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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1900.

THE GOLD DUST QUESTION.

Several communications have been received at this office respecting conditions resulting from the common acceptance of gold dust as a circulating medium. There is no escaping the fact that the present system is becoming more and more unsatisfactory every day. It is common practice to so adulterate the ordinary commercial dust as greatly to lessen its value, the consequence being that currency, always at a premium, is constantly forced out of circulation. The business man of Dawson, therefore, is compelled to accept gold dust of more or less uncertain value in exchange for his goods or to transact little or no business.

When the time arrives that he must realize upon his dust in order to make remittances to the outside, the situation appears still more unsatisfactory.

Commercial dust which the merchant accepts in payment of his accounts at the rate of \$16 per ounce is rated by the banks at \$14.75 per ounce in effecting exchange into currency.

If he has 1000 ounces, or \$16,000, in dust his loss in securing currency will amount to \$1250, leaving a balance of \$14,750. From this sum he will realize \$14,460.75 in outside exchange, provided he pays the rate of 2 per cent for his draft. The premium on his draft amounts to \$289.25, making the transaction cost him the sum total of \$1539.25, or nearly 10 per cent of the whole amount involved.

We are unable to see how the situation can be relieved through any local agencies. The banks are in the business of buying gold dust with the expectation of making a profit therefrom, which is perfectly legitimate and in accordance with ordinary business usages. To expect them to conduct their business for the accommodation of the public is to expect something which never has happened and which we do not apprehend will occur for the first time in the city of Dawson. It is essentially a matter to which the government should give attention. A government assay office should be established where gold dust might be exchanged at its full assay value, less the usual government charges, which are nominal.

In this way it would be to the advantage of holders of gold dust to realize currency therefrom, and within a short time all business would be transacted on a currency basis.

Our contemporary the News scored a scoop on the Nugget a few days ago which is characteristic of our contemporary's usual enterprise. It published a decision of the gold commissioner in the case of Hobson vs. Hays, and the Nugget did not get the story at all. The "head" which the News placed over the article read as follows: "Hays gets the

claim, but Hobson is entitled to first \$1000—out of the dump." An examination of the records in the case reveals the fact that the decision was handed down more than a year ago, the claim has since been worked out, and one at least, and probably both of the interested parties have left the country. For once the Nugget acknowledges a scoop.

It is not without reason that the seeker after historic parallels is harking back to Flodden and the Wars of the Roses for an instance in British annals of so many men of title taking a part in the country's battles. In point of fact, there are at this moment at the front in South Africa no less than four dukes, twenty-one earls, three viscounts and twenty-eight barons, to say nothing of thirty-two baronets and upwards of fifty heirs (apparent or presumptive) to English, Scotch and Irish peerages. The fact has a significance beyond a doubt, social if not political, but it is hard to find two theorists in agreement about it.—Toronto Globe.

Every once in a while an outbreak occurs among the fanatical Chinese "boxers," who usually vent their wrath on the foreign missionaries. This is followed by a polite note to the Chinese government asking for the payment of a monetary consideration for the lives taken. If the money is not forthcoming an occasional port is seized and a few marines landed from war ships to remind the celestials that there are others on earth besides themselves. Some of these days there will be a reckoning, which will result in a large chunk or two being taken out of China and distributed among the other powers.

Congress has taken the right view of the situation at Nome and has allowed the miners themselves to make their own regulations as long as they confine themselves within certain reasonable limits. The most important feature of Alaskan legislation, however, is the appointment of three additional judges. This action will greatly relieve the congested condition of litigation in our neighboring territory and give confidence to investors as regards security of title and the preservation of law and order.

The discovery of young Relfe's body completes the chain of evidence required to prove that the Clayson party was cruelly murdered on Christmas day near Minto. Beyond question this is the blackest crime that has yet occurred in the Yukon territory. The punishment of the perpetrators, as the nature of their crime warrants, will afford satisfaction to every one who is familiar with the circumstances.

Depends on the Man.
There are many men in Dawson who will assert, when questioned as to why they do not go to work, that they have been looking for work every day since they struck the country last fall and that they have been unable to find it; while other men come here entire strangers and succeed in procuring employment at once. A sample of the latter enterprise has just been verified in the case of a young man by the name of Louis Koster who arrived two days ago from Port Townsend, Wash. Although an entire stranger in the country, before he even slept he had contracted at good wages to go out on one of the creeks to work in a roadhouse.

The old cry of "not able to get employment at any price" is a weak wail. In nine cases in ten the applicant who meets with refusal at every hand does not ask for employment as though he really wants it. The matter of securing employment in the majority of cases depends almost wholly on the man seeking it.

STROLLER'S COLUMN

Notwithstanding the lumbago in his back, rheumatism in his joints and the knots as big as hickory nuts on his hands, he still had to him, as he purchased a ticket for Whitehorse on the Sybil, the look of a man who, though cast down, is not wholly discouraged.

"Leaving the country for good?" asked the Stroller.
"Indeed, I am not," he replied. "I am going outside to consummate a deal which will recoup me for the three years I have lost in mining here. I came here in the early fall of '97, since which time I have been battling with seeming fate in the form of laws that have pinched me on every hand; but I have met every item of extortion like a man and do not today owe a single sou in the Klondike. Of course, I am dead broke since buying my ticket, but that fact does not discourage me. When I get on the outside I know where I can get a few hundred dollars and when I return to the Yukon in the fall I will be on the high road to prosperity and affluence."

"Got some scheme for a new thawer?" ventured the Stroller.
"To thunder with thawers and everything else connected with mines," he replied. "Thawers and mines are what caused me to be going back with patches on my pants. No, sir! I am done with thawers and mines for ever. My plan is the result of three years of observation, experience and profound thought, and the result has been that I am now determined to take what the gods have left me. If you know any thing you must know that this is a country of licenses. You must have a license to prospect, a license to mine, a license to cut wood, and now you must pay a tax on your income, which is a tax on labor."

"Now I have anticipated the next tax which will be levied and by which I propose to make a name for myself and a fortune for my posterity. When I return to Dawson in three months I will bring with me a cargo of lung meters, as I am satisfied that by that time every resident of the district will be taxed for the air he breathes at so much per cubic foot. Now, as some men use more air than others, it will not be fair to tax all alike; each man should pay his proportion. Take, for instance a lawyer; he will use twice as much air as he who sits still all day at a black-jack table; besides the lawyer uses a much better quality of air. Now, he should be charged more for his air than the blackjack or scavenger man. My meter will regulate all this; and at the same time it will not inconvenience the wearer, as I propose to arrange it so it will be worn in the crown of the hat with a small flesh-colored tube extending down to the nose."

"Then once a month the crown lung meter inspector will come around, lift your hat, glance at the register, fill out a bill, collect for the air you have breathed during the past month, turn your meter back to '0' and there you are. In case the bill is not paid by the 10th of each month, the meter will not be turned back and on the 13th it will explode and carry away the top of your head. What do you think of my scheme?"

Bank clerks in Dawson are ordinarily possessed of an average amount of patience with the rest of humanity, but that patience is often abused—badly abused.

He was an important appearing individual, with a bristling mustache, and as he walked up to the teller's wicket in the down town office of the Canadian Bank of Commerce the impression was conveyed to the customers waiting to do business that he must be a syndicate representative, or something equally as large.

"Young man," said he to the teller, "I want a draft."
"For what amount?" inquired the teller.
The customer glanced at the teller and replied, "I want to know if this is perfectly safe before I pay you any money."
He was assured that it was safe, but that did not satisfy him. He had heard of a man who bought a draft a year ago and it had failed to reach its destination.

He must have a duplicate of the draft in case the first miscarried.
The teller informed him that duplicates were not ordinarily issued, and some one from the long line of waiting customers observed that the man should have brought his blankets. But he of the bristling mustache was not thus to be put off. He next inquired the rate charged for drafts. When told the rate he began to tell how he had bought drafts in other parts of the world at a very much smaller rate. Finally, however, the murmurs of the growing crowd of customers became so loud that the man with an air of injury said he sup-

posed he would have to come to the bank's terms, and produced a roll containing \$200 which he wished to exchange for a draft. While the teller was preparing the draft, the man retired from the line and gave the next man a chance. Suddenly, however, he again forced his way to the window and excitedly asked the clerk to count the roll of bills again. He was absolutely positive that he had \$250 instead of \$200.

The obliging teller complied with his request, but the count only showed \$200—as previously. Now he was certain that he had been robbed and insisted on counting the bills himself, but \$200 was all they would figure up. He had just begun another tirade on banks in general when suddenly he stopped and an expression of satisfaction passed over his face.

"I remember now, I took \$50 out of that roll yesterday. Your count is all right."
Without a word the teller handed him his draft, but he looked several things which in newspapers can be expressed only by dashes.

A large number of "littles of the field" have gone to Nome, and how they managed to raise the price to go is something unknown except to the Almighty and the "littles" themselves.

The man who can live without work, who can go when and where he pleases, who absolutely takes no thought of the morrow, is to be pitied rather than envied for the reason that they are ulcers on mankind and fester on humanity. Dawson is the gainer by their departure and can extend to Nome her sympathy in that the latter place is to receive this very undesirable element.

Potatoes, eggs, lemons. Mohr & Wilkens.

Shoff, the Dawson Dog Doctor, Pioneer Drug Store.

Best Canadian rye at the Regina.

When in town, stop at the Regina.

Alaska Commercial Company

RIVER STEAMERS
Sarah, Hannah, L. use, Leah, Alice, Margaret, Victoria, Yukon, Florence

OCEAN STEAMERS
San Francisco to St. Michael and Nome
St. Paul, Portland, Ranier
St. Michael to Golovin Bay, Nome, and Cape York
Dora, Sadie, Fry

THE STEAMER

'Hannah'

Will Leave Dawson in a few days with Passengers and Freight for

...ST. MICHAEL...

Connecting with Company's Steamer for

...NOME

TRADING POSTS

ALASKA
St. Michael, Andreofsky, Anvik, Nulato, Tanana, Fort Hamilton, Circle City, Eagle City

KOYUKUK DISTRICT
Koyukuk, Bergman

YUKON TERRITORY
Fortymile, Dawson

Dawson Post Is Fitted With Public Safe Deposit Vaults.

THE KLONDIKE CORPORATION, LTD.
Operating the Swift and Reliable Steamers

ORA, NORA, FLORA

BETWEEN DAWSON AND BENNETT

These Steamers Hold the Record for Three Successive Years for

...SPEED and REGULARITY

Clean and comfortable staterooms—No expense spared in supplying the table with all the delicacies possible to procure. Experienced captain in charge. No delay. Courteous treatment to all.


Office at Calderhead & Lancaster's Dock **R. W. CALDERHEAD, Agent**

S.-Y. T. Co's **SEATTLE No. 3** Steamer
Will leave for St. Michael
MONDAY, June 11th, at 9 p. m.
Announcement of next steamer sailing will be published at an early date.

S.-Y. T. Ticket Office **S.-Y. T. Dock, Dawson**

TRADING & EXPLORING CO. LTD.

Str. Yukoner



The Fastest and Most Elegantly Appointed Steamer on the Yukon

See This Space for Next Sailing Date.

For Rates Apply to T. & E. Co., First Ave.

D. A. C. & C. Co.

Reduced Rates.

LADIES

Intending to leave for Nome, Seattle or San Francisco, should look through the stock of the N. A. T. & C. Co. before buying their

TRAVELING COSTUME

Sailor or Trimmed Hats
Shoes, Underwear, Etc.

Our Stock of
Ladies' Tailor-Made Suits
Is Now Going at
...Reduced Rates...

We can fit you and suit you, both in quality, price and style.

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Family Trade Solicited for
Fine Liquors.

Canadian Club Whiskey, \$3.50 per Quart Bottle
W. E. Fairchild, Prop. South of P. O.

Spring Goods

**CLOTHING, HATS,
SHOES, NECKWEAR**

..Sargent & Pinska..

"The Corner Store" Opp. Aurora.

WHY BUY MEAT IN TOWN?

When you can get fresh meat at Dawson prices, at the

Grand Forks Meat Market

Opp. Gold Hill Hotel. Fred Geisman, Prop.