

The Klondike Nugget

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From Monday and Tuesday's Daily.
ADAPTABILITY.

The Anglo-Saxon is remarkable in nothing so much as for his ability to adapt himself to the circumstances which for the time being may govern his life. His natural home is in the temperate zone, away from the influence of extremes in temperature and surrounded by those products of latter day civilization which, from being one time luxuries, have now come to be regarded in the light of necessities. It is his instinct to want the best, but if the best is not to be had it will be found that he will thrive and flourish anyway.

It is largely this peculiar characteristic of adaptability which constitutes the foundation for the belief now widely felt that the rising star of the Anglo-Saxon will not reach its zenith until the power of the race is acknowledged over the entire world.

Whatever grounds there may be for the advancement of this theory there is no escape from the fact that climatic or other natural conditions do not exist which possesses any terrors for the Anglo-Saxon, provided a motive is furnished which urges him to overcome them. It is his nature to prove himself master of circumstances rather than to admit being their victim. No better example of this peculiarity could be advanced than is contained in the history of this territory during the past three years.

Prior to the rush which took place into this country in 1897-98 the popular belief prevailed that a permanent settlement could not take place owing to the inhospitable nature of the climate. Three short years have served to build up a city in which every comfort and luxury is obtainable and in which the public health on the average is by actual record better than in most places either in Canada or the States.

While all this has been going on way up in the neighborhood of the North Pole, British soldiers in Africa and American soldiers in the Philippines have been demonstrating the fact that the tropics will yield as readily to the master hand as has the land in which snow and ice are supposed to be the ruling monarchs. In the first instance the motive was furnished by gold and in the second by conquest—two influences upon which the fate of nations has turned since the beginning of time. Whether from an ethical standpoint the pursuit of either is commendable, is quite outside the limits of this discussion.

In any event, however, it may be accepted as an indisputable fact that the Anglo-Saxon can live anywhere in the world and be happy—as happiness goes—so long as he has an object ahead which he desires to attain.

LOW GRADE GROUND.

A large amount of quiet prospecting is now in progress on ground sold at the recent public auction. In the spring it may be expected that work on this new ground will open up on a large scale. In fact the coming season of summer work should witness a greater amount of actual mining development than has occurred in any previous year.

There will be more claims worked, for the reason that there is now a larger number of claims owned by individuals than ever before. There is practically no ground left in this district which has not passed already from the hands of the government or is not available for location by the individual who is entitled by law to a mining right.

Twelve months ago the actual area of ground under process of development was comparatively small. This condition was due not only to the excessive cost of opening a claim but also to the fact that immense tracts of territory were withheld from location or had been for one reason or another withdrawn by the government. On this account, work was confined largely to ground to which unquestioned title had

been given in the days when the early discoveries were made. The ground then worked, however, was for the most part of extraordinary richness and in spite of excessive expenses and other difficulties yielded a profit.

The future of the country now lies to a large extent in the successful development of an extensive amount of low grade ground. That such ground may be profitably worked requires absolutely a reduction of operating expenses to the minimum. To accomplish this end the system of public roads now under construction should be pushed to completion at the earliest possible moment. Every advantage possible should be afforded to the claim operator to place his machinery and supplies on his ground at the lowest possible cost, for that cost often decides whether he can work his claim at a profit or whether the cleanup will find him confronting a deficit.

Conditions are certainly working toward a realization of what is required to justify the development of such ground. Competition is gradually reducing the cost of supplies and if the government continues to do its part, freight charges to the creeks will in another year fall far below the present rates. The man who owns low grade ground has at best a hard row to make his property productive and should be given every possible encouragement.

Very few people in Dawson would have imagined three years ago that travel to the outside by covered stage would ever become a practical realization. Such, however, is now the case. It is proposed to take passengers from Dawson to Whitehorse in regular Pullman car fashion. These innovations come crowding upon each other with altogether too much regularity. It looked at one time as though Dawson was sufficiently removed from the centers of civilization to escape all the evil effects of contact therewith. But alas, one after another the ways of the outside world have crept in upon us, until now we have Pullman stage sleighs and wear white kid gloves at swell functions. Could the sour doughs of early days who are sleeping peacefully beneath six feet of Klondike muck but know the actual condition of affairs, there would certainly be a general overturning of graves.

In the fulness of time, we expect that Dawson will become an incorporated town. An important question to be then considered is the qualification to be required of electors. It appears to us that under existing circumstances a property qualification to be fixed by law should be the chief requisite. When local taxation becomes a reality, the bulk of the assessed property will be found to be owned by other than Canadian citizens. This condition should be taken under very serious consideration when the qualifications to be required of voters are finally determined.

There are great many people who will not believe that the twentieth century begins with the first of next month, until they have actually seen the old year out and the new one in. We hope that when they see no other way out of the difficulty that they will gracefully acknowledge that the twentieth century has actually begun.

The News has another idea. It is posing now as a public educator. Probably it refers to the lessons in fake journalism, with which its columns are filled every day. In that particular respect the News can easily claim ability as an educator.

The Christmas season draws on apace. Considering the fact that Santa Claus is popularly supposed to start from about this latitude, he ought to be simply staggering under a weight of good things when he reaches Dawson.

Dig Their Own Graves.

Samuel Reinert, who is digging his own grave in the Union-church cemetery near Shoemakersville, Pa., writes a Reading correspondent, is only one of many people about here who are making similar preparations for death.

Reinert made up his mind to superintend his future earthly home, so he lined out his grave with granite slabs and arranged the bottom just as he wanted it. He wants the flooring well drained and secure, then concreted and then laid with a stone slab.

Plenty of men in eastern Pennsylvania have their graves dug and walled up all ready for occupancy. They visit their graves once a week and take good care of the turf and the flowers. They have the satisfaction of knowing that when death does come the burial lot won't be disfigured by earth thrown on the grass from the newly dug grave. The earth to fill these ready made graves is brought in wagons. Some men want such earth brought from a lower part of Berks county a hermit in the Oley hills owns a faraway corner in an obscure cemetery, where he wishes to be buried entirely separated particular spot near their home.

Elderly women also have their graves prepared in advance in accordance with their ideas. One old lady has her grave walled up with stones taken from an ancient bakeoven in which her grandmother baked the best custards she ever ate in her life. She says she knows it is only a notion, but she wants it that way.

An old sexton of Lehigh county has charged the young minister of the church with one sacred duty, as he calls it. The preacher must see to it personally that he is buried without a coffin. He wants his body wrapped in a sheet and lowered into a grave eight feet deep and then covered with yellow sand from a nearby hill where he played when a boy. The floor of the grave is to be of the same sand a foot thick. He says the brave soldier boys were buried in their blankets, and a sheet is enough for him.

Many girls and young men choose their graves; but if they marry, then the conditions change and their funeral arrangements are reconsidered. In the from any other grave. The hermit's plot will not be encroached upon in a hundred years. He says he wants no company even in death, and his grave-stone is to be inscribed "Here lies nobody." An aged church organist died last year. His last request was that he should be buried on a hill in a certain cemetery and that an aeolian harp should be erected over his grave. He left \$300 to the graveyard trustees to pay the expenses of keeping such a wind instrument always in good repair, so that he would have music whenever there was a breeze. Near the borders of Schuylkill county a well-to-do farmer has his grave dug and in the side near the bottom is an opening four feet long and two feet wide a sort of crypt. At his death, his favored bulldog is to be killed and buried in the crypt, and his own coffin is then to be lowered by the side of his dog. He never had a wife, and says his dog is his best friend. He is so well off and has so much influence that the church trustees will not refuse a cemetery burial to the dog.—Ex.

Newspaper Bowling Match.

The employees of the Daily News, being pervaded with a sense of recklessness seldom seen and never excelled, have issued a challenge to the employees of the Daily Nugget to meet, not in mortal combat on the field of "honah, sah!" not with hard gloves at Phillips, but in the Reception bowling alley, where a five game contest will take place for points, the side winning the greatest total number of points to be declared victorious, the losers to pay for all games and a supper such as will appeal to the newspaperly palate.

The Nugget force, or sufficient of it to compose a bowling team, takes pleasure in accepting the News' challenge and will accept the prescribed terms. The game will be played Thursday night beginning at 7:30 o'clock provided a man can be found to perform the work of setting up the pins. No admission will be charged to spectators.

The Library Entertainment.

The Free Library and Reading Room entertainment last night was fully up to the standard adopted by that institution, and so great was the audience that many who were late in arriving were not able to even crowd inside the door and were forced to return to their homes. Without giving the program as it was presented, it is only necessary to say that the usual number of high-class music and choice literary selections were rendered by the best talent of Dawson. The free library is by long odds the most popular public institution in the city.

Fortune to Be Made.

A fortune awaits the man who can invent a way to keep lemons fresh all winter without their being frozen. At present nearly, if not quite all, the lemons in Dawson have been frozen and lemons are a beverage of the past and until next spring when fresh lemons are received from the outside.

Telephone Service

The number of telephones in the city of Dawson now amounts to 143 according to information obtained from the Yukon Telephone syndicate. Besides those installed on the Dawson circuit there are many others located on the creeks which are connected with the Dawson system by direct wires. Grand Forks has 21 'phones in place. This will surprise many, as it was not generally believed that number of 'phones could be found in that place. There are 14 additional 'phones on Bonanza and six on Eldorado. Sulphur has one, Dominion two, Gold Run three and one on the dome at the Dome road-house. The total number of telephones in place, exclusive of private systems are 191. Many more are being put in and before spring there will be at least 300 telephones in operation.

Obstructed Streets.

The warning given in police court some time ago relative to the matter of obstructing the streets and avenues of Dawson by allowing vehicles of all kinds, wood yards, etc., to occupy so much of them as to leave in some places only a narrow passage way on the center, does not appear to have had the effect which it was intended that it would have; but so long as there are no fires or other occasion for the speeding of horses, the fact that the streets are thus blocked will probably not result in any serious inconvenience.

For the Big Feed.

The members of the local branch of the Salvation Army are now busy with the preparations for their annual free Christmas dinner, and as they anticipate feeding at least 100 people, they will be pleased to receive donations of either provisions, or cash, from all who desire to thus help brighten the Christmas-tide of many in the city. The shelter is at present crowded to the door and there is every evidence of there being a big crowd whose Christmas dinner will be a slim affair unless thus provided for.

Physiques of Royalty.

In a physical sense few of the sovereigns of Europe are of such form as to compare favorably with a fair specimen of their subjects, most of them coming under the general classification of "squatly." Then, too, their generous girths give the impression that they linger rather longer at the fustal board than at the exercises which make men wise.

The new king of Italy is 5 feet 3 inches tall, but still he is not the shortest sovereign. The czar of all the Russians is only 5 feet 2 inches, and he has to tiptoe a little to measure that. The Prince of Wales is 5 feet 4 inches, and sorry he is that he stopped growing so soon. Pictures of him give the impression that he is a much taller man, but that is because his royal highness knows how to pose before a camera. In a group he selects a position in the rear line, where he can stand on a box, or else he steps to one end of the front line and a little in advance of the others. Perspective does the rest. Perhaps the prince would not care so much about his lack of height if he did not persist in becoming portly. He weighs 257 pounds.

King Oscar of Sweden and Norway, is the tallest reigning monarch of Europe, being a little over 6 feet. When the Crown Prince of Greece ascends the throne he will take the palm from King Oscar, for he is slightly taller. Prince Charles of Denmark, is only a fraction of an inch shorter than King Oscar, and is the tallest male member of the English royal family. But the fat king's prize belongs to the king of Portugal, who is only 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs 308 pounds.

Queen Victoria is the shortest monarch in the world, being only 4 feet 11 inches tall. She weighs 168 pounds. Queen Wilhelmina of Holland is 5 feet 5 1/2 inches, Marie Henrietta of Belgium and Sophia of Sweden 5 feet 4. Amelie of Portugal 5 feet, Margherita of Italy and Natalie of Serbia 5 feet 5. Regent of Spain 5 feet 5 1/2, and Empress Alix of Russia 3 inches shorter.

Badly Frozen

Word was brought to the police on Gold Run creek yesterday of a severe case of freezing on Eureka. The name of the victim is Harry Moffat. He is a moose hunter and while on the hills in the vicinity of Eureka had both hands and feet frozen.

He managed after remaining out two days without shelter, to reach a cabin on the creek, but in such a condition that it is doubtful if he will survive. A messenger was immediately dispatched to the Gold Run police post and two policemen left immediately to look after him.

From the accounts given by this man who summoned the police it is quite probable that Moffat will be dead before he can be given proper attention.

Big Outlay for Rubber.

It will astonish the people of the United States to learn that during the last four years \$100,000,000 worth of India rubber has been brought to this country. Ten years ago the annual importations of India rubber amounted to about \$15,000,000; now they exceed \$30,000,000 and are steadily increasing. Practically all of the importations of rubber came in crude form for the use of manufacturers, who are constantly extending its application to various new lines of industry. Northern Brazil, southern Mexico, the West Indies, central Africa, India, the Straits Settlements and the Dutch East Indies supply this increasingly important feature of our importations. Probably no single article has made a more rapid growth in its relations to manufactures, and consequently commerce in the last few years than rubber.

India rubber is not, as is generally supposed, the product of a single tree, but, on the contrary, is produced from a variety of trees and plants. Some of these flourish only in a moist soil and atmosphere, while others thrive on stony soil, provided they receive ample though intermittent rainfall, though in all cases a tropical or subtropical climate is requisite. Most of the India rubber of South and Central America and India is from trees, but in the islands of the Indian archipelago the supply of rubber is chiefly from a gigantic tree, which in five years' growth attains a length of 200 feet and from 20 to 30 inches in circumference and which yields annually from 50 to 60 pounds of caoutchouc. Java, Sumatra, Penang, Singapore and French Indo-China are already large producers of crude India rubber, or caoutchouc, and its production in the West Indies has been sufficient to indicate the entire practicability of its being made an important industry in Cuba and Porto Rico as well as in the Hawaiian, Philippine and Samoan Islands.—Ex.

The Wood Market.

The supply of wood in Dawson this winter far exceeds that of any previous year, and it is being hauled into town from all sides. The small dealers are supplying it at from \$14 to \$16 per cord and are making heavy inroads on the business of the large dealers who are endeavoring to keep the price up to \$18 for long wood. It is likely that after the present winter less wood and more coal will be used as at the present rate at which wood is consumed in winter and summer along the Yukon it is but a question of time when there will be but little of it to be had at any price.

The Eagles.

The Eagles met in full conclave at McDonald hall last evening and fully sustained their reputation as hospitable entertainers. The hall was crowded with the birds and their friends and good fellowship was the order from beginning to end. The professional talent of the town took part in the entertainment, which, both in quality and quantity, could not be excelled. There was plenty to eat and no lack of the flowing bowl. The festivities continued to a late hour with nothing but pure enjoyment to engage the attention of the participants.

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