

# The Klondike Nugget

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## THE PREMIER COMING.

From reports which have come to Dawson from the outside recently it is quite likely that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will pay a visit to Dawson during the approaching summer. We have no doubt that a visit from the premier would result most advantageously to the interests of the territory.

Beyond question great and lasting good came to the territory from the governor general's trip into Dawson last summer. It will be remembered that almost immediately after Lord Minto's return many of the concessions which had so long been sought from the government were granted. To just what extent these were hastened by the fact of his excellency's personal investigation into affairs in the territory it is impossible to say. But in any case it is certainly true that the changes in the regulations so long asked for began coming in soon after the governor general's visit and undoubtedly that event exerted an influence in our favor.

A visit from the premier will be attended with results of equal importance. Sir Wilfrid Laurier has just been returned to power for another period of five years and in his speeches as well as in his public acts he has demonstrated quite clearly that he is in sympathy with every effort made along the line of developing the splendid resources of the Dominion.

In spite of all that has been written and said of the Yukon territory, this northern country is still largely an unknown quantity to Eastern Canada. For the most part the people of the east are engaged in pursuits entirely different from the occupation which engages our population. They know very little about the Yukon or its needs and as a natural consequence care very little about them.

It is, therefore, highly advantageous that members of the government should be urged to come into Dawson, not only for the direct assistance which they may be able to give in furthering the interests of the territory but also for the indirect good which will result from the information which they carry away with them. It is certainly to be desired that the published intentions of the premier will be carried into effect.

## FEDERAL STATUTES GOVERN.

The inducement held out that incorporation of Dawson into a municipality will give the local government control of gambling is not based upon facts. The entire matter is covered by federal statutes which may be enforced at any moment in spite of any local ordinance which could be passed to the contrary.

It would make no difference what views were entertained by the elected municipal council, the general laws applying in the premises could be brought into effect at any moment.

We are unable to see that the merits of the incorporation question are in any respect affected by the announcement that gambling is to be closed down. Unless revocation or modification of the order is received from Ottawa direct, the order will be enforced beyond question. In the meanwhile the incorporation question is not one bit more attractive than it was three months ago.

## SHOULD COME TO DAWSON.

A telegram today conveys the information that the Dominion government has determined to establish an assay office at Vancouver. This action will be of valuable assistance to the latter city in securing a hold upon the Klondike trade, but will not prove of any immediate advantage to Dawson. An assay office in this city where all gold dust might be exchanged for its value in currency would effectually settle the gold dust question. Dust would be taken out of circulation immediately and Dawson would be placed upon a currency basis. Vancouver is to be

congratulated upon her good fortune in securing the assay office which will serve to deflect a large portion of Klondike trade to that city. We have nothing against Vancouver, but we would be much better satisfied to know that the assay office would come to Dawson.

A short time ago several arrests were made, the parties concerned having been engaged in a game of whist on Sunday. We believe thoroughly in enforcement of law, but we also believe most intensely in individual freedom of action so long as the rights of others are not interfered with. If it is contrary to law to play a social game of cards on Sunday in Dawson, the quicker the said law is relegated to a place with the ancient blue laws of New England the better. There is such a thing as too much zeal in a good cause.

Reports from South Africa are as conflicting at the present time as they were when the Boer war was at its height. Two days ago the dispatches had Kitchener's baggage train captured and the general himself escaping only by a hair's breadth. Today it is Dewet the Boer commander who has been taken prisoner and Botha is suing for peace. The reliability of both reports is open to question, for it is well known that a strict censorship is still maintained over all news sent from the seat of the struggle.

The allied powers now represented by armed forces in China have a splendid opportunity to demonstrate to what extent they possess the virtue of patience. The Chinese potentates have been sending a continuous stream of notes to the powers which have served no purpose other than to keep the latter guessing. The Chinese may not be much for actual fighting but when it comes down to the fine points of diplomacy they can give the Occident cards and spades and a few aces and still come out reasonably well.

When the steamers now under construction on the outside are added to the already large fleet of boats on the Yukon, the service during the summer between Dawson and Whitehorse will be unsurpassed. Evidently the railroad company has perfect confidence in the future of the territory. Considering the profits shown by the railroad's balance sheet for this past year this is by no means a matter for surprise.

The scene around the Gold Commissioner's office during the last few days recalls the famous summer of '98, when for weeks at a time, a line of men could always be found in front of the office, night or day. The stampede of Monday will bring a handsome contribution to the government's coffers and it is ardently to be wished that the hopes of those fortunate enough to secure claims will be realized.

The disaster which overtook the steamer Rio de Janeiro when almost in sight of the Golden Gate is one of the saddest events that have been recorded for some time. The fact that the passenger lists were lost adds to the horror of the calamity for it leaves an element of uncertainty respecting the identity of the lost which may never be entirely removed.

Dawson's legal talent is not feeling any particular amount of regret over the results of the late stampede. There are scores of properties which six to a dozen men claimed to have staked at one second after twelve o'clock on Monday night. No wonder the faces of the legal brethren are wreathed in smiles.

The new customs regulation covering personal baggage of parties bound to Dawson from the outside will prove a very satisfactory. Instead of examining baggage at the boundary, trunks, valises, etc., are to be corded and sealed at Skagway, and no examination will take place until after arrival in Dawson.

The death of the queen has renewed hope among the Boers. What effect they imagine that event will have upon England's war policy is difficult to see.

The sovereign has less to do with such matters than would the chief executive of the United States under similar circumstances.

San Francisco supports a regular slave market, in which the merchandise offered for sale consists of Chinese girls. The missionary societies might find a valuable field for their efforts without going beyond the limits of the Golden gate. It is a first-class principle to allow charity to begin at home.

The service given by the telephone company has proven an undisputed blessing. Dawson is now connected with all the creeks by phone, and local business concerns are fast coming to realize that a phone is one of the necessary fixtures of store or office.

The ladies' night entertainments inaugurated by a local theater are meeting with deserved patronage. The opinion expressed many times in these columns that Dawson would support such an undertaking seems to be pretty well borne out by results.

One hundred and fifty people en route to Dawson landed from one steamer at Skagway yesterday. From this time on the tide of travel will turn in this direction and will steadily increase as long as the trails continue in good condition.

Echoes from the Nugget's Bryan souvenir still continue to come in. If all the comment of the outside press were published in the Nugget they would fill the columns of the paper many times over.

Emperor William has stated publicly that he loves France very much and will never allow any injury to come to her. William's self-constituted guardianship is not likely to prove popular in France.

March has come in upon us with certain "leonine" accompaniments which must be accepted as foretelling weather of lamblike quality toward the end of the month.

The poundmaster is out on his rounds and the wail of "dog gone" is heard from many a cabin.

And still the stampedes continue.

## Happens Every Day.

Everybody has troubles. But there are a certain class of people who do not consider that, but take a particular delight in aggravating to the largest extent the troubles of others, and especially those placed in a position of being subject to answering questions. For instance, take a telegraph operator. Notwithstanding the fact that notices of the whereabouts of the mail are posted by the window as soon as word is received, yet Mr. Overton, the genial cashier for the telegraph office, is subject to questions which would cause the patience of Job to become exhausted.

Yesterday morning a merry faced individual stepped to the window and the following conversation occurred:

"Do you know where the mail is?"  
"It left Stewart river this morning."  
"At what time?"  
"About 6:30."  
"Where is it now?"  
"I do not know."  
"When will it arrive in Dawson?"  
"About 7:15 tonight."  
"How many pounds?"  
"Nearly 400."  
"Any American mail?"  
"Some."  
"How much?"  
"Couldn't say."

"Well," said the man, "I don't know whether there will be any mail for me or not." To which the obliging clerk answered that he was sure he couldn't tell as the information was not imparted to him and he couldn't read the addresses on letters locked in mail sacks 70 miles away. The man smiled very broadly and passed out.

## Where is Grief?

Editor Nugget:  
I have a communication from the U. S. Consul at Reichenberg, Austria, making inquiry for Frank or Franz Grief, who was known to be in Dawson working at his trade as cabinet maker in 1898.

Anyone who can furnish information regarding this person will confer a favor by communicating with Vice-Consul H. Te Roller.

Mrs. Frank Crawford is visiting her sister on 16 Eldorado this week.

# PINGREE VS. JEFFERSON.

## One Fears, the Other Encouraged Revolutions.

### The Former Statesman Had a Shade the Best of the Question—Bloodless Revolution Preferred.

The Hon. Mr. Pingree—a very good, very brave and very useful man, declares his belief that it conditions are not bettered America will witness a bloody revolution.

Mr. Pingree was perhaps a little too dramatic in his utterance. But what is the use of getting to excited when one mentions a revolution? This country is based on a revolution and the only other republic of any importance is also based on a revolution—the very bloody French revolution.

It is cheap and easy to rail at Pingree, because he happens to be among plutocrats, that queer bird, a real republican.

Let us take some other authority to avoid prejudice.

How would Thomas Jefferson do? He was a good man, was he not? The writer of the Declaration of Independence should have a word to say about future events. He was quite enthusiastic on the subject of revolutions.

What would you say if Pingree spoke as did Jefferson after Shay's rebellion in Massachusetts? That rebellion was really an attempt at revolution, and it was aimed at the plutocrat class that had already done some very fine work in our land. It frightened the prosperous jealous states so thoroughly that it frightened them into a firm union. On that baby attempt at revolution this Union now stands. Pretty good thing it was from that point of view.

Now hear Thomas Jefferson out—Pingreeing Pingree:

"A little rebellion," he said after Shay's attempt, "is a good thing, and ought not to be too much discouraged."

He thought the revolutionary feeling a medicine good for the health of government. Listen to this and forget Pingree:

"God forbid that we should be twenty years without such a rebellion—what signified a few lives lost in a century or two. The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants; it was its natural manure."

Our personal opinion, perhaps too optimistic, is that the world may have seen the end of "bloody revolutions." But, better a bloody revolution or two, or forty, than political stagnation, and continued grinding of the lower by the upper classes.

There are millions of men without a decent chance in life.

There are classes that die of too much rich food and classes that die of too little food of any kind.

There are hundreds of thousands of children uneducated, or doomed to an unfair chance if they are educated.

There are scores of millions paying with blood and sweat and the thin money of poverty all the government expenses, that a few preposterously rich shirkers and perjurers may go free.

If these things could only be got rid of at the price of a bloody revolution, the price would be cheap. We should advocate "refreshing the tree of liberty" exclusively with the blood of tyrants, and not at all with that of patriots; otherwise we have no objection to Mr. Jefferson's program.

The income tax principle alone is worth a small sized revolution, if it could be got at no cheaper price.

The man is wise who in business, or legislation or government, keeps in mind the fact that the instinct of revolution is indescribable in all human beings.

You can never destroy the revolutionary instinct. The most that can be hoped for of legislative wisdom is that it shall render revolutions unnecessary. Napoleon, who will perhaps be accepted as an authority by those who reject both Pingree and Jefferson, was forever conscious of danger from the revolutionary instinct.

When Napoleon's ministers advised a desirable but unpopular measure, he would ask:

"Will you guarantee that the people will not rise against it?"

Napoleon feared no insurrection from loss of bread more than a battle against 200,000 men.

He was forever on the alert for popular discontent. He advanced money to manufacturers in order that artisans might be employed at good wages, and their minds kept from thoughts of revolution. In one crisis he spent, according to Lord Rosebery, fifty millions of

francs to provide work for those who needed it.

But we believe that the time has come for revolutions that shall be bloodless, free form force, gradual.

In the old days of surgery, when a leg had to come off, it came off in bloody and painful fashion.

But now, anaesthetics, antiseptics, intelligent control of veins and arteries, make of a leg amputation an affair less serious than an old time tooth pulling.

Political science should be able to do for political operations what medical science has done for amputations.

We need some serious operations and must have them. But they could be made bloodless.

At the bottom of the whole question lies ignorance—or knowledge—which ever way you choose to put it.

The people of the land possess the power to rule absolutely. But they are ruled absolutely by a few interests at the top.

It is not at all sure, unfortunately, that they would know how to rule themselves if they undertook the task. A second sad thought is that they apparently do not even know enough to try to use their power.

In olden days the ignorant lower masses stood imposition as long as they could. Then came a revolution, big or little. But it was always bloody, and "the tree of liberty" was always plentifully "refreshed" in the Jeffersonian way.

Patriots and tyrants fought and died, and some good was always done.

More tyrants would show their heads above the surface. But they were always wiser tyrants than the last batch, and they always gave the under dog a little better chance.

It remains to be seen whether in this land we shall see the people with education learning to use their ballots and developing leaders of a class that will not be bought out or unconsciously corrupted when they get power.

Unless the people learn to vote and manage to produce men of their own able to govern, Mr. Jefferson's favorite tree will undoubtedly be watered sooner or later.

But we are hopeful of constantly growing wisdom both at the top and bottom of the social scale. We believe that liberty is at last born on earth and that the birth pains are over.

Please think of this comparison and judge its truth.

Every child born on earth is desirable and welcome. Yet, every birth, carrying the being from the pre-natal condition to this life, is a bloody revolution.

Terrible suffering accompanies every birth, and like that often caused by revolutions in politics, the suffering is borne by the innocent—by the innocent mother.

Let us hope that liberty is really born here at last and that its progress hereafter is to be bloodless. Let us hope that, like the child once born, its career will proceed along lines of education, and that the days foreshadowed by Pingree and prized by Jefferson are over.

ARTHUR BRISBANE.

## Obeys As Wife Only.

The Hague, Feb. 8.—The Queen and Prince Heinrich have bound themselves by the marriage contract, in accordance with the statutes, to recognize the husband as the head of the matrimonial union and to provide for and educate the children of the union. The husband assumes responsibility of representing the wife in all civil actions. The wife promises to obey the husband, but by a special recent act of the Dutch parliament, she is exempted from the usual promises "to dwell with him wherever he deems it best to live."

The contract also provides that the Queen shall allow the husband interest on 50,000,000 guilders and that he shall receive no income from the state except in the case of the queen's death. It is further provided that the queen shall yield obedience to the husband as wife, but not as queen, and husband relinquishes the right to administer the wife's property.

The Court Gazette publishes a decree, signed by the queen, announcing that the prince of the Netherlands will have a seat in the advisory state council.

## Edward Declared Usurper.

London, Feb. 11.—The Daily Mail makes the following statement:

"A notice declaring Edward VII a usurper and Mary IV the rightful queen was posted on the gates of St. James palace and at the Guild Hall on the night Queen Victoria died. It was not signed, and no one saw it posted at either place, but it is known to have been the handiwork of a member of the Jacobite League. Probably no action will be taken, but the incident explains why the legitimists were not allowed to place a wreath upon the statue of Charles I January 30."