

The Klondike Nugget

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MONDAY, JULY 30, 1900

THE TIME UNFORTUNATE.

The Boxer demonstrations in China could not well have come at a more unfortunate time. Under any circumstances an outbreak such as the present movement is rapidly proving itself to be would be sufficiently serious to cause grave alarm to all the civilized powers which are concerned in the present crisis. But at this particular time there is every reason for desiring peace in the Orient and avoiding if possible anything in the nature of a general resort to arms.

The largest and most powerful army that has ever been placed under the command of any British general is now engaged in the Transvaal, and all indications point to the conclusion that the task before that army, splendidly equipped and powerful as it is, has in no respect been completed.

The Boers have exhibited wonderful recuperative powers and have been stirred to renewed and bolder efforts by reason of the trouble in China. Urged on by the belief that England must soon begin recalling troops from service in South Africa for the protection of British lives and property in China, the Boers have taken new hope, and the disaffection is again spreading through Cape Colony and other districts where the Dutch element is strong.

Gen. Botha, the new Boer commander appears to be a veritable genius for war, and his successes in the field have given him a following almost as strong as was ever enjoyed by Kruger.

It is apparent, therefore, that there can be no large withdrawals of the troops from South Africa for some time yet to come. Any movement in that direction would be accepted by the Boers as an exhibition of weakness on the part of the British government and would be the occasion of a rally to the Boer standards of many of the Transvaalers who have thus far held aloof for reasons of policy.

Almost the entire strength of the standing army of the United States is now engaged in the Philippines in addition to a considerable volunteer contingent, and the announcement has already been made by the commanding general that it will be impossible to spare any further troops beyond the few regiments that have already been ordered from the Philippines for service in China.

England and the United States are, therefore, both handicapped for the time being and though the circumstances may inconvenience them temporarily only, the problem in China grows more difficult of solution with each day's delay.

Added to the difficulties which at the outset confront two of the most important powers concerned, there is a spirit of jealousy and consequent lack of harmony among all of them which is morally certain to result in disaster.

To successfully cope with the situation in China requires the work of a strong hand with absolute authority over all forces engaged. Disputes as to the distribution of the spoil before the game is brought down will bring about difficulties which, from present indications, will cost many lives and an untold amount of treasure.

Ultimately an alliance of American and British forces will probably be formed. The trend of events has long been in this direction, the only require-

ment lacking being occasion of sufficient importance. Such an alliance would insure to both a proper degree of consideration from the other powers and also provide a certain necessary unity of action in the contemplated operations against the Chinese.

At best, however, the trouble has fallen at an unfortunate time, and the highest qualities of statesmanship are required from all the powers to the end that justice may be properly meted out to all parties concerned.

If the quarantine now established at Cape Nome is maintained until the close of navigation there will be no opportunity left for stranded Nomads either to get back to Dawson or to secure passage to Seattle or San Francisco. The American government has announced semi-officially that no provision will be made for transporting destitute prospectors back to the States, so that on the face of it the situation at Nome for the approaching winter bears anything but a cheerful appearance. It seems certain, however, that there will be plenty of provisions at the beach city for, according to all reports, supplies of every description have been landed by thousands of tons. It is not likely, therefore, that actual starvation will exist, for it is safe to say that through hook or crook the unfortunate Nomads will manage to eat as long as the supply of grub holds out.

The matter of representation on the Yukon council has been postponed sufficiently long already without resort being had to technical excuses for further prolonging the agony. If for no other than humane reasons, the Yukon council or fraction thereof which still remains in Dawson should declare the day of election forthwith. Such action would serve to bring forth many dark horses, which are now in process of being carefully groomed, and allow the various contestants in the race to carefully size up their opponents and leave no further doubt in their minds as to the difficulties ahead of them. The council ought to have sufficient compassion to relieve the situation if they can be made to do so through no other motive.

Should we have many more weeks of weather such as prevailed last week we shall soon be speaking of the Yukon rainy season. Possibly the earth has flopped on its axis and Dawson has been removed a few thousand miles toward the place where the equator ought to be. For ourselves, we are rather inclined to think that the unusually heavy rainfall has been due to the fact that a number of United States officials, most of them hailing from Puget sound, passed through the city recently. If anyone can advance a better solution we shall be pleased to hear it.

They Saw the Library.

The couple looked as if their names might be, respectively, Ezekiah and Cynthia. They were in Washington and were sightseeing. The real funny-picture-paper type of country folks is not often seen, but this couple distinctly belonged to that type. They were middle-aged, and they walked hesitatingly up the steps of the library of congress. The man was reluctant to surrender his bulky umbrella to the young man behind the checking desk.

"When do I get it back?" he inquired, suspiciously.

"When you're coming out," was the reply.

So he surrendered the parachute, and his spouse—who wore, by the way, a dark green satin skirt, a Paisley shawl and a black bonnet littered with cherries absolutely ripe—clutched his arm tightly, and they turned to gaze at the grandeur about them.

"Gosh all gooseberries!" exclaimed the man, looking around him admiringly, "but this must 'a' cost a heap."

"Mussn't it, though?" said his wife, rapturously.

Just then a tall, thin elderly man, with a gray, straggly beard, passed by the couple. As he was hatless, the man who looked as if his name ought to be Ezekiah naturally concluded that he was employed about the library.

"Mister," said he, addressing the thin, dark man, "how much do you reckon this buildin' cost th' gov'ment?"

"Oh, many millions of dollars," replied the man with the straggly gray beard. "Don't you think the appear-

ance of it justifies the great expenditure of money?"

Then he got into conversation with the countryman and his wife.

"Perhaps you'd like to be shown around the building?" he asked them.

"Wall, we would take it kindly," said the countryman. "You work around here?"

"Oh, yes, I am employed here," said the dark man, with great gravity. "I have been attached to the library for some years. Come with me, and I will point out the decorations that seem to appeal with most force to visitors."

"We'll jes' go you, said the countryman, and the dark, elderly man led the way and took them through the many beautiful chambers of the library, discoursing charmingly and with evident perfect knowledge of the many interesting features of the decorations. He explained the meaning of all the allegorical pictures, carefully avoided comment on any of the undraped mythical ladies, so as not to shock the countryman's wife—she looked shyly in the other direction when they came to those pictures—and proved himself in general an admirable guide. In fact, a number of well-groomed people made it a point to remain within sound of the straggly-bearded man's voice, in order to catch his remarks, which were more luminous by a great many points than the catalogue. After spending nearly three-quarters of an hour and showing them over the entire building, the thin, elderly man looked at his watch, and started to take his leave. Just as he did so the countryman and his wife held a whispered consultation. The countryman reached into his trousers pocket, pulled out a small, white bag, dived into the bunch of silver it contained, extracted a dime with his thumb and forefinger, and approached the man who had been so courteous and attentive as a guide.

"Much obliged fer showin' us around, mister, said the countryman, holding out the dime.

"You are entirely welcome, replied Assistant Librarian—formerly librarian—of Congress Spofford, smilingly ignoring the 10-cent piece and walked away. "Derned obligin' feller, wa'nt he?" said the countryman to his wife, carefully replacing the dime in the soiled white bag.

Flour Trade Suspended.

San Francisco, July 17.—"The troubles in China will cause a suspension of our trade in flour and other commodities," said William Whaley, Hongkong representative of a big California milling company, who arrived from the Orient. "When I left Hongkong," he added, "business was dead there and at Shanghai. At least 2,000,000 sacks of flour were at Hongkong that could not be delivered in the interior. A great quantity of flour had gone forward since, and that is also held up. Most of this is from Oregon. It was a great loss. The Chinese, who purchased that to sell again, will be the losers. But, of course, while the troubles last, the Pacific coast trade in flour with all parts of China affected, must come to a stop. The entire flour trade with China is carried on with the Pacific coast states, and there will be loss to this coast by the suspension. Outside of flour, the principal imports of China from the United States are cotton, oil and machinery. The loss will be distributed all over the country. The flour now in China that cannot be sold in the interior is worth about \$1,500,000. The supplies for the allies that may be sent out will not compensate us for the loss of Chinese trade."

"Japan will also be a large loser in the flour trade, as the supply for Northern China goes in via Japan. The Chinese will not suffer for food. They will live on fish and rice, as they did before they had flour."

Out of Politics.

It has been suggested by two or three American citizens that the members of the two old political parties, Democrats and Republicans, each hold a regular, old-fashioned political meeting here in Dawson just to revive recollections of the past, for the sake of Auld Lang Syne, so to speak.

The parties who suggested the above probably did not stop to consider that it was past political enthusiasm that caused a large number of Americans to come here. Political enthusiasm "broke" many men who came here partly to recoup their lost fortunes, but largely to get away from the allurements incident to party affiliation. Besides it is doubtful if there is sufficient old Bourbon in Dawson on which to hold a typical Democratic meeting.

When in town, stop at the Regina.

Shindler has bicycle sundries; wood rims, inner tubes, ball bearings, spokes, bells, cyclometers, toe clips, graphite, etc. Wheels to rent by the hour.

Why buy an inferior cigar when you can get the famous Needles Cigar, guaranteed Havana filled, for the same money, to all dealers.

It might pay you to drop in and see the new stock of drugs, stationery and sundries at the Pioneer Drug Store.

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San Francisco to
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Portland
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YUKON TERRITORY
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ORA, NORA OR FLORA

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We have a particularly full line of...

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NEW CLOTHING, NEW HATS, NEW FOOTWEAR,
NEW HABERDASHERY.

"The Corner Store," opp. Aurora.

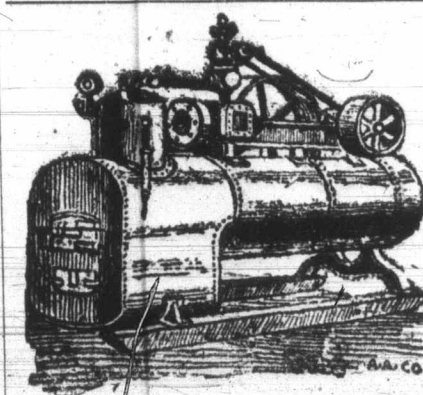
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To inspect our NEW AND UP-TO-DATE STOCK OF

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Women's and Children's Underwear...

See Our Window Display of
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Steamboat Repairing a Specialty. The Only
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Dawson Transfer & Storage Co.

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Freighting to all the Creeks, General Storage, Saddle Horses for Hire.

Feed and Sale Stable.

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Wines, Liquors & Cigars
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Perfumes,
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