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THE KLONDIKE NUGGET: DAWSON, Y. T., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1899

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY
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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1899.

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.

ONE OF ENGLAND'S PROBLEMS.

Uncle Sam is not alone in being opposed at home in his war policy. In fact we do not believe that the most radical anti-expansionist in the States would give vent to expressions such as have been uttered in parliament during the past 30 days.

The New England ministerial organizations and kindred societies are extending their influence to secure the withdrawal of American troops from the Philippines, and the granting of a system of autonomy to the islands. They are confining themselves, however, to letters and petitions, and have not as yet indulged in pyrotechnic displays as some of their anti-war cousins on the other side of the ocean have done.

As will be noted elsewhere in this issue a member of parliament was expelled from the house for the use of violent language. Reason for the language if not justification therefor may be found in the fact that the member's name is O'Brien, and that he hails from Kilkenny.

Mr. O'Brien was not content with telling Mr. Chamberlain that he is wrong in his war policy. He did not even satisfy himself with pleasing similes about the "gentle dove of peace" and the "dread demon of war."

Figuratively speaking he jumped squarely into the middle of the ring and landed with both feet.

He told the house that Mr. Chamberlain's hands were as much stained with blood as any murderer who ever mounted the scaffold. And further remarked as he was ordered to leave the house, "You had better bring up another army corps unless you want it somewhere else."

Men of the O'Brien stamp—and there are quite a few of them—form one of England's important problems. No greater, however, than many she has already successfully solved.

JURIES.

The jury system of today is not exactly the jury system of a few centuries ago. But nevertheless, the substantial features are the same, and the trial by peers has become a deep seated feature of English government besides being incorporated bodily into the constitution of the United States of America.

The system in America is a valuable one in times of peace but can be suspended upon proclamation of the president. Its worst feature, however, is the "approachability" of the average juror. Prejudice is so strong in poor, weak human nature that the presentation to him of a carefully arranged set of facts outside the court will often convince him one way or the other upon the merits of the case. Everything which can be adduced afterwards at the trial fails to influence his judgment; and then we

witness that travesty upon justice—a packed jury. It is needless to remark that a jury can be, and often is, "packed" in favor of the accused—and often against him.

When the criminal court was adjourned for the week on Friday evening last, the judge took occasion to lecture the jury upon their duty. In his remarks his lordship remarked that it had been reported to him, and there was no doubt that jurors in the past in Dawson had been approached by "outside influence." He urged them, if such an impropriety came to their knowledge, to report the matter instantly to him. Such a course was their bounden duty as good citizens, and promptness would do much to purify the atmosphere.

THE WAR.

Insofar as any information which has thus far come to hand is concerned, the war in South Africa is still anyone's war. News of the capture of one British detachment and the subsequent defeat of the Boers in several minor engagements is about the extent of the authentic information that has been published since the opening of hostilities. It is, of course, the duty of newspaper correspondents in the field to furnish their papers with as much detail matter as possible, and the more sanguinary the accounts may be the more are they appreciated and a correspondingly high price is paid for them.

It must not be forgotten that a strict press censorship is maintained by British and Boers alike, and it is altogether probable that much of the most important information is withheld.

The cessation of diplomatic relations came rather sooner than Great Britain expected. Both sides had been preparing for the struggle and with each exchange of carefully worded messages of mutual good will and fellowship, an additional transport would be sent out from England, and Oom Paul would again go over his lists to ascertain if an available man were missing.

It was not long, however, until Kruger discovered that such a game was working entirely to his disadvantage.

The number of Boers who could be placed in the field would not grow any by delay, while the British forces might be increased indefinitely.

Therefore came the ultimatum of Oct. 9, which gave the British 48 hours in which to return a satisfactory answer. That answer not being received within the stipulated time it was accepted as a formal declaration of war. The war already has reached large proportions and will still farther increase before it reaches an end. Britain is receiving offers of assistance from all the colonies and is availing herself thereof. She realizes that the only way in which the Boers can be defeated is to crush them, and it is altogether probable that Oom Paul will soon find himself confronted on all sides with such numbers as to preclude a possibility of successful resistance. Then and not until then will the end be in sight.

DAWSON'S FUEL SUPPLY.

Dawson's fuel supply is in all probability a more serious question today than it ever will be again. Several weeks before the freeze-up The Nugget pointed out the fact that only a comparatively small amount of wood was in sight to supply the demand for the winter. This supply was considerably augmented by the arrival of a number

of rafts immediately before the final closing of the river.

Wood however, took an immediate jump in price and has shown no particular sign of slumping at any time since. From present appearances there will be no great variation from present prices during the winter. This condition does not indicate that the fuel question will be an extremely serious one in the future. Twelve months from now, in all probability, there will be more coal consumed in Dawson than wood. Veins of good coal have been discovered a short distance up the Klondike and have been developed sufficiently to demonstrate the fact that there is already in sight sufficient coal to last Dawson and the creeks as well for that matter, for an indefinite number of years. People who are worrying along this winter with wet or green wood can comfort themselves with the reflection that next winter they will be burning coal at a reduced cost.

ST. ANDREW'S BALL.

The ball given on St. Andrew's evening marks an epoch in Dawson's advancement from a social standpoint. It has placed the stamp of civilization so strongly upon the town that the days of sweaters and muk-luks at social gatherings seem but a distant memory.

When the old "sour dough" allows his mind to wander back a few short years he experiences a sensation of amazement, and wonders how it all came about. He wonders if the day when squaws were the reigning belles will ever return. He wonders if it is still safe to be seen out of doors without a white shirt and other accompaniments. He wonders—but of what use?

Things will change and they have changed in Dawson, and, we opine, for the better.

Dawson is a better town to live in today than it ever has been. It is a great deal for a man to know that he can bring his family into Dawson and that they will not be cut off from the pleasures and associations of civilized life. While it is to be admitted that many improvements are still possible, it cannot be disputed that as a place of residence for civilized man Dawson of today is a vast improvement over the Dawson of 12 months ago.

The St. Andrew's ball is a practical demonstration of this fact. The Nugget hopes that more of the same kind will follow.

The Nugget has been in receipt of a number of unsigned communications of late. None of these have been published and none will be. The anonymous newspaper correspondent usually has a private grudge to settle against someone. Instead of coming out in a manly way and stating his grievance, if he has one, he endeavors to square up his account by forcing the responsibility upon a newspaper. Such communications are entitled to but one treatment, viz., consignment to the waste basket; and they invariably receive that treatment in The Nugget office.

If a correspondent does not desire his name published, he may state so in his letter, but the author's name must always accompany the communication, otherwise no attention will be paid thereto.

The story of the Edmonton trail which is completed in this issue, has attracted wide spread interest. Accord-

ing to numerous parties who came over the same route, the narrative is an accurate one and is told without prejudice or exaggeration. It is a tale of hardships and privation such as men who came into the Yukon over the Skagway trail know nothing about.

Inquiries have been made concerning the new representation law which admits of the payment of \$200 in lieu of the three months' work heretofore required. Neither this law nor the law holding unrepresented ground for the crown has gone into effect. Both laws will become operative as soon as official notification thereof is made public.

Express Teams En Route.

Manager E. C. Allen, of the Nugget Express is in receipt of a telegram from the company's agent at Skagway announcing the departure of two express dogteams from Bennett, en route to Dawson. Three teams have already started from Dawson, the first of which is now well on toward its journey's end. The express company has now inaugurated a weekly service from both ends, which service will be maintained during the winter and increased, if warranted by the amount of business secured.

Every team that has been started so far has carried a full load, and at the last moment a number had to be disappointed on the departure of the last team on Monday owing to the fact that the entire carrying capacity of the team had been contracted before. Jack Carr who left in charge of the express team on Nov. 28 is making a record trip, notwithstanding the fact that he has a lady passenger in addition to a large consignment of express matter. Carr made Selkirk on Dec. 2, from which point he wired the Dawson management to the effect that he was making splendid progress, notwithstanding the fact that he had encountered considerable stretches of bad trail.

The Express Company is making a specialty of transporting passengers. Any one intending to leave for the outside would do well to call at the office in Boyle's wharf and investigate the superior facilities which the company offers for landing passengers safely at Bennett. The next team leaves on Monday next.

Letters and packages are carried and goods will be purchased in Seattle or elsewhere and brought in promptly.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Jesse Brown, who has been running a scavenger business in Dawson for some time past will leave for the outside over the ice in a few days.

Messrs. Chenoweth & Thomas, better known as the two "Billies," are a pair of hustlers. Billy the first is handling the A. E. Co.'s liquors, while Billy the second is doing a similar turn for the N. A. T. Both are kept busy all the time, and are a popular team among the retailers in town.

Hon. W. F. Matlock, formerly high in political councils in Oregon, and now probably Skagway's most wealthy citizen, left Dawson a few days ago for his home, intending to travel to Bennett by horse and sleigh. Mr. Matlock has \$70,000 worth of goods in scows strewn along the river between Stewart river and Selkirk.

Shakespeare Night.

Dawson is promised a treat this (Tuesday) night. Mr. Emil Erhardt, assisted by Miss Ross, will give a Shakespearean recital, which undoubtedly will be a pleasing change from the ordinary form of entertainment to be found in Dawson.

Selections will be given from the best of Shakespeare's dramas, and the well known ability of both the artists assures a highly entertaining and pleasing evening. The recital will take place at 8:15 p. m. at the Methodist church.

Notice.

All persons are notified not to purchase any of the ground on No. 7 above on Bonanza for building purposes, as we intend to ground sluice the same.

JAMES TWEED.

The latest coon songs, also splendid assortment of standard instruments and vocal music, at Cribbs & Rogers, druggists.

Foot balls and bladders at Cribbs & Rogers.

Look at our window for Christmas presents. Kelly & Co., druggists.

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