

# The Klondike Nugget

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THE NUGGET is delivered at cabins on Bonanza and Eldorado 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 Juneau and the North Pole.

### "FARMED-OUT" DUTIES.

The semi-civilized nations of the earth have a very convenient and efficacious method of collecting taxes and performing other duties of a public nature. Supposing the Turkish governor receives an order to collect a stated amount from his district round about Jerusalem for the national exchequer; he communitates immediately with a class of men in his province who have been professional tax-gatherers from father to son for many generations. These people, at once set to work to secure the plum and knowing the nature of Turkish officials it is not hard to guess that this is done by upward competition, not downward. Mr. Taxgatherer No. 1 has now secured an order to wring from the people of the district the official levy of say \$10,000; that is to say that amount of money has to be turned into the exchequer and the head tax gatherer makes his own expenses. By a public fiction he is supposed to do this work *pro bona publico*, but human nature there, is not a whit different than on the Klondike, and Mr. Taxgatherer No. 1 divides the territory among his 10 competitors, presumably for a bonus from each one. Each tax gatherer has now to raise \$1000 for the government plus his own expenses besides the bonus he paid to the head tax gatherer, plus the profits he desires on his investment, plus the amount which the Turkish governor takes as perquisites in lieu of salary which is never paid. The result is easily seen to be that for every dollar the government secures from the people at least two or three are wrung from an overtaxed and impoverished people, and this is simply the result of "farming out" public trusts and duties carried out to its legitimate consequence. What then can be thought of the presumably highly civilized and humane government of the Yukon territory when it farms out any public duty or prerogative to a corporation which is out solely for the "stuff" and which corporation secured the privilege of extorting that "stuff" from the already overtaxed miner "willy-nilly." What is this Bonanza trail toll-gathering monopoly but a farmed out government prerogative? Does the government require money for prosecuting its road building duties? Then to "farm out" the collection of this tax to toll gatherers, is a leaf from Turkish history. It requires but a superficial study of the matter to convince the average man that Messrs. Henning and O'Brien will not only extort the cost of building the trail from the miners who are compelled to use it, but will collect that much plus expenses of securing charter, plus a handsome bonus for Henning, plus a similar bonus for O'Brien, plus as much more as the traffic will bear. And all for what? That the miner may traverse with his sled a valley which he has traversed for years free of charge.

What does the government gain by this adoption of the Turkish policy of farming out its prerogatives? Simply a greater freedom from care; a trifle less of worry, an absolute certainty that the road tax will be collected without any oversight from officials, a comfortable feeling that the wheels of taxation are grinding away night and day without any oversight from them, a feeling of relief at a duty avoided and a cause for worry overcome; a certainty that trail

building will go on without governmental supervision or forethought, without painfully thought-out estimates, without night sessions of the council, without the necessity of dealing with harassing contractors and without any of the thousand and one cares which encircle the man who never shirks a duty voluntarily assumed. And what does the public get? Firstly, a trail; secondly, the privilege of paying for it; the pleasing honor of fattening Mr. Henning's pocket book; ditto with Mr. O'Brien; the thrilling joy of paying the toll-gatherers their wages; the superlative ecstasy of supporting a staff of special constables, private detectives or patrol men to walk the trail day and night and hold up each slaying, toiling son of Adam's sin for his "pass" secured from the aforesaid comfortably housed toll-gathering child of effete Turkish official methods.

Previous to the granting of the permit or charter by virtue of which miners are being compelled every day on the Bonanza trail to "stand and deliver," Mr. Henning called at our office and gave his positive word of honor, in the presence of witnesses, that if his charter for a tramroad was not opposed he would, and did then and there solemnly agree that no miner should ever be taxed one cent for the privilege of hauling his provisions over the grade. Furthermore, he agreed that no obstacles should be placed in the way of competing packers who made their own trails, and those already in actual existence should be removed at once. Mr. Henning's promises to ourselves are no more worthless than his promises and professions to the Yukon council. It can be depended upon as an indisputable fact that Mr. Henning and his associates will bleed the people if permitted, to the point of armed resistance.

"O for a Daniel to come to judgment" and crystallize the government of this polar land upon right lines for successors to pattern after. Conditions are so different and change so rapidly here that past experience counts for little and only truth and justice can be depended upon to solve the riddle of government. A departure from those rigid lines is instantly followed, by confusion, disorder, agitation, public unrest, imposition of injury upon the people, subversion of right and an unforeseen train of kindred evils. The final outcome of the growing hostility against the toll-trail cannot be foreseen.

### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

The recent postponement of the execution of the four murderers confined in our jail recalls the fact that there exists a strong sentiment among certain classes of people against the infliction of the death penalty. There are two arguments principally advanced in support of this theory, the first being that human life is sacred and not to be taken even in expiation of a crime wherein other lives have been sacrificed. The second reason put forward is that life imprisonment has for the evil doer all if not more of the terrors which the prospect of suffering the death penalty brings before him.

To properly grasp the question, one should go back to the time when men first began taking measures for protecting themselves against their greatest enemies—their own fellows. It was for this purpose that society first became organized upon definite and comprehensive lines and from this origin developed the massive framework of what today we know and recognize as the law.

The right, therefore, of society to take necessary measures for the protection of its members is something that has stood the test of centuries, and in all this time the stern hand of the law has been lifted most heavily against the man who wilfully seeks the destruction of human life.

Whatever other traits the murderer may possess, as a general rule he may be said to be at heart a coward. There are many men of murderous instincts who are not murderers simply for the reason that a wholesome respect for the gallows forces them to restrain their natural impulses. The prospect of life imprisonment has not a similar terror,

for just so long as life lasts there is always hope for freedom. The law justly draws a sharp distinction between the man who in cold blood plots the death of another and the one whose victim is slain upon the spur of sudden and intense provocation or as a matter of self-protection. It is against the first of these classes of murderers that punishment by death is principally aimed and its efficacy lies principally in its power as a preventive of similar acts.

Upon this ground we justify the execution of the willful murderer, not so much that one man may be punished for a crime which cannot be undone but rather that others by seeing the consequences may be hindered from pursuing a similar course.

### BETTER VENTILATION.

More attention should be given to the ventilation of public buildings in Dawson than has been the case heretofore. Log buildings as constructed to meet the rigors of an Arctic winter are sealed to the entrance of outside air almost hermetically. Ordinarily the only means for noxious gasses to escape from these buildings is through a small ventilator in the roof. Naturally, therefore, when a large number of people assemble together as was the case in the Pioneer hall on Sunday night last, the building soon becomes so warm and close as to detract considerably from the enjoyment of the occupants. The probability is that a great many public entertainments will be given in Dawson during the present winter. The public has the right to expect that the building wherein these entertainments are given shall be made as comfortable as possible. A mammoth stove fired to its fullest capacity is not all that is required for this purpose even with the thermometer at 40 or 50 degrees below zero. Fresh air is just as requisite under these circumstances as it is in a temperate climate, in fact more so for in weather such as prevails at present there is much greater liability of taking cold in leaving a hot, unventilated room than would be the case had the building a free circulation of air.

The attention of those in charge of our places of public gathering is called to the matter. Some means certainly can be found to properly ventilate even a log building without too great a loss of heat.

### It Ain't Squar'.

I ain't got much edginess on,  
At book learnin' I'm no star,  
But I've got about all creation  
From redskins down to bar,  
An' I know what's squar'.

I've monkeyed round many a diggin',  
Most on 'em run without law,  
'Cept what's right as the men themselves figger,  
An' most on 'em all thet I've saw  
Wuz run squar'.

But this hyer camp is a corker,  
It's ekeal old airth's never saw;  
A man hez no show for a white alley  
Caze there's too much law,  
Law thet ain't squar'.

God A'mitey put the gold in these gulches  
An' the timber hyer grew to his han',  
They wuz meant fur the use av the miner,  
Not whole townships grabbed up by one man,  
Which ain't squar'.

An' these hyer free miners' licenses,  
They promise free rights to the men,  
When about all the privilege granted  
Is to pay for 'em over agen,  
They ain't squar'.

Then there's the gol darn secret rigords  
An' the riservashun av claims,  
Till the worker with pick and shovel  
Caint tell when he's at whar he aims,  
"They'r tuck" an' it ain't squar'.

An' when he trails back'ard and forrid,  
'Stead o' helpin' 'im long on his way,  
An' givin' 'im a greet o' "good luck, lad"  
They stop 'im an' make 'im pay  
Men, thet ain't squar'.

Wages hev gone clear to bedrocks  
While tucker's riz higher an' higher,  
Till a good smack up us is stuck fur the scurvey  
Caze we caint get the grub we require,  
Cornerin' grub ain't squar'.

There's gold in this country 'bout question,  
But ther's gold thet lums not from the ground,  
Richer than all wealth of the Klondike,  
The golden rule an' yere found,  
'E's squar'.

But hyer in these all fired diggins  
They'd charge royalty on the rule from its name  
An' that's sorer losin' 'round I collect it  
If ye didn't koff up thet name,  
Which ain't squar'.

Only the good Lord in His wisdom  
Can tell where this thing'll end,  
With the royalties an' taxins and chargins,  
Till a man's left no heart to defend  
Even what's squar'.

Well, it's long enuf I've been chinnin'  
But I tell ye now honest and true,  
An' a word to the wise is sufficient: *Union*,  
Then ther' ain't nothin' we kaint do  
Ter git things squar'.

DAWSON, Nov. 1898. W. S. BUNN.  
Every Wednesday and Saturday the Nugget is delivered to subscribers. \$2.00 per month.

**YUKON SAW MILL CO.**  
MANUFACTURERS OF  
**First Quality Matched, Dressed, Rustic, Roofing, and Rough Lumber**  
House Logs Furnished, Cordwood &c.  
Orders filled promptly.

**LOUIS SECKELS**  
ASSAYER AND ANALYTICAL CHEMIST  
Gold Melted into Bars. All Work Guaranteed  
14th St., adjoining new Regina Club Hotel.  
mso

**TO-NIGHT**  
—AT—

**Pioneer Hall**  
A CLEAN CUT ENTERTAINMENT  
THE

**Wondroscope**  
Moving Pictures of the Spanish-American War.

**100 Stereoscopic Views**  
Illustrating Scenes and Incidents of the Late War.

**Fred N. Tracy**  
In Popular Songs Illustrated by Life Size, Specially Colored Views.

ADMISSION - \$1.00

**WANTED**  
Two Passengers for the Outside  
APPLY

**NUGGET EXPRESS,**  
Main Office in the "PHOENIX"  
or Office of KLONDIKE NUGGET.  
**Dog Team Leaves Nov. 20**

**THE BONANZA**  
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