

# The Klondike Nugget

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday

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THE NUGGET is delivered at cabins on Bonanza and Eldorado creeks for two dollars per month. Orders may be left at this office or given to the agent for the creeks.

### 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 Jimson and the North Pole.

### TAKE AN EXAMPLE.

The Nugget is pleased to record the fact that active steps are finally being taken to prevent further illegal staking of mining properties. The lax administration of the laws that has prevailed in the past, combined with the difficulties incidental to traveling in this district, has resulted in scores of claims being recorded without the legal requirements being complied with. The thing became of such common occurrence that men who in every-day business transactions are above the slightest suspicion of dishonesty availed themselves of the common practice to secure claims without seeing them. It has been no uncommon occurrence during the past year to see dozens of claims on one creek staked with the writing all in one hand. In such cases the enterprising staker would return to Dawson and dispose of his numerous properties to parties who would record them for interests or pay cash for the information. Against such practices as these the honest and legitimate prospector has stood little chance. And to this same evil may be traced the reason why many a discouraged man has gone to the outside damning the country, the laws and its administrators. Laws presumably are made for the protection of society, but to give the protection for which they are designed they must be properly enforced. If means are not taken to secure their enforcement then they often work hardship upon the honest man and lure to the profit of the rogue. Such has been the case in the practice of illegal staking. The law in many cases, by reason of non-enforcement, has worked to the advantage of the dishonest man and to the injury of the man who held himself above the caption of law-breaker. The way to prevent the evil in the future is simply to make an example in some particular case or cases. It will be a wholesome lesson, and one that will work to the lasting good of the community, and tend to raise very largely in the eyes of the public both the law and those whose duty it is to enforce it.

### GOLD DUST AND CURRENCY.

Impossibilities are required of no man by a just government. A government cannot require payment of taxes in gold if gold was not to be had, no more than it could demand diamonds if none were in the country. It would be heartless to demand currency in Dawson in payment of official dues if there were no currency here. Such a demand would never be made by the government nor tolerated by the people. But there is a condition here which carries with it a suspicion of hardship and that is the demand for currency when that currency is in such limited amounts and in the hands of so few people that it can only be bought at a premium. Gold is now the standard of values of the civilized world—not \$5 gold pieces but by weight. The stamp on a gold piece gives it no value it did not have in the bar. To facilitate exchange and give strict uniformity to gold values the civilized governments of the earth take all the gold offered, reduce it to a common fineness and place a seal upon it of both its fineness and weight. This is the work of the mints and these institutions are placed at convenient intervals around the world—except at Dawson. The in-

justice of demanding that a man's gold be coined before it will be accepted for taxes is not apparent where the man can carry it to the mint at any time and get gold coin or equally acceptable and negotiable certificates on short notice. The result of such a readiness of exchange at the mints is that there is no difference in value of the bullion before it enters the mint and when it leaves again as gold coin. Now then suppose a government closed all its mints, or what is more applicable to our situation in Dawson, suppose a community to be isolated from the rest of the world and all the mints by natural barriers. What happens the values of its abundant supply of bullion? It depreciates just in proportion to the importance of the government demanding gold or its equivalent in currency, or in proportion to the necessities of the bullion holder. This is exactly the case in Dawson today. Not a man but must admit the advantage of currency over dust as a medium of exchange, yet a little thought must convince all that something else is required from our government besides a demand for payment of all dues, etc., in currency; they should also provide a government branch mint where dust will be taken at its true value and currency given for it. It would be too expensive to maintain a regular mint, but there is no reason why a sub-office should not be here since they demand that our gold must be coined before it will be accepted as taxes.

Observe the system as it works now. Gold coin or its equivalent in currency is demanded. This is in the hands of a few people and in limited quantities. Gradually, but surely, the few coins and bills in circulation drift by natural means into the coffers of the government and then are transferred to the banks. These institutions again exchange it for discounted gold dust to importunate would-be tax-payers, and the operation is repeated over and over again in a never ending circle. While it is perfectly true that no great financial loss is being sustained by the miner, the system is seen to be radically wrong upon its very face. A branch office of the mint would immediately correct not only this evil but others doubly as serious. The use of dust in ordinary commerce opens up avenues of profit to dishonest dealers and great loss to purchasers. The police will bear us out in the statement that the shearing of gold sacks by unscrupulous dealers is a daily and hourly occurrence. It may be compounded a felony for the Nugget to refrain from making complaint to the proper authorities of the cases of this kind of robbery which come under our personal observation, but the recovery of the stolen gold often depends upon our reticence.

To sum up, the only course for complaint in the order requiring the payment of dues to the government in currency is that at the same time the government does not provide us a means of equitably exchanging our dust for the currency they demand.

### THE TRUTH IS GOOD ENOUGH.

The rush toward the Klondike is undoubtedly at an end. The many discouraged men who went out broke during the summer ought to be a sufficient warning to prevent any further stampede of people into this country. If any considerable number come in next year they will consist largely of men who have acquired interests or who are seeking the Klondike as a fruitful place for the investment of capital. No amount of newspaper exaggeration and misrepresentation can possibly occasion a repetition of the scenes that were witnessed on the trails last fall and spring.

The real facts in regard to the resources of this country and the cost of development are becoming widely known, and before the present season is at an end it will be as well understood on the outside as it is in Dawson today, that the Klondike is not in any sense of the expression a poor man's paradise.

We do not by this desire to be understood as in any way attempting to disparage or belittle the unquestioned wealth of this district. The placer gold

fields of the Yukon valley probably exceed in extent and richness any others in the world that are being worked today. But nuggets do not grow upon the trees; neither are they found, as a usual thing, upon the surface of the ground. On the contrary, when a miner finds himself working on the pay streak and taking out the rich pay dirt it may be concluded in nine cases out of ten that he has spent months of the very hardest and most wearying work a man can perform, before he has even located the coveted pay.

Many people have gone to the outside during the past few months who to use a slangy but expressive phrase will lose no opportunity to give the Klondike a "black eye." They are the class of men who ordinarily refuse to believe the truth simply for the reason that it suits their own desires and projects to give credence to something that is false. The truth, plain and unvarnished will never injure this country. There is enough of substantial backing already in sight to guarantee a permanent camp for years to come. But capital and improved machinery will be required to develop our resources as they should be, and it is only a question of time when both will be on the ground. Meanwhile with present methods, gold is being taken out in quantities that recall the palmy days of California and '49.

### THE TIME WILL BE SHORTENED.

There seems to be every reason for believing that the Yukon will remain frozen just as it is for the balance of the winter. Last year the river opened before the final freeze-up, and in consequence huge masses of ice were piled promiscuously on top, with the result that traveling by dog team for any distance was an exceedingly difficult proposition. Should the ice remain comparatively smooth, as it is at present, the time between Dawson and the coast will be materially lessened. Twenty days were an exceedingly short time in which to make the trip last winter, and any one who made it in 25 days was counted a first-class traveler. Already, however, this winter, men are coming forward who figure on reaching the coast in from twelve to fourteen days. Whether their hopes will be realized or not remains to be seen, but the circumstances at the present time are very favorable.

The posts that have been established along the river will obviate the necessity of taking any considerable quantity of supplies, and hence a man with a good team will be able to ride a much larger portion of the way than has been the case heretofore. This fact, combined with the prospect of a comparatively smooth trail, will make the trip an easy one. It will not be altogether surprising if a record of ten days is made before the ice goes out next spring. So far as is known the record for last winter was eighteen days. If the trip could be made in that length of time under the circumstances which then prevailed, it is not too much to expect that the time this year can be reduced almost one-half, provided conditions remain as they are.

### WHY IT IS HERE.

Twelve thousand years ago the north pole was directly over the great pyramid of Egypt. This brought the equatorial line along the Andes, Rocky mountains and Cascades, through Alaska, Siberia, Australia and thence back through the lost continents of Lemuria and Atlantis to the Andes again. The remains of a common flora and fauna are found either fossilized or in earth stratas in Peru and in the ice of Alaska. This old equator was the zone of the greatest volcanic disturbance and saw the greatest deposits of gold. The change of the earth's axis was so sudden as to overwhelm whole continents with rushing oceans, which could not as readily conform to the changed motion of the world as could the more firmly fixed earth. Much of the gold on the old equator was badly scattered by the rush of waters, but the gold of the Klondike was instantly bound by icy fetters, and has been retained in its original position ever since.

New streams have in some places cut through the original belts and have borne the gold to new levels, but our bench gold is just where the great change of axis found it twelve thousand years ago.

Summer torrents have here and there built up new rudimentary ground, often-times right over glaciers, until there is no telling what would be the topographical contour of this arctic region were we to again get a prolonged season of heat as before the change of axis. The glaciers underneath would melt, and lakes would form where now are frozen flats.

## St. Mary's Hospital

IN CHARGE OF THE SISTERS OF ST. ANNE.

Tickets, good for one year and covering all expense in time of sickness, \$20.  
Patients Without Tickets, \$5.00 per day for Nursing, Board and Washing. Doctors' Fees, \$5.00 per visit.

FATHER JUDGE, SUPT.

## YUKON SAW MILL CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF  
First Quality Matched, Dressed, Rustic, Roofing, and Rough Lumber  
House Logs Furnished, Cordwood &c.  
Orders filled promptly.

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SHORT ORDERS A SPECIALTY.

E. DETWILER, Mgr., S. Y. T. Bldg., Foot of 3rd St.

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In all its Latest Styles executed from new type faces at this office.....

We have facilities for

### Check Binding

### Perforating, Numbering and

### Stapling

### STOCK VERY COMPLETE AND WELL ASSORTED

Plenty of type and press facilities for the execution of

### Pamphlets, Blanks and Programs

## THE KLONDIKE NUGGET

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