

The Klondike Nugget

TELEPHONE NUMBER 12
(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BROS. Publishers

From Thursday and Friday's Daily.
AN ENEMY OF THE COMMUNITY.

Last night's issue of the News bore out in a remarkable manner that paper's reputation as a journalistic faker. With absolutely nothing in the way of reliable information upon which to base such a story, the News with its usual sensational headlines, published a groundless rumor respecting a strike alleged to have occurred in the Tanana country.

On another page of this paper will be found an interview with the gentleman who, according to the News' own story, is the only man who has accurate information respecting the new "strike." What he has to say effectually disposes of any importance which might otherwise be attached to the story, but it does not in any way relieve the News of the odium which attaches to it for such exaggeration and misrepresentation in a matter so serious. No more cruel or malicious action could be imagined than an attempt of this nature to induce people to rush off on a false stampede in the middle of a Klondike winter. The offense is all the more aggravated by reason of the air of mystery with which the News endeavored to surround the matter, knowing full well that its groundless fabrication would have all the more effect on many people on that very account.

It is fortunately a fact that the reputation of the News for unreliability is so well known. No one who is at all familiar with the past history of that paper would give credence to such a story as was published in its last night's issue without thorough personal investigation.

It is difficult to understand, however, why the News, thus, time and again, should out of pure maliciousness do what it can to injure the community to which it looks for its support. Apparently it matters nothing to the News if with its falsehoods and exaggerations it induces people to leave Dawson on a wild-goose chase four or five hundred miles down the river.

It makes no difference to the News that many men may be persuaded through its lies to leave comfortable homes or remunerative positions, to participate in such a stampede at the end of which inevitable disappointment awaits them. Nor does it seem to affect that sheet in any particular that the circulation of such wild and senseless rumors is a direct blow at the business interests of our community.

None of these things concerns the News. It does not bother itself about facts. A sensational rumor, no matter how little there may be upon which to base it, is picked up with avidity and published broadcast for the mere sake of selling a few extra papers. What is the resultant disaster and disappointment compared with the joy incident to the jingle of the extra quarters? That is the way the News looks at the matter and conducts itself accordingly. The most dangerous enemy which the city of Dawson has within its midst is the Daily News.

OUR SPECIAL NUMBER.

On Monday the Nugget's special holiday number will be issued. It will contain 20 pages of the size of the regular paper and will be filled from cover to cover with interesting and valuable information respecting Dawson and the mining district of which it is the center. Notwithstanding the size and cost of production of the special number there will be no increase in the price. Twenty-five cents, the regular cost of the daily will be the price charged for the special issue whether purchased singly or by the hundred.

A feature of the special will be the story written by Chester Whitman Tennant in competition for the prize of \$50 offered by the Nugget. Other interesting features will be detailed descriptive articles relating to Dawson, and the Klondike mining district. In connection with the latter a fund of accurate statistical information will appear which has never before been published. The special number will also

contain a digest of the important laws affecting the miner and prospector, particular attention having been given to the more recently enacted amendments to the mining regulations.

It will be handsomely illustrated with engravings designed and made by our own staff artists.

Altogether the Nugget holiday number will be the most accurate and complete presentation of actual prevailing conditions in the territory that has yet been given publication.

OUR "ISOLATION."

When the news of the discovery of gold upon Bonanza creek was first heralded around the world, the word most commonly used is descriptive articles relating to the country was "isolation." This word was doubly suggestive, for not only did it bring clearly to mind the idea of absolute remoteness but the first syllable conveyed to the reader an impression of the eternal cold which in the popular mind was supposed to hold undisputed sway.

Like every other evil which is combated with a determination to conquer, the "isolation" of the Klondike so much discussed by descriptive writers of '97-'98 has yielded up the ghost and became a thing which may possibly once have been but no longer is.

The first men who made the journey from Dawson to the coast over the ice were regarded with the veneration due to heroes. And indeed the trip in the early days when provisions and camp equipment had to be carried the entire way was no small undertaking.

But that time has long since gone by. Roadhouses every few miles furnish the traveler with everything he requires and if he so desires he can make the journey without encumbering himself with a single pound. Ten days is now sufficient time to make the distance between Skagway and Dawson in winter and half that time only is required during the season of open navigation.

And the telegraph line now brings us within four days of Victoria and Seattle. Dawson is no longer isolated and alone. On the contrary it is a part and parcel of the great, throbbing world of trade and commerce.

PAYS TO BE HONEST.

A newspaper gains nothing by resort to such illegitimate methods as are pursued by the News. The story published by that paper respecting an alleged strike in the Tanana country which story was shown in last night's issue of the Nugget to have been made practically out of whole cloth, was on a par with the matter which appeared in the News' "mining edition" published last spring.

In that issue, an attempt was made to review the work of the preceding winter on the various creeks, the material for which was drawn as was the Tanana story from the imagination of the writer. In both instances a few additional papers were probably sold but the ultimate effect more than counter-balanced the temporary financial gain.

Even if the News is not possessed of any particular scruples respecting such matters, it would appear that our obtuse contemporary would sooner or later discover the fact that it ought to be honest for reasons of policy, if for no other.

Dawson is face to face with the problem of incorporation. Last evening the council decided to allow one month for the people to make known definitely their desire for incorporation, failing which, collection of taxes by the council for local purposes will be enforced. The point which will decide the great majority of people in the town is the matter of expense. Will the tax rolls be heavier with Dawson governed by a regularly elected municipal council than under the present Yukon council. A definite determination of that question will enable an intelligent opinion to be expressed in the matter. We do not know of any serious complaints against the present system of local government and unless it is demonstrated that a change will bring an improvement we favor the existing order of

things. What we want is information. We want to know the probable cost of conducting the municipality as compared with the present cost. We want to know over what local revenues the municipality would have control. We also desire to know what will be the qualifications of voters. With those questions answered it will be an easy matter to determine whether Dawson will be the gainer by becoming an incorporated town.

If it is a fact that the mail contractors are neglecting to forward mail consignments for the sake of accepting express matter for delivery in Dawson, the sooner that fact is ascertained the better. The reasons advanced by the agents of the contractors for failure of mail to come are not entirely satisfactory. It is doubtless a fact that the trail is not as yet in as good condition as it will be later on in the season, but we believe from all reports that it is in every respect equally as good right now as it was at the same time last winter. Everyone will remember the splendid service which was given then and it is quite pertinent to inquire why the same or better is not afforded at the present time. We are pleased to note the fact that the Yukon council has gone into the matter and trust that they will give it thorough investigation.

We never heard of any answer being received from that lengthy telegram which was sent in French and English to Mr. Sifton. We wonder if the minister overlooked it, or was the whole thing another creation of the News' fairy tale writer?

The opium fiend has been discovered in our midst. And yet there are people who still say that Dawson hasn't all modern improvements.

The News appeared last night in the role of champion of the demi-monde. At last the News has found its proper sphere.

Southern Pacific Rumors.

New York, Nov. 26.—The Times says: The Vanderbilts have obtained control of the Southern Pacific system. Negotiations aiming at this accomplishment were begun two years ago, but were summarily disposed of by C. P. Huntington. The property was his, he said, and, owning it, he proposed to keep it. He wanted no alliances which could only in extent make him dependent upon others, for which he himself stood. Thus the important deal, to which the New York, London and Berlin houses had committed themselves, was disposed of.

The death of Mr. Huntington brought about a complete change in the situation. The personal equation disappeared. A German syndicate, bidding for a large block of the stock, in September, was not without encouragement that its bid would be accepted for 100,000 shares at an average of \$42 per share. For reasons which on a business basis were considered satisfactory, both here and at London, however, the bid for this 100,000 shares was rejected.

The control of the Southern Pacific system, it can now be said, has been obtained by American financial interests not hitherto identified with the property. Conspicuous in the syndicate obtaining the new control are William K. Vanderbilt, E. H. Harriman, James J. Hill, Norman P. Reed and James Speyer, the latter, as the associate of Mr. Huntington, having been conspicuously influential in the direction of the company's affairs for years past.

To Save His Soldiers.

London, Nov. 23.—Lord Roberts sends from Pretoria a striking appeal to his countrymen to refrain from turning the welcome of the home coming troops into a drunken orgy. He expresses the sincere hope that the welcome will not take the form of treating to stimulants and "thus lead to excesses that will tend to degrade those whom the nation delights to honor, and lower the soldiers of the Queen in the eyes of the world which has watched with undisguised admiration the work they have performed for their sovereign and country.

"Therefore beg earnestly," says Lord Roberts, "that the public will refrain from tempting my gallant comrades, but will rather aid them to uphold the splendid reputation they have won for the imperial army. I am very proud to be able to record with the most absolute truth that the conduct of the army from first to last has been exemplary. Not a single case of serious crime has been brought to my notice; indeed, nothing deserv-

ing the name of crime. I have trusted to the men's own soldierly feeling and good sense and they have borne themselves like heroes on the battlefield and like gentlemen on all other occasions.

"The most malicious falsehoods were spread by the authorities of the Transvaal of the brutality of Great Britain's soldiers, but the people were soon reassured that they had nothing to fear from the man in the khaki, no matter how battered and war stained his appearance. This testimony," concludes Lord Roberts, "I feel sure will be very gratifying to the people of Great Britain and those of greater Britain whose sons shared to the fullest extent the suffering as well as the glory of the war, and who helped so materially to bring it to a successful close."

Lord Roberts explains that he thus appeals because of the distressing and discreditable scenes resulting from injudicious friends speeding the parting soldiers by shoving bottles of spirits into their hands and pockets.

Board of Trade Meeting.

At a meeting of the trustees of the Board of Trade last night steps were taken which today resulted in the following communication being submitted to Commissioner Ogilvie today: To the Honorable William Ogilvie, Esq., Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, Dawson:

Sir—I am directed by the Board of Trade to transmit to you the following resolution which was duly passed at a regular meeting of the trustees Wednesday evening, December 19th, 1900: "Whereas, The contractors at present handling the mails are manifestly neglecting the spirit of the mail contract and are not in any sense of the word furnishing a mail service, thereby causing great injury to the entire community; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board of Trade request the Yukon council to take such steps immediately, by way of recommendation or otherwise, as will lead to the withdrawing of the mail contract from contractors either unwilling or incompetent to furnish a service commensurate with the price paid and to the placing of the service in the control of those who may be able and will furnish a competent service."

Trusting that you will give this matter your usual prompt attention, I have the honor to be, sir your obedient servant, F. W. CLAYTON, Sec.

The following memorial was ordered presented to the Yukon council:

1. That, whereas, the expense and delay of collecting small debts in the Yukon territory is very great and make collections through the territorial court unprofitable and burdensome.
2. And whereas, it has been proposed by the Yukon council to pass an ordinance dealing with the collection of small debts and conferring jurisdiction on magistrates to try the same;
3. We, the members of the Board of Trade of Dawson are of the opinion that such an ordinance should be passed immediately and would request and urge upon the Yukon council the desirability of passing such an ordinance.

Magistrate McDonnell presided in police court this morning, the only case on for hearing being one in which B. F. Germain was charged by Chas. A. Wickerdahl with having misappropriated funds to the amount of \$50. The evidence of Wickerdahl was that on the 13th of October and when in the employ of Germain in the capacity of cook, he had entrusted the latter with a letter and \$50 with the request that he purchase a money order for that amount, enclose it in the letter and register the same to a certain lady in Oakland, California; that Germain promised to comply with his request and the same day returned to him (Wickerdahl) the change—the balance left of \$2 given Germain with which to pay the charges of having the money order issued and letter registered, together with the receipt for the register. By the last mail to arrive from the outside Wickerdahl received a letter from the lady which states that the registered letter was duly received and that it did not contain any money order as it stated. Wickerdahl further claims that inquiry at the Dawson postoffice shows that the money order in question was never issued. Frank Dugal, who at the time mentioned was head waiter at Germain's, testified to having seen Wickerdahl give Germain the money with instructions as to its disposition. Attorney Howden who appeared for Germain in the case, submitted that the letter from the lady in Oakland could not be submitted in evidence in that it was not sworn to and might be the result of a collusion. He asked that the charge be dismissed. The court, being desirous that the postmaster and postoffice money order clerk be heard in the case, continued it until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Liberal Convention.

The Yukon Liberal Association will hold a meeting in the Board of Trade rooms at 8 p. m. on Friday. All members are requested to be present.

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In From Whitehorse

Mr. John D. Taylor arrived from Whitehorse this morning with a load of oysters and fish. He left Whitehorse on the 1st, but stopped seven days at his camp, the Model roadhouse at Carmack's, making the trip in 15 days actual traveling time. He reports the trail in excellent condition, with the exception of about 20 miles between Capt. Whalen of the steamer Victoria's place and Patterson cut off, where the ice is as rough as could possibly be. He met Myers' stage just at the entrance to the rough road at Capt. Whalen's post and says while they will experience considerable difficulty he thinks they will be able to get through all right. The C. D. cut off at Five Fingers extends over such hilly ground and makes traveling so difficult that a new trail on the river is being projected and will meet the cut off again at a point about 12 miles farther up.

Roadhouses are numerous and have good accommodation. Meals are \$1.50 and bunks \$1. Feed is plentiful all along the route and is selling between Dawson and Selwyn at 20 cents per pound, and from Selwyn to Whitehorse at 15 cents per pound.—Mr. Taylor expects to start shortly after Christmas on a return trip.

Returned His Money.

Leigh Hunt, formerly of Seattle, is an American millionaire who owns more gold mines and hydraulic concessions from the government of Corea than all of the other foreigners in that country put together. He is not yet 45 and is reputed to be worth \$20,000,000, acquired chiefly through lucky investments in the Orient. Five years in Corea, most of the time living in simple style among the natives, have made an eccentric out of him. He recently arrived in this country from the Orient and evidently left there with the idea of making up for his past lack of holidays.

On the second day out he was unwillingly drawn into a poker game on the steamer. The limit soon touched the ceiling and Hunt and Baron de St. Laurent, the Belgian vice consul at Shanghai, who was on his way home on official business, were soon the only ones who could stand the pressure.

The men gambled with huge jackpots until early in the morning, by which time the Belgian diplomat had parted with all of his loose cash and I O U's aggregating \$3500. International complications were matters of a misty past when the baron tremblingly listened to Hunt's next suggestion.

"I don't want to keep your money," said the American cheerfully. "Let's shake dice and you can win it all back by doubling every time you shake."

By this time the two formed the center of excitement for all the passengers on board the ship. Fifteen minutes later the \$3500 had increased something over \$12,000, and then the baron broke down and wept.

"I wouldn't take your money," said Hunt. "You can't play poker nor shake dice, anyhow, and I'll let you off on one condition."

Five minutes later Capt. Pybus before the 200 passengers took the solemn oath of Baron de St. Laurent over a Bible that he would never play cards again.

A Handsome Gift.

Sargent & Pinks today presented to the staff of the Nugget with some very prettily designed pens made from mother of pearl and rolled gold. These pens are given away by the concern during the holidays to all ladies purchasing any article at that store, at least that is the intention, but the probabilities are that any patron can get one of these pretty souvenirs by asking for it.

Townsite Johnston Dead.

A private letter received yesterday from Hootalingua states that Fred Johnstone, better known as "Townsite" Johnstone died there on the 14th inst. The cause of the death is not stated.