The Klondike Nugget

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LETTERS

And Small Packages can be sent to the Creeks by our carriers on the following days: Every Tuesday and Friday to Eldorado, Bonanza, Hunker, Dominion, Gold Run, Sulphur, Quartz and Canyon.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1901.

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KLONDIKE NUGGET.

LAND LAWS FOR ALASKA.

The suggestion that the public lands of Alaska be opened to entry under the general land laws of the United States is eminently proper. There is no conceivable reason why this rich district should longer continue to be tied up by the refusal to extend these laws over it; a refusal based upon no reason, no theory and having no arguments in its support. The experiments of the agricultural department have shown that farming can be profitably carried on in the district; there seems to be an abundant area of land suitable for agriculture; there are certainly numbers of people who would be glad to obtain homes and farms in the district without importing colonists from Europe for the purpose; but the absence of any law by which title to agricultural land can be had keep the district closed to immigration of this character.

There are millions of acres of land which can be successfully farmed in the Alaska peninsula; there is likely to be for all time to come a good home market for all that can be raised; the climatic drawbacks are no greater than in many parts of the world where farming is a paying business; the cost of surveying the land is but little greater than it was in Western Washington or Oregon, and yet, without reason or argument, congress refuses to act in this matter.

There are members of congress by the dozen, possibly by the hundreds, representing districts where the winter is far more severe than it is in Southeastern Alaska, who yet labor under the delusion that the latter is a hyperborean region which will never have a settled and permanent population. Articles have from time to time appeared in periodicals of high class, urging that steps be taken to colonize the Laplanders in Alaska, ignoring the fact that hundreds of Americans would be glad to take up homes and farms there now, if congress would shake off its inertia, and open the district to the farmer as it is now open to the miner, the townsite speculator and the great commercial companies. Millions of acres of public domain have been given away to induce the building of transportation lines, that it might become possible to open the states of the far West to settlement. Millions of dollars have been spent in purchasing the Indian rights to land in the semi-arid belt of the country, and cities have sprung up in a day when the land was opened to entry. Yet there are vast areas of fertile land which might well be in the ownership of American families, but which remain tied up for no conceivable reason, save that congress cannot take enough interest in the matter to act.

Alaska has suffered much from congress. It has been discriminated against as no other American territory ever was. It is now burdened with an inexcusable and wanton system of taxation which answers no purpose save to cripple business and retard settlement. It has never been given even the vestige of self-government. It has grown, not through government aid, but despite government neglect, and despite laws which have hampered its advancement. It has asked little, and it has received less. Certainly, however, it is entitled to this much—the opening of the public land to settlement and entry, that the man who makes his home in Alaska and seeks to reclaim the wilderness may have a status better than that of a mere trespasser, liable to be ejected by the officers of the government for unlawful intrusion on the public domain.—P. I.

Dawson's public schools are ready for a winter's work. The Nugget is of the opinion that the system of public instruction which has been established for this city is fully up to the standard enjoyed in similar communities on the outside. It has taken the government a long time to awaken to Dawson's necessities in this particular as in other matters, but it must be acknowledged that the work once begun has been carried forward in a very cerditable manner.

The News which so long posed as spiritual adviser to Messrs Prudhomme and Wilson is now after those gentlemen rough shod. It is barely possible that the News' change of heart on the railroad question has brought about a similar metamorphosis in connection with other live issues. Or is the News grooming a candidate of its own for political honors?

Considering the backwardness of gentle spring in arriving it is not to be wondered at that we are now enjoying a late fall.

How Lincoln Won His Wife.

Mr. Lincoln used to take great delight in telling how he gained a knife by his ugly looks. That has been published, but I have not seen another in print telling how he gained his wife. Mrs. Lincoln was a beautiful lady, attractive, sharp, witty and relished a joke even at her own expense. She was staying with her sister, Mrs. Edwards. She had not been there long before everybody knew Miss Mary Todd. She often said: "When a girl, I thought I would not marry until I could get one of the handsomest men in the country, but since I became a woman I learned I can't get such a man, which has caused me to change my mind. I have concluded now to marry the ugliest looking man I can find."

Later on Lincoln came to town. She had never seen him before she met him on the street. She was told who he was and went home and told her sister she had seen her man, "the ugliest man I ever saw, Abraham Lincoln, and I am going to set my cap for him."

That became a common saying in street gossip. When they were married, instead of taking a bridal trip they went to the Globe hotel, owned by the writer and occupied by a tenant They took board at $4 a week. When he got able, he bought a lot for $200 and built a four room house costing less than $1000. When he received $5000 from his great railroad case, he spent $1500 of it in putting a second story on his house, and there he lived until he went to Washington.—Thomas Lewis in Leslie's Weekly.

Special snaps in string beans, canned fruits, canned corn, for a day or two only. Barrett & Hull, wholesale commission merchants, Third avenue.

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ST. MARY'S NEW ORGAN

Arrived Last Night Accompained by Mr. Morel.

Mr. E Morel, whose business is the erection of pipe organs constructed by his firm, Casavant Bros., of St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, arrived Friday night on the Columbian in company with the new organ for St. Mary's Roman Catholic church. The organ, though a small one, will be an immeasurable improvement over the wheezy affairs so often found in the churches of cities the size of Dawson, and which usually detract rather than add to the pleasures of secular music. It will occupy a space in the choir loft 6½x10 feet with a height of 10½ feet. The pedal board with a compass of 27 notes covers 3 feet 5 inches by 4 feet 6 inches. It has two manuals, but the number of stops, length and number of pipes is not known to the expert, he having never seen the instrument. The organ being of such small size will be blown by hand instead of using a motor which is generally employed in pipe organs. It weighs with packing 6500 pounds and cost at the factory $6000. As the freight from Skagway to Dawson is a matter of 12 cents a pound it can be seen that that one item alone will very nearly equal the original cost of the instrument. Mr. Morel hopes to have it up and ready for trial by next Thursday evening and it will doubtless be used for the church services next Sunday.

The Casavant Bros., the builders, is the largest firm of organ manufacturers in Canada. Among the instruments which they have constructed is the monster organ in L'Egliose du Notre Dame in Montreal, the largest in the Dominion. It has four manuals, 82 stops, over 200 pipes, the largest being 39 feet in length, and cost at the factory $12,000.

He Telegraphed Up One Fight.

That New York is a big city which the stranger seldom learns very well was quite forcibly impressed upon a certain well known Californian a few days ago. He visits New York twice a year and has long since learned to find his way about.

He was charging about in the business district and suddenly remembered that he wanted to telegraph to a friend whose offices are at 195 Broadway. The Californian dashed into the nearest telegraph office, wrote out his dispatch and, covering it with the coin, passed it through the wicket at the receiver. The receiver smiled.

"What is the matter?" demanded the Californian.

"Why, this is 195 Broadway," said the receiver, "and your man is just up one flight of stairs."

There was a confused period that lasted about a second, and when the Californian got his nerve back he calmly said: "I know that. Let it go anyway. I guess I can telegraph across the room or this counter if I want to and have the money. We do that thing out in California every day for a joke."

The receiver may have been bluffed, but as receivers go they are hard to impress.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Easily Managed.

House Hunter—But are you sure that the cellar is perfectly dry?

Real Estate Dealer—Oh, you may be sure of that! Never was a drop of water ever seen in it, even in the wettest kind of weather.

House Hunter—Sorry about that. Do you know I have a theory that a damp cellar is the healthiest thing in the world. In my opinion the water in a cellar absorbs noxious gases, and, besides, it so moistens the whole atmosphere of the house as to make it more grateful to the lungs.

Real Estate Dealer—Come to think of it, it was that other house on the other side of the street that has the dry cellar. The cellar in this house is never free from water. Really, sir, I think it will suit you immensely.—Boston Transcript.

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Card Players' Cramps.

"Were you ever paralyzed" said the old timer.

"No, and may the"—began the other.

"Well, you see that right hand It looks pretty good and strong and it is, but for about three days once it was deader than a frostbitten tomato plant.

"You know of course that I used to make my living playing cards, chiefly dealing bank. There wasn't a day I didn't deal bank or in other games six to eight hours a day. Many a time I have dealt or played longer.

"One night I was dealing bank. It was a good, big game. All at once when I went to slip a card this old right refused to work. I looked at it and the fingers were kind of twisteed inward and the hand from the wrist was bent downward.

"This stopped the deal for me, and I told the lookout 'to get busy,' for the players were getting a little 'queered.' He took my place, and I watched the bets.

"I rubbed my right, but it wouldn't straighten out and it kept this way until next day, and then I went to a doctor. He didn't know me as well as you do, but the first question he asked was:

"'Deal cards a great deal, don't you?'

"'Yes.'

"'Do you deal with an elbow movement or with finger and wrist movement?'

"'Why, I don't work my elbow.'

"'That explains it. You have card players' paralysis.'

"This hit me center, and I showed it, but the doctor was good and said:

"'Now, don't get flurried. I'll straighten you up. Just quit dealing awhile, and I'll give your hand a few doses of electricity, and you'll be all right.'

"He did it, and in about three days my hand was straight as a string. But I haven't dealt so much since. There's many an old timer whose dealing hand has quit him. And you say you were never paralyzed?"

"No."

"Well, you ain't played cards much."—Louisville Times.

The Kuklux Klan.

When the civil war ended, the little town of Pulaski, Tenn., welcomed a band of young men who, though they were veterans of hard fought fields, were for the most part no older than the mass of college students. In the general poverty, the exhaustion, the lack of heart, naturally prevalent throughout the beaten south, young men had more leisure than was good for them.

A southern country town, even in the halcyon days before the war, was not a particularly lively place, and Pulaski in 1866 was doubtless rather tame to fellows who had seen Pickett charge at Gettysburg or galloped over the country with Morgan and Wheeler. A group of them assembled in a law office one evening in May, 1866, were discussing ways and means of having a livelier time. Some one suggested a club or society. An organization with no very definite aims was effected, and at a second meeting, a week later, names were proposed and discussed. Some one pronounced the Greek word kuklos, meaning circle. From kuklos to kuklux was an easy transition—whoever consults a glossary of college boys' slang will not find it strange—and klan followed kuklux as naturally as "dumpty" follows "humpty." That the name meant nothing whatever was a recommendation, and one can fancy what part of badinage would gave followed a suggestion that in six years a committee of congress would devot 13 volumes to the history of the movement that began in a Pulaski law office and migrated later to a deserted and half ruined house on the outskirts of the village.—Atlantic Monthly.

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