

The Klondike Nugget

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1900

THE ELECTION APPROACHES.

The announcement that Major Wood has been appointed a member of the Yukon council to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Major Perry from Dawson removes all necessity of any considerable postponement of the election which was ordered at Ottawa some weeks ago.

As soon as the new member returns from his present journey up the river to meet his excellency, the governor general, it is reasonable to assume that the preliminaries will be arranged and definite measures enacted to place the order calling for an election in force.

The most important feature in connection with the matter is the fact that in authorizing the selection by popular ballot of two members of the local council, the Dominion government has for the first time since the organization of the Yukon territory, recognized the right of the people of the territory to some sort of representation in the body which is empowered to frame laws and ordinances for our government.

In a body of eight members the two who are elected by popular vote will not necessarily have great influence owing to numerical weakness. The right of representation will, however, be firmly established and further concessions will doubtless be made from time to time until a regularly constituted legislative body is elected entirely by the people of the territory with full power to frame all laws governing the mining industry, as well as the various other interests which concern the people of the territory.

Within another 12 months the electors of the territory will in all probability be called upon to choose a representative in the Dominion parliament. The premier has substantially promised that this will be brought about after the taking of the next census and it appears that the census will be completed sometime during the approaching winter.

With two members chosen from among our citizens for places on the local council and the right given to elect a member of the Dominion government, we shall be placed in a position whereby our requirements will be made known at Ottawa authoritatively and in such a manner as will command a hearing from parliament and privy council, which it is now impossible to obtain. It devolves, therefore, upon all who are voters, or who possess influence with voters, to interest themselves in the approaching election to the end that none but men who are qualified in every respect for the important positions they will be called upon to occupy, may be chosen. It should be made a matter of personal interest with every business man and miner in the district to canvas carefully the merits of the men whose names will be offered for consideration, and support should be given only to those men of whose position upon matters of public interest there can be no doubt.

We want men to represent the community upon the council whose attitude upon vital questions affecting the district is unquestioned, and whose standing in the community is such that respectful consideration must be given their opinions even though by reason of the fact that they constitute a minority of the council their opinions will not always prevail.

Above all, we sincerely trust that the element of politics will not be dragged into the contest. There is no occasion for a division upon political lines, the only platform upon which any candidate can consistently stand being a Yukon platform, wholly and simply. The opportunity is before us to select our best men and it will be our own fault if any mistake is made.

The telephone operators employed by the Sunset Telephone Company in Seattle are engaged in a strike for higher wages and fewer hours of labor. The strikers are composed mainly of girls and the reason advanced for their action is the fact that such insignificant wages are paid them that they are unable to properly care for themselves. Public sympathy has been enlisted on the part of the girls, many business men going so far as to advocate the removal of the 'phones from their various places of business. In fact such pressure is being brought to bear upon the company that it appears a settlement favorable to the strikers must be shortly effected. The outcome of the strike in which the business public of Seattle has assumed the role of arbitrators, will be watched with interest. The result may have an important bearing upon the settlement of future difficulties between employer and employees generally.

A correspondent inquires whether the Mr. Bell, whose communication appeared in Monday's issue of the Nugget, is the gentleman whose duty it is to preside over the destinies of the gold commissioner's office. In view of the fact that the latter gentleman is now on 'the outside' we feel perfectly safe in assuring our correspondent that Assistant Gold Commissioner Bell is not the author of the communication referred to.

The flourish of trumpets with which Mr. Sitton's manifesto respecting the royalty was brought forward by the government spokesman is nothing if not amusing. Read between the lines, it contains nothing that has not already been said a dozen times over and may be accepted as a campaign document somewhat clever, but not what may be termed strictly original.

Reply to Mr. Bell.

Dawson, Aug. 6, 1900.

Editor Nugget:

I am sorry to have to confess that I got tired before I got through Mr. Bell's lucubrations of tonight's issue, some two and a half columns in length. I'm afraid it is the sort of stuff that does make me tired. The point mainly dwelt upon, as far as I could gather was the governor general's pay. Now, accepting his own figures, Mr. Bell's annual contribution to this magnificent sum is precisely one cent. Let his radical soul seek comfort in the reflection that every time he indulges in the "harmless necessary" jolt, here goes the wages of 25 governor generals for a year, or if he prefers it, of one governor general for a quarter of a century.

Would that we all could recognize as did Josh Billings what the value of our political opinions and views is. I quote from memory as I don't believe this gem of wit and wisdom was ever published. It stands over one of the desks in that cheeriest of New York clubs, where doubtless many New Yorkers among us have read it, the "Turn-over," and runs as follows:

"Ask my opinion on woman and I am orthodox; buzz me about horses and I am lucid; tap me about morals and I leak like the bung hole of a barrel; approach me with a subscription paper and I melt; flatter me and I weaken; abuse me and I coruscate; intimate a brandy smash and I succumb; but in all political matters I am a nursery child, an idiot, a fool on a furlough."

And that is really what is the matter with most of us. Yet devoutly believing Josh Billings in this and most that he has to say, I feel an almost irresistible desire creeping over me to cumber your M. P. B. with about five columns of my views on "political matters," but I will forbear.

A FOOL ON A FURLOUGH.

Shindler has bicycle sundries; wood rims, inner tubes, ball bearings, spokes, bells, cyclometers, toe clips, graphite, etc. Wheels to rent by the hour.

Same old price, 25 cents, for drink, at the Regina.

It might pay you to drop in and see the new stock of drugs, stationery, and sundries at the Pioneer Drug Store.

Only the best brands of wines, liquors and cigars at the Criterion.

STROLLER'S COLUMN

Berry picking is very apt to become epidemic in any country at certain seasons of the year, and that is the only excuse the Stroller can offer for having had a severe attack of croup last Sunday night. He went berrying and absorbed dampness from a decayed log while endeavoring to persuade himself he was enjoying the eating of a hard slice of bread smeared over with "boughten" jelly that smelled like hair oil and tasted like flannel. But all this has nothing to do with the story that sitting on the burned log revived in the mind of the Stroller, and which happened on a similar excursion a number of years ago, when he joined a party to go in quest of "chickie-pins" in the land of the alligator and ripe, mellow weather.

After walking over a broad expanse of malaria strewn country the party, half a dozen or more, sat down on a large fire blackened log and ate and drank a large amount of refreshments. After luncheon and before arising from the log on which we were sitting a heated argument arose as to the propriety of drinking water as a "chaser," one man who hailed from New York, taking the ground that if used in moderation, water was admissible for the purpose named.

Col. Bellows, who was sitting 20 feet further along the log and who, having finished his meal, was complacently picking his teeth with a knife a foot long that had been ground down from a horse hoof rasp, gave a snort and said: "By gad, sah, yo' infehnal Yankees have got some of the most infehnally ungentelemanly notions it has evah been my affliction to heah! Watah, sah, was made for purposes of navigation and not to be taken into the human stomach. Yo' make me tiad with yore heathenish suggestions, and if yo' were to mention such a thing undah my roof, sah, yo' would be ordahed out of my doah. This country, sah, is getting too many — Yankee notions about how we should live and conduct ourshelves. The next thing I expect to heah is some man with advanced ideas advocating the theory, sah, that a niggah has an imortal soul."

So wrought up had the old colonel become that as he finished speaking he struck the long knife with all his strength into the log on which we were sitting. * * * May the saints preserve us if the log didn't wiggle and begin to crawl away. We had eaten dinner on a bjaconstricator as big around as a flour barrel and over 100 feet long.

"Say, postpone that dinner with me till after I get moved and settled in my new home, will you?"

The foregoing request was addressed to the Stroller the other day by Dr. Yale, as the former selected the easiest chair in the dentist's office and sat down.

"Show me," replied the Stroller; "you only moved where you are two or three days ago, now you talk about moving and getting settled in your new home. Been having some unpleasantness?"

"I have had no unpleasantness," said the doctor, "but my partner has had so much that we have decided that it would be best to live apart. You see it happened this way. He has been suffering with a severe cold for some time, and I told him I could give him something that would fix him. That was yesterday, and in the evening he came in and I gave him some epicalc, and told him to dissolve it in a glass of water and take it that way. All the morning he has looked pale and cross, and when I asked him how he felt he looked at me as if he would take pleasure in choking me. He said: 'I suppose this seems funny to you, does it?' Of course I don't know what's the matter with him, but unless there's a change for the better this evening I shall certainly move. Now you understand why I asked you to postpone the dinner till after I see where I'm at."

The Stroller was just going to say that the excuse looked a little off color, when there came a peremptory rap on the door and a tall, pale man with a peculiar lurid glitter in his somewhat haggard eyes stepped quickly into the room and closed the door behind him. He took off his hat and coat and tossed them upon the floor in a business-like way and remarked that he would, for a very small consideration clean out the office.

"You said you could fix me, and you've done it. Now I can fix you, and I've got a big notion to do it."

The dentist murmured that he was quite sure he didn't need any fixing, and besides, he didn't know what all the row was about.

"I know, if you don't," was the reply. "You gave me enough epicalc to kill a horse, and left me with the impression that I was to take it all at one dose. I did it, and now" — here a more ghastly paleness spread itself over the man's face, and he hurriedly seized his hat and coat and murmured something about coming back, as he fled down the hall.

"Now, you can see what an ungrateful wretch he is, and why I am going to move," said the dentist, and the Stroller said he thought he could.

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