

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY
On Wednesday and Saturday
ALLEN BROS. Publishers
A. F. GEORGE, Associate Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Yearly in advance	\$24 00
Six months	12 00
Three months	6 00
Per month by carrier in city (in advance)	2 00
Single copies	25

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1899

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.

ATTACKING A LADY.

The News—that valiant miners' friend which avoided the conflict in Dawson until The Nugget, by a year's hard work, had inaugurated free speech and a free press in this territory—has at last found a foe man worthy of its steel in a defenceless woman. Its leader for last Friday was an article in which the name of Mrs. M. L. Ferguson occurs nine different times. With a very imperfect knowledge of the Ferguson concession which the council has protected with an exclusive permit, the News sees only that a lonely woman, whom it would be so brave and manly in a sheet of its character to call down. Says the News, "Why anybody should wish to take advantage of so profitless a scheme does not appear."

Coming to its peroration it says: "But of course Mrs. Ferguson expects to make money out of it, and of course the only way she can do it is by taxing the householders for placing the numbers she shall place arbitrarily over each and every doorway."

The above contradictions follow each other in the News leader with the graceful abandon of a sea-sick traveler losing his dinner in a spell of bad weather. A perusal of the article produces a hint of the same nausea in the reader. To attempt a vindication of its claim as the miners' champion by attacking the street numbering concession in the hands of a woman is a true index of its aims and ability. And this, too, after frankly avowing that to Mrs. Ferguson it must be "so profitless a scheme."

To immediately follow the above with an "of course" the lady is going to extort vast wealth from us by putting numbers on every house at exorbitant rates shows the slipping of a cog in the News' cranium which needs immediate repair.

For the benefit of our readers, the lady has been approached for a statement. The concession, about which the News knows so little, is a concession for a directory of the creeks and Dawson which you can patronize or leave alone, at your pleasure. A directory was impracticable and useless until people learned on what street or avenue they lived—hence the handy and neat finger posts now on every crossing. Without numbers for the houses on those streets and avenues a directory would be a farce, so Mrs. Ferguson was empowered to arbitrarily assign numbers to each block, she having performed similar offices for the Southern Pacific railroad in California. Commencing at First street the first block will commence at one hundred and one. At Second street the houses will commence at two hundred and one. By this method, giving the number and avenue of a certain house, one can walk straight

there without asking of anyone a single question. Two hundred and ten Third street would be between Second and Third avenues, and so on.

And now, for the benefit of the News, we will explain where the profits occur. Directories are saleable. To aid in its compilation a free public register is being prepared. The true inwardness of the News' attack appears to be that the printing of this free public register was given to a rival printing concern—The Nugget. On our own behalf, we will say that we have earned and deserved all the patronage we receive by a year of conscientious labor in this field. We did not wait until things were made smooth and easy for us—as did the News—before casting in our lot with the miners. The paltriness of the News' attack on Mrs. Ferguson because she ordered her printing from this office instead of the News is on a par with that journal's pretence at being the champion of the people without having the manhood to fight for their rights. The good God, good Devil policy of our contemporary is pure, unadulterated wash. It dares not incur the displeasure of even the most venal officials in the service of those whom it wishes to become its patrons. It is held in contempt by those it criticises, and its championship is refused by those it would befriend if it dared. It chooses inoffensive ladies for its victims when it would appear strong, and is mum as an oyster at crookedness in high places. Its policy is cheap as its boiler-plate service. In this community, it is as weighty for good or evil as an inflated toy balloon. Its weakly platitudes upon current mining regulation abuses and evils are as capable of affecting reform or attracting remedial attention as a Yukon mosquito is capable of flying away with the victim it pesters, but does not injure.

We suggest to the News that it confine its attentions to things feminine, as such a course is safe for itself and women are helpless—but for goodness sake acquaint yourself with the things you would discuss; and know this, that the compiling of a directory is perfectly legitimate and proper and the News is likely to be one of its first patrons, since, without its card there it is likely to remain forever as unknown and obscure as has been its portion heretofore.

WHY NOT TESTIFY.

A little street incident of Thursday night indicates an inexcusable phase of the public character. A low-down representative of a man, who, with \$50,000 in cash and diamonds on his person, was endeavoring to extort a few more dollars from a woman of the town, was seen to be abusing her by passers-by who interfered. When witnesses were wanted in order to put the man where he could not beat the supporter of his family, the crowd slunk back into the darkness of the night, all but one protesting that they had seen nothing.

The courts of the land are created and maintained for the protection of the public and not for its oppression. The officers of the court and police patrol are constantly engaged in the public service. The record of the Yukon courts and constabulary is a most enviable one, and has inspired the utmost confidence of an alien people. All this being true, is it not the bounden duty of a man who aspires to be considered a good citizen that he be prepared to

devote a few minutes of his time to aiding the court machinery when his presence is needed as a witness? Indeed, it is our opinion even in the matter of jury service, onerous as is the duty, that a good man should be prepared always for a short yearly service to his fellows.

In some lands the courts and semi-military police are simply the instruments of avaricious monopolists, and in such cases it is quite compatible with good citizenship, to quietly antagonize the agents of the machine in any way possible in order to minimize their powers for evil. Such arguments cannot be advanced in Dawson, and in order to merit the protection which we all must admit we receive, we should be prepared at all times and consider it our duty to aid the courts of the land whenever in a position to do so. It is no dishonor to attend the police court as a witness, and the morbid modesty of the man who will lie concerning his knowledge of the affair in order to avoid a subpoena is something beyond our power of understanding.

THE DREYFUS TRIAL.

So the French people, after a public trial before their court of cassation, have again decided that Dreyfus was guilty of selling information of the French army to Germany. Most people upon this Western half-world are badly disappointed at the verdict, having long ago resolved that the man was innocent. This opinion was adopted immediately upon receipt of the details of the former secret trial, though from the fact of its being so secret we were certainly not in a position to judge fairly between the French people and Dreyfus. However, there was so much heat and prejudice shown upon either side that not alone in America, but throughout the world such a clamor was raised that a new and public trial was allowed and has just been completed. On this side of the Atlantic the most or all of the newspapers had committed themselves long before this trial upon the innocence of Dreyfus; and this upon such scraps of testimony as had been allowed to percolate through the guarded walls of the former court. Having thus committed themselves, it is not at all surprising that such vague testimony as seemed to bear out their adopted theory of innocence has been exploited by the American press for all that was in it, while little or nothing has been printed on the other side. Getting our news solely from this source—a source avowedly of pro-Dreyfus inclinations from long before the commencement of the trial—it is in the natural sequence of events that the majority of us should still maintain the innocence of the convicted man, even though pronounced guilty after public trial by a bench of French judges, who have held their sessions under the critical eyes of a world. The fact is that the proceedings of a voluminous trial have never been at our disposal—only such garbled versions of it as the Associated Press chose to give us. If we knew the leanings of the man at the head of that Associated Press it might be seen that we were unwise to let him thus mold our opinions to his own. To sum up, The Nugget is forced to the conclusion that we are not in possession of sufficient facts either way to oracularly pronounce either as to the guilt or innocence of Dreyfus. Investigation will show that the loudest contestants on either extreme were just as certain

before the first day of the trial as now. It is quite possible—nay—probable—that we have not yet heard the last of the case and we hold ourselves in readiness to believe either in the innocence or guilt of Dreyfus as the evidence shall show—something which it has not yet done.

Spelling by Precedent.

Oh! she was a Dawson belle,
And she cut a very big swelle;
But she didn't go down
With the boys of the town,
And remarked to herself "This is helle."
So at church as she walked up the aisle,
She wretched her face in a snaisle,
And remarked "Hully gee,
Just show him to me;
O, the man with the jolly big paisle."
Then she moped and she moped and she sighed
And when she'd done that, then she crighed.
And a deacon so crusty,
He acted up rusty,
And put her outside, where she dighed.
Please pardon this horrible rhyme;
If you will, it's the very last thyme
I will write prophylactic
Or spell so didactic,
And be guilty of such a bad crhyme.
—A. F. G.

England Afraid of the Plague.

London, Sept. 16.—The arrival of rain during the week and the consequent banishment of the hot weather afforded intense relief. The recent heated spell was apparently responsible for a considerable increase in the United Kingdom death rate, especially among children. The prevalence of the plague abroad creates uneasiness here and the authorities have taken a few regulation precautions at the ports. But the bulk of the English are far too satisfied with their sanitary superiority to seriously consider the possibility of an outbreak in this country.

A Cloud Maker.

Paris, Sept. 17.—Among the peculiar attractions at the Paris exposition will be a great machine for making clouds of all varieties at will. The machine will be in shape like two big globes. Spectators will be seated on the elevated platform at the rear. Any kind of clouds desired, from the light and feathery cirrus of summer to the heavy cumulus of a thunder storm, may be made. To add realism to the picture, thunder and lightning will be imitated when the machine is turning out the proper kind of product. In connection with the cloud machine a stereopticon will be used to throw pictures and advertisements on the ready made clouds.

Notice of Removal

The Canadian Bank of Commerce down town office will be removed from the A. C. Co. office building to the office formerly occupied by Arthur Lewin, on the main street, opposite the Yukon dock, on Monday next, the 1st of October.

Don't forget opening of Cafe Royal Wine Rooms, Monday night, Aug. 14.

Special Arrangements Have Been Made by

The Nugget Express

For Sending a Through Messenger to the Seattle Assay Office

Next Week

Gold Dust Shipments Taken at Reasonable Rates.

Office in the Aurora Block, DAWSON.

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