

## SPRING WILL SOON BE HERE

Says Old Chief Isaac of the Indian Village at Moosehide.

He Explains Predictions By Observations Based on Nature and Natural Indications.

(From Friday's Daily.)  
It is doubtful if there is a single section on the entire North American continent in which at this season of the year reference is made to "old Indian sayings" regarding the advent of spring and the accompanying seed time.

Even in the Eastern States where the red race has been wholly extinct for nearly a century, the old Indian sayings and legends regarding the severity or mildness of winter and the prospects of an early or late spring are still quoted and more or less credence is still reposed in them. And there is much more solid reason than guess work in the weather conclusions and prognostications of the Indian, for the reason that, having no artificial means of assistance in determining the weather for tomorrow they rely wholly on indications of nature not only for the weather of the near future but for that of months and seasons to come.

Yesterday afternoon the weather reporter of the Daily Nugget, in company with a young Indian who is employed here in the city, and who is well versed and talks quite intelligently in English, and who is fluent in the matter of interpreting his native tongue, sauntered down the river to the Indian village at the mouth of Moosehide, where for upwards of an hour a three cornered conversation was carried on with Chief Isaac, who for more than 80 years has resided in the Yukon valley. For a wonder, the old man was perfectly willing to talk and a present of a piece of tobacco made him really communicative. But he would not commit himself on the subject of spring until that of the closing winter had been disposed of. As nearly as the reporter could get it from the young Indian, the old man's recital was about as follows:

"As early as September it was plain that the approaching winter would be an unusually cold one. All the indications pointed that way. A larger amount of fuz than usual formed on the small branches of trees and on sprouts of all kinds; the little points which will develop into buds as the sun increases in warmth were covered with extra thick fibrous folds. Moose and caribou killed early in the winter all showed a more heavy growth of hair than usual, and the ptarmigan all had more down on their legs than is common in ordinary years. I felt as early as the latter part of August that the river would close early, for the reason that a certain species of fish which are usually caught as late as the middle of September they appeared to leave the river. In this I was right for the river closed fully two weeks earlier than usual; and my other predictions proved correct for the winter has certainly been one of more than ordinary severity, although I have seen others fully as cold and a few much colder."

Having disposed of the winter by what all must admit, a very logical process of reasoning, the old chief proceeded to speak of spring, and it was noticed by the reporter that instead of having outward signs on which to prognosticate spring weather, he uses his reasons and beliefs solely on the preceding winter, which he says, have not materially failed him in the close observation of considerably more than half a century. Regarding the coming spring the old man said:

"With but seven exceptions in a period of 60 years, a winter such as we have had has been followed by an early spring, as the evil spirit appears to have spent all his force and energy in piling up ice and seems to be glad to relax his hold entirely and give way to the spirit of light and heat that comes to contend with him every spring, and which two spirits seem to sometimes have long contentions before the spirit of winter and ice will give up. But this spring is sure to come early unless it is another exception. After many winters just like we have had I have known the ice to go out very early in May, but only three times in my life has it ever gone out in April, and the last time was 31 years ago this spring. I have known it to go out many times before the 10th of May. Last year it was the 17th. This year I expect it to go between the 5th and 12th. There will be plenty of fish in the river very early this spring; there always are after long, cold winters. The foliage of the trees will be unusually heavy this year and much rain will fall, but

there will not be many clouds except when it is raining. The sun will shine strong and the coming summer will be warmer than was the last one."

Having finished, the old man slowly turned his time-scared visage to the eastward and looked long and earnestly towards the distant hills. A few half audible mutterings escaped him, which the young man interpreted as "me to talk of heat and sunshine, when for me, old and crumbling like a dead tree surrounded by evergreens, there will be no heat and sunshine until I find it in the happy hunting grounds to which all the companions of my youth have long since been borne."

As the weather reporter of the Nugget slowly walked back over the ice path to Dawson he wondered if a man with all the learning of a David Starr Jordan or a Dr. Harper stands any higher in the estimation of God Almighty than does this simple child of nature who sees—

"Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

### A la Dawson Poultry.

Forty dejected and homesick gamblers returned to Knoxville the other day, says the Savannah News. On Christmas day, with 100 gamecocks, they left on a steamboat for an isolated resort down the river, where they expected to have a great cocking main and return to the city next morning. The steamer carried no lifeboats. Before the destination was reached the steamer went on a saundbar and stuck fast ten miles from nowhere. The weather was very cold and ice formed about the craft. The sports, determined to make the best they could of the situation, improvised a pit on the deck and held a few fights. As the hours went by and the night grew colder and the ice in the river thicker, there came no hope of getting the boat off or of being rescued. Then someone became hungry, and it was ascertained that the sandwiches had given out. There was nothing to eat on board! For some hours longer the sports put on a brave front, but finally hunger got the best of them and they put their gamecocks—valued at five to one hundred dollars each—to slaughter. For two days and two nights they hung up on the sandbar, eating chicken that fairly tasted of money.

### Two Tall Stories.

A writer in a Boston publication says that not long ago a hawk caught a fish in Long Island sound, but while flying with it to the woods to devour it at leisure, the fish floundered from the hawk's hold and dropped into a farmer's yard, where a big mastiff was sitting. The dog caught the fish as it came down, and the hawk swooped after it, but the dog turned and ran into the house, placing his trophy, yet alive, at the feet of his mistress. It proved to be a large bluefish, and it was served up that night to an appreciative family. The dog ever since has been seen to sit in the same place at the same time, evidently impressed with the belief that his good fortune may be repeated.

A street car struck Giuseppe Marate, a sailor, in Philadelphia Christmas day, knocked him down and dislocated his shoulder. He was put into a wagon and hurried off toward the Pennsylvania hospital. The wagon jumped over a rut in the pavement and the jar reset his shoulder. When he got to the hospital the surgeons found the shoulder all right, bandaged it and sent him back to his vessel.

### Hats Off, Please.

The trustees of an Iowa church recently passed the following resolutions, which if it is hoped will have a salutary effect:

"Resolved, By the official board of the Methodist Episcopal church, that it, being in perfect harmony with movements all over the country and that it is in strict conformity with customs and with laws in some of the states of the union; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the ladies of the church and congregation be encouraged in the removal of their hats during the morning and evening services. That while we admire the artistic creations of the headgear of our wives and sweethearts, we will promise not to lose any of our love or affection for them if they will unanimously grant the request of this petition."

### Hundreds Coming.

From persons who arrived yesterday evening over the ice from Bennett it is learned that even more people than were expected are now en route over the ice and headed this way. One man, with whom a Nugget man conversed last night said it is safe to assert that 300 people will arrive between now and April 1st, and fully 500 will come in before the ice breaks. Those who will arrive within the first two or three weeks are nearly all bringing goods of one description or other, while the last to come will travel light, with no other object in view than that of reaching here as speedily as possible. It is a fact that many people actually

prefer a trip over the ice at an equal expense to one down on a steamer. There is something fascinating about the trip, and to those who have once made it in ordinary weather it has charms which prompt them to make it again.

From now on until the first steamer casts off her lines for down the river the population of Dawson will increase to such an extent that the large number who have already left over the ice for Nome will scarcely be missed.

### Both Men Working.

Dick Case and Pat Malloy are both getting down to hard work in the matter of training for their glove contest of 10 rounds which will take place at the Orpheum on the night of the 29th. This will undoubtedly be the most spirited contest of the entire winter series. Both men are in fine shape even now; and with additional preparation there is no reason why either of them should fail to win; but the fact that both will be in such fine condition will serve to add increased interest in the event.

### Editor De Succa Arrives.

Mr. Chas. E. De Succa, for a long time city editor of the Daily Alaskan, Skagway's leading newspaper, which paper is owned by his father, arrived in Dawson yesterday evening, 17½ days from Skagway. He came in light, hence the good time made. Mr. De Succa expects to remain in Dawson until the opening of navigation when he will proceed on to Nome. He is a versatile writer, an Arctic Brother, an Eagle and an all around good fellow.

### Buck and Wing Contest.

Last evening, at the Orpheum theater, Annie O'Brien won the buck and wing dancing contest for the championship of the Yukon territory, and the side purse of \$1000. The decision of the judges was unanimous, and was received with unqualified approval by the large audience. Frank Kelly, the defeated contestant, at the conclusion of the match delivered a speech in which he bitterly attacked the award of the judges, and imputed to them improper motives. Even had his objections been well taken it would have been exceedingly ill mannered in him to have expressed himself in such discourteous language. But Kelly had been fairly beaten, and his unfounded exceptions to the final decision merely served to render his conduct disgusting and reprehensible.

The contest commenced at 20 minutes to 12 o'clock. The judges were Ed. Dolan for Annie O'Brien, Tom Rooney for Kelly, and Dick Gardner selected by the audience. The time keepers were James Donaldson, Ben Ferguson and Otis Randall. Frank Kelly appeared first. He danced for 6 minutes and 45 seconds, during which time he executed 24 different steps, and repeated four. His time was perfect. Miss Annie O'Brien immediately followed. She danced 8 minutes and 35 seconds, and executed 46 steps, six of which she repeated. Her time was not so good as that of her contestant, but she excelled in execution, inasmuch as she executed more steps than Kelly. The judges arrived at their decision within a few minutes after the contest.

The theater was crowded with spectators, most of whom were attracted by this dancing match. It is reported that Charlie Brown is anxious to dance against Miss O'Brien and that he is willing to bet from \$500 to \$2000 that he can win.

### A Popular Institution.

It is stated by old timers in Dawson that never in the vaudeville history of the city has any playhouse or resort more deservedly popular than is the New Orpheum. It is an institution in the management and conduct of which the people have confidence. The joint stock or co operative company is composed of well known and respected ladies and gentlemen, and the public feels that in patronizing the Orpheum they are patronizing deserving people. The new theater has been an eminent success since its initial curtain raising.

### Sensational Report.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 25.—A report was circulated Monday that, acting under the orders of Gov. Taylor, a fore of state militia was to be sent to the state penitentiary and force the release of Doug Hayes, who is serving a term of five years for manslaughter and who was pardoned by Gov. Taylor last week, but whose release had been refused by the prison authorities. Warden Eph Lillard left here Sunday night for Louisville, but the state board of penitentiary commissioners was notified that such action was to be taken. Commissioner Fennell at once telephoned the prison authorities to lock the prison gates, but to offer no resistance outside of that, even if the militia undertook to batter down the gates and take Hayes away by force.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

## The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)  
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.  
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### CONCERNING TELEGRAMS.

A review of the columns of our esteemed contemporary, the News, reveals the fact that during the short space of its existence it has devoted a great deal of space to the subject of telegrams. At the very outset of its career it assured us all, with a great deal of gravity, that through some special dispensation of Divine Providence, together with the assistance of various and sundry powerful influences, known only to those deeply versed in the black art of political intrigue that it [the News] had the first call on the telegraph line. Such bits of stray information as it did not care to use, the other local papers would be allowed to publish, provided they could get them. The telegraph line was always referred to in the News' columns with some expression bordering upon paternal solicitude as though it [the line] was, after a fashion, an offspring of it [the News]. We were told so often about the extensive telegraphic service the News would have that we began to believe that the telegraph line had become a possibility only by reason of the nurturing care which the News bestowed upon it. It appeared to be a sort of "me and the government" arrangement, with the News in the role of "me." But, alas, for well laid plans. The government undertook to conduct the telegraph line without even so much as asking the News' advice, assistance or consent. This was shock No. 1. It actually had the audacity to sell the use of its line to the Nugget at exactly the same rate charged the News. This was shock No. 2.

But the crowning shock to the somewhat perturbed sensibilities of our amiable contemporary is the fact that the Nugget, by the exercise of unremitting "hustle," is getting its telegraphic news from 10 to 24 hours ahead of the News. On last Monday, for instance, the Nugget published news of the expedition for the relief of Mafeking, the reported quarrel between Rhodes and Col. Kekewich, and several other telegrams of minor importance, all of which appeared in the News of Tuesday. In Tuesday's Nugget appeared the facts in regard to the election of Judge Humes as mayor of Seattle, a mine explosion in Virginia, the authorization of the big British war loan and other important happenings, on the outside, all of which were published with religious accuracy in Wednesday's issue of the News.

We don't wish our contemporary to understand that we are making any complaint at all. We consider that news once published is public property, and is legitimately available for reproduction in other newspapers, although ordinarily it is customary to give credit for the same.

We refer to these circumstances merely to correct any lingering impression which may yet remain in the public mind that the government has given any newspaper an exclusive franchise for the use of the telegraph line.

### THE END COMING.

Apparently the end of the Anglo-Boer war is not far distant. Kruger has forwarded messages to London, asking that terms be given by virtue of which a cessation of hostilities may be brought about, which indicates that the Boers have prolonged the struggle about as long

as their resources will enable them to do. It is stated in the dispatches that an uncompromising reply has been returned by the cabinet, and that if the Boers give up the fight it must be unconditionally.

We are unable to see how any other reply could have been sent. The war has been bitter and bloody, and was undertaken to decide whether Briton or Boer should rule in South Africa. To settle the war without settling absolutely the dominant question at issue would be childish. Thirty thousand lives lost will in all probability be a small estimate of the casualties in the war, and it is impossible to approach any estimate of the monetary cost involved. There must not be, and will not be, any doubt left as to which power is to be master when the war is finally brought to a close.

As noted in these columns several days ago, attempts to corner the local market on staple commodities have thus far signally failed. It often happens that the would-be maker of corners falls short in his estimate of available supplies in the market, and in consequence at the very moment he thinks his hands are on enough to give him control of affairs he discovers that his figures have been altogether too small. There is no excuse for any corners in Dawson at the present time. Supplies of all kinds are here in quantities to supply more than the demand from now until spring, and with the reopening of navigation there will be hundreds of tons of all classes of provisions rushed in immediately. These circumstances, taken in consideration with the fact that large quantities of commodities are daily arriving by sleigh from the outside, preclude the successful realization of any of the ambitious efforts that may be made at corners.

The report which appears in the telegraphic columns concerning the murder at Haines' Mission in October is in line with the traditions of all the Alaskan Indian tribes. To the minds of the Indians it does not make very much difference whether the man who actually killed an Indian is himself in turn killed. The point with the Indian in such a case is that an Indian life has been given up and a white man's life must be given in turn. If more than one Indian is killed, an equal number of lives of white men must be sacrificed in order to meet the aboriginal idea of justice. When the Indians who were executed in Dawson last summer were informed that three of them were to be hanged, they expressed great surprise that so many of them should die when only one white man had been killed. They firmly believed that, inasmuch as they had succeeded in killing but one white man, only one of their own number should in turn be made to die. The white man's idea of justice was entirely incomprehensible to them.

The government telegraph has recently reduced by more than one-half the rate formerly charged for press dispatches. This action on the part of the government enables us to print twice as much telegraphic news as was formerly possible. The government's revenue is not cut down any, and the newspaper reading public is the gainer. Supt. Crean and the other representatives of the government who interested themselves in the matter are entitled to the thanks of the press and public alike.