

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 1900.

DELAY UNNECESSARY.

It is quite apparent that the majority in the Yukon Council is determined that no election for representatives on the Council shall occur until after the general elections, which are due to take place some time during the approaching summer. Apparently, the source from which the Council derives its inspiration looks with something like askance at the probable result of an election in this territory. The knowledge that the government had met defeat in Dawson, while it probably would not be very much of a surprise on the outside, would still be used as campaign material by the opposition with some effect. This contingency the Council appears determined to prevent.

We do not believe that the people at large desire to see an election held here upon party lines. The issues which divide the great political organizations on the outside do not concern us in Dawson. We do not want men placed on the Yukon Council for political reasons. When we are represented on the Council, we want to see men there whose devotion to the advancement and progress of this territory will be paramount to their allegiance to any political party.

But questions of policy, or questions of candidates, or questions of possible results, should not affect in any respect the time for holding the election.

The people have spoken their minds upon the matter of representation, and the census has proven their undoubted right thereto. The Council has little to gain by postponement, and the territory has much to lose. Unnecessary delays will not deceive anyone. The motive therefore is plain. On the other hand, prompt compliance on the part of the Council with the expressed wishes of the people would materially raise that body in the public estimation. Their action in this matter will serve to determine to what extent the Council is disposed to regard an almost unanimous expression of public opinion.

FOR AN ASSAY OFFICE.

Theoretically, a man found with gold dust about his person is guilty of a misdemeanor. The only thing that saves us all—that is, those of us who are fortunate enough to have a poke with anything in it—from being treated to a season of retirement at the barracks, is the fact that the law is not enforced.

This law was passed in Canada years ago, for the reason that experience had proven that the use of gold dust as a medium of exchange was productive of all sorts of evils. What has been proven true in the older provinces, is no less a fact in the Yukon Territory.

Three years of business on a gold dust basis has served only to indicate the necessity of some

action being taken whereby currency can be brought into general circulation and gold dust entirely eliminated as a consideration in the transaction of business. The present system has few, if any, satisfactory features. It results in placing a standard medium of exchange in competition with one of varying value, which means, according to all economic law and according to actual experience in Dawson, that the standard medium is constantly being forced out of circulation.

Much of the gold dust which is in common use has been subjected to a sifting process, or carries with it such a proportion of black sand that its actual value is considerably below the value at which it is taken. Naturally, therefore, anyone having the option of paying an obligation in gold dust or in currency prefers to pay out the former and bank the latter.

We do not believe that the situation would be rendered any more satisfactory by the enforcement of the law alluded to at the beginning of this article. Such action would simply serve to complicate matters, and additional hardships upon the miners would result.

The only logical solution to the difficulty is some provision on the part of the government whereby a miner can exchange his gold dust for currency in Dawson, getting the full value thereof, less the usual government fee for assay expenses, which is always merely nominal.

Some such provision as this would immediately and naturally take gold dust entirely out of circulation and replace it with standard currency, the value of which never fluctuates. The miner from the creek would get the full value for the product of his claim, and the merchant in Dawson would get the full value for his wares. Any other solution of the problem must of necessity be more or less in the nature of a makeshift.

Frequent complaints are heard of rough treatment of horses at the hands of packers and freighters. Several examples have been made in the courts of men found abusing dumb animals, and others so inclined should take warning. The work to which a horse is subjected in this country entails sufficient wear and tear without the addition of abuse from its driver. Men cruel and inhuman enough to so treat a dumb animal are entitled to no sympathy when they are occasionally called to account.

The example made in the police court this morning of a man who supports himself upon the earnings of fallen women will be commended most heartily by the community. Men of this calibre are a sore spot on the face of civilization. They are too low, in fact, to be classed as men. We are glad to note that they can be reached by the law, and that the punishment meted out is commensurate with the offense.

Had it not been for Mr. Joseph Clarke and the citizens' committee, our contemporary, the "organ," would have been in a bad way for material with which to fill its last issue.

Grand Forks Baby.

On last Saturday Mrs. Garvey, wife of the proprietor of the Garvey hotel at Grand Forks, gave birth to a baby girl. The mother and little daughter are both doing exceedingly well. Garvey is receiving the congratulations of his many friends and acquaintances.

The liquors are the best to be had, at the Regina.
Two bits for joy at Rochester Bar.

THE LAND LAWS OF ALASKA.

Matters of Importance to Prospective Settlers.

Under What Conditions Homesteads Can Be Acquired and Townsites Laid Out.

Many inquiries having been made by prospective argonauts bound for Nome and other fields in Alaskan territory, with reference to the laws governing the acquisition of non-mineral lands, such as homesteads, town sites, and trading posts, at the request of the Nugget, Norton D. Walling, of Grand Forks, has submitted the following:

The homestead land laws of the United States were extended to Alaska territory by act of congress approved May 14th, 1898, and the statute governing such entries is as follows:

"An act extending the homestead laws and providing for right-of-way for railroads in the district of Alaska and for other purposes.

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that the homestead land laws of the United States and the rights incident thereto, including the right to enter surveyed or unsurveyed lands under provisions of law relating to the acquisition of title through soldiers' additional homestead rights, are hereby extended to the district of Alaska, subject to such regulations as may be made by the secretary of the interior; and no indemnity, deficiency, or lieu lands pertaining to any land grant whatsoever originating outside of said district of Alaska shall be located within or taken from lands in said district: Provided, that no entry shall be allowed extending more than 80 rods along the shore of any navigable water, and along such shore a space of at least 80 rods shall be reserved from entry between all such claims, and that nothing herein contained shall be so construed as to authorize entries to be made, or title to be acquired, to the shore of any navigable waters within said district: And it is further provided that no homestead shall exceed 80 acres in extent."

A person to be qualified to enter land under this act, must show that he is a citizen of the United States or has declared his intentions to become such, that he is 21 years of age and has never had the benefit of the homestead law; that the land is entered for his own use and benefit, and not directly or indirectly for the use or benefit of any other person.

It must also be shown that the land is agricultural and not mineral in character, and that it contains no valuable deposits of coal or any of the precious metals.

An act making provisions for the disposal of public lands in the territory of Alaska for townsite purposes passed congress and became a law on March 3d, 1891. Section 11 of said act is as follows:

"That until otherwise ordered by congress, lands in Alaska may be entered for townsite purposes, for the several use and benefit of the occupants of such townsite by such trustee or trustees, as may be named by the secretary of the interior for that purpose, such entries to be made under the provisions of section 2387 of the revised statutes, as near as may be, and when such entries shall have been made the secretary of the interior shall provide by regulation for the proper execution of the trust in favor of the inhabitants of the townsite, including the survey of the land into lots, according to the spirit and intent of said section 2387 of the revised statutes, whereby the same result would be reached as though the entry had been made by a county judge and the disposal of the lots in such townsite and the proceeds of the sale thereof had been prescribed by the legislative authority of a state or territory; provided, that no more than 640 acres shall be embraced in one townsite entry."

Townsite entries under the general law in organized districts are made by the judge having jurisdiction in the county wherein the land is situated, but Alaska having no regular territorial form of government trustees are selected by the secretary of the interior to perform that function. The section of the statutes above referred to—2387—prescribes that the entries of land for such purposes shall be made in trust for the benefit of the occupants thereof according to their respective interest and at the minimum price—\$1.25 per acre. The amount of land to be taken will be governed by the number of inhabitants. A mere trading post containing

a population of less than 100 is restricted to 160 acres; if the population exceeds 100 and less than 200, 320 acres, and in cases where the population number more than 200, 640 acres may be embraced in the townsite, which is the maximum amount allowed by law in any case.

Land occupied by what is commonly called a trading post can be acquired by any citizen of the United States 21 years of age, or any association of such citizens, or any corporation incorporated under the laws of the United States or of any state or territory authorized by law to hold lands in the territories providing such land is being occupied in good faith for the purpose of trade, manufacture, or productive industry. Not more than 80 acres can be entered by any one person, association, or corporation for which the government charges \$2.50 per acre.

The applicant must submit proof that said area embraces improvements owned by himself, and is needed in the prosecution of such trade, manufacture, or other productive industry; and furthermore, that such tract does not include mineral or coal lands. The same restriction applies in entries of this character as in homesteads, with regard to the reservation of each alternative 80 rods of land abutting on navigable water.

Title to land can also be acquired through what is known as soldiers' additional homestead scrip, which one year ago could be purchased in 40 and 80-acre pieces, at from \$12 to \$20 per acre, though the price varies according to current demand. This scrip can be located upon any unoccupied, unappropriated public land, non-mineral in character, and requires no residence or improvements of any kind whatsoever. A survey of the ground must first be made by a United States surveyor and a plat of the same filed in the United States land office of that district, when the scrip will be received and certificate issued. This is by far the quickest means to acquire title when all the conditions are favorable, but where any doubt exists as to the character of the land, whether mineral or non-mineral, it is unsafe, and its use invariably results in a protracted and expensive law suit.

S. Y. T. Co. Nome

S. Y. T. Co's River Steamers
Seattle No. 3 and Rock Island
Will leave Dawson at the opening of navigation, with Passengers and Freight for St. Michael, connecting with the first class ocean steamers "Santa Ana" and "Lakme" for Nome
S. Y. T. Co. Second Ave.

A "KNOCKER"

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..HAMMERS..
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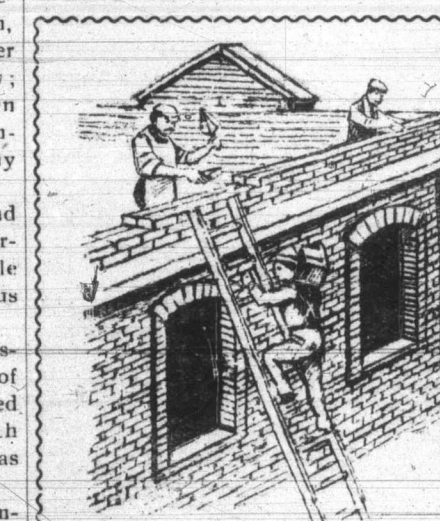
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Speed, Safety, Comfort. For reservation of staterooms and tickets or for any further information apply to company's office
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Just Arrived from Seattle
Brass Oil Cups, Gauge Glasses
Stillson Wrenches, Twist Drills
Brass Faucets, Pipe Stock and
Dies, Yale Drawer Locks, Oilers
ALL SIZES ..A. E. Co.

NOTICE CHANGE IN CHARGES.

DR. BOURKE'S HOSPITAL.
3rd AVENUE. BEST IN DAWSON.
Separate Rooms for Patients. Hot and Cold Water Baths Each Floor.
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ADVISE AT HOSPITAL, \$5.00

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