

# The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday

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## 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.

## THE INVESTIGATION.

The almost verbatim report of the extortion trial which was published in our last issue, was a revelation to even the staunchest of our supporters in the battle for good government. The case never having been published, most of our readers were unfamiliar with the facts which we were prevented from publishing in our columns by reason of our given word to the interested parties. The public trial lifted the embargo and the most complete case of malfeasance ever printed in the NUGGET is now flying over the ice in a thousand envelopes to as many quarters of the earth. To foretell that it will be reprinted throughout Canada, with extensive comment, is an easy task. Its effect upon the defenders of the Yukon administration can only be imagined. That such evidence was elicited under the ruling which allows only voluntary testimony concerning events subsequent to August 25th but makes the case the stronger. Our story of the trial is accompanied in the same mailbags to Ottawa with a signed memorial similar to the one quoted in the letters patent, but setting forth the inadequacy of the commission now in session and praying for an investigation, with power to investigate, not with voluntary testimony with the thousand-and-one mental reservations which we always see in the unwilling witness not under oath, testifying upon a matter in which they have a personal interest; but with the power to subpoena witnesses, compel testimony and to imprison, in case of a refusal to answer. As it is now, the investigation from which we had hoped so much has assumed an aspect which has already lost for it the faith of the people for whose benefit it was presumably instigated.

## CREEK BOUNDARIES.

There is a question rapidly coming forward for settlement which is going to cause a great many law suits and a great many heart burnings, and that is the creek claim boundary question. It is little use to philosophize and to say that the creek man is entitled to this, that or the other. The fact remains that in the district are over double as many bench men as creek men and after all there should be no question upon any ground other than priority. There is no rule for telling where the end of the creek claim comes in and where the bench commences. It is all very well to point out that the regulations under which the creek claim was staked will give its boundaries; but they don't do it. "From base to base of hill" is just about as inadequate as from "rimrock to rimrock." No two men in the district with diverse interests can ever decide within 20 feet as to the base of the hill. In fact government surveyors with their angles and planes differ as much as laymen upon this all important boundary question. Every day the matter of a definite boundary becomes more and more pressing, and every day more and more bench claim men are forced to suspend

operations while the creek man appropriates the dump. We do not wish to be understood as saying that the disputed ground is not his—far from it—it is probable that as far as possible the regulations are being conscientiously adhered to.

The objection to the whole thing is the indefiniteness of the boundary of a claim which allows a conscientious prospector to come along and stake a neighboring piece of ground in good faith, and after wasting his substance and strength in proving it of value, the boundary question comes up and his mine is appropriated. After two generations of placer mining in Australia, the accumulated wisdom of many years has hit upon a four-stake plan as the only solution of the boundary trouble. The Australians had that there is no more reason why a creek claim should not have a definite side boundary than a bench or hill claim.

A plan hit upon at a meeting of miners up the creek, called for the discussion of this very matter, was the requiring of the taking up of a square piece of ground of a specified size and enclosed by four stakes, the boundary being a straight line between those stakes. It was suggested that the ground of that size be allowed where you will and at any angle you please. If you want it on one side of the creek, and half hill and half flat, it was yours if you were there first. Whatever may be thought of the plan, it is clear that there would be no boundary disputes.

## THE COMING FEVER.

The time of the spring thaw is approaching and the Dawson flat will be found, under the snow, to be covered with the undrained accumulated filth of a six-months winter. Frozen smells will permeate the air, and frozen swill from our thousands of cabins will lie festering in the summer sun. Ten thousand people up the Klondike have unconsciously united to vitiate the aforetime pure waters of that stream, while the Yukon will be filled for months with the seepage of nearly a thousand miles of rotten moss and muck. The natural consequence of this will undoubtedly be an epidemic of typhoid fever, such as will put even last summer in the shade by comparison. Many of our hardy miners working in sunless drifts along bedrock and buoyed up with glowing anticipations of that delicious moment when they shall be reunited once more to their much loved families, with the means in hand to guarantee them a few of the comforts of life and immunity from any present want, many hundreds of these men we say, are destined to be laid shortly beneath the ever frozen surface of this "land of wealth untold," and their broken families left to the harsh care of strangers, with just a few handfuls of yellow dust to remind them of the man who dared so much for them and who went down in this relentless fight for gold.

It is proposed now by the Yukon Council to have a great ditch dug from the river to the hill, into which numerous transverse ditches can empty themselves. While it is true that this could have been done at a minimum of cost last fall, it is a case of better late than never, and even though the cost of digging such a ditch in winter time will be great, it will enable the first flush of the thaw to carry off much that we dread. But more important than even the drainage is the providing for Dawson of a pure water supply at any cost. Water taken from the near shore of the Yukon has proved itself an aid to the spread of disease, while even the Klondike has lost all hold on popular favor. The spring under the hill back of the hospital has not been protected by a government reservation forbidding the construction of cabins and outhouses within a specified radius, with the result that this summer will see the populous hill above draining itself into the spring and, transforming it into a source of danger and a constant menace to the health of the many people who have ever been anxious to use its ice-cold waters even at a cost of fifty cents per pail.

As a few precautionary measures we

suggest the compulsory use of water-tight boxes in all outhouses, with proper inspection and constant renewal. Secondly, the compulsory use of water taken from the opposite side of the Yukon river, if not from even more distant points.

Restaurants, breweries, or other semi-public institutions should not for one moment be allowed to disseminate the germs of death.

## THE DAWSON TELEGRAPH.

The London papers are full of the floating of the stock for the construction of a telegraph line into Dawson from the outside world. The gravity with which the dignified *Financial News* informs would-be investors that the difficulties of life are not insurmountable to the employees of a wealthy company is somewhat amusing. It will be years before the Cockneys learn that there has not been a day this winter but what men, women and children have traveled from point to point without particular danger to themselves, while for five months in the year the public enemy is the heat, not the cold. The five months of summer would easily permit of the stringing of a wire the length of the Yukon, from the coast to Dawson. The greatest obstacle to a through wire would be found to be the impracticability of stringing a cable underneath intersecting rivers such as the Pelly, Hootanqua and a dozen more. The fact of the matter is that there is every reason to believe that the freezing of the rivers at the bottom would interfere with continuous service, not that freezing would injure the cable, but owing to the odd fashion this anchor ice often has of rising to the top and floating away with the current, in which case it would take the cable with it. A long stretch of wire from island to island from high poles in the air might solve the difficulty in a few instances.

## NOT SO COLD AS IT SEEMED.

The first four days of the past week have demonstrated a proposition we have often made, that in the absence of numerous reliable thermometers it would be comparatively easy for stories of extreme cold to originate in this land of continuous low temperatures. A sharp breeze of from eight to ten miles an hour afflicted us continuously for nearly four days and nights, and many men who had hitherto escaped the ravages of Jack Frost succumbed to his ruthless might, and have for days been engaged in doctoring nipped faces and hands for the first time this winter. Thermometers are nowadays quite common, and it took a constant reference to those pink columns of spirit to rid one of the impression that a temperature of at least sixty below was being experienced, while as a matter of fact it was hovering at thirty below, a point some ten to twenty degrees warmer than it has been several times this winter, without any considerable discomfort to the residents here. But for the reassuring presence of the aforementioned thermometers, on many a diary would be noted: "February 27th, Monday, sixty below. Tuesday, 28th, seventy-five below, etc., etc."

## UNCLE SAM IN COMMERCE.

The remarkable financial prosperity of the United States last year is a subject of comment throughout the world. The excess of exports over imports was more than double that of the best year the United States has heretofore enjoyed, and this in spite of the prosecution of an international war which would naturally be supposed to act as a dampener upon mercantile enterprise. Nor was this altogether because of phenomenal crops in the States with failures abroad, for the export which showed the greatest advance was not wheat but railway steel which is in no way affected by drought or plentiful rains. The fact is that the United States is awakening to a broader commercial policy than the mere supplying of her own needs, and by virtue of being a direct descendant of the present greatest commercial nation on earth, it is not at all surprising that she makes great strides in international commerce when she starts out to do so. The time

is not so far distant when a loosening of the hands of protective tariff swaddling clothes may enable this sturdy infant among nations to stretch its clothes and show its proportions.

## Quid Vides.

[The would-be funny man of the *Miner-Sun* says in a recent issue that the seven-pound nugget it had announced as being found on Eldorado wasn't a nugget at all, though of course the paragon value it highly.—Ed.]

I heard a tale the other day,  
Seemed beyond all bound;  
A nugget found outside the post,  
When washed weighed several pounds.  
Now do you think the story's true?  
Was such a treasure found?  
Would you believe it told to you,  
Even if exposed to view—  
That it came from the ground?  
But wouldn't you like to stake a claim,  
And find such nuggets just the same?

HE.  
The stories that are told by men,  
To gentle maidens dear,  
Are mostly fables; now and then  
Such nuggets do appear.  
Such "nuggets," 'e'en when bare to view,  
It's naked truth I'll tell to you.  
I do not think the story's true—  
That it came from the ground.  
Yes, I'd like to stake a claim in 'em,  
And find such "nuggets" just the same.  
—BRED HARD.

An Outside Account of Dawson's Fire.  
The *Brooklyn Eagle* tells of our recent conflagration in the following words:

Miss Dolly Mitchell and another lady had some words in the Green Tree saloon in Dawson, the commercial capital of the Klondike, and threw a lighted lamp at her. The flame caught the greasy floor of the temple of am where these two ladies had been dancing, and presently the place was afire. A high wind was blowing and the inhabitants turned out in thousands to check the fire, but as Dawson is a town of this was not possible until the city hall, opera-house, board of health building, postoffice and cotton exchange had been reduced to ashes. There was a steam fire engine, that had not been paid for, in a warehouse, and the public got it out, put it together, melted some water and got up steam just as the fire was over. The loss is but a million, and several families are left out in the cold in a place where it is quite cold. The destruction of the stores with their contents means that clothing and possibly food will be hard to get this winter, and as the ground will be frozen and the winter mills will not be at work it is doubtful if adequate shelter can be provided for all of the Dawsonians before spring. And all this time nobody knows what became of the other lady, who had the lamp thrown at her. As to Miss Mitchell, there are quite a number of opinions about her in the capital, but none of them are good ones, and a proposition to lynch her was received with considerable favor. Here this she may be under the sod, and the hat may be going around to supply her with a monument.

**Tivoli Theatre and Dance Hall**  
SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS FOR  
Week Commencing Monday, Feb. 27

## FRED BREEN

ENWOMEN CHILDREN OATLEY SISTERS GAD WILSON  
And 10 Other Specialty Artists

When at Grand Forks stop at the  
**HOTEL BUTLER**  
BAR AND CAFE.

MEALS AT ALL HOURS.  
Finest of Wines, Liquors and Cigars.  
"Nothing is too good for us."  
Billy Thomas, Mgr.

**YOU PLACE THE ORDER**

**WE DO THE REST**

Will make purchases and deliver goods (either express packages or freight) to any claim on the creeks.

**HAVE YOU TRIED OUR SERVICE?**

—THE—

**Nugget Express**

E. C. ALLEN, Manager.  
MAIN OFFICE—In the "Phoenix"  
BRANCH OFFICE—Forks of Eldorado and Bonanza.  
Orders may be given any agent or driver of team.

THE TEL

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