

The Klondike Nugget

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MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1900

GENERALLY APPROVED.

It will be noticed in the interviews published elsewhere in this issue that the position assumed by this paper with reference to allowing reporters to be present at the legislative sessions of the Yukon Council is generally approved by leading Canadian citizens of Dawson.

We are quite willing to concede that occasions will arise when executive sessions of the Council must be held, from which it is but right and proper that the press and public alike should be excluded. We do not believe that any objection would arise on the part of the newspapers if they were not allowed to be represented at such meetings. But for ordinary sessions, when the passage of ordinances and the transaction of other routine business is in progress, the press should by all means be admitted.

We are unable to see how the Council can fly in the face of public opinion in this matter. Just so long as it continues to hold its sessions behind closed doors and maintains its present censorship over the reports as given out by the clerk, just so long will it fail to receive the confidence of the public. Secrecy always begets suspicion, whether there be good ground for it or not.

In this particular instance we have not found a legitimate reason advanced in support of the position taken by the Council. The Council room is small, but we not believe that the public would insist upon admission, provided it should be generally known that full reports of all proceedings would appear in the newspapers. In justice to itself, the Council should throw open the doors of its session chamber and establish itself in the confidence of the community.

REPRESENTATION.

The sentiment of the people of the territory, regardless of nationality or political affiliations, is in favor of popular representation in the Yukon Council. As Commissioner Ogilvie stated in his interview, which appeared in Saturday's Nugget, "the Council, as at present constituted, is not responsible to the people of the community which it governs, but has to answer only to Ottawa.

From long and bitter experience, we are perfectly aware that Ottawa's interest in this country amounts to very little after the revenue question has been disposed of. The Yukon Territory is considered "good" for so many dollars of revenue each year, and so long as expectations are realized our statesmen at Ottawa are satisfied.

Naturally, the local Council seeks to please the powers by virtue of whose pleasure it has existence, rather than endeavor to meet the desires of the people of the territory. We don't attach any particular blame to the Council on this account. The councilmen are appointed to do certain things, and, if they consider the behests of the appointing power, they are merely following out the natural order of affairs.

What we should do is to avail ourselves of the means at hand to change the present conditions. The council should be responsible to the qualified electors of the territory, and not to Ottawa or, in fact, to any appointing power. They are a legislative body, and as such should derive their powers from the community directly affected by their legislative acts.

The right of electing two members, while of itself it will not necessarily alter the status of affairs, will yet be a step in the direction of attaining what must ultimately be granted us, viz.—a legislative assembly, with powers such as are exercised by the parliaments of the various provinces, and elected directly by popular vote.

In the absence of a whole loaf, however, the slice that is offered is far better than none at all. This first step will be the entering wedge which will in the end give us all we ask. The movement is right, and should be pushed to an early conclusion.

Every once in a while France works herself up into a state of national enthusiasm which requires the use of some safety valve in order that a national explosion may be prevented. That is what has happened recently, with the result that there is a popular demand for war. It does not make so much difference where the war is carried on or whom it is with. War, "be-lady" war, is what France craves, and demands that her appetite be satisfied. We apprehend that she will be given all the satisfaction she desires if by any chance serious results should follow the present excitement.

Kruger's desire for peace has come too late. The government is firm in its position that no terms other than those of unconditional surrender will be granted. The war has cost such a tremendous sacrifice of lives and money that it will take all the wealth that can be realized from the Transvaal for many years to come to compensate for the expenditures. The Boers, however, have put up a fight which will entitle them for all time to rank among the great war races of history.

The water supply question will become a matter of very serious importance in the near future. With the continuation of the present thaw, it is a question of a short time only until the Yukon water will not be suitable for general household uses. Colonel Word announces that he hopes to have his system in operation within a short time, and, should his plans be realized, further difficulty will be obviated.

Fire at Bennett.

The first disastrous fire to visit Bennett for several months raged on Wednesday morning. The roof of the palatial winter residence of the Hired Hand of the The Sun, on the corner of Front street and Malamute avenue, was discovered by an observing youth to be on fire, and he quickly sounded a large tocsin. (We don't know what a tocsin is, but the boy sounded it loud, anyhow.)

A general alarm was sent in. Hose companies Nos. 3 and 4 and the Putter hook and ladder brigade were on the scene in 58 seconds. At the time of the "fire laddies" arrival the fire fiend had burned through the mansard roof and had reached the art room devouring everything in its path.

One young man not being able to get water began to shovel snow through the roof on to the flames. In five minutes he had the drawing room and billiard room filled with it. It took two men a whole day to carry it out. As a snow-shoveller that young man could give a rotary snow plow cards and spades.

Many treasured works of art were destroyed—some of the old masters' masterpieces went fluey; one of Butcher

Burns' catchy calenders was a total loss. It is due to the energetic work of the "department" that the flames were subdued ere their thirsty tongues reached the wine cellar. This cellar contains many casks of the best vintage from the ancestral estates in la Belle France of M. Janne de Leo du Mar, the founder of this famous repository.

Mrs. Hired Hand lost several Worth gowns—and some gowns that weren't worth much. The Hand saved his last summer's sombrero and a red necktie. For their efficient work the fire boys have the thanks of Mr. and Mrs. Hired Hand, and were warmly complimented by our alert fire warden.—Bennett Sun.

An Explanation.

Dawson, Y. T., March, 19, 1900
To the Editor of the Daily Nugget.

Dear Sir: Will you kindly on behalf of the citizens' committee, allow me to make clear the status of the Palace Grand opera house in regard to the public mass meeting called for Friday evening next. The opera house has been placed at the disposal of the meeting free of charge. The down stairs portion of the building we consider large enough to accommodate all British subjects who will attend. The opera house company intend to continue the performance of their program immediately after the adjournment of the mass meeting. The British subjects will therefore be admitted to the ground floor free of charge, any others who may wish to attend the meeting and watch the proceedings, ladies or gentlemen, can do so by occupying the gallery or boxes, for which the management will charge usual admission, and the one admission will allow them to remain throughout both the mass meeting and opera house performance.

Hoping that this explanation will prevent any confusion or misunderstanding, I am yours truly

JOSEPH A. CLARK,
Secretary.

Pet Bears Re-Appear.

There are two cub bears which live in a small inclosure to the rear of the Green Tree saloon. Early in the month of last November the owner of the animals discontinued to feed them; and within a week after their daily ration had been stopped they entered an empty whisky barrel, which had been packed with straw, and remained in a state of hibernation until Saturday last. The animals have grown some during the winter and seem to be none the worse for their protracted sleep. Strange to say, they were not hungry for many hours after they made their reappearance. Indeed, they have only eaten once, and then their food consisted of bread and milk. They are quite lively, however, and have frequently climbed to the top of the pole which stands in the inclosure.

Rich Whitehorse Ore.

A. P. Benton has received a letter written at Whitehorse, February 23, stating that rich copper ore has been struck in a shaft being sunk on the Puebla claim, one of the big group owned by the British-America corporation. Particulars of the strike, says the Alaskan, have not been received, but it is known that before striking the copper the workers encountered peculiar iron nearly if not all the way down. The Puebla is considered the greatest ore body in the Whitehorse district. Mr. Benton reports that the men who are running the tunnel in the Anaconda mine at Whitehorse, in which he is interested, have gotten in 87 feet, and for the last six feet have passed through rich gray boranite copper ore.

Fraternal Order of Eagles.

Thirty-five more residents of Dawson took "wings" and became members of Dawson Aerie, No. 50, Fraternal Order of Eagles, yesterday afternoon and last night, making 116 members initiated into the order within one week. Eaglesism, like chicken pox in a country school, is very contagious and it looks as though eligible men in Dawson is to have an attack of it. A most enjoyable social session was held after the close of business last night.

Song Service.

The Presbyterian church was packed last night by a large audience. A special song service had been arranged which gave a very pleasurable variation to the services. Included in the program were solos by Mrs. Davidson, Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Zimmerman. The Rev. Wright preached a sermon upon practical giving which had for its object the assistance of the ladies who are furnishing a ward in the Good Samaritan hospital. A goodly sum was realized for which the ladies express themselves as being very grateful.

Ice men, important. For sale one ice plow, complete; call at Shindler, 109 Front street.

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The White Pass AND YUKON RAILWAY will be completed to White Horse by June 1st, 1900, after which date only one handling of all freight will be necessary between Skaguay and Dawson.

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