

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1900

IT IS UNANIMOUS.

There is, we believe, a practically unanimous feeling existing throughout the Yukon territory that a radical change in existing laws is essential to the permanent prosperity of the country. This conviction which has been steadily growing for the past two years has become thus universal as the result of experience.

The number of those who oppose and condemn the attitude of the Siftonian regime toward the Yukon has gradually increased and multiplied until there is almost but one opinion left in the territory. Men who refused to be convinced by the mere act of listening to a theory as to what results would ensue in this country from certain lines of legislation, have had conviction forced upon their minds by coming into actual contact with the practical workings of the laws.

We do not believe that an instance in history can be cited where a population as cosmopolitan in its nature as is the population of this territory, has presented a more united front than is presented by the people of the Yukon territory in their demands for alterations in existing laws.

All lines of nationality have disappeared and insofar as the principal questions that effect the welfare of the country are concerned, Canadians, Englishmen, Australians, Americans and members of all other nationalities represented here are of one voice. This unanimity of feeling must ere long bring results. Ottawa cannot forever remain deaf to the voice of reason and common sense. The fact that the territory, given a show to live and prosper, can become a source of large revenue to the government for many years to come and at the same time maintain a population over and again as large as the present, must sooner or later be so forcibly brought to the government's attention that a change will ensue.

RELATIONS WITH OTTAWA.

During the approaching summer it would be a wise move to endeavor to secure the presence in Dawson of as many members of parliament as possible. There is no escaping the fact that the members of the federal legislative body for the most part have extremely vague ideas of what the exact conditions are which prevail in this far away corner of the Dominion.

Those who have interested themselves in the matter sufficiently to attempt to become posted upon affairs here have relied for the most part upon newspaper reports published on the outside and for the most part colored to meet some particular purpose. Exaggerated stories of the country's wealth, and the hardships attendant upon reaching the interior have been spread so far and wide over Canada and the States as

well, that the fame of the Klondike liar is as broad as the fame of Klondike gold.

Men will believe ordinarily what they see with their own eyes. They will trust the evidence of their own senses when they are disposed to discredit testimony of any other nature.

It would in the end prove a remunerative investment on the part of our heavy claim owners and business houses, should they assist materially in financing a parliamentary excursion into the Yukon territory during the approaching season of open navigation. With the actual facts placed before them as to the manner and cost of operating a claim in this country and the difficulties incident thereto it would not be difficult to convince such a delegation that some changes are decidedly needed. The heaven thus set in operation would work with most satisfactory results, beyond doubt.

The new mining laws, especially prepared for the Nome district as per telegram published elsewhere in this paper, will in all probability be passed, and as will be observed they are more favorable to the poor man than to corporations and syndicates, it being unlawful for any person or corporation to hold to exceed five claims. As the dimensions of the claims are quite small, the possessor of even five of them would not have very much territory. On the whole, the law as proposed and as it will doubtless pass is probably the best that could be made under the circumstances.

The return of severely cold weather was almost entirely unexpected. Most of us had begun to congratulate ourselves upon the fact that balmy spring time was at hand when the mercury again took a turn and dropped almost out of sight. It is a long road, however, that has no turn. When the icy bonds that now hold our rivers and creeks enslaved begin to loosen their grasp and the returning duck and goose herald the approach of genial spring time we will forget entirely that we have passed through six months of continuous cold.

There is something almost tragically pathetic in the sight of a man starting on the 1300 mile ice journey to Nome and pulling a loaded sleigh behind him. To the average mind it conjures the picture of a forlorn hope confronted by obstacles which make it absolutely impossible of realization.

There is a fortune ahead for the man who will produce an airship for the Nome business. All he need do is to guarantee arrival on the beach 24 hours ahead of the first boat. On that condition he can dictate his own terms as to the price of passage.

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Feb. 12, 1900.

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THE STROLLER'S COLUMN.

The vast majority of Dawson's foot-light favorites are now monkeying with life's sternest tragedy. What little money that each possessed at the time of the big fire has long since been exhausted. Most of them spent their savings carelessly. It was no uncommon sight five weeks ago to see several winsome fairies in the "synagogue" singing catchy songs at intervals between drinks. When their own money was gone, gallant escorts enabled the damsels to continue these nightly revelries for some considerable time; but all this has passed away. The fairies are broke; so are most of their erstwhile companions. The admirers, whose finances were sufficient to withstand the assaults of the first week, have wearied of spending money for wine. The important air of the specialty artist has disappeared. Good, bad and indifferent members of the theatrical profession are equal, at the present time, on Dawson's rialto. All of them are doing more or less effective sparring for the necessities of life; and the opening of the new Orpheum is an event anxiously awaited.

Max Endleman, distinguished for a \$12,000 losing against faro bank at the Forks, is visiting Dawson. During the past few days he has made several sittings against the local games; but in each instance he has subjected innumerable rubbernecks to sad disappointment, for he has neither won nor lost heavily. Max did intend to go to Nome, where he expected to run a gambling house without a "limit," but such exalted ambition was defeated by his recent disastrous play, and, for some months to come, it is likely that he will spend his time and money in the Klondike.

The report of Dick Lowe's marriage at Oakland, California, occasioned the weather stained features of many a sour dough to relax into a smile. He, like so many of his old time acquaintances, has succumbed to the charms of a pretty variety actress. Dick often commented severely upon the practice of resorting to the stage for a partner in life, and was capable of recounting a multiplicity of instances wherein Yukon bridegrooms with plenty of dust had ultimately come to grief. Evidently, he has eradicated these visionary ideas from his mind and has concluded that the unhappy examples of married life which he had observed were the exceptions and not the rule in matrimony. The founders in Dawson evince no surprise at Dick's latest plunge. They have seen him move in a stack of yellows on duce in the hole, and are quite prepared to believe that he would take a chance at anything. Here's to you, Dick! "May you live long and prosper!"

No where in the British empire could there be greater "patriotism displayed" than was evidenced at the Palace Grand last Wednesday evening, during the entertainment given for the benefit of the widows and orphans of soldiers killed in the Boer war. The recitation of Kipling's poem, "The Absent-Minded Beggar," by Miss Jessie Perry aroused the generous impulses of the auditors. Many of the spectators voluntarily parted with all the money which they had on their persons. Crown Prosecutor Wade not only relieved himself of his money, but among the last handful of coins which he threw upon the stage, was a pearl-handled pocket knife that he unintentionally contributed in the excitement of the moment.

"Speaking of dreams, I want to say that I am a firm believer in them. The speaker was a man who arrived here in the fall of '97 and who has not had a square meal since the outfit he brought with him was eaten up. 'I'll tell why I believe in dreams,' continued the speaker; 'the night before I

left Missouri—now laugh and show your ignorance—I had a dream about what luck I would have in this country. I dreamed that luck would go against me and it has. In fact, I have not tried to do anything here for I just knew that it was no use. I dreamed I would not succeed and I have not tried to oppose the dream. I would have backed out of coming the very morning I started but I didn't want to be laughed at and gayed by my neighbors, so I came and have been ever since living in a sort of hand to mouth fashion, but I just knew there was no use in me trying to kick against fate, so I didn't tire myself kicking. Only two nights ago I had another dream, the first since I came to the country, and so plain was it that I actually woke up with such a start as to cause me to fall out of the chair in which I was sleeping down at one of the joints. This time my dream told me plainly to go to Nome and go to a point 67 steps along the beach northward from an old stump that I will find there and dig a hole four feet and nine inches deep and begin to scoop up almost pure gold with just enough sand in it to slightly discolor the water when I wash it. My dream told me I was to stay in Nome until the 23rd of October and then skin out and make back to old Missouri by Thanksgiving. Say, pard, if I don't make them corn pones peel their eyes when I get back there it will be a wonder. If you know any fellow that you think is O. K., and if he will put up the stuff for the trip to Nome, I will take him in with me on my layout there on the beach, 67 steps from the stump. Let me t'ya a pipeful of your T. & B. Ah, thanks."

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