

# THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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DAWSON, Y. T., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1898

Price 25 CENTS

## "IT'S A NIGHTMARE"

### When Miners are Mulcted for Toll by the P. T. Co.

#### BECAUSE THOS. O'BRIEN INVESTED IN A WIND-BUILT TRAIL MINERS MUST REIMBURSE HIM.

#### And an Alleged Government Organ is Authority for the Statement.

#### But What do the Men Having Their Provisions Think of Such a Proposition as They are "Held Up"—And Then Again, We Haven't Heard Much From or About the "Silent" and Missing Quarter Interest in This Tramway Without a Tram.

At last we have been given the reason under the guise of officialdom why the miners of Bonanza and Eldorado creeks should be "held up" by toll keepers and "guards" as they haul their provisions to their claims over their own trail, usurped now largely by the Pioneer Tramway Co., commonly known to the miners as the "Grand and Original Grading Concern." An alleged official organ, which has a little of a bottle containing the milk of officialdom, in its mouth is authority for the statement.

"The Pioneer Tramway Co. is the latest enterprise in which Mr. O'Brien has become interested." \* \* \* "To build the road as it is today cost \$30,000 representing the three-fourths interest that Mr. O'Brien has in the road."

"The toll houses all along the tramway are very comfortable \* \* \* and are so located \* \* \* that to beat the company will be an utter impossibility."

The above paragraph is taken from a presumably paid for write up in the poor government sheet, which for paltry lucre sells its own unregarded opinion thus: "Regardless of what the miners may think \* \* \* we do not believe there is one far-sighted miner on the creek who believes Tom O'Brien \* \* \* should be induced to spend this large sum of money \* \* \* and have it made a loss to him, etc."

Now the miners can readily understand why they must "stand and deliver" to the toll keepers and guards of the Pioneer Tramway Co. without a tram. Mr. Thomas O'Brien, a business man of Klondike City, and so far as we know a very energetic gentleman, for the Nugget has nothing to say concerning Mr. O'Brien personally, was "induced" to invest the large sum of \$30,000, it is claimed in the "wind-built" trail of Mr. Henning. Who "induced" Mr. O'Brien credited with being ordinarily a shrewd level headed business man, to make this investment? And then it is claimed that for the \$30,000 investment he was "induced" to make he only got a three-fourths interest. What became of the other fourth or \$10,000, which in actual cash value would represent an original capital of \$40,000? Who holds that silent fourth interest, which the miners are being compelled to "ante" daily to the toll keepers and guards of this Tramway Co. without a tram? Did the miners of Bonanza and the upper creeks "induce" Mr. O'Brien to do so? Who was it that offered or rather endeavored to "induce" a certain large moneyed concern to handle the proposition Mr. O'Brien was "induced" to handle, and for only \$10,000, \$30,000 of which, was for so-called preferred claims, and \$10,000 unpreferred, representing unpaid labor employed by Mr. Henning when building his trail? Mr. O'Brien should investigate a little further and see why he was "induced" to pay the \$30,000 amount is correct, \$10,000 more than the interest he holds was held out as an "inducement" to others.

The thoroughly bled miners on the creeks can now plainly see that because Mr. O'Brien has been "induced" by probably the "silent" fourth interest to make this unpopular investment, that the only thing for them to do is to come down to Klondike City, visit Mr. O'Brien's storehouses, buy a hundred weight of flour at \$10 and then when he comes to Mr. O'Brien's toll house on Bonanza creek, or meets one of Mr. O'Brien's guards, "dig up" 50 cents more on it. The miners can readily figure out they are being handed a good thing. When the proper time comes the Nugget will have plenty to say concerning the "silent" fourth interest and where it is held, and don't let that fact ever be forgotten. Attempts may be made to cover up these nightmares, but the Nugget will continue to unearth them as long as they continue to exist.

The Nugget has no opposition to offer Mr. O'Brien in a tramway proposition. It will be

a good thing it is believed, when a tramway is built, and if Mr. O'Brien or any other person will obtain a franchise, build, equip and operate a tramway the public will undoubtedly support it, but the Nugget maintains that under its present condition, the Pioneer Tramway Co. without a tram, has no more right to "hold up" any man and extort pay from him than it has to collect for the air breathed by the man pulling his sled.

That the miners up the creeks may understand what the application contains, made under date of Oct. 23, 1898, the several claims are given herewith, which to save valuable space are curtailed under heads:

1. The exclusive right of way until Sept. 1, 1900, over Bonanza, Dominion, Sulphur, Bear and Hunter creeks, for a pole tramway.
2. To run over any and all mining claims.
3. The exclusive right to cut logs, timber and poles for roadbed, bridges and buildings without any charge for stumpage.
4. The exclusive right to take up vacant government lands not to exceed one acre at any one point.
5. The exemption from all taxation on tramway, bridges, construction and plant for three years.

What is thought of that for a starter? They don't want very much. Exclusive right-of-way over the principal creeks. The right to run over any and all mining claims, which, if granted, means interminable lawsuits for the miner, should the sinking of his shafts and driftings in pay dirt lead him to encroach upon the Pioneer Tramway Co.'s right-of-way. What will he do with his sluice boxes, should they come in conflict with the tramway right-of-way? These are things for the miner to consider and important ones.

The right to cut logs, timber and poles without the payment of stumpage is another request. What do you think of that? And the poor fellow cutting his little firewood for his Yukon stove grabbed by the strong arm of the law and compelled to settle. Then the genteel, modest little request at the conclusion of this humble prayer that "the applicants may be granted exemption from taxation on said roadbed and tramway plant, etc., for the space of three years! Every miner on the creeks must see that these constant exposures of the Nugget are more than nightmares, and that all such "grants" are simply because those working them love the miner and the poor fellow working his claim. Any person can see that!

Now, let us take up the document under which the Pioneer Tramway Co., without a tram, is working.

[COPY.]  
DAWSON, Nov. 3, 1898.  
Messrs. H. M. HENNING & O'BRIEN,  
DAWSON, Y. T.

Gentlemen:—Your application, etc., was placed before the Council and after discussion it was resolved that the privileges be granted on the following conditions:

That you assume and pay the indebtedness of Mr. Henning incurred on account of the labor already expended on the construction of said tramway and after all legal demands against him in connection with and on account of said construction are liquidated and satisfied you will be allowed to assume control of the said road as far as at present constructed. \* \* \* You must distinctly understand that the privilege is subject to all rights reserved in connection with said privilege by the Dominion government as its peculiar prerogative in such matters. The commissioner and council grants you no more than is within their legal privilege to do. The local government has no control over the land of the Dominion in the Yukon territory, and the right given you is only that which the council as representing the minister of the interior or the governor general, in aid of your scheme, you must distinctly understand that no monopoly is secured to you. The commissioner and council are willing to secure to you as far as lies within their power the exclusive privilege of controlling and operating the road so constructed by you and preventing the construction of any other road along the route herein described till the 1st day of Sept. 1899, but do not in any way undertake to guarantee to you such exclusive privilege or right as it may not be in their power legally to do so. \* \* \* In the construction of your tramway across any or all of the placer claims over which it is necessary to pass, you are to pay due regard to the rights of the claim holder and in no way to interfere with the proper working of the claims. If you fail in this respect you are under the meaning regulations, liable to them for damages to be adjudged by the gold commissioner. \* \* \* Provided always you distinctly understand that the rights so granted you are only provisional and subject to ratification by the honorable minister of the interior to whom you should apply at once for the confirmation of such rights or privileges. \* \* \* I have the honor to be your obedient servant,  
WM. OGILVIE,  
Commissioner.

Funeral Expenses \$300.00  
One Bottle King's Cough Syrup 2.50  
\$297.50

KELLY & CO.  
Druggists,  
First Avenue.

It is to the immortal credit of Mr. Ogilvie that he distinctly treats the application of O'Brien & Henning as a communication only, and replies to them in kind by letter, and it is to his immortal credit also that he and his commissioners assume to grant no legal rights to O'Brien & Henning or the Pioneer Tramway Co. We believe, however, it would have been more to his and their immortal credit had the council, desirous of seeing the debts of Mr. Henning paid for labor bills due, assumed charge of the trail, collected a moderate, easy toll, sufficient to gradually liquidate these obligations, referring Messrs. O'Brien & Henning and the Pioneer Tramway Co. to Ottawa for a franchise, and whence only such government grants can be issued, than to have turned over a trail to them, for no sane person will say there is a tramway in operation anywhere in the Yukon, except that of Captain Hansen's from warehouses to warehouses in the A. C. Co.'s plant in Dawson. Yet miners with their sleds are being "held up" daily by toll keepers and guards without a shadow of law, common sense or justice, and miners continue silently to endure this manifest extortion. We believe it was only through the kindly feelings of Mr. Ogilvie towards poor fellows who had been employed by Mr. Henning and had never received compensation for their labor, that he overcame what would naturally have led him to overrule such an application and such a grant. We believe it will be successfully maintained that no legal rights are being exercised by the Pioneer Tramway Co. without a tram, and that every dollar given up to this private monopoly can be successfully recovered. The Nugget has other "nightmares" in its locker, which it will shortly and in the most emphatic manner exhibit to the public, and those interested will find them the most wakeful walking reminders that this paper is fully awake to events in which the people are directly interested. Let the people watch and see whether it does or not.

Change of program at the Wondroscope exhibition next Sunday. Don't fail to see it at the Monte Carlo.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

On December 1st the Dawson Dramatic and Operatic Club will present a border drama at the Monte Carlo theatre. Rehearsals are now in progress. The drama will be given under the management of Mertie Houck.

The skating rink is becoming a most popular resort for healthful amusement. A "hockey" club has been formed and the management has decided to issue monthly tickets to regular patrons at greatly reduced rates. There are over 200 pairs of skates to choose from and all are sharp and in first-class shape.

Messrs. Ferguson and Robinson were in town last Saturday morning and report very favorable upon independence creek, coming in about 51 on Hauker. On the left fork the pay has been located and shows from \$240 to \$325 to the pan—a good enough showing for a stream which is only just being opened up in good shape.

The new Melbourne house was thrown open to the public on Monday night. An evening of exceedingly pleasant entertainment was enjoyed by a who attended. In the early part of the evening a reception was held in the parlors and a dainty lunch was served. The balance of the time was spent in dancing and listening to popular songs by Messrs. Brown and Black.

PERSONALS.

Mr. D. H. Pingree, general manager of the Boston & Alaska Transportation Co., left for the outside Monday morning.

Joe Irvine has completed his cabin—one of the finest on all Bonanza creek—and is now rapidly developing his claim, No. 25 above.

F. J. Lauritzen, proprietor of the roadhouse on 32 above on Sulphur creek is in the city on business, and reports a large amount of work being done on that creek.

Probably none in the joint fraternal entertainment, contributed more to its success than Mr. F. W. Howard, who also made a prominent number upon the program. There are none more ready to assist in every way the cause of charity than Bro. Howard.

A jolly box party witnessed the Wondroscope exhibition at the Monte Carlo on Sunday night. The party was made up of the following: Mrs. J. S. Pickel, Mrs. W. C. Lowden, Miss McDonald, Miss Josephine Pickel and Margie Newman, Messrs. George, Watrous, Allen and Boundy.

Father Desmarais, O. M. I., is building St. Mary's Catholic church at Bonanza Forks and services were held there for the first time last Sunday. A most pleasing and interesting gentleman, for many years engaged in missionary work, energetic and of strong personal magnetism, Father Desmarais is most popular in his congregation. Godspeed the noble work of this man of God.

Money to Loan

First Avenue, on gilt edge security. Apply at Nugget office.

## FUNERAL OF HARRY SPENCER.

### Remains of the Old Pioneer Laid to Rest on Sunday Last.

Police, Soldiers, Pioneers, Fire Department and Citizens Turn Out to Pay the Last Tribute of Respect to a Good Citizen.

Requiescat in pace! All that was mortal of great-hearted, general-souled, sturdy honor Harry Spencer, was laid away in the pioneer burying grounds of Dawson on Sunday last. Despite the raw bleak wind prevailing, and the intense cold, a vast throng assembled at Pioneer hall at 1:30 p. m. Sunday, which not only filled the hall to a state of actual discomfort, but compelled large numbers to remain upon the street during the solemn ceremonies conducted within.

Rev. G. D. Bowen, rector of St. Paul's church, officiated, delivering a most impressive sermon. The singing was a special feature of the occasion, being in charge of Mr. George Noble who had organized a choir of voices, such as is seldom heard in any church in the land, consisting of Mr. Ehrhart, organist; tenors, Mr. Percy Hope, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Liberty, Mr. Jaboniski, Mr. Ben Davis; bass, Mr. Frank Clayton, Mr. Julien, Mr. Butters, Mr. Ehrhart; baritone, Mr. Robinson and Mr. George Noble. The harmony and melody of these magnificent voices in the beautiful hymns "Now the Day is Over" and "Jesus Lover of My Soul," which were rendered in the hall will not be forgotten by any present. At the grave "Nearer My God to Thee" was sung, and the vocal services of the funeral of Harry Spencer pass into history as the most impressive ever heard in Dawson.

Feelingly and touchingly did Mr. Bowen refer to the dead man and his citizenship, bearing with him through life the hearty respect of every man who knew him, and who at the bier through his own personality, had called so many hundreds of his friends to bear witness to his manhood and integrity, despite the inclement weather of the day. What a monument to his memory was his funeral. More impressive than shaft of granite, more lasting than the carved stone which marks the burial of the dead in solemn cemeteries.

Preceded by a detachment of 16 members of the North West Mounted Police, headed by a brass band of 12 pieces, came the remains, drawn upon a large sled, upon the casket being cut flowers in profusion, in customary designs of wreaths, pillows, etc. It need scarcely be said that could this cold Yukon territory have produced the real towers, the route of the procession would have been one long line of fragrance. The pall bearers were Will Mitchell, Thos. O'Brien, James Daughtry, Nap. DeFaux, Richard McArthur and M. Sullivan, all from the Yukon Order of Pioneers, of which the deceased was a most enthusiastic member, and one of its founders. Following the remains came nearly 100 members of the Pioneers, followed by about 50 members of the Dawson Volunteer Fire Department, under command of Chief Frank J. Fletcher. Then came a detachment of soldiers, marching as citizens, and a long concourse of private citizens, being the largest funeral ever held in the Yukon territory.

The deceased was one of the earliest settlers here, and prominent in business and local affairs. He was a member of the fire commission, ever aggressive in matters of public interest, and none ever stood more willingly and modestly to assist the needy, help the afflicted, and relieve the necessities of the sick and destitute.

Probably the highest tribute that can be paid Harry Spencer is to say, a good man has been taken from us. Requiescat in pace.

Secure reserved and box seats at Kelly's drug store for the Wondroscope. Next Sunday at the Monte Carlo.

Donaldson's Decision.

Friday, Referee James Donaldson gave his decision in the alleged sparring contest on the night before. The decision did not become known until the evening when it was announced from the stage. Mr. Donaldson happened to be in the house and was called upon for a few words as to the decision. In a few short but pointed and manly remarks he pointed out the injury done the sport by such hippodromes and remarked caustically upon the men who would lend their names to such a fake. Many men had come in from points upon the creeks and all had paid their good money to see the affair. His decision that the total net receipts be turned over to the hospitals was given unqualified and instant approval for it not only helps along a good cause but gives a hard blow to "faking." It will be a long time before another "fake" contest is liberally planned and carried out as on Thanksgiving night.

Mr. Donaldson is a man experienced in all matters pertaining to the ring and the announcement by the management that he would referee all contests in that line in future met the approval of all present.

Masonic Banquet.

The monthly banquet of shriners, Knights Templars and Thirty-second degree Masons will be held Saturday night, December 3d, at the Regina hotel. Masons desiring to attend will please register at the Bodega.

For Sale.

A limited number of Japanned cash boxes with strong locks. Nugget office.