

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

In view of the fact that Christmas will be over before another issue of the NUGGET comes from the press, we take this occasion to extend to the friends and patrons of the paper a wish for a most happy and joyous Christmas. The degree of confidence which the public at all times has manifested in the NUGGET and the continually increasing patronage which the paper has received, warrant us in holding to the belief that the policy which we have persistently and consistently pursued has met and retained public approval. The peculiar conditions which have prevailed in the Yukon Territory since the discovery of gold was announced have called for an independent and aggressive policy upon the part of the newspaper which should expect to receive the approbation and support of the public.

There have been grave questions confronting the people of this territory ever since its organization. There have been problems to solve and there are still problems to solve which directly affect the well being of every man now within the confines of the territory.

The NUGGET'S attitude upon these matters has been such as in the judgment of this paper would best subserve the interest of the great masses of the people of the Yukon.

We have endeavored to keep prominently before the public mind, the fact that law makers and laws should consider the interests of the greatest number as being paramount. A glance back over the files of this paper during the year and a half of its existence will demonstrate very clearly that no departure from this policy has at any time been made. It has been a year and a half of hard and constant work, but work which has already borne fruit and which will bear greater fruit, we thoroughly believe, as time progresses. The constant and unwavering support which has been freely tendered the NUGGET by the great mass of miners of the territory as well as by our most substantial business houses is fully appreciated. In again extending to our readers the felicitations of the season, we may merely add that it shall be the earnest effort of this paper to merit in the future the

same measure of public confidence which has been accorded it in the past.

AN OBJECT LESSON.

In pronouncing sentence in a certain case some few days ago, Judge Dugas took occasion to refer to a peculiar condition which seems to prevail in Dawson. The prisoner whose reputation previous to the commission of the offense for which he was being sentenced, had been most excellent, was found guilty of misappropriating funds which had been left in his charge.

The judge spoke of the prisoners past good record and deplored the fact that so many men upon reaching Dawson, seem to lose all restraint and abandon themselves to indulgence in all sorts of vices from which they would shrink if on the outside. His worship was not certain that there is not some atmospheric or climatic influence, partially responsible for that condition of affairs. It seems to be in the air and readily overcomes men whose intentions may be perfectly upright and proper but whose strength of character is not equal to the strain placed thereon. There is in all probability not a man in the city of Dawson who cannot point to some instance which illustrates the point under consideration. It is not difficult either to assign reasons therefor. Environment and association are most potent factors in moulding human character. The child of the slums in the natural order of events becomes the man or woman of the slums, and conversely, environments of a more favorable nature produce the good citizen. Poor, weak human nature, however, is prone to err. Removed from surroundings which brought no temptations and thrown into constant contact with all the evils which society decrys, the best man unless upheld by unusual strength of character is liable to fall.

Under such circumstances men forget their obligations, forget that others than themselves may suffer from their acts of folly and plunge blindly into a maelstrom of wrong, sowing the wind to reap in the end the whirlwind.

The circumstance cited at the beginning of this article is but illustrative of many similar occurrences which have taken place in the city of Dawson. The serious results which ensued in the particular case referred to furnish a very striking object lesson.

ALIENS.

The position in which the Yukon council will be placed should the proposed newspaper registration ordinance become a law is a most unenviable one. As a result of the fact that this measure is before the council for consideration, men are beginning to ask themselves if to be an alien is an offense in the Yukon territory. They are asking themselves if this covert attack upon the press of Dawson is not an

implied hint to every man in the country who is not a British subject that his presence is not wanted.

In view of the amicable relations now existing between Great Britain and the United States from which country the great majority of the Yukon Territory's alien population is derived, the situation is an extremely unfortunate one. It occurs to us to remind the council that the Yukon Territory is very heavily indebted to its alien—and to be more specific—its American population. Large however, as is the proportion of Americans in the territory, that proportion would be still larger had not the country suffered so greatly already from restrictive legislation. If it is the intention of the council to add its mite to the already heavy weight of grievances from which the country is suffering, just to that extent will aid be given toward its depopulation next summer.

In so far as this ordinance itself is concerned it is a matter of trivial importance. The information which the council proposes to compel the newspapers to furnish by virtue of a law passed for that particular purpose, could doubtless be secured from every newspaper in Dawson by a mere request for the same. But compliance with a courteous request and compliance by compulsion with an inquisitorial regulation are two entirely separate and distinct matters.

So many of the Yukon Council's legislative experiments have been knocked in the head when considered by a reviewing authority that it would be a wise move on the part of the council to consider very carefully the status of their new idea before they finally give it temporary dignity by placing it upon the statutes of the Territory. It is a very significant fact that one of the strongest opponents of the registration ordinance is Mr. W.

H. Clement, legal adviser to the council as well as a member of that body.

WHEN THEY CAN REACH NOME.

A great deal of discussion has been aroused concerning the date at which steamers can arrive at Nome. It is a well known fact that the ice goes out of the river at the mouth after the balance of the stream is pretty well cleared.

In this connection a few excerpts from a log kept last spring at St. Michaels will prove of interest.

May 15.—Ice shows signs of breaking along the shore. Large cracks visible. Water showing up on surface.

May 25.—Open water showing up around the whole of St. Michael Island.

June 13.—Ice moved out of bay and the first schooner, Hattie J. Phillips arrived.

It will thus be seen that St. Michaels cannot be reached by steamer but a few days before the middle of June. It is claimed by some that Nome can be reached at an earlier date by ocean steamers, but this has been strongly contested by others equally well posted.

On the 23rd of May last the ice moved out of the Tanana river and on the same date the steamer Flora which left the mouth of Hootalinqua on May 16, reached Dawson. Upon the former date therefore it may safely be concluded, the river was open as far as the flats, but St. Michaels could not be reached either by the river or the ocean until several weeks later.

Parties who are figuring on reaching Nome from Dawson before the rush sets in next spring, must anticipate making a part of the journey on foot. If the river opens as far as Nulatto by the 25th of May it will be possible as indicated in a previous issue of the NUGGET, to reach Nome at a comparatively early date by making a land journey of some 200 miles across the cut off.

FOUR SPECIAL LEADERS

JUST THE GOODS FOR THIS WEATHER

- 60 Double Breasted Corduroy Reefer Coats, extra quality, plush lined, for \$5.00 per garment, actual value \$15.00.
- 50 Double Breasted Chinchilla Ulsters, extra quality, flannel lined, for \$15.00, actual value, \$35.00
- 50 Double Breasted Blue Beaver Reefer Coats, extra quality, plush lined, for \$7.50 per garment, actual value, \$20.00.
- 200 pair English Camel Hair Blankets, weight 14 pounds, for \$8.00 pair, actual value, \$20.00

See the goods you will certainly buy.

H Hershberg & Co., Seattle Clothiers

FIRST AVE. SOUTH NEXT TO MADDEN HOUSE

Tomorrow It Opens!

St. Mary's Fair will be in full blast tomorrow night and thereafter for yet several days. You ought to go, by all means do so. Enjoy yourself on Christmas. After that, come to the A. E. Co. Store and buy what you need to eat, drink or wear. We'll treat you square.

The A. E. Co.

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