

The Klondike Nugget

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1900

A CONVINCING ARGUMENT.

The ordinance published in yesterday's issue of the Nugget respecting the institution of action against officials is unique, even in the annals of Yukon legislation. It appears that the ordinance was passed by direction of the Interior Department at Ottawa and was sent to the local council with instructions that it be made a law.

According to the views of local authorities this latest legislative phenomenon is unconstitutional and contrary to all precedent. It is retroactive in effect and, as Mr. Woodworth puts it, is along the lines of enactments which cost the first Charles his head. The most remarkable feature of the entire matter is the position taken by members of the council whose vote and signature were required to make the ordinance a law.

These gentlemen, as will appear by reference to another column of this paper, very ingenuously admit that they do not know what the ordinance means. They were told to make it a law, and make it a law they did in the quickest time possible.

Along the same lines it is fair to presume that if some clerk in the interior department sent them word to make white paper a legal tender they would have no hesitation in doing so. The one is no more absurd than the other.

If a clinching, convincing argument in favor of the election of the local legislative body by popular ballot was needed this last action of the council will serve the purpose admirably.

UNCLE SAM'S POSITION.

The allied forces have at length captured and entered Peking. The first discovery made by them is the fact that the series of blood curdling stories which have been told with reference to the indiscriminate slaughter of the foreign legations have been a series of Chinese lies.

The legations are safe. That single sentence will serve to lift a load of anxiety from the minds of all civilized nations. For weeks and weeks the allied powers have vibrated between hope and fear—buoyed up one day by the belief that rumors of torture and massacre would alternately prove false, and cast down the next by the publication of specific details which seemed to leave no doubt as to the fate of the foreigners in Peking. What object the Chinese hoped to gain by such wholesale lying is not clear, and can be explained only upon the now generally accepted theory that between the truth and a lie the wily celestial will invariably choose the latter. The question now arises as to the course which will be pursued by the allies. It scarcely seems probable that general concert of action will continue for the prosecution of further conquest in China. The fact that the safety of the foreigners has been assured lessens very con-

siderably the provocation. The United States government in particular made it very plain to the other powers concerned that participation in the campaign for the relief of the foreigners in Peking should not be accepted as a precedent for future action. In other words, it has been well understood that American troops have taken part in the operations against the Chinese merely for the purpose of protecting American lives and property and of meting out due punishment for outrages which might have been committed.

With the relief of the foreigners who have been in a practical state of siege at Peking the purpose of the military operations, so far as the United States is concerned, has been accomplished. There is nothing in China which the American government or the American people want at the present time other than to see that due and proper respect is paid to American rights. The question of colonial extension and imperialism is now on trial in the United States, and until the election which is to occur in November is over there will in all probability be no further commitment of the American government to the expansion idea.

Uncle Sam has sufficient to engage his attention for some time to come in looking after his new possessions in the Philippines and the West Indies. The remaining powers are evidently preparing for a prolonged war. The ultimate partition of China either directly or into "spheres of influence" seems probable, but from present indications there is no likelihood that the American government will participate in the division. Demands for indemnity will be made and enforced, but Uncle Sam's share in the spoils will probably extend no farther.

The election has been postponed a matter of another ten days. This will afford ample opportunity for the selection of candidates and thorough consideration of their qualifications. There are good men in the field who can be depended upon if elected to perform their duties carefully and conscientiously. To select two of these and unite all the forces favorable to right and proper government in their behalf is the next problem.

A Real Artist.

While Harry Edwards may never have painted a picture that has been honored with a position in the salon of the Royal Academy of Arts, yet he wields a brush most adroitly. His latest production is a series of three pictures which now adorn the walls of the Aurora No. 2 and which are entitled "The Argument," "The Result," and "The Reconciliation." The first represents two sons of the Emerald Isle in hot debate; the second shows that the argument waxed warmer and the terriers are at it as only the Irish know how to mix up. The third picture, the reconciliation, represents a love feast in which there are evidences of the late battle in the way of discolored optics, torn collars and dishevelled hair, but no animosity.

The series is a true and faithful representation of the "Mic" as God made him and as his nature thwarts him from being other than he is. In addition to the set of pictures referred to Mr. Edwards has also recently completed a picture of the Grand Canon through which passes the Denver & Rio Grande railway, one of the most picturesque scenes on the American continent. Mr. Edwards has painted it just as it is, and all who have seen the Grand Canon pronounce his reproduction of it a masterpiece.

Best Canadian rye at the Regina.
Short orders served right. The Hotel.
Bicycle hose, a large variety. Oak Hall, opp. S.-Y. T. dock.
Best imported wines and liquors at the Regina.
Fresh meats from stall fed heaves at Klondike Market, next Avery's.

CURRENT COMMENT

A Miner's Views.

Grand Forks, Aug. 21.

Editor Daily Nugget:

It is now generally known among the laboring men of the Klondike district that there will be a concerted move on the part of the mine owners and operators to start the coming winter's work on a scale of wages very much reduced from the going rate of the past season. Already one of the large syndicates that operates a number of claims has reduced the scale of wages of its employes 20 per cent, having cut shaft and drift men down from \$5 to \$4 per day and surface men from \$4.50 to \$3.50 per day. Of course the men quit, as they could not become parties to and instrumental in prostituting the only hope of the laboring man in the country.

Now, Mr. Editor, allow me to ask what inducement there is for a man to journey to this benighted region and perform in the dark winter the hardest manual labor to which a man can be assigned in any country, be fed on bacon, beans and canned goods, sleep in a comfortless bunkhouse, run the risk, which is an even chance against him, that he will be beaten out of his hard earned pittance and, if he does get paid, get it in dust which he must discount at from 8 to 10 per cent before he can jingle his hard earned cash in his pocket?

At \$5 and board, where a miner has steady work and is not laying off one-third of the time during which he pays his employer \$1 for every meal he eats, he can save money, enough at least to pay his fare out of the country in the spring if he has been economical.

The miners, I believe, I can speak for the nine-tenths of them, are not exacting, nor do they want more money for their labor than the operator can afford to pay; but they cannot afford and will positively refuse, in view of past experience and past fraud that has been perpetrated on them or within their knowledge, to accept a reduced scale of wages. We feel that if a claim cannot pay living wages it should not be worked. If there is, on the other hand, anything in it for the operator, there should be something in it for those who supply the bone and sinew which causes it to yield.

It is reported, and likely truthfully, that the same tactics are being practiced now as last fall, to wit: That stories are being assiduously circulated on the outside that there is a scarcity of labor here and that wages are high and "plenty of work at your own price" is awaiting all who come in. Hundreds of men arrived here last fall that were assured before leaving the outside that they could go to work immediately on their arrival at \$1.50 per hour or at \$12 per day and board. They got here to find the places all filled and the percentage of them who have had work more than one-half the time since their arrival is very small.

As there are no apparent reductions in other business channels, the miners will see to it that there are none in theirs. All we ask is our dues and a fair reward for honest labor—as hard as ever man performed—and for this we will stand if there is not a claim in the district operated this winter. Hoping you are, as the Nugget has ever been, the miner's friend, and thanking you in advance for according to me your valuable space, I remain, etc.

MINER.

We Pass It Up.

Editor Nugget:

Will you please inform me as to whether or not I am eligible to election to the Yukon council. My father was a Swede who came to Canada and married a Canadian woman. They moved to Arkansas, where I was born; but when I was 3 years old they moved back to Canada where I resided until coming to the Klondike. If I am eligible to be a candidate I desire to enter the contest as I consider my election a foregone conclusion.

SCANDI-CANDI-ARKANSAS TRAVELER.

Indian Summer.

Back in the States the idea that the Indian summer season would come to any portion of the American continent in August, to them the most sultry month in the year, would seem a preposterous and impossible one; yet the kind of weather the Yukon is experiencing now is very similar to the Indian summer of the Middle States in the month of October. There seems to be a general feeling, its basis not being apparent, that the season of winter will begin early this year and that navigation will close correspondingly soon.

Heavy underwear at Oak Hall.
When in town, stop at the Regina.
Fine tweed tailor-made suits. McCandless Bros., opp. S.-Y. T. dock.

Alaska Commercial Company

NEW GOODS

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Sarah, Bella, Hannah, Susie, Louise, Leah, Alice
OCEAN STEAMERS
San Francisco to St. Michael and Nome
St. Paul, Portland, Ranier
St. Michael to Golovin Bay, Nome, and Cape York
Dora, Sadie, Fay

TRADING POSTS
ALASKA
St. Michael, Andreofsky, Anvik, Nulato, Tanana
Mintook (Rampart), Fort Hamlin, Circle City, Eagle City
KORYUK DISTRICT
Koyukuk, Bergman
YUKON TERRITORY
Fortymile, Dawson

Dawson Post Is Fitted With Public Safe Deposit Vaults.

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SHIPPERS AND MERCHANTS

Who have freight at White Horse which they wish brought down at once should call on The Klondike Corp. Agent at Lancaster & Calderhead's wharf and reserve space on the....

ORA, NORA OR FLORA

The fall rush will soon begin and unless this freight is moved soon there will, no doubt, be a repetition of last year's blockade, resulting in enormous losses.

R. W. CALDERHEAD, Agent

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NEW SUIT DEPARTMENT, SECOND FLOOR

Ladies' Tailor-Made Suits and Separate Skirts, Underskirts in Silk Moreen or Satin, Muslin Underwear and Wrappers,

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THE ONLY BRICK WAREHOUSE IN DAWSON

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NELS PETERSON, General Manager

Sts. "Bonanza King" and "Eldorado"

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WILLIAM F. GEORGE, AUDITOR AND GENERAL AGT.

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Use the Phone and Get an Immediate Answer. You Can Afford It Now.

Rates to Subscribers, \$30 per Month. Rates to Non-Subscribers: Magnet Gulch \$1.00 per message; Forks, \$1.50; Dome, \$2.00; Dominion, \$2.00. One-Half rate to Subscribers.

Office Telephone Exchange Next to A. C. Office Building.

Donald B. Olson, General Manager

Hay and Feed

500 TONS.

We will receive about September 1st 500 tons of Hay and Feed. Contracts taken for future delivery. The same stored and insured free of charge.

LANCASTER & CALDERHEAD, WAREHOUSEMEN.

Wall Paper... Paper Hanging

ANDERSON BROS., Second Avenue

Str. Gold Star

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A swift, comfortable and reliable boat. Court-ous treatment.

Get Tickets for the Outside via Gold Star Line.