

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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SCORES THE CROWN PROSECUTOR.

The Inside History of the Recent Fist Encounter.

A Severe Arraignment of Mr. Wade Some Pertinent Questions, and How They Were Answered.

DAWSON, N. Y. T., Aug. 25, '98
On the evening of August 18th, as the steamer power was leaving the wharf a brutal assault was made upon the correspondent of a New York newspaper by a well-known government official. It seemed peculiarly cowardly, in that the assaulted party was much the inferior of his opponent in size and physical strength, that it occurred in the dark recesses of the N. Y. T. waterworks in the presence of a third party, who for well-known reasons was undoubtedly there to witness a scene of humiliation, and that it was deferred until the moment of departure of the boat upon which said official was leaving the country. To make the affair still more unfortunate, it is notorious that the official stood at the bar of public opinion accused of serious malfeasance in office, and that the said correspondent had been conspicuous in publicly charging corrupt practices against the said official and that he had but express the sentiments of a large majority of the citizens of Dawson, both Canadian and American, without any distinction whatever.

The immediate cause for the assault was the refusal of said correspondent to retract certain statements about a certain interview with said official.

The points of difference were these: Did the official "beg" the interview, or was it sought by the correspondent? Also, did the interview, in the opinion of said correspondent, wholly exonerate said official from suspicions of corrupt practices?

As reports of the affair, having an official bias that is almost painful, are being industriously circulated by some one, I beg leave, as a party, perhaps equally accountable for the conclusion reached after such interview, to say, about the first point of difference. As E. LeRoy Pelletier, correspondent of the N. Y. Times, and myself were leaving the combination theater after the performance, we saw several government officials leaning against the bar, drinking, among whom was F. C. Wade, the Crown prosecuting attorney, the official referred to. As we passed, Pelletier, who was behind, was recognized by Wade, who called to him the words which sounded to me as follows:

"G-d-d-n you, Pelletier, come up here and put some whiskey in your guts. Call Adney, there."

There, being addressed personally, I turned, and when I came within reach was good-naturedly pulled by the prosecuting attorney into the midst of the group. After the honors Wade upbraided Pelletier with being pleasant to his face and roasting him behind his back. Pelletier replied that he had never sought him in a social way. The matter was dropped and reference made to certain publications in the Seattle P. I., namely, interviews with late arrivals from Dawson, quoting Capt. Constantine and others concerning "jobs and jobbery," also an account of the Crown prosecuting attorney had been hard hit, as if he had realized for the first time the true situation, when he said "For God's sake, why don't you fellows come to me for an explanation before getting at a man in a way that he cannot retaliate?"

I hoped that a satisfactory explanation was at length to be had, and expressed myself as such was our duty to listen to all that might have to say; but I confessed frankly to him that not until that moment had I been able to perceive in those officials against whom there was public criticism, the smallest inclination to account to the public for their acts. At his request, I put to him leading questions about several transactions to which we received straightforward answers. But the hour and the place being unsuitable for a thorough interview, we were invited to meet him at his office, where he would show us every paper in the transactions, at 10 o'clock the next morning. We continued the interview according to appointment.

As to the second point of difference: What, in our opinion, after due deliberation, did that interview explain? For certain details of that interview, I will refer to the issue of the Nugget of August 30th, wherein are given by Mr. Wade substantially the same answers to questions as were asked. The Nugget's interview immediately followed our own but did not see the same until just now. The Nugget left a number of vital questions unasked.

Concerning the lease of the water front to McDonald and Morrison the public belief was that Mr. Wade, while acting as Dominion land agent, received a considerable share of the enormous profit arising from the sub-lease. Some of the grounds for this belief were that Mr. Wade was known to be McDonald's attorney, that the public tenders were not advertised for, and that only certain favored ones knew that the water front was to be leased, most of which was to put in a bid, that McDonald was allowed to put in a second and higher bid which others equally responsible were not allowed to do. The papers, it must be said, made out a strong defense, the McDonald application in fact being unqualifiedly approved by Thomas Fawcett, Gold Commissioner, whom no one suspects of further interest in the transaction. The undeniable secrecy of the business, and a knowledge gained since the interview, of precisely how and by whom those who bid were informed of the government's intention to lease the water front, are not explained by the papers, behind which it is perhaps not the intention, even if it were in the power of an ordinary newspaper, to inquire to so. Such a matter could only be a subject for parliamentary inquiry.

Reference to a mystery surrounding the granting of lots during the survey of ground back of what is known as "the Smith addition." I led the inquiry as follows:

Q. For what purpose was a sign reading "Reserved by order of Dominion Land Agent" placed upon ground being surveyed?

A. Because the government did not care to grant the whole space until it knew how much it might require for town use.

Q. Did it ever any lots that were at the time granted its open for application by the public?

A. Yes, No. The matter called attention to the fact that Mr. Pelletier had been given one such lot upon de-

mand. This was the lot that Mr. Wade had in- tended himself to have.

Q. How did that happen?

A. It must have been placed over such lots by mistake.

There were others lots in the same reserved space, which, I believe to have been open, but to have been held for some one on the inside. Regarding the subsequent transaction of payment for lots, there are charges of rebates to purchasers, that should be investigated. I had no authority to use names, or instances, so did not refer to the subject at the interview.

Another public belief is that Mr. Wade, to whom the gold commissioner looked at the did permit himself to be retained as attorney upon one side of a claim contest. In a case known as the 3437 Dominion contest it was openly charged in court that he had been retained by both sides. Mr. Wade denies he had any influence with the gold commissioner, and files the record as proof that he had lost as many cases as he won. It was the general conviction, however, that any case however just, was hopeless if Mr. Wade figured in the opposition, and certainly in specific instances he did profit by that belief.

It is also charged that go-betweens had made overtures to one party in claim contests for an interest in the case, to employ "Wade" and beat him out of the claim.

It is also charged that the prosecuting attorney had refused to file papers which were attested according to law, but were drawn up or endorsed in handwriting of persons who were not qualified as licensed conveyancers.

It is also believed that he demanded, or secured, interests in other franchises, or privileges, than the water front.

All those matters were discussed at the interview. Mr. Wade making denial of the charges. Now, in conclusion, if Mr. Wade interpreted our expressed hope that full explanations could be made, and our satisfaction at having been granted the interview, together with our earnest desire to be fair and just, as an exoneration of himself and evidence that all suspicion of irregularity was dispelled, he was mistaken. A parliamentary inquiry with power of subpoena and to protect its witnesses, alone will free any official from suspicion of ever having used his extraordinary official powers and to his private advantage. Meanwhile, it is a poor plan to use fists, or indulge in threats, as has lately been done, for criticism of several officials in Dawson.

T. J. ADNEY,
Correspondent, Harper's Weekly.

PERSONALS.

Mr. Geo. Armstrong is back from his trip to Elladorado.

J. Q. Adams, a mining expert of San Francisco, is in Dawson, a guest of Dr. Yonans.

J. Knight Smith, at the hospital with typhoid fever, is reported to be convalescing and will be out shortly.

Mr. Churchill, resident manager of the Columbia River Navigation Co., is limping around from an attack of gout.

Mose Warren, a Centralian who arrived some few months ago, has gone out onto Sulphur with three horseloads of grub and two men. He has acquired interests in some of the above discovery and will work both claims.

Mr. Lueders, the clever violinist, is quite sick with the prevailing dysentery. On Sunday night he had great difficulty in conducting the concert, but brought it through successfully in spite of his weakness.

Mr. H. Julius Miller of Centralia, Wash., but more lately of Dyea, arrived in Dawson Friday last. Mr. Miller is an American lawyer of large and successful practice, and having seen Dawson is preparing to return to his former practice at Dyea.

T. C. Malone, United States deputy of Internal revenue for the Ninth District, with headquarters at Circle City, is in Dawson on business connected with his department. Mr. Malone was a prominent factor in Oregon politics prior to his coming to Alaska and has a host of friends everywhere.

Mr. F. A. Jones, of No. 28 Benanza, is preparing to leave for the east. He has worked 10 years for the company and has earned his trip for he has worked faithfully for four years. By industry and some good fortune he has acquired that which will lend luxury to his visit, and we hope he may thoroughly enjoy the excursion.

Mr. Pat Connelly and Jack Gregor, of Mastodon Creek, and one of the first settlers of Circle City, arrived last week. The steamboat Dominion. They have interests here, to be extended to and then will return to the American side and afterwards to the Seard. The winter will be spent outside.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cahill have departed for their home in Portland. The sweet voice of Mrs. Cahill has beautified many a church service and lent pleasure to many a social evening and it is with regret we see the pair depart. They have been here a year and a half and will return in the spring.

Among the passengers on the steamer Columbia were Mrs. W. M. Miller, Dagwood W. Jones, Wm. Neville and Jacob Edholm. The two last named brought with them a large shipment of liquors amounting in all to 4000 gallons. They have secured a cabin on First avenue, and for the present have their goods stored.

Dr. W. S. Bunn, of Lawrence, Kansas, paid the Nugget office a pleasant visit recently. The doctor is located temporarily on a claim on Moosehide, the prospects of which creek he considers are very bright. During the winter Dr. Bunn was a member of a prospecting party in British Columbia. They made up their minds, however, that the chances in Klondike were much better than where they were then located and hence came on in to Dawson. The doctor is a firm believer in the theory that traction engines can be successfully worked on the lakes and river when the ice closes. He expects to see the proposition carried to a successful issue in time.

The Sunday Concert.

The second of the series of high-class Sunday concerts was given on Sunday evening by the Lueders' orchestra, under the management of Mr. C. N. Pring.

The concert was for the benefit of the fire department, but the fire department was not at all benefitted thereby, because the Pioneer hall was but very scantily filled with patrons. However, those who were there were rewarded by some excellent music, the program being as follows:

March: Opera Carmin, Pizet; Overture: Blossom of '84, Moses; Concert Waltz: Tales of Vienna Woods, Straus; Song, by Hudson Alhart; Selection: Madam Angis, Andran; Concert Polka: Yours for Ever, Pilsce; Overture: Barber of Seville, Rochini; Song, by Hudson Alhart;

Concert Waltz: Thousand and One Nights, Strauss; and God Save the Queen.

The singing of Mr. Ehrhart has lost none of its popularity and each of his songs was encored.

The instrumentation was the same as a week ago, excepting that Mr. J. E. Cary had been added to the 2nd violins, H. W. Warnock to the 1st violins and W. H. Conannon played trombone.

Before the last number on the program was played there was short speech-making by Messrs. Rutledge, Chute and Tozier, who sincerely deprecated the lack of interest in the fire department by the people of Dawson. The three gentlemen mentioned, with the addition of Chairman Davis, of the town council, comprise the fire department committee, and are naturally much exercised over the lack of attendance at the meetings and entertainments for the benefit of the fire department.

He Has No Power.

A great many cases of despatching are being brought to the attention of Consul Gen. McCook. Many unfortunate people whose outfits were injured or destroyed on the trail are now stranded in Dawson, without work or resources. Numbers of these are calling on the American consul every day asking for assistance in securing transportation to the States.

Consul McCook expresses much regret at the condition in which so many American citizens are in, but states that he is without power to extend to them financial aid. The U. S. government does not give the consul discretion in such matters, though it seems to be the prevailing opinion that the government ought to take care of its unfortunate citizens who may happen to be temporarily stranded in a foreign country.

Wrecked, But Still in the Ring.

The Joseph Closset put in her appearance at Dawson last week, after being wrecked and sunk just below Miles Canyon. She left Bennett August 1st, with 20 tons of iron and the balance of her cargo in provisions. Entering the canyon, she struck the wall and broke her guard rail. Below the whirlpool, at the entrance of the second half of the canyon she struck again and stayed in her side. The hull, however, was of Washington fir and she beat reached the eddy below the canyon before she sank, which she did in water deep enough to cover the decks for fully a foot.

She lost some of her provisions but replenished her stock at Dawson and started on an up-river trip on Monday night. Captain Smith is still in charge, with E. A. Merk as manager.

Food by the Ton.

The police are going round with a lack of supreme content and the why and wherefore is easy of finding out. The new large storehouse at the barracks is just about filled up with provisions of all kinds—tens upon tens of sugar and flour and all other necessities of an Arctic winter. Three hundred tons of compact food is now on hand, having arrived on the A. C. Co. steamers, Spie and Louie. Three hundred tons is a large quantity of food, and the number of police is small—but then, the boys know their own capacity better than anyone else, so remarks would be out of place.

Mint to Mining Friends.

EDITOR THE NUGGET:
Sir, I will be very thankful to you if you will publish this article in your paper for the benefit of those holding claims on Little Blanche creek.

Knowing as I do, that some of the men on this creek are hard working men and need all the money and time they have got, and who know but little about the creek and are in doubt as to whether or not it would pay to spend three months' time representing their claims, I feel that it is my duty to encourage all such men to get on their claims before it is too late to hold and work them, for with the present prospects this week, it gives promise to be one of the best creeks in the country.

You can get claims anywhere on the creek in the surface gravel. On 12 I have washed as high as \$120 to the pan, and have been told by others that they have got similar prospects on the same claim—some running as high as \$150 to the pan. I have gotten good prospects on 12 and also on 30. On 30 they are taking out pay every day on the run with a rocker. There have been bench claims located from the head of Little Blanche to where its water shed empties into Quartz creek some of them paying 2 ounces to the man with a rocker, and they are getting good prospects in various other places.

Boys, under no consideration let your claim go back to the government. A. W. E. FISHER.

Don't forget that P. E. De Ville, of the Central market, has the neatest and cleanest place in town. Give him a call for meats of any description. Everything fresh and wholesome.

Important cablegram at the Nugget office for D. Tyler Lang.

The Canadian Development Co.'s

PALACE STEAMER

"CANADIAN"

SALES FOR

WHITE HORSE AND

LAKE BENNETT

POINTS

Thursday, at 2 p. m.

Avoid being FROZEN IN

AND TAKE THE ONLY SURE ROUTE TO THE COAST

For Staterooms, Tickets and Berths apply to F. W. TROUBLE, Agt., Opp. Combination Saloon

LOOK OUT FOR GOLD-DUST SWINDLERS

Promising Looking Sacks Turn Out to Be Bogus.

New Conditions Develop New Species of Fraud—How Valueless Base Materials are Passed Off for the Precious Metal.

Frauds of various kinds become every day more prevalent. The use of gold as legal tender opens up a brand new field to the inept swindler, of which he is not slow to avail himself. Just now there appears to be an epidemic of what might be called "false tender." The would-be swindler fills a sack partly full of shot and enters one of our many play-houses. Throwing the sack carelessly on the table he calls for a "stack of whites" or "blues," according to his ambition. The dealer drops the sack into his drawer. If he wins, his sack is returned to him and gold to the amount of his winnings is weighed out to him at the scales and, of course, is not put into the sack of shot. The shot sack, however, is liable to detection by a vigilant dealer. As it rolls on the table it flattens out, somewhat different from a sack of gold. The fraud is materially aided by enclosing the shot in a smaller inner sack which holds the small pellets in place.

Monday night one of the largest roulette games in town was victimized twice. The first fraud threw down a sack of shot, as described above. The dealer had a good game going, and picking up the sack by the neck he dropped it carelessly into the drawer with a check showing how much was against it. The swindler played and lost his sack and called for another. Another sack and another check in the drawer against the sack. Mr. Swindler was out of luck for he continued to lose until \$400 was against the "poke." The player then withdrew from the room for a couple of minutes, and as he did not come back the sack was turned over to the weigher and the fraud discovered.

The house enjoyed a good laugh at the discomfited dealer, who hereupon flung himself upon the table. From that time on the sacks thrown across his table were carefully examined by the sense of touch, and it would have been woe, to the owner of another shot sack had he put in an appearance.

A rice-looking sack finally made its appearance and was picked up by the dealer and felt. It had that peculiar weight and feeling of cohesiveness so peculiar to gold and was accepted without comment. The player lost and lost, as in the other case, and finally Mr. Good Player decamped as before. Once more an investigation and the sack was found to contain black sand amalgamated with mercury.

The rounds of the games show the various defiers not so all strangers to the frauds practiced upon them, though one dealer remarked "A man so dumb as to take a sack of shot for gold ought to be beat." The number of times the fraud is successfully perpetrated is not known, since the player wins instead of loses the contents of his sack is never exposed. Indeed, the man with the shot sack has been traced back from house to house and from game to game before he lost heavily enough to come to a show-down.

This species of fraud is not possible where the contents of a sack are poured out into a blower main stores, etc.

As yet no arrests have been made.

Catholic Church Formally Opened.

The church of the Immaculate Conception was formally opened on Sunday morning by divine service, Mass being celebrated by the Rev. Father Judge, S. J. The music for the occasion had been specially purchased, and was all that could be desired, lending much beauty to the impressive ceremonies.

In a short address the reverend Father exhorted his followers to be faithful, and turn their thoughts from the things of earth to things sacred and eternal.

The church building is, probably the most artistic and best finished structure at present in Dawson. The roof is high and supported with pillars; the windows are high and will give plenty of light; the gallery is spacious and the seats are the first attempts made in town at comfortable pews. The altar is neatly finished and painted in unpainted wood on Sunday was decorated with handsome artificial roses. Father Judge is evidently proud of his church, and has reason to be. The generosity of Alex. McDonald in building the church in place of the one burned a year ago is in proportion to his fortune. The furnishing of the church has to be paid for in other ways, and a generous collection was taken up at the conclusion of the service.

Getting Ready for Fire.

We are pleased to notice that some action has been taken by our acting town council to render the recently arrived fire apparatus effective in case of fire. Mr. Davis, chairman of the council, has found a man familiar with chemical engines and other fire fighting machinery and has put him to work assembling the parts and making ready for action if necessary. The apparatus will be turned over to the fire department whenever it will be properly organized. Mr. Charles Bush is the gentleman putting the machinery together.

Notice to Miners.

Those wishing to join the Miners' Association can secure certificates of membership by application to Vernon & Story, merchants, nearly opposite the Mining Exchange building.