

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY
On Wednesday and Saturday

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SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1899

NOTICE

When a newspaper offers its advertising space at a nominal figure, it is a practical admission of "no circulation." THE KLONDIKE NUGGET asks a good figure for its space and in justification thereof guarantees to its advertisers a paid circulation five times that of any other paper published between Juneau and the North Pole.

The NUGGET has a regular carrier and express service covering Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail or express may be left at the Nugget Express office or given to creek agents.

BOUNDARY DISPUTES.

The boundary dispute between hill and creek men is on in good shape on Hunker creek. The "base to base of hill or bench" clause of the regulations under which the creek was staked is proving a source of endless trouble and litigation. In the first place hardly any two surveyors under that regulation, will strike the same boundary lines, while it is absolutely impossible for the miners themselves to agree as to where the base of the hill really is. And then when to this cause for contention is coupled a valuable pay streak which runs close under the hill first on one side and then on the other, you have ideal conditions for endless trouble and heart burnings. The miners themselves could be depended upon for an equitable solution of the difficulty were it their privilege to do so, but the right to make the mining regulations is zealously retained in the hands of the government at Ottawa which has demonstrated again and again its utter lack of that practical knowledge of Klondike conditions which would enable it to legislate either wisely or well. The boundary question is of unusual importance for its settlement may mean complete ruin to many a creek man who has hitherto estimated his wealth by the tens of thousands. It must be settled and settled right.

The more one considers Surveyor Barwell's suggested solution of the difficulty the more feasible it appears. He thinks a surface boundary for the creek claim can never be made equitable nor satisfactory and suggests a pronounced and positive raise in the level of the bedrock as the only remedy, compelling each party to a litigation to sink to that bedrock before they can enter their protest. The three-foot rimrock regulation, he thinks, is hardly enough, as many a claim might show as small an inequality as that even in the center of the claim. In some of the Hunker disputes the sliding material from the hillside has covered the pay streak, and under the base-to-base regulation the ground is claimed by the benchmen. It is asking too much of any gold commissioner to require him to assume the odium of deciding these cases. Whichever way he decides the party losing the fortune will feel deeply aggrieved. The regulations should be so workable that the miners could decide such disputes without going to law over them.

POOR AMERICANS.

It is said that politics makes odd bedfellows. It is still truer that necessity knows no law, and so it happens that the American port of Dyea is presenting at this moment a sight to make the gods weep. During the recent sitting of the joint high commission, the port of Skaguay learned in some manner that Canada was working to secure that port as an entry into her own territory across the mountains. Canada was willing to make almost any concession to secure the point, but the Americans on the coast took instant alarm at the negotiations and memorialized Congress, and by public meetings and in other ways showed such a strong objection to being turned

over to the tender mercies of a foreign country that the negotiations were broken off temporarily by the American commissioners refusing even to discuss the cession of Skaguay. It seemed so natural that Americans should object to being forced even into as great an empire as that of Britain that the action of the Skaguayans excited little comment in any quarter. But now comes the port of Dyea across the bay and petitions to be taken into Canada. This action of Americans is as strange as that of Skaguay was natural, and Dyea must expect more or less criticism from their fellow Americans. It was all brought about by bitter town rivalry and the financial disaster from which Dyea has suffered since the building of Skaguay's railroad has taken all the business to that point. Dyea has ceased to be an important transportation center and has been deserted by all the enterprising Americans who could get away, leaving none there but moneyless property-holders who are now willing to negotiate away their birthright for the proverbial mess of pottage. It is a matter of dollars and cents to the Dyea landlords. In American territory their town has become simply an unimportant speck on the map; in Canada they believe they would suddenly become a point of great interest and their lots would become quickly saleable. For that one reason alone they would willingly sacrifice their birthright—their proud nationality. The mercenary spirit displayed by those people of Dyea would make them anything but a desirable addition to the population of the empire of which they wish to become a part, though undoubtedly their brethren of the States would willingly part with them if they could be given away independent of the ground they occupy.

Easter in the Far North.

WALLACE FRANKLIN SMALLEY.
Bright shines the day on this glad Easter-time—
No brighter dawns in any southern clime.
A flood of glory gently streaming down
On snow-cold hill, and quiet, sleeping town.
Awakes the frozen earth to life again,
And tunes the soul to many a glad refrain.
The air is balmy with the breath of spring,
Which makes the heart to leap with joy, and sing.
The key letters that have bound so long
Will soon be broken, and the brooklet's song
Entrance the hours when day's light lingers long.
And yet, within this distant, northern land—
When nature seems to smile on every hand,
The shadow of a saddening thought will come—
Of songs and flowers, and Easter day at home.
No stately call, with its waxen scroll
Is here—our symbol of a risen soul.
Nor other blossoms, whose inspiring breath
Doth breathe Love's triumph over sin and death.
Along the aisles of nature are not set
The crocus, or the yellow violet
The tulip—crimson, purple, white or gold—
Springs not to lift its eye above the mold,
And pour a blessing on this land of cold.

'Tis true that roses bloom on youthful cheek,
And eyes of violet the message speak
Of faith and hope, and kindly, christian love;
And faces bright with glory from above
Repeat the tidings of the Easter tide.
The risen good, the evil crucified.
Yet, others wear no brightness and no bloom,
Burdens of souls that lie within the tomb.
Young cheeks where blooms the lily's pallid ray,
And tell the woe of youth's decay—
Of hearts whose springs are bound by ice and snow.
Where modest flowers of virtue never blow,
O, radiant Spirit of the risen Dove!
Shed on such hearts thy glory from above,
And cause the cheek to bloom with life and love!
Dawson, April 2, '99.

EXPANSION.

A few more wars and the United States will be able to sport a postage stamp similar to that of Canada which excites so much ire in the heart of the American consul, Colonel McCook. From Costa Rica to the Philippines is more than half around the world with no intervening territory but from which floats the stars and bars. The new departure, taken by the United States from its self contained sufficiency of the past, a withdrawing within one's boundary lines which would in time have resulted in the living death exemplified by China, is not unattended with danger of going to as great an extreme the other way. There will be no lack of material for American colonies in the new possessions for it is safe to say that millions of Americans stand willing to take their chances wherever the flag floats. That in a few months the American element will dominate the native in each of the newly acquired territories is demonstrated by the Hawaiian episode where a handful of them took possession of the land and maintained a provisional government in the teeth of half the world until overtures could be made to the

home government. The next best thing to doing right is to do wrong with a strong hand, and the usurpation of the native government of Hawaii reads very like a page from the history of the British occupation of East India. It is possibly hard to justify the act on high ethical grounds, but in the march of civilization the rights of ignorant natives to mismanage their own affairs to their own liking is often overlooked.

THE GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH.

As will be seen in the telegraph news, the government has decided to build and maintain its own telegraph line into Dawson. The British empire has seen the growth of the government ownership of telegraphs idea until they control three-fifths of the lines operating within the empire. It was with fear and trembling that the government of Great Britain made her first venture, and in one day, in the 70s, took over the entire system ramifying into every corner of the British Isles. There has never been an instant since then that the move could be regretted. Isolated from politics by strict civil service rules, the government service has been extended and cheapened similar to the post office, until it were hard to suggest its betterment in any respect beyond further cheapening. And so it comes that the government line to Dawson is not at all in the nature of an experiment. A similar line is being completed right through the heart of Africa, connecting the British possessions in the south with the British possessions in the north. The rivers and mountains there are on a parallel with the mountains and rivers here, and the difficulties of construction and maintenance are about on a par.

The construction of this line will do much to lessen the evils from which we suffer through being so far removed from the seat of government. It will sing the death knell of all the outside papers, which sell now so readily at a dollar each. It would place the court of appeals at a more available distance, and would relieve weak-kneed officials of the need of deciding momentous questions for themselves without being clothed with sufficient power to do it. Next to a railroad a telegraph line is the one thing needed for this section above everything else.

ROYALTY.

No official notice has yet been received of the increase of the amount of the exemption from royalty from \$2,500 to \$5,000. From the tone of the press dispatches it appears reasonably certain that this will be done very shortly. The news did not prove as interesting to our readers as its importance would seem to warrant, and one does not have to look far for an explanation. Last year none of the men with rockers paid any royalty at all. Either nothing was rocked in excess of the exemption, or the cleaning up every night prevented a very close official tab being kept upon the doings of the miners with tab and wheelbarrow. There seems to be an impression prevailing that the men with rockers are well able to protect themselves from that obnoxious royalty, and hence the apathy over the raising of the amount of exemption. To the men carrying on extensive operations, a few hundreds of dollars of exemption more or less is a matter of small moment.

The outcome of the Philippine insurrection against the occupation of their territory by the United States is growing more and more problematical. The islands are said to contain about ten millions of as heterogeneous a population as one could wish to see, and while they are utterly unable to withstand the advances upon them of the boys in blue, they regard death lightly and are of an appalling degree of ignorance which will always make them the tools of designing agitators and leaders. The United States feels indisposed to deal with them with the iron hand, which is probably the only way they can be controlled, just as it is certainly the only way in which they have been con-

trolled in the past. Having broken the ties of Spain, the United States is now confronted by the two horns of a dilemma. The Filipinos can either be left to govern themselves, which is equivalent to military rule under an ever changing succession of military adventurers, or the United States can develop a colonial policy similar to the British occupation of India.

The output of Klondike gold for the season of '98-'99 is a simple matter of guesswork. One man has as much right to guess as another and his figures are entitled to the same consideration. Twenty millions of dollars has been suggested as a good guess, but it must not be forgotten that royalty was only paid last year on four millions. The output has not been more than doubled so that it is not probable that royalty will this year be paid on more than eight millions of dollars. Exemptions and evasions will give about double that amount as the production of the territory for the year ending in the summer of '99. The primitive methods used in working the claims makes it very unlikely that the washup will give more than from twelve to fifteen millions at the outside.

Mr. OGILVIE promised the records in the gold commissioner's office should be free to the public after January first. Not only has he failed to make his word good, but the office is as incompetent to handle the business of the territory as the first day he arrived. Men stand in line for days and days for an opportunity to transact their business with the government just as they did last summer. Mr. Ogilvie's grasp of the affairs of state is infantile. Men and events are utterly beyond his control. His indecision in emergency is positively painful to witness. It seems as if he has let goals hold and given up trying to maintain an equilibrium between the government offices and the needs of the service.

The all engrossing subject of common conversation just now is the problematical breaking up of the river in the near future. A number of side streams are known to be running water on top of the ice, and opinions appear to be about equally divided as to whether the main stream will be able to withstand the pressure until the first of May. Meanwhile the water frontiers go to bed and get up again with the confiding trustfulness of a child, notwithstanding the fact that a rush of tumbling ice may within a few days make an entire clean sweep from end to end of the street.

Seventy-five cents buys the best meal in Dawson, Rainier House, water front, opposite A. C. Co.

FOR SALE

SAW MILL PLANT
Complete, 15,000 feet per day. With Planer.

FALCON JOSLIN, Broker, 111 2nd St.

LAST TRIP

of the
Nugget Express
to
the
Coast

To-Night, Saturday, April 8

H. C. Copeland, who returned from Seattle last Thursday will make a flying trip.

Letters and small express packages will be carried at regular rates.

NUGGET EXPRESS

E. C. Allen, Mgr.

MAIN OFFICE: Nugget Building
BRANCH OFFICE: In the Phoenix.

INTERESTING

United States

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