

The Klondike Nugget

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**From Thursday and Friday's Daily.
RECOGNIZING ALASKA.**

A strong effort is being made by the leading newspapers and the congressional delegations of the Pacific coast states to secure more liberal laws for the people of Alaska.

Under existing conditions it is practically impossible to secure title to public lands in the territory for agricultural or grazing purposes, and the laws governing the location of mining property are so lax that security of title is often enough a very doubtful matter.

The American government has never given to Alaska the recognition to which its great natural wealth so unquestionably entitles it. It has been only within the last few years that any value has been attached to the big territory, aside from the sealing industry, which has flourished extensively in Alaskan waters for two decades or more.

The coast states, or more properly speaking, the coast cities, have taken the matter in hand from purely selfish motives. Every inducement held out to people to settle in Alaska adds to the commercial prestige of the cities of the Pacific states, which, each year, are coming to rely more and more upon the Alaska trade. Certainly it is to the advantage of the entire coast that the federal government should deal liberally with Alaska to the end that the big territory may become populated and developed as early as possible. The United States government surveys, in addition to establishing the feasibility of railroads and ordinary highway construction through Alaska, have submitted exhaustive reports respecting agriculture and stock raising which are now attracting widespread attention. Undoubtedly both pursuits could be followed at no small profit.

Alaska's mineral resources are well known over the entire United States and their importance is becoming more generally recognized each year.

What is required now is legislation which will permit the acquisition of title to land under the most liberal terms.

This is the main issue in the campaign which has been undertaken on the coast and there seems good reason for belief that in the end it will prove eminently successful.

ADVANTAGES ALL ONE WAY.

The nearer one approaches the incorporation question the less attractive does it become.

There was a time when it appeared that Dawson would be compelled to seek incorporation as a sort of protective measure. The streets were in frightfully bad condition, there were no sidewalks to speak of, no effort was made to light the town at public expense and from a sanitary standpoint conditions were anything but satisfactory. More important than all these was the matter of fire protection which had then been given little or no attention.

Such were the circumstances which gave occasion for the original movement looking toward the organization of a municipal government. It appeared then that if any attention was to be paid to the conduct of the public affairs of the town the initiative must come from the citizens. In the course of time, however, and by a sort of imperceptible process Dawson has developed into a town with regularly laid out streets, good sidewalks, a fine fire department and in fact nearly all the various public utilities which the ordinary municipality possesses. These changes have come about so gradually and with such little cost to the individual that it is a matter of some difficulty to realize exactly what has been accomplished. Briefly summed up it may be said that Dawson has in full operation the complete governmental machinery requisite to the proper conduct of the affairs of the town at but a fraction of the cost which would be involved in the event of incorporation.

It is not to be anticipated, however, that Dawson can go on forever without contributing in some measure toward the payment of its own expenses. With or without incorporation, taxation is at hand and it is well that a clear understanding of that fact be had. If the citizens do not elect for incorporation it is understood that collection of taxes will proceed under the tax rolls as prepared by the Yukon council some months ago. If a municipal government is decided upon it would probably rest with the elected city council to prepare new tax lists. It remains, therefore, with the citizens to determine whether they prefer the scheme of taxation as now prepared by the territorial council or assume the added cost which would necessarily result from the organization of a regular system of local government.

To our way of thinking the advantages are largely in favor of the former.

Secretary Chamberlain's announcement of local sale for the Boers will do more to bring the war to a final termination than any number of additional troops which may be sent to the Transvaal. John Bull has an easier problem ahead of him in South Africa than Uncle Sam has in the Philippine islands. In the first instance, it is a case of dealing with a people who are accustomed to self-government and who can enter with intelligence into any reasonable plans of administration which is proposed. With the Philippine islands the case is vastly different. After the Filipinos have been conquered it will be a matter of long and patient effort before they can be safely entrusted with the direction of their own affairs. The hardest part of Uncle Sam's work remains yet to be done.

It is a noticeable fact that the average malamute dog wears a look of despondency these days. The advent of so many horses has practically thrown him out of business. Time was when the malamute was undisputed monarch in the Klondike, but that time is passed. He is now a side issue—his place has been filled, and from being a prime factor in the economy of the country, he is now given but little consideration. Three years ago we could not get along without him. Now he might pass entirely out of existence and things would still preserve the even tenor of their way. Apparently the law of the survival of the fittest is as applicable to dogs as it is to men.

We should like to see something done in the way of developing the numerous quartz leads, discoveries of which have been noted in the press from time to time. Unless the owners themselves are willing to give practical evidence of their faith in their properties they can scarcely expect the public to do so. We are quite confident that quartz discoveries have been made which will warrant the prosecution of development work. Some one should take the initiative and give the community a practical demonstration of what most of us believe to be a fact, viz., that quartz which will pay handsomely is present in large quantities, within close proximity to Dawson.

The Nugget plant is now operated by means of an electric motor, the power for which is furnished by the local electric light and power company. Thus another step is taken along the line of progress for which Dawson is becoming so justly noted. The extension of the same power for use on the creeks will be undertaken on a large scale during the coming spring and summer.

There are less people in Dawson today than there were two years ago, notwithstanding which fact the number of occupied houses is probably twice as large at the present time. This only goes to show that the day when six or seven people managed to live in a one-room cabin has gone by.

Judging from the tone of recent News editorials one might easily imagine that the News is owned by Mary Ellen Lease. Our contemporary seems deter-

mined to inaugurate a Populist propaganda in Dawson.

Complaint is made that First street is badly blocked up with woodpiles and other impediments which have served materially to hinder traffic on that thoroughfare. A little attention from the authorities will be quite in order.

The old year and the old century will die out together. All resolutions made on January 1st should be good for 100 years.

It is about time we heard from Mr. Prudhomme.

The News is actually becoming simple.

Prizefight Carnival.

New York, Dec. 4.—Preparations for a prize fighting carnival to be held in Cincinnati in February are under way. The preliminary steps in the matter were taken today, when James J. Corbett, acting for the Cincinnati promoters, signed Tommy Ryan, of Syracuse, to box Jack Root of Chicago, 20 rounds for a percentage of the gate receipts. The men will fight at 158 pounds, weighing on the date of the battle, February 15.

Corbett, who has been appointed to manage the carnival, will also endeavor to arrange a contest between Ben Jordan, featherweight champion of England, and Terry McGovern. Jordan and McGovern will be offered a purse or a percentage of the gross receipts. McGovern wired from Milwaukee that he would agree to fight Jordan in Cincinnati, provided the financial inducements are attractive. Corbett cabled Jordan who is in London, of the Cincinnati club's offer and McGovern's willingness to meet him.

Corbett will also try to arrange a bout with Jeffries, to take place at the carnival. He says he will allow Jeffries to dictate the terms of the battle. Failing to arrange this bout, Corbett will offer a purse for a 20-round bout between the winner of the Maher-Ruhlin bout and Jeffries.

Wanted to Be Insulted.

"Whenever I see a regulation railway lunch counter," said a man at the Texas & Pacific depot—"I mean one of the kind with high stools and stacks of doughnuts and petrified pies under glass shades—I am reminded of a queer little incident that occurred several years ago at Texarkana.

"I was on the train coming down to New Orleans from the northwest, and we stopped at the place to get supper. The depot was provided with such a lunch counter as I have described, and when I took possession of one of the stools I found myself next to a typical cowboy, with wide white sombrero, leather leggings, enormous spurs and a pair of big six-shooters hanging low down over his hips. A livid scar, evidently the result of a knife wound, ran from the corner of his eye to the angle of his jaw, and his whole appearance was so sinister and forbidding that I edged instinctively as far away as I could get. A few minutes later a big, coal-black negro came sauntering in and deliberately seated himself on one of the stools at the other side. The passengers who were eating exchanged glances of indignation, but he was a vicious looking fellow and nobody cared to invite certain trouble by ordering him out. Presently the tough cowboy leaned over and tapped me on the shoulder.

"'Scuse me, stranger," he said in a hoarse whisper; "but will you please call me a—liar?"

"What?" I exclaimed in amazement.

"I want ter git you to call me a—liar, if y' don't mind," he repeated, still in a whisper; "beller it right out so as everybody kin hear!"

"But why should I call you that?" I asked, beginning to doubt his sanity.

"Well, I tell y'," he replied earnestly, "as soon as you do, I'll rip and cuss some, and then I'll take out my gun and take a shot at you."

"Take a shot at me?" I said, in alarm.

"Yes," said he, "but it's all right—I'll miss you and accidentally hit the nigger; see? Go ahead now and cut loose."

"I begged hastily to be excused. I assured him that I liked the idea, and didn't doubt his marksmanship, but I was a little nervous about firearms, and—well, I hardly know what I said but I gulped down my coffee as quick as I could and made a bee line for the outer air. Before the train started I encountered the cowboy on the platform. He was looking gloomy.

"You didn't get a chance to put your little scheme in execution?" remarked inquiringly.

"No, doggone the luck!" he replied. "I couldn't get a single white-man to insult me."—Piscayune.

**Christmas
Aftermath**

Reporter to Citizen—Well, what kind of a Christmas did you have?

Citizen to Reporter—The greatest time you ever saw! But say! Don't put my name in your paper! We had a fine dinner and just the best time imaginable. My initials are J. W., but don't mention it in your paper. We had a lot of people there to dinner. Their names are (here are given a dozen or more names)—but my wife and me would prefer to not have any mention made of it in the paper. Our residence is on the corner of Icicle avenue and Glacier street, but don't say a word about it in your paper. After dinner the folks stayed and we had a nice dance, but then we would prefer to not have anything published about it. My wife had the house beautifully festooned and decorated, but then we do not care to have anything said about it. Go up and see my wife; she can tell you all about it. But remember! We don't want a word said about it in your paper.

And when the reporter gets disgusted and takes Citizen at his word and the paper comes out without a line about the doings at his house, he, the reporter, is referred to as a "country chump," and the paper has made an enemy for life.

Regarding Spuds.

The potato market of the present in Dawson differs very materially from that of one year ago. Two weeks ago potatoes were selling at from \$15 to \$18 per 100 pounds according to quality. Today the very best are being offered at \$15 per 100 pounds, and an excellent article can be had for \$13.

Last year at this time potatoes were selling at 50 cents per pound and by January 20th had advanced to 75 cents, later going to \$1.25. Several scow loads of potatoes sold readily last year in October at 35 cents per pound wholesale, the money that on Christmas day cost Fred Clayson his life having been paid to him for potatoes at that price.

But the fabulous price at which they were held last year precluded their general use, as even the restaurants were forced to charge 50 cents extra for a meal where a few billious slices of fried potatoes were served. The result was that when the gentle springtime came potatoes, in their exuberance, began to sprout, with the result that many tons of them went to ruin and rot and instead of selling at the rate of \$2,500 per ton, they cost their owners \$10 per ton to have them hauled out and dumped in the Yukon.

Mirrors Barred to Convicts.

Convicts in English prisons are not allowed the use of mirrors. From the moment of a convict's entrance to a jail to the moment of his exit he is not permitted to have the use of a mirror of any kind, the smallest piece of glass being rigidly denied to him. To the women convicts this absence of a mirror forms one of the chief hardships of confinement, and many a female warder can tell piteous tales of women who have actually fallen upon their knees and sobbed out entreaties for the loan of a morsel of mirror—"just for a second." All these entreaties have perforce to be disregarded—and it therefore comes about that many a female convict passes three or four years without being permitted to gaze upon her own features.

Overestimated.

A late issue of the Whitehorse Star says a telegram from Dawson was received there the same day on which the paper was published which stated that too people had started from here for the outside that morning. This is probably a mistake as according to the most reliable accounts not to exceed ten people have started from here for the outside any one day since the river closed, and not to exceed 100 altogether have started. Travel on the river will not be brisk before the middle of January.

**Slorah
Case**

Although it has been some time since anything was heard of the Slorah case or whether or not any efforts were being made to have the matter reopened, the friends of the condemned man have been busily engaged in raising money and taking the preliminary steps in the matter of procuring fresh evidence, and a day or two since the matter was satisfactorily arranged, and Attorney Blesker has been re-engaged to go on with the fight. It is altogether probable that when this vacation is over the case will once more be before the court in the form of the argument for an appeal, which, in view of the evidence in sight, Slorah's friends and attorney are very hopeful of obtaining, and there is a strong probability that in the event of the appeal being granted some sensational evidence will be heard.

A Mathematical Problem.

A Nugget representative dropped into a broker's office today and found him busily engaged in figuring on an already closely covered sheet. The broker's face wore a perplexed look and it was fully five minutes before he glanced at the intruder. Thinking that he was figuring up the volume of business transacted by him during the year just closing, and finding that he had largely run behind, the reporter was about to volunteer a few words of consolation, when the broker said:

"I have just been striving to figure out how much I lost in a wood deal in October when I bargained for 10 cords at \$18 per cord and got by actual measurement just 6½ cords. Of course I plunked down the \$180, and now that a full cord of wood can be bought for \$13, I am trying to find out where I get off, or if I get off at all. The point is just this: I can't afford to burn all the wood I need at \$18 per cord, especially when I got short measure; and I can not afford to run the risk of pneumonia breaking out in my family for lack of plenty of fire, when wood is selling at \$13 per cord. The question is just a little too deep for me, so if you are in we'll go out and liquidate."

The reporter was in and liquidation went.

Concerning Dogs.

Editor Nugget:

The dog problem is just now one of the most perplexing within the ken of the ordinary citizen. There are people in Dawson who pretend to think a great deal of their dogs and who would talk of their great value if they were stolen or killed, and yet they do not provide these same dogs with a mouthful of food from one week's end to the other. Life is sustained in not less than 20 dogs at my back door and I have no doubt but that other restaurateurs in the city are having the same dog-ood experience. If we would all shut down on feeding these packs of hungry, howling, fighting curs and allow them to look to their owners for what they eat, there would be mad dogs—hunger crazed—by the dozen in Dawson.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is all right as far as it goes, but there are other forms of abuse besides the use of clubs and whips. A well fed dog that is occasionally larrupped half to death is to be congratulated when compared with the dog that must depend on his own rustling qualities for every mouthful of food he eats. Prevention that does not prevent is a poor remedy.

RESTAURANTER.**A Theory Advanced.**

One theory advanced for the prevalence of the existing mild winter weather is that Skagway being the gateway to the interior, the weather naturally comes in that way and that formerly the Moore Dock Co. at that place charged wharfage on everything that passed over it, therefore, no weather was furnished from below and what came down the river was manufactured at the summit of White Pass. This theory might not hold good in signal service circles, but it is worthy of consideration in the absence of more plausible suggestions.

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