

# THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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## MAIL CARRIER NEARLY MURDERED.

### The First Mail Man Out of Dawson Followed and Way Laid.

### Sandison Comes Near Losing His Life but Closes With His Assailant—Frankie a Dawson Criminal.

The dangers besetting a Klondiker are not all in frost and ice. E. W. Sandison, it will be remembered, left Dawson on the first day of November with mail for the outside. He had some 80 pounds of letters and proposed to sled that and his blankets over the edge ice before the main river became passable. He is a big strong man and all were confident that he would be the first man out. However, it was slow work making camp every night and many a long detour had to be made in order to avoid open water. Corporal Richardson passed him with the official mail and several unnumbered pedestrians also overtook him. But there was a man on his trail from the moment he left Dawson, who had no desire to pass him living. Sandison came in this summer with a scow load of turkeys and successfully negotiated their sale. It was known to only a few friends how much money he was carrying out with him but it was known to all that he had some. A man named Frankel, who had spent several terms in the Dawson jail, was at liberty when Sandison started out and it appears resolved at once upon a bold course to make a stake quickly and get out of the country at one and the same time. Unnumbered by aught than a pair of light blankets the mail carrier was at last overtaken by the sleuth.

No opportunity had presented itself for a number of stations where both men spent the night for the sleuth to commit the foul deed on which his mind was bent. Sandison at last noticed the fellow reaching the same stopping places as himself nightly and got acquainted. The would-be thief and murderer told a plausible story of hardships and misfortune on the Klondike and his condition at the time bore out the story for he hadn't a dollar left. Sandison took pity on him and invited him to come along. From there on to a point a mile this side of Hootalingua the two journeyed together, Sandison paying all the bills or furnishing the food when they camped out. At the last camp mentioned Sandison had chosen a camping place away from the beaten trail—a body might lie there forever without being discovered. Frankel evidently saw his opportunity. The criminal took the first spell in the robes with Sandison at the fire. At two in the morning Sandison crawled in while Frankel fed the flames. Naturally Sandison was soon asleep with his gold sack upon his person and his mail under his head. Frankel picked up the axe; it had a short broken handle; one of the prisoner's hands is maimed by the loss of all but two fingers. Probably to this fact the mail carrier owed his life for he was awakened suddenly by repeated blows on the furs and parka hood, which completely enveloped his head. He is a large and nervously quick active man and had the prisoner disarmed and in custody in a trice. Though bruised and bleeding he found himself strong and not very seriously hurt as the furs had prevented the sharp bit of the axe from penetrating. With the axe for his sole weapon he took Frankel to the police station at Hootalingua and had his own wounds dressed. When the report left Hootalingua the injured man was doing nicely and it was believed would start upon his outward trip after a few more days. Preparations were also in progress for forwarding the intended murderer to the Tagish post for custody.

It is supposed by those who know that Sandison had some \$2000 with him in cash. Being known as a most responsible man it is believed that sundry amounts in bills and drafts were also enclosed in the letters he was carrying.

### Fire Department Doings.

The fire boys of the volunteer department held their last meeting of 1898 on Wednesday evening at the engine house, Chief Fletcher presiding.

The new fire ordinance of the Yukon Council was read and explained to the boys of the department. It makes the authority of the chief paramount during a fire. He can order the destruction of property without redress, just as in his wisdom may appear proper to do. Each member of the department is constituted a special constable during a fire and citizens shall neither interfere nor dictate but must in all things follow directions.

The new by-laws were debated and adopted. Firemen who fall three times in succession to respond to the alarm, unless they can produce what may appear to the chief to be a good and sufficient excuse will be ignobly dropped from the roles.

Pretty silver badges were shown and adopted as the official fireman's badge. The design is a Maltese cross with gold pan in the center bearing department emblems. In large letters is found "D. F. D." Beneath is engraved the rank or the company of the possessor. The badges are to remain the property of the department and subject to the disposal of the chief, excepting where a member receives an honorable discharge after three months of good service, in which case the badge becomes his private property.

The resignation of T. C. Healy, as president, was accepted.

The following were the unanimous choice for officers during the coming year: chief, Fletcher; assistant chief, Stumer; secretary, Moran; assistant secretary, Marks; treasurer, Galpin; captain of hook and ladder, Hastings; captain of Chemical No. 1, Evans; lieutenant, Morris; captain of engine, Slaus; lieutenants of hose carts, Jacobson and Matchett; captain of chemical No. 2, Dundan; lieutenant, T. L. Evans. The department also recommended to the fire commissioners that Messrs. Bush and Stingle be reappointed for the next year as engineer and fireman of the steamer.

It was decided to give a department dance about the middle of January and Messrs. Bush, George and Botts were appointed a committee to start the ball rolling and report at the next meeting.

Assistant Chief Stumer presented the department with a ball box and gavel. A hearty vote of thanks was given him.

It was decided to call the boys together at 8 o'clock Monday for purposes of drill.

T. C. Healy was made an honorary member of the department.

### New Year's Greeting.

When "Davy" sallies forth from town  
With rapid stride and dog-team mashing  
With special sleigh well-loaded down  
With nuggets up Bonanza rushing—  
With nuggets—that the boys may get  
The latest news and choicest reading—  
'Tis then the miners all forget  
The Arctic cold, nor winter heading.

And when the Nugget carrier bold  
Way off on Sulphur or Dominion  
Has braved the summit's blustering cold  
To carry news, thought and opinion,  
To cabins where the workers live  
And delve for nuggets, bright and shining—  
'Tis then some brighter thoughts they give  
To other things than gold and mining.

Here's a New Year's Greeting to the boys—  
May all their hopes find full fruition;  
May future days bring many joys,  
And each one realize ambition.  
Long, long deferred or sought in vain  
For lack of gold, May mine all render  
A harvest rich, this year again—  
This wish the NUGGET boys all tender.

RUSSELL S. BATES.

### From the London "Times", Sept. 30.

It is deplorable to admit but it is idle to ignore the fact that the administration of the Klondike District and the relations which exist between the representatives of the government and the public leave almost everything to be desired.

The population remains on the whole orderly and law-abiding but it is in the open and emphatically expressed anticipation of the changes which are to give satisfaction must include in their operation both the system and the personal.

To put the position as it is plainly and openly stated in Dawson there is the widely prevalent conviction not only that the laws are bad but that the officials through whom they are administered are corrupt.

It is hard on innocent and upright individuals whose administrative duties may be performed with scrupulous integrity to be associated in the sweeping charge which is made against the whole official body but there is no disguising the universal decision and innocent and guilty stand at present condemned together. It is impossible to talk for five minutes on business with anyone in the mines or in the streets without some words occurring on the subject, and it is a painful experience for Englishmen proud of the purity of the British system of government to be compelled to listen to the plain-spoken comments of Americans and foreigners.

### At the Methodist Church.

On Monday evening the First Methodist church celebrated the advent of Christmas with much enjoyment and innocent festivity. The house was packed to the doors. Captain Jack Crawford was present and by special request occupied the chair. During the evening, in introducing the various participants in the program, the captain favored with a number of his inimitable original poems and stories to the voiceless delight of the gathering. Dr. Grant made one of his whole-souled speeches and the following numbers were given: Solo, by Miss Houck; duet, by Miss Swan and Mr. Cook, solo by Mr. Boyle, solo by Mr. Cook, solo by Miss Swan, recitation, "The Volunteer Organist," by Mr. Bathurst; recitation, "The Common Soldier," by Miss O'Neil; recitation, "The Old Man's Christmas Present," by Miss C. Walsh.

### To Dawson Via McKenzie River.

J. J. Redmond, mail carrier for the Arctic Express company has arrived in Dawson from Fort Yukon. He came over the McKenzie river trail and thence down the Porcupine river to Fort Yukon. He reports that P. C. Richardson, the mail contractor, sent 60 tons of mail up the river by the Seattle No. 4 which boat was left at Munnook. Richardson then had 10 tons of the mail transferred to the Victoria which is now in winter quarters at Fort Yukon. Mr. Redmond brought in 125 lbs. of mail from different points on the river as far down as

Wearo. He met Captain Hansen and Captain Ogilvie and their party on the N. A. T. Co.'s steamer Barr half way between Forty Mile and Eagle City. A city government has been elected at Eagle City with a justice of the peace and other officers. Captain Richardson, commanding the U. S. troop at Fort Yukon, expects soon to accompany a squad of soldiers to Eagle, where they will be permanently located and several prisoners will soon be brought from Forty Mile to Dawson by the N. W. M. P.

Steamers are scattered along the river at different points in winter quarters. The A. E. steamer Arnold is located 28 miles below Forty Mile. The J. C. Barr of the N. A. T. & T. Co. is fast in the ice 32 miles between Eagle and Forty Mile. The Columbia Navigation company's steamer Sovereign is tied up at Circle, and 35 miles below that point is the Robert Kerr of the N. A. T. & T. Co. The Victorian and J. J. Healy are safely quartered at Fort Yukon. At the Dahl river there are seven or eight steamers belonging to different companies.

### Takes His Seat Monday.

The new gold commissioner, Mr. Senkler, takes his seat in the gold commissioner's chair on Monday morning, January 23. Mr. Fawcett has been fixing no dates for the hearing of mining disputes for the past week and will take no more. The cases he has on hand at the present moment will not be interfered with by the new incumbent but will be heard before the retiring commissioner. Thus Mr. Fawcett and his farce of a court will be continued for another 20 days. Two months ago when the pressure upon the government became so great as to compel the removal of Mr. Fawcett it is hardly to be supposed that the government so hurriedly sent in a successor expecting him to take his seat for more than a month after he got here and refuse to take the office. Neither did the people here who have business with a gold commissioner desire this unaccountable delay. Every man knowing his cause to be just was anxious for the new commissioner to take his seat; those having but a "lawsuit hold" or a shadow of a right were satisfied with the delay. Messrs Bolton and Craig are to be superseded by the gentlemen who accompanied Mr. Senkler to Dawson.

Monday is also the day set by the Yukon commissioner for the throwing open of the records to the public. This was done some three months ago and was set so far ahead in order that there could be no excuse for further delay. The public has not yet been advised that the promise will be carried out.

### POLICE COURT ITEMS.

C. Des passed the Christmas limits in his "jag" and it could not be overlooked. \$25 and costs.

C. B. Johnson is putting in four months on the wood pile. His particular offense consisted in stripping a neighboring cabin during the absence of the proprietor.

T. McKelison was exceptionally jubilant over the advent of Christmas and wouldn't take no for an answer. 10 days on the wood pile will clear his vision so that he may perceive the "straight and narrow path" when it again offers.

W. Houston is the man who fired off a couple of pistol shots on Second street the other evening and occasioned such a still hunt by police and others for a supposed suicide. If the man had been required to pay each of the men on the hunt \$1 an hour the escapade would have cost him more than his fine of \$5 and costs.

### LOCAL BREVITIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich spent Christmas with Madame Granger.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hubbel, Miss Gilmer and Mr. J. B. Churchill were guests of Mrs. J. A. Elwell on No. 3 Eldorado during the Christmas week.

There will be two interesting sparring exhibitions at the social session of the Dawson club on Wednesday next besides the usual program of song, recitation, etc.

The grand female minstrel show which occurs next Thursday at the Family theatre is certain to be one of the winter's successes. Dawson society will turn out en masse to see the ladies in black.

Miss Lucy Grant and Mrs. Balderson are introducing the American custom of everyone calling upon their old friends on New Year's day. An open house to friends on Monday afternoon from 3 to 8.

The "French Bal Masque" of Wednesday night was not all the howling success anticipated for it. It is too far from town on a cold night for lightly clad females and few were there and none in costume.

The ladies of the Eldorado City and Social Club entertained the club on Saturday evening at the Presbyterian church where an excellent program was given after which refreshments were served, consisting of coffee, cake, sandwiches, etc. Mrs. J. A. Elwell superintended the lunch, assisted by Mrs. Comstock, Mr. J. A. Elwell, Mr. J. B. Churchill and Mr. J. N. Davidson.

Corporal Green, who has been acting recorder at Stewart since the Thistle strike, has been spending his Christmas in Dawson. He reports that from July 9 until December 20 he had recorded 219 claims on the various creeks up there.

There had also been 43 licenses issued making a total of about \$35,000 collected. The official temperature at Stewart has been -38 below zero.

Uncle Andy, the popular and energetic seller of the Nugget, wishes his favorite paper to express a word of kind appreciation for him to his friends for the many kindnesses and words of good cheer which he has received from his friends during the holidays. He wishes his friends to bid his patrons all a happy New Year and a big year of prosperity and health. We think the old gentleman means every word of it for he would not leave the office this morning until we agreed to do so.

### Special Notice.

At the Salvation Army, Tuesday, January 23, Auction of Children; Thursday, January 25th, Musical Blizzard.

## A STRONG EXCEPTION TAKEN.

### To a Sweeping Statement Made in a Recent Publication.

### Thinks There Are Many More Than Four Good Women in Dawson—Thinks He Would Be Personal if His Own Family Was Here.

Editor Nugget:

In its last issue the *Miner-Sun* combination published at its office just north of the barracks assures its readers editorially, that "Dawson society is an odoriferous stench." In another portion its leader says: "Could one set in a single quadrille be filled if all our elect should attend at once?" Again we find: "It will be fittingly described as the Big and Pure Four. And now, as we have enough for one set swing your partners and balance all."

Mr. Editor, in 40 years of life, thank God, I have retained enough decency in myself to keep in touch with enough of the good and pure to know that the foregoing is the vilest slander ever perpetrated even upon such an unconventional and heterogeneous mass as is Dawson society. What think the 250 citizens of this community who are here with their wives? What think the 50 mothers and fathers who are here with their young daughters? What think the scores or more of brothers who are so tenderly caring for cherished and loved sisters. Just think of the assertion of this slanderer: "Four good women on the Klondike." Who gave this foul slanderer the insight into the characters of that society to which the writer of that article claimed not to have access? Who gave him the divine insight into all hearts which enables him to detect beneath the assumption of virtue (his own word) "the charnel house beneath the rose"? How many of Dawson's feminine population has this vain and evil minded man met? And even should he have met them all who gave him that God-like power to read all hearts and decide that in every instance but four the assumption of virtue was a lie?

Mr. Editor, the man overstates himself and when he informs us in the article under discussion that he is unfamiliar with the people he is branding as infamous scoundrels and scoundrels his own distorted visage.

Mr. Editor, such evil minded men as must be that which promoted the leading article in the *Miner* are a greater disgrace to the community than any of its worst criminals. Such people expect to shine by comparison with the society which they think they are able to debate to a filthy level. Their own lustre must be so dim that they can be distinguished only when all else is made black. Mr. Editor, if my own wife or daughter had happened to be with me in Dawson I know I should have made a personal matter of this the worst insult to decency I have ever seen published. Approaches to it have been made before and the authors are serving time in the various American penitentiaries. That Americans who are here with their families will submit for one instant to this statement of the *Miner* going to the world unchallenged would prove that everyone of them left the best part of his manhood behind him on the passes.

FRANKLIN ARNOLD, American.

### Official Temperatures.

The government report for the week ending Wednesday, Dec. 28 is as follows:

	Lowest	Highest	Wind Miles per hour.
Thursday	-17.7	-32	1.7
Friday	-16.4	-32.1	6.0
Saturday	-18.0	-146	2.8
Sunday	-15.2	-1.6	2.3
Monday	-11.2	-1.8	1.3
Tuesday	-20.6	-27.7	0.8
Wednesday	-23.0	-20.2	1.2

### Christmas Under Difficulties.

Christmas was spent and celebrated in a variety of ways on the various creeks, chiefly by feasting and sometimes by dancing, but the most unique report comes from a small outlying creek where the residents determined upon a snow balling contest. Of course Klondike snow is as little adaptable to this purpose as flour or cornmeal, but "where there is a will there will prove a way" and so it came about that two large log fires were built 100 yards apart and the dry snow piled up around with shovels. Then the upper creek boys divided from the lower creek boys and each crowd took a fire. There was allowed for the manufacture of a pile of snow balls with the aid of the artificial heat and then an assault was simultaneously begun. Among the upper creek boys was a crafty native of the lower provinces. He realized that the crowd with the greatest amount of ammunition would win the final heat of the contest and he furnished two pails and packed water from the spring so the fire to the eternal discomfiture of the other crowd. His boys, by the aid of the water, could make six snow balls to the other men's one, and such snow balls too. Fired without the fire circle they froze solid in five seconds and will maintain their spheroidal form and their rigid contour until next summer's sun have had several weeks opportunity to test their hardness. What happened the other follows is best told by the honorable wounds which they show today as a result of the attack.

## PROTECT YOUR LUNGS

And Avoid the Hillside.  
Frost Queen ) SILK AND CHAMOIS  
and ) CHEST PROTECTORS  
Frost King ) \$5.00.  
KELLY & CO.  
Fuggists, First Avenue.