

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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ANOTHER GRAFT ON THE MINERS.

Anything May Be Expected Done That Will Add to Their Burdens.

A Tramway That Is Not a Tramway—Exact Toll From the Tolling Miner—Charges Nothing If Going in Opposite Direction.

It seems as though there was to be no rest or let up of any kind for the miner fortunate or unfortunate enough to have located upon Bonanza or Eldorado creeks. The Nugget has from time to time called loud attention to the fact that police, soldiers and royalty have been piled upon the exertions of those who came into this country and delved for gold, and yet the government has failed to even scarcely to the extent of one dollar expend a penny that would assist the sturdy miner in reaching his claim over the most frequented trails.

Arriving at the summit, marking the entrance to the Yukon territory, the prospector and developer of the country is met with authority which immediately proceeds to assess him in the shape of duty. With all the show of authority he is stopped en route and required to show his papers and have his freight and baggage pass examination. Arriving at Dawson, the headquarters of the "Froanidike" District, he finds he cannot engage in mining until he has obtained a miner's license and is again assessed. Notwithstanding his license reads that "he may engage in fishing, shooting and cutting of lumber for actual necessities, for building houses, boats and general mining operations," he finds himself in the hands of the strong arm of the law and authority at almost every turn when cutting his firewood for his Yukon stove. The newest and latest extortion, however, which he must endure is a tax for walking to and fro between his cache in Dawson or where he has been purchasing his supplies and his humble little cabin on his claim out of which his hopes and ambitions, spurred on possibly by remembrances of those near and dear, to him he has left behind, he hopes to secure the fortune which will lighten the burdens of father, mother, brothers, sisters, wife or child.

The matter we refer to particularly is the Bonanza Tramway road extending from a point in the Klondike river opposite Dawson to Bonanza Forks. Lumber and many have been the complaints pouring into the Nugget office concerning this deal. Miners leaving their claims for Dawson to obtain a fresh supply of necessities have suddenly found themselves confronted with a cry of "Halt! Stand and deliver!" and there stood a toll-keeper to extract from him 1 cent per pound for the freight he was hauling on his sled, the ground for the charge being that he was traveling over the "Tramway Road."

Desiring to know positively and accurately the manner of handling this matter two Nugget representatives on Tuesday afternoon loaded a sled with flour, fruit, candles and beans to the extent of 30 pounds and, with four dogs, proceeded to "mush-on" toward Bonanza Forks. Leaving the Klondike ice at a short distance below the upper ferry, they were soon on the Bonanza trail, only to arrive shortly at a toll-take railed in on one side by a long log, and on the other by an office, beside which stood a pair of freight scales.

Not deigning to notice this, the team was called to a halt by a gentleman who demanded to know "what weight was upon the sled?" The Nugget man asked him "why he wanted to know, and by what authority he was 'held up.'" "Because you are travelling on the tramway," replied the apparent official in charge. "Well," said one of the pretended miners, "we have tramped this trail all summer with packs upon our backs and we decline to pay now." "All right," said the toll gate keeper, "you'll be stopped by the guards up the trail." "All right," answered the newspaper men, "we'll go up against the guards," and putting action to the word "mushed on" again. About claim No. 91 they were accosted and halted by a person in the civilian dress prevalent in this country, who demanded to know if they had a "pass." Being devoid of this apparently necessary document they inquired "by what right he had stopped them," and asked further for his authority or credentials empowering him to do so. He stated "that he was only instructed by O'Brien and Benning not to allow any freight to pass unless toll had been paid them."

Declining to pay him any more than they had the toll below, they attempted to pass on, when the guard, H. A. Dempsey, laid hands upon one of the newspaper men and ordered him back. This was sufficient for the purposes required, when the team was turned about and headed for Dawson, not before, however, stopping once more at the above-mentioned toll house, where in a comfortable log cabin, set a man before a large pair of gold scales, counting a roll of bills, gold, silver and dust. Asked if they charged

freight from the Forks to Dawson, Mr. W. H. Browning, the wicket, replied that he had no instructions to do so, and bidding the gentlemen "good evening," the scribes returned to the city.

Looking up the dictionary we find a "Tram" described as a "railway car," and "Tramway" as a "horse railroad," and closely as could be observed, neither appeared in evidence, not even the rails for a railway car to run upon. Where on earth, other than in this Yukon Territory—this land of police, and soldiers and councils—could such an imposition be worked? Where would men enduring the hardships and trials they have endured reaching here, the struggles to secure their rights after staking their claims stand such grafts as this incident to be? Why is there a charge of freight from Dawson up the creek and none in the reverse direction? Why is not the wear and tear on this "Tramway" as great coming from the Forks to Dawson as going the other way? Why should men who have during the months of summer when bog and mud and niggerheads required them to pack their precious grub upon their backs, now that the frost and snow have made a passable trail, be compelled to pay tribute to a tramway line which on being built employed men to use their own shovels, picks, axes, adzes, saws and augurs, supply their own grub, and yet has not the sign of a rail upon which may be operated a tramway car? When will the sturdy man who has made this country what it is stand a little upon their manhood and deny the right to be imposed upon at every turn? By what right under the sun is a toll collected upon the miner's necessities, clearly purchased as they are, over a road a portion of which has been taken from their own trail, and the miner be compelled to either pay this tribute to the coffers of those who build comfortable log cabins for toll collectors to warm their toes in, and smile at having charged the man 50 or 75 cents more because he refused to take the scaler's weights? But why ask more questions. We have not attempted yet to ask all the Nugget is prepared to ask. Sufficient is here shown to expose another graft upon the miner and his necessities. This country was destined to be governed justly, and it was never intended that the Yukon territory should become a despotism. Action is being taken on the creeks to erect this new extortion and imposition, and the miners should leave no stone unturned to see that these extortions and impositions are resisted.

A Clever Forgery.

The tickets for Captain Jack's entertainment on Sunday night were printed on long strips of white cardboard with a good copper plate likeness of the man in sombrero and long hair at one end and the printing at the other. It never occurred to anyone that the small price of admission—25¢—would tempt anyone to forge a ticket; but that is exactly what was done. Each letter and each line, with every quotation and punctuation mark was cleverly imitated with a pen, while a very good likeness was made of the cut-in pencil. So near like the original was the appearance of the ticket that it was passed by someone and never detected until next day.

So far from feeling chagrined at the clever forgery, the captain preserves the ticket more carefully than each of the others and authorizes the Nugget to offer a season ticket to the maker if he will decline himself the name to be preserved in strict confidence.

Help the Army.

Charitably disposed citizens are requested to lend assistance to the efforts of the Salvation Army to provide food and shelter to men in destitute circumstances. The workings of the Salvation Army as a dispenser of practical charity are so well known as to require no comment. In a word, the whole system is based upon the theory that when assistance is given an equivalent of some sort should be returned. With this in view a wood-yard has been established and men who apply for help at the Army barracks pay in labor for what they receive. Just now the resources of the Army are being taxed to the limit and additional facilities are required if they are to meet the demands made upon them. The articles most required at present are a cooking stove and about 500 feet of lumber for completing the shelter department. Contributions of cash or of the above named articles will be gratefully acknowledged by the army, and the Nugget will be pleased to give publication of such acknowledgment through its columns.

The number of cases of actual destitution in Dawson at the present time is surprisingly large. These men must be taken care of and the Nugget knows of no better means for doing the work than through the Salvation Army.

From Forty-Mile.

A. M. Nessler, an old timer in the country, arrived in Dawson from Forty-Mile the latter part of last week. The trip occupied four and one half days of arduous traveling, made particularly so by the peculiar condition of the river. He pulled a loaded sleigh which of course rendered progress necessarily slow. He reports that the river is open in places, due to the recent rise in the temperature. About 10 miles below Dawson the Yukon is open for nearly its whole width and is practically impassable. Mr. Nessler states that it is not safe for travellers to attempt to make Forty-Mile at present and advises any who contemplate making the trip to wait until cold weather has come for good. At the particular point referred to above, the traveller must take to the

high bluffs along the river and, it is almost impossible to get a sleigh over.

Forty-Mile creek is going to show up splendid results this winter if present indications point to anything. Good prospects have been found on Myer's Fork and on Chicken creek claim No. 44s showing up well. On this claim a nugget weighing 85 cents was picked up under the snuck. Several holes have been sunk on No. 2 below discovery on the same creek. In each of the shafts pay has been uncovered running 45 cents to 20 cents to the pan. One of the recently opened tributaries of Forty-Mile is Eagle creek, which comes in at Mosquito Fork 5 miles above Chicken. Recently \$4 to the pan was taken out of one claim in the creek.

Mr. Nessler estimates that there will be at the very lowest estimate 2000 men working upon Forty-Mile and its tributaries.

LOCAL BREVIETIES.

Arrangements have been perfected whereby the Good Samaritan hospital is retained in service.

The "Jewell" was ceremoniously opened to the public on Saturday evening. It is a handsome two-story structure on the burned district built by Messrs. St. Clair and Garthley. The interior is elegantly and cozily finished in expensive gilt wall paper and the opening brought many words of congratulation to the proprietor.

Jack Carr, the gentleman advertised to leave Dawson with "Chas. Yager" for the outside on November 16th, one of the most famous mail carriers and travelers among the pioneers of the Yukon. Only last winter Jack made the enormous trip from St. Michaels to Pelly and made it in record-breaking time, too. Mr. Carr is the oldest U. S. mail carrier in the country and to add him on this trip has had supplies distributed at various points along the river and is also provided with good dog teams and only that the distance to go which he traveled last winter.

That was a remarkable audience for Dawson which attended Captain Jack's entertainment at the Bonanza hall. It was remarkable in that so large a proportion were ladies, some of them even with infants in their arms. The reason is apparent to everyone, for the Captain has been with us long enough and his reputation is such that his name was a guarantee to all that the performance would be absolutely clean and above all. The large patronage demonstrates that there is an opening in Dawson for a class of entertainers where gentlemen may safely take their wives and daughters.

POLICE COURT ITEMS.

C. The papers serving six months for the theft of gold from No. 13 Eldorado.

W. Williams, a devotee of Hoyle, contributed \$50 and costs, and all's well.

F. Anderson was mildly full and gently expository, so that \$10 and costs retrieved his good name.

J. A. Pike, a "croutier," paid \$50 and costs for being caught in the act, and now all's serene and lovely.

Several cases came up in which one man claims a dog found in the possession of another, and the cases were dismissed.

Frank Aldrich paid \$100 for being the one to furnish the liquor which last week put Indian Lucy in the court for misbehavior.

McElfish wanted W. A. McPherson to account for the possession of a certain dog which he himself owned. The justice rebuffed McPherson against a repetition and let him go.

E. Dutcher made away with a grindstone, and is held to the superior court for that same offense. A man that will "swipe" a grindstone would steal a house if it wasn't fastened down to the ground.

Daley courts the Goddess of Fortune in gilded palaces by the light of burning acetylene gas. He even things up with the man who is paid for tempting the same goddess up the gulches. Daley digs up \$50 and costs.

H. M. Carr was rich one night and now saws wood. His millions were in his mind, the result of continued doses of forty-rod, but his wood sawing for the next ten days is coldly real and really cold, for a guard watches him in the barracks wood yard.

O. Boghetto is a man who committed the unforgivable nuisance of having a stovepipe and saws rot in close juxtaposition, the same being contrary to the statute in such cases made and provided. It is expected that \$5 and costs will effect a cure.

J. Murphy evidently is addicted to high living, and took three cans of oysters from in front of a restaurant, says he couldn't have done it for he has no use for oysters. Still, seeing that they are worth \$9 per can the justice thought the prisoner should be broken of such a bad habit. For six months Murphy will live in a boarding house where oysters are not served oftener than once a month, and he will be watched even while he eats that.

Dr. M. Schuman is a man of wonderful experiences. His name is not unknown to the world as a German explorer attached to a military command which achieved menial notoriety some few years ago in Africa. Simon Kissick is a bright mission-raised Indian boy, who was seen around town all summer as a messenger boy to any part of the creeks. Kissick, the Indian, carried a message to Schuman, the explorer, up the creek and became acquainted. The influence of his mind over matter was soon seen in the readiness with which Kissick adopted any and all suggestions from Schuman. The complaint sets forth that at the suggestion of the African explorer the Mission Indian did then and there deposit with the said African explorer the sum of \$71, the same being his sole earthly possessions outside of his blanket and a change of moccasins, and which sum was to be put into safe deposit at the nearest bank until again wanted by its owner for more moccasins or more blankets. Kissick has been particularly unfortunate in his choice of white friends, for this is not the first time he has been unable to collect from Caucasian acquaintances. A charge of theft is the result, and the Livingstonian Teutoness African is under bonds to the amount of \$400 to stand his trial before the superior judge of this district.

Mail for Forty-Mile.

Private mail for Forty-Mile and Eagle City will leave Thursday morning, November 17. Leave letters with Nugget Express in the Phoenix.

Mr. Geo. G. Cantwell late of Juneau, Alaska, is doing the outside topographic work for E. A. Hegg.

PROSPECTING ON THE HEADWATERS.

John Burke and Party Return After a Trip Up the Klondike.

Two Creeks Prospected and Twelve Holes Sunk—They Will Return Soon and Renew Work—Good Hunting on Upper River.

John Burke, formerly of the Green Tree and party of four men, who left Dawson for a prospecting trip up the Klondike some seven weeks ago, returned to Dawson the latter part of last week. They left Dawson, taking with them three pack animals and a dog team, the former to carry provisions to the party's destination and then to furnish feed for the dogs. They found some difficulty in reaching the upper end of the Klondike, by reason of the fact that in many places they were even compelled to leave the river and cut trails in order to avoid the swamps and marshes that occur along the banks of the stream.

They explored the country adjacent to the Klondike for a distance of 150 miles, reaching pretty well up toward the headwaters of the stream. It required steady traveling for 12 continuous days to cover the distance. Game was found in abundance toward the headwaters of the Klondike, but only two moose were shot, that being sufficient to meet the requirements of the party. They spent about four weeks prospecting the upper tributaries of the Klondike, and, although they failed to uncover any considerable quantities the results of their work, were so promising that they intend returning as soon as the necessary preparations can be made. They confined their labors principally to two creeks neither of which are named upon the maps. On these creeks they sunk a total of twelve holes.

Mr. Burke reports that a great many people are scattered along the upper reaches of the Klondike, many of them with the intention of wintering there. Cabins have been built as far up as 120 miles above Dawson.

Considering the fact that so many men are located in that section, comparatively little real prospecting work has been done. On the return trip about 75 men were met en route up the river in search of game. The result, undoubtedly will be that moose and caribou in abundance will be coming to market in a short time. A great many wolves and wolverines were found. A band of the latter surrounded a cache containing the carcass of a moose and succeeded in securing and devouring it entirely.

The return trip was made by Burke and his party in 5 days. They built a sled and with their dog team made an average of 20 miles per day although, as in the trip up, they had to act as their own trail breakers. The river, for the most part is in good shape for traveling, although in places the shores has to be resorted to.

The first news the party had of the big fire in Dawson was on last Thursday, while on their way to town. Mr. Burke had his entire outfit, clothing, papers, etc., cached in the rear of the Green Tree. He returns to Dawson to find that everything was totally destroyed, Burke, however, is not a man to be discouraged by such trifles as a fire. He is fully as energetic as ever and plans to return up the Klondike just as soon as his affairs in Dawson can be arranged to admit of his absence.

Police Party for Up-River.

The police party which left Dawson on Tuesday morning for various points up the river consisted of four dog teams and eight men, John Bell, a famous dog driver and traveler goes out with Corporal Richardson, and the two bear important official mail and dispatches. The papers in the case of the reprieve of the four condemned men are now fairly on their way to Ottawa. Another dog driver, Abercrombie, is detailed for duty at Sixty-Mile, to which point Constable Piper is also detailed. Constable Saunders will leave the party at Indian river, while Corporal Lotten and two men of the Yukon field forces of the military, will report at Ft. Selkirk.

The government furnishes good looking and serviceable warm clothing for its soldiers and police on the Yukon and the party presented a very good appearance to the gentlemen who assembled to witness the departure early Tuesday morning. Felt boots appear to be the favorites just now for foot wear, and the government is furnishing them. The fur caps given the men are handsome and almost too warm. The mittens and other parts of the dress appear to be all that could be desired, and no hardships are anticipated for the men upon their trip over the frozen river.

Synopsis of the Creeks.

The freeze up has started work upon a great number of creeks, and great news may be expected at any time. The word from Sulphur is that a vast number of shafts are nearing bed rock, but as yet the situation remains unchanged. Hunter has shown up good in several new places. Dominion is proving herself in places a second Bonanza. This creek is making great strides into popular favor. A private letter from Forty-Mile conveys the intelligence that on Squaw creek, a pup of Canyon, the dirt is panning out from 30 to 50 cents to the pan. Chas. B. Smith, on a bench of Poverty hill, lying off No. 11 below on Bonanza, reports the dirt on bed rock panning out as high as \$5.50 to the pan.

CORDWOOD.

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