

# The Klondike Nugget

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

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SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 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.

### CRIMINAL INCOMPETENCE.

The failure of the fire engine at a critical time—the incipency of the great conflagration—is simply criminal and that criminal failure has cost a million good dollars. There can be no excuse offered for the failure by those who shall be found responsible. Three times has the engine, on which our salvation depends, failed us, while fires grew and spread among our frail wooden buildings; and three times have the very men themselves given the lie to their plea of "poor coal" by making plenty of steam afterwards and maintaining a dual stream of water at high pressure for hours. Once already have our fire commissioners swallowed the plea of "poor coal" and left the matter after an alleged investigation exactly in the same position as before. Are they going to do it again?

In the first place we take it as an ordinary matter of common precaution that it should be known that the engine is in shape to steam the instant a fire is lighted. Failing in this important particular once, the responsibility should have been traced and incompetence replaced by competence. To let this thing go on to a second fire which cost Dawson \$50,000 and to a third fire which has cost another million is little less than criminal. In the first place let those who are responsible know that the Dawson fire engine is so constructed as to make plenty of steam in skillful hands for four streams at once, and for the two streams which are all that is ever required of her she will steam on any kind of fuel from culm to anthracite. Bacon, kindling or even coal oil, at the hands of men who understand their business will maintain a pressure of steam in that engine and at short notice. For firemen to stand with an empty nozzle in their hands for 27 minutes while the fire leaps unchecked from building to building is the most exasperating thing in the world. The only thing which could possibly be more exasperating is for the water to fail again after running in a fitful and weakly fashion for but a few seconds.

The NUGGET has once before taken occasion to point out these things, and at the risk of appearing dictatorial will say the fire commissioners have been purblind not to have known long ago that the failure of the engine has in no case been the fault of the engine nor of the fuel. While it is not expected of them that they should be either expert stokers or engineers themselves, they have shown simple childishness in leaving it in anyone's power to three times commit the same offense of egregiously falling at a crucial test.

For the volunteer firemen of the Dawson fire department the NUGGET has nothing but words of sincerest praise. Give them a hold of a nozzle filled with a stream of living water and they can be trusted to take it into the hottest quarters that man can go and continue to live. For the man or men who are responsible for leaving those volunteers for nearly a half hour with nothing but two paltry third-class chemical engines with

which to check a million-dollar blaze, we have not words biting and bitter enough in our vocabulary. A man who, knowing nothing of railroading, should misrepresent himself to a railroad company and secure a responsible position at the head end of a train as engineer, and should wreck a million-dollar's worth of property or put a passenger train in the ditch the first trip out, would quickly and deservingly find himself behind penitential bars. When incompetence—which must surely be cognizant of its own incompetency—schemes and worms itself into a position which brings about the loss of a million-dollar's worth of property after repeated failures which should have proved a warning unto all men, then we say that even if not actionable, the culpable management has proved itself little less than criminal in its neglect. The rank and file of the fire department is destined for a time to suffer unjustly for the failings of men over whom they have absolutely no control, but who, *per contra*, have controlled them.

### THE GOVERNOR'S LATEST.

The merits of the water-front controversy do not at all enter into the feeling of amusement of the Dawson observers who have been smiling broadly since Wednesday morning, when the following notice was served upon the gentlemen occupying the disputed strip:

LAW OFFICES OF  
CLEMENT, PATTULLO & RIDLEY,  
Dawson, April 25, 1899.

Sir: We are instructed by the commissioner of the Yukon territory to procure the signature of the water front occupants to a lease embodying the terms upon which they will be allowed to occupy their respective holdings, after the 1st of May and until the 15th of June next (1899). The terms are as follows: One and a half months' rent (\$8 per foot frontage per month, and costs of lease), to be paid in currency in advance on or before May 1.

If buildings destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by fire, flood, or any other cause, the tenant's right of occupation to cease.

Buildings to be removed and premises vacated on or before June 15th; otherwise the N. W. M. P. are to eject tenants, and the buildings are to become the property of the government.

Leases embodying the above terms will be ready for signature at our office on and after Thursday, 27th instant. All occupants who fail to sign on or before Monday, May 1st will be forthwith ejected, and the buildings upon the premises will become the property of the government. Yours truly,  
CLEMENT, PATTULLO & RIDLEY.

The notices served on all were exactly alike except in the price per front foot which varied between \$4 and \$8. The fire of Wednesday night which rendered homeless so many of the water-fronters as well as wealthier property-holders in more permanent parts of the city, has still more complicated the situation and has even aroused a feeling akin to sympathy for the landless renters of the much occupied government ground; but not for one moment has it lessened the feeling of amused contempt at the vacillating invertebrateness of Mr. Ogilvie. A score of times has he assured inquirers and petitioners that the first day of May would, without fail, witness the clearing of the water front, and a nearly equal number of times has found him leading adverse petitioners to believe that they would not be forced to vacate at the time specified in the printed notices. Those who took him at his word and secured property elsewhere are the only sufferers, so far as we can see, from the crustacean occupant of the commissioner's chair, but the open smile of the populace whenever the matter is mentioned is easily justified by the facts.

### THOSE FRANCHISES.

We notice that the Yukon council, which a month or more ago committed itself strongly against granting exclusive privileges to anyone or for any service, has again opened up for business at the old stand. The fifty dollar fine imposed upon anyone who shall infringe upon the council-given rights and prerogatives is a fitting monument to the insincerity of whoever framed the resolutions appearing upon the minutes of the council but a few short weeks ago that "A discussion ensued" and the

council expressed itself as strongly opposed to the granting of exclusive privileges to anyone." There is yet time for the council to grant the exclusive privilege of selling ice and we suggest this as another means of demonstrating that it is not so much the principle of the thing as the persons desiring a given exclusive franchise which carries weight. Then why not give the exclusive privilege of contracting for buildings; and for cleaning snow from roofs; and for making steamers fast to shore; and for dealing in whiskey; and for gaming; and for furnishing music; for printing newspapers; for merchandising, freighting, banking, sawmilling or any of the thousand and one occupations in which there is more money in killing off competition than in the ordinary struggle and survival of the fittest? The NUGGET does not want and would not take an exclusive franchise for publishing a newspaper on the Yukon as we have absolutely nothing to fear from even cheap competition, but we doubt not we can put our hands on pampered government favorites who would pay very readily for what we hold so cheap. Let the government do the handsome thing by its pets.

Then there is another practical view of the matter which we can suggest to Mr. Wm. Ogilvie. By the granting of these money-making monopolies, he can eventually swell the number of his supporters and defenders to at least the full number of franchises granted. Bought support may not be the sincerest in the world but it often passes for genuine appreciation and is always as a soothing lotion to the wounded vanity and florid egotism of the accidentally great. There are those who would turn in disgust from the fawning flatteries of franchise-seeking sycophants, but the Yukon governor is too inexperienced in the art of government and in the dispensing of money-making prerogatives, with the result that he is able to swallow this suspicious sweetness of flattering adulation in nauseating doses *ad lib*, and at unspaced periods as the inclination of the franchise seeker may suggest.

### UNCONQUERED AND UNCONQUERABLE.

That the people of the Yukon are the picked men of the continent for fortitude and indomitable energy and pluck was never so well exemplified as on Thursday morning on the site of the four burned blocks. Smouldering ruins on every hand, without a dollar of insurance, the smoking ashes representing in many cases the accumulations of years, and on every hand the cheery sound of the hammer and saw, and new white lumber gradually taking away the everlasting blackness of the scene. Here could be seen a rocker rapidly segregating gold and ashes while the carpenters jostled the toiling washer for an opportunity to lay sills for the new building which was to take the place of the one destroyed. Here could be witnessed the removal of still burning piles of debris to make way for the laying of foundations upon the hot earth beneath. On this corner could be seen a gathering of burned out householders and neither from their demeanor nor the banter of their conversation could a stranger distinguish them from the sightseers. From the ruins of various structures would come a cheery hail which was simply bewildering when one realized that the possessor of the voice oftentimes had all his worldly possessions in the "poke" carried in his pocket and at the moment he was planning a two-story structure in the place of the one-story he had lost, he was simply voicing the joyous confidence he held in the good faith of the friends who had promised him assistance to any extent.

The fact is that Dawson is peopled with these six thousand people who alone of a half million people who left their homes in the states or provinces, overcame a thousand and one reverses and obstacles, overcame shipwreck and disaster, scaled the passes, shot the rapids and in spite of everything succeeded in reaching the point of destination at last. Such men are simply unconquerable and unconquered, and the sudden

loss of a year's or ten years' work is but something to be forgotten as quickly as possible and a new start made, simply endeavoring to profit by past experiences and avoid the same calamity in the future. Only death can really stop such people, and while the NUGGET sympathizes heartily and sincerely for the losses they have sustained, we feel highly edified at the spectacle of Spartan fortitude they present, and proud to cast in our lot with such people. Cheers for Dawson and the people who will rebuild her.

### FOR SALE

FINE PROPERTY ON FIRST AVE., Block B, producing \$500 per month revenue. \$10,000. Good terms.

Also large list of other choice properties on First Avenue at Bargain Figures.

FALCON JOSLIN, Broker, 111 2nd St

### LARGE AUCTION SALE

of Fire Salvage Goods.

### Vernon & Storry

Will sell by PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday at 11 a. m.

on the ground, corner of 2nd St. and 2nd Ave. About \$1500 worth of first class goods salvaged from the recent fire on the premises of McLennan & McFeely and the Parsons Produce Co.

See Posters for Complete List.

For further particulars apply to

### VERNON & STORRY

Auctioneers etc., First Ave.

### ALASKA EXPLORATION CO.

Operating the palatial river steamers Leon, Linda, Arnold, Herman, F. K. Gustin, Mary F. Graff, and Six Large Barges

Connecting with the elegant Ocean Steamer CHAS. NELSON at St. Michael, Direct for San Francisco, Cal.

GENERAL MERCHANDISE AND MINERS' SUPPLIES. OUTFITS STORED. Our Goods are all First Class and Guaranteed. L. R. FULDA, Agent.

### BEN TANNER

Contractor and Builder.

### REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS

PLANS AND ESTIMATES FURNISHED

Opp. Galvin's Market Dawson

### LOUIS SECKELS

ASSAYER AND ANALYTICAL CHEMIST

Gold Melted into Bars. All Work Guaranteed

1th St., adjoining new Regina Club Hotel.

For 25 Cents

### THE NUGGET EXPRESS

Will Carry Your Letter to the Coast and insure its safety and prompt delivery.

Messengers will Accompany Each Consignment

And Personal Attention will be given the smallest matter of detail.

### THE NUGGET EXPRESS

E. C. ALLEN, Mgr.

OFFICE: Nugget Building, Next to U. S. A. T. & P. Co. warehouse

Exploits That Fill Heart With  
George Fortson, Describes the Battle Lay of the Country.  
Seattle is mourning one of its hero soldiers; Fortson, yet, mingled with bereavement is a feeling of pride that in the gallant eye of the nation one of the Filipino warriors of the Philippine war, the field of inspiration to his countrymen, Fortson, who by his bravery resulted in a thrilling exploit, was a hero. They form a c American gallantry and of Uncle Sam—aye, of the nation—may cheer. The war in the marked by innumerable exploits which have ex the world, and in new belonged to the western South Dakota, Utah, M One of these transcripts capture of the city of when Captain Fortson and eighty soldiers, at last. They waded an enemy was firing at the level ground and the weather fire. They feet high and captiv they were in prison killed thirty-seven almost in the trenches followed those who in the death. Cap Fortson described exploit most vividly letter to his wife. Pece by her but a few days fore the news of his timely death in a s quiet battle. He set part:  
"Since writing you I have been through of the hottest battles fought. It began about o'clock Saturday m and we wound it up 9:30 a m Sunday—the our end of it. But on left and right it conti until late in the room. We drove the "dark" about miles, when we stop worn out, too tired to bury our which, I am glad to are not as numerous might be expected. "I had command of a portion of B, based on the south land. We made the canal and an open and up through a of the river. We v dam back to the ped the other others were drawn "I then went ba Companies E, B a Filipinos on top feet high. There the fort firing at us of the canal, up over and into the prisoners and in the trenches. T killed as they ran eighty men when I compelled to climb lations that wore a see less. The  
"We are now at Manila a piece of deservings to take as a great. The our firing line was Washingtons were the praise of the d shot from all the and wall. "hey b The Filipinos wer city, killed or tak have been burie afternoon the who to be a sheet of fl  
"On Saturday l ion of 4,000, but t and all of these w women. The clea died. In a few whenever they d ated the remaini they got hold of him, and in seve raised the white shot and killed o would surrender turned his head shoot or stab him  
"The slaughter Washingtons ke long as there, v King had our reg the Sixth artille that he was orde igh army co