

The Klondike Nugget
(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BROS., Publishers

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
Yearly, in advance.....\$40.00
Six months.....20.00
Three months.....11.00
Per month by carrier in city, in advance. 4.00
Single copies......25

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1900

A PROBLEM SOLVED.

The discovery of coal in practically inexhaustible quantities, and located within easy hauling distance of the creeks, removes all doubt as to the future development of the creeks upon the most practical and economical basis possible. It has been apparent to everyone that, sooner or later, the timber resources of the country will be taxed to the utmost to furnish fuel for thawing. The introduction of extensive machinery plants has tended to decrease the amount of wood consumed in proportion to the work accomplished. There has been, however, such an enormous increase in the actual amount of work done that the quantity of fuel consumed will, if anything, be greater this year than was the case last.

It is a well known fact that on the older creeks the wood question has been a very serious one all winter long. Claim owners have gradually gone farther away for their wood until, in place of having fuel on their claims ready for use, many of them have been hauling their wood a distance of several miles.

As soon as it is fully demonstrated—and it seems now there is no doubt that it will be demonstrated—that coal can be supplied as cheaply as wood has been, further difficulty in so far as the fuel question is concerned will be obviated.

On Friday night a meeting will be held at the Palace Grand Opera House for the discussion of matters appertaining to securing representation in the Yukon Council. The citizens' committee is expected to render a report and show what it has accomplished since the last meeting. There will be orators present in abundance and a flood of eloquence unprecedented in Dawson. The meeting should be, and doubtless will be, well attended. Citizens generally are interesting themselves in the movement to secure representation, and it appears now that the efforts which have been put forward by the committee and others who have given their influence and assistance will ere long reach fruition. We anticipate such a demonstration on Friday night as will leave no room for doubt in the minds of Dawson's contingent of Federal officials as to the opinion of our citizens upon the matter of representation.

Prospects for endless litigation at Nome seem to get better every day. Already a number of claims on the best known creeks are tied up in the courts, and efforts are being made to secure a decision at Washington to determine the status of titles secured under power of attorney. It is a well-known fact that many of the most valuable claims were originally staked by men who were not citizens of the United States, and who had not even complied with the preliminary requirements of the naturalization laws. It is to be anticipated that strenuous efforts will be made in all such cases to jump the claims and prove the titles so

secured as invalid. This condition of affairs, together with the notorious abuse of the power of attorney act, makes the outlook at Nome brighter for the lawyers than for any other class of people.

Steamboat companies are already beginning preparations for the opening of navigation. Crews are coming in to look after the boats and get them in shape for immediate operation upon the opening of the river. Without doubt, the steamboat business during the coming season will largely exceed the business of last summer. An enormous quantity of mining machinery will be brought in. Nearly all the local mercantile houses will materially increase their stocks, being compelled to do so by reason of the fact that consumers in Dawson are becoming more particular every day as to the quality of the goods they buy. It would not, in fact, be surprising if the tonnage brought in this season would be double that of last year.

We are pleased to note the fact that the authorities are determined to stringently enforce the laws relating to the treatment of dumb animals. The end of the winter season always sees a large number of maimed and half-starved dogs and horses with bruised backs, silent evidences of a winter of hard work and harsh treatment. Nowhere in the world should these animals be treated more kindly than in Dawson. Abuse of them is an offense of which the law may well take cognizance.

Property owners should begin looking after the tin can heaps and other rubbish which is scattered around the town. There ought to be a sufficient degree of pride in the town to influence people to keep their ground clean, without waiting to be told to do so by the police. We have not as yet reached the day of macadamized streets and green lawns in Dawson, but that does not excuse the unsightly appearance of streets and yards.

It will surprise a great many people on the outside to learn that sluicing was begun on the creeks adjacent to Dawson as early as March 20. According to all rules and precedents, as understood by the average "outsider," we should be living in a frozen wilderness until the first of June. As a smasher of rules and precedents, this country must be accorded a position in the front rank.

Sleigh runners are now giving way to wagon wheels on the stage lines to the creeks. This fact places the finishing touch upon the reign of winter.

A la Charity.

Snow, like charity, covereth a multitude of sins in the way of filth, dead dogs and all manner of trash; and with the disappearance of the snow these loathsome objects are coming to light with astonishing frequency. It is pleasing to know that the date for the inauguration of the work of the "spring cleanup" has been advanced by the Yukon council one month and will begin this year on the 1st of April, which date is not far ahead, and the sooner it arrives the better it will be for the health and sanitation of the city.

A Birthday Anniversary.

Last Sunday was the 58th anniversary of Postmaster Hartman's birthday, and a number of friends celebrated the occasion by giving the popular gentleman a dinner at the McDonald hotel. A sumptuous repast was served, and the affair was enlivened by jest and story. Mr. Hartman is greatly esteemed by his acquaintances, and they join with his friends in wishing him many happy returns of the anniversary.

The liquors are the best to be had, at the Regina.

STROLLER'S COLUMN

The conversation had turned on the subject of the opening of the river and the events connected therewith. Several in the crowd will see the ice go out for the sixth time this spring, and others will witness it for the first time. An old man who had a rubber pack on one foot and a moccasin on the other, was present but had taken no part in the conversation, as he appeared to not hear what was being said. He evidently had heard a portion of what had been said, for his face wore a malicious sneer and his nose had an exceptionally upward tilt. But when a man who came here the fall of '96 made a knowing assertion to the effect that he had seen ice roll up from the bottom of the river at time of breakup, and that on these chunks of bottom ice, during the few moments they were exposed above the water, could be seen gold nuggets as big as goose eggs, but on account of the crushing, jamming and crashing ice it was impossible to get to them before the ice chunks broke to pieces and the nuggets dropped to the bottom of the river. This was the statement that broke the old man's silence. Shifting his quid he whirled around and with a snap that reminded the Stroller of a malamute dog, he said:

"Such cheechakes as you make me ache in past the quick; why a man would think to hear you talk you had been here in the days when Capt. Healy was in 'nee pants. I reckon if it was me, an I had only sed the ice go out five or six times I'd keep me bloomin' mouth shut. You don't know half as much as that old three-legged dog o' mine up to the cabin has forgot about this country. Talk about seein' gold nuggets on chunks of ice, let me tell you something, an' if you want my affidavit you can git it by paying the notary fee, for I ain't got a cent nor haven't had for goin' on nine years. It was 18 years ago this spring; my left shoulder had been torn half off the fall before by a bull moose and I hadn't done nothin' but lay around all winter tryin' to build up my shattered constitution. About the first of March my partner, after pervidin' me with plenty of wood an' grub, struck out up the river to see his wife who was winterin' with her tribe near where Selkirk is now. Jim said as how he reckoned I could get on till the river opened, then he and his wife would come down the river and visit me. As near as I can make out, my cabin was standin' about where the Arowry saloon now stands. It was a long and lonely spring for me, but at last the ice showed symptoms of breakin'. Finally it began to go all but a strip the full width of the river and extendin' from about in front of Juneau Joe's clean up to about opposite the Fairview. It seemed as if that section of the river was frozen solid to the bottom, and sure enough it was. For a long time it resisted the mighty pressure pushin' down on it, but finally the upper end began to bob up and down; then it riz and riz, and by the jumping gee whillikins, it reared right up an' turned a somersault. Talk about yer streets as are paved with solid gold! Why the hull bottom of that piece of ice which was as big as an ordinary New England farm, was one solid sheet of the purtiest yaller gold I ever sot eyes on. I reckon I gazed on it fully two minutes afore it finally settled down and was covered by the rushin' water."

At the end of the recital the man of six years experience sneaked off without a word and a merchant whispered to the old man to call at his store and get anything he wanted.

Most everyone in Dawson is affiliated with some secret organization; and it does not seem probable that the institution of a new order would meet with any marked degree of success. However, on last Sunday evening, a number of citizens collected on the roof of the Aurora building and formed the Hogan Club. The objects of this new society are purely fraternal. The only qualification which is required of candidates for membership is that the applicants must not have associated with any other order. Persons of any color, or creed, and of either sex, are freely admitted. Those who were present at Sunday's meeting were declared to be charter members; and 26 individuals are now Hogans in good standing. There are two officers and a board of directors, all of whom have been elected and installed. Billy McCrea is Lord High-raiser; Cecil Marion is Grand Buyabot; the directors are M. Hilderbrand, Gussie Lamore and Sam Yadey. Gussie enjoys the distinction of being the only abstainer in the lodge. At the next meeting Sam Nichols, Ed Holden and Rose Blumpkin will be initiated into the mysterious work of the Hogans; and a hot time is anticipated. If the weather is favorable the session will be held on the Aurora, otherwise the lodge will convene in the C. D. Co.'s warehouse.

Billy Gorham

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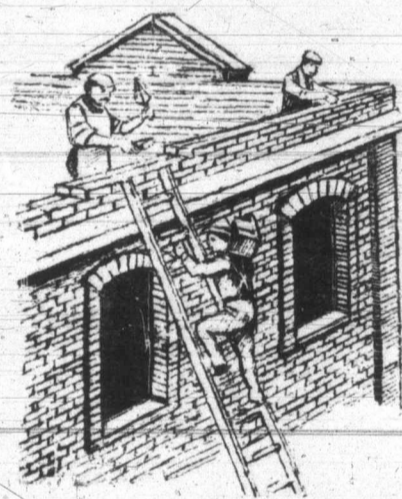
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