

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1900.

THE REAL REASON.

More than a year and a half ago, the announcement was made in Dawson that representation on the Yukon Council would be granted to the electors of the territory whenever they saw fit to declare themselves ready to exercise the franchise. Such declarations have been made at intervals during this entire period, but the necessary machinery has never, as yet, been placed in motion. It appears now as though there is no intention on the part of the powers that be to allow the representation ordinance to be placed in effect until after the elections, which, it is now said, will be held throughout Canada during the month of June. It is not apparent what the government expects to gain by this action, aside from postponing the effect on the outside of a probable defeat in this territory.

Upon this hypothesis, which, we submit, is the only reasonable theory that can be advanced in explanation of the attitude of the party in power toward the question of Yukon representation, it is reasonable to assume that the Yukon question occupies a far more important position before the people of Canada than is generally supposed.

As a matter of fact, such prominence and publicity have been given to matters affecting the administration of affairs in this territory, both through the press and in parliament, that the Yukon question is as familiar a matter throughout Canada as the preferential tariff clause.

Newspapers of every political shade and complexion have discussed the Yukon question in all its different phases. According to their information, or, more often, according to their political affiliations, they have condemned or defended the administration, but it all has served to bring the Yukon out the more prominently before the people.

Without doubt, therefore, the real motive for putting off the matter of representation is as noted above. The claim has been made by the politicians that none but aliens in the Yukon are opposed to the government. A defeat at the polls would be an effectual answer to this claim, and would carry its effect throughout Canada. Hence the firm determination to hold an election off until returns are in from the outside.

As a starter for the proposed new system of roads which the Council has under advisement, some means should be provided for getting across the Klondike. Neither the present bridge nor the ferry is adequate to meet the necessities of travel, especially in view of the fact that heavy machinery is now required on all the creeks in constantly increasing quantities. A public bridge should be built of such strength and width that the heaviest loads

can be taken across without risk. Such grafts as toll bridges and ferries should no longer be allowed to remain as reminders of the days when the country contained nothing but grafts. This does not go in any way to show that there are not other and greater grafts still being worked in the country, but most of them are clothed with a semi-decent garb of respectability, which cannot be said of these other remnants of the days of Yukon barbarism.

Unless Uncle Sam gets a decided move on himself and sends a district judge to Nome immediately after the opening of navigation, there will certainly be all kinds of trouble at that camp. There will be tens of thousands of people rushing around on the beach, every man endeavoring to get a strip of ground that will yield good pay. A few of these will find what they are looking for, and the rest will be disappointed. Then is the time when trouble must be looked for. The strong arm of the law must be very much in evidence at Nome if serious difficulties are obviated.

The idea of paving First avenue with gravel has met with much favor among business men on the street. The new and broad sidewalk has so greatly improved the appearance of our principal thoroughfare already that nearly everyone is anxious to see the good work completed by properly improving the street itself. By making use of the prisoners, the work can be done at a nominal cost.

Trouble in Kimberly.

London, March 28.—While the fifty odd columns written at the front, appearing during the last two days in the London dailies, have been chiefly devoted to Cronje's surrender and Lady-smith's relief, other events no less interesting have developed in the letters of those not fortunate enough to have been present at the great occasions. The troubles between Cecil Rhodes and Col. Kekewich are not fully told. It appears that the relations between the "empire maker" and the colonel commanding at Kimberly, reached such a pass that Mr. Rhodes ordered the army officer out of the house. The dispute is told in detail by the Kimberly correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, who writes:

"When Mr. Rhodes saw the danger to which the town and its inhabitants were exposed he concluded that the time had arrived for the facts in the case to be placed on record. Accordingly, the mayor and a few leading citizens in consultation with him drew up the following representation, which was duly forwarded to Col. Kekewich, accompanied by the request that he would transmit it by heliograph to the higher military authorities:

"Kimberly, Feb. 10.
"On behalf of the inhabitants of this town we respectfully desire to be informed whether there is an intention on your part to make an immediate effort for our relief. Your troops have been for more than two months within a distance of little over 20 miles from Kimberly, and if the Spytfontein hills are too strong for them, there is an easy approach over a level flat. This town, with a population of over 45,000 people, has been besieged for 120 days, and a large portion of the inhabitants have been enduring great hardships. Scurvy is rampant among the natives; children, owing to the lack of food, are dying in great numbers, and dysentery and typhoid are very prevalent. The chief foods of the whites have been bread and horseflesh for a long time past. These hardships, we think you will agree, have been borne patiently and without complaint by the people. During the last few days the enemy have brought into action, from a position within three miles of us, a 6-inch gun, throwing a 100 pound shell, which is setting fire to our buildings and is causing death daily among the population. As you are aware, the military guns here are totally inadequate to cope with this new gun. The only weapon which gives any help is one of local manufacture. Under these circumstances, as representing this community, we feel that we are justified in asking whether you have any immediate intention of

instructing your troops to advance to our relief. We understand large reinforcements have recently arrived in Cape Town, and we feel sure that your men at Modder river have at the outside 1000-Boers opposed to them. You must be the judge as to what number of British troops would be required to deal with this body of men, but it is absolutely necessary that relief should be afforded to this place.

"After taking time to consider his decision the officer commanding sent Mr. Rhodes a letter informing him that the substance of his communication had been forwarded to Lord Roberts by heliograph to Enslin. Lord Roberts' reply, which was communicated in due course, possesses no less historical interest than the remarkable communication which originated the correspondence:

"I beg you represent to the mayor and Mr. Rhodes as strongly as you possibly can the disastrous and humiliating effect of surrender, after so prolonged and glorious a defense. Many days cannot possibly pass before Kimberley will be relieved, as we commence active operations tomorrow. Future military operations depend in a large measure on your maintaining your position a very short time longer."

"Mr. Rhodes was very much annoyed at the suggestion that thought of surrender had ever occurred, either to himself or to those associated with him in the representations which had been transmitted to Roberts, and as soon as Roberts and Kitchener arrived in Kimberly he took an early opportunity of disabusing their minds of such a mischievous impression.

"It is to be regretted that the relations between Mr. Rhodes and Col. Kekewich should have been almost, from the beginning of the siege, for reasons which it is impossible to discuss, almost uniformly unsatisfactory. Col. Kekewich treated Mr. Rhodes as a simple civilian. On his part Mr. Rhodes was intolerant of military routine, a little too inclined to express his opinion bluntly and brusquely. Still, the fact remains that harmonious relations with the head of the De Beers Company were absolutely essential to the smooth operation of the military staff with the civil population. They were barely on speaking terms when the siege was raised, and their accidental meeting shortly before Gen. French's arrival gave rise to a most stormy scene. Col. Kekewich, it appears, told Mr. Rhodes that he had come to see the general about arresting the editor of the Diamond Fields Advertiser. Mr. Rhodes replied warmly:

"Then you had better arrest me, for I agree with every word he has written, and we ought to go to prison together."

"This led to a lively passage at arms, which ended with Mr. Rhodes ordering Col. Kekewich to leave the house. Subsequently Mr. Rhodes explained the reason of the article to Gen. French, who was quite satisfied and declined point blank to act upon Col. Kekewich's irate suggestions."

Busy Ketchikan.

For the past year considerable attention has been devoted to quartz properties in the neighborhood of Ketchikan, Alaska, and the more the country is prospected the greater it proves to be in gold bearing ore. All ore found in that country is of much higher grade than that of Douglas island, where the famous Treadwell stamp mills are located. The latest regarding Ketchikan is, it true, a big boom for the place. A late issue of the Alaskan says:

"A promising vein of ore has been found right in the town of Ketchikan and within 1000 feet of one of the wharves. The vein is five feet thick and assays more than \$10 in gold and silver. The news of this strike is told by Frank E. Burns, agent for the Alaska Steamship Company, who has just returned from Ketchikan. He says further:

"The strike is being prospected by the owner, Mr. Hunter, formerly of Seattle, and he is hopeful of the find proving highly valuable. Hunter is an old time mining man and made a good strike in his time in the country north of Spokane.

"As to the report that a smelter is to be put in at Ketchikan, I give little credence. Smelters do not come until after a country gets to producing. Stamp mills are big enterprises for this stage of the game. However, Ketchikan is lively, and men are constantly arriving there to go out prospecting or work properties already located."

Private dining rooms at the Holborn. Same old price, 25 cents, for drinks at the Regina.

Developed mining property for sale. Its merits can be determined by personal investigation. Norton D. Walling, Grand Forks, N. D.

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And to Follow for 6 Months Each Saturday & Monday

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S. Y. T. Co. Seattle No. 3 & Rock Island
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