

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BRON Publishers

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Yearly, in advance	\$40.00
Six months	20.00
Three months	11.00
Per month by carrier in city, in advance	4.00
Single copies	.25

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1900

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.

AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION.

Two years ago, at this time, the trail leading from Skagway to the summit of the White Pass was thronged with hundreds of venturesome spirits intent on reaching Dawson at the very earliest possible moment. Hundreds of tons of supplies were sledged and packed over the trail at an immense cost, it being no uncommon thing to pay as high as 25 cents per pound for delivery of goods at Lake Bennett, which but marked the starting point for the real trip into Dawson.

With the completion and successful operation of the White Pass & Yukon railway from Skagway to Bennett, the rate at which freight could be brought to Dawson from the outside was immediately lowered. At the present time work is being pushed as rapidly as possible on the extension of the line to Whitehorse, and its operation to that point is promised at an early date after the opening of navigation in the coming spring. When this is accomplished it will be possible to bring freight to Dawson from Skagway with but a single handling after leaving the last named point. As a natural consequence another material reduction will be made in through freight rates.

The Nugget is of the opinion that the development of the Yukon country will hinge to a very great extent upon this question of freight tariffs. It is altogether probable that as yet the Yukon has not paid its way. By that we mean that in the aggregate the expense bill to the territory has been greater than the total gold output. This fact is no indication of any lack either in quantity or value of resources. It merely serves to force upon our attention the fact that expense of production must be lowered. Prices of all commodities, machinery, etc., are governed almost exclusively by the existing freight rates. Competition may be relied upon to keep prices at an equitable figure in so far as the Dawson merchants' profits are concerned, but one thing is absolutely certain, the merchant cannot go below the cost of landing his goods in Dawson, and remain in business.

When freight rates are cut 10 per cent it means an almost proportionate decrease in the cost of living in Dawson, and a similar decrease in the cost of development of our single resource. With every increase in the mileage of railway which is gradually penetrating into the heart of the Yukon country, the outlook for the country becomes brighter.

The Nugget's attention has been directed again to the matter of abandoned shafts on the creeks. Mention was made of this some time ago in these columns. Through the carelessness of individuals, a great many shafts, often of considerable depth,

have been left exposed, furnishing pitfalls for the unwary traveler which already have resulted in a number of accidents. At this season of the year when the openings to those shafts are very likely to be almost if not entirely concealed by reason of snow, they become particularly dangerous. We again urge upon the Yukon council the necessity of an ordinance whereby parties abandoning claims will be compelled to protect the public against danger from open shafts.

If some one will come forward and solve the question of getting currency into general circulation without working a hardship upon the man who is a producer or holder of gold dust, he will be entitled to the lasting gratitude of a thankful community. It is a natural duty devolving upon the government office at which the miner may effect an equitable exchange of his dust for currency. Experience has proven, however, that the things which should be done are the ones that are left undone, and vice versa. The solution of the gold dust problem therefore will probably come through other than governmental agency.

Now that we have had a taste of what it means to be in touch with affairs on the outside the shutting off of communication by wire, seems to work a veritable hardship. The wire has been down for a matter of more than ten days and meantime in so far as recent affairs on the outside are concerned we might as well be in the same condition as last winter. Today the wire is down between Dawson and the first station up the river, so we are more isolated than ever. We shall be very much disappointed if war news of the most stirring kind does not come singing over the wire when the line is again in working order.

A quiet investigation among business men in Dawson reveals the fact that while little or no talk of "good business" is being made, the state of trade in general is every bit as flourishing as was the case at this time last year. It is quite safe to assume that there will be from this time forward a steady increase in the volume of business transacted. Within less than 60 days we opine that Dawson will feel as jubilant as Uncle Sam does after a Republican victory.

An anxious public has been waiting with a very commendable degree of patience for some decisive movement on the part of one or the other of the belligerents in the News-Sun telegram episode. If no developments occur within a short time, a suspicion will begin to take root in the minds of people that the whole affair has a very strong taint of advertising fake attached to it.

Police Court.

More soothing than are the effects of the balm of Gilead was the effect of the police court's red hot stove after the long trip down Front street this morning, with mercury nestling under 50.

The honor (?) of dedicating Magistrate Perry's brand new record book fell to James McCann, who, according to his own statement, kept sober 50 years and got drunk yesterday. The deviation from the paths of sobriety so effected the formerly staid James that he became boisterous in the Pavilion and greatly disturbed the gambling tables, and, while, to the unsophisticated, it may appear somewhat incompatible, yet the gamblers invoked the strong

arm of the law to protect themselves and their games from the onslaught of the man who was never before drunk.

In court this morning James had no recollection of his actions of yesterday further than that he arrived from the Forks during the day. Had he possessed that fertility of brain so often exercised on similar occasions he would have added that he was nearly frozen on reaching town, and just took a "mere dhrap" to warm himself, and never having taken any before it had proven too much for him; but he didn't. A fine of \$10 and costs or 14 days at hard labor was imposed. The cash was paid and James will probably permit another half century to come and go before he again permits himself to look upon the flowing bowl.

Foster Power, of whom mention was made in yesterday's paper as being up on the charge of cruelly beating a dog, was fined and paid \$10 and costs.

A. F. George brought suit against the Allen Brothers for the sum of \$161 alleged to be due as a balance for services rendered. Mr. George claimed that he had been employed at a salary of \$300 per month. It was shown in the evidence that the rate of compensation at which Mr. George had been employed was \$260 per month; it was also shown that Mr. George had performed certain services in Seattle last summer, for which he had been allowed the sum of \$100; it was also shown that the further sum of \$175 had been advanced to Mr. George in Seattle prior to his departure for Dawson, leaving, according to defendants' statement a balance of \$71 in their favor. The court held that he had no jurisdiction over the Seattle transaction, and after figuring the time which the plaintiff had worked in Dawson at the rate of \$260 per month as claimed by defendants, found a balance for Mr. George of \$47.10.

THE CAPE NOME CITY.

(Continued from Page 1.)

has been torted to pipe water into the town from large springs in the hills. Work on a sewerage system will be inaugurated before the warm weather commences. Two newspapers are published, and each enjoy a profitable circulation.

There is a complete set of municipal officers, including a police magistrate and police force who regulate the city affairs. A United States commissioner interprets the federal statutes, and has his decrees executed by a U. S. deputy marshal who, in cases of emergency, may call to his assistance the company of troops stationed in the vicinity of the town. The only difficulty ever experienced was that relating to the validity of powers of attorney, and at the May session of the U. S. supreme court at Washington, D. C., this vexing question will be finally determined in a test case, which has been tried in the lower courts, and which is now on the pre-emptory calendar of the highest tribunal.

As every one knows the principal creeks are Snow, Anvil, Snake, Glacier, Dexter and Buster. The output of Snow creek for three months last year is estimated to have been \$400,000. Nuggets worth as much as \$150 each have been found on this stream. Anvil was the banner creek of the district last season. Bedrock is reached at a depth of only four feet. One of the best claims which was worked during the past summer, yielded \$115,000. The owners of No. 8 realized \$200,000 from their cleanup. Charles D. Lane purchased three claims on this tributary, and paid for them the sum of \$165,000. Nuggets are frequently found on Anvil, and one was uncovered which is worth \$400.

The beach diggings were discovered by J. W. Logan, a newspaper man from San Francisco. He and three acquaintances realized about \$7000 in a few weeks and left the country. No one knows the extent of the beach diggings. The beach proper is from 100 to 300 feet in width and has been worked in different places for 20 miles of its length.

As a conservative estimate, it is safe to say that 2500 people were engaged in rocking and panning gold from the sand last summer between the mouths of Snake river and Cripple creek.

Next season it is expected that rich dirt will be found in what is known as the "tundra," which extends from the terminus of the beach to the mountains.

Speaking of this portion of the Nome country, Mr. J. L. Davidson, a well informed civil engineer said:

"The 'tundra,' which in some places is three and one-half to four miles wide, is continually frozen. It is covered with a thick moss which prevents it from thawing out in summer. This tundra contains gold; indeed, it is the supply of the beach gold, according to my theory. I removed some of the moss on the tundra and the dirt on top assayed \$7 to the ton. I assayed sand taken from off the top of the beach in handfuls, for a distance of six miles, and it averaged \$9.33.

"This is just from the top, remember. The 'pay streak' extends from a depth of eighteen inches to three feet.

"I account for the gold in the beach sands in this manner: Long ago, when a mighty glacier was slowly moving down, it formed the tundra as a lateral moraine. This tundra contained gold in abundance and the erosive action of the waves on the tundra washed out the gold, along with other materials, and it took its place along the margin of the ocean on the beach."

The freight capacity and passenger accommodations of boats running to Nome will be taxed to the utmost when navigation opens. Before the middle of summer the transportation companies will have solved the difficulty experienced last year in landing cargoes. It is proposed to unload on large lighters or barges, which can be taken sufficiently far toward the shore in high tide as to enable wagons to reach them at low tide.

Thousands will risk the chance for fortune in Nome next spring some will die after they reach there, many will succeed, and the rest will fail.

We wish the people on the creeks to try the Pavilion grill and lunch room for a good, home cooked dinner; \$1. Next to the Palace Grand.

Best team of five dogs, with basket sleigh, harness, etc.; \$400 cash. M. I. Stevens, R. O. 14, A. C. office building.

Are you planning any improvements in the building line? Place orders for lumber with the Nugget Express. Office, Boyle's wharf.

A General Stampede

The Pay Streak
In Two Places.

FRONT ST., Opposite
S.-Y. T. Dock
and
Corner Second Street
and Fifth Avenue

Inspect Our Complete
Stock of

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