

The Klondike Nugget

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1906

NOTICE

When a newspaper offers its advertising space at a minimum 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.

The Nugget has a regular carrier and express service covering Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunter, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail of express may be left at this office or given to creek agents.

RICHARDSON AND HIS MAIL SACKS.

A successful merchant who had amassed a fortune was once asked which of his rules of conduct it was to which he most attributed his success. His reply was that if in any one thing he had been fortunate it was in avoiding "Jonahs." Pressed for an explanation he said that while not at all superstitious he believed some men to be born so unlucky their presence would always sink the ship. This was never truer than of Richardson, the man whom year after year the United States government has chosen to carry Alaskan mails to the poor fellows isolated by natural barriers in the frozen regions of the great and dreary North. Never was there a greater "Jonah" in the business, for while tens of thousands of men have passed in and out of Dawson, some with cargoes many tons in weight and most with not much less than a ton, this travesty upon a mail carrier in two years has never reached his destination with a single sack of mail. Still, there was one ray of light in the darkness of the situation—the Canadian government continued to send in by the police and several mails were received last winter in Dawson. But alas! almost the last word received before the freeze-up of the river was that this government had joined in the procession and that the great "Jonah" of the West had secured the contract for bringing the Canadian mail also. By virtue of his contract his myriads seized upon the mail sacks for Dawson then lying at Skaguay even before the last steamer had been stopped by the ice and the result was the Ora on her last trip down with nothing but the owner's mail. If this "hoodoo," this "Jonah" of a Richardson ever arrives in Dawson he had better pass by some other name for of all men this pretended mail carrier who never carries mail has done most to place in the heart of every man here a horror of this Arctic isolation. What he has done with the tons of mail delivered to him in the last two years no mortal man but himself knows. On August last he left Seattle with a consignment of mail for this country and valiantly put himself upon record in the public prints as "determined to do or to die in the attempt." The cheap bravado of this speech was only equalled by the weakness of his head and heart, for while many hundreds of men and thousands of tons of freight have passed from Seattle to Dawson since then by both land and water routes no Richardson has put in an appearance though reported to be but 300 miles down the river over two months ago. Private individuals will pass in and out over the ice by the score all winter long, and some will sled large loads of valuable merchandise, but unless some one comes to our rescue it is doubtful if we receive a single letter by the Richardson route. After his last winter's failures this man Richardson had the audacity to return to the States and Canada and pose as the hero of a thousand Alaskan misadventures. He sought the newspaper interviewers and into their greedy ears poured his great tales of woe incurred in his performance of hazardous duties in behalf of humanity. Returning Klondik-

ers who disparaged Richardson's alleged heroism were put down as "sore-heads," and to cap the climax the Canadian government has joined hands with the United States in honoring this hero of a thousand accidents and hairbreadth escapes—all incurred while seated by some good warm fire in some comfortable road house—with a contract good for two years.

How little the government believes in the man they have chosen to perpetrate this injury upon us is evidenced by themselves standing in and out all official mail by their own private carriers. Communication between Dawson officials and the Ottawa authorities is not over frequent but regular and never interrupted. Corporal Richardson of the N. W. M. P. is away and beyond Selkirk now with a bag of letters, and soon many Canadian hearts will be made glad by words of good cheer from their loved ones so far away. Corporal Richardson will either return from the coast with more official mail or will meet some one else coming in with it so that the officials here will hear from the outside before the lapse of any great length of time. Meanwhile there is growing upon the rank and file here the same feeling of horror only in lesser degree which entombed miners might be expected to feel if a shaft fell in and severed all connections with the rest of the world. Richardson, the mail contractor has a whole lot of anxious unhappiness to answer for and the worst punishment would be to put him where he could not communicate with any one he knew for the next two or three years.

INCORPORATION.

"To be or not to be" is the all absorbing question just at present among the few of our people who have time and sufficient public spiritedness to study these matters at all. Very few Dawsonites but admit the need of self-government for Dawson, but we have yet to meet the first gentleman outside of the government or government influence who does not think Dawson had better remain without self-government than accept the semi-control of our own affairs offered us by the council of the Yukon territory. The position taken by our government is that our population is wholly migratory and that in surrendering absolutely the control of Dawson they would be losing largely their grasp on the Yukon.

In fairness to the council we must admit the first premise, but in the fact of our migratory nature we see no danger. We believe sincerely that the character of our people is such, if the government withdrew every official, every policeman and every soldier tomorrow without notice, in 24 hours the machinery of government would again be running smoothly and satisfactorily. As long as the gateways of Forty Mile and Bennett are guarded against an invasion of criminals as at present, we can proudly boast of having the most crime-free population of any province or state upon the continent, and that man for man, notwithstanding our migratory nature, we are more peculiarly fitted for unlimited control of our own affairs than any bunch of 16,000 thousand men which can be pointed out today in America.

As for the second premise that in surrendering Dawson the control of Yukon affairs would be largely lost, it cannot be admitted. True, a great proportion of the responsibility would be shifted from official shoulders onto the shoulders of our citizens, but in our humble opinion the officials themselves would not object to that. Under Dominion laws Canada never loses her hold upon an incorporated city, while beyond the city limits her powers would be absolute as ever. The fact is it would be a decidedly unbusinesslike act for Dawson to accept anything less than full incorporation. A merchant would be in a poor way unless the employees of his store were dischargeable by himself. The mounted police force itself could never have reached its present state of efficiency had not every subordinate been strictly and instantly accountable to the gentleman in charge of police affairs for his every act. How then can it be asked of Dawson that she

accept an incorporation ordinance by virtue of which she will be minus the greater half of her powers, viz., constabulary and police courts. There are many things to be done to ameliorate conditions here, and we should simply be forfeiting all rights of protest or prayer. The invariable answer would be: "Gentlemen you have only yourselves to blame; you are in charge yourselves."

DISCUSSION WILL BRING REDRESS.

The thoughtful communication from "A Britisher" in the last issue of the Nugget is worthy of careful perusal by every one who is interested in the future of this district. It must be obvious to the mind of the least observant that through some agency or other the development of the vast resources of the Klondike country is not progressing as it should. To get at the bottom of the difficulty and then to suggest practical means for remedying it is a task to which thinking men may well give their most careful consideration.

It is along these lines that our correspondent speaks and what he says carries with it the weight of authority, for his views are the result of years of experience and observation in other mining communities.

He dwells with particular stress upon the laws that were enforced in British Columbia during its early mining days and proves conclusively that the government in weighing down the Klondike country with its present burdensome regulations did so with a full knowledge of what the country actually required.

Attempts were made to fasten upon the miners of British Columbia laws similar to those inflicted upon us, but when it was shown how unjust they were, other and better laws were framed to take their place. For instance a royalty tax was placed upon the output but was subsequently removed for the same reason that the Klondike royalty should be removed, viz., the industry could not flourish when hampered with the tax.

Again the revenue which the government derived from the miners was expended in the immediate locality where it was collected, in the construction of public trails, bridges, etc. In this district unhappily, the government's responsibility to the public seems to cease when the revenue has been collected. When it comes to a question of making public improvements and thereby facilitating the work of developing our resources, the government's functions are farmed out to private corporations with results of which the public is fully aware.

We are glad to see a growing disposition among the miners to come forward with expressions of opinion upon these matters. It will only be through continual and unintermitting discussion that a change of policy upon the part of the government will be secured. Wrongful legislation can last only when the people themselves remain in a condition of apathy. Stirred up by a knowledge of impositions under which they suffer they can demand and secure redress.

WANTED, A BRET HARTE.

The Klondike country will never reach its true position in the eyes of the world until the imaginative genius of novelist and poet is brought to bear upon it. Events in past history similar to what residents of this country have witnessed during the past 18 months have invariably acted as a stimulant to writers and resulted in contributions to the field of literature worthy of lasting fame.

Fennimore Cooper has done more to preserve in the minds of American youth a remembrance of the stirring scenes incidental to the settling of the middle Eastern and Central states than all the histories that ever have been written, and Bret Harte though after a different manner has performed a similar service for the extreme western portion of the United States.

The settlement and development of the Klondike gold fields will lack in large measure the tragic element that entered so largely into the adventures of the early Ohio and California settlers. It would be very difficult for the most

imaginative to conjure up a picture of the Indians to whom we are accustomed, executing a scalp dance or plotting, for instance, the destruction of Dawson and the massacre of its inhabitants.

Such features as these most backing to the writer who seeks the Klondike as the fountain head of his inspiration. But aside from the tragic almost every other element of the story teller's material is here ready at hand and an almost unlimited field for his talent awaits him. Without doubt, a Bret Harte will be forthcoming to take advantage of the situation, for these never yet was an opportunity which did not produce its man.

NORTHWEST EXPRESS CO.

Commencing Dec. 6 will run dog teams Dawson to Bennett Every 10 days, carrying passengers and mail. Road houses and well stocked relay stations en route. Experienced drivers. Leave mail at office on case of N. G. Co. Fairview Hotel and Keegan Cafe. For further information apply to G. F. Smith, Mgr., 234 Front St.

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Skilled Nursing and Home Comforts. Number of patients limited. Bring blankets. Apply to DR. SCOTT, of Washington, D. C., U. S. A near cor. 8th St. and 5th Ave.

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DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER

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are the very latest. Prompt Attention Given to All Orders

Letter Paper, Note Paper,

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Three doors north of N. A. T. & T. Co.

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New Creeks

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