

# THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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## CHARGING NOW FOR EMPTY SLEDS

### The Pioneer Tramway Extends Its Offensive "Graft."

#### And the Toll-Houses are Being Used as Bar-Rooms—Sale of Liquors Added to the Tramway's Coeffers.

It is now eleven days since the Nugget, in the most respectful manner within its ability, addressed the Yukon commissioner, Hon. Wm. Ogilvie and the members of his honorable council upon the obnoxious imposition of the grinding octopus familiarly known as the "Pioneer Tramway Co., without a tram," operating a couple of toll-houses and a number of employees known as checkers, collectors and guards on Bonanza creek.

It called attention of the honorable gentlemen, who we are sure, never intended to add such an injustice upon the miners of this territory with such a monstrous proposition, to the burning wrongs already handed every poor fellow whose necessities and business compelled him to go up that heavily patronized trail. If most respectfully and earnestly asked, in behalf of thousands of poor hard workers in the Yukon Territory mines, that until this abomination had shown some evidence of carrying out what we are satisfied was the proper intention of the Council in granting them the letter issued to Messrs. Henning & O'Brien, by constructing and operating a tram, the charges upon a sled-trail Nature herself had provided, be suspended. Continually and persistently this paper has claimed it has no objection to a tramway, operating a tram—whether by Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Henning, a company or anyone else. It goes further than that and says it believes if properly handled and moderate charges prevail that it would be a good thing for everybody, and the company be entitled to a fair return upon its investment. It may even concede Mr. O'Brien's business ability and with which it has nothing to do; but it is most emphatically a greivous wrong that such a letter as was issued by the Council, should be used as a franchise, when the letter distinctly stated that "an application should at once be made to Ottawa for a charter." That is the point.

Not satisfied, however, with the former charge of a half cent per pound on every sled load, passing up the trail, the rate as the trail has improved from constant use, has been raised to one cent per pound to the Forks, just to make the matter more binding, you know. But they don't stop there. It is now 50 cents for hauling an empty sled up the trail. What do you think of that, Mr. Commissioner and men upon the creek? Was ever greater injustice and imposition carried on in any community in the whole world? Did the Honorable Council ever contemplate, that their liberality, in caring for a lot of unpaid men, hired on wind, would be so grossly maltreated? We think not.

Now, let us show you another matter fully worthy of mention and of comment. In the toll-houses now are sold liquors, so that the weary "musher" may regale himself from the bottles at so much per drink. Was this ever contemplated when the toll-houses were erected upon the Council's letter of grant?

Now, let us see how the case stands and how it works. Here is an open trail, used only by sleds, there is no evidence of a tramway anywhere, except the painted signs in large letters at the lower toll house, saying it "is a tramway," and which doesn't make it so, by any means. They are charging sled-pullers 50 cents for running an empty sled, and when loaded imposing a tariff of one cent per pound to the Forks, and then putting liquors as a temptation in the way of every frequenter compelled to visit their toll-houses.

"Mr. O'Brien is an industrious, energetic business man and overlooks nothing in the way of enterprise. It is no defamation of character to give him credit for such ability. It is not particularly detrimental to him to say that he thought he saw "a good thing" in it. Mr. O'Brien is also, we are informed, a very heavy owner of a large stock of wines and liquors, being rather long on whiskey at a high price, in a market glutted with it, so that wholesale owners are seeking any avenue that will lead to the unloading of stocks and realization of cash by reaching the consumer direct. Are not the Pioneer Tramway Company's toll-houses a happy medium for such an outlet?

Why are not all the sleighs held up and compelled to disgorge for traveling upon this "tramway without a tram?" Perhaps Mr. O'Brien is not aware of the fact and if he is not the Nugget desires to advise him that only on last Wednesday evening a large two-horse sleigh was held up on its way to the Forks, but the occupants declined, positively refused to pay, and the same thing occurred on the return trip Thursday morning. Mr. O'Brien will therefore see that this tramway sack is why at least \$10 by the good common sense of the sleigh owner, and which every sled pusher and puller should take cognizance of and do likewise. Another point is the fact that on an average probably each sled has 300 pounds being carried upon it. That means that \$3.50 paid for toll on a sled trail, and without the semblance of a tram, is extracted from the pockets of miners, finds its way into the energetic Mr. O'Brien's pocket, which might be expended in Dawson for general necessities and thus put

that much more money in general circulation instead of in the hands of one concern.

Can any mind, official or lay, argue that this "tramway without a tram" is a good thing. The Nugget again respectfully asks the honorable Yukon commissioner and his honorable council to suspend the grant of this concern until a tramway is in operation. The Nugget asks this in behalf of the struggling people of this territory who cry out under this unnecessary burden and imposition. It has done so repeatedly and earnestly. May it announce to a suffering community that justice has at last been done? Gentlemen, the Nugget awaits again patiently for your action in what it conscientiously believes to be an evil.

The Nugget does not seek sensationalism, it has on the contrary sought always the side of conservatism, but if the truth is sensational then truth is furnishing the bug-a-boo of sensation and it will be only a short time until the Nugget will unfold a story so sensational in its character, so grave in its showing, that the volcanic eruptions with which this Arctic country was torn, will not be more vivid than will be the rending of certain circles in the revelations to be made. The people will see that this paper is fully alive to their cause, and has no fear of championing that cause, feeling that regardless of consequences the right must, in the end prevail.

### Bound Over to the Higher Court.

The charge of attempted suicide duly came up again before Magistrate Harper on Wednesday afternoon. Lewis L. Wilson was examined for the prosecution. He occupied a room opposite the room in which Helen Holden used the chloroform upon herself. He testified that on the night of the occasion under investigation he had heard Chappell pass along the hallway to Helen's room and knock. Chappell then came to his room and asked if he knew whether Helen was in. Witness recalled that he believed so for he had seen her but a short time before. Chappell went away and returned in excitement telling him to get some coffee at once. Witness returned with Chappell to Helen's room and found the woman stretched out in bed. Pulled the covers from over her feet and slapped them and distinctly saw them move. Felt her pulse and timed it with a watch. Found it normal. Both went out of the room. Could see the defendant from where he was and saw her replace the handkerchief over her face again. Went in and removed it. Believes she simply played it there as a bluff.

Helen Holden was not put upon oath but stated: "It was a joke. I don't know if the law will accept anything of the kind but it was a joke. I had no intention of suicide as I had plenty of stuff to do it with and plenty of time. It was a joke. I did not know it could be so serious or I certainly should not have done so. I thought I could frighten some body."

The magistrate concluded the evidence to be sufficient to bind the defendant over to the superior court on a charge of attempted suicide and accepted bail for her appearance in the sum of \$1000 from herself and \$500 each from Chappell and Hamburg.

### Those Bedrock Flumes.

There is a strange flurry in bedrock flume circles lately, and this office would like further information on the matter. There have recently been filed with the Dominion Lands agent applications for bedrock flume privileges on most of the creeks not covered in a similar stamped case three months ago. Among those applications we notice particularly that the names of the members of the various companies are the names of partners. There is a street report that most of the companies are "in together" on the plans, whatever they may be. The following are the most recent filings: George Bruce; F. C. Liddle, Charles Milne, John L. Reese and O. H. Clark want from No. 1 to 100 on Gold Run. The application is for five years and was filed December 16.

Wm. Galpin, W. Ash, H. G. Wilson and E. Ash want from the mouth at No. 13 below to No. 30 above discovery on Last Chance for five years. Application filed December 19.

Joseph Carey, P. C. Stevenson, Ernest Geddes, Thos. McMullen and W. V. Somerville want from No. 1 at the mouth to No. 20 above on All Gold, for five years. Application filed December 23.

Las. Dickson, Aloysius Joyce and P. R. Ritchie want from No. 1 to No. 33 on Victoria gulch for five years. Filed December 14.

H. C. Lisle, A. G. Cunningham, A. B. Swan and A. Freeman want from the mouth to No. 589 on Swedish creek for five years. Application filed December 22.

Alex. Cameron, Chas. Campbell, S. A. Swan and R. Davis Colley want Gay gulch from the mouth to No. 30 for five years. Application filed December 24.

Several gentlemen have been seen on the proposition and Mr. Senkler's statements are the fullest of information. He said: "All applications to dredge the beds of rivers and for ground to work by hydraulics must be either granted or refused at Ottawa."

"Do bedrock flume applications come under this head?"

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"Yes. They must all be referred to Ottawa." "The regulations say nothing of bedrock flumes. What privileges does a grant of this kind confer?"

"The measure was enacted for the reworking of old and abandoned creeks."

"It is sometimes asserted that all claims along the bedrock flume concession revert to the company when abandoned?"

"That is wrong. A concession of that sort does not interfere either with the rights of miners or prospectors. An abandoned claim goes to the government just the same as if the flume company had never acquired any privileges. Neither do fractions, if thrown open, revert to the flume companies," from all of which it is argued that the worth of the flume privileges in its exclusiveness. The future history of each and every creek will show a time when no more drifting can be done profitably. Then the ground must either be abandoned or sold to the concessionaires which have secured the exclusive bedrock flume privileges.

### Mail.

The mail matter received on Tuesday at the postoffice is limited largely to the registered mail shipped from here by mistake right after the big fire. Three registered letters to a member of the Nugget staff were included in the number.

There is a considerable quantity of mail yet at Tagish to be forwarded later. No signs of P. C. Richardson or his mail carriers was seen by the last arrivals here and no civilians at all had reached Tagish from the outside when Corporal Richardson left. There were but a few dozen ordinary letters brought down by the last named pedestrian expert.

### POLICE COURT ITEMS.

G. T. Lanawit, support invisible, fined \$50 and costs.

F. Weisler paid \$50 and costs for not having any settled occupation.

George Robinson paid \$30 and costs and was thereby purged of the sin of intemperance.

T. Fisk contributed \$50 and costs for apparently having no occupation whereby he could earn that amount.

S. A. Ripstein paid \$50 and costs for disposing of spirituous liquors without being first in possession of a government permit to do that same.

J. Holmes did not bring Christmas to a close quietly enough and was boisterous about it. \$25 and costs and Christmas has gone forever.

No Driscoll Tab got six months hard labor for vagrancy and deserves to get double as much for spending his name in any such outlandish manner.

J. Offield has been bound to the superior court, charged with the theft of a bed and bedding from a cabin. J. Stormer, charged with the theft of turkeys is also bound over.

Joseph Schwartz, of the Dawson City wholesale liquor house did not prove to have the necessary papers which usually go with that business. \$0 and costs squares accounts.

R. E. McAndrews complaint comes under that general head of vagrancy which covers such a multitude of sins. \$50 and costs is more than many a hard-working man could have paid.

Mrs. Fesline was unable to withstand the allurements of the black bottles with the result that she appeared up before his honor with a long face and willing pocketbook. \$20 and costs restored her to the bosom of her family.

The following cases have been sent up from the police to the superior court and their cases will come up on January 15th, to be set for a hearing at some future date: Queen vs. Nellie Green; Queen vs. McDonald, Queen vs. Young, Queen vs. Schumann, Queen vs. Dube, Queen vs. Grauman, Queen vs. Leomis, Queen vs. Come.

C. P. Johnson is the fellow who is so fond of "mushing" that he actually confiscated a neighbor's sled for that purpose. More than that, he took whatever else he could find around loose to load it with, as there is no sense in pulling an empty sled. For the next four months he will saw wood and his only "mush" will be on a tin plate.

Bert Dovey, who has figured several times as second to "Kid" Williams in his sparring contests, was up charged with having possible means of support etc. He was sentenced by Magistrate Harper to six months on the woodpile and \$50 fine but gave notice of appeal and was allowed a bond of \$400 by himself and two sureties of \$250 apiece.

Robert Russell got 18 months on the woodpile and really deserved more. When he was broke and sick he was nursed back to health in the police hospital and afterwards given employment in the officers mess room. He retaliated by stealing everything in sight after but four days of service. The woodpile at a temperature of 40 below may work reformation.

J. L. Bates has an interesting case and escaped easily. The inspector of weights and measures for Dawson, Captain Starnes, received an intimation that something was wrong with the gold scales at the Seattle restaurant. He proceeded there at once with the official weights and found the scales unbalanced to the extent of fully five grains. Careful examination showed the scoop on the side of the weights to have a five-grain weight stuck underneath with soap. A gold is not legal tender Bates was tried under the law for those found using false weights and was fined \$5 and costs.

### FROM OULAHY.

The following were brought up from Cadsby and tried in the Dawson police court:

G. Snito, charged with a too liberal absorption of berry pie. A month on the woodpile.

Maud Boyd, the spouse of F. Boyd, escaped with a fine of \$50 and costs for maintaining a house of ill-fame.

John Bell took the contents of a cache on Forty-mile last winter and will not be worried about caches any more for three long years.

C. Davenport, who departs himself in the smiles of Dame Fortune and fickle Miss Chance under the chin, contributes \$50 and costs to the police strong box.

F. Boyd says the reason he didn't work was that his trade is not represented on the Yukon. He is a glass blower and for the next six months will blow his fingers instead.

## NO NEARER A SOLUTION.

### Peace Commission Still Endeavoring to Agree Upon Terms.

#### Meanwhile Disorder is Running Riot in Cuba and Outrage Still Continue to be Perpetrated—Uncle Sam has a Hard Task.

HAVANA, via Key West, Nov. 6.—In the settlement of the terms of peace between the United States and Spain there appears to be so wide a divergence of interests that on all sides the question is asked how much nearer the final solution of the problem than it was on the day the protocol was signed. The feeling among the better class of intelligent and influential Cubans may be pretty accurately summed up in the following observations made today by a representative Cuban merchant of Havana to the representative of the Associated Press: "It seems to me, and I think my views are shared by many, that the United States is dilly-dallying too long with Spain over the evacuation question. Of course the problems a difficult one, but the delay is surely unnecessary. The United States has sent here an assortment of commissions each more self-important and mysterious than its predecessor, and each yielding its operations with a veil of secrecy, which, so far as my American experience goes, really serves the purpose of obscuring sense and concealing very small achievements. Almost nothing has been accomplished. First we were told that the date of occupation by the United States would be November 1, then December 1 was fixed upon, and later we were informed that the date for occupation would be left indefinite. So far as evacuation is concerned January 1 was named as a final date; but now it is rumored that February 1 has been agreed upon. The country, whether Cuban, Spanish or foreign, is getting disgusted. Unless the Washington government forces its detestable commissions into greater activity Cuba will be an immense graveyard and its fields barren before the United States takes possession. The daily records of mortality show that in all parts of the island the population is dwindling steadily. Entire villages are dying of starvation. On all hands Spaniards continue robbing and plundering. The situation involved in this uncertainty is still further aggravated by the fact that nobody dare sow crops or cultivate lands until the present chaotic conditions show some rays of light to guide efforts. Day by day the number of beggars, thieves and prostitutes increases; while the number of those able to relieve distress shrinks in the same proportion. Thus far the United States has sent in the name of humanity a million ounces and the Red Cross society two casks of supplies as to whose disposition there have been unfavorable comments. While the blockade was on, the city was riled with an iron hand and cases of assault and robbery were almost unknown. Today with the increase of criminals and the increase of poverty, the list of murders and hold-ups is a grave affair. Many boys and girls of genteel extraction have been thrown on the streets to beg and live as beggars, as thieves, and to be brought up in jails and houses of ill-fame. Doubtless people of the United States realize these things."

MONTREAL, Nov. 8.—Montreal is preparing to give a royal send-off to the Aberdeeners. Their excellencies arrived this evening from Toronto and remain until Friday, when they leave for Quebec to take part in the welcome and swearing in of Minto on Saturday next.

WINNIPEG, Nov. 7.—Captain Constantine who was in charge of the Northwest mounted police for three years, is here on his way to Regina to receive orders.

WINNIPEG, Nov. 7.—Two earlocks of Raguin dogs passed through the city on Saturday night from Labrador where they were purchased by the Dominion government for the use of the Northwest mounted police of the Yukon. The dogs have been on the way over six weeks and have been reduced in numbers from 150 to 142 owing to deaths.

LONDON, Nov. 9.—The following basis for the settlement of the great street railroad strike has been offered by the companies: The company offers to pay 23 cents an hour for the first year, 25 for the second, 35 for the third, the hours to be arranged by the men themselves. Manager Carr says this rate is higher than in any city of London's size in Canada. The rate has not yet been accepted by the men though both sides have agreed upon this Union clause "That all future employes of the company shall have full liberty to affiliate with any association or club and shall not be required to sign any document to a bridge this agreement."

VICTORIA, Nov. 11.—Dr. DeCov, surgeon of the Northwest mounted police, who came down on the last trip of the City of Seattle, ridicules the idea that mail at Brea is blocked. It was he who unseated the blockade at that point and it is now being hurried in to Dawson. In Skaguay he had interviewed the postmaster and asked if he knew of any mail for interior points. In reply he showed a quantity of mail bags in the post office and told him that there were still more outside tarpaulins on the deck and on the warehouses. There were about 65 bags and all first class mail. The doctor immediately started the mail over the railway to Dawson and advised the police of its coming by telegraph.

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