

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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AN IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT.

The Philosophy of the great Hispano-American Conflict of Arms.

The London Times gives the inside reasons of the war—Bleeding for Years and Inevitable—Not Caused by the Main Blowing-Up.

War, said the Greek historians, often breaks out on trivial occasions, seldom from trivial causes. Now that the war between the United States and Spain is, happily, at an end, it may not be unprofitable to consider some of its less obvious lessons. It would be unjust to the passionate patriotism of a great nation to call the destruction of the Maine a trivial occasion. But that catastrophe has not yet been proved to have been due to an external agency, nor, if an external agency is assumed, is there any proof of complicity either on the part of the central government of Spain or on that of the provincial government of Cuba. We may say then that, even if the destruction of the Maine was the immediate occasion of the war it was certainly not its cause. It may have been the match that fired the mine, but the mine was laid long before in those reciprocal movements of national progress and decay which, in their mutual reaction constitute the march of humanity. We get a stage nearer the cause, but only a stage, when we say that it is to be sought in the growth of the sea power of the United States. But this cause again is not ultimate, nor is it adequate in itself to explain the effect. But this cause again is not ultimate, nor is it adequate in itself to explain the effect. The sea power of the United States is no craftily prepared instrument of vulgar aggression, but the natural and largely unconscious expression of the deeper impulses of a great nation bent upon fulfilling its destiny.

Stretching across a great continent from ocean to ocean, born of sea power in her origin, nurtured by sea power in her infancy, snatching her freedom from the conflict of sea power, industrious, commercial, progressive and adventurous in her civilization, the United States has at last become conscious that sea power is her appointed heritage, whether for weal or for woe. Before that consciousness had leavened the mass of her people, a generous feeling of humanity, a native love of order and peace, an abhorrence alike of anarchy and of oppression—not unmixed perhaps with many less worthy motives—brought her into sharp antagonism with a power in her immediate neighborhood which had for long generations abused the privileges of empire and morally forfeited its prerogatives. From this point of view the war was a conflict, inevitable in the long run, between forces which, on any theory of the moral government of the world, must be regarded as good and evil, respectively. Nothing but a miracle or a cosmic catastrophe could have averted the ultimate collision between the growing sea power of the United States and the waning empire of Spain.

By sea power alone the transmarine empire of Spain has been undone; by sea power alone, by the spontaneous and almost fortuitous return of a maritime race to its native element, the transmarine empire of the United States has been inaugurated. The result is a lesson to all powers which either cherish transmarine ambitions of set purpose or yield because they must, as the people of the United States have found, to expansive impulses inherent in their polity and race. The full import of that lesson can hardly be discerned as yet. The foresight of a statesman, the insight of a philosopher, even the imagination of a poet, might well be taxed to read it aright; for it can hardly be that the collapse of the historic empire of Spain and the fulfillment by the United States of an imperial destiny, foreordained by the genius of her people to be expansive but not aggressive, will be unattended by consequences of vital moment alike to the Old World and to the New.—London Times.

Attempted Bribery.

John Harper was fined \$500 and costs with the option of six months in jail for attempted bribery of government officials. The government had advertised for bids for furnishing the government offices with 250 cords of dry wood for the winter. One bid came in from Harper through the post office to Timber Agent Willison and offered to furnish the wood for \$35 per cord and also offered a bonus of \$750 to Mr. Willison if he would throw the contract into the hands of the writer. The damning letter was shown Mr. Ogilvie and he reported the matter at once to the police. When Harper came to get his contract he walked right into the arms of Constable McAlpine who had been looking for him. To the Justice he explained that he had failed to get one timber contract he applied for and had been advised by friends that it was from lack of a "bonus." He determined not to get lost on the same rock a second time. He paid his fine and is probably looking for the man who advised him wrongly.

Down Through the Ice.

The stout little steamer Ora arrived once again in Dawson Monday night, having forged her way through the ice all the way from Pelly river. Above Pelly there is not much ice, as the Hootlingua is not spitting much. At Bonnet the Ora agreed to land some goods and people at Thistle creek, just above Stewart, and succeeded in forcing herself some little ways

up that small stream. A tributary was discovered and prospected hurriedly, with the result that it was found promising, and was staked from end to end. In honor of the plucky little steamer the new creek was called Ora creek, and will perpetuate the name of the steamer long after the B. L. & K. N. Co. have replaced her with the large steamers they intend to operate next year.

The Ora brought down freight, passengers, newspapers and a large scow of merchandise, which she landed opposite the Fairview hotel. The Ora people may decide to again attempt the ascent of the river, providing the run of ice decreases a trifle in quantity. Judging by her past experiences, if she starts she will get there all right, for "fail" was not coined for the Ora.

Those Treasure Ships.

In view of the many world wide exaggerated reports of the treasure taken out of the Klondike regions by the first steamers the past summer, it is of interest to learn what was seen and known of that treasure at St. Michaels where every dollar had to be transferred to ocean boats. The outside newspapers reported the amount as between five and seven millions. The following is from a report made by Mr. Jacob H. Meyers for twelve months a Klondiker, and a gentleman who stands high in Rochester, N. Y. circles, for integrity and shrewdness:

"We remained at St. Michaels sixteen days and noted the contents on the arrival of each and all of the Yukon river steamers. I am indebted to Capt. J. B. Crocker, of Franklin, Mass., and others who were in charge of the keeping and handling of the entire treasure boxes on the company's boats for authentic information, which they received from the shippers. A few of the highest reliable estimates are included in the following, viz.: Gold dust was brought down on the North American Trading Co.'s steamer Wears, five 800-pound boxes, being 4,000 pounds, or \$364,580, being part of the government taxes shipped by the Canadian government Bank of Commerce, just opened in Dawson. Also one box of 1,200 pounds, being \$289,404 consigned by the N. A. T. Co. Also in charge of her passengers 80 pounds, or \$19,288. Next on the same company's steamer Hamilton was 630 pounds or \$56,730. The above total of \$1,430,137 was transferred to their ocean steamship Roanoke. Next the Alaska Commercial Co.'s steamer Bella, brought down that company's consignment of \$568,875 and \$400,000 by her passengers. This total of \$968,875 was shipped out on their ocean steamship St. Paul.

"The two independent river steamers, May West and Seattle No. 1, brought down respectively \$80,000 and \$85,000. This total of \$165,000 was brought out on the ocean steamships Lakme, the Garonne and the Nelson.

"The foregoing shows a total aggregate of \$1,884,812 brought down on the five river steamers, and \$953,875 of it, being over three-fifths of the entire spring shipment, is part of the government exactions from the struggling miners.

Looking for Information.

There is a reported strike of quartz back of French Hill. Quartz is being reported so often and has been heralded to the world so loudly that a feeling of skepticism pervades one whenever it is mentioned. An applicant called at the recorder's office a few days ago and asked if a certain piece of quartz ground was recorded. An examination of the books failed to reveal anything which would enlighten the situation and at last the clerk in desperation told the applicant that he knew nothing about the ground, but probably he could find out at the Nevada office. The clerk probably intended a sarcasm, founded upon the well-known fact that whenever anyone is mistreated or misled at the gold commissioner he immediately repairs to this office. However, the quartz claimant took the suggestion in good part, and somewhat chagrined to find out that from "devil" to management there was no more known at this office about quartz ground than by Pawcett himself.

A Ducking in the Yukon.

Messrs. Calderhead and Lancaster were out testing the thickness of the ice on the Yukon Monday night. They ascertained to their entire satisfaction that the ice has not as yet reached a thickness that will justify operating a railroad over it. While prospecting around in the vicinity of where the steamer Ora is tied up the ice suddenly gave way and both immediately started for the bottom of the stream. Luckily, however, they succeeded in clinging to the shelf ice, and by dint of hard work finally clambered up the bank, with their pockets filled with nice, clear Yukon river water. The fact that both were out on the streets telling the story the next day is sufficient evidence that serious results did not ensue.

A Christmas Story.

And while Christmas was yet a long way off they arose and feasted in anticipation. They divided themselves into factions for the demolition of plum pudding and organized parties for the destruction of roast turkey and beef, and there were those who said "Go to let every loyal son of Jonathan reserve that day and the evening hours thereof that there may be a great gathering of the clans; and let each and every man meet together, neighbor and neighbor in one great assembly and toast their home and country as they know they are being toasted in that their home and country." Then there arose a murmuring in camp and thus spake a son of the Bull, whose christian name was John, "Go to let us gather in unity the men of our race in the hall of the Fairview reserved for us, and let there be furnished the fare for which our race has become famous. Let it be in heaps and piled platters; and let good cheer be rampant. Scour the woods for mistletoe and holly or substitutes for that same

and let it hang in festoons over the festive board; for it is thus our forefathers have feasted for 10 these 9000 years. For 1700 years have our fires so celebrated the day and neither shall we be single and alone in our rejoicings. As near the south pole as we are near the pole of the north, as far as the East is from the West, the day will find great gatherings of British hands and British hearts and thus shall we complete a circle around the earth and around the waters under the earth."

And the sons of the Bull, whose Christian name was John, listened, and said: "It is good;" and it was so.

Laid Away in the Frozen Ground.

The workings of fate are beyond unravelling. Why the young, stouthearted and healthy should be lured by gold from comfortable homes in hospitable climes to death in the frozen lands of the north, is a mystery. Henry Matherson died Saturday at the Bonanza hotel on the creek, and was buried Monday. His brother Fred and Mr. E. M. Dawley did all in their power to save his life and secured the daily attendance of Dr. Hepworth to that end, but it was not to be. The family of the deceased are probably rejoicing over the young man's successes in the gold fields of the North at the very time the mail is slowly bearing towards them the news of his sudden death. If friendly and brotherly solicitude could have saved him he would have been living yet, but the dread scourge of typhoid claimed him for a victim as it has done in the case of so many men during the past few months.

He Had Indulged in Hootch.

He was a tall, rawboned, cadaverous looking personage and his uncertain step and brilliantly dyed nasal appendage betokened a recent and protracted indulgence in Dawson hootch. In his hand he carried a pound package of coffee, four tallow candles and three bars of soap.

Approaching the first man he met he queried with somewhat thickened utterance: "Say, boss, could you oblige me by buying this job lot for six bits?" The man thus addressed hesitated a moment, and asked the would-be seller if he was trying to run the auction houses out of business. "Well, it's just this way, you see," said he of the unsteady gait; "I made \$400 last week, and on Saturday night I started out with a few of the boys to have a little time. I remember somewhat all that happened, but anyway I woke up this morning with a damned bad headache and not a color in my sack. If I don't get the six bits for a drink to sober up on it will be all up with me, sure."

There was no resisting this appeal, and the sympathizing listener proceeded to produce the six bits and carried off the job lot, reflecting to himself the while that manifold and peculiar are the qualities of Dawson hootch.

POLICE COURT ITEMS.

M. J. McNeal, full and noisy, \$20 and costs.
W. A. Somers, noisy in his cups, \$20 and costs.
E. Rigley, full and didn't know it, \$20 and costs.
B. Beck, intoxicated and noisily indignant, \$20 and costs.
J. Cochran sued R. Smith for wages, and was awarded \$25.
T. N. Hogue sued P. H. Webb for wages and was awarded \$80.
Mrs. V. Alrin sued the Fairview for wages and was awarded \$100.
J. A. Meador sued A. J. Morrison for wages and was awarded \$80.
W. Honeywell, extra full and especially noisy, \$30 and costs.
S. M. McFee was simply loaded, and contributed \$10 and costs.
A. Hansen, full to the throat and vociferously merry, \$20 and costs.
E. Carlin imbibed to the point of inebriety and was noisy, \$20 and costs.
J. Carr sued Charley Kimball and Charley Overhiser for wages and was awarded \$45.
E. Hill, drunk and disorderly, was fined \$20 and costs, and in default is serving 10 days without pay.
J. McMullen was "howled up," didn't know it, talked loudly; wouldn't come, so he paid \$25 and costs.
George Reynolds was full, but was quiet and gentle under the influence, so he was let off with a \$10 fine.
A. Y. Rickman charged W. A. Doyle with misappropriating some building logs and the case was held up to the higher court.
J. McCann and C. Crockett both filled up to the brim and then locked horns. For this offense they were fined in the sum of \$20 apiece and costs.
B. Spratt is the tough engineer of the bar, who beat the fireman of the same boat so badly that he has since spent his time in the hospital. Spratt was fined \$25 and costs and ordered to leave town at once. He paid the fine and skipped.
Elias Stone was a young man who refused to work at the fire when ordered to do so by the police. He was let off without payment of a fine but Captain Starnes gave him a most severe reprimand and he probably would much rather have paid a fine.

B. Hastings accused B. McAdams of stealing condensed milk, etc., from his tent. The use of condensed milk was thought too rich for such people, so for three months an effort will be made to break him of the habit by feeding him undressed prison coffee.
J. McPerson was too nice about the arrangements for comfort this winter. He was found guilty of the theft of two rolls of nice warm building paper. As a result he will spend the next two months in a building where building paper is never used—one month for each roll.
J. McAllister looked upon the wine when it was very red, indeed, and as a consequence talked too much with his mouth. His fine was \$20 and costs, but he evidently thought a tent was not the best place in the world to live these nights, and for the next ten will rest under the barracks roof.

THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.

An Organization Under Way to Systematically Fight Conflagrations.

Enthusiastic Citizens, Realizing the Urgency of the Case, Respond to a Call for Meeting and Accomplished good Results.

The fire of last Friday brought every citizen in Dawson to a realization of the helpless condition of the town in case of fire and it was the common expression that immediate steps must be taken to protect the business portion of the town in the future.

Acting upon the suggestions offered, a meeting was called for Saturday night and by courtesy of Mr. T. C. Healy of the Regina Club hotel his handsomely furnished club room was gratuitously placed at the disposal of the meeting.

A large number of citizens and business men were present, and by motion of Jake Kline, E. C. Allen was elected chairman and Casey Moran secretary of the meeting.

The objects of the call were stated by the chair and after a number of earnest speeches upon the necessity of prompt action along the lines of fire protection it was moved and carried that a volunteer fire brigade be then and there organized, and a roll of membership was opened for signatures.

By reason of the complicated financial condition of the fire apparatus, and it having been brought to the attention of the meeting that a number of prominent business men had at that time in contemplation the straightening out of the difficulties, a committee consisting of George Armstrong, Jake Kline, Tom Griffin, H. C. Lisle and E. Leroy Pelletier, was appointed to investigate the status of the fire apparatus and confer with those interested relative to the same, inform them of the action of the meeting, and after a thorough investigation of the matter to report at a subsequent meeting to be called by the chair.

The necessity of having a recognized head of the organization under whose banner all of the members should rally in case of danger by fire was urged, and for the purpose of temporary organization Mr. Fletcher was elected as field chief of the organization.

The committee was instructed to receive applications for membership in the interim between meetings, and after a general discussion the meeting adjourned.

Prompted by a common motive of good, the meeting was enthusiastic and harmonious, and from indications Dawson's Volunteer Fire Department will be the most popular organization in town and will be productive of great results in case we are again threatened with the loss by fire of millions of dollars of property.

A feeling of security is already manifest among property owners since the forming of the organization and nothing but words of praise and commendation are heard for the volunteers.

Let the good work proceed, and may the organization develop a degree of proficiency second to none anywhere, and the citizens of Dawson will lend their moral and financial aid to the brave boys whenever occasion necessitates.

Dawson's Fire Patrol.

The patrolling of Dawson since the fire by armed citizens is a mixture of good and bad. The movement has undoubtedly added a greater feeling of security to our citizens, for though buckets would have been more appropriate for arms than guns, still at all hours of the day and night chimneys were watched and some mighty good work has been done in compelling the tearing out of dangerous fires. People have been peremptorily ordered to put out their fires where they were seen to be carelessly allowing too great heat. Houses have been entered by the patrol and fire trap nuisances ordered abated at once—and the orders have been obeyed with becoming alacrity. The following gentlemen have done good patrol work: F. A. Raney, Chas. J. Holmes, H. Trout, D. Cameron, N. McKinnor, A. G. Jacobson, H. K. Coon, B. J. McGinnis, Frank Carroll, J. W. Spencer, M. W. Frank, Thos. Hopegood, H. D. Irvine, A. Y. Dedrick, and a number of men furnished by the Dominion saloon, O'Brien's, sisters, Pete McDonald, J. A. Chute, Mr. McNeices, of the Klondike hotel and Mr. Marshbanks, of the Pioneer. C. McKenzie Miall did excellent work in charge of the patrol and Col. Ste. Je, of the N. W. M. P., furnished the carbines and pistols with which all were armed.

Elk's Benefit.

The entertainment to be given by the local Elks for the purpose of defraying the funeral expenses of Bro. Cobleigh of Peoria Lodge No. 26, is calling the active support of all members, and promises to be the event of the season. The assistance of the entire theatrical profession has been offered as well as the best of local amateur talent. Following is the committee that has the affair in charge: George Noble, M. Conway, F. W. Howard and Gus Siefert.

Messrs. Blei and Cooper of the Tivoli have generously tendered the use of the theatre on the evening of Tuesday, October 26, and arrangements have been perfected for a family entrance on the north side of the building.

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