

# The Klondike Nugget

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(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)  
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From Thursday and Friday's Daily.  
**ANOTHER LINE.**

There is good reason for believing that construction work will begin in earnest during the coming spring on the Alaskan railway line from Valdez to Eagle. The completion of that line will mark a turning point in the history of Alaska. It will open up an immense district which is rich in natural resources, but which under existing circumstances must remain undeveloped.

The vital question which confronts both Alaska and the Yukon territory at the present time is the matter of freight rates. Cheap freight is the slogan which should be taken up and sounded throughout the Yukon valley, from White Pass to St. Michael. The development of this great northern country will really begin when the transportation companies are enabled to cut down freight charges to such a point that a princely income will not be required for the payment of bare living expenses.

A few people who have happened to "strike it rich" are of no material benefit to a new country. A large industrial population is what is needed, but that population will not, in fact, be found in the valley of the Yukon until the cost of living is reduced far below what it is at the present time.

The construction of a competing railway line across Alaska will be one step toward the attainment of this purpose.

## DAWSON HAS SPOKEN.

Dawson has spoken in no uncertain language respecting the proposal to incorporate the town and the verdict is an almost unanimous negative. The monster petition presented to the Yukon council last evening will undoubtedly have the desired effect.

Without regard to nationality the people of Dawson, representing every class and interest in the city, have risen up and with practically one voice have declared themselves in favor of maintaining the existing form of local administration. That declaration has been made for sound and sufficient reasons. Dawson is not like other cities. We have no class of business men who for the sake of the honor involved can afford to devote their time to the management of civic affairs.

Almost every man in the town who would be considered available for the various offices under the municipality, has private interests which require his undivided attention. Were there any pressing necessity at hand, we have no doubt that such men could be found who would be willing to sacrifice a portion of their time to the common welfare of the town. But at this point recognition must be given to the fact that no such necessity exists. The Yukon council now has its work well systematized and particularly during the past six months has given ample demonstration of the fact that the burden of looking after the affairs of the town does not rest heavily upon its shoulders.

Some old time philosopher once remarked that the nation whose annals are the least interesting is the happiest. So it has proven with Dawson. It has been a long time since anything of moment occurred to mar the serenity of the current of local life, and meanwhile matters have moved along in so even a manner as scarcely to attract more than passing notice. A very satisfactory contrast to the early history of Dawson.

In view of this condition, it is by no means surprising that a general disposition should be felt among all classes of people to leave the situation as it is, at least until such time as more forcible reasons are brought forward to warrant a change.

The petition presented to the council last night represents the sentiment of the great majority of the people of Dawson, and if the council pursues the

line of action indicated therein we fully believe they will be acting in accord with the desires of the community.

It has come to pass now that every man who returns to the outside from Dawson must display millionaire symptoms or be set down by his friends as a flat failure. This condition has been brought about by the outside newspapers which insist upon crediting returned Klondikers with the possession of enormous wealth, without regard to actual facts. The false position in which he is thus placed often influences the "man from Dawson" to travel a pace which his bank account will by no means warrant—the end being of course disastrous. The best thing the Klondiker can do when he gets outside is to deal entirely in hard luck stories. These will attract little attention from the yellow press, but they may serve in the end to get him a rating in Bradstreets, which after all is much more desirable.

It is time that the old idea respecting the life of this country should be forgotten. It has not been opened up for a day, but for all time. The natural resources requisite for sustaining a large population are present in abundance. Fortunes are not to be made in a moment, but there is liberal reward ahead for industry and legitimate enterprise. People who come into the Yukon impressed with these facts have every prospect of success. Others are likely to meet disappointment.

Last year at this time fresh potatoes were worth one dollar per pound and hard to get at that price. At the present time they can be bought at one-ninth as much. This does not go to prove that a great deal of money was made in the succulent tubers last year or that any considerable sum is being lost now. It merely goes to show that the Dawson market is a tearful and wonderful thing and no more to be banked upon than feminine whims.

Lord Roberts' requisition upon the war office for 20,000 additional troops was not made for a useless purpose. The commander-in-chief understands, if the departmental people do not, that there is still work to be done in South Africa. Mutterings among the Cape Dutch indicate very clearly the necessity of sleeping with one eye open.

Aerial navigation is rapidly being reduced to a science. On Lake Constance last summer an air ship was built which made several successful voyages. No considerable speed was attained, but the practicability of the plan upon which the ship was constructed was amply demonstrated. More than \$100,000 was expended in the experiment.

Icebergs are being encountered along the coast between Skagway and the Sound with alarming frequency. Old Muir must be breaking in pieces.

The News is gradually getting around to favor incorporation. The man with the poke must be in the neighborhood.

## Official Living Expenses.

In view of the recent agitation of the question of wages by Councilman Arthur Wilson, in the course of which he wants employees of the territorial government paid not less than \$5 per day and board, some facts on the subject have been gleaned from the commissioner's office which are somewhat curious.

To a few employees the nominal salary of \$60 per month is paid, but further investigation will show that the employees getting that salary are allowed \$100 per month for living expenses and \$50 per month for room rent. It will be seen by this that the salary of \$60 paid, for instance to a messenger, with the allowance quoted, is not so small after all.

To make comparison, it may be said that in San Francisco, a messenger in federal employ is paid \$75 per month and find himself. Living in the city of San Francisco is notably cheap, or the reverse, at the option of the individual, but when it is stated that the messenger here receives \$210 as against \$75 in California, it will be seen that he is quite as well paid here as there.

To make a further comparison with local application showing that the messenger who gets a salary of \$60 also gets

the same allowance for living expenses as does the gold commissioner. Considering the difference between the social positions of the two, and what is naturally their obligations in that direction, the thing seems ridiculous, yet it is a fact.

The lowest paid clerk in the employ of the government costs, all allowances being footed up, \$2700 per year.

When these facts are considered, together with the statement that all these clerks are furnished with first-class transportation to and from the country, it will be seen that their positions are not so undesirable as to call for any great amount of intervention. It is also to be borne in mind that the appointments are also subject to promotion, and that they possess also the advantage of being steady and settled, and the income derived from them never a matter of uncertainty.

## The New Cycle.

Editor Klondike Nugget:

Dear Sir—If we scan a short record of opinions of some prominent and other people in regard to the prospect of a new cycle of years before us, and its bearing on the material and intellectual life of nations, we are informed in a resume of the same that indeed the outlook in its entirety is perfectly dazzling and altogether phenomenal. Yet, as a matter of fact, there is in the majority of opinions noticeable and apprehensive that everything may not run as smoothly in the future as might be imagined. As H. M. Johnson we may dismiss a notion that the coming series of years would realize dreams of peace and amalgamation of humanity in bonds of universal brotherhood, considering the behavior of the first pair of brothers on record. If our expectations were raised high by a catchy phrase of "socialism triumphant" we are greatly disappointed by being fervently assured that the millennium is nigh since sociology has been raised to the dignity of a science by the universities and other fountains of knowledge. Classification of races and peoples by the latest approved method, comprising structure of skull, color of eyes and hair, length of ears, relationship with the animal kingdom, and other marks of distinction, will in my humble opinion barely suffice to solve some of those knotty problems that the human society has been wrestling with for several decades past.

But the most thoughtful minds seem to be inclined to the opinion that a change in the social condition of people is not only necessary but decidedly imminent, but whether it will be along time-honored lines of evolution or by the sharp and short method of revolution could hardly be surmised at the present time. Whether it will be the one or the other apparently depends on one thing, viz., on recognizing and perceiving the fact that the progress in our industrial life has been so rapid as to leave behind and neglect the adjustment of our social life in like proportion.

The first step, therefore, in the future must be a readjustment of our social conditions according to the status quo of the industrial production and distribution. By disregarding the law of compensation, a correlative of justice and equality, a condition has been called into existence which disturbs the equilibrium of the life of nations. And it must be remembered that history is a continuous record of the rise and fall of persons and nations, and that when the zenith is reached in the life of the most powerful of either the beginning of the decline and downward course has also set in.

If at the present time the nations of this continent are in such a high state of perfection and material prosperity, it may be the zenith in their life and the starting point on their downward grade, who knows?

## Will Permit a Fight.

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 12.—Mayor Fleischmann today refused to recede from his promise to grant a permit for a prizefight at Saengerfest hall between February 1 and 14 between James J. Jeffries and either Gus Ruhlin, Tom Sharkey or Bob Fitzsimmons.

## That New Bridge.

The new steel bridge which arrived from the east with the closing of navigation, to be placed across the Klondike, will soon be hauled to the site selected for it near the upper ferry where the work of putting it together will be commenced as soon as the piers can be placed in position to receive it.

These piers consist of two steel tubes four feet in diameter, inside measurement, filled with hydraulic cement, which, it is interesting to note, was procured in Vancouver at a cost of \$180, and brought to Dawson at an expense of \$900 in freight. The piers are to be surrounded by a casing of timber, which is to be procured by public tender.

The bridge will be 20 feet wide when completed, and will be the best and most substantial structure of the kind in the territory.

# In Role of Female

Capt. Starnes presided in the police court this morning. The session was a brief one, there being but little business demanding the court's attention.

Since the transfiguration of one of Adam's spare ribs into a woman there has been a bold and insurmountable distinction in the habits of the sexes, and when a man undertakes to masquerade as a woman he invariably "let's the cat out" in some way either by getting the wrong curve in crossing his feet, by wiping his mouth with his open hand (when a woman always uses the back of her hand) or in some other very apparent way.

Samuel Muir should have thought of all this before he decided to attend the masquerade ball at the Forks New Year's eve in female attire. It is not stated whether the dress was low cut, with short sleeves and a "trail," or whether it was cut Queen Anne cottage style, with popcorn trimmings and a back porch.

Dressed as a woman Samuel was not willing to abide by the recently promulgated order forbidding women to drink at bars. On the contrary, the namesake of Alaska's greatest glacier persisted in going to the bar calling for and receiving drinks. A constable present warned him to desist, when Samuel, instead of saying as become his attire, "you mean thing" ripped out a string of oaths as long as an anti-incorporation petition with the result that the officer took him in charge and removed him from the scene of festivities.

In court this morning Samuel did not wear female attire. Like the healed leper spoken of in the Bible, he was "clothed and in his right mind." He pleaded guilty to the stereotyped charge of "drunk and disorderly," but, as the escapee was a New Year's adjunct the court tempered justice with mercy and gave him some good advice, like wise a fine of \$5 and costs. In future Sammy will probably adhere to bifurcated wearing apparel.

Yesterday afternoon two sons of sunny Italy were in court. Chas. Evangelisca charged that Looete had assaulted him with a candlestick. The case was a long and tedious one as the services of an interpreter were required, neither (pronounced neyther) of the parties being able to speak English. The man with the ecclesiastic name was not able to make out a case with the result that he, the complainant, was required to pay the costs.

## Mrs. Leslie Takes a Rest.

Women publishers are not rare in the United States, but none among them enjoys so widespread a reputation as Mrs. Frank Leslie, until recently the head of the great New York publishing house. She has now retired from its management, according to some accounts by compulsion, and intends to devote the remainder of her life to leisure and authorship. Mrs. Leslie has surely earned a rest, for her life has been filled with endeavor and work.

Frank Leslie, to which name, without the "Mrs.," she is legally entitled, has been prominently before the public since 1880, when she took up the work of her husband, recently deceased. He left his publishing business to her in an insolvent condition with an injunction to clear his name by paying off an indebtedness of over \$300,000. She was, as she still is, a woman of marvelous business and executive capacity, and not only succeeded in paying off the debts of the concern, but in winning a new fortune for herself. Some five years ago she turned over the business to a syndicate, which failed, and about two years ago she again resumed its management. Her present retirement may be regarded as permanent.

It is scarcely necessary to state that Mrs. Leslie is a woman of wonderful ability and knowledge of men and affairs. She is a fluent writer and speaker and has written much for publication.—Ex.

# Lower River Trail

Capt. W. H. Scarth and Wm. McKay, who returned New Year's day from a visit to Chas. Hall, manager of the A. C. Co.'s interests at Fortymile, are not favorably impressed with the condition of the river trail between here and that point. Mr. Hall had invited the above mentioned gentlemen down to spend Christmas with him and two days previous to that time, seated in a neat cutter and closely wrapped in furs they started on the trip. All went smoothly for a few minutes, but shortly after passing Moosehide the trail began to show symptoms of not being suitable for a race course. The farther they went the worse it became, and when seven miles had been covered the travelers were forced to leave the cutter which they exchanged for a seatless Yukon sled on which, after a wearisome journey they reached their destination and kept their engagement with their host.

The return trip, as Capt. Scarth stated this morning, was even more difficult than the journey down owing to the fact that the trail is badly drifted and in many places is badly broken up. About five miles below Dawson Capt. Scarth says the original trail has been almost destroyed by the ice crumbling where the water has receded from beneath, and that in one place not more than a 15-foot strip of ice is left along the bluff. He says that a new trail will necessarily have to be made before there can be either speed or safety connected with travel between here and Fortymile. The captain speaks highly of the entertainment accorded himself and Mr. McKay by Mr. Hall who is well known as a princely host.

## Dewey and Von Diederich.

Gold Run, Dec. 24, 1900.

Editor Klondike Nugget:

Dear Sir—A question has recently been sprung as regards what actually occurred between Admiral Dewey and the German admiral at Manila during the Spanish-American war. Will you kindly explain in your next issue what Dewey said and did; German admiral's answer; position of the British admiral, also what did the German government say. READER.

(The incident referred to resulted from the refusal of the German flagship to refrain from entering the lines occupied by Admiral Dewey in Manila harbor. A semi-official account states that, "The German flagship in Manila declined to stop when signalled to do so by the American commander and steamed within the waters where non-combatants were not allowed and the Olympia promptly dropped a shell just ahead of the German battleship. Admiral Von Diederich protested, but retired to another position."

The popular account of the affair as published throughout the United States is to the effect that Admiral Von Diederich disregarded Admiral Dewey's orders with respect to entrance of non-combatants within the waters held by American vessels and a shot as noted above was dropped across the bow of the German flagship. Admiral Dewey thereupon asked of the German commander to define his attitude so that he might shape his course accordingly. Von Diederich inquired of Capt. Sir Edward Chichester commanding the British squadron as to what position he would assume in case of German interference with the bombardment of Manila. The reply was that only God, Admiral Dewey and himself knew. The incident thereupon closed. The German government's position is defined by the following language of Emperor William: "It is important that America should not think that either I or my government entertains unfriendly feelings toward the Union in consequence of the war with Spain. The millions of Germans in America would not understand it if their fatherland did not entertain a friendly feeling in this conflict toward their new home."—ED.)

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