

The Klondike Nugget

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ALLEN BROS., Publishers

From Monday and Tuesday's Daily.
IGNORANCE OR WHAT?

The faculty which the News possesses in such a marked degree of falling into ridiculous blunders reached a climax on Saturday evening. An alleged telegram appeared on the first page of the News of Saturday under staring, sensational headlines. In these headlines the startling announcement was made that Mr. Frank Phiscator, one of Dawson's well known old timers, a heavy mine owner and holder of much valuable Dawson realty, had recently been arrested in Boroda, Michigan. The charge upon which Mr. Phiscator was alleged to have been arrested was not set forth in the "telegram" which merely stated that Mr. Phiscator had been made defendant in a suit for damages in the town in question. The News was not satisfied, however, with the "telegram" itself. A lengthy editorial note was added which was filled with errors from beginning to end and which concluded with the remarkable statement that "This is the first time he (Phiscator) has been to the outside since he acquired his wealth in the Klondike."

As a matter of fact known to everyone in Dawson excepting possibly the amateur journalists who are responsible for the blundering career of our never-get-it-right contemporary, Mr. Phiscator has been in Dawson with his wife all winter long. His name has appeared in the local papers a dozen times during the past few months and he has been a familiar figure on the streets of Dawson through the entire winter.

There are two possible explanations for this latest monumental blunder on the part of the News. Either that sheet is grossly ignorant of the most primitive rules of legitimate journalism or else it has set out with deliberate malice to injure the good name of one of Dawson's most respected citizens.

We are scarcely able to accept the first explanation, for we dislike to believe that such colossal stupidity is possible—even in the News. Five minutes spent investigating the affair would have furnished sufficient information to prove the falsity of the sensational yarn which the News published.

In fact it is impossible to comprehend how any newspaper in Dawson could be so densely ignorant of local affairs as to fall unwittingly into such a blunder.

The second explanation suggested seems more reasonable, and if it is the correct one, it involves a motive which a reputable newspaper can scarcely discuss.

We presume the News will endeavor to explain the matter away after accomplishing all the damage possible. That is the News' method, followed from the day of its first publication and it is safe to assume that no departure from its regular custom will be made in the present instance.

The facts in the case are at absolute variance with the statements in the News. A reputable citizen has been grossly maligned and injured, without cause. Whether through ignorance or malice is to be seen. In either case the offense is inexcusable.

A FALSE HOPE.

The people of Dawson have altogether too much intelligence to be led astray by the flimsy inducements which are being held out to them by a few pro-incorporationists—otherwise office seekers.

The situation with respect to incorporation is in no wise different from what it was three months ago. When it can be demonstrated by the production of a charter acceptable to the federal authorities, that taxpayers without regard to nationality will be permitted to participate in the local government; when it is shown that a municipal administration can be conducted as economically as our local

affairs are administered at the present time; when it is proven that revenues will accrue to the municipality sufficient to meet required expenses—when these things are all accomplished, then will be time enough to enter seriously into a discussion of the advisability of incorporation.

The single thread which the promoters of incorporation are holding out at the present time which they did not hold out three months ago is based upon the expectation of eluding a municipal government favorable to a continuation of the present system of open gambling.

Without entering into a discussion of the merits of the gambling question itself, it may be said as an indisputable statement of fact that no matter what the feelings of the proposed municipal council might be on the subject, gambling could not be conducted in the face of instructions to the contrary from the federal government.

It is not contended by the pro-incorporationists themselves that a municipal council could enact ordinances in conflict with federal statutes. Their whole case is based upon the theory that once the town is incorporated there will be no further federal interference and that gambling could continue merely through failure of the local authorities to enforce the laws.

This hope is entirely futile as the affairs of the territory generally would still be administered from Ottawa and the federal laws could be brought into effect at a moment's notice.

We repeat that we have too much confidence in the intelligence and common sense of the people of Dawson to believe that they will allow themselves to be stampeded into favoring a movement which can result only to their ultimate injury.

THE MINER AND INCORPORATION.

At the meeting held last evening for the purpose of furthering the cause of incorporation, much was said respecting the miner. It was held by several of the speakers that Dawson is now maintained by revenues derived from the man who handles pick and shovel on the creeks—that the miner pays it all and that it is time now that Dawson should begin to pay its own way.

Another speaker equally zealous in the same cause, gave expression to loud lamentations by reason of the fact that the Yukon council proposes to levy a tax upon Dawson and at the same time permit the miner to go free.

As a matter of fact, the miner is the man who ultimately pays all the bills, both for territorial and local administration—so say nothing of his liberal contributions to the federal revenues. Every dollar of wealth produced in the territory comes directly from our one productive industry—the industry of placer mining. It must be clear, therefore, that the expenses of administering the affairs of the town of Dawson indirectly become a burden upon the miner.

Assuming for the sake of argument that Dawson, through some means or other, should have a debt of half a million dollars saddled upon it as a corporate body, we submit to the miners of the territory that the said debt if paid at all would be paid by them. Dawson's existence is dependant upon the fact that it is the supply point for the creeks. If heavy taxes are levied upon the business interests of Dawson it means a proportionate increase in the cost of commodities to the miner. From that proposition there is no escape, and we do not believe the most enthusiastic advocate of incorporation would seek to deny truth so perfectly self-evident. It becomes clear, therefore, that so far as the miner is concerned his interests will be best conserved by conducting the affairs of Dawson in the most economical manner possible.

The miner, in spite of the statements to the contrary made by the pro-incorporationists last evening, is already taxed beyond what he is able to bear. It is incumbent upon the people of Dawson to strain every nerve to lessen

that burden rather than take means to add thereto.

It has been shown time and time again and admitted even by the men who are urging incorporation that administration of local affairs under a municipality would far exceed in cost the amount required under the present system, and it has not been shown that there would be any particular gain in respect to efficiency. It would merely add to the already large number of office holders whose salaries are now a drain upon the mining industry.

We believe thoroughly that nine-tenths of the mine owners in the territory will subscribe to the proposition that incorporation of Dawson under existing conditions would be a distinct detriment to their interests.

The movement of freight from Dawson to the creeks goes steadily forward. The hum of industry is abroad in the land and that hum will steadily increase in volume until every creek in the district is alive with workers intent upon making the earth yield up its precious treasure. It makes no difference whether Dawson is incorporated or not, the Klondike and Indian river districts will turn out more gold this year than ever they have before. No amount of agitation can lessen the quantity or value of the golden deposits so bountifully stored throughout this territory.

Newly-elected senators of the United States are supposed to occupy their seats for a period of one year before they are qualified to make a motion to adjourn. We suggest to some of our chachako statesmen that it would be well for them to serve a similar term of apprenticeship before starting in the business of running things for us.

In the language of the immortal Joseph, "Incorporation is a matter of bread and butter with a lot of us." We must commend the Immortal for his outspokenness.

Fluency of tongue and nicely turned figures of speech will not put money into an empty treasury.

Now is the time for everyone to get a claim.

Old timers are coming back to Dawson in large numbers. The Nugget extends the glad hand to all of them and assures them that they are three welcome.

Prayers With Variations.

It was the little son of Winfield Cook, formerly of Auburn, who ended up his prayer, "If I should die before I wake," "There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight!"

The small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Goss of South Lewison had been wishing and sighing for a ride for a long time. Finally the promised opportunity came. The little miss was tucked up in the robes, and all was ready for the start, when she suddenly bowed her head and folded her hands under her chin. "Oh, God," she said, "don't let it rain, or don't let the wind blow today, for I want to take this ride. Amen." Then to her father she said: "All right, papa, you can go along now. I've given God His orders!"

A Lewiston laddie of 3 has been taught to say "Now I lay me." Last night, after his mother had prepared him for his crib, she said, "And now the prayer." But, turning his face away, the laddie said, "I can't; I'm too bashful."

He is the cousin of a chubby 4-year-old, whose home is in New York. This little man has also been started up in the way he should go. One day he visited some relative by the name of Jones. He was not treated just as his highness considered fitting, and he resented it for a time. But when prayer time came he relented enough to frame this petition and prayer: "Please, God, bless papa and mamma, and grandpa and grandma, and even the Joneses!"—Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

Across the Ocean.

New York, Feb. 14—According to an afternoon paper Nikola Tesla, the electrician, announces today that his plans for the instruments of wireless telegraphy for the transmission of messages across the ocean are completed, and that he has already selected a site for the terminal plan on this side of the Atlantic.

CURRENT COMMENT

Editor Nugget:

Allow me to express my personal appreciation of the sentiment "of your paper on the matter of the enforcement of the law touching the suppression of certain open vices, that have too long flourished in this territory, and are now to be put under the ban. That any concern making any pretence to a knowledge of the first principles upon which a sound business rests, should commit itself to the advocacy of open gambling, or still worse, to the burning disgrace of the dance hall business, and especially that phase of it which has to do with enticing men to the excessive use of strong drink with the avowed intent of robbing them of their valuables while they are in that condition, is to me a matter of great surprise. If licentiousness or high handed robbery, or both are things to be desired in any business community, then business must have changed since I knew it. It is still further to me a matter of great surprise that the heads of large business institutions here should so far forget themselves as to petition Ottawa to sanction matters of this nature, especially when they know that on the statute books of realm there is a law forbidding these evils.

These evils have not been established by the law, although they have been permitted under the law, therefore those who in defiance of the law have taken the risk of investment have themselves to blame if they suffer loss. The oppressor has had his day, now let the oppressed have his. As citizens we have a right to demand the enforcement of the law, and we do so, in the firm conviction that the best interests of the country are conserved by our action. Inasmuch as character is more important than money, and right more to be desired than wrong, and that man is a moral agent rather than a money making machine, and since righteousness alone exalteth the nation, and is the secret of true and abiding prosperity; and that, sin is always a curse and reproach to any people, we, as loyal citizens of the empire, and lovers of freedom rejoice that of themselves the authorities have moved in this matter, otherwise we would have been compelled to do so. Coming as it does from the foundation of authority, under our splendid system of police may we not expect that the law shall be forthwith strictly enforced.

ANDREW S. GRANT.

ASYLUM FOR INSANE

Will Be Fitted Up at Once by Government.

Dawson has long been in need of some place of confinement for insane people where the proper treatment can be given them and at the same time where they can have separate apartments for themselves. Up to the present time they have been confined in the police jail which is conceded by all connected with it to be very unsuitable for them. Last spring at the opening of navigation there were confined in the jail ten insane people and at the present time there are four. Sometimes they raise such a disturbance at night that it is impossible for any of the other inmates of the building to get any sleep and their yells can be heard for quite a distance. The building erected by Col. Word, the promoter of the water company, as one of their stations, situated in the police square but which has not been in use for some time has been procured by Major Wood and will be converted into an asylum.

It is not a very large building, but will answer the requirements of present needs. Work of remodeling his already begun and it is expected to be ready for occupancy within a week.

The water tank on the top will be removed and the lumber used in fitting up the interior which will be made into ten compartments giving to the inmates plenty of room. Everything will be done to make it as comfortable as possible.

The building is just back of the sergeants' mess in the police square and is in close proximity to the barracks and will have the careful supervision of the police. An exercise ground will be partitioned off to them so that they will get plenty of fresh air and exercise. Their food will be served to them from the barracks messhouse and carried to them.

They will have proper medical attendance and everything will be done possible to benefit their mental and physical condition. Their removal from the jail into a separate building will be of great benefit not only to themselves but to the prisoners as well.

WILCOX TALKS TO OGDENITES

About the Agricultural Resources of the Yukon.

Farmers Can Hoe Potatoes Before Breakfast and Pan Out Gold Through the Day.

Geo. E. Wilcox, who, with his wife, is in Ogden, visiting relatives, is one of the well-to-do mining and business men of Dawson City, in the Klondike region. Besides being heavily interested in the mining industry he has invested in many other business ventures in Dawson with great success. In conversation with a Standard reporter last night, he said:

"A man with energy, a sincere desire to get along and no fastidiousness regarding the character of his occupation, so long as it is honorable, can go to Alaska and make money. If he lands in Dawson City with \$50 in his pocket he will be all right for there is always something to do there and while a person may not always obtain a position exactly to his taste he can get some position that will furnish him with a living and a handsome surplus until he can get something better.

"In regard to those people who are going from Ogden and other parts of Utah in the spring for the purpose of farming I can give words of the greatest encouragement. They will be enabled to make a fortune in that country in a few years. There is always a market there of hay, wheat and barley and after getting these crops started the farmers can put in good time during the summer season in going into mining. Almost at any point along the Yukon river where farming is good enough can be made in panning out gold to pay the running expenses of the farmers for the year and the crops will be all clear profit and sold at a fancy price.

"I should advise, however, that those going from here to engage in agriculture should buy their seeds in Ogden before starting. The seed barley and wheat should be from crops raised in Canada or the Dakotas and Minnesota. They should be careful on this point because after careful experiments made by government agricultural agents it was found that these seeds were the only ones from which successful crops could be assured.

"The field of agriculture is hardly entered upon in Alaska and there are great opportunities for farmers. Of course, there are two things to be carefully considered in locating. They are good agricultural land with favorable climatic conditions at a minimum distance from the market so that freight rates will be of the least amount.

"There are now 36 steamers plying on the Yukon and all of them are modern boats built especially for the Yukon service, so that passenger and freight traffic are both being solved. The trip now, when the navigation season opens, can be made without any hardships and scarcely any risks more than that of ordinary travel. These boats stop at all the small settlements along the river where they can tie up. The first of these places where farmers will be greatly interested is at Kosrefsky or the Holy Cross Mission, maintained by the Sisters of St. Anne and the Jesuit fathers. The gardening at this point shows what can be done in the way of raising the hardier vegetables, whenever an increasing population will put Alaska to the test of its capacity or supporting life. Turnips, radishes, lettuce, potatoes, cabbages and celery are grown with more or less success, and continuous experiments are made with different seeds. This settlement is on the outer edge of the territory which can be profitably contributive to the Dawson market. At intervals all along the river from this point to Fort Selkirk there are good stretches of fine farming land capable of raising immense crops of the grains and hay.

"One of the best regions is on the Stewart river, 140 miles above Dawson and on the White river, 10 miles from the Stewart. Both have rich placer bars and a double occupation is offered to the farmer."

Mr. Wilcox leaves with his wife for an extended trip through the east and Mexico tomorrow. They will return to Dawson over the ice in March. He has great faith in that country and his advice to all who are willing to work and endure hardships for wealth is to go there.—Ogden (Utah) Standard.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.