

The Klondike Nugget
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TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1900

THE LICENSE ORDINANCE.

The Yukon Council has under consideration an ordinance providing for a reduction of about 50 per cent in the present license fee charged saloons, hotels and roadhouses which sell liquor.

We are of the opinion that the ordinance is in keeping with the present condition of affairs in Dawson, and that the proposed reduction is entirely justified by the circumstances. It will be remembered that the present license fee was established during the height of the boom, when whisky of all qualities was sold at fifty cents per glass and no questions asked. Nowadays the average imbiber is inclined to be somewhat particular about the brand he uses, and most of the houses charge only half the former rate for drinks. It would appear, therefore, that the license should be materially reduced if anything like the ordinary rules of equity are considered.

It should not be made so low that every Tom, Dick and Harry, who can get hold of a barrel of whiskey and a couple of glasses, can afford to go into the saloon business. That was the condition which prevailed in Dawson in the summer of '98, and it was that same condition which urged a number of the legitimate saloon men of the town to favor the present high license.

The terms of the ordinance, as now under consideration, appear to us to be just and fair to all parties concerned. The rates proposed are sufficiently high to hold the business within proper limits, but not so high as to be prohibitive. We believe the ordinance is along right lines and should be passed.

NOME REGULATIONS.

Elsewhere we publish, in full, Senator Carter's amendment to the bill governing the size, etc., of claims at Nome. In all probability the bill as finally passed will be along the lines of the Carter proposition, which completely reverses the essential features of the bill as originally introduced. The plan for regulating the mining industry at Nome, as outlined in the amendment, is, we believe, the most satisfactory that has yet been suggested.

Senator Carter sees, and apparently the entire senate agrees with him, that it is simply an impossibility for congress to deal intelligently with questions of such importance, and concerning which detailed and accurate information is necessarily wanting. Therefore, they have decided to allow the miners themselves to make such regulations as they may deem desirable as long as they do not conflict with statutes already in force in the United States. It will be found in the end that this system will be far from satisfactory, but it is an improvement upon such long-range government as we have been accustomed to here, which too often has proven a curse to newly settled communities.

The Nugget is in receipt of several communications regard-

ing the demand, or rather lack of demand, for labor on the creeks. All of them state that there are plenty of laborers on the creeks, and, in fact, that in several localities men are being laid off, owing to the somewhat unexpected arrival of warm weather. All agree that there will be a revival in the labor market as soon as sluicing is begun in actual earnest, but at the present time it is the consensus of opinion among our correspondents that there are plenty of men on the creeks already. These facts are presented by the Nugget for the information of men who otherwise might be led to making a hard trip under a misapprehension of the actual conditions.

Winston Churchill's advice to Great Britain to keep on sending troops to the Transvaal until the Boers are forced into unconditional surrender, is timely significant. Churchill knows the Boers, their resources and their methods of warfare. He knows that, in spite of the loss of their two best generals, they will not be whipped until they are driven from their last stronghold. It appears, however, that his suggestion was not required, as both Lord Salisbury and Chamberlain long ago announced that there would be no let up in war preparations until the Boers are completely vanquished.

With Gen. Cronje in the hands of the British and Gen. Joubert dead in Pretoria, the Boers have a most discouraging outlook ahead of them. They had implicit faith in their two generals, and, now that both are gone, a resultant feeling of despondency will naturally ensue. Kruger is still left, but his extreme age prevents him from being of any considerable value to his people, aside from acting in the capacity of counsellor. The capture of Cronje and the death of Joubert are worth the slaughter of ten thousand Boer troops.

Minister Sifton has gone abroad, ostensibly for the purpose of securing treatment for deafness, which has afflicted him for a number of years. When Sifton gets back it may be that he will have recovered his hearing sufficiently to be able to understand the clamor which so long has been raised in the Klondike for redress from governmental hardships.

The trail between Dawson and Fortymile is reported as being still in good condition. The trail skirts the shore for a large part of the way, and will not be so readily affected by water as on other portions of the river. Considerable quantities of commodities which are short in Dawson are being sledged up from Fortymile.

Got to the Editor.

He was a quaint-looking man with a stubby chin whisker and blue spectacles. "I am a member, sir," he said, "of the Society for the Amelioration of Man's Cruel Conditions." "Very commendable, indeed," murmured the editor, "though a tifle lengthy." "Yes," continued the stranger, "and I have called upon you for the purpose of asking you to advance—" "You really must excuse me today," said the editor, with considerable haste; "I have so many calls upon—" "Of asking you to advance the cause of our society by giving publicity to a little ameliorating scheme of my humble invention." "Fire away," said the editor in a relieved tone. "You have heard, of course, of these cruel dum-dum bullets," resumed the stranger. "It was the dum-dum bullet that put the ameliorating idea into my head. The dum-dum, as you know, ex-

pands when it strikes, making a most dreadful wound. My idea is to substitute something that will also expand, but without inflicting such shocking mutilations. I have hit upon dried apples."

"Good," said the editor. "Salted dried apples." "Very good," said the editor. "When the salted dried apples, fired from a rifle in dissolving capsules, penetrate a victim, he will presently feel thirsty. It's the salt, of course. He drinks voraciously, and the dried apples expand, whereupon you have the very same result that follows the use of the dum-dum bullet, but without its extreme cruelty. Noble scheme, isn't it?"

"Noble, indeed," said the editor. "It's a lovely scheme. But why stop at dried apples? Why not experiment with olives and green plums and boarding house prunes and compressed sponges?"

The stranger faintly laughed. "I thought you would be interested," he said. "It is a scheme that appeals to all truly benevolent hearts." He paused and coughed convulsively. "You must excuse," he said, when he caught his breath, "but in experimenting today I swallowed several salted dried apples and have a terrible thirst. Could you aid me in assuaging it to the extent of a nickel?"

The editor could and did.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Supreme Justices Getting Old.

One of the justices of the United States supreme court has passed the age which earns retirement. Within the next three years three more justices will have reached the age of 70, which allows retirement on full pay. Gray is now 72, Shiras will be 70 in 1902 and Fuller and Harlan will reach the same ripe age the year following. A Washington correspondent says, with the most important legal and constitutional questions since the civil war soon to demand the attention of the court, the longevity of the justices becomes a matter of no little concern. It has its bearing upon the pending presidential contest. The president to be elected in November may have the filling of four of the nine places on the bench. One of these places will be the chief justiceship. If McKinley is re-elected he will enjoy the distinction of having appointed a majority of the bench, one of his selections now occupying a seat there, former Attorney General McKenna. This, of course, is conditional upon the four justices electing to retire when they reach the age limit.

Another Reputed Strike.

Just before the Atlin rush nearly two years ago there was one to the Big Salmon and it is remembered that a great number of the stamperers from this city turned back before covering half the distance. They had received what was considered authoritative information that the Big Salmon was no good. Even those who went farther brought back no rosy reports. But the prospecting, or rather the locating, was then on Big Salmon, and that it is now believed is no more rich in gold than is the Klondike. It is said, however, that like the Klondike, its tributaries have proven rich. During the late fall and this winter it is whispered that many rich strikes have been made on these tributaries and hence the rush.

The richness of these tributaries has been much talked of in Vancouver and in Victoria during the past winter, and in one or two instances the slow going newspapers have "caught on" and made reference to hopes of the great benefit the province would receive from the richness of these new diggings.

Many men from the province have been coming up here and packing in their supplies, and gradually it has been whispered about here the number of men who have been leaving the trail for Dawson when they reached Big Salmon.

But there has come out some new information during the past few days, of new strikes on the tributaries of the Big Salmon. These are principally on the south fork and the streams emptying into it. The first stamper was of a gang of railroad hands that left on Thursday. Since then both railroad hands and snow shovelers have been asking for their time checks, and a dozen or so of well known Skagway men have joined in the rush.—Skagway Alaskan.

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