

The Klondike Nugget

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SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1900.

FAWCETT'S MANTLE.

The mantle of the late lamented and unhappily distinguished Thomas Fawcett has fallen, apparently, upon the shoulders of the new assistant gold commissioner, and fits as though made to order.

Mr. Bell's opinions as to the methods which should govern a public official in the performance of his duties are outlined in his statement to a representative of this paper, viz: "I am going to run my office for the benefit of the public, and against the newspapers. Business transacted here is private business, and will not be disclosed except by written order of the parties concerned."

Anyone, to read the above, might well imagine that Mr. Bell had drawn the inspiration for his policy by sitting at the feet and drinking in wisdom from the lips of the immortal Fawcett.

The Nugget submits to the very public which Mr. Bell avers he is so anxious to protect that his course is diametrically opposed to the general interests, and in direct conflict with the accepted usages which prevail the world over in offices similar to the one over which he presides.

Mr. Bell states that the business of the gold commissioner's office, such as the daily record of transfers, is private and that the public is not entitled to such information.

We deny it.

To whose interest is it that the records should be kept secret? Who will profit by shutting the public out from all knowledge of business transacted in the gold commissioner's office?

If anyone profits, it will be the man who has gotten hold of property through questionable means, or whose motive in concealing the transfer of his property is a discreditable one.

A case in point: John Doe owes Richard Roe \$5,000. He has secured this accommodation, as well as credit with various business houses, by reason of the fact that he is the owner of a valuable claim.

His creditors do not worry as long as they know him to be the owner of the claim. Mr. Doe, however, suddenly finds that he needs money, and executes a bill of sale of his property to a third party as security for an advance of \$10,000. Mr. Bell has decreed that the record of the transaction shall be kept inviolate in the musty tomes of the gold commissioner's office. Time goes on. Mr. Doe is unable to redeem his claim, and it passes into the hands of the third party, and the other creditors get nothing.

The question arises in such an instance, has Mr. Bell been running his office in the interests of the public or has he been running it in the interests of Mr. Doe?

Again, it is a well known fact that scores of claims have been secured by parties who gave up quarter and half interests for the privilege of securing a record of their ground. Naturally, these parties have no particular desire

to see their names in print when they complete their deal, and, consequently, Mr. Bell will have their approval in placing a padlock upon the various sources of information in the gold commissioner's office. This is what the assistant commissioner calls "running his office for the benefit of the public, and against the newspapers."

With a single sweeping order, Mr. Bell has placed the gold commissioner's office in the same position before the public that it held eighteen months ago. Secrecy begets suspicion as nothing else can or does. Mr. Bell has said that the public shall not know what the public records contain, and the public immediately and logically concludes that Mr. Bell's motive in taking this action is an ulterior one.

Wittingly or unwittingly, the new assistant gold commissioner has placed a stigma upon his office which will not be erased so long as this latest ruling remains in effect.

Attention has been called in these columns to the necessity of enclosing the houses of ill fame on Fourth avenue. The occupants of these dens should be compelled to keep themselves hidden from the view of passers-by on adjoining streets, and this can only be done by corralling them with a high board fence. Ladies and children are constantly passing to and fro on Third street, and they should be protected from the necessity of looking upon these creatures. Vice of this kind is bad enough under any circumstances, but when it brazenly flaunts itself before the public gaze it should be promptly suppressed.

The Koyukuk country is again coming forward with a bid for stampeders. From all indications, something has been found around the headwaters of that stream, although no information is at hand which will justify anything in the nature of a rush. In summer time boats can run up the river to within a short distance of the reputed location of the new diggings. A prospecting trip then will be a comparatively easy matter. At the present time any attempt to reach the scene of the reported strike would be nothing more nor less than foolhardy.

The steam thawer as a means of placing ice clogged sewers in working order has proven eminently successful. The work has been conducted by the authorities most expeditiously and with very satisfactory results. In a short time the town will be pretty well drained of stagnant water, and the wind and sun combined will quickly dry the streets. With rigid care exercised in the use of water, there should be no fear of a typhoid or other similar epidemic this spring.

The fact that the government will soon begin actual construction work on the new postoffice building is welcome news. It has required considerably over twelve months to bring about this very desirable action, but it is better that it should come late than never at all.

A. B.'s Last Night.

A good meeting of the Arctic Brotherhood was held last night, there being a fairly good attendance. The regular routine of business was somewhat hastily gone over, after which the camp went into social session for an hour or more and a pleasant time was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Same old price, 25 cents, for drinks at the Regina.

STROLLER'S COLUMN

"This ruling of the assistant gold commissioner to not let the papers get a chance to publish the public records regarding mines suits me to a 'T,'" said a well-known mining broker in the hearing of the Stroller last night.

"Let me tell you," continued the broker, "the newspapers, by publishing the records of transfers has knocked me out of many a good sale, and a correspondingly good commission for the reason that the owner sees by the newspapers that claims are selling in his locality and he immediately sticks the price up."

"Now, what business has a claim owner to know anything about what is going on in his locality? If it had not been for the meddling papers printing the records and business of the gold commissioner's office during the past winter I could have been worth several thousand dollars more today than I am."

"Only a few days ago I walked to the Forks for the purpose of getting an option on a claim. I knew just where I could sell it; in fact, had the sale all fixed, and would have made several hundred for myself. Well, the Nugget beat me to the Forks and in it was published the mining transfers for three or four days previous. The owner of the claim was reading the very article when I found him, and by it he saw that other claims in the near vicinity of his were changing hands. He declined to deal with me until he looked into the matter. The result of his looking into the matter is that today he knows the value of his claim, which is really several times more than I could have bought it for had he not learned to read when a boy."

"Investigate for yourself; visit every mining broker in town and they will tell you the same as I do, that the papers, by enlightening the people regarding their own property has knocked the brokers out of thousands of dollars which the mine owners have pocketed themselves. You will also find, if you go around among the brokers that they are all with me in exclaiming: 'All honor and all hail to the assistant gold commissioner for his very great consideration of our business and our interests.'"

The Yukon council is on the right tack regarding the sidewalk proposition, as there is nothing that adds more to the respectability and general attractiveness of a town than nice, wide, evenly laid sidewalks. The replacing of the present narrow gang-planks with modern walks will give to Dawson a metropolitan air that she never before assumed.

The report that the Hogans will hereafter meet under the Aurora warehouse is denied by the pillars of the order. The objection interposed to meeting under the warehouse is that the ground is too sidling to permit of setting beer glasses on without upsetting. Owing to the fact that beer has advanced to \$115 per barrel, a memorial will be introduced at the meeting tomorrow which will denounce the dealers in no uncertain terms. Then a resolution will be introduced binding every member to boycott beer and drink of red hooch until the dealers are brought to time.

Furs Advance.

The Hudson's Bay fur sales, held a few days ago in London, Eng., show a great advance in the price obtained for furs. Whether it is that the old trapper and courier des Bois is passing, that the Indian is becoming lazy, and not bringing in as many skins to the far removed stores, or that furs are decreed by dame fashion to be worn, or what ever reason, the fact remains that the market shows a decided increase.

In comparison with the sale of last March the following advances are shown. Land otter advanced 20 per cent, fisher declined 5 per cent, silver fox advanced 120 per cent, cross fox advanced 50 per cent, blue fox declined 20 per cent, marten advanced 20 per cent, red fox advanced 90 per cent, white fox advanced 55 per cent, black bear no change, brown bear advanced 25 per cent, gray bear declined 20 per cent, hair seal advanced 50 per cent, badger advanced 150 per cent, ermine advanced 50 per cent, mink declined 17½ per cent, lynx advanced 160 per cent, wolf advanced 150 per cent, wolverine no change, skunk declined 30 per cent, raccoon declined 50 per cent. Compared with January last: Beaver no change, musquash no change.

Chewing tobacco \$1 per pound. Royal Grocery, Second ave.

For Sale.

Steam launch, with boiler and engine complete. Apply Nugget office at 4 p. m. "Mainland" and "British Lion" cigars 25 cents. Rochester Bar, cor. Second ave. and Third-sts.

Two bits for joy at Rochester Bar.

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 "Sant Ana" and "Lakme" for Nome
S.-Y. T. Co. Second Ave.

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"The Corner Store"
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Speed, Safety, Comfort. For reservation of staterooms and tickets or for any further information apply to company's office
T. M. DANIELS, AGT., AURORA DOCK NELS PETERSON, Owner

For Easter Sunday
ARRIVED TODAY OVER THE ICE, NOT FROZEN
Eggs Apples
Lemons Oranges
ARCHIBALD
SECOND AVENUE

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O. W. HOBBS, PROP.
Contractors & Builders
Manufacturers of
BRICKS, LIME & LUMBER
Dealers in Builders' Supplies
Housefitters and Undertakers

..FITTINGS.. Just Arrived from Seattle
...AND...
BRASS GOODS Brass Oil Cups, Gauge Glasses, Stillson Wrenches, Twist Drills, Brass Faucets, Pipe Stock, Dies, Yale Drawer Locks, Oil
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.
Charges Five Dollars a Day, Medical Attendance Extra.
ADVICE AT HOSPITAL, \$5.00

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