion, thirty years or more, And I never saw such weather as this zephyr at my door. I've been caught in many an ice jam, on the Yukon a half a score. But I always rushed home safe and I never froze before. Tell my white wife if you can find her, for I left her years ago, She can have my creek and hill claims and all the dust thereon. She is welcome to all frozen muck between here and Siberia's snow, And tell her painkiller freezes at just seventy-two below.

Please bury me beneath the lee if you have strength to spare, It will take a pile of cord-wood but I trust you won't despair. You can raise a heap of boulder wash when I meet this awful fate, A warning to chiee-chacos to leave before too late.

The dying man stopped speaking after draining his seal oil and whiskey flask; His breath was gone, the wind blew on, he lay out in the blast, Then the pale moon rose up slowly and the harsh winds ceased to blow, And the N. W. M. P. thermometer registered just seventy-two below.

—B. F. CLAYTON.

Dissolution of Partnership.

The partnership existing between J. J. Hales and H. L. Vroom has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. All bills collected and paid by H. L. Vroom. J. J. Hales. Eldorado City, May 1st '99. H. L. Vroom.

Just Opened...MADDEN HOUSE...SALOON AND DANCE HALL

Good Floor—Good Music. Best Brands of Wines, Liquors and Cigars.

ALASKA EXPLORATION...Operating the palatial river steamers Leon, Linda, Arnold, Herman, Gustin, Mary F. Graff, and Six Large Barges.

CHAS. NELSON...GENERAL MERCHANDISE AND MINERS' SUPPLIES. OUTFITS STORED.

RE-OPENED - OLD STAND...Northern Cafe...GRiffin & BOYKER, PROP.

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LARGEST STOCK OF MEN'S SHOES IN DAWSON. Front Street, opp. Monte Carlo.

Don't Neglect Your Eyes. All Defects of Vision, Corrected with Superior Glasses.

A. SUMMERFIELD...Water Front, opp. Chisholm's Auction.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SEATTLE, WASH. Gold dust bought or advanced on. Interest on deposits. Safety deposit boxes free to customers.

THE SCANDINAVIAN AMERICAN BANK of Seattle, Wash. ANDREW CHILDESS, President. A. H. SESSLER, Cashier.

Place Your Orders for Goods of Any Description with THE NUGGET EXPRESS.

Pack Horses will be placed immediately on the Creeks.

THE NUGGET EXPRESS. Main Office: Nugget Building. Branch Office: Forks Eldorado and Bonanza.

SOLDIER BOYS. Government Sec...tinueing.

British Columbia Prize Fight—L. Fire—Drayfus is.

OTTAWA, April 8.—Tukon district on the state of the court warrant the federal drawing the greater stationed in the Yuk machine guns, which pedition, will remain force to be left in the government have collection, comprising the militia, in consequence, will be quite should any necessitation arise. Pretty petition has petition him to remain in main inducement militiamen to volunteer in the Yukon was expiration of their to be in a position to to no expense to them.

PRIZE FIGHT. SAN FRANCISCO, April 7.—A fight between Billy Smith, proved fusing to go on with was not enough to people. A great number.

MEMPHIS, April 7.—A fight between neither man was a Holman declared White, of Chicago, Rochester, a draw. He was outgeneral.

ONE HUNDRED AN April 7.—A sixty-four this afternoon he for a prize of Tar Flats, San Francisco, Ireland, battle to O'Flarity since that of Sullivan.

NEW YORK, April 7.—A fight club tonight may in what was round bout. It was few clean blows were fought, for trying break, Downey winning.

TORONTO, April 7.—A fight club tonight Joe to go twenty rounds in the eleventh round with a terrible rig.

THIRTEEN. NEW YORK, April 7.—A fight destroyed the hands Andrews, at No. 2 twelve rounds. He was burned to death, wind were blown home of Albert J. street, two blocks house and caused Thirteen bodies he.

DREYFUS. PARIS, April 7.—The public defence before the the Dreyfus affair was sent to court. He failed to incriminate the war department trial with the him, in which pleading of witnesses, the evidence has his case with it.

IN MANHATTAN, April 7.—A company of AV shooters, the which men, embarked General Layton Cruz, on the lake troops. Much sentiment, and nothing accomplished his headquarters. 2 fighters and com.

NEW YORK, April 7.—A report the death regarded as next ential and aggressive report is credited that Gen. Malolos.

CASBY. WASHINGTON, April 7.—A report of allies not here. Killed—Third win W. Wall. Wounded—Fre Second Lieut. Montgomery Private William B. Pennsylvania, Gims; First Dyerman; Mar Jones, First M. J. L. Corporal Band Sergeant Privates William Landerman, e Answering in E. Fourth cavalry barracks, March hands of Private Keyson died station of board.

Strang Alfred Hesper prominence la timber agent a logs, and for