

# The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday

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### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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### 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, Eklwan, Eldorado, Honker, 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.

### UNCERTAINTY.

The Canadian government is particularly jealous of parting with any of its northern domain and even for hay raising insists upon merely leasing this valuable ground. This would not work nearly so great a hardship on the miners as the lease given by the government a perfect one. Capital ever fights shy of insecurity and so it is reported by those in from the outside when Alexander McDonald, in London, offered his vast holdings for seven million, the capitalists decided that if insecurity of title and taxation could make him willing to sacrifice so enormously, it behooved them also to keep out.

There should be some way by which one could get his title guaranteed. A lease from the government is only good so long as no one upsets it. That one can go back of that lease in looking for flaws in the title is an unwelcome fact, and yet, with the way the recording office has ever been conducted, it would be simply an encouragement to fraud to say that once a lease is granted there shall be no gainsaying it. Nevertheless it requires only half an eye to see that if an abstract, dating back to the government's lease to the staker, does not show title, it is little use inviting capital to buy outside. The fact remains that not a claim owner on the Klondike is sure of his remaining in undisturbed possession. There is no statute of limitations in this matter, so far as we know, and no limit of time is placed thereby after which the lease cannot be questioned.

The insecurity of the titles is not much worse than the insecurity of the regulations, which are liable to be changed six months before we know it, clouding titles and making everyone wish he were in the wilds of Africa rather than under a highly civilized government which can act so thoughtlessly with its people. There is but one real security here and that is the security of the government in getting the lion's share of each man's possessions when he has been induced to come here.

Thoughtful legislation at Ottawa could easily remedy these ills. If a position in the Klondike government offices was made a reward of merit, as in the civil service, instead of being a reward for political services as in the past; and if temptation was removed from poorly paid clerks by making it impossible for them to hold mining property, there would then be no danger in making the first renewal of the lease a government guarantee of title. Thus one would have something they could count on positively after the first twelve months of probationary waiting.

### WHY WE ARE TAXED.

Whether or not the settlement of this country is to be permanent is an ever recurring question. Other climates even more inhospitable than this, and other lands, not nearly so productive as large tracts of the Yukon territory and Alaska, have been settled up in Asia and generations are born there, live out their hardy lives and die of good old age. There is gold there, as here, and by the

laws of the empire it is all the private property of the government. That the settlement of that part of Russia has not been at all attributable to the gold is demonstrated by the fact that the output has never exceeded twenty million and the placers are all worked directly by the government itself, in many cases by convict labor.

This country has been maligned in many ways, particularly as to its climate, and the inhabitants of Manitoba and Dakota have much more to put up with than we. In fact we can often afford to pity them. It also would appear from the early settling up of those regions that the first settlers there were as unstable as ourselves and had a little idea of making it their abode. Cities sprang up, family ties were formed and a rising generation learned to call it home. To the philosopher it must be apparent that all we lack of the requisites of a permanent country are kindly and beneficent laws under which we can live and thrive and have our being. With generous laws which give and secure to a man the fruits of his toil the Yukon territory would presently become a province made up of the hardiest people on earth. Canada is, as a whole, in ignorance today of what kind of a country we have here. To tax us to death simply because they believe the country again to become a desolate waste in the very near future, is cruel in the extreme. Thinking that the rigorous climate of this region precludes its permanent settlement the motive appears to be to wring out of it all they can in as short a time as possible before it ceases to be productive. In the case of a farming country Canada acts differently. Her rulers are wise in their day and generation and argue that if by hook or by crook they can secure even an assisted immigration, from any land whatsoever, and can get those people once settled, they then have another source of revenue, another lemon that will stand a perpetual squeezing. With this in view the early settlers of a new farming community are treated with every consideration and are not even asked to defray the costs of settlement and the building of roads. How different to their treatment of this territory. Two years and a half ago saw the Klondike unknown and profitless to the realm. Within a year after the machinery of taxation could be put into motion something like two and a half millions were exacted from a section with not more than a population of 40,000 souls. It is simply barbaric and comment would be superfluous.

### THAT ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING.

The British Columbian legislature met on January 6th and was opened formally with a speech by the governor, customarily called the "speech from the throne" in emulation of the British house of parliament. Various matters were dealt with but the following extract is of the most interest.

"In order to conserve the natural wealth in these gold gravels (the Atlin lake district) for the benefit of Canadian miners and Canadian traders a bill will be laid before you prohibiting the acquisition of placer claims by ALIENS."

The above is pregnant with meaning in view of the fact that the only aliens at the Atlin gold fields are Americans. British Columbia has always been more friendly to the people of the United States than has any other section of Canada and the attitude which this speech shows it about to take must be the result of either strong pressure from other sections or of the funkest "gringophobia" on record. But we would much rather have this outspoken policy of discrimination, honestly and frankly avowed, than a system of outrageous and prohibitive taxation designed to have the same effect. The United States will know well how to deal with a neighbor which openly avows an anti alien policy.

As long as Canadians by the tens of thousands were being allowed across the American border into the land of promise they had dreamed of from childhood, and as long as every avenue of trade and commerce was freely opened to them, they were willing to make a

great show of reciprocity. In 1897 there was some talk of the American discrimination against Canadians in Alaska. Uncle Sam immediately took the matter up and by statute provided an equal right for Canadians. True the same concession was demanded for Americans on this side of Forty-mile, but this was then a desolate waste and little or nothing was hoped then from the Northwest Territory. To begin to legislate against aliens within nine months of the Atlin strike is simply indicative of the characters of the rulers, which in its turn is again indicative of the people.

### TWO HUNDRED PER CENT.

A royalty of 10 per cent on the product of our only industry is a cowardly pandering to the already tax overburdened inhabitants of the provinces. The tax is only a "grand stand" play to catch the votes of the unthinking and selfish. It is hardly to be supposed that very many potato raisers in Ontario would strongly object to the lessening of their own taxes by extortion from a lot of Americans and foreigners in an unknown corner of the polar regions of the empire. Yet we cannot but believe if they could be made to understand what 10 per cent gross really means, there are many of them who would join us in denouncing the fraud.

Ten per cent gross means that if you expend \$1000 in work in digging or your claim and have the good fortune to take out a net profit of \$100, 100 per cent of those net proceeds goes to the government. The exemption of the first \$2500 from payment of royalty will barely cover one year's personal expenses of the man who travels up and down the creeks looking after his property and superintending his men, so that the law, as it stands, means even more than the taking of 100 per cent, on occasion, as in the working of extensive deposits of ordinary dirt. There were numerous cases last year where the entire amount of this royalty law meant the payment by the miner of even 200 per cent on his net output. These things we believe, have only to be explained to the ordinary Canadian, even though he be a farmer of Quebec or Ontario, to make the "grand stand" play of Mr. Bilton in sticking to the tax of little result in his future political ambitions.

### AN OPPORTUNITY FOR REDRESS.

The general public must not forget that the opportunity is now open, as per the last proclamation of Mr. Ogilvie, published in this issue, for them to make their grievances not only known but heard. Heretofore the only medium for airing personal grievances or exposing public wrong has been through these columns. It has been useless to relate one's tale of woe to the higher officials for they either could not or would not reverse the acts of their underlings. The condition today very forcibly brings to our minds a portion of the English marriage ceremony which reads very much as follows: "If any man knows aught why these men should be ignobly deposed, dispossessed or punished, let him now speak or for ever hold his peace." There is no reason which has yet put in an appearance why any should fear any injury to themselves for attempting at this time to expose and destroy once and for ever the terrible wrongs which have emanated for a full year from the gold commissioner's office. The Nugget will do what it can to remedy the evils, but we are firmly convinced that we are in possession of only a title of the facts germane to the matter. We believe that if each cabin on the creeks would but yield up its individual secrets Mr. Ogilvie would not get through with his investigation for a year and there would be such a rattling of dry bones as would make Ezekial's vision appear insignificant in comparison. Remember that the opportunity is not open forever and the date fixed as the limit for the filing of charges is March 15th.

### GET YOUR CLAIMS BACK.

There is an interesting phase to the investigation of the gold commissioner's

office. The men who had first to make over a deed to a two-thirds or three-fourths interest in order to secure information from the office or to get the claim recorded, can now come in and recover the ground thus extorted from them. The commissioner of investigation has already expressed himself along these lines and it now simply lies with the defrauded miners to come forward, state their cases and get back their deeds. Those who have slightly involved themselves in the transaction must not forget the safety given to witnesses.

### Up the Creek.

The day is done, and the darkness  
Falls from the wings of night.  
I've worked on the drift since morning—  
I feel drifted out of sight.  
I see the light of the candles  
Gleam thro' the rising mist,  
And a feeling of loneliness comes o'er me,  
That my soul cannot resist.  
A feeling of loneliness and yearning,  
That's not akin to pain,  
And restless longings only  
As water resembles rain.  
Come, get me a good steaming cup of  
Hot cakes and coffee, I pray,  
That shall soothe this restless feeling,  
And banish these thoughts away.  
I can see the light of the candles  
Gleam thro' the rising mist,  
And a feeling of loneliness comes o'er me,  
That my soul cannot resist.  
A feeling of madness, a frenzy  
That gives me such a pain,  
It's coffee, beans and bacon  
They're handing me once again.  
Who, through long days of labor,  
And nights devoid of ease,  
Can feed on beans and bacon  
Without such thoughts as these?  
Can beans and bacon quiet  
The restless pulse of care,  
Do you know the "vis a tergo"  
That follows such constant fare?  
Piled up of beans and bacon  
And thoughts that they suggest;  
I'm tired of days of labor,  
And nights devoid of rest,  
In coffee, beans and bacon,  
I had once a vigorous faith,  
But, shall it be always beans and bacon?  
Vide, Hebrews, thirteenth eighth.  
Shall beans and bacon ever  
Form the subject of my rhyme?  
Shall their foot steps always echo  
Through the corridors of Time?  
Oh! the night shall be filled with music  
If I have beans another day,  
I shall fold my tent, like the Arab,  
And in silence steal away.  
—BRED HARRIS

**50c** Buys the BEST Meal in Dawson AT THE **Rainier House** Clean and Commodious Bank House in connection. Water front on the Yukon. W. W. Jackson, Manager.

**LOUIS SECKELS** ASSAYER AND ANALYTICAL CHEMIST Gold melted into Bars. All Work Guaranteed.

**Nugget Express** E. C. ALLEN, Mgr.

**Next Trip** to the Outside

**Monday February 13.**

Can Accommodate One Passenger Only

Mail and Express will be taken at usual rates.

Main office in The Phoenix

## SPECIAL

### The Nugget Re-ter So

Storm Bound at Bound Passes Jackson of the Arctic

Leaving Stewart at 6 o'clock, your journey, Mr. Allen severely, necessitate on the sled almost a remarkable run made, considering from Stewart to Ten and we were congratulating overtake the party, notwithstanding Pete has three sled dogs.

A more perfect day had been imagined and a out even a court in were following the went over the trail they are! The hands as soon as they are the others with merry flinging bark "Master, we are readying it difficult to white holding on to sleigh. Not a whip spoken to them from urge them along, w "mish" is one entity how grateful they little rear, one steps kind word encourages hopes of making a second century of it imagine our surprise this morning to find last night, a lowering and a blizzard in the river. Nothing dawn forward, but with the lifted snow into places we web utter do what the faithful to 15 feet high, were the sides of the crag tons upon tons of sn times quite dangerous of six miles from To hours, so that you were encountered points to even look storm continued to in we have been complete. Shortly after our W. Jackson and p Skagway, and they Jackson is connected and reports things Capt. J. J. Healy is T. affairs, and that Dawson of the ear Michael.

You will, however, son's full story, on which will be a making about 20 mil We were singularly station of the Arctic exchange an old frie is a most courteous his station is well s very best. There was of, that was not do the stay of your en and pleasant. As a lord he is thoughtful nence.

By rigorous traini times to improve, got a rectangular bar nevertheless, in the of a show we're on in As undoubtedly n over the ice, they w Nugget for informat tations they can h ger always tells the Avoid the Nine-m miles above Sixty-m the river, requiring while the table is er with the charges. \$1.50 per meal, an \$1. other than above po \$2.00 and the house. The following will g dition of the trail, in in a blinding snow s From Dawson to th in 51 hours and is re Dawson to Ainsley, 2 utes; Ainsley to In hours; Indian river house and 25 minutes 12 miles in 2 hours an to Nineshille, 9 miles Stewart; 18 miles in Thistle, 20 miles in to Tulare 18 miles in Arctic Express, 6 mile

Laid Obsequies over th Parker were held on and the occasion call of sorrowing friends, services both at the Masonic ritual, and s al selections were ren