

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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A. F. GEORGE, Associate Editor

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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.

THE GOVERNMENT ORGAN.

The Yukon Sun, in its last issue occupies some four columns of valuable (?) space in discussing various utterances of this paper at various periods covering a month or more. Our chief cause of offense is that in a recent issue we touched up Mr. Thomas O'Brien and his tramroad. Now, we have only kind words to say of this same O'Brien, for he takes reverses like a man and meets his fellow like a gentleman. But this Thomas O'Brien is the owner of the Sun, and pays its bills when the government subsidy is not sufficient to meet its expenses; so the Sun devil is called in to "roast" The Nugget whenever we touch upon that delicate matter of the tram.

This because the proprietor of the tramless tram pays salaries and other expenses.

The Sun's favorite sling at us is to call us the "yellow rag," and there the argument stops. In twenty-one places this issue that logical argument (?) of the Sun's devil is hurled at us, coupled with direful imprecations and prophecies of ill to befall us, until it almost attains the dignity of evidence of our shortcomings. Evidence! Did we say evidence? Stop a minute, though, for such evidence is debarred. There is an old English law which debar any woman who has sold herself from testifying in court. Gentlemen, we submit that the Sun is unchaste and the price of its infamous caresses is known from Moosehide to Eureka. Its loveless kiss is for sale to unclean lovers of the vile. The leer of invitation is its most marked characteristic. Its salutation is to be shunned and its recognition to be dreaded. Its debauched and bleary eyes can not see manhood nor penetrate the ordinary honest motives of mankind. The dollar mark, like the brand of Cain, is on its brow. Knowing its own depravity, it pretends that none are actuated by less base desire. A lot on the government reserve and a handful of government dollars per week hires its slobbering indorsement of everything honest men despair; its support of everything humanity has fought down since the Devil walked the earth in the stature of a man. It sits in dark places and with hideous entreaty would make all partners in its own sin. Its flag of shame is a sign of "For Sale," and it scoffs the very name of virtue. It subsists upon its ill-gotten gain; is sunk so low as to brazenly flout that fact in the face of virtue; nor is conscious of the hell-depths of its own degradation. Its enticements are to be shunned and its curses welcomed; for to be recognized as a friend would blacken the wings of a messenger of mercy. Its sordid influence is wholly evil. It, and the things

it supports, deface God's handiwork on this earth. It consorts with malfasant vice; palliates the prostitution of office; applauds oppression; thrives on extortion and howls with dismay at honest effort to remedy the ills, itself and its kind have caused to afflict this community.

Gentlemen, again we remark that the evidence of this harlot of journalism is not to be taken.

SPECIAL TAXATION COMING.

From the expressions of opinion gleaned by a Nugget reporter anent the incorporation of the city of Dawson, it is seen that the majority of the dissenting ones base their adverse opinions upon an argument that by remaining unincorporated they escape certain taxation. Truly, to the present time, the brunt of the expense of government has been borne by the miner, leaving the merchant free except in the matter of duty, or mayhap an import duty on liquors and wines. But it is just as well for our Dawson readers to thoroughly understand that, incorporation or no incorporation, the untaxed condition of our merchants is soon to become a thing of the past.

In an act passed by parliament on July 28th last, it was provided that two representative members should be placed upon the Yukon council by the franchise of British citizens of the Yukon. This is to become operative at any time the governor in council, at Ottawa, shall designate. Sub-section 2 of section 2 provides:

"As soon as any of the members of the Territorial council are elected, the commissioner in council (Ogilvie and Yukon council) shall have the power to impose taxes for any purpose within the jurisdiction of the commissioner in council."

The desires and intentions of the Yukon council in regards to such special taxation are too well known to need elaboration. The matter of special taxation has frequently been discussed in the council and there is a practical unanimity in the opinion that that power must and shall be exercised as soon as received. Without specifying it upon the records, it is already practically agreed that there shall be store taxes, school taxes, fire taxes, poll taxes, street taxes, street lighting taxes, sewer taxes, and in fact all the usual burdens of civilization.

As we have said, these burdens are to come whether Dawson remains an unincorporated anomaly as at present or not. The only difference will be that by remaining unincorporated, American taxpayers will have absolutely nothing to say as to the disposition of the tax fund. The two elected members of the Yukon council will be in the ratio of the two representative members to six appointed ones; and the elected members will be placed there by the votes of British subjects only. Since there are but two British merchandising firms in the whole of Dawson, it is easily guessed on what class of citizens the burden of taxation will be allowed to fall.

On the other hand, should Dawson incorporate as other Canadian cities of like size and importance have done, the city council would be composed entirely of members responsible to American and British citizens alike, since all would vote. The Canadian municipal laws are strangely liberal in this re-

spect. While the nationality of the general government is most jealously guarded against the intrusion of foreigners, and while the slightest hint of alien influence in national affairs is resented and the members of even a provincial legislature are elected solely by the British vote, in city affairs the Canadians have consented that American taxpayers should have as big a vote in the disposition of those taxes as Canadian taxpayers.

The incorporating power lies with the Yukon council. In the past it has shown itself narrower than anything in Canada. It remains to be seen whether it has anything better to offer than the illiberal franchise it had drawn up a year ago, and which occasioned such a storm of dissent as to cause the immediate pigeon-holing of the ordinance.

WHAT IS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

The Transvaal, for the possession of which England has gone to war with the Boers, is the richest little country on earth.

During the year 1898 the total output of gold in the Rand, according to the official returns, amounted to fifteen million pounds sterling, and the profits paid in dividends to shareholders (who, incidentally mostly lived in Europe,) amounted to £4,800,000; the sum paid in wages to white laborers, was £2,900,000; the stores account, including dynamite, was £4,700,000; and the expenditure for native Kaffir labor was £2,800,000. The same returns showed that the Johannesburg Pioneer Mining Company had paid last year a dividend of 675 per cent on their capital; the Fereari, 300 per cent; the Crown Reef 240 per cent, and other companies almost equally large profits.

We have a proposition to make to Mr. Ogilvie and the balance of the powers that be. The soldiers of the Yukon field force are a healthy and strapping lot of fellows, and are being held here as useless as a wart on a log. Millions of dollars in Dawson property and merchandise are protected from fire by but a fire department of six men—just enough to make a short run with one chemical cart. The soldiers have expressed not only a willingness to form a fire department, but even a desire to do so. They are young fellows, used to drill and to acting under orders, and in a very little while would make a fire department second to none in Canada. Should this be done the soldier boys would land themselves suddenly on a wave of popularity strangely at variance with their present standing. Elsewhere in the Northwest the mounted police have done as much and suffered nothing of loss of dignity or prestige.

Why not the soldiers?

We would like to whisper into Mr. Senkler's ear that each time he gives one of his peremptory orders to quit work upon a disputed claim, he is giving practically an "ex parte" decision which his training as a lawyer should show him to be both impolitic and unfair. A miner is working peaceably upon what he believes to be his ground when along comes a stranger with a piece of paper bearing the autocratic signature of the gold commissioner, which document announces to all concerned that the bearer is the rightful owner, and all others must cease to trespass at once and forever. The pos-

session of the paper proves only one thing. It proves the bearer to have had the ear of Mr. Senkler, which meeting was in the nature of a summary trial of the rights of the contestants, with but one of the contending parties present. Looked at in this light, the proceeding is seen to be manifestly unfair to the party who, working on the claim in good faith, has no premonition of the conference between his opponent and the gold commissioner. To an impartial observer it would appear as if the only proper method to pursue would be for the gold commissioner to cite the man on the ground to appear before him and show cause why he should not be ordered off the claim.

This winter came on much more suddenly than last. In '98 the snow disappeared from the ground several times before winter set in in real earnest. This winter the ice stopped some eleven days sooner than last, viz: Monday, Oct. 23, at 7 a. m. Last year it stopped on November 3d.

Is there any difference in fact between the British wanting the Transvaal against the wishes of the natives, and the Americans wanting the Philippines when the Filipinos say no? Doesn't the similarity of aims show a cousinly likeness between the Lion and the Eagle?

The weather prophets predict a severe winter. A year ago the coldest weather registered on the standard government thermometer at Dawson was 48 degrees below zero.

"Will the British experience another Majuba hill before getting the reins of events into their own hands in South Africa?" is a question agitating many minds.

The arrogance of the C. D. Co. is liable to take a fall with the concomitant of a dull, sickening thud by reason of its system of overcharges, as per our local columns.

Admiral Dewey, learning that a British gunner had been crippled by the explosion of a cannon while firing a salute in honor of the great sailor's arrival at Gibraltar, hastened to the cot of the wounded man, talked with him at considerable length, inquired as to his future, and left him a snug sum of money (\$150) as a present from the Olympia's gallant crew. This kindly act was as characteristic of the admiral's whole nature as was the dash into Manila bay, and was but another of the many incidents which have stamped George Dewey as among the truly great. —Exchange.

The only qualified horse and dog doctor practicing in Dawson, Dr. Strong, D. V. S., Pioneer barber shop.

Any old thing in the hardware line at Shindler's.

Dr. Dunham, who has charge of Dr. Simpson's practice, has removed to Room 3, of the Hotel McDonald.

As a treat, take your best girl to dine at the Cafe Royal. She will be sure to like it.

Forks Office.

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The Nugget Express

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