

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 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.

"UNCLE" ANDY DEAD.

It is with a feeling of utmost sorrow that The Nugget records the death of "Uncle" Andy Young. For considerably more than a year Uncle Andy, as he was known to every man, woman and child in Dawson, has been The Nugget's sole salesman on the streets.

His enthusiasm in his work and his devotion to the "Dear Little Nugget," as he affectionately termed the paper, made him most successful. His friends were numbered by the hundreds and there is scarcely a man in Dawson or upon the adjacent creeks who was not his personal acquaintance. The tragic manner of his death and the circumstances surrounding it only add to the sorrow which will be experienced by his friends and family who survive him. A faithful worker and true-hearted friend, "Uncle" Andy will be missed in Dawson by everyone who knew his admirable qualities.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

In the last issue of The Nugget we published editorially an extract from a circular issued from the general land office at Washington, D. C., defining the rights of Canadian citizens in Alaska.

The law, as passed by congress, was intended entirely as a reciprocal measure and granted to native-born Canadians rights similar to those enjoyed by American citizens in Canada, without, however, defining what those rights were. A clause was inserted in the act which confined the rights granted to Canadians to such rights as were enjoyed by Americans. This clause brought about the dilemma explained in our last issue, which leaves the Canadian citizen practically without mining rights in Alaska. Since the publication of the law referred to, as will be noted in our local columns a number of Canadian citizens have applied to Acting United States Consul Adams for permission to take our naturalization papers, presumably that they may be able to stand on an equal footing with American citizens at Nome next spring.

This circumstance opens up a very wide field for thought.

Despite the rumors of Nome's wealth, we are not prepared to believe that it can equal or approach the riches that have been discovered on the creeks adjacent to the city of Dawson. Before the discovery of the Nome beach diggings but little confidence was placed in the creeks where the original gold discoveries were made. Authentic and reliable reports from men of known judgment and veracity denied the existence of any considerable number of paying claims on the creeks. It was not until after the announcement that the beach diggings were producing ex-

tensively that anything approaching a stampede to Nome occurred.

The extent of this gold which is alleged to be so freely mixed with the sand along the beach is still a matter of speculation. Individual instances of large daily "clean-ups" have, of course, been cited but they prove no more than the fact that pans containing \$500 have frequently been washed on Eldorado creek.

When, therefore, in the face of the uncertainty that surrounds the Nome country, Canadian citizens are applying for American citizenship in order that they may leave the Klondike, the wealth of which is a long demonstrated certainty, and take their chances at Nome, we repeat that an extremely wide field for thought has been opened up.

Men do not willingly give up their native country and pledge allegiance to another unless for strong reasons. In this instance there can be only one reason advanced for the action of those Canadian citizens and that reason lies in the fact that these men despair of ever seeing their hopes realized while the present unjust and inequitable laws maintain in this country.

We can conceive of no more striking commentary upon the condition of affairs in this territory than the fact that Canadian citizens are ready to leave Dawson to become United States subjects in order to avail themselves of United States laws.

THE KLONDIKE WIDOW.

It seems to have become the fad in the outside papers to make the wife of the Klondiker the butt of unmanly innuendo, until the term Klondike Widow has become a bye word and jest.

To us the term suggests a far different meaning and brings before our mind the face of a dear one awaiting the return to them of a husband who has braved the awful terrors of the far away frozen country called the Klondike, hoping he will meet with success; but if not, trusting that a kind Providence will bring him back safely to their own home, where perchance some loved little one is calling for her father and yearning for the accustomed caress.

It suggests the poor wife waiting day by day for some word of her absent one; and waiting in vain, for death has gathered many a noble soul to itself along the trail, and the rushing water of the Yukon sings its requiem to a thousand missing adventurers.

There is hardly a town in America today that does not contain its awful tragedy and its monument is carved in the saddened face of a broken-hearted woman whose pathetic title is literally a "Klondike Widow."

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION.

The numerous fires which have occurred during the past few days are a distinct warning of what is very likely to happen any day. The only possible means by which the destruction of Dawson by fire can be averted is the exercise of the utmost vigilance on the part of every occupant of a building in the city.

Despite the fact that the efficiency of the fire department has been greatly increased, the apparatus can not be depended upon to work satisfactorily with the thermometer at 40 degrees below zero.

Should a fire break out in the business center during a cold snap such as

prevailed on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, it is hardly likely that any available means would be able to stay its progress. It would doubtless mean a clean sweep until the fury of the flames had been spent and the fire died out of its own accord.

In this particular instance, an ounce of prevention is worth many times the proverbial pound of cure. Every flue should be immediately examined and if found defective, removed. It must be remembered that creosote, which forms so readily at this season of the year, works the ruination of an ordinary stove pipe in a very short time.

The danger increases proportionately with the dropping of the mercury, and the ability of the fire department to cope with the flames becomes also less.

If Dawson is not burned during the winter it will be as a result of individual care and prudence, rather than for any other reason.

The final arrival of cold weather ought to improve business in Dawson considerably. Local merchants are complaining of a general slump in business, due, we believe, in a large measure to the moderate weather which prevailed up to the beginning of the present week. Work on the creeks has been practically at a standstill, but from this time on there should be no reason for any general discontinuance of work. On the contrary, the efforts of every claim owner and layman will be redoubled in order that the very best advantage may be taken of the comparatively short working season which still remains. Activity on the creeks means business for Dawson and vice versa. We apprehend that it will be only a short time until the somewhat clogged wheels of trade will be moving along under the quickening impulse of renewed demand from the creeks.

Arrivals from Bennett via the new cut off trails state that it will be a matter of no considerable difficulty to reach Skagway this winter in from seven to eight days. The distance to Bennett, according to the latest information is 420 miles. To make the trip in eight days will therefore require an average of 52½ miles per day. Without doubt such records will be made in numerous cases this winter. The average "musher," however, will be more apt to use 10 or 11 days.

There has been a very apparent scarcity of pugilistic events this far this winter. Last year at this time scarcely a week passed which did not witness several such events. It must be that there is a shortage in talent.

From present indications the bazaar to be given for the benefit of St. Mary's hospital will be a grand success. The ladies who undertook the task have worked unceasingly with very happy results.

Camp McKinney's Gold Brick.

Grand Forks, B. C., Nov. 22.—Six days clean-up on the Granite and Banner, Camp McKinney, from the treatment of 40 tons of ore in a five-stamp mill was a gold brick valued at \$697. The ore was taken from the winze in the tunnel and is improving in character every day. Thirteen samples gave returns ranging from \$17 to \$38 per ton.

"Cheer up, the worst is yet to come." Make your life a little brighter with home comforts. Carpets, draperies, upholstered goods, at Jenkins & Johnson, Second ave., near Third.

Hear the phonograph; all the popular airs. Drop in at Louis', Northwest road house, on Hunker.

FIRE LADDIES KEPT BUSY.

Numerous Blazes During the Past Few Days.

Sisters' Hospital, Several Cabins and French Row Visited by the Destroying Element.

Fire broke out from a defective pipe in the Sisters' hospital Tuesday afternoon but was gotten under control before serious damage was done. The fire department quickly responded. The sister superior has announced her intention of at once having all the pipes in the building encased in drums for temporary protection, and next summer the large building will be fitted throughout with brick chimneys.

CABIN AND CASH BURN.

Frank M. Smith lost his cabin located on the side hill by fire Wednesday forenoon, the origin being in a defective flue pipe. Five hundred dollars in currency belonging to Mr. Smith, together with the contents of the cabin were destroyed.

CABIN DESTROYED.

At about noon Wednesday the department was called to the corner of Second and Seventh, where a cabin owned by a party named Pond was burning. The building with nearly all the contents was destroyed.

ANOTHER CABIN IN ASHES.

Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock a cabin owned by a Mr. Mendan and located at the corner of Third avenue and Ninth street was destroyed with all its contents. The fire department was early on the scene and it was only by heroic efforts that several adjoining buildings were saved. The cabin destroyed was immediately in the rear of the A. E. Co.'s warehouses.

A BURNING SHAME.

Three shacks occupied by Misses Geriffee, Gerifflaa and Gerifloo, in the French row on Fourth avenue were almost entirely destroyed by fire at an early hour Wednesday morning, and but for the timely arrival and hard work of the fire department the entire row would have been reduced to ashes. The fire was caused by the explosion of a lamp which one of the girls attempted to extinguish by blowing down the chimney.

The Nugget Express has made a special rate of 50 cents for carrying the Nugget's special illustrated edition to the coast.

CHRISTMAS GIVING.

One of the great perplexities of life is what to give at Christmas; one of life's most hallowed joys, the privilege of giving. Maid and lover, wife and mother, father and husband, each has his little difficulty in deciding just what to give. In the great world outside men make fortunes devising any nothings, ornamental trinkets, that please the eye and tempt the fancy for Christmas giving. In here, where stern duties and sober necessities rule the life the problem is even a harder one to decide what shall be given. If we were called upon to suggest, we should say "Let it be something useful," something which shall brighten the cabin of your friend, something to add to the comfort of his home life—a rocking chair, perhaps, some ornamental glass-ware for his table, a mirror for the wife, a fine robe—any one of the thousand and one every day necessities. And don't delay your selections until the day before. Do your shopping now while there is plenty of time and do not run the risk of a mistake in hasty decision. Go to the A. E. Company and examine their big stock of goods. If they cannot satisfy you no one can.

STORIES OF

Wonderful "Mush-

Thirty-two H Days—Loving Comp-

There arrived day evening men whom, at The Nugget re to locate, alt registered at t who saw and t er, is responsi that one of the on the last ste had been at N ing that time beach the sum low gold. Th entered the have spent the his health wi not wanted th town and to health was r doubtless com have "mushbe days. The N ed the startlin is not a Y. M is not an unc shot down lik the beach. heard, he h sad fate of th Lord loveth a people love a The young night-report "friend" tw them. Chap recent Skag having stolen tana, doctor on a visit t year worked Victoria gu summer in a He is repres in the new d golden wealth wife of the o for the intri metal. Sne gram, left union withr pelle took p tle for Skag the ice. Th story goes, and reached derelict 'sp When the attempted to persuade h fig tree and while it is cotton in the pleading egram furt then appee elings by ng to the his meadow steamer fo and the w Dawson.

Since the acquiring United Sta Dawson e in its last signified a ance from which wa Since the the law a of Canadia of the Uni under the place papers, formed by John Q. United S the powe allegiance United S concerned