

Stroller's Column.

"Liar! liar!! liar!!!"

The Stroller jumped to his feet and made a mad rush to embrace the object which had darkened the door that led to the inner veil of the Stroller's sanctum and uttered the above words, for he thought they could proceed from no other mouth than that of his old and esteemed friend Major Woodside. But he met with repulse for it was not Major Woodside, but the sourest of all doughs who just then were the darkest look the Stroller had ever seen mantle his brow. He did not hesitate to state the object of his visit and at once said:

"I let y' off tother day fer that fool break y' made 'bout th' hail storm but 'at didn't signify y' cack take full liberty an' rub it in on me every tother day."

"What do you mean?" said the Stroller as he reached behind Webster and a lot of exchanges for the bottle of Klondike valley tan. The veteran declined to answer until he had taken a long pull and then put the bottle in his pocket instead of placing it on the table, after which his look softened somewhat and he said:

"I refer to that gol-fuzzed, drat-busted lie I seed in yer paper 'bout bars being thicker this year 'an ever before 'roun' Dawson. Durn me 'f I bleeve y'd know a bar from a jack rabbit. I give y' some credit fer not usin' 'at tarnal word 'unprecedented' in writin' 'bout th' bars, but 'pears to me 'at y'd made some effort to git at th' truth 'fore y' go to makin' 'sech broadtread assertions 'bout bars bein' thicker this year 'an was ever before known in the kentry—bam-swoozle sich durn fool talk, anyway."

"Take another drink," said the Stroller.

"Yer rather free 'bout suggestin' what I'll do with my own licker," said the pioneer, "but as y've mentioned it, I'll do it, though 'tain't much better'n rain water."

Having returned the bottle to his pocket the old fellow again assumed a tender look and said:

"I am gittin' old and it worries me like — to see liars springin' up all 'roun', and sometimes I'm feered I'll fergit myself and bust some che-charker's cranium and possibly git on th' 'woodpile, in which event that wouldn't be nobody ter give Limpin' Grouse's grave a coat of green paint arter grass is kilt and afore snow falls."

"But speakin' of bars! I reckon thar ain't more'n half a one in this kentry now whar forty year ago thar were 250 or 275. It was in 1861—I remember th' year, kase me an' Limpin' Grouse were still a-settin' on one stool, that is when we was a-settin'—'at me an' her went up th' Klondike 'bout ten mile arter 'tarmigan eggs which were eggstordinary skace that year. Talk 'bout bars! They was thicker'n ary 'skeeters I ever seed. They didn't bother us in daylight but at night th' only way we could sleep was to tie our boat out'en th' river an' sleep thar. Th' last night we stayed when I wuk up in th' mornin' I counted a hundred an' thirty-nine bars a-lookin' at us, but I couldn't blame 'em, fer Limp-

in' Grouse when she lay sleepin' was a pleasin' sight even fer a bar."

The thought was too much for the old man and for a moment a tear glistened in his eye, then plowed a clean streak down his time-stained cheek.

"Drat th' smoke from yer old pipe," he said, "y' must be smokin' bacon rhind."

"But talkin' of bars! Th' next winter arter our trip up th' river was, onusual cold, mercury being down to 94 fer ten weeks at a stretch, an' as ice worms was a splendid crap we had 'em fried, biled, fricasseed and frescoed in bar grease 'till Limpin' Grouse got so greasy she couldn't keep her moccasins on, b'gosh, an' I was skeered fer her to go near the fire fer fear her breath 'ud ketch."

"Now, please oblige me by cuttin' out 'at word 'unprecedented' an' what was previously unknown 'bout happenin's in th' kentry, fer as I seed afore, I doubt if y'd 'now a bar if y'd met it."

Grand Forks, Aug. 8.

Our dear Stroller—

We have had a dispute which we have agreed to refer to you. Without entering into the detail of the matter you can settle the question by telling about Apollo and who he is.

Respectfully,

Maud and Minnie.

Girls, you ask who Apollo is as if you think him still alive. He was but he is not. And even if he was still living he would be too old for either of you.

"Apollo was a Greek who during the open season made a good thing by standing around of pedestals in the park displaying his form which, to use an afternoon sea party expression, was exquisite."

In the winter time when it was too cold for him to pose in the park he stayed at home and played horse with the children while his wife went out washing. She was one woman who did not waste any time standing around and admiring Apollo's shape.

That is the way with women. The Stroller has been trying for a decade or more to write something that will amuse his wife, but it won't come. She has heroically tried to be amused and has once or twice gone so far as to laugh, but it was a forced, harsh laugh which the Stroller could readily see did not have its origin in even a slightly amused spirit.

Thus it was with Apollo's wife, and when women were admiring the graceful curves in his back as he stood on a pedestal in the park his wife would say to herself that if those women had gotten out of bed at night and mixed mustard plasters for that same back as often as she had, they would not see so much in it to admire.

Mrs. Apollo used to tell the neighbors that she married for shape once but next time she would marry a man with a roll even if he was a hunchback.

In this country the open season is too short for a man to make much of a clean-up in the Apollo line. Besides, we have no parks.

There are two things, Maud and Minnie, that are denied us in this country. We have no parks with Apollos in them and we never see a remains hanging from a limb. We left these behind us when we turned our backs on the effete east and sought homes in a mining camp.

If there is anything else you girls would like to know, write again, or, better still, come down and whisper it.

A man whose name has never been mentioned in connection with a seat

at Ottawa writes to the Stroller and asks:

"How can I successfully spring myself on the nominating convention as a dark horse?"

The question is one which can not be answered on the spur of the moment as it is one which requires considerable strategic consideration. Had the aspirant asked how to blow himself on the convention the Stroller could have answered without a moment's hesitation.

Besides, the Stroller has already accepted money from three different aspirants, neither one of whom stands a ghost of a show, and he does not care to further implicate himself, especially when there is nothing said in his letter about dropping casually into one of Butler's side rooms at 3:55 tomorrow afternoon. This old idea of a man being in the hands of his friends is worn out. It is his dough that must be in the hands of his friends and the more hands it is in, the more friends he will have.

No, Colonel, the Stroller can not assist you in springing yourself on the convention as a dark horse—that is, not with what is in sight.

P.S.—There is a hollow log back of the Stroller's, woodshed that he maintains for the benefit of modest donors. Come up the alley and the neighbors will think you are the scavenger man.

It is said that there is a certain class in Dawson whose principal occupation consists in writing letters to the outside for "tips" regarding their neighbors—who they were and what they were before coming to the Klondike. On receipt of the desired information marginal notes are made on the pages of the "blue book" for future reference.

The Stroller loaned his "blue book" several weeks ago and when he got it back day before yesterday the margins of its pages were very much marked. In looking over it last night he came on to the following:

"Before coming to the Klondike the Strucklie family kept a second-hand store which the wife attended while her husband drove a donkey cart through the country buying up sheep pelts."

"The maiden name of Mrs. Coupon-Clipper was Cassidy. The family lived in a leanto in Tin Can alley, and she who is now Mrs. Coupon-Clipper was known to all as freckle-faced Mag."

"Bertie —, who is said to have three dress suits and over 200 neckties, wore a long-army overcoat until he got his first pair of pants at the age of fourteen. His mother supported the family by scrubbing out stock cars."

And thus it goes on all through the pages of the Stroller's "blue book." From the number of marks and marginal notes in it there have evidently been several hundred letters written and answered.

But we can not be too careful of our associates, especially those of us whose ancestors came over in the Mayflower. There are only a few of us and we must stand together. Only this morning the Stroller had to cut a friend with whom he has been on terms of intimacy for the past three years; in fact the Stroller has borrowed money from him several times and still owes it. But his "blue book" says the man had an uncle who used to have a large circuit of slaughter houses from which he bought hoofs and horns for a glue factory. Whew! The Stroller imagined he could smell glue when he met his erstwhile friend this morning.

Another marginal note in the Stroller's "blue book" says that when So and So was a boy people would ask him his father's name and when he would make answer they would tell him to guess again. Any one wishing to correct his or her "blue book" by the Stroller's can do so by making a date ahead and calling on him in his library. He will not allow the book to go out of his possession again for if he does there won't be anybody left unmarked in it for him to mingle with on the plain of equality.

Must Stand Trial

Minneapolis, Aug. 2.—The demurrer to the indictment of Frederick W. Ames, former superintendent of police, for extortion, was overruled today by Judge Simpson, who agreed to hear arguments as to a postponement of the case until later in the afternoon. The defense indicated that it would file an affidavit of prejudice against Judge Simpson before the case came to trial in order to secure some one of his colleagues as trial judge. Acting Mayor Powers today demanded and received the resignation of Thomas Brown as mayor's secretary and appointed in his stead Stiles P. Jones, a newspaper reporter.

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AFTER THE REVENUE

City Council Wants the Water Front

No More Infectious Diseases in the City—House Numbering is Decided Upon.

His worship the mayor was absent from the meeting of the council last night, the chair being occupied by Police Commissioner Macdonald. The session was short and of little consequence though several important motions were brought up which received the sanction of the council. Immediately after adjournment a meeting in caucus was held in the office of Assessor Smith for the purpose of conferring with Mr. Matheson relative to the water works proposition that has been hanging fire for several weeks. It was stated by one of the members that an agreement had been practically reached between Mr. Matheson and the council and the only thing that remained before signing the same was the consideration of several changes that Mr. Matheson desired made. The amended contract was passed upon by the solicitors of the water company yesterday and with a few slight alterations it was found agreeable. It was for the purpose of considering the desires of the company that the caucus was held last night.

There were but three communications before the council. The first to come up was from Mrs. M. L. Ferguson who for several years has been trying to introduce a system of house numbering in the city and who was also the publisher of the first city directory Dawson ever possessed. In the past Mrs. Ferguson has met with many rebuffs in the furtherance of her scheme and for some time it looked as though the money she had put into the venture would be lost, but the action of the council last night indicates that the city council thinks more favorable of the proposition than the Yukon council ever did. Mrs. Ferguson's petition was as follows:

"It is respectfully submitted that your petitioners in the year 1901 brought into Dawson about 10,000 house numbers to be used for the purpose of numbering the houses in Dawson under the direction of the Yukon council."

"That your petitioner in order to do said work prepared maps and plans showing the numbers that would go on each house in the city of Dawson and had, previous to such time, at her own expense, posted at the corners of the streets and avenues in the city of Dawson the names of said streets and avenues."

"That before arrangements were finally completed with the Yukon council for the placing of said numbers, the city of Dawson was incorporated and now has jurisdiction in the matter."

"Your petitioner begs to state that she has been to large expense in preparing to number the houses in the city of Dawson in a proper and uniform manner with nickel plated brass numbers, the style of which numbers and the plan of numbering being accepted by the Yukon council."

"Your petitioner begs to represent that it would be a great convenience to the inhabitants of this city to have the houses so numbered and that it has become now almost a public necessity."

"Your petitioner asks that a by-law be passed that the houses be numbered according to the style and plan and manner already adopted by the Yukon council, or that such by-law be passed in the premises as your honorable body may seem meet."

The petition was favorably considered by the council and a little later in the evening when motions were reached in the order of business Alderman Adair offered a resolution that the city engineer be instructed to prepare a plan for the proper number of the business houses and residences of the city and submit the same to the committee on streets, works and property, and that the work of numbering be proceeded with immediately upon the approval of the said committee.

A lengthy communication was received from Mr. A. F. Nicol, president of the Dawson Free Library, having reference to the gift of \$25,000 from Mr. Andrew Carnegie for the purpose of establishing a free library in the city and the conditions that are attached to the same. Dr. J. A. Sutherland, medical health officer, submitted a report

stating that he had had the house and effects of Mrs. Hill, whose children had scarlet fever, disinfected and thoroughly cleansed. He also states there is now no malignant, infectious or contagious diseases existing in Dawson that he knows of. The usual weekly examination of all butcher shops and dairies has been made and all were found to be clean and in a sanitary condition.

The following new bills were presented:—

Wm. Campbell	\$10.00
H. J. Goetzman	60.00
Electric Light Co.	9.30
Menard & Galvin	46.30
McLennan & McFeely	4.50
McLennan & McFeely	3.38
McLennan & McFeely	82.50
Territorial court fees	2.75

The finance committee was the only one of the standing committees that submitted a report. The following bills were recommended paid:—

N. A. T. Co.	\$18.00
Branch & Tarr	24.00
Yukon Telephone Co.	38.00
Marine Iron Works	3.00
Alvah Smith	12.50
Tharp & Smith	14.00

Alderman Murphy proposes to secure for the benefit of the city the revenue derived from the rental of the water front or know the reason why. He offered a resolution which was warmly seconded by Alderman Wilson that the finance committee be instructed to enter into communication with the proper authorities for the purpose of securing the revenue derivable from the use of the water front in the city.

Alderman Adair desires that the council have an opportunity to express its grievances to the government agent, Mr. George Anderson, now in the city, and moved that the city clerk write the gentleman that the council wishes to have an interview with him relative to different matters pertaining to the city which the council wish placed in the proper light at Ottawa.

The last business of the evening was the third reading and passage of bylaws to amend bylaws No. 5 and No. 8.

NEW BRAND IN DAWSON

Opened for Sampling Last Night

Effects Found to be Speedy and Sure—Four Victims Were up This Morning.

Evidently there was something in the atmosphere of yesterday that drove men to drink, else a new brand of knockout hootch is on tap, for on the lonesome bench in police court this morning were four dark browns vying with each other to see which could look best after the night out, or that portion of the night which had been rolled up on the scroll of eternity previous to their being garnered into the barracks.

Addison F. Brown was the first one called and to the charge of d. and d. reckoned he would plead guilty. At 1:30 this morning "Ad." had fallen through a slat door on First avenue. He had been in court once before for fighting but never for being drunk. He was assessed \$2 and costs.

Mike Bartlett had been with Brown and was in a similar condition with the addition of having a few patches of skin knocked off his face. He, likewise, remitted \$2 and costs.

A man bearing the revered name of William McKinley entered the box. He is employed on the steamer Casca and as that craft is now undergoing repairs at the dock William embraced the opportunity for cultivating a pale red. At 1:30 this morning Constable Egan found him asleep on the bank of the far-famed Klondike near the toll bridge. The officer moved him away from the bank but later found that he had returned and was again asleep in the same place. Evidently William is stuck on the lullaby of rippling waters and delights in what the wild waves are saying. Two and costs squared his account.

David Murray, a classic looking gentleman, was the next occupant of the now comfortably warmed box. At an early hour this morning he had been quoting Latin on King street. He paid \$2 and costs, the schedule price for last night's jags.

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Coe Gives Bail

Boston, Aug. 2.—Henry F. Coe, the former treasurer of the Bowker-Fertilizer Company and the Dudley fertilizer mills, of Newton, who was arrested last night for the alleged embezzlement of \$120,000, was held for the grand jury today in \$10,000 bail, which was furnished. Specifically he was accused today of the larceny of a note for \$25,000, payable on demand, from the Bowker company on June 3.

Storm in Minnesota.

Redwood Falls, Minn., Aug. 2.—Redwood Falls suffered badly from a heavy windstorm and cloudburst late last night. King Bros.' warehouse was unroofed; the courthouse roof was torn off and the city bell tower blown down, crashing through an adjoining building. Trees were uprooted and windows broken. Water ran in torrents through the streets. All crops are flat.

Clothing cleaned, pressed, repaired and made to fit.—R. I. GOLDBERG, at Hersberg's.

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