

FLASHLIGHT SIGNALS

Are Suggested for Use in South Africa.

ARE PLAINLY SEEN FOR MANY MILES

Climate Is Particularly Adapted to the Novel System.

Toronto Globe Gives Interesting Information Regarding Conditions in the Land of Battle Which Is Without Telegraphy.

(From Friday's Daily)

Although Ladysmith, Kimberley, and Mafeking are isolated from the outside world except for an occasional carrier pigeon, yet, says the Toronto Globe, these towns have the means of regular communication every night by making a proper use of the searchlights with which they are provided. The powerful searchlights at Kimberley, for instance, have been seen as far away as Philipstown, a distance of 115 miles.

The searchlight which General White uses in his war balloon at Ladysmith has been seen at Estcourt, a distance of 30 miles. At Estcourt there is like wise a searchlight, so that those places could answer back to each other or carry on a long conversation.

This can be done in any code, using dots and dashes. By putting a flap or shutter over the searchlight aperture, the ray of light can thus be cut up into dots and dashes precisely as the operator of the heliograph during the day time shuts off and turns on the light by a simple motion of the thumb and fingers.

The nights in South Africa are clear and bright, and a light can be seen at a much greater distance than would be possible in England. It would be impossible for the Boers to stop this mode of communication. It is much more reliable than the haphazard use of carrier pigeons, which may lose their way or be shot, or the occasional use of runners, who may or may not get through the enemy's lines.

Where, however, two searchlights are employed as at Kimberley, the dots and dashes, which might be read by an enemy, may be dispensed with. The message may then be sent by using one light for the vowels and indicating the consonants by the angles at which the rays are shown, separating the letters by a short period of darkness and the words by a longer period.

Those familiar with the South African climate assert that there should be no difficulty in using a telegraphic searchlight code every night up to a distance of 60 miles. This distance might be easily increased in the case of Ladysmith, as General White uses his war balloon.

The surrounding country is rolling, but not mountainous. The war balloon goes up higher than most of the surrounding hills, and when the light is thrown up vertically, its rays can be seen above the highest ground near there.

Superior Court.

The case of George McRae vs. W. Tinkham was concluded in the district court yesterday.

In this action the complaint of the plaintiff alleged that he had grubstaked the defendant in the state of Washington to come to the Yukon, in consideration of being an equal partner with defendant in any mining property which the latter might locate in the Klondike. The defendant located the bench claim, left limit, opposite No. 6 above on Bonanza, and plaintiff prayed for a judgment decreeing him to be a half owner in said property. In answer to the complaint the defendant set forth that the money which he had obtained from plaintiff in Washington was in the nature of a loan, and that the debt had been subsequently liquidated by the transfer to plaintiff of a placer mine on Quartz creek. After hearing and considering the testimony, Justice

Dugas found for the defendant and dismissed the case of the plaintiff.

Yesterday afternoon the suit of J. G. Courtney et al vs. the Canadian Development Company was on trial. The plaintiffs allege that in the fall of 1898 they hired the defendant company to tow a scow loaded with hogs and provisions across Lake Lebarge, and that at the mouth of Thirtymile river said scow was wrecked and its cargo lost through the negligence of the defendant. The company deny responsibility. The amount involved is \$13,604. The evidence was not concluded when court adjourned last night, and the case was continued until 10 o'clock Tuesday morning.

No actions were tried by Justice Dugas this morning, but a number of motions were submitted, some of which were determined.

The defendant in Ashelby vs. Fay moved to be discharged from custody. Judgment was reserved.

In Lemon vs. McCormack et al the defendants asked to have the judgment, which has been entered in the cause set aside.

The defendant in the case of Cambridge vs. Kelly made an application for an extension of time in which to file a statement of defense.

An order was entered granting the motion made by plaintiff for judgment in the suit of Lancaster & Calderhead vs. Moulton.

In Driscoll vs. Dawkins, the hearing on the motion for an injunction was suspended for ten days.

In Spencer vs. Spencer, the hearing on the motion for judgment was continued until Monday.

Gold Commissioner's Court.

Yesterday afternoon Commissioner Senler rendered a decision in the case of Troy vs. Jacobs. The action involved the title to the bench claim, left limit, second tier, opposite the upper half of No. 31 below on Hunker. The judgment is as follows:

"The defendant Jacobs bought from one Norton, who recorded the above claim on October 7th, 1898, his claim being described as lying between the McDonald claim on the upper side and the Buckley claim on the lower side. The plaintiff, on August 28th, 1898, applied for record of a relocation of bench claim in the second tier, opposite the upper half of the left limit of No. 30 below discovery, which was originally recorded by one Heath on September 28th, 1898. The plaintiff now claims that the original Heath location and the Norton location cover the same ground, and that Norton, being subsequent to Heath, his location is invalid, and that he, the plaintiff, having re-located the ground in dispute after the Heath location had expired, is entitled to a grant thereof. According to Heath's application also, as shown in the plot book, he staked opposite the upper half of No. 30 below discovery, and above the McDonald claim; whereas, the ground in dispute is opposite the upper half of 31 below discovery.

The presumption is that he (Heath) staked the ground he re-recorded. In order to rebut that presumption there must be evidence of the actual staking of the ground by Heath, especially in a case where a relocater is attempting to take the ground from the defendant who has purchased in good faith from the original locator, who staked long before the relocater entered upon the ground. Mr. F. Ensel is the only witness for the plaintiff. He does not know Heath's writing, and was not on the ground until the claim had been surveyed in July, 1898, when he saw Heath's name on the survey stakes. I do not think this is sufficient evidence to rebut the presumption that Heath staked the ground he applied for. The case is dismissed."

The time of the commissioner is occupied today in hearing the action of Thompson vs. Johnson. The plaintiff is the owner of the bench claim on the second tier, right limit, opposite the upper half of No. 7 below A. Mack's discovery on Quartz. He alleges that the defendant, who is the owner of No. 6, an adjoining claim, is trespassing within the lines of No. 7.

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)

ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BROS. Publishers

A GUILILESS HUMORIST.

The editorial and "comment" columns of the ex-organ are a source of continual delight to those people who appreciate real, genuine, spontaneous humor. An instance of the remarkable extent to which Editor Woodside possesses this happy quality of unconscious humor is well illustrated in a recent Sun "extra."

Referring to the fact that the News published a cartoon of himself, the valiant Sun editorialist thus delivers himself:

"The Dawson Daily News lacking the ability and grit to answer the Yukon Sun, has had to hire an artist to cartoon the Sun's editor. This in itself is a confession of weakness."

There is nothing particularly striking in the above, but taken in connection with what follows it forms a gem which rivals anything ever produced by Artemus Ward.

"We," continues this guileless Sun writer, "ordered last fall a set of each of the photo-graving and chalk-plate necessities to produce pictures, but the order could not be filled in time. We have ordered another outfit and as we have a first-class artist on the premises, we think when the goods come we can produce some etchings of the Boer gang here that will make the old masters turn green with envy."

Now, in view of the fact that the News has taken to the cartoon business to supply a lacking of "brains and grit," it will occur to a great many people to wonder just what deficiency Editor Woodside expects to supply in his own mental paraphernalia by the introduction in the Sun office of so extensive facilities for the production of cartoons. It certainly cannot be that he requires in any manner to increase his stock of courage, because he himself has assured the public that he possesses extraordinary valor and in fact to such an extent that he once narrowly escaped being made a major—and certainly no one ought to know more about Capt. Woodside's bravery than the valiant captain himself. In fact it is a very fortunate thing that the captain has informed the public in regard to the matter or the public might never have known.

But this is aside from the question. What we wish to determine is this: Just where in Editor Woodside's mental apparatus is the loose screw which he hopes to tighten up by means of chalk plates and zinc etchings. We confess that the question is too deep for us, and so we pass it up.

A MILITIA COMPANY.

A suggestion has been made to the Nugget recommending the organization of a local company of militia. The Canadian militia is organized on lines similar to those upon which the National Guard is based in the United States. Should a local company be organized in Dawson no further necessity would remain for the presence of the Yukon field force, and a movement for their withdrawal would probably meet with success. Aside from the advantages from a military standpoint which might accrue to the members of such an organization it would in all probability become the center of numer-

ous affairs of a social nature which would assist wonderfully in causing the tedium incident to winter life in the Yukon to vanish. It cost the Yukon territory somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,000,000 to land the troops in the country which Col. Evans brought in, and how much additional it has and will cost the territory for their maintenance is a matter of speculation. If by the organization of a force of militia we could secure the withdrawal of the troops, it would mean in the end a lessening of the taxes which the territory is now compelled to pay. We should be glad to hear from Canadian citizens on the subject.

A JUST DECISION.

A decision respecting payment of wages upon the discharge of an employe was rendered in the police court yesterday which employers and employes alike would do well to bear in mind.

The decision dealt with a written contract wherein a mineowner agreed to employ the complainant in the case until the cleanup at a certain stipulated wage, payment to be made at the time of the cleanup.

It appeared in the evidence that some difficulty having arisen the complainant was discharged and his employer, taking refuge behind the contract, refused payment of accrued wages until the cleanup.

At the trial of the case judgment was given for the complainant, it being held by the magistrate that the contract in so far as the time for payment of wages was concerned terminated with the discharge of the complainant, and that the wages earned up until that time became immediately due.

Similar decisions have been handed down before, but ordinarily there has been nothing in the nature of a written contract between the parties.

While, undoubtedly, cases will occur where the application of such a decision will tend to work a hardship upon the employer, it must be conceded that in so far as the general principle is concerned, the judgment is right and equitable. If it were possible to employ men on a bedrock basis and then discharge them at pleasure, leaving them to wait months for payment of wages, an untold amount of hardships would result. In many cases the wages would never be paid, for the simple reason that the arrival of the cleanup season would find that many of the parties had left the country, or in some other manner had been placed in such a position as to be unable to press their claims.

A knowledge of the position which the local courts have taken in the matter ought to prevent resort to the courts in future cases involving similar points.

Men are going and coming over the ice between Dawson and the coast with as little concern as though they were stepping aboard a Pullman car and starting across the continent. From now on the time between this city and Bennett should be very considerably shortened. The trail is in good condition and naturally will improve as the season advances.

Several women have already started for Nome over the ice. Bon voyage, ladies, but don't blame us if you find it necessary to locate in a deserted cabin along the river some place and wait for the break up.

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