

The Klondike Nugget

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LETTERS.
 And Small Packages can be sent to the Creeks by our carriers on the following days: Every Tuesday and Friday to Eldorado, Bonanza, Hunker, Dominion, Gold Run, Sulphur, Quartz and Canyon.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1901.

THE DOG IN THE HANGER.

The action of the Dominion government in sending an expert mining engineer, a man of reputation in several countries, to investigate the mining concessions already granted in the Yukon territory is a good sign. It shows that the government is willing to admit that, in the interests of the development of this mining district, it has acted hastily or upon the recommendations of officials here that knew little more of the situation and its potential conditions than did the officials at Ottawa.

Much regret has been expressed that Minister of the Interior Sifton had to postpone his trip to the Klondike in order to receive royalty and a prospective right to write "Sir" before his name. That he is entitled to such a high honor no one denies; at the same time the Liberals of the Klondike believe that from his representations his first duty was to his practically voiceless adherents of this section.

Had Clifford Sifton come here what could he have done? It would necessarily have been a hurried visit; a perfunctory glance over the situation and some necessarily hurried conclusions. In all probability much more good can be achieved through the report of the impartial expert who is now making a close investigation and has at his disposal sufficient time to do it thoroughly.

Possibly to nearly every one of the concessions there is some reasonable objection, but the great objection of all and which applies to all is that instead of developing the country they retard this development. Work has been done on them, but not the kind of work, the hydraulic work, for which the concession was given; the concessionaires have not kept faith with the government.

Take as an instance the first concession granted. In the summer of 1897 a man named Anderson came here in touch with capital but not at that time actually representing capitalists. He found that all of the lower part of Hunker was unlocated and that no one seemed to care to locate 500 feet claims on it. At his request, and upon proper affidavits that the ground was not taken up, and that the great rush of miners had passed it by without taking any of it up, he induced Mr. Fawcett, the gold commissioner, to withhold it from location until proper representation could be made to the authorities at Ottawa with the view of obtaining a concession of about two and a half miles up Hunker creek, to be worked by hydraulic methods. The concession was granted with the understanding, of course, that a large supply of water would be brought from the Klondike for operations, which would have been a comparatively easy matter.

Anderson went to London where the Klondike Government Concessions, Limited, was floated for £350,000. The large capital in this case was ample to have brought water from the Klondike providing only a reasonable amount was paid for the concession ground itself; and this was comparatively worthless—so far as then known—without water in large quantities. But the English company, instead of immediately proceeding to prospect the ground with a view to determining its values on a hydraulic basis, and making surveys for the purpose of bringing in sufficient water for hydraulizing, began to work the ground as would any owner of a mere 500 feet claim. Later they obtained a permission from Ottawa to work the ground in any way

they saw fit. This permission ought never to have been granted, because as a result the ground is practically closed and tied up. Good pay was found, a large amount of drifting was done and the results were altogether very satisfactory; sufficiently so to abundantly prove that the property would pay well to hydraulic if bringing the water from the Klondike would not cost more than \$500,000 for 3000 inches of water every five minutes, at an elevation of 200 feet above bedrock on Hunker, and it could be brought for a much less sum than that mentioned.

On the face of it, therefore, it has the appearance of a mismanaged affair altogether, both on the part of the government and the concessionaires. Yet more money has been expended upon this hydraulic concession than probably all the rest of the hydraulic concessions put together, and considerable gold has been produced—but by the old primitive process. Now this company was perfectly able, financially, to bring on water, and had it been compelled to do so in order to hold its concession it would have done so. As a result other concessionaires would have followed suit, and there would have been a great deal of hydraulizing now in course of operation. What the government should do in granting these concessions, is to require that concessionaires, within a reasonable time, shall bring on the grounds conceded, at a proper elevation, a certain number of inches of water or forfeit the concession. As it is, concessions have been granted to irresponsible people and the whole country tied up, covered with hydraulic concessions without any apparent intention of working them with hydraulics. It is this state of affairs which is retarding the development of the country, as the eminent mining engineer the government has sent to look into the matter will soon discover.

THE ISLANDER DISASTER.

From reports at hand it would appear that the terrible fate which overtook the steamer Islander and fully two score of her human cargo was the result of an accident for the occurrence of which no one person in particular is blamable. The report does not so state, but it is presumed the lookout was at his place on the steamer's bridge, but that, in the absence of a searchlight and at two o'clock in the morning, the lookout should fail to observe a huge iceberg in the course of the vessel is not surprising as fully seven-eighths of an iceberg is invariably submerged, and that it was a huge body of ice is evidenced from the destruction contact with it worked to the steamer.

The Islander wreck will probably go down in history as one of the unaccountable mysteries of the deep further than that she collided with an iceberg. The loss that the Yukon district has sustained in the very ad bequeathed which has been visited upon her commissioner is as yet incalculable. He had just become master of the situation and most auspicious was the outlook about with conventionalities, waiting for a desirable man to appear, and wasting their lives in petty aims and worthless attempts at pleasure. They wear out social amusements at an early age and are blasé before they reach 22. Then the lady added seriously: "I believe the greatest curse which can befall a human being is to be born to wealth. The money we do not earn crushes out ambition, and sates our appetites for pleasure before we have learned how to enjoy the advantages of wealth. I have all my life been thrown in close association with people of this class, and I pity them from the bottom of my heart. Only those who know them intimately realize how petty are their ambitions, how stunted their higher natures, and how little happiness they get out of life. This is the opinion of a gifted and

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 GEORGE BUTLER, City.

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ENVY POOR WORKING GIRLS

As They Have More Happiness Than the Rich.

Helresses Not Blest With Beauty Most Unfortunate of All God's Creatures—Poor Girls Are Happy.
 A great many poor working girls are envying the daughters of the rich to-day. The tired salesgirls and the busy bookkeepers and the hard working shopgirls look upon the lady of fashion as she sweeps through the department stores on shopping expeditions, or drives down the street in her carriage, and they sigh and think: "How beautiful it must be to be rich; what lovely times that girl has; how different her life is from mine and how strange it seems that fate bestows so much on some—so little on others."

I have heard poor girls talk in this way, and I have chanced to know a good deal about the lives of some of the very daughters of wealth whom they envied. And were Destiny to offer the choice of being the working girl—or this rich man's daughter—I would unhesitatingly choose the position of the former. Unless a girl of wealth has beauty and wit, or wisdom enough to interest herself in some life work which occupies her mind, she suffers constant martyrdom from ennu and jealousy and suspicion. Every man who approaches her she suspects of seeking her purse. I know the intimate friend of a very wealthy and very sweet and good girl who tells me the helress has become almost a monomaniac upon that subject. She allows no man to show her the slightest attention, and, while she has a loving and tender heart, she throttles every natural impulse with the hand of doubt, and sneers at the compliment of the look of admiration which any bold man ventures to offer. With all her wealth I would infinitely prefer to be a simple working girl, who could accept a man's companionship, or his offer of heart and hand, without fear or doubt of his motive. For no money on earth can repay a woman for the loss of love. I have seen girls of wealth with wonderful costumes sitting about summer hotels, with such bored and discontented faces that my heart ached for them. They were carefully chaperoned and not allowed to meet any man who did not come with letters of introduction from friends in their own social set—and, therefore, they were well flowers, while some young working girl, away on a two weeks vacation, was enjoying a taste of Arcadia in her well-earned days of leisure and her happy evenings with "Jack" who came down after business hours.

A woman who has for many years figured in the role of a poor relative of the rich (a widow of small means, who lived about, making herself useful to wealthy relatives) said to me recently: "You have no idea of the unhappiness existing among wealthy people with daughters. Unless a girl is a great beauty she is at a disadvantage socially, for it requires the vanity of a beauty to make a rich girl believe a man seeks her for herself. I have seen more wretchedness among the moneyed people than I ever saw among the poor. Marriage is of the utmost importance to these girls, and they sit, hedged about with conventionalities, waiting for a desirable man to appear, and wasting their lives in petty aims and worthless attempts at pleasure. They wear out social amusements at an early age and are blasé before they reach 22."

Then the lady added seriously: "I believe the greatest curse which can befall a human being is to be born to wealth. The money we do not earn crushes out ambition, and sates our appetites for pleasure before we have learned how to enjoy the advantages of wealth. I have all my life been thrown in close association with people of this class, and I pity them from the bottom of my heart. Only those who know them intimately realize how petty are their ambitions, how stunted their higher natures, and how little happiness they get out of life. This is the opinion of a gifted and

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bright woman, who has been within the gates of great wealth, and it is worth the consideration of poor girls.
 ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

LITIGATION AT NOME

Lawsuits Will be the Principal Crop This Season.

Portland, Aug. 9.—Among the passengers who came out on the steamer Senator, after having luckily escaped an untimely grave in the wreck of the Charles D. Lane on the rocks of Point Mohican where several Portland people, and of these described conditions in the north to a reporter of the Oregonian.

He found Nome dull. The saloons and gambling houses were running, but to empty pockets. Hordes of men would huddle into barrooms, yet little money passed into the coffers of their keepers. Owing to the backward season few claims are being worked and salices where last year ten and more men were employed, are now being operated with a force of two or three. There is no work to be had. Beach washings have all been worked out in the vicinity of Nome. In districts where prospects are considered good litigation interfered and from all appearances law suits will be the chief pursuit this season. A bunch of unscrupulous lawyers are operating the "injunction scheme," and as the court has unrestricted power, it is hard to foretell the outcome, even though a prospector may have fallen into valuable discover. Claims are recorded over and over again and many are guarded with rifles. There exists a very harsh feeling against Judge Noyes. He is regarded a man of weak character and easily influenced by his friends. Because of this opposition has sprung up, and two factions are fighting hard for supremacy. Attorney Hume, formerly one of Noyes' bosom friends, has gone over to the opposition and is fighting the judge at all corners. Considering the amount of dead work, the uncertainty of pay streak and other incidental expenses besides the cost of labor, work does not pay unless from \$25 to \$35 be realized per day, at the lowest. Despite this the peaker ventured to say that if the Nome district was endowed with the climate of Oregon it would be the greatest gold-producing country the world has ever seen, for the gold is there. The difficulty is to extract it in paying quantities during the short season. The natives are a gentle class of people, with distorted features and vacant stare, and entirely the crude product of nature. Since the arrival of white men the Indians are dying off in astonishing numbers. Captain Crowley, of the Serenth Infantry, who has been stationed at St. Michael, Alaska, for a year, has reached Portland in company with his wife, and tells an Oregonian reporter that he is pleased with the change from the frozen north. The winter ice did not disappear from the shores of St. Michael until July 3, this year, Captain Crowley said, and he therefore had become rather monotonous. The soldiers were occupied last winter in building a telegraph line from St. Michael up the Yukon toward the international boundary.

The winter is the best time to get about in Alaska, Captain Crowley says, as sleds can be hauled over the ice and snow. In summer the whole region is little better than a swamp. Digging holes in the frozen ground for telegraph poles is a slow, laborious operation, as the snow and ice have first to be removed, and then the ground chiseled away.

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