The Klondike Nugget

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LETTERS

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KLONDIKE NUGGET.

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1903.

THE OBVIOUS COURSE.

The really sincere and earnest advocates of labor may well deplore the manifest errors that have been committed in framing the proposed lien law. That document as it stands at the present time could not better serve the purposes of the interests naturally antagonistic to the working men of the community if it had been prepared under their immediate direction.

In demanding more than they can possibly hope to secure the advocates of the lien law have placed the whole matter in jeopardy. They cannot and do not expect to see the ordinance as prepared by them become a law. Such a measure in practical working form would simply bring about commercial and industrial paralysis.

There could no longer be such a thing as working a claim on the credit system as every financial and business house in Dawson would be compelled as a matter of selfprotection to withdraw all accommodations and no further extensions would be granted.

A local paper very recently worked itself into a veritable spasm over the limitations of credit inaugurated by the banks during the past two years, but that same paper in advocating the existing draft of the lien law is doing its best to force an absolute shut down of all classes of accommodations.

The working men of this territory are an intelligent body, capable of judging of men and measures and it is for them to determine the motives which have led to the advocacy of a law which is predestined to defeat—if not in the council, then before the courts.

The men who are urging the adoption of the proposed measure may be sincere in their intentions. If so, more is the pity, for they are rushing into grievous folly which will re-act upon the very class of men whom they so loudly claim it to be their desire and intention to protect. It is the easiest matter in the world to fan passion and prejudices into a flame, and popularity and notoriety often follow such a course. But in the long run nothing is gained and a great deal is frequently lost.

The proposed lien law would do incalculable injury to the district and none should know this better than the men who have been instrumental in its preparation. The obvious course before them is to reconstruct the measure within reasonable limits otherwise they can only anticipate disappointment.

IN HARMONY WITH ITS RECORD

A series of communications over the signature "Well Wisher" now in course of publication in the Nugget brought forth a fierce attack from the News yesterday, on account of the fact that the author's name has not been published.

It is a time honored custom with every legitimate newspaper to respect the confidence of correspondents who prefer not to sign their names. The gentleman who wrote the articles in question is quite capable of holding his own with the News or any other critic and if occasion demands will no doubt authorize the Nugget to reveal his identity.

A close perusal of the editorials of the News for a month would not reveal the amount of real sense and logic contained in a single paragraph of the letters in question. The entire stock in trade of the News has dwindled to rant and abuse which nowhere will pass for argument. The force of our correspondent's observations—while not entirely in harmony with the views of this paper—are manifest, and more so from the fact that they have brought forth a torrent of abuse from a newspaper which has degenerated into a plaything of a handful of politicians.

The absurdity of the attack from the News becomes more apparent when viewed in connection with anonymous communications constantly appearing in that paper, many of them containing the most scurrilous kind of personal abuse imaginable, as witness the letter signed "Anti-Schemer" published some days ago.

The observations of the News in connection with the communications in question were unintelligent and illogical, but were in perfect harmony with the "policy" pursued by that paper during the past six months.

WILL BE JUSTIFIED.

There is excellent ground for belief that something will be doing in the not distant future in connection with concessions. There are several of the most important concessions in the district the owners of which have made absolutely no substantial pretense of complying with the terms of their grants. They have allowed matters to drift, trusting to chance to make a favorable disposition of their properties and violating in every essential particular the terms under which their grants were secured.

Obviously this condition of affairs will not be permitted to continue indefinitely and there are at this present writing two concessions whose lives are hanging by a very slender thread. Yukon's representative at Ottawa has not been engaged in making grand stand exhibitions neither has he been exploding any large amount of fireworks. But he has been steadily grinding away in the interests of his constituents and bids fair to furnish effectual evidence not only of his good intentions but of his capacity to accomplish results.

Enough has already been done to prove most satisfactorily that the people made no mistake in choosing Mr. Ross as their representative. Time will bring an abundance of other facts to add to those already in the possession of the public, which will amply justify the faith and confidence reposed in Mr. Ross.

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Communications for publication in this column are invited upon all questions of public interest. Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible and to sign their names, which will be withheld if desired.

Editor Nugget:

Dear Sir,—The constitutional limitations to the powers of the Yukon council to pass a placer miners' lien law are found chiefly in the Yukon territory acts and the placer regulations. Practically we need consider only section 8 of the act and section 38 of the regulations.

Section 38 provides that free miners may sell, mortgage, or dispose of their claims providing the instrument showing such disposal is registered in the mining recorder's office. Are the placer regulations in this respect a complete registration act? If so property in placer claims can only pass by registered instrument. Then instruments registered in accordance with and under this section would have priority over liens registered against the claim under the lien ordinance. That is the miner's lien for his wages from November to May might be registered on May 1st and be wholly defeated by a transfer or mortgage registered on April 30th. Such an argument casts no duty upon a purchaser other than to examine registered title. This is not law. He would be forced to recognize the rights of a lessee in possession even though the lease was unregistered. Surely he must in similar manner take notice of the right of lien of the wage earner on the ground. Yes, further, it would not be unreasonable that he should be bound to take notice of the unregistered claims of any wage earners who had worked on the ground for 30 or 60 days previous. Claimants prior to 30 or 60 days should be barred for the miner should be compelled to register his lien within 60 days, we believe within 30 days. This phase presents no more difficulty than mechanics' liens.

But it may be argued that the instrument for which section 38 provides registration is one executed by the owner. If so then the present practice of registering caveats, lis pendens, and executions is wholly wrong. Further, sheriff's sales of placer claims are invalid and orders of court vesting parts of claims in excluded partners are wholly ultra vires. In fact under this contention a placer grant would be a license personal to the holder which he may indeed dispose of but which no one can take from him. This theory is untenable.

In fact section 38 presents no real difficulty. The land Ollies act stands for more in the way of mechanics' liens than do the placer regulations in the way of a placer lien. The Yukon council has abundant power to deal with the property and civil rights of an individual by legislation as well in a mining claim as in a saw mill or a load of lumber. If the lumber was regularly acquired from the Dominion government their claims are satisfied.

The dump, however, stands on a different footing. According to the ruling of Mr. Justice Craig this is a chattel, the bill of sale or mortgage of which must be registered under the local bills of sale ordinance. It therefore is completely within the legislative power of the Yukon council for the purposes of lien or otherwise.

The Yukon territory act presents no very great difficulty. The council is given power to make laws regarding property and civil rights and for the peace, order and good government of the territory. They of course cannot legislate so as to repeal certain Dominion statutes and should not legislate so as to force the federal authorities to veto the ordinance passed.

WELL WISHER.

Expected to Open Soon

Seattle, April 2.—Telegraphic communication between this city and Nome, on Behring sea, is expected soon to be opened. Several messages have already been received for transmission. The first came from Chicago and is addressed to the superintendent of a gold mine about eight miles from Nome and within half a mile of the telephone station. The line from Seattle to Vancouver is controlled by the Western Union and Postal, from Vancouver to Ashcroft by the Canadian Pacific, from Ashcroft to Eagle, via Dawson, by the Canadian government, and from Eagle to Nome by the United States government. There is at present a telegraph line between Valdes and Eagle.

The new lines run through the Tanana country, intersecting the other line. The last piece forming the connecting link is 200 miles of insulated cable laid on the ground. A letter dated Nome, January 11, was received here March 23. Notwithstanding the heavy tolls, which will probably be $5 for ten words, the saving in time will be so great that it is expected the new line will pay from the start.

Job Printing at Nugget Office.

Stroller's Column.

"Did you ever notice," said a local hardware man, "that some men transact business for themselves on broad minded business principles but when they become connected with some little public snap they effect great economy?"

The Stroller pleaded guilty to having not noticed such traits in his fellowmen when the hardware merchant continued:

"Well, I will give you an example. A certain local club had a bar in connection and as the club is composed of up-to-date gentlemen to a certain extent there were many calls on the bartender for mixed drinks. The 'barkeep' had no mixing spoon and mentioned to one of the push that such an implement was necessary in his business unless the frequenters of the club decided to drink straight goods. The club member to whom the matter had been mentioned had a special meeting of the board of managers called at which the barkeeper's requisition for a mixing spoon was presented. After more or less discussion of the matter a committee of five was appointed to see what could be done towards supplying the desired article.

"And would you believe it," continued the hardware man who thinks nothing of selling a $10,000 mining outfit, "that committee of five came into my place one afternoon and kept me busy for an hour showing them my stock of mixing spoons, the best of which was marked at seventy-five cents. Well, they hummed and hawed, held whispered consultations, looked serious, talked of the responsibility which rested upon them and finally told me that they would report at the next meeting of the board of managers which probably would decide to take one of the six-bladed jobs. They never came back and I heard afterwards that the club bartender continued to mix drinks with a splinter so long as the bar continued an adjunct of the club."

"Git abohd, big peoples,
Git abohd, little chilun,
Git abohd, everybody.
De Gospel train am come-e-e."

As I mounted the office stairs one morning at 9 o'clock Zion was grinding away at the above improvised operatic snatch" and by 11.45 he had repeated it over 95 times. I called out to him:

"I will put a notice in this evening's paper warning people to double lock their hen houses tonight, for I know by long experience that when you indulge in a campmeeting streak you usually wind up in jail and I have to comfort Lizan until you get out."

"Doan' talk ter me 'bout no jails when mah soul am rejoicin' in de Lawd as it am dis mawnin'. Ter me hit wuh gib ter hab a glimpse ob der future lan' las' night an' henceforth an' forebber I'se gwine ter lib a life dat am beyant reproach."

"I am glad you have reformed," I replied, "for in that case you will probably refrain from stealing my moonshine."

"Look heah, white man, doan' talk ter me 'bout moonshine 'less yo' want ter see me git sick right heah on de flo'. Hit mak me sick ter think ob moonshine since mah dream ob las' night. Hit wuh dis'er way. I done dream I wuh dead an' wuh bein' toted on angels' wings ter de lan' ob res'. When I reached Heatin I done tuk a look 'roun' ter see what it wuh like, an' I foun' it wuh one great big chicken roos' right squar in de middle ob a great big watermilyun patch."

That night Zion was peppered as he was getting out of Colonel Bourbon's henhouse and for the next several days he did nothing but sit around the office and pick birdshot out of his system with the tweezers.

* * *

"Here," exclaimed the excitable man as he rushed in on the Stroller the other day, "put your name on this list and become a charter member of the M.M.M.P.A."

"And what the deuce is the M.M.M.P.A.?" asked the Stroller.

"Married Men's Mutual Protective Association," replied the excitable man. "I tell you, sir, the time for action is at hand. Only a few days ago the Nugget published a long story about a woman in this town who suddenly left her husband and two weeks later married another man, and when the forsaken man recovered sufficiently to get his bearings he learned that his wife had had a divorce cached away in her dress pocket where she knew he would never find it ever since she had been on a visit to the outside two years before. I tell you, sir, that it behooves every man who preceded his wife to this country by even one year and every man whose wife has been for a visit to the outside without him accompanying her to have a search warrant issued and executed on his own home, for as things now stand any of us are liable to have a divorce sprung on us any day. Take me, for example. Ever since that piece came out in the paper I have been rolling out and lighting the kitchen fire for the first time in a married life of over twenty years, and even then I approach my home every evening in fear and trembling lest my wife has dug up a cached divorce, dismantled the house and left during my absence. The fact that Mrs. A. Rollins Crane is alleged to have taken Captain Galpin's false teeth when she left for down the river serves to shake my faith in femininity."

The Stroller signed the list partly to accommodate his caller and partly for the reason that he is in sympathy with the movement.

* * *

SPIELENDINKER'S DOGS.

Der day behind yesterday ven I go me der creek up, by Eldorado out, I put my dogs der harness on und started on der trail lickety brindle, jemanie lightnin' so fast dot it makes me dizzy to speech about him. Und ven I kum by der Billy Ogilvie bridge mine leader dog he see one odder dog team kuming closer away from us every minute, from der Bonanza creek down towards us, and he right away smell some fight in der air, und make one grand yump ten feet in der air, mit his tail stickin' right straight up und hees ears vas a picture to see.

Der leader dog vot vas running so fast closer away from us, vas up in der air about nine feet and mine dog kum down on top vit him on der bridge, mit his teeth fixed in der back of his neck like der lockjaw und he don't could let go once.

All of der odder eight dogs in both teams vent down like ninepins in a bowling alley one on top mit der odder, und got so tangled up togedder mit fighting, I don't could call der name of one of dem.

Der man vot owned der odder dog team got blue in der face hollerin' swear words by himself togedder, und I vas so pooty much mad und excited I don't could tink of sumting bad enough to swear, so I didn't say a word.

We both grabbed der hindmost legs of der foremost dogs und tried to pull dem closer apart by main strength und awkwardness. Der harder we pulled der harder deir teeth vas stuck togedder, one by der front leg, der odder in der back of his neck.

I slipped me one of mine feet und fell der snow on mit my face side down by der ground, und der odder feller slipped mit both feet up in der air, mit seven dogs on top of us, yost der same as if we bin struck mit a cyclone.

Pooty soon yet, come five or seven more dogs mitout any harness und yump into der mittle of der fight snappin' deir eyes und growling mit deir teeth, like der tuyvel. Der bridge vas blockaded, der tail of my coat vas chewed off, mine eyes und nose vas full mit snow und eycsickels, und you ought to see a snapshot of der odder feller.

Vell, we all got tangled up by ourselves togedder, so der dogs could no more fight, but howled und growled und snarled, so pooty quick kum some odder fellers mitout any dogs und cut der harness loose. We jumped on our feets, und tried to pull togedder our dogs apart, und once again dey all began to fight. Mine leader dog he got der odder by der tail und tried to swallow him by der tail first; der odder dogs vas all played out, but dose two they would fight. So ve pulled und pulled again, one by der head und der odder by hees tail. Pooty soon yet I had me an idea, so I pulled me out my knife und cut off der tail of der odder feller's dog, vell all of a sudden der dogs vent flying over der sides of der bridge, und der harness got stuck togedder in der middle of der bridge.

Der odder feller come by me mit one of hees coat sleeves gone, hees cap gone pulled to pieces laying on der bridge, der sit down part of his pantaloons vas busted into pieces, der soul of one of hees felt shoes vas chewed up into rags.

He held out hees right hand to me und say, "Shake, partner," und we shake dur hands und feet togedder, und I say to him my name is not "Shake," but it vas Carl Spielendinker, und I hope you vill excuse me for cutting off your tail of der leader dog, und he smile all over hees face und say to me while pointing at der hanging dogs, 'Hostillities are suspended," und I say to him, "Yah, mine friend, you better go to der hospital und have your suspenders mended."

He say to me again, "How did you done dat fight mitout swearin' any cuss words?" Und I say to him, "I vas so dad-blasted, gum-twisted, red-hot around my collar, I got me so rattled I could not swear a word, but let us 'go to the dogs' before they all get hung," for they vas hangin' in der air on both sides of der bridge.

We trie to pull them up togedder, but it didn't work, und so we cut der harness in der mittle und "let em flicker." 'Down fell der dogs, der whole bunch in der snow, under der bridge, yelling und howling like mad. Some vent up der Klondike river, some vent up Bonanza creek und some by Louisetown vent.

We two dilapitated fellers vat sleigh riding went, ve mushed our sleds and hit der tail towards der Dawson bent.

Aiken Acquitted

Hillsboro, April 2.—The jury in the case of the State vs James Aiken, charged with the murder of the Raleigh Chinaman, was out less than two hours last night when they returned a verdict of acquittal. Aiken was released, and Mrs. Woodard, the wife of the state's star witness, today took down the $1000 cash bail which she last fall deposited as a surety that Aiken would appear at this term of court.

Woodard is still in jail, and it is very likely that he will have to serve the 60 days' sentence imposed upon him for contempt of court. It is said that Woodard was not under the influence of liquor, but that he deliberately refused to testify against Aiken.

From the very first the attorneys for the defense have declared that they knew a conspiracy or "job" had been fixed against Aiken, as far as the Chinese identification was concerned, but not until yesterday were they able to play the winning hand. Two reliable witnesses were called and by their testimony it was proven that the Chinese, Louie Hoy, had been prompted to identify Aiken as the man who struck him with a club and to swear against him, and that the scheme was arranged at the Portland police station. Aiken also introduced testimony to prove his whereabouts on the night of the killing, claiming he was in the city of Portland. It also leaked out that the Chinese had offered a reward and this served as a motive for the attempt to lay the crime on Aiken.

The engaged girl has an idea that she has accomplished her life work.

She looks down with undisguised pity upon her heart-free friends and companions.

She begins to tell her mother how a house should be run.

And starts a collection of handkerchiefs and doylies.

Thinks all her old admirers are doing of broken hearts.

Becomes absent-minded, and leaves her left hand unglored.

Is, on the whole, the sweetest personification of egotism imaginable.

She sees something to laugh at in the feeblest jokes about old maids and their future miseries.

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Homespuns in Grey, Brown and Black (walking length) $6.00

Black Venetian Cloth, tacked and stitched $12.50

Black Broadcloth without lining $15.00

Ladies' Jackets

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