

The Klondike Nugget

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY
On Wednesday and Saturday

SUBSCRIPTION RATES	
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1898

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.

A BEE IN HIS BONNET.

One of the most amusing things in town just now is Col. Weatherly's bid for the soon-to-be-created office of mayor of Dawson. His pronouncements of last Saturday is positively ridiculous. It is to be hoped no picture of Dawson in arms will penetrate to the outside. The following is the document in question:

FIRE PATROL

It having been intimated to a certain citizen of Dawson that a regularly organized body of incendiaries is in existence in this town, it has been determined to form a regular armed patrol for the protection of the city from fire.

The enormous importance of such action being taken cannot be overestimated.

Having been requested by the citizens, and with the consent and support of the government, I am organizing such a protective force.

I request the sympathy and co-operation of all interested in the well being of this city.

L. R. STUART WEATHERLY.

The colonel is troubled with bees in his bonnet. If he knows anything of a band of incendiaries his proper course is to report what he knows to the police or to the press. A picture of the doughty colonel at the head of an armed detachment, parading the main street, looking for his "regularly organized body of incendiaries," would be worth \$20 a picture, and we suggest this method of becoming famous as specially in line with his peculiar talents.

A fire patrol is the correct thing for Dawson in its present unprotected and helpless condition; but it is buckets, not pistols, they should be armed with. Imagine the colonel drawing up his armed vigilants in front of a burning building: Attention—Hoons! Can you see the fire—Hoons! England expects every man this day to do the work of a Pinkerton—Hoons! Keep away from the buckets and preserve your powder dry—Hoons! Be dignified and don't forget to vote for Weatherly—Hoons!

If the would-be postoffice concessionaire really believes in the existence of "an organized gang of incendiaries" it is childish to warn them that he is on their track by posting up notices like the foregoing. If he has an ambition to shine as a sleuth he should not stand on a street corner like Winkle of immortal fame and forewarn the "organized body of incendiaries" with: "Now, I'm going to begin."

The ambition to be the first mayor of Dawson is in itself a worthy ambition. Weatherly will not be that first mayor, so he might as well quit making an assine spectacle of himself. If he has time to spare to devote to the public good, let him join the volunteer fire department and run with the hook-and-ladder truck. His mistakes of judgment would then be easily corrected by the others on the rope, and he would not be the laughing stock of Dawson, as at present.

RESULTS OF THE FIRE.

Experience is a true, but a sorry teacher. It required the further expenditure of about \$20,000 to place the fire department upon its feet and in active service. For the lack of that amount of money there has been one loss of about a half-a-million dollars and no security from further deprivations. After the famine comes a feast, and now we shall have an efficient fire department, fire patrol, fire trap inspectors and the other branches of the service which will tend to make us rest better at night in our beds. There are many who believe

that but for the fortunate change of wind when the fire was at its hottest there would have been no Dawson left. At this time of the year, with the river full of floating ice rendering it impossible to raft down any more saw logs, and also at a time when the river is neither passable to boats nor to sleds, the untold suffering and misery to the majority of our people which would have resulted is beyond the power of words to express. A little later or a little earlier people could have gone up or down the river. Dawson may congratulate herself upon the possession of a guardian spirit which has tempered the wind to the shorn lamb.

The clearing of a gap in the water-front causes the street to present a strange appearance. Many of the buildings burned were of a temporary nature, being built of boat lumber, and probably will not be rebuilt. The evident determination of the government to clear the water-front in the spring will have its effect in preventing rebuilding.

An immediate result of the fire will be an increased interest in meetings of the public to consider fire protection. The first meeting which was called this fall resulted in three people attending. The second was an entertainment arranged with the object of partly lifting the debt upon the fire apparatus; this meeting was attended by a corporal's guard and was a heavy financial loss. At the third meeting there were a couple of dozen present, and a committee was appointed to proceed with the incorporation of the town, as it was conceded that in that way only could a fire department be secured.

The next meeting was large but stormy, though the good work was indorsed and ordered proceeded with. There has been one rather small meeting since to consider the incorporation ordinance and that comprises the history of the movement up to the time of the fire. Things are different now. The Yukon commissioner has undertaken to provide that the fire apparatus shall not again be boxed up out of service. But the town is aroused to our needs by the fire and Mr. Ogilvie has only to grant us the right to organize and look after ourselves as a city to see us with a fire department as active and effective as any northern city in the land. This difference in feeling is one of the results of the fire.

Some of our sawmills have not a thousand feet of unsold lumber on their hands. As a result of the fire the little unsold lumber in Dawson will bring enhanced prices. We are fortunate that the same has not happened with the food supply.

Higher rents will only effect those who have not already secured leases for the winter; but there is one commodity which will be scarcer because of the fire. Many of the mills were provided with thousands of feet of logs, which could at a pinch have been used for fuel. The enhanced price of lumber predestines them for the saw mill, with a result that a third of Dawson's visible supply of fuel has disappeared.

CANNOT COME TOO SOON.

It is important that the incorporation of Dawson should be brought about as speedily as possible. The welfare of the citizens would have been much better served had the city been possessed of municipal powers before the approach of winter. There are matters of vital importance that require immediate attention, but consideration cannot be given them until the town is properly organized.

We apprehend that the recent fire will be effective in urging the commissioner and council to bring the matter to a focus as rapidly as is consistent with its importance.

Meanwhile, however, the citizens have displayed a very proper spirit in taking active steps toward securing protection from fire to the town pending its organization into a legal municipal body. There is no means of knowing when another fire more disastrous than the last will take place. Already since Friday last small fires to the extent of half a dozen have broken out, and but for

prompt attention serious results might have ensued.

In view of these facts it is to be hoped that we shall not be kept waiting long before our city shall be clothed with full municipal powers. Until that time the utmost vigilance should be exercised by every citizen to the end that last week's disaster will not be repeated.

THIS WINTER AND LAST.

At this time last year a very different feeling prevailed in Dawson from that which exists today. It was not then a question whether or not there would be a sufficient supply of butter and milk in the town, but the citizens of Dawson and the outlying mining district found themselves confronted by a very likely scarcity of the actual necessities of life. With a nine-months' freeze-up confronting them, and no possible means of getting food in from the outside, no wonder the citizens of Dawson spent some anxious moments last winter in figuring out the food situation. Today, however, a feeling of much greater security pervades the camp. There is enough at least of the substantial of life to furnish Dawson and the districts depending upon it for food supply with all that will be required for the coming winter.

The only danger, and that danger was signally emphasized last week, is from fire. Had the flames not yielded to the tremendous efforts that were put forth to subdue them, Dawson today would practically be without food and winter just at hand.

The Nugget hopes that the lesson will be a salutary one. This paper, in season and out, has called upon the government and citizens to take measures for fire protection. We long ago lost hope that the Dominion authorities would take active steps in the matter. So far as we have been able to see, their efforts in this territory have been confined almost exclusively to grinding from the people every cent of revenue that could possibly be scraped up. In so far as making returns for this enormous taxation in the way of public improvements is concerned, so far as we are aware, the improvements are not in evidence.

This condition only emphasizes the necessity of the citizens of Dawson taking precautions to protect their own interests.

The danger from fire is of vital importance to every man in the camp. The only hope of systematic measures being taken lies in securing incorporation for the town at an early date. It follows, then, as a natural sequence, that the citizens of Dawson must interest themselves in securing local self-government. The transportation and trading companies have done nobly in bringing food supplies to the city. There is enough and to spare for all. But we ourselves must see to it that Dawson's supply of provisions is preserved from destruction.

THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Dawson has at last been aroused to a sense of our imminent danger from fire. The danger is no greater today than was the case six weeks ago, but last week's fire has had the effect of bringing forcibly home to every man what it will mean to the town should it be entirely wiped out, as might very well have occurred on Friday last.

The result of this feeling was shown when active steps were taken on Saturday evening for the organization of a volunteer fire department. The enthusiasm displayed at the meeting is most commendable. It appears that experienced material is ready at hand to form an effective fire department. Of necessity, the services of all but the actual heads must be voluntary for the time being. But this only serves to emphasize the importance of the movement. The citizens of Dawson have come at last as a body to realize that they must work out their own salvation in the matter of fire protection as well as upon other and equally important subjects.

A well organized, well equipped, well disciplined fire department is a credit to any city. When the services of its members are given gratis, public recognition of that fact is due. It is certainly to be desired that the hopes of our enthusiastic fire fighters may be realized in the very near future, and that Dawson's fire department will be an organization in which every citizen may well take pride.

THE PIONEER

DINSMORE, SPENCER & MCPHEE, Proprietors

BEST GRADES OF SCOTCH and CANADIAN WHISKIES

And the Old Favorite Brand of

JACK McQUESTIAN CIGARS

THE AURORA

TOM CHISHOLM, Prop'r

COR. FRONT AND SECOND STREET

Headquarters for

BEST OF WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS

Mixed Drinks a Specialty

ELDORADO SALOON

HALL, McKINNEY & YOUNG, Proprietors

KLONDIKE CITY

Finest Brands of

Wines, Liquors and Cigars

THE NORTHERN

ASH & MANNING, Prop'r

Choicest Wines, Liquors and Cigars

Expert Mixologists

MINING HEADQUARTERS

FRONT STREET DAWSON

The "Monte Carlo"

FINEST BAR IN DAWSON

QUALITY OF WINES AND LIQUORS THE HIGHEST

Mixed Drinks a Specialty

HIGHEST GRADES OF CIGARS

THE OPERA HOUSE

BAKKE, WILSON & PETERSON

Proprietors

DAWSON

Headquarters for Best of

Wines, Liquors and Cigars

Mixed Drinks a Specialty

BILLY CHENOWETH BILLY WILSON

THE BODEGA

223 First Avenue.

Most Elegant Gentlemen's Resort

in Dawson.

Job Printing

In all its Latest Styles executed from new type faces at this office

We have facilities for

Check Binding

Perforating, Numbering and

Stapling

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Plenty of type and press facilities for the quick execution of

Pamphlets, Blanks and Programs

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