

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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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.

"DIED OF SHAME," SAYS THE NEWS.

From time immemorial, it has been customary to speak well of the dead. So prevalent has the custom become that the ultra-conventionals have gone a step further, and as a consequence many a headstone and monument is a lie on the face of it. But, however we may differ as to the amount of unearned good we should say of one who is beyond the power of expressive pleasure or disapprobation at what we shall say, we can and do agree upon the principal that if it is wrong to slander the living, it is doubly so to slander the defenceless dead. It is cowardly. It is reprehensible. It is indefensible.

In a recent issue the News attempted to make a sensation out of the death of a wealthy and prominent Russian named Rudolph F. Durian, a native of Odessa.

Under the caption of "Durian Died of Shame," a startling account is given of the dead man having shut himself up and drank himself to death because some rolled barley which he brought into the country for his brewery proved to be malt. In our local columns will be found the doctor's certificate of death, which the News could have gotten just as easily if it had desired the truth. Perforation of the intestines from typhoid is always fatal, and is the usual cause of death from that disease. The condition of the mind has as little to do with the death as the News has to do with the truth.

Durian was an abstemious gentleman, and to brand him as a drunkard because he is dead and apparently unable to defend his fair fame, is not only cruel, cowardly and carelessly untrue but is in wretchedly bad taste, to say the least. No man, no matter how good, is safe to die in the neighborhood where the News exists, if the News' slander on the dead Durian is allowed to prevail unbranded as a lie.

The duty paid on rolled barley is greater than would have been the duty upon a similar amount of malt, and how shame could have killed a gentleman because he had paid more than he needed to is beyond human wisdom to understand. How shame could have perforated the intestines is another hard thing to swallow.

Penny-a-line sensationalism is bound to betray itself in a community of staunch, hard-headed men of facts as are the people of Dawson.

ILLEGALITY OF "LAYS."

It is to the interest of many of our readers that they understand thoroughly the precedent established by Judge Dugas, in his decision last Friday in the case of J. A. Chute vs. C. H. Clark et al. The points established by that decision are:

First—Co-owners of claims, who are

not partners are not bound by each other's acts.

Secondly—Lays given by a co-owner, who is not a partner in the real sense of the word, are worthless unless concurred in by both owners.

Thirdly—Lays to be valid, should be signed by the several owners of a claim to prove their concurrence.

Fourthly—Co-owners are not necessarily partners.

Fifthly—Two men who buy a claim together are partners.

Sixthly—Two men who derive their interests from different sources or at different times must have the concurrence of each other before giving a lay, just the same as before executing a mortgage which is to cover the claim.

Seventhly—Where concurrence cannot be obtained, the remedy is partition of the claim, or a sale and division of the proceeds.

So many of the Klondike claims are affected by the decision that we dwell upon its features at length. It has an importance as great as a new regulation.

Examined carefully, it will appear that the equities have been carefully preserved. Any other decision would have opened the door to endless fraud. Had the laymen in this case been supported, there would have been nothing in the world to prevent one partner in a valuable claim freezing out the other by giving out the entire claim on a lay to himself through a third person.

KLONDIKE EXODUS.

There is no question but the exodus of miners from Dawson during the past summer has been a serious matter to many of the owners of our poorer mines. The exorbitant taxes and enormous expense of working a claim made the owners view with alarm the stiffening of the labor market, consequent upon so many of our population going down river. The population of the Nome district has been variously given as from 8000 to 10,000 people, 90 per cent being from Dawson. This figure may be an overestimate upon the part of correspondents, but the fact remains that there has been a remarkable lessening in the number of laboring men here at a time when the development of the mines made an opening for more.

The outside papers, with singular unanimity, are moralizing upon this emigration from the Klondike and have apparently all agreed that the oppression of the Sifton government is to blame for that condition. Nay, more. The consensus of outside opinion is that the Klondike is to lose still more of its population—in fact that instead of continued growth we must, from now on, expect to shrink in numbers.

It is certainly true that oppressive legislation has done much to dishearten and drive away our people. Also, by legislation the field has now been largely taken away from the prospector. But it is nevertheless a fact that 15,000 claims stand in the names of individuals and pending legislation looks more to the strengthening of title than its confiscation. By narrowing down the field of operation to the miners already in possession, prospectors are being driven from amongst us, and the development of the Yukon territory is being delayed. But there is already enough ground in the possession of individuals to secure a ten-year life to Dawson, beyond which time few of us care to look.

STANDARD TIME.

The time problem is no nearer solution in Dawson than it was a year ago. Never were a man's predilections given freer scope than in the matter of regulating time.

The shortening of the days has woefully affected the clocks and watches of our people. Those who wanted the short hours of daylight in the morning pushed the hands of their timepieces back from one hour to three. Those who wanted it late in the day pushed the hands ahead, nor asked anyone's opinion of the transaction. Most of our readers found these same short hours of daylight fixed the middle of the day at least an hour from where their timepieces had been indicating it, and hands were moved round accordingly.

The inconveniences of not having a standard time are many and considerable. In order to keep a business appointment at a certain hour one must be there at least an hour ahead of time, and must remain there at least an hour after the time specified in order to allow, as the engineers say, for the variation of watches.

Governments elsewhere have not considered it beneath their dignity to establish a standard time for the benefit of individuals. Private concerns find it impossible. The A. C. Co. bell can be heard, marking away the hours and it but accentuates the fact that their noon time differs from everyone else. In Dawson there is A. C. time, N. A. T. time, A. E. time, barracks time, post-office time, land office time, recording office time, court time, common time, storekeepers' time, theater time, sun time, steamboat time—in fact just as many different times as there are occupations. The evil is growing instead of decreasing and the remedy is so simple there is really no excuse for this diversity.

The case of Jacob Lares reminds us that there are others in the same fix and the only remedy is publicity. Lares was on Eureka with a company of friends and the company had become possessed of some promising properties. He came to town some ten weeks ago for mail and supplies, bringing with him the last of the funds of the boys until they should begin to wash up a little dirt. Arriving in town he was taken to the hospital in a delirious condition from fever, which ran through a complication of diseases, keeping him a close prisoner, for ten weeks, and for six of them he was unable to make himself known or communicate to his friends the reason of his failure to return with supplies.

The friends came to town on a hunt for him, searched high and low but found him not. Concluding at last that he had either met with foul play or skipped out, his family in Cleveland were so advised. Several such cases have come to our knowledge, and as a remedy we suggest that each institution of this kind communicate to The Nugget each week a list of its new patients, which we will publish. The Nugget is carried regularly to the farthest creeks and has a circulation there double that of all our contemporaries combined, and in this manner we shall be able to advise all the friends of a sick man what has become of him.

Alaska is beginning to experience the same inconveniences from being governed at a distance as has our lot in the

Yukon territory. Judge Allen has repaired to Sitka to open court for the express benefit of five pairs of disputants on Jack Wade creek, in the Fortymile district. As long as Alaska was little known the miners were left to themselves to settle their own disputes by miners' meetings, the same as was done in the early days of California. Substantial justice was served out at these meetings and none dared dispute the finding of such a body. The arrival of a population of men who were familiar with keen competition and who were trained to shrewdly take advantage of any opportunities which might offer even if someone else suffered thereby, has rendered impossible such primitive methods of dispensing justice as by acclamation; but there is neither hymene nor reason in compelling litigants to make a pilgrimage which will not only put them to enormous expense, but will keep them away from their interests, and maybe their business for the better part of a year. What a condition would maintain here if each individual before the gold commissioner had to make a trip outside each time he wanted to be heard.

Marriage Bells.

Exchanges note the marriage in Seattle of two well-known Dawsonites, Mr. F. W. Ewen, a mine owner who went out last summer and Florence Clifford. Florence will be remembered as the sweet soprano singer who held the boards in the Monte Carlo for a year. Her specialty was ballads, and strongest numbers were often the oldest songs. It was while in the theater that the two became acquainted, with the above results. The many friends of both congratulate them upon the union. Among the recipients of wedding notices from the happy couple is our old friend Uncle Andy.

An Eagle.

James Donaldson was initiated into the mysteries of the order of Eagles, while outside, and besides having full fledged wings, is the possessor of a special dispensation for placing the wings on others. The necessary paraphernalia is blockaded at Bennett, but if it arrives the flutter of eagle wings will be made a usual thing in Dawson.

Notice of Dissolution.

Notice is hereby given, that the partnership of Donovan and Connelly, as hotel proprietors of the Hotel McDonald, is this day dissolved and that all debts due to or from the firm will be received or paid at the office of the Hotel McDonald.

J. J. DONOVAN.

M. CONNELLY.

Dated, 7th October, 1899.

Removal Notice.

Dr. Lee, dentist, has removed from the Bodega block to the V. V. T. block, upstairs.

It seems incredible, but nevertheless it is true, that we spend one-third of our lives in bed. Think of it; a man sleeps 20 years who lives to the age of 60. He should try and make these years at least comfortable. You can make them luxurious by using Stamer's famous mattresses, either hair or excelsior, or moss. They are marvels of workmanship. See his stock before he closes out. His present address is Third street, near Second avenue.

Private dining and wine rooms at the Club Royal.

Our Seattle Office

Is Equipped With a Reliable Staff of Employees.

Commissions of Any Nature Given Prompt Attention.

The Nugget Express

Seattle Office: 112 Yeaser Way.