

## CAN REMAIN TILL SPRING.

The "Nugget" is Authorized to Assure the Public on an Important Matter.

**Permanent Building on the Water-Front Advised—The River Expected to Damage Buildings—Raises Several Feet.**

A decision of great importance to Dawson has been arrived at by Mr. Ogilvie in regard to the occupancy of the water-front. The insecurity of the tenure of the leases has been shown up in these columns, and the mistaken policy of allowing the cutting off of the city from access to the river is acknowledged by all. Seeing that many of the occupants of the strip were undecided about preparing winter quarters, and that those who had already done so were on the tender hooks of uncertainty as to whether they were dispossessed on the eve of the long cold winter ahead, the Nugget sought an interview with the Yukon Commissioner to obtain, if possible, a definite statement regarding that gentleman's intentions in the water-front matter. Mr. Ogilvie listened courteously while the status of the leases was gone over. The fact that winter buildings had been prepared in a number of instances was pointed out; also that the coming freeze-up would make the clearing of the water-front for the balance of this season of small importance—that a good many of the lessees had been led to believe that they were to live on their ground until May 1, 1899. To a request for something definite as to Mr. Ogilvie's policy in the matter, that gentleman smiled and replied:

"We have thought over the matter, and desire to work no hardship on anyone. You can inform your readers that there will be no ordering to move until next spring, at which time the water-front must and will be cleared from end to end."

Regarding his statement, reported in the Nugget, that he "would advise no one to erect permanent buildings on that strip," the acting governor reiterated his expression. "I would not advise anyone to build permanently for in the spring all must come down. Until then—" and Mr. Ogilvie smiled significantly, "I think the first run of ice will, most likely, provide openings to the river." Then followed an interesting description of the jamming together of mountains of ice and the mighty river being raised several feet in as many minutes. The high executive evidently believes that there is considerable danger of masses of ice taking out the underpinning from beneath some of the buildings and taking the wrecks down the river in the direction of Circle City. His years of experience on the Yukon make him an authority on such matters.

## Fake Advertising.

The advertising fakir is in our midst. Wednesday night a sheet was strung up in the street at mid-night with guy ropes and from the windows of an upper room pictures were thrown upon the screen. The intent on appears to be to intersperse the pictures with advertisements secured from our merchants and others. It has been found elsewhere that the people who congregate and stand for hours in front of a free show are not the people the advertiser cares to reach for they are not the money spenders of a community. The subscribers of a legitimate newspaper of prestige and circulation are the back-bone of a city, and a permanent subscriber is better than a transient one, all of which points to the Nugget as the advertising medium par excellence for Dawson City and surrounding country. It would benefit the advertiser not a cent to print a thousand extra copies of the Nugget at 5 cents a copy and scatter them amongst the transients who are selling out preparatory to leaving the country. The large circulation of this paper is for the most part amongst the substantial men on the gulches and in the city, and a word to the wise is sufficient. Remember our guarantee.

## From Valdez to Dawson on Horseback.

The first man who has ever been known to bring a horse from the Copper river country to Dawson is Mr. Harry Edwards of Salt Lake City. On June 16th Mr. Edwards, in company with his partner, Ed. Wolfskill, left Port Valdez for this city by the all-overland route. Each man rode a horse and in addition they brought two burros, loaded with 150 lbs. of grub. From Valdez they struck inland and came out on Copper, or Alaska river, as the Indians term the stream, about 100 miles from the mouth at a point call'd Copper center. Mr. Edwards is authority for the statement that Copper river valley, for the most part, is an immense flat, in places 200 miles in width.

After striking Copper river they headed up river, fording dozens of tributaries, few of which are on any map thus far published. All those streams have their sources in mountain lakes. The first divide reached on the trip from Valdez is near Lake Mentasta. On this side all streams had outlet in the Tanana and Yukon. After crossing the divide the men came down into the Tanana valley, crossed that stream, passed over the Tanana range and struck Forty-mile on the south fork. Passing on to Walker's fork they took a due course to the Yukon, reaching the river in the vicinity of Forty-mile. During the entire trip from Port Valdez to Forty-mile they did not once leave American territory. Mr. Edwards rejoices in the distinction of having discovered what he is pleased to term the "all-American route."

He has a careful and accurate record of the entire trip, together with observations on the topography of the country, which will prove invaluable to others desiring to make the same trip. Mr. Edwards states that he will undertake, during the summer season, to drive stock

from Port Valdez to Dawson inside of thirty days and land them here in perfect condition for market. Throughout nearly the entire stretch of country, the grazing for animals cannot be excelled. Great droves of cariboo were encountered which seem to inhabit that portion of Alaska in much the same manner as the buffalo roamed the plains of the western part of the United States.

The horses and burros proved great curiosities to the Indians. Few of them had ever seen, or heard of such animals and all eyed them with open-mouthed amazement. The women and children feared to approach them, indicating by their movements a fear of being bitten. The men, however, examined them closely, being especially pleased with the burros' slim legs and feet. They could not, however, understand the meaning of the steel shoes that were on their feet.

An interesting point observed by Mr. Edwards is the fact that there are several distinct tribes of Indians between Copper River and the Yukon. They are known as "Copper River," "Mentasta," "Sticks," "Tanana," and "Yukon" Indians. These races have little communication with each other, and for the most part are unable to understand each other's jargon.

Mr. Edwards account of the country through which he travelled is probably the most accurate information that has yet been made public concerning it.

## LOCAL BREVIETES.

The steamer John C. Barr has gone up to Ft. Selkirk for a load of cattle.

Corporal Belcher, formerly in charge of the town police, is very low with fever.

The public library has moved from Front street to the new Y. T. building on the river at the foot of Fair Street.

Mr. Lyon, the Ladue Company's local manager, has been incapacitated for business for several days by sickness.

The first death and burial at Fort Selkirk occurred last week. The deceased in life was known as W. H. Cooper, and hailed from California.

Two snow-loaded packers came in this week, the first five loads to come to town. They are expected to die suddenly any minute—or for the public good.

Official inquiry is being made into the probable cost of a summer trail to Stewart river. There will be reason for more rapid communication than by the river.

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A sacred concert Sunday night is on the cards for the Oatley-sisters concert hall. The talents of the city will participate and the financial results are to be devoted to the benefit of the hospital.

W. A. Coleigh died Wednesday at St. Mary's hospital of typho fever. The Masons, Knights of Pythias and Elks have had the body embalmed, encased in a metallic coffin and will ship the remains to his former home, Canton, Illinois.

The faithful little steamer Ora has gone up the river on what is probably her last trip but one of the season. She brought down a large snow load with freight for the company. The Ora, Flora and Nora form a complete connecting link between Bennett and Dawson.

The Hotel Wooden continues to add improvements to its already complete details. The house is now supplied with annunciators and electric bells, has private parlors with piano, and the general boudoirs, Messrs. Stanley and Warden are making their cosy hotel the elite headquarters of the city.

Mrs. C. Baker left on the steamer Gadsby for San Francisco, where she will spend the winter. Mrs. Baker is an old timer in the Yukon, having lived for two years at Circle City and during the past two at Dawson. She was the president of the first board of education at Circle.

C. H. Mitchell & Co. are preparing to roof in their snug little store on Lane street. They have two small marine engines and boilers which will furnish ample power for driving their wood working machinery of all kinds which they hope soon to have running. The gentlemen comprising the firm are experienced ship, door and blind masons from Oakland, Calif., they will make a specialty of fine furniture and fancy wood work of all kinds.

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Dawson's period of Indian summer, though somewhat brief, is just about as near pleasant weather as we have experienced. Blue sky and sunshine, with just enough coolness in the air to make it bracing—that's the sort of weather we have been enjoying for some little time. Under these circumstances it is difficult for the ordinary "Cheechako" to imagine the changes that two months more will bring about.

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