

# 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, MARCH 8, 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.

### "FAWCETT EXONERATED."

In the houses of parliament and of congress there is an odd custom which has grown to formidable proportions and is known as "talking to the galleries." A congressman represents a constituency which is particularly desirous of the passage of a certain measure. He himself knows it to be a hopeless undertaking and yet wishes to impress his constituents with the fact that he is moving heaven and earth for them. Accordingly he has his private secretary, if he has one, or some literary "hack" to prepare a lengthy and eloquently written appeal for the passage of the measure in hand. On the first convenient Saturday's session he hands in his roll of manuscript which next reappears in daylight in the printed *Congressional Record* as the eloquent address of Congressman So-and-so. Free copies of the *Record* are "franked" to the afore-mentioned constituents who peruse the famous speech (?) of their representative with many chuckles of satisfaction at his gift of powerful oratory and his most forcible presentation of facts. In their innocence of heart they little realize that the speech had never been heard, and read by no one but themselves. This is "talking to the gallery" with a vengeance and its local application is apparent. The *Miner-Sun's* defense of the Yukon administration was not designed for the edification of the miners, neither is it perused or swallowed by them. It is simply for the deletion of the accused officials—a simple case of "talking to the galleries," or in the more expressive vernacular of the day—a "talking through the hat." Mr. Fawcett et al. will now be able to frame their certificates of good character, given them by the *Miner-Sun*, though we very much doubt if it will act as a letter of recommendation in securing them future employment when their time to quit comes here. A eulogy by a hired attorney in court is always ridiculous, and a vindication by a subsidized government organ is not worth the paper it is written upon as a vindication.

The intelligence of the Klondike miners as a whole is of a very high order and if Mr. Fawcett and his companions in wrong have a defense to offer for all the heart breakings and unjust disappointments they have caused the miners to suffer, let them out with it. The people can be trusted to read aright and to fully understand the best mental childlings the accused officials can father. When Mr. Fawcett compelled two unoffending ladies to pay his friend Alex McDonald the sum of \$2000 before letting them record claims which they were rightfully entitled to, it was done with that lofty and supercilious disregard of public opinion which ever marks the bumptious amateur in office who always looks upon the people he is supposed to be serving with the spirit which dictated Vanderbilt's famous—or rather infamous—answer to the "But what of the public sir?" every one remembers the answer: "The public be damned." To give such men an all would be the signal for their taking a mile, and but for Mr. Fawcett's

recent peremptory removal from office we should undoubtedly have seen him before the end of his term in the character of Nero fiddling to the burning of the city of Rome, while the impotent people looked on amazed but helpless.

Nominally Mr. Fawcett has been retained in the government service as "chief" of surveyors. As an actual fact it is extremely improbable that the government will ever let him return to the land where he has done so much to bring that government into disrepute. As a dominion land surveyor in Dawson Mr. Fawcett could do quite well among his late clientele—the rich men and companies of the Klondike. But even this is merely supposing that he can demonstrate himself to have the "pull" he had as gold commissioner. Rich operators and companies want "influence" and are willing always to pay for it, for like "casting bread upon the waters" it will reappear to them "after many days."

The almost hopeless confusion in which the late gold commissioner left his office is rapidly being straightened out. Admission charges to his office have ceased. His contradictory and unjust rulings which worked such intolerable hardships upon the common people are becoming matters of past history. His decisions based upon the regulations are in actual practice being reversed, yet the system inaugurated by him of the sale of office information by his clerks has become such an established custom that notwithstanding the emphatic veto of the present incumbent it still goes on, though now in the strictest concealment, whereas under Mr. Fawcett's regime it was with his approval and consent.

Notwithstanding the commissioner's ruling about August 25 being the limit of investigation, the voluntary evidence against Mr. Fawcett, elicited oftentimes without a single person in court being interested in drawing out evidence of a condemnatory character, has been of a most conclusive character so far as it has gone, and when the governor's extension of power arrives to take in official acts subsequent to August 25, or upon the arrival of a parliamentary commission of inquiry, there will be enough uncovered to so blacken the administration that the pages which will deal with it will be cut out of Canadian history by common consent, as too corrupt for the perusal of future generations. The evidence submitted in our columns against the extortion case was sufficient to convince the most skeptical, notwithstanding its voluntary nature, and before any trained judge would have been so declared ere this.

Nevertheless, under the administration of Mr. Senkler there is a most distinct improvement in the official atmosphere, and a feeling of growing confidence is becoming daily more and more apparent amongst the masses.

### A WONDERFUL IDEA.

At last the mystery has been solved. A mighty brain, pregnant with a wonderful idea, has delivered it for all the world to gaze at. A mountain has labored and brought forth a mouse. A composite genius of Henry Clay head and Websterian brilliance has evolved from the cavernous depths of his meteor-like inner consciousness the solution of that mystery of all mysteries, as to why and how the NUGGET DARES espouse the cause of the miner vs. a corrupt administration. Listen to the wisdom of this newly bubbled and gigantic intellect. O ye of befogged understanding! A new prophet has arisen in Israel; O ye of little faith! Open thine eyes and raise thine heads, while this man's gray matter writhes in atomic convulsions, and try and absorb to your benighted intellects the lime light like effects of a real mind at work. The reason we dare befriend the people who are standing shoulder to shoulder by us in our fight for honest government is that Canadian Conservatives are at our back. So says "Juvenal" in the *Miner-Sun*, and so echoes the *Miner-Sun* editorially. Why does not the writer sign himself "Juvenile." We think the name would more best this brilliant birthing. "Infantile" would be still better, though we believe him worthy of a still younger appellation, and would

suggest "conception" as fitting his mental status to a "tee-white-tee." What a gem of an idea, to be sure. The NUGGET's fearlessness in a righteous cause is merely the result of collusion with some conservative or conservatives of Canada unknown. "Juvenal" should be at once placed inside a glass case, for such mental precocity must of necessity be extremely delicate, and he may blow away before this effort at thought can be repeated; and what an irreparable loss to the world that would be. Give such a mind scope enough and fertilize it once for each crop of thought, and there you have a sage, capable of shedding refulgent rays of light upon a brightened world. By all means encourage it to grow. Put it in a baby incubator if need be, for if its first effort at thought is so pregnant of wisdom, what will it not do when it acquires its full stature?

### NEW CONDITIONS.

There are now something like 13,000 placer mining claims upon the records of the gold commissioner's office. Each one of those claims has to be "represented" for three months before the expiration of one year from date of filing. Heretofore the constantly increasing population of the district has proved an inexhaustible source from which to draw men to do the representing. It is easy to see that the coming season will show a great change in these conditions. Undoubtedly the territory will lose more of its population than it will gain from new arrivals, while the number of recorded claims will all the time be increasing. It will be no easy thing to pick up Cheechacos to represent "wild cats" for an interest, and the consequence will be a reversal to the government of at least half the staked ground—a consummation devoutly to be wished, as the most of it was taken up in the merest speculation, and without any intention in the world of bona fide prospecting it. A more substantial mining era is dawning for the Klondike, and already a disposition is noticeable in our people to fight shy of staking ground as heretofore, for the simple reason that it was vacant and eligible to staking. Gradually the time is approaching when it will be distinctly unprofitable to hold great numbers of claims in unknown gulches and upon undug hills.

The foregoing carries with it some simple suggestions. There is at the present moment plenty of ground which is lapsing from non-representation, and it is going to increase in area as the days lengthen. We have in our midst numerous stout hearted miners who, undaunted by past failures, would willingly sink another shaft did they know which ground was vacant and which was occupied. The only place at which such information is obtainable is at the inquiry window in the gold commissioner's office, and then only in homeopathic doses. It appears to us a hardship to require a prospector on Dominion, Gold Run or Eureka to be constantly coming to the office to look for another 250 foot square piece of ground on which it would be safe to prospect. Past experience in the courts demonstrate that the prospector is absolutely unsafe in depending in any degree upon the information contained upon the stakes found on the ground he is passing over. It dampens the ardor of any prospector to work in uncertainty as to the ground being already held, and thus we see daily the anomalous spectacle of hundreds of stout miners trapesing backward and forward to town getting required information, wasting their strength and substance in everlasting "mushing," when they would much more profitably for the district be engaged in exercising with a pick, pan and shovel.

An old-time mining recorder suggests an easy way out of the difficulty. There are not a hundred new claims recorded on an average each day, so that the plan would not involve any great amount of extra clerical work in the office. Let there be an entry book provided. On February 10th when a claim is recorded, let the clerk turn to a page of the new book, and under date of November 10th enter the same claim as vacant if not represented. On February 11th enter the claims in the new book under date of

November 11th, and so on, and let that book be as absolutely free to the public as it can be made, and then the difficulty will be solved from November 10th onwards.

### A LIGHTNING CHANGE.

The *Miner-Sun* is devoting a great deal of space these days to the NUGGET's charges against Mr. Fawcett. This is done probably at the behest of the masters of that concern. It is astonishing how small an amount of government pay will buy some characterless printing concerns. A free pass over a hundred-mile division of a railroad has aforesaid been known to lend a weakly judgment in the interest of a monopoly. Yet it is surprising to witness a newspaper, which came out as "The Miner's Friend," deliberately stultifying itself before it has ended its first six months of existence. It reminds us of a certain demagogue who for years endeavored to pose as the workingman's friend, and who was insultingly disavowed by every body of workingmen in the country. They had shrewdly detected the ass beneath the lion-skin, and never put it in his power to betray them. He afterwards came out as a paid hireling of the opposite side, and eked out a miserable existence on the crumbs which fell from the table of the rich men he served, and who despised him as utterly as did the workingmen. His end came "unmourned, unhonored and unsung," neglected by the men he had served at the expense of his honor. The fate of the *Miner-Sun* is as easily foreseen as the outcome of a mathematical problem. Refused the trust and patronage of the public, it subsists upon the veriest droppings from the government's table, and bye-and-bye a new Pharaoh will ascend the throne "who knew not Joseph." Disowned on the one side and disacknowledged on the other, but one end awaits this apostle of treachery—an unmourned grave and swift oblivion.

The occupants of the water front, more than others, have had occasion lately to realize the benefit which they enjoy in the existence of a prompt, willing and intelligent fire department. A vast amount of property has twice been saved by them there within the past two weeks, and that, too, against adverse circumstances. The facts they will probably consider in their proper light at this time, when the fire boys are soliciting the purchase of tickets to their next ball, which is the only way in which they permit the public to assist them.

## YOU PLACE THE ORDER



WE DO THE REST . . .

Will make purchases and deliver goods (either express packages, or freight) to any claim on the creeks.



HAVE YOU TRIED OUR SERVICE?

## Nugget Express

E. C. ALLEN, Manager.  
MAIN OFFICE—in the "Phoenix"  
BRANCH OFFICE—Forks of Eldorado and Bonanza.  
Orders may be given any agent or driver of team.

### SPECIAL

The Splendid P. H.

What Will Be Done Extra Comp Not Thers or

sixteen miles at the famous P our long tramp accomplished. Th and stopping plac in spots on the riving way, muc and in two or th take to the shore along, it has bee the expedition of the mails, now b N. W. M. Polloe, tion some eredi he informed of by his departm The men weat been singularly regards efficien when one regar in the territorie corporals 85 cent the Yukon to 11 day each, one co human nature w upon that which particularly wh observation the sturdy boys, aw district for two unteered to sen the territories.

As intimated I met three mails last Monday, Ja investigate the First of all, it strated that the with dispatch, been established landing official Bennett in nme dardand it, not but the request the boys along t in that spirit wh stated.

The lack of m suffering. Dealu sums were hun tainty, optiens news from fami obliterated beca The police were post in post or to at Skaguay, but tly in the usual string from the postoffice, or a rapidly congeste mter for the Y Colonel Steele a man of metho realized the stu constly of some him, but the inc With only 190 tide-water to Fc nearly 700 mil necessary in D each post and tw attached to each and the service put into effect in and when one 400 to 600 pounds to get the long- one cannot help for a departmen erment and to force. All Yukon ore at Skaguay d sleds and rushe Cabin and then made out head lice—Yukon Me with a list of al Dawson, hour c A. N. or P. M. n each receipting number of sack dogs, rations, fo sacks, in which causes, etc., and quarters in Daw Surely these m pension for th was let for \$80.00 principal occup tract has been Skaguay rolling shins at a com terrible experie Jured in his ma It must also carrying mail a for this expect dities as policee orders in the pr ing of summons.

Arriv Messrs. Sidney Rolle and Dury on Saturday, and Club hotel. The and made a slow merchandise th in an old-time P general of the