

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Yearly in advance, \$21 00
Six months, 12 00
Three months, 6 00
Per month by carrier in city (in advance), 2 00
Single copies, 25

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1900

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.

The Nugget has a regular carrier and express service covering Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail or express may be left at the Nugget Express office or given to creek agents.

LIBEL

Attorney Gwilliam has struck a new road to fortune. He proposes that the Nugget hang up a purse of suitable proportions for him to sue for, with a case of libel for his late client, Joe Schwartz. It was not impossible that we might have indulged him to the end of his bent but for some recent displays of petty spite which were, to say the least, in stupid bad taste, for a member of the Dawson bar. In a spasm of impotent wrath, after a failure to enlist our worthy judge in an onslaught for the particular benefit of this paper, the legal gentleman asserted in open court (we like his innocent courage) that this "scurrilous paper must be stopped," and that we were in some manner or other "skulking behind a plea of poverty." We presume the latter was anent our failure to "hang up the purse" as heretofore mentioned. There is a saying about fools rushing in, etc., which we dislike to quote because it would savor of too much self-adulation; but on Mr. Gwilliam's part it fits like a made-to-order suit of clothes. So intoxicated was the gentleman with his own unexpected flow of mouthy words that he twice repeated them, "scurrilous sheet" and "skulking behind a plea of poverty" and all the rest of his absurd larranque.

Mr. Gwilliam is positively absurd in his meaninglessness. We know of nothing in the history of the Nugget which would give any foundation for his "skulking" statement except that we have not placed a "golden purse" in a "stakeholder's" hands for him to try for. We must positively decline to take any hints from this brilliant member of the bar as to how to conduct a newspaper, though we don't believe a half million dollar purse in honest hands would be in any danger from the extent and unknown depths of any legal learning and knowledge possessed by our friend Gwilliam. Indeed, *per contra*, we believe if our "learned friend" will only hang up a purse, as he suggests that we should do, we might be able to show him a trick with a hole in it; but we would not wish him to be "skulking behind a plea of poverty" in case we beat him on a libel suit.

It is not in Blackstone but is an axiom of common sense that a libel can be perpetrated just as easily by a third rate attorney as by a newspaper. We may have occasion to show Mr. Gwilliam a few things about his own trade. At present we see nothing attachable in sight except a modest law library—nothing to law for.

To the casual observer it would appear that in some of our onslaughts upon what we conceived to be public wrongs we have somewhere and at some time stepped upon Mr. Gwilliam's corns. There certainly must have been some provocation for his uncalled for tirade. Was it the Gold Run stampede to divide claims with the miners? or was it Dominion scandals?

It is altogether probable that our "learned friend" supposed that from his position in court when he delivered his

uncalled for and childish foolish tirade, he believed he could hide from criticism behind the "privilege of Sanctuary." He must not bring forward so many mistaken propositions if he expects to escape unscathed.

THOSE LETTERS PATENT.

The decision of the Investigating commissioner that his letters patent do not empower him to investigate anything later than the 25th day of last August; that he cannot legally entertain charges of a later date; that witnesses can neither be subpoenaed nor put under oath before him, came in the nature of a cold water bath to the gentlemen who had been preparing cases, calling witnesses and making charges for investigation. The denoument serves to demonstrate three things: First, the sincerity of Mr. Ogilvie in desiring to hear the charges, as is shown by his repeated proclamations inviting the charges, and also in his subpoenaing every witness asked for and putting them under oath; secondly, the bad faith of the minister issuing the patent and spreading over the wide world the news that they had directed an investigation into all of the many charges made against the Klondike administration, while at the same time the precious document was worded to exclude the great mass of evidence which has accumulated since August 25th, 1898, just six months ago; thirdly, the willingness of the accused officials—excepting Mr. Fawcett alone—to rest under the imputation of malfeasance rather than have their cases examined, as is shown by their lawyers picking up this flaw in the patent.

The people have been tricked, but not by Mr. Ogilvie. They have been "lone out" of the promised benefits of a Royal commission. The public had been led to believe that a long deferred investigation had been granted when as a matter of fact Mr. Ogilvie had, by a speciously worded document bearing the great seal of Canada, been directed only to investigate certain small general charges preferred at a mass meeting of miners prior to August 25, nine out of every dozen of the men then present having since left the country.

To illustrate what this means to a would-be genuine investigator we will give the charge of entrance fees having been collected to the gold commissioner's office. Some half dozen cases are brought into court and the damning testimony of the witnesses is being elicited when Attorney Tabor, for Messrs. Hurdman, et al., rises and asks for a decision as to whether or not evidence is permissible unless it was of events prior to August 25, the last witness having located the time of the occurrence as the end of August. The commissioner stated that his legal adviser, Mr. Clement, had come to the conclusion that his (Mr. Ogilvie's) powers were limited to the charges made of illegal doings prior to the date in question. That while this was decidedly contrary to his own wishes, he felt bound to give it as his own decision. This, as will readily be seen, rules out of the investigation any and all of the hundreds of cases of the payment of money since that date.

Such a limited investigation is worse than no investigation at all as far as the undoing of crooked officials is concerned, for if it were taken seriously it might end as evidently designed, in a coat of white wash for as badly conducted an office as ever existed in Canadian annals. It would mean that we might pile up evidence to the dimensions of a house and the ball to be rolled of it as illegal because of its date. Under such conditions there was but one thing to do. After protesting against the decision Messrs. McDougal and Armstrong withdrew their charges and walked out of court. The Nugget was present by a representative, and was asked what we proposed to do. We pointed out that the material charges made by us, and which were now on trial, were simply put out of court by the decision just given, and consequently we declined to go any further with them. The fact that the commissioner and Mr. Fawcett were

both willing to go on with the cases only made it the more unwise to do so until an extension of Mr. Ogilvie's powers should be secured, whereby witnesses can be compelled to attend, made to testify, and punished for giving false evidence. To go into our serious charges, which are of the worst kind of malfeasance, depending upon the voluntary evidence of only those who volunteered to attend the court, would be for the Nugget to sanction the most flagrant whitewashing on record, and to deliberately write ourselves down an Ass.

Mr. Ogilvie now proposes what, in our estimation, is a very foolish thing to do, and while we admit that gentleman's sincerity we must strongly urge its unwisdom. The Nugget and other citizens have filed with Mr. Ogilvie a list of various serious charges against the administration. Speaking for ourselves, we may state that what we have filed are only a part of the charges which we have had drawn up ready for filing at the proper time. These charges, now in his possession, the governor proposes to examine into by a unique method. Anyone knowing anything about the cases may volunteer to come forward and make their statements, "an' they see fit." No oath will be administered, and they cannot be secured in giving self-incriminating testimony. It goes without saying that none will volunteer anything in which they have compromised themselves. The accused officials will make what statements they please, and need not tell anything they don't wish to. And this will go to Ottawa in place of the genuine investigation which we had hoped for, and which we had been led to expect. We cannot but think it a farce, and warn the interested officials that upon the arrival of Mr. Ogilvie's extended powers, or upon the arrival of the parliamentary commission which we know Canada to be agitating for, we shall file every charge anew, and many more with them.

In our opinion the Canadian investigation to "go down" with them. The opposition will ridicule it, while the government will hardly dare produce it in self vindication for the amount of ridicule it will excite. We should advise the letting alone of these cases until the proper authority arrives to investigate as they deserve to be investigated, together with a parliamentary commission of at least three members of the house.

AMERICAN BOUNDARY.

The reported discovery of what appeared to the discoverers to be the old Russian boundary marks on the hills at the head of McQuestion river, as reported in our last issue, has created a profound interest in the Canadian boundary question. The mounds of mortarless rock on the crest of separate hills, as reported by the discoverer, are in a line running due north and south, and the inscriptions upon some of the larger rocks are evidently Russian. An American, of Russian parentage, has been interviewed upon the subject. He was born in Alaska and is a well educated and well traveled man. He informs us that the Russian traditions, handed down from father to son show that the Yukon from its source to its mouth, with possibly a gap of a few hundreds of miles was at one time occupied by the Russians and claimed by them by right of discovery. Fort Reliance, just below Dawson, and Fort Selkirk, some hundreds of miles above, were well known Russian posts. It is altogether possible that they went east up the Stewart and stuck their flag at the farthest point they reached, which may be, of course, the very mounds discovered the past summer by Salamond Korkalo, Heikki Pesonen, Isak Petterson, Antti Howmola and Carl Waisanen, the party of Finlanders who report the discovery. The fact that the hieroglyphics could not be deciphered by the Finlanders our informant explains very clearly. The Russian language is in characters very much resembling the Greek, while in Finland the same letters are used as in German and English. In traveling through Europe last summer, our informant was

frequently on the Russian boundary of Poland and was impressed with the oddity of the mounds and the manner of marking them.

The Finlanders are now up the creeks. If they will report themselves in Dawson they may hear something very much to their advantage. It is the intention to send out the Russian gentleman of whom we have spoken, together with one or more of the Finns, to the scene of the reported discovery. Photographs are to be taken and every particular noted.

The NUGGET, as a wide awake newspaper, believes it to be its duty to see this thing through. In consultation with the American consul, Col. McCook, it was learned that there will be no difficulty about funds if the Finns will make the necessary statements. We wish to know their present whereabouts on the creeks, and it will probably prove of financial interest to them to report.

Our Russian informant states that from his personal knowledge the language of the Twelve-mile Creek Indians is largely marked with Russian words, showing intimacy at some time with Russians, who must have occupied their territory. While there is, of course, no certainty of the authenticity of the mounds nor of their meaning, the fact remains that the Indians of this country are not mound builders, while by tradition the Russians were. The whole story opens up a vista of possibilities which are simply startling. Should they prove to be the work of Russian hands, then the whole Klondike country was at one time in the possession of that nation, for they claimed the country as far as they travelled by right of discovery, and there were then none on the continent to dispute the ownership. Russia sold all she owned on this continent to the United States, and thus it may prove after all that the Klondike is not a British possession, but part and parcel of Alaska. Such a possibility opens up quite a vista for the future. It would be an odd ending to the Klondike fight against wrong and royalty, if it should turn out that all royalty had to be returned to the men who paid it, by reason of the illegality of the collection, this being American territory. At any rate, the mounds are of sufficient importance to require investigation.

Among the members of the volunteer fire brigade are carpenters and mechanics of various kinds, and many of them would be glad of a few day's work. They complain that even in the matter of watching smoldering ruins or of taking care of goods cached during a conflagration, if a man is to be hired he is chosen outside of the department. This must surely be an oversight, for all else being equal there is no doubt but that the fire boys are sufficiently popular to secure at least an even chance at what work offers as a result of any fires on which their work has been bestowed gratuitously.

YOU PLACE THE ORDER



WE DO THE REST...

Will make purchase and deliver goods (either express packages or freight) to any claim on the creeks.

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR SERVICE?

Nugget Express

E. C. ALLEN, Manager.
MAIN OFFICE - In the "Phoenix"
BRANCH OFFICE - Forks of Eldorado and Bonanza.
Orders may be given any agent or driver of team.

A DRAW AT

A Very Clever

Men Equally - Condition - Both Clever

The 20-round and Dick Agnew on Wednesday in similar representation, betting somewhat to be a knock-out while the friends man was being up. The ring was were cheered in dressing-gowns, pounds and Agnew heavier. Both the finest point of the end of the twelve excellent shape avoid, to a large ended by the o ing a high degree defense, which w unlookers. Pat Rooney, w yphael and "Kid three others. H Toder was Matt James Donaldson both men strips of the ring the men became ar be the shorter in deep chest. Ag his chest shall shoulders show Both men were Agnew showed lowed by a short Raphael's str floating which eagle eye.

1. This round Raphael led a catching blow of the chest. Raphael left on the neck, feinted with his and shouldered and the work on either side. 2. Raphael con set a rapid pace left on the jaw a heart. Raphael leading a block aged to land his Agnew met a nu and meeting his in the stomach and the round sl 3. Agnew blo shoulder, but ret the face. Both thious leads n how to twist ot punishment, wh desire to use h repeatedly lande when his left w Raphael took it complaint, and round.

4. Just when A enting he came u things entertain sided for a time in the right an to stagger his at Raphael landed retaliated with a landed on the led left, which same unresistin mixed and lande standing that Ag Raphael had sh right down hook wing on the bod Rounds 5, 6, 7, in the clever sping and stering 8 was distinctly 10th Raphael wa Agnew to the ro 11. Both are ye ing the same dis from that short elinches. Raph and receives a vi does not phase h 12. Was simi Raphael landed short arm right 13. Agnew clen After the break lowed each exc the law, again a avoided the ten Agnew's round.

14. Th's was a wings a left to countered with new's left swin Another left swi The round conc right on the shes