

The Klondike Nugget

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1900

LET THE GODS WEEP.

Here is certainly a very pretty kettle of fish. The Yukon council has decided to place the new bridge a considerable distance up the Klondike, thus sidetracking Klondike City. Now, Klondike City, is the abode of Mr. Thos. O'Brien, proprietor of the government organ, and staunch supporter of the destinies of the Siftonian Yukon regime. Mr. O'Brien has protested against the council's determination, but with no avail. The bridge has been ordered and is on the way in and will be established at the point determined upon by the council.

Now the question arises, is there left in this world any such thing as human gratitude? We are inclined to doubt it. We will wager a little that Mr. O'Brien is also skeptical on the same point. Think of a man operating a newspaper for two or three years for the sole purpose of explaining away and apologizing for the actions of a crowd of amateur legislators, and then being turned down in such a manner. If the gods ever weep for the sake of mortals, they ought now to be shedding tears by the bucketful for Mr. O'Brien.

The withdrawal of Public Administrator Clement from active participation in the affairs of the territory will not be attended by any considerable degree of regret from anyone. Mr. Clement has uniformly and avowedly placed himself in opposition to the expressed desires of the people of the territory, and in consequence has brought upon himself a measure of unpopularity which is as general as it is well deserved. Mr. Clement's position as legal adviser to the council afforded him a splendid opportunity to establish himself deeply in the good estimation of the community. Instead, however, of availing himself of that opportunity, he took the other tack and used the prestige of his position on many an occasion to defeat the well-known and legitimate wishes of the people. Apparently, public sentiment has its influence even with men who boast of the fact that they are not responsible to the public will. Mr. Clement's error is flying in the face of public opinion was a fatal one and for that error he has paid very dearly.

Politicians on the outside will watch with intense eagerness for the returns from the approaching election in this territory, even though there are to be chosen only a minority of the council. Candidates who expect any measure of popular support must be sound upon the question of Yukon legislative reforms. The Yukon council, whatever it may have been, in the past, should in the future be an advisory board to the Ottawa authorities, and one which will not in every case wait till its opinion is asked. If the right men are selected for the elective members, they will be able to keep the requirements of the territory before the federal department, notwithstanding any action which the majority may take. The coming election will be a crucial event in Yukon history and one which will admit of no mistake being made.

The new regulation which has come out from Ottawa sub-dividing the Klondike and Indian River mining districts into six districts is a move in

the right direction and an indication of the accuracy of the opinion expressed some time ago in these columns to the effect that long needed reforms are in a fair way to be granted. To make this last enactment effective it only requires that all vacant and reserved ground in the territory mentioned should be immediately thrown open for location. Without this latter action being taken the former will have but little value.

The social side of life bids fair to receive much more attention in Dawson during the approaching winter than has been the case heretofore. There are probably three times as many families here at present than last year, which fact in itself will serve to augment social gaiety. With contemplated plans for outdoor sports and indoor amusement realized there will be little or no complaint heard as to the "terrors" of a Klondike winter.

Beer cannot legally be manufactured in Dawson, but it may be brought in by ship loads if the necessary permit is received. Wonderful and beyond the understanding of the finite mind are the ways of the powers that be.

PROTECTION AGAINST CAMERAS.

Last week at Newport a bold young man with a camera photographed the wives of two prominent New Yorkers as they were walking. The wives told their husbands, who started in pursuit of the man with the kodak, caught him, and destroyed the pictures he had taken. Later in the day, while the two New Yorkers were standing in front of the Casino, the same young man leveled his instrument at them. One of them dared him to take their picture. The other put it out of his power to do so by kicking the kodak out of his hand and breaking it.

The man whose property has been destroyed without due process of law threatens to sue the destroyer. If he does, it is not likely that he will get more than nominal damages, if he gets any. For it is understood that he was trying to take these photographs not for his own private use but for reproduction in a New York paper. The two men who figured in the affair—Mr. Herman Oelrichs and W. K. Vanderbilt, jr.—did not relish the idea of such publicity, either for themselves or their wives. They took the only course they knew of to escape that publicity.

It cannot be said, however, that the man whose camera was smashed had committed any unlawful act. To photograph a man or a woman who happens to be out on a public street is not as yet a crime any more than it is to take a picture of the exterior of a private residence. No one will challenge the right of an artist, if a pretty woman passes by, to make a sketch of her or to carry away with him in his mind's eye her face and figure, and reproduce them. But after the photograph or sketch has been made it may be used for an improper purpose. Therein lies the offense, if one is committed.

The courts are quite willing to defend the privacy of all who are not public characters.—Chicago Tribune.

Got It Right.

The Skagway Alaskan which a short time ago was much exercised over the tax on scows arriving in Dawson, which tax it asserted was \$150 for every scow, has at last got onto the straight of the matter which it presents to its readers thus:

M. King, of King's mill, Caribou, who is in town, says the report that all scows to land at Dawson from up the river with merchandise are to be taxed \$150 is erroneous.

"The scheme," says Mr. King, "is to charge each trader coming into Dawson and selling goods at retail from a scow \$150 a year unless he has a place of business in the town. If he wishes to make only one trip, and sell at retail, he will have to pay \$50 for selling his cargo.

"Two men were lately fined in Dawson for violation of the law. They were ignorant, it seems, and got off easily. The law will not be very hard on the scow business. It will practically do it no harm.

"The license required is the same as that which merchants have to pay in the city of Dawson, and the new step of exacting a revenue from those selling from the scows is nothing more than the license imposed on peddlers in any community.

"If a man wishes to take a cargo into Dawson by scow and sell it at wholesale to another man or to some business house there, he will not, as I understand it, be required to pay a license."

Brussell's squares at Oak Hill, opp. S.-Y. T. Co. dock. McCandless Bros.

STROLLER'S COLUMN

In fully one-half the cases, people who come to Dawson from the outside appear to overlook the fact that none of us were born and raised here and that we all have made the trip here from the outside, and many of us made the trip under such circumstances as are not liable to be forgotten. Yet these late arrivals persist in telling us all about their trip; they describe the scenery up the coast and along Lynn canal and say "you just ought to see it." One man wrote up his trip and headed it "From Seattle to Dawson," and wanted to sell it for \$500 and when he found no market, talked of hiring a hall and charging admission to hear it read. He had not stopped to reflect that with the exception of a few babes and sucklings and huckleberry peddlers from Moosehide, every person in the country had made the same trip as himself.

The same thing applies to actors and would-be public entertainers. Many of them appear to think that the people have been here all their lives and that any old, worn-out joke or song ought to drive them into convulsions, and when the audience fails to convulse the conceited actor naturally thinks that his hearers are not sufficiently cultivated to appreciate his productions, when in reality his alleged entertainment has been heard long years before. People who expect to sell chestnuts in Dawson will find that they carry an undesirable stock, even if it is their only supply. The day when "any old thing" and any old "bat" can entertain a Dawson audience is happily passed, never to return again.

There has been visible alarm manifested in Dawson lately all on account of the arrival of three or four Chinese in the city within the past two weeks. One man remarked to the Stroller: "If the pigtails are encouraged here, in another year it will be all off with Dawson, as the entrance of Chinamen soon spoil a mining camp. This is the history of every mining camp in the west from California to the Fraser river."

In many respects the speaker was right and the entrance of Chinese into any new place is cause for well founded alarm. Three or four, or as many dozen would not seriously effect Dawson, but when the entering wedge is started there is no telling what will follow. Dawson does not need these mongolians and a hint to that effect dropped in the presence of the ones already here would not be out of place.

"The experience of last year will be repeated again this fall as sure as the fall is coming," remarked a steamboat man yesterday. "Many men who yet expect to ship large cargoes of freight to Dawson before the close of navigation are only now on the road out to buy it, and by the time it is purchased, prepared for shipment and forwarded to Whitehorse with the incidental delays the spring will be so far advanced as to render it doubtful whether or not it arrives or stops at Scow island or some other point up the river. In the majority of cases those who fail to get their freight to Dawson this fall before the river ceases to flow will not be deserving of much pity. They saw the trouble and expense incident to late shipping last fall, and if they do not profit by it, they will have only themselves to blame."

The smallpox scare and all grounds for it in Dawson have faded away as completely as though they had never existed with the result that the one or two doctors who expected to grow rich by having a corner on vaccine virus find that their corner did not contain anything and their visions of wealth attained by charging five, prices have evaporated like spilled kerosene.

How Prince Patrick Got His Name.

The appointment of the Duke of Connaught to be commander-in-chief of Ireland recalls an incident which decided the queen to give him the name of Ireland's patron saint. When the queen and Prince Albert visited Ireland in 1849 an old lady in the crowd which welcomed her majesty to Dublin exclaimed, as the carriage in which the queen sat with her husband and elder children passed, "Oh, queen, dear, make one of them dear children Prince Patrick, and all Ireland will die for you."

The hint was not forgotten, and when, a year later, the queen's seventh child was born, he received the name of Arthur Patrick Albert. The soldier prince was further connected with the Emerald Isle when he was made Duke of Connaught.

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