

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday

E. C. ALLEN, Manager
GEO. M. ALLEN, Editor
A. F. GEORGE, City Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Yearly in advance.....\$24 00
Six months.....12 00
Three months.....6 00
Per month by carrier in city (in advance).....2 00
Single copies.....25

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 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, Banker, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail of express may be left at the Nugget Express office or given to creek agents.

WHENCE THEIR INSPIRATION?

When a suspicion dawns upon the public mind that a newspaper in its editorial columns only echoes the desires and opinions of a subsidizer such a paper immediately begins to lose caste. The public has the right to expect from a newspaper an honest expression of opinion upon all subjects with which it may be called upon to deal. When it becomes known that the policy of a paper is dictated by persons whose personal ends are being furthered by reason of such policy, a consequent lack of confidence in the sincerity of such a paper's utterances must inevitably follow.

We are led to make these remarks by reason of the attitude assumed toward the tramless tramway company by the *Miner-Sun* combine. There is a well defined belief in the minds of the public that Mr. Thos. O'Brien, chief promoter of the tramway concern now operating a toll sled trail on Bonanza creek is interested financially in both these papers. How well grounded is this belief, may be seen from the fact that the Nugget through its editorial columns has asked all the parties interested to define the situation for the benefit of the public and thus far no explanation has been forthcoming. Nevertheless we find the down town end of the *Miner-Sun* sticking up staunchly for the tramless tramway outfit while the organ published from the vicinity of the barracks, though professedly living, moving and having its being for the sole purpose of protecting the rights of the hard-working and down-trodden miner, is silent as the grave when it comes to a criticism of Mr. O'Brien and his alleged tramway.

Now, gentlemen, you have put up some very plausible reasons in asking public support for your twin sister combination, be honest with the public and let people know the exact status of affairs. If Mr. O'Brien is the source of your editorial inspiration come out and say so. There is nothing gained by these little subterfuges and an occasional confession is always good for the soul. Our ears are open.

COMING YEARS.

What has the future in store for the Klondike? Will a few years serve to exhaust the gold and then the country be abandoned, once more to become a stamping ground for enormous herds of moose and caribou or has this portion of her majesty's domain sufficient resources behind it to justify the opinion that it will be a permanently inhabited district.

Our observation leads us to the latter conclusion. It is not placing the matter one whit too strongly to say that as yet this country has scarcely been prospected. When one considers the known broad expanse of the gold producing area, and then considers the limited amount of real development that has taken place he must be impressed with the fact that the gold fields of the Yukon are still in their infancy. Gold is known to exist in greater or less quantities from Atlin Lake along the course of the Yukon and its tributaries almost to its

mouth. The limit of prospected territory is exceedingly small. The hardships incidental to outdoor work in this country have a great deal to do with bringing about this condition. Again the fact must be taken into consideration that there are large stretches of ground carrying gold in paying quantities which cannot at present be profitably worked owing to the high prices of commodities and the excessive royalty tax. When the Dominion government is finally brought to a realization of the absurdity of the royalty, and increased competition and consequent cheaper freight rates brings the prices of provisions to a reasonable figure it will be possible to work at a profit much of the ground that is now lying idle.

Attention, we think should also be directed to the inclination on the part of a great many claim owners to hold their ground unworked and allow neighboring miners to determine its value, at least approximately. It is an unfortunate thing for the interests of the country at large that this should be possible. When a man has not sufficient faith in the value of his claim to prospect it he can scarcely expect a would-be purchaser to show it greater confidence. The fact that investors are now looking for prospected properties leads us to hope that the speculative era is about at an end. This must have the effect of steadily increasing the amount of development.

It is safe to say that within another year large capital will be attracted to the Klondike for investment. The most conservative investor will find satisfactory opportunities for placing his money with a minimum of risk and the development of the resources of the country will then progress much more rapidly than has been the case thus far. On the whole we consider the outlook for the Klondike as bright today as it has been at any time since the gold discoveries were first made.

CAN'T REVIEW MR. FAWCETT'S DECISIONS.

The interview with Mr. Senkler printed in our local columns shows a most unsatisfactory condition of affairs. To people in this Western hemisphere it is not at all pleasant to have their pecuniary fate rest in the hands of one man. Yet this is practically the case here. In a great many cases our citizens feel themselves aggrieved at the ex-gold commissioner's decision which possibly awarded what they considered their property to others. The only appeal is to Ottawa, 3000 miles away. This is at once seen to be prohibitory to all who are not already rich in this world's goods. The right of appeal is simply an empty privilege to the people of the Yukon. The people here, especially the Americans, are in the habit of exercising their inalienable right of appeal and of regarding it as a living prerogative of the race; hence a feeling of helplessness which pervades this community.

Then the conclusion of Mr. Senkler that he cannot reconsider any of Mr. Fawcett's decisions. He (Mr. Senkler) is making vast changes in Mr. Fawcett's rulings on the regulations, and evidently believes it well within his powers. For 20 days more Mr. Fawcett will continue, deciding mining disputes in the claims court with Mr. Senkler in the gold commissioner's chair, thus leaving us to all intents and purposes with two active gold commissioners at this present time and neither one with power to change the decisions of the other. It is truly an anomalous condition and not likely to arise again when neither is the subordinate, nor under the instructions of the other, with the regulations making provision for but one.

THOSE DOMINION STAKES.

The survey of Dominion creek under Mr. Fawcett's instructions seems to be working a hardship upon the owners of bench claims. All placer regulations yet to hand speak of and demand two stakes, one at the lower and one at the upper boundaries of the claims. The right and left limits are also defined in the regulations, and whenever the claims are surveyed those limits are supposed to be followed fairly by the sur-

vayor. What then can be thought of the Dominion creek survey. The gentlemen went into the field while the creek was closed and much of it yet unstaked and unrecorded. The claims were marked by four stakes, one presumably at each corner. Now the creek follows closely the right limit, leaving not much valley on the right and a wide stretch of flat on the left. The stakes on the left limit were not carried out to "the base of the hill or bench," nor yet to where the bedrock raised to form a three-foot rimrock. However, the stakes were placed by official surveyors and respected accordingly. Prospectors staked their hill and bench claims down to those stakes believing them to mark the official left limit of the creek claims. Mr. Fawcett has decided that the stakes, though official, did not mark those limits; that they simply marked the upper and lower boundaries as would and should have been done under the regulations by a single stake at either end; that the stakes were merely surveyed double because the creek was so wide a single stake might not have been seen. In the interview with Mr. Senkler it will be seen that the men on the benches have to move back for the creekmen on the grounds that while it may work a hardship on the benchmen by giving to the creekmen part of the claims staked by those benchmen, the creek claim owners cannot be deprived of what is rightfully theirs by either errors of survey or of the instructions the surveyors worked under. Thus it appears that an injury has been worked upon the bench claim holders who staked and recorded in good faith, under the belief that the survey stakes marked the limits of the creek claims.

CAUSE OF THE WAR SCARE.

Notwithstanding the threatening nature of the news brought in by the latest papers which have penetrated from the outside, it may be put down in our note books that France will not declare war upon Great Britain even should the latter country appropriate the whole of Africa yet unattached to European powers. In brief, the ambition of Great Britain appears to be the uniting of her North African dominions by an unbroken string of possessions through the heart of Africa with her South African realm. France deplored this unseemly project of a rival colonizing power and marched some troops to a point which would intercept the British line of march. Undoubtedly they were there first and gave color to their claim of "prior French influence." The British are there now, for the modern Gauls promptly evacuated upon receipt of notice to quit from the irrepressible Sir Herbert—now Baron Herbert Kitchener.

The history of each continent, not excepting America, shows the overcoming of weakly semi-barbarians by an all conquering race of greater virility and generally of greater intelligence. The history of Africa is to be no exception. Nor is this at all to be regretted for the enlightenment of the interior of "Darkest Africa" will be found to begin simultaneously with its conquest. Slave trading must and will cease just as soon as the Union Jack is hoisted. Decimating native wars will stop. Law and order will immediately obtain. While with many of our race the introduction of 19th century civilization into Africa else may not be regarded in the light of an unmixed blessing, it must be conceded by all that the white man's code of morals is better than anything in Africa and its engrafting upon the benighted African stock is altogether desirable. May the flag ever wave over its African territory.

A CHANGE OF HEART.

In a communication addressed to the Nugget upon the day of his departure for the outside Major Walsh made use of the following language: "As to the royalty and other matters which have come so frequently before me for consideration I may say that I have always sympathized with a number of the com-

plaints made by the mining population and can only repeat my assurance that everything that has come under my notice will be favorably represented to the government at Ottawa, and I am confident that Sir Wilfred Laurier's government only needs to be certain of a grievance to take prompt steps to adjust or remove it."

If this language meant anything at all it meant that Major Walsh had become convinced of the injustice of the royalty and that he would use what influence he possessed with the government at Ottawa to see that the obnoxious regulation was removed.

It appears that before the gallant major reached home with his report that he experienced a change of heart, for his report has now been made public and no recommendation for the removal of the royalty appears therein.

The late administrator of the Yukon had every opportunity for observing the workings of the royalty tax and he must have become convinced of its injustice from the very fact that in a number of instances he is known to have remitted its payment. That he did not recommend the removal of the royalty can be explained only upon the theory that his report was based upon the wishes of the government and not upon the requirements of the Yukon territory.

NORTHWEST EXPRESS CO.

Commencing Dec. 5 will run dog teams Dawson to Bennett
Every 10 days carrying passengers and mail. Road houses and well stocked relay stations en route. Experienced drivers. Leave mail at office or care of A. C. Co., Fairview Hotel and Regina Cafe. For further information apply to C. F. Smith, Mgr., 262 Front St.

STANDARD OIL CO.

Are Prepared to Deliver
COAL OIL, LUBRICATING OILS
And Electric Light and Granite Candles
ON ANY OF THE CREEKS.

Give your orders to the Nugget Express Co's Driver

FEARLESS RELIABLE

INDEPENDENT

The "Nugget"

DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER

The best and most accurate history of the Klondike country that ever will be written will be found in the files of the NUGGET. Every miner should have the NUGGET in his cabin. Delivered regularly by carrier on all creeks.

Our facilities for executing

JOB WORK

are the very latest.
Prompt Attention Given to All Orders

If you are in need of any of the following articles they can be found at the Nugget office:

- Letter Paper, Note Paper,
- MEMO BOOKS, POCKET BOOKS, TIME BOOKS,
- TABLETS, PENS, PENCILS,
- KLONDIKE MAPS, CASH BOXES,

Bill of Sale Blanks, Document Envelopes, Deeds, Feather Dusters, Letter Files, etc.

THE "NUGGET"

Three doors north of A. N. T. & Co.

THREE MEMOIRS The Boys Turn Sunday

Memories Brought Back

Season-A "Nugget" Pleasant Christmas
There were three days, all three of which were spent in the town. The first in the forenoon some way made the roof and very quiet between the roof and it has always been a building to me. The second day I was in the hall of water in the hall. The third day I was in the hall of water in the hall. The third day I was in the hall of water in the hall.

Christmas

The holidays have been here. The Klondike will be remembered with a pleasure by a host. The celebration of the new year, many festivities, Christmas tea may justly be the most hospitable tea. Later the day to the great delight of no more fitting than, who was the first Christmas to please the little children. As the great time and bore the pleasure we had the old receive the on-thoughts struggle—a regret to see the thought mutually seriously we went into a broader or would we receive the even less noble the former is likely to follow successfully only for a merry group of with joy and in giving it a corner.

As we look for the brightest picture of us is the return shadow of a cloud this happy dream Christmas of ever be cherished thoughts of the days shall always

Mrs. May L. died Tuesday buried Friday church. She left behind.

Mrs. Edgren's stature which would have engaged. The husband the summit has known and connection with Jack Crawford Friends and loss and have

The "P. U."s' whist tournament result of the "P. U."s'

Health, Woolrich, Lewin, Richardson, Davis, Lowenstein, McFarlane, McLuskey

Majority for

Lee and John Fortington rivalling story of City up the P. prospectors' their moment