

The Klondike Nugget

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday

E. C. ALLEN, Manager
GEO. M. ALLEN, Editor
A. F. GEORGE, City Editor

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NOTICE

When a newspaper offers its advertising space at a nominal figure, it is a practical admission of "no circulation." THE KLONDIKE NUGGET asks a good figure for its space and in justification thereof guarantees to its advertisers a paid circulation five times that of any other paper published between Juneau and the North Pole.

The NUGGET has a regular carrier and express service covering Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail or express may be left at this office or given to creek agents.

NOT NECESSARILY PATRIOTISM.

A most commendable thing is patriotism. Naturally enough we appreciate our own or our country's patriotism more than the same desirable emotion in a Chinaman or other foreigner. But there is a condition of the mind so widely unlike it and yet so nearly akin to patriotism as to be mistaken for it by nine out of every ten we meet. This feeling is not particularly a love of one's own country as a hatred of everyone else; not so much a warming of the heart to one's fellow countrymen as a hatred of foreigners. Patriotism inspires its possessor with a desire to build up, reform or maybe glorify his own land or people; the other and more ungenerous feeling would simply tear down, belittle or in some other way administer injury to the land across the ocean or boundary or the strange people who inhabit it.

Which of these feelings was it which inspired our Ottawa government and its myrmidons when they framed their Klondike policy? The howl was at once raised within those legislative halls that "Americans" were taking the country; Americans of enterprise and daring were braving the passes and cascades in swarms and were about to secure a percentage of the "plum." Was it love of Canada and Canadians or dislike of America and Americans which instigated the system of intolerable taxation, monstrous irregularity and flagrant imposition which is causing the British home office to raise its hands in holy deprecation at the news from Klondike? The true motive is apparent. Patriotism would not dictate a policy which involves Canadians as well as Americans in the same evil effects of misgovernment.

But the thought arises "Is there then no discrimination at all in the situation?" Indeed there is. In spite of all the assurances to the contrary the feeling is here and is growing that Canadians must and shall be given special prerogatives or privileges, or to put it more clearly—that Americans should be made more distinctly to feel the yoke. As a very prominent Canadian said to the public just before leaving Vancouver: "It is Canadian territory and belongs to Canadians; Canada proposes to keep all she's got." Instances are piling up daily of this anti-Americanism and there is but one redeeming feature in the entire situation and that is that British Islanders, South Africans and Australians are showing absolutely no indications of being afflicted with this "Gringomania."

ABANDONMENT OF CLAIMS.

A proposed amendment to the mining regulations emanating from the miners themselves and which it is proposed to forward to Ottawa, is the restoration of miners' rights after the abandonment of the one claim which a miner may stake in a district. There are several premises essential to a thorough understanding of the matter, the first and greatest being that a self-supporting miner who will at his own cost dig into vacant and other-

wise worthless ground, is a most worthy citizen and deserving of every consideration. A second premise which is only applicable to such desolate regions as this is that without the presence of the aforementioned desirable citizens the government would have in its possession a barren, frozen, unpopulated waste, absolutely unproductive of revenue, utterly worthless and simply filling out the purpose on the map by filling out the geographical lines of a continent. The inevitable conclusion is that it is asinine and suicidal for that government to say to those men: "If you dig into that barren ground in any one place and find it worthless we cannot let you dig any more." This is practically what it amounts to when a miner is given but one right.

It is true a man cannot work himself more than one piece of ground at any one time. The proposed change is that in the event of the ground proving worthless the miner be allowed to post up notices of abandonment and also file same with the recorder. At the expiration of 30 days his rights are restored and he tries his luck on another piece of ground.

There also appears good reason to a thinking man for not allowing instantaneous abandonment. An undesirable element in any mining camp is the man who would, if allowed, stake out the entire surface of the country and sell to later arrivals. If abandonment and restoration of rights was allowed without the saving 30-day clause there would be collusion at once between buyer and seller. Both would walk out to the claim together, the one would abandon while the other took up the land. A man who sells a claim does not do so because it is worked out or proven worthless, and is not at all on the same footing with the genuine prospector or miner who desires to abandon simply that his right to stake may be restored.

BRIGHTER PROSPECTS.

As the season advances more encouraging reports continue to come in from the outlying creeks. The mild weather which has prevailed of late hindered development work very considerably but it also allowed opportunity for completing other work just as important. With the sinking of the mercury again, activity has been resumed all along the line and we may expect to hear frequent reports of paying strikes. The new creeks in some instances will not turn out to meet expectations but the situation today is brighter by far than it was three weeks ago. Every new lay or claim upon which the pay streak is located means an increased volume of business for Dawson and a consequent increase in the prosperity of our city.

It must be admitted that business in Dawson during the past month has been anything but satisfactory. The principal difficulty has been a lack of money with which to transact business. It may be expected from this time on, however, that a steadily increasing stimulus in all lines of trade will be felt. Bed rock is being reached every day on the different creeks and the pinnings which are made from time to time are gradually finding their way into circulation. Another 30 days should find business in Dawson assuming normal proportions.

The construction of public highways is essentially a governmental function. This fact was recognized by even the most ancient of nations for they realize the importance of bringing distant communities in close communication with each other at an individual expense as small as possible. The toll road is an institution which in most countries has long been abolished. We have no doubt had the Yukon Council been under the impression that a toll trail was to be constructed under the terms of the paper they granted to Mr. Henning and associates, that the paper would not have been granted. Had there been no tramway company the miners would long ago have had constructed a serviceable sled trail, for the creek bed itself when frozen forms a natural roadway. In that event no toll would have been collected and the miners would have been substan-

tially as well off as they now are in so far as the trail is concerned. How a toll sled trail built under a charter for a tramway can be justified is beyond ordinary comprehension.

It goes without saying that social lines cannot be drawn as tightly in Dawson as they are in more settled and older communities. The conditions under which this city was founded are so peculiar that no other result could be expected. Almost every corner of the globe is represented in the population of Dawson and any attempt to separate the wheat from the chaff from a social standpoint would be simply an endeavor to obtain the impossible. This fact, however, should not necessarily mean that respectable people are to be debarred from participating in the few social pleasures which are placed within their reach. Skeletons which are securely hidden need not injure anyone even though their existence be a matter of easy guess work. But decent people have the right to expect protection from characters who flaunt themselves before the public for advertising purposes and the right should be respected.

The time which the Yukon council has consumed in deliberating upon the incorporation ordinance certainly does honor to the importance of that document. It will be very surprising, if after all this expenditure of energy and brain work any opportunity be presented for picking flaws in the ordinance when its terms are finally agreed upon. The citizens of Dawson are awaiting the promulgation of the incorporation measure in much the same spirit that the barons of England awaited the signing of the Magna Charta. We only hope that the Honorable Council will pay as much consideration to the pressure of public opinion in this instance as King John granted to the good steel of his loving but rebellious subjects.

EVENTS move in cycles; history repeats itself; man in his actions but duplicates past acts of himself or progenitors. And so it happens that we have arrived at the era of new resolutions, the advent of New Years day, 1899. A popular move in Dawson just at this particular moment would be a temperance revival. We have properly celebrated the great racial holiday as it has been celebrated since long before the year one, and now the stool of repentance has been brought forth from a year's hiding just as undoubtedly was done more than 3000 years ago by our piratical and long haired ancestors after similar experiences.

Did the Sun swallow the Miner or did the Miner swallow the Sun or did Mr. O'Brien in pity for this pair of Jonahs swallow them both, or was Mr. O'Brien the Jonah and have the Miner-Sun jointly and severally engulfed him? These questions are all intensely interesting and an answer to them would relieve an anxious public from a great deal of suspense. But until they are answered the people will continue to wonder by just what combination of circumstances the Sun and the Miner and Mr. O'Brien became related to each other.

OUTSIDE OPINION.

From the Winnipeg Daily Tribune: It seems to us that, considering the important place the newspaper occupies in the education and the amusement of the people, the law ought to allow it great latitude in its comments upon public men and matters. Personal spite and ill will ought never to find their way into a newspaper. The utterances of public men, as well as their official capacity, are fair themes for newspaper comment. In dealing with such matters, journalists have the right to exercise their discretion, severely condemning where they consider censure was richly deserved, and inflicting milder chastisement upon those whose deeds or words were less culpable.

It seems a trite truism to state that the bold expression of honest convictions is beneficial both to the community at large and to the journal which ventilates them.

If it should ever happen in Canada that juries sitting upon libel cases made it a rule to bring in the newspapers guilty and award damages to the com-

plaintants, journalists will find themselves so heavily handicapped that they will abstain altogether from commenting upon public measures and the actions of public men. How damaging this course would be to the country need scarcely be pointed out. Dishonest politicians in power, released from the censorship of the press, would so handle the resources of the country, that while they themselves become enormously wealthy, the people they governed would be plunged in the deepest distress. But fortunately for us libel cases are few in Canada, and newspapers in this country can rejoice in a wide and well deserved freedom.

NORTHWEST EXPRESS CO.

Commencing Dec. 5 will run dog teams Dawson to Bennett
Every 10 days, carrying passengers and mail. Road houses and well stocked relay stations en route. Experienced drivers. Leave mail at office or care of A. C. Co., Fairview Hotel and Regina Cafe. For further information apply to
C. F. Smith, Mgr., 262 Front St.

LOUIS SECKELS

ASSAYER AND ANALYTICAL CHEMIST
Gold Melted into Bars. All Work Guaranteed
11th St., adjoining new Regina Club Hotel.

YUKON SAW MILL CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF
First Quality Matched, Dressed, Rustic, Roofing, and Rough Lumber.
House Logs Furnished, Cordwood &c.
Orders filled promptly.

Alaska Exploration Co.

Operating the elegant river steamers
LEON, LINDA AND ARNOLD
Connecting with Palatial Ocean Steamers at St. Michael, Direct for San Francisco, Cal. We are in the field for business. Our stores and warehouses are now in course of construction at Dawson and other points along the Yukon river.
L. R. FULDA, Agent.

STANDARD OIL CO.

Are Prepared to Deliver
COAL OIL, LUBRICATING OILS
And Electric Light and Granite Candles
ON ANY OF THE CREEKS.

Give your orders to the Nugget Express Co's Driver

Dawson Furniture Co.

FINEST LINE OF FURNITURE IN DAWSON.
Hotels and Lodging Houses a Specialty.
OFFICE, SALOON AND FANCY CHAIRS
Office, 409, 2nd Ave., opp. Regina Club.

John McDonald,

MERCHANT TAILOR.
Fine Line of Gentlemen's Suits, Just Arrived.
Water Front, bet. 1st and 2nd Sts

FEARLESS RELIABLE

INDEPENDENT

The "Nugget"

DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER

The best and most accurate history of the Klondike country that ever will be written will be found in the files of the NUGGET. Every miner should have the NUGGET in his cabin. Delivered regularly by carrier on all creeks.

Our facilities for executing

JOB WORK

are the very latest.
Prompt Attention Given to All Orders

If you are in need of any of the following articles they can be found at the Nugget office:
Letter Paper, Note Paper,
MEMO BOOKS, POCKET BOOKS, TIME BOOKS,
TABLETS, PENS, PENCILS,
KLONDIKE MAPS, CASH BOXES,
Bill of Sale Blanks, Document Envelopes, Deeds, Feather Dusters, Letter Files, etc.

THE "NUGGET"

Three doors north of N. A. T. & T. Co.

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