

The Klondike Nugget

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday

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THE NUGGET is delivered at cabins on Bonanza and Colorado creeks for two dollars per month. Orders may be left at this office or given to the agent for the creeks.

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 Dawson and the North Pole.

SELF-GOVERNMENT.

It is about conceded that Dawson is not to be given self-government as nearly absolute as the other cities of Canada. The members of the Yukon council are appointees of the Dominion government at Ottawa, and in this matter reflect the wishes of that central government. Now the opinion held at Ottawa of the inhabitants of the Klondike is easily seen to be at variance with the facts. Acknowledge, for the sake of argument, that the population is largely alien; what then? The Canadian government's opinion of aliens is shown by their sending a large force of useless troops to watch those aliens, and also, probably, by their instructions to the Yukon government not to yield self-government to Dawson as it has been yielded to other Canadian cities of half our size. Now, the character of Dawson's inhabitants is most remarkably different from that of any other city upon the American continent, and so far from making us less able to wield the powers of self-government makes us peculiarly fitted for it. In the first place we have no young and inexperienced people. Every other Canadian city has a large percentage of callow youths just of age to vote, and yet of such limited worldly experience that they are liable to be led astray by sentiment and enthusiasm and throw their influence upon the side of wrong. In Dawson we have only men of wide experience; men who have in their respective countries voted from ten to fifty years. Again, in every other Canadian city there is a large proportion of the improvident and reckless, who never had one hundred dollars together in cash at one time in their lives. It might be a doubtful experiment to hand over the reins of power to such men; but this, also, is an absent quality amongst Dawson's population, or how did we get here? To sum up, our population is made up entirely of provident people of years of experience, and who are well used to the self-government denied them here. As stated in our last issue, the council is quite willing to hand over to us the taxing power, yet are reluctant to withdraw their own control of our affairs, which they effect through the retention of the police and police courts.

The personnel of the N. W. M. P. is excellent, and it is officered by men of unimpeachable character, yet the nature of the organization is military, and each individual is responsible only to his own superior officers, and no matter what his offense he is tryable only by his own officers or in court martial. Now then, here is the situation in a nutshell. Supposing Dawson to accept the half self-government offered and to pass a hundred town ordinances. The gentleman in charge of the N. W. M. P. would undoubtedly instruct his subordinates to see them carried out; but in case of a neglect to do so what remedy has the mayor of Dawson or his council? Simply to complain to the head of the N. W. M. P. The *esprit du corps* of the force is remarkably strong, and is one of its many good features, yet that very *esprit du corps* would undoubtedly bring about a silent yet powerful hostility to the new powers of an outside organization, such as would be the city of Dawson. Each member of the N. W. M. P. is sworn to uphold the laws of the land—but so are the marines, the sailors, the soldiers and

the militia; yet no one would suggest the retention of these latter for metropolitan police duty. The N. W. M. P. has been called upon in emergency to do police duty in even the largest cities of Canada, and we believe filled the breach effectively and well. So have the marines, the sailors, the soldiers and militia, yet this is simply an argument for a powerful reserve, as would be the case should we have our own police and something arise by reason of which we lost control of events. In such a case the N. W. M. P. would prove invaluable as an ally.

There have been a few expressions of opinion from individual citizens upon whether or not we wish this kind of an incorporation at all. The columns of this paper are open for the discussion of the subject, and we will welcome any honest expression of opinion upon the matter.

FOR A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The Nugget in previous issues has spoken of the necessity of a public school in Dawson. It is a reflection upon the public spirit of our citizens that during the entire life of the town no successful effort has been made to maintain a school, public or private. The attempts that have been made to meet the lack of a school have proven necessarily failures by reason of lack of financial support. It cannot be expected that in a city as large as this a school can be maintained from fees charged the children who attend.

It is a duty which devolves upon the entire community to provide its youth with opportunities for securing at least a rudimentary education.

In proportion to the number of inhabitants there are comparatively few school children in Dawson. In all probability there are not more than 75 children of school age in the city who would attend. But it is just as important that these should be taken care of as though their numbers were ten times as large.

We understand that under the laws of the North West territories it does not require that a town organization be in effect in order to form a school district. The latter can be organized independent of a municipal corporation, and its limits may exceed or be made smaller than those of the town or city.

This being the case there is no need waiting the slow working machinery and interminable red tape which seem to be involved in making Dawson a corporate body. We should have a school by all means, and have it at once.

Efforts are now being made along these lines to effect the organization of a school district, with the end in view of maintaining a school, open to all children free of tuition. The movement is one in the right direction, and is entitled to sympathy and support from every citizen.

DANGEROUS POWERS.

The powers of a gold commissioner are so great that it is essential we have a man in that position, of judgment and integrity. Undoubtedly many of the powers assumed by the present incumbent are assumed without warrant, but enough of them are real to make it plainly apparent that in weak hands they are dangerous.

One of the most dangerous is the power of the gold commissioner to hold claims for friends without representation work. A man on the creeks finds an abandoned claim after long hunting. The original staker is not in the country and left probably before development work in the neighborhood of his claim had shown it to have much value. The would-be relocator satisfies himself on every particular and takes a witness onto the ground to see him stake it and to be able to prove that no work has been done on it. At the office the applicant at once perceives that the claim is well known there to be a desirable one, or if it is not, then his application is accepted and the affidavit of the witness taken. In the other case the pair are liable to be asked if they had shoveled the snow from off the ground so that they could know the exact condition of the surface. The answer to such a question is always "no!" and then the discouraged applicants turn away leaving the office the delightful in-

formation that that particular claim is without a cabin or any other signs of work of sufficient extent to show through six inches of snow. What an underpaid clerk will do with such information in his possession can only be surmised. One premise in the solution must not be lost sight of; such information is saleable or negotiable for an interest. But supposing the applicant and his witness to have a personal knowledge of the ground before the snow covered it and can swear from actual observation that it is undisturbed by either pick or shovel. Then Mr. Fawcett's subordinate can peep for an instant between the covers of a little book, look wise and inform them that "the claim is being held over without representation by order of Mr. Fawcett."

This latter gentleman's powers are so absolute and arbitrary that no reasons need be and seldom are given. There is a well founded suspicion abroad that this "holding over without representation" is done with the negligent owner out of the country and at the promptings of Mr. Fawcett's own gentle heart. Sometimes the claim is held "subject to the payment of the prescribed fee of \$150" a regulation which is in none of the books of mining laws yet to our hand. How much of this has been done will not be known until the present gold commissioner's successor has been installed and Mr. Fawcett out of the country. It is most surprising how much has lately been found out about the recently retired officials since their disappearance from the range of our vision. Had they remained they would have largely prevented this state of affairs by maintaining the records secret, as was done up to a few weeks ago. Knowing that the present incumbent is to be succeeded just as soon as his successor can arrive, it is not so strange that Mr. Fawcett prefers to spend his lonesome nights in the office he is so soon to abandon forever.

AN EXPERIMENT.

The social evil cannot be discussed in newspapers, though unquestionably but for this taboo the evil would rapidly grow less; yet there is a phase of it in Dawson unfamiliar to most of us and yet which appeals strongly to our sense of a government's duties to its people. We refer to a certain order from police headquarters some two weeks ago by virtue of which the denizens of Second avenue are made the subjects of medical inspection twice in each and every month. There can be but one opinion expressed upon the wisdom of the order and that is favorable, though this enforced regulation should not be made a means of tremendous emolument to favorite doctors. The women of this class are not able to resist any measure which may be proposed for their regulation, and though this order should become a means of great pecuniary oppression yet would there be no resistance from this helpless class. The medical service is so readily performed that there appears no need for other than the most reasonable charges, and even then the income from that same will be a handsome one and the commission profitable.

With the order well carried out, combined with the complete isolation of Dawson from the rest of the world for the greater part of the year, the conditions are here for a successful ending to what is largely an experiment upon the American continent.

TOLL ROAD MATTER.

To the observer it is apparent that one of the reasons for granting the permit to construct a tram-road or wagon road to Messrs. Henning & O'Brien, was that a host of unpaid laborers should be paid their hard earned wages. This proviso was incorporated into the permit, and shows a most commendable desire on the part of the council to protect the defenceless laborers of the Yukon. Unfortunately for the laborers it was a leap from the frying pan into the fire, for after the laborer was paid his fifty dollars, or whatever amount he had earned in the construction of the road, he proceeded to secure employment up the gulches. This necessitated hauling his outfit there, and he soon found not only his fifty dol-

lars gone in toll but more of his scant cash with it. His sled is weighed each time he passes the toll gate going eastwards. So are his ropes and the wrappings of his load. The scales are not inspected by any public inspector, and the poor sled hauler is entirely at the mercy of the taxgatherer.

The test suit of the Nugget vs. Henning & O'Brien has not yet had a date fixed for a hearing. It is an important suit if won, but even if lost there are other moves pending upon this Yukon checker board which will prove or disprove the right of these concessionaires to collect taxes from our people.

PRIVATE HOSPITAL.

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.

WANTED

Two Passengers for the Outside

APPLY

NUGGET EXPRESS.

Main Office in the "PHOENIX" or Office of KLONDIKE NUGGET.

Dog Team Leaves Dec. 20



Job Printing

In all its Latest Styles executed from new type faces at this office

We have facilities for

Check Binding

Perforating, Numbering and

Stapling

STOCK VERY COMPLETE AND WELL ASSORTED

Plenty of type and press facilities for the quick execution of

Pamphlets, Blanks and Programs

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET

GREATEST SUCCESS

The Dawson Ladies' Fireman's B

Random Costumes Characters—Immense of the Dancers—A D

What a mighty race of a city in the show where a year ago was down cabins huddled to a bunch of people in the bitter cold of an new city of well-dressed sociable people. Never before presented to the Fireman's Masquerade when the Pioneer door with beautiful figures and a manly neatly-dressed double completely around the

All honor is due the benefit they tendered. The comm Mrs. W. M. Husten, Florence Hamburg, and most sincerely for the are good judgment of the affair. If anyone which might of the affair it was no nothing missing whi the sum of the enjoy not appear. The ener infected the town, and place in the costum ally the ladies. The amous forms show skill in the making of som made by the gals as of being trans metropolis upon so There were over 15 Pioneer hall been th would have been pon the immense crowd chair. Expressions on every hand, and use of the lady would surely be showered upon them

The names of all the but amongst the n Storer were—

Uncle Sam, a tall Jonathan costume; Burke.

Actress "Nadgi," unknown.

Mephistopheles, re Fanning.

Dog "Musher," i Martia.

"Sour Dough Stiff ancient hapsacks; M

Mooshide Squaw, an Indian idea of fi

Dawson Fire depa ball, in helmet and appropriate emble buckets, hooks, etc.

There were sever Mrs. Deal, in divi pink cap, afterward

There were too in short pale blu strings of pop-corn appearance in darl and mortboard ca

corn showed to per "Butterfly," by white muslin over

Clown, by Mr. W "Fire Laddie," uniform and brass

Mexican costum the Fire departme Santa Claus, in r and flowing beard

Troubadour, a Mr. Joe Cooper.

A notable pair w by Miss Pelkington Pelkington wore

overlaid with pass made a dapper l broadcloth and sil

stand the presenc tended throughout Red Riding Hoo

A. D. Field. Irish Washerw

skirts; Mr. J. H. "Midshipmite"

pink tights, and formed woman—

nine and well tur flung by a de quite affecting to

The "Queen of Mrs. Stingle.

A pretty and Miss Mayner as and costume wer

of cloth, such as Unless seen one of the material.

A very pretty Miss Rattie McM Both were of a s

short pink dress garlands of flow wigs and curly

yet tastily ar boquets. The bear out the wri