

The Klondike Nugget

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From Wednesday and Thursday's Daily. A POINT TO BE CONSIDERED.

The census commissioner has stated that in his opinion the completed returns will give the territory a bona fide permanent population of 20,000 people. That is to say there are now that many people who consider this territory to be their home and who have taken up their residences here with a view of making the same permanent. In the opinion of this paper these figures, if they are borne out by results, and we have no doubt that such will be the case, furnish evidence of a most remarkable nature as to the firmness of the foundation upon which the town of Dawson has been built. It must be remembered that a population of 20,000 people represents a great deal more under conditions such as exist in this territory than would be the case under ordinary circumstances.

The great majority of our population are able bodied men who through one means or another are doing sufficient not only for their own support but for the maintenance of a family as well. We are of the opinion that a conservative statement would place the number of people who are supported directly from this territory at twice the actual population. In other words, the territory is capable at the present time of sustaining a population of 30,000 people, and probably does sustain nearly that many—it being a well known fact that hundreds of men have left their families on the outside and make provision for them from their earnings in this territory.

These facts should be brought to the attention of the government when the census returns are made. In respect to actual production and amount of business transacted, the territory is really on a par with the more settled parts of the continent.

AGRICULTURE IN ALASKA. More than ordinary interest attaches to the interview in yesterday's Post-Intelligencer with Mr. George Stowell of the United States land office in Sitka. He is convinced that the soil of Alaska will some day produce vegetables and grains in sufficient quantities to support a considerable population, and the agricultural development of that country with attendant interests, stock-raising in particular, will be little short of astounding.

Mr. Stowell's opinion on this subject has all the weight of authority. He has been in the government service for years and has become expert in matters pertaining to lands. He has made a careful study of conditions on the Alaska peninsula, adding to his store of knowledge by interviews with prospectors who have penetrated into the country between Cook inlet and Bristol bay, and he has conducted a successful garden on his own account at Sitka. He knows what the soil of Alaska will do, if a way is opened for homesteaders. "We had as the vegetables, taken on the average," says he, "as can be produced in the states of Washington or Oregon," and again, "for years at different points along the lower Yukon river, vegetables and cereals have been raised successfully."

But there is an obstacle in the way of agricultural Alaska that can only be overcome by the government. The country must be surveyed. Although the law passed May 14, 1898, extended the homestead laws to Alaska, they are of no effect because of a lack of surveys, and as has been pointed out repeatedly in the Post-Intelligencer, there is no way to acquire title to a ranch or farm. Unless extensive surveys are made and liberal provisions enacted for the encouragement of settlers, the large and numerous productive tracts of Alaska will remain undeveloped. Pioneering at best means hardship, but in the Alaskan interior, which is far removed from bases of supply, and on that account difficult of access, the settler is committed to as much encouragement as can well be given him. It is suggested, therefore, that the homestead in the States a few years ago. The laws be amended so as to give the settler 160 acres instead of 80, as at present, and that the timber laws applicable to Alaska be revised so as to permit a free utilization of the forests.

There is no longer any question in the minds of the well informed that the soil of Alaska will in time become a source of great wealth, and such being the case the government should lose no time in providing liberal appropriations for surveys and offering extraordinary inducements to bona fide settlers. It would seem that the history of Alaska will be a repetition of that of the Pacific coast states. The discovery of gold opened the way; then came the development of an empire through the fertility of the soil.—P. J.

SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED. The Nugget advances the hope that the Yukon council at its next meeting will give some attention to the condition of First avenue in front of the White Pass warehouses. Several thousand square feet of space have been appropriated by the company to which they have absolutely no right. In one instance at least, and probably in a great many others, storage has been charged upon machinery which had been left upon the public thoroughfare without care of any nature. The Nugget has protested and desires at this time to re-iterate that protest against so palpable an abuse of privileges.

If the street were used for the purpose of temporarily storing machinery as a mere matter of convenience to shippers, there would be no strenuous objections raised. It is not always convenient to remove heavy freight the day it is received, and some allowance for this fact would readily be made by the public. But to permit the White Pass Company to collect storage for machinery left on the streets is an outrage which we submit should not be tolerated for a moment.

MAKING AMENDS. The Seattle Post-Intelligencer has a great many enemies in this city by reason of the misapprehensions that the Post will publish almost any kind of news which will induce people to go to Seattle and visit and do nothing on a stampede. It must be said, however, to the credit of the same paper that it has exerted itself in more ways than one for the betterment of Uncle Sam's northern territory.

The P. I. is now making a strong effort to have the United States land laws extended to Alaska in order that title to agricultural lands may be secured by those settlers who desire to make Alaska their permanent home. In this work it is to be hoped the P. I. may meet with success. The United States government has neglected its citizens in Alaska in a most shameful manner.

They have been given the most meagre protection at the hands of the law and yet have had saddled upon them a system of taxation which can be described only as outrageous.

If the Post-Intelligencer can succeed in bringing the United States government to an understanding of the situation in Alaska and force some recognition of the rights of its inhabitants, some amend will have been made for the many sins which as the account now stands are charged against the big Seattle daily.

BRUTAL SPORT. The game of lacrosse is coming in to disrepute in many communities in Canada. The sport of recent date has become so rough that a game scarcely ever occurs but what some of the players are seriously injured. An instance of this nature was mentioned in our telegraphic columns of yesterday. At a match played in Vancouver on Tuesday of this week one man was disfigured in such a manner that he will carry the marks the rest of his life. Such brutality cannot masquerade indefinitely under the name of sport.

If lacrosse players cannot refrain from endeavoring to disable each other at every opportunity a campaign will be started against the game as was the case with football, therefore, that the homestead in the States a few years ago. The rivalry between opposing collegiate football teams became so intense that a game was seldom played without someone being seriously maimed, and the list of fatalities during a season was far from small. This condition of affairs brought forth such a storm of protest that college authorities in many instances took the matter up with the result that the barbarous practice of endeavoring to disable an opponent has been pretty thoroughly stopped. The same thing must be done in the case of lacrosse or the sport is certain to lose its popularity. Every possible provision has been made by the department of public works to insure the telegraph line to Vancouver being kept open during the winter. Stations have been established and provisioned at regular intervals along the route of the line and patrols arranged to see that breaks are promptly repaired. If the wire is down for any length of time during the winter it will not be for the lack of care and foresight on the part of the men who are entrusted with the work of keeping communication open. The manner in which the morning edition of the News echoes what the evening edition has to say is something laughable. When it is remembered that it was not so very long ago that these twins in iniquity were calling each other such endearing terms as "Liar," "Traitor," "Scoundrel," etc., the present situation becomes all the more ridiculous. As we have remarked before, politics and occasionally other things make strange bedfellows.

There have been more heartburnings in Victoria and Vancouver over the expected visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall than occurred in Dawson when Lord and Lady Minto visited this city. The question of procedure at various functions to be tendered the royal party, seems to have thrown matters into a turmoil in our sister cities. Long before there is the slightest glint of the placid fields of the Klondike giving out, the music of stamp mills and smelting works will be heard far and wide. Many a good wood hewer has been spoiled by forcing himself to the conviction that he was a born philosopher and leader of men.

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"My views of incorporation are well known," said Commissioner Ross during a pleasant little chat had at his residence last night. "I believe it to be the best thing the people of Dawson could do and my reasons for thinking so are that a better administration of the city affairs could be had if the people had it in their own hands, and I think also it would be more economical. The Yukon council has its hands fully employed in caring for the territorial matters and can not devote the time it should be necessary to properly administer the city affairs, so I say incorporate by all means. It is purely a matter of local interest, and whether such steps are taken or not rests entirely with the people. If we do incorporate there will be no noticeable change in our affairs other than the shifting of the management of the city from the shoulders of the Yukon council to those of a mayor and say six councilmen. The N. W. M. P. would still have the same duties and powers they now possess and would be available for enforcing not only the ordinances already in effect passed by the council, but likewise those which from time to time would be introduced by the municipality. In an election I should not favor dividing the city into wards for the purpose of electing the councilmen, but rather should select them all at large. In that way I think better material could be secured. The members of the council would serve gratuitously and no one in the city government would receive any salary."

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The suspension of J. Langlois Bell, late assistant gold commissioner, was a subject the governor did not care to speak of, save to say the matter will not come under the investigation of a royal commission. From other sources it is learned, however, that W. W. Corry, here at present as an inspector general, will have charge of the affair, which resolves itself simply into the dismissal of a civil servant. The only charge ever preferred against Mr. Bell was that of misadministration of affairs in his office. The government is dissatisfied with the way in which he has carried out the regulations and his suspension came as would that of any other clerk employed by any individual. Mr. Corry it is understood is now investigating certain official acts of Mr. Bell's, and if they are found as alleged his suspension resolves itself into a dismissal.

The matter of concessions was also talked of at considerable length, and the commissioner considers the public should feel satisfied under the interpretation now placed upon them, particularly that to Treadgold and his associates. The minister of the interior never had any idea of giving away the entire territory under that concession, as the general report was spread about some months ago. Water, and plenty of it, is a great essential if many of the hillsides and benches now idle are ever worked, and to make large quantities of that available will require the expenditure of a great deal of money. The report at one time was also circulated that under the Treadgold concession the water of the Klondike became solely the property of the concessionaires, a statement which will appear ridiculous on the face of it.

"I am becoming greatly interested in the quartz of the territory," continued the commissioner, "and I am more than pleased to see extensive capital taking hold of it with a view to the establishment of mills. There would seem but little doubt that much of the vast amount of quartz so common in so many different sections would contain sufficient values to warrant its being worked. I have thought much of the advisability of having a couple of diamond drills sent in in order to more quickly demonstrate the depth of some of the ledges and the quality of the ore several hundred feet beneath the surface. The people at Ottawa are becoming more and more alive to the fact every day that the country is here to stay and is not on the decline, and I can say positively that they intend doing all in their power to assist in the general development of our resources. As an evidence of their intentions one has to but see what has been done this season in the way of roads. But in speaking of roads, I am sorry that freighters are not giving the work we have done more consideration. We can not make a macadamized road in a day, and yet loads within the past week have gone out to the different creeks which would scarcely be excelled in one point of view by the huge trucks now seen in the cities. A wagon loaded with three or four tons, as is not an infrequent occurrence, is simply passing over it, and the grades are cut to pieces and the work of weeks is well nigh destroyed in an hour. It is really very discouraging. We don't expect the roads to last a life time without any repairing, nor do we want to be rebuilding them constantly. This difficulty could be avoided if freighters would transport the heavy machinery when the roads are dry and hard in the summer or during the winter season, and at such times as the present use lighter loads. I am a strong advocate of wide wagon roads where new roads have to be traveled, and I fear it will be some time before that here, sooner or later. It may be necessary also to limit the weight of loads at certain seasons of the year."

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Dr. Milne pays a tribute to the splendid manner in which Commissioner Ross presides over the government of the great district under his jurisdiction. He is, the doctor says, highly respected and well qualified for his position. He seems to grasp the conditions of the country very readily, and has the strength of character to carry out what he thinks to be in the best interests of the country. He is certainly a very busy official. Dr. Milne has induced the government of Yukon to send down a handsome vegetable exhibit consisting of cabbages, radishes and lettuce all grown at Dawson. These are expected tonight, having come down on the Hating.

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Mrs. Noble Going Out. Mrs. Mary C. Noble, who came to Dawson early in the year of '98, and who for nearly three years presided over the destinies of the Nugget mess house, always a friend and councillor to the young man far from the restraining influence of home and mother, will be a passenger on the White Horse tonight en route to the outside for medical treatment, rest and recreation, her health having so far failed her as to necessitate her entering St. Mary's hospital ten days ago. No woman has ever left Mrs. Noble, and that she may return to the spring wholly recovered is the wish of all. She has valuable property both in the city and on the creeks.

Faro Bank Robbed. Pendleton, Or., Sept. 23. — Five masked men entered the saloon and gambling room belonging to C. L. McGinnis, at 10:30 tonight, and took about \$1,500. There were fully twenty persons in the room. The robbers rushed in and ordered the players and dealers to hold up their hands. One guarded the front door, two covered the crowd, while two robbed the faro and roulette banks. They then commanded McGinnis to open the safe, but a Chinaman ran out the back door and gave the alarm. The leader of the robbers shouted, "It's all up," and the desperados ran out before the safe was opened. A faro dealer named Robinson followed them, and six shots were exchanged on the street, but no one was hurt. A large posse is after the robbers.

PEOPLE WE MEET.

DR. MILNE AT HOME.

He Talks to Victorians of Dawson and the Klondike.

After a three months' residence in Dawson superintending operations on his Hunker creek properties, Dr. G. L. Milne returned home last evening, having arrived at Vancouver on the Hating Saturday. He would have been in the city on Saturday night but for the refusal of the C. P. N. Company to continue the trip of their steamer to this port, all of which is fully described in another column. This is the first season in the exploitation of his property, and so far the work has been of a preliminary character. Machinery is being installed and definite results will be forthcoming next season.

The doctor announces very strongly on the freight transportation rates imposed by the White Pass & Yukon Railway Company. The tariff on machinery running \$135 he considers as prohibitive as far as a miner in moderate circumstances is concerned, and certainly the present rate cannot exist, he affirms, and make a paying camp.

In regard to the output the doctor estimates it between \$17,000,000 and \$20,000,000. This is the general figure, and coincides with the official estimate published in these columns a few evenings ago.

The exodus to Henderson, Stewart and Pelly rivers, the doctor does not consider of sufficient dimensions to call a stampede. Boats have been going out from Dawson to these places continually, but from all get could learn there is nothing sufficiently exceptional in the strikes to justify a rush.

The expediency of imposing a gold export tax in substitution for the royalty, which was drawn to the attention of Hon. Clifford Sifton by Governor Ross, has been commented on to some extent at Dawson, and Dr. Milne says that the suggestion has been satisfactorily received there. Of course its enforcement will necessitate the stationing of an adequate staff of officers at boundary points above and below, but that it will stop leakages is undoubted.

The Dominion government has bestowed an unqualified boon on the district in the construction of splendid roads to the creeks. For some time past gangs of men have been busily engaged in making necessary highways to the scene of mining operations, and when the doctor left these were almost completed. They run to Eldorado, Hunker, Bonanza and Dominion, and will fill a long-felt want, the idea being to have roads that will endure the wear and tear of heavy traffic.

Dawson has been the scene of much building activity, a number of public buildings having been erected by the government. These add very much to the appearance of the place, while they are not only imposing but excellently finished and appointed. They consist of the new court house, the governor's residence, a picture of which appeared in this paper some time ago, a new school house and new administration building. The cost of the group aggregates approximately, the doctor says, \$150,000.

Lieut. Skirving Killed. News has reached Dawson of the death of George Skirving, formerly of the N. W. M. P., Dawson detachment. He was shot dead in an engagement with the Boers a few days ago. He held a lieutenant's commission. The dead officer had many friends in Dawson who deeply regret his untimely death.

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The doctor brought down a small bag of nuggets taken from his property on Hunker—Victoria Times.

Mrs. Noble Going Out. Mrs. Mary C. Noble, who came to Dawson early in the year of '98, and who for nearly three years presided over the destinies of the Nugget mess house, always a friend and councillor to the young man far from the restraining influence of home and mother, will be a passenger on the White Horse tonight en route to the outside for medical treatment, rest and recreation, her health having so far failed her as to necessitate her entering St. Mary's hospital ten days ago. No woman has ever left Mrs. Noble, and that she may return to the spring wholly recovered is the wish of all. She has valuable property both in the city and on the creeks.

Faro Bank Robbed. Pendleton, Or., Sept. 23. — Five masked men entered the saloon and gambling room belonging to C. L. McGinnis, at 10:30 tonight, and took about \$1,500. There were fully twenty persons in the room. The robbers rushed in and ordered the players and dealers to hold up their hands. One guarded the front door, two covered the crowd, while two robbed the faro and roulette banks. They then commanded McGinnis to open the safe, but a Chinaman ran out the back door and gave the alarm. The leader of the robbers shouted, "It's all up," and the desperados ran out before the safe was opened. A faro dealer named Robinson followed them, and six shots were exchanged on the street, but no one was hurt. A large posse is after the robbers.

PEOPLE WE MEET.

DR. MILNE AT HOME.

He Talks to Victorians of Dawson and the Klondike.

After a three months' residence in Dawson superintending operations on his Hunker creek properties, Dr. G. L. Milne returned home last evening, having arrived at Vancouver on the Hating Saturday. He would have been in the city on Saturday night but for the refusal of the C. P. N. Company to continue the trip of their steamer to this port, all of which is fully described in another column. This is the first season in the exploitation of his property, and so far the work has been of a preliminary character. Machinery is being installed and definite results will be forthcoming next season.

The doctor announces very strongly on the freight transportation rates imposed by the White Pass & Yukon Railway Company. The tariff on machinery running \$135 he considers as prohibitive as far as a miner in moderate circumstances is concerned, and certainly the present rate cannot exist, he affirms, and make a paying camp.

In regard to the output the doctor estimates it between \$17,000,000 and \$20,000,000. This is the general figure, and coincides with the official estimate published in these columns a few evenings ago.

The exodus to Henderson, Stewart and Pelly rivers, the doctor does not consider of sufficient dimensions to call a stampede. Boats have been going out from Dawson to these places continually, but from all get could learn there is nothing sufficiently exceptional in the strikes to justify a rush.

The expediency of imposing a gold export tax in substitution for the royalty, which was drawn to the attention of Hon. Clifford Sifton by Governor Ross, has been commented on to some extent at Dawson, and Dr. Milne says that the suggestion has been satisfactorily received there. Of course its enforcement will necessitate the stationing of an adequate staff of officers at boundary points above and below, but that it will stop leakages is undoubted.

The Dominion government has bestowed an unqualified boon on the district in the construction of splendid roads to the creeks. For some time past gangs of men have been busily engaged in making necessary highways to the scene of mining operations, and when the doctor left these were almost completed. They run to Eldorado, Hunker, Bonanza and Dominion, and will fill a long-felt want, the idea being to have roads that will endure the wear and tear of heavy traffic.

Dawson has been the scene of much building activity, a number of public buildings having been erected by the government. These add very much to the appearance of the place, while they are not only imposing but excellently finished and appointed. They consist of the new court house, the governor's residence, a picture of which appeared in this paper some time ago, a new school house and new administration building. The cost of the group aggregates approximately, the doctor says, \$150,000.

Lieut. Skirving Killed. News has reached Dawson of the death of George Skirving, formerly of the N. W. M. P., Dawson detachment. He was shot dead in an engagement with the Boers a few days ago. He held a lieutenant's commission. The dead officer had many friends in Dawson who deeply regret his untimely death.

MARRIED LAST NIGHT

S. McKnight and Mrs. Hunter United for Life.

At 8 o'clock last night in the parlor of the Hotel McDonald Mr. S. McKnight, foreman of McMillivray & McKay's Bonanza claim, and Mrs. Hunter, were united in marriage. Rev. Father Gendreau officiating. About half a dozen intimate friends of the contracting parties were present. The bride is well known on Bonanza, having run a roadhouse at 10 below last winter. She went to Washington, D. C. her old home early in the summer, returning to Dawson last Sunday. After the ceremony last night an elegant supper was served at which wine sparkled and mirth and pleasure reigned supreme. The newly made man and wife are at the McDonald, but will shortly leave for the groom's home on Bonanza where they will be at home to their many friends.

Not a B. Y. N. Employee. Some time ago an interview appeared in the Nugget with a steamboat man in which certain reflections were made upon the policy of Manager Darling of the B. Y. N. Co. These statements purported to come from an employee of the company. A communication has been received at this office signed by a member of the company's masters and pilots in which it is stated that the information was not given by anyone in the employ of the company. Investigation has shown that the party in question was not connected with the company at the time the statements were made, although he previously had been, and was believed to be by the representative of this paper who secured the interview.

This statement is made in justice to the masters and pilots of the B. Y. N. Co. who have unwittingly been placed in an embarrassing position.

They were built of native wood and finished with British Columbia timber. As regards mining operations Dr. Milne commented on the large amount of machinery which had been taken in recently. Manual labor is to a large extent superseded by mechanical contrivances. Wages both in the mines and on the government works were \$5 per day and board, and \$8 without board. Prices were diminishing before the keen edge of competition when he left Dawson. For instance, hay which costs 5 cents per pound to deliver in Dawson was being sold at 5 1/2 cents and in some cases less. The taking of the census is being rapidly proceeded with under the direction of enumerators, and a number of them will be finished in about two weeks.