The Klondike Nugget

TELEPHONE NO. 12.
[Dawson's Pioneer Paper]
Issued Daily and Semi-Weekly.
GEORGE M. ALLEN.....Publisher

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Daily.

Yearly, in advance	$24.00
Per month, by carrier in city, in advance	$2.00
Single copies	.25

Semi-Weekly.

Yearly, in advance	$24.00
Six months	12.00
Three months	6.00
Per month, by carrier in city, in advance	2.00
Single copies	.25

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LETTERS

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KLONDIKE NUGGET.

MONDAY, MARCH 2.

PROMPT ACTION NECESSARY.

The stampede now in progress to the Tanana country contains a lesson which should not be without a wholesome effect. Many men are leaving Dawson and the surrounding mining districts who under more favorable conditions would not think of relinquishing their interests or the possibility of securing interests in this district.

It is true there are some who, having once succumbed to the stampede fever could not be turned from their purpose by any influence whatsoever, and in such cases argument or inducement is without avail. There is, however, another class of men whose departure from the territory is a distinct loss and who would not leave if they felt assured that conditions in this territory will improve as its natural resources warrant should be the case. There are claim owners in the district who cannot under prevailing conditions develop their ground profitably and, therefore, are obliged to remain inactive. There are men who want employment but who are unable to secure it simply for the reason that there is not work enough for all who apply.

The latter difficulty is a natural corallary of the former and both would be obviated if proper steps were taken. If the claim owner were able to work his ground he would be in a position to employ labor and the situation would thus be relieved from both standpoints.

The whole question hinges upon the possibility of inducing the federal government to take practical measures in aid of the owners of low grade ground.

By common consent of all who are informed upon existing conditions, it is essential that the mining districts be supplied with a cheap and abundant supply of water. It is also agreed that such an undertaking is too important to entrust to private enterprise. It is altogether undesirable that any company of individuals or any corporate institution should be given a hold upon the mining industry such as would be involved by a water monopoly.

With a government system established such as from time to time has been outlined in the columns of this paper there would be made room for twice the number of people now in the territory and the development of its resources would progress upon a marvelously increased scale.

The point should be brought home to the government at this time that delay in the foregoing and kindred matters will necessarily cause a loss of population which the territory can ill afford, and which, in the event that new strikes are made in Alaskan territory, will ultimately prove disastrous.

Prompt steps should be taken to provide against such a contingency and circumstances are favorable to securing the desired action.

All the facts bearing upon the Tanana stampede should be laid before the government without delay and the necessity made plain for such remedial legislation as will prevent any serious loss of Yukon's present population.

THE ONLY FEASIBLE ROUTE.

The tide of travel now rushing from various coast points in the direction of Tanana can be and should be brought in the direction of Dawson. There is no other point within 2,000 miles of the new diggings where supplies can be obtained and none can be landed at Fairbanks by the St. Michael route earlier than July 15. Until that date therefore the business of supplying the Tanana should remain in the hands of local merchants.

There is no need of explaining the facts to people in this district, but it is important that all points bearing upon the situation should be given widespread circulation in the cities on the coast. There is certain to be a flood of travel from those points and with full knowledge of the facts in their possession most of the stampeders would come this way.

If they go by Valdez, they are bound to meet hardship and probable disappointment. By coming in this direction they will be enabled to reach their destination without serious difficulty and at a minimum of expense.

A little judicious effort at this time could be made to return many fold.

The month of March is invariably accompanied by a revival of business. There is already noticeable in commercial circles an easier feeling which will become more apparent with the lapse of a few weeks.

Tanana is all right—perhaps. The mining districts in the neighborhood of Dawson are all right beyond question. That is the difference.

The debut of March has been decidedly lamb-like, which fact we are disposed to regard as a most suspicious circumstance.

Dawson has been moralized into a somewhat demoralized condition.

A Challenge.

Dwason, Y. T., March 2, 1903.

To the Merchants of Dawson —

The surveyors and civil engineers of Dawson, having had the inestimable privilege of witnessing the late hockey match between the lawyers and doctors, and their ambition having been fired to emulate the athletic triumphs of their brother professionals, hereby challenge you to play a game of hockey on the D. A. A. rink at some future date, the losing team to supply $20.00 worth of provisions to any of the city hospitals that may be selected.

The said surveyors and civil engineers wish it to be distinctly understood that they have but a vague idea of the game of hockey themselves, and that all hockey players are barred, with the sole exceptions of R. P. McLennan and Rod. Chisholm.

On behalf of the surveyors and civil engineers.

C. S. W. BARWELL.

WEATHER REPORT

Warm Spell Prevails Along the River.

The prevailing warm weather is not confined by any means to Dawson, but extends up and down the river as far as there is telegraphic communication. This condition according to some authorities augurs well for a continuation of present conditions.

The following report was received at noon today:

Atlin, clear calm—4 above.
Tagish, clean, calm—10 below.
Lebarge, clear, northwest wind, 4 above.
Hootalinqua, clear, calm—zero.
Big Salmon, clear, calm—5 above.
Yukon Crossing, clear, calm—zero.
Selkirk, clear, calm—2 below.
Selwyn, clear, calm—zero.
Stewart, part cloudy, calm — 6 above.
Ogilvie, clear, calm—2 below.
Dawson, cloudy, calm—1 below.
Fortymile, clear, calm—10 above.

"What on earth has happened to you?" asked the safety match. "You look as if you didn't have a spark of life left in you."

"I haven't," replied what was left of the parlor match. "Last night I got mixed up in a saloon scrape. Somebody struck me and that made me hot. I lost my head and flared up and—well, after that it was the same old story."

The Nugget's stock of job printing materials is the best that ever came to Dawson.

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Agent for Standard Patterns.

SANDY CROSSING OF THE DELAWARE

By LOUISE R. RHODES

The program of songs and essays prepared for Washington's birthday failed to interest the pupils of the Weston school as the new teacher had hoped it would. A spirit of restlessness possessed the older boys. It was not until Sandy Adams described the crossing of the Delaware that the school settled down to real attention. Sandy was a boy of many enthusiasms. His description was full of vivid details and so completely was he carried away by his own eloquence that he shivered and groaned as if actually sharing the discomforts of the soldiers.

The teacher concluded the exercises abruptly in order that nothing might mar the effect of Sandy's masterpiece. But she was mistaken if she thought Sandy's essay would remain long in the minds of the children, for something quite as startling as the surprise of the Hessians had occurred in their own village the night before and was still the topic uppermost in the minds of the children as well as of the older people.

Some one had stolen forty head of cattle from Simon Douglass' farm on the edge of the village and although all the men in the neighborhood had turned out in searching parties, no trace of the missing animals had been found.

As soon as the pupils of the village school were released they joined the groups of excited farmers scattered about the street discussing the robbery. But the farmers, instead of discussing the probable identity of the thieves, were busy with speculations as to the road over which the cattle had been driven. The boys soon tired of their elders' wise remarks and drifted into groups of their own.

One little party of friends drifted to the ferry landing to discuss the momentous question in greater privacy. Weston lay in a valley of the Missouri at a point where the river was swift and deep. A ferry was run in summer and in winter the ice served as a natural bridge. But at this time of the year the river was impassable because of floating ice. Old John Morris was a cautious ferryman and utterly refused to risk his boat on the river when the ice was going out.

While the other boys sat about the ferry landing, Sandy Adams, not yet wholly recovered from the effect of his essay, wandered about by himself mentally comparing the rude, fretful, shifting Missouri before him to the peaceful Delaware which he had never seen. All at once his attention was arrested by indistinct hoof marks in the sand of the river bank.

"Hi, Larry," he called excitedly to the largest boy in the group, "come a-running!"

Larry sauntered indifferently toward Sandy, but his indifference vanished as Sandy pointed to the hoof marks.

"Come on, fellows," he called, and the rest of the group speedily joined him.

The boys listened eagerly when Sandy proposed that they cross the river and hunt for traces of the thieves.

"Old John would never run the ferry with the ice going out like this," said Fred.

"Of course not," agreed Lee. "So it is no use."

"We could take the row boats and dodge the ice cakes as Washington did on the Delaware," urged Sandy. "I'll pole ice on the front end."

The others agreed and the boat put off. Sandy was quick to see the big blocks of ice that must be avoided and equally quick to pole off the smaller cakes, so the passage was soon accomplished.

There was a small grove of poplars a quarter of a mile from their landing place and the boys silently made their way toward it. Sandy walked with elaborate caution and pictured a score of drunken Hessians in camp within the grove. As they drew near the wood, hoof marks were plainly visible and the boys unconsciously slackened their pace.

"There's a camper's shack in there somewhere," whispered Lee. The older boys cut stout saplings for their weapons and Sandy staggered under a club nearly his own height.

"What if they carry guns?" whispered Larry.

"Shut up," said Fred. "It's a long chance they are not here now, but we want to see if there's any likelihood of getting back the cattle."

Circling the shack as carefully as possible the boys drew near it from the rear and peered through the cracks, which were plentiful enough in the rude log walls.

After a hasty survey they drew off as cautiously as they had approached. Two men lay asleep in the hut. The cattle were herded in a bunch in the grove.

"We'll have to hurry to cross the river before dark," said Larry. "I hate to leave those fellows and the cattle, but they can't get far before we get some one after them."

"We can make it hard for the men to get out of the shack," said Lee. "I'll slip a sapling through the door latch and make a bar of it."

Swiftly and silently he accomplished his purpose and the boys re-embarked. It was not until they were safe on the other side of the river that they dared wonder aloud how the thieves got the cattle across the river.

They were not alone in their wonder, for the men wondered too, when they heard the story. However, they all hastened to the ferry and with many protests that the boys must be lunatics and that the joke would cost him his boat, if not his life, old John got his ferry under way.

The hut was found as the boys had left it and the men within proved to be in a drunken slumber. They were secured and the mystery of the abduction of the cattle was easily explained. One of the men was old John's nephew who had often helped his uncle run the ferry until the old man had refused him the privilege on account of his intemperate habits.

Three times old John ran the ferry that night to return the rescued cattle, praying at every turn of the windlass that he and his boat might be spared to make good the wrong done by his dissolute nephew.

Little Sandy was the hero of the town for discovering the fate of the cattle, and he felt almost as proud as if he had really and truly caught a lot of Hessians.

MOTHERS MAY BE A HINDRANCE

By ELLA WHEELER WILCOX

Mr. Edmond Russell, just from a tour in the Orient, spoke with considerable admiration of the women of India. That our idea of the lives of these women is in a large degree erroneous I have no doubt. The high caste Hindoos entertain great respect for their women. Mothers are revered especially. Mr. Russell thought Americans might take lessons from the East Indians in filial respect. A man of sixty in India, he said, would obey his mother of eighty.

Perhaps this explains why there has been so little progress in matters of hygiene and science in India, and why that notably intellectual nation suffers from famine and pestilence periodically with no seeming effort at prevention or cure.

I have respect and reverence for the spirituality and the morality of the educated classes in India. The greatest mind and soul it was ever my privilege to come in contact with dwelt in the body of an East Indian. I have met others who radiated goodness and power and unselfishness to a remarkable degree.

But India certainly needs American methods and inventions to drive out famine and pestilence.

If there were less abject reverence for ancestors and greater interest in scientific discovery it would be better for all these Oriental countries.

The man (or woman) who thinks it wrong to improve upon his mother's ideas or habits is not liable to be of much benefit to unborn generations. If no man has ever gone contrary to his mother's ideas of what was best and right the world would still be peopled with primitive races.

If every American had minded his mother in his creed and its interpretation we would still be burning witches and branding brows with the scarlet letter.

It is all very well to mind one's own mother when she is wise and just, but the mere fact of her motherhood does not insure all the intellectual or moral qualities in America or in India.

There is a curious problem which presents itself to one's mind when studying the attitude of the Oriental man toward woman. Why is all his reverence bestowed upon his mother and none upon the mother of his children? It is useless to deny the fact that he rarely considers his wife in a much higher light than a favorite servant. He gives her no such reverence as he does his mother. This is almost universally the case.

It is a good thing that America and India are becoming acquainted. Each country can aid the other. I do not think India needs our religion but it does need our knowledge of hygiene and its women need a little of our freedom and independence. However charming their lives may seem to the romantic minded tourist with a love for the picturesque, no race of people can develop unless woman walks side by side with man, his mate and companion in all things.

Turkey's Denial.

Paris, Feb. 16.—Officials here are not disposed to accept the Porte's assurances that Turkey has no intention of mobilizing a large number of troops. When Turkey's denial was brought to the attention of the officials here who have access to the government source of information, the following reply was made:

"We have received similar pacific assurances from Turkish sources, but our own information is positive and specific that orders for the mobilization have been actually issued. This was three days ago, and we are unable to say whether the execution of the order is withheld in view of the effect they have produced among the powers, who are seeking to reinforce the Balkans. Our advices further show that the mobilization would affect 240,000 troops."

The French government's policy appears to be shaping on its advices, without reference to the quieting Turkish assurances.

Will Not Open.

Everett, Wash., Feb. 14. — The expected opening of the Chuckanut cut-off tomorrow between Fairhaven and Bellville will not occur, as the Great Northern has found it impossible to complete the line by that time. March 1 is the date now set for the opening of the cut-off.

No Change Here

King Edward's first levee is described by those attending it as large, brilliant and stately. The king was more formal than was his custom when Prince of Wales. But notwithstanding the immense trade Dunham is having, he greets his customers with the same hearty welcome as he always has, and in the future as in the past they are sure of getting the verybest quality of groceries in the Dawson market at the Family Grocery, corner Second avenue and Albert street. All eggs candled before delivered to customers.

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