

# THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

VOL. I. No. 8.

DAWSON, N. W. T., SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1898

PRICE 50 CENTS

## WHO IS CONTROLLING THE WHISKEY?

### A Member of the Northwest Council Disputes the Commissioner.

#### A Test Case Made to Decide Whether Major Walsh or the Lieutenant Governor is in Control at Dawson.

There is a serious conflict of authority in the district and the sooner it is settled the better for the innocent people involved. There never was so great a body of men before in a mining camp so willing and anxious to live up to the law as the population of Dawson, yet if this matter is not decided one way or another we may all find ourselves yet between a cross fire and unwilling violators of regulations we cannot live up to by reason of their being in conflict. As an illustration of the way things may yet go in other directions we give the case of a prominent saloon keeper who was summoned to appear before Justice Stearns this week. The summons recites that the defendant, without permission by the Lieutenant Governor of the Northwest Territory; or by any administrator appointed by the Governor General in council, to execute the office and functions of the Lieutenant Governor, during absence or illness, etc., did on the 7th day of July sell intoxicating liquors, etc., in violation of the Northwest Territory act.

The penalty is a serious one, being a large fine or imprisonment or both, and it is small consolation to a man to know that his is only a test case. Last winter a representative of the Lieutenant Governor of the Northwest Territory, under instructions from his superior, collected a license of two thousand dollars each from the saloon keepers of Dawson. The Lieutenant Governor represents the Council of the Northwest Territory in which we are living. Meanwhile the Dominion government appoints Major Walsh to his present position. The Major contends that his powers transcend those of the council of the Northwest and upon his arrival here proceeds to allow the opening of saloons without a license.

Now comes forward Mr. G. H. V. Bull-yea, a member of the council, and who upon taking office is sworn to look to the execution of the laws of the Territory, and endeavors through the proper channels to enforce the collection of the license prescribed by his immediate superior, the Lieutenant Governor.

The Governor General, the Lieutenant Governor and the Council of the Northwest, the whole being a legislative body legally created by the Dominion parliament appear to be ranged on one side and the Dominion parliament itself, through Major Walsh, on the other. There is no doubt in anyone's mind but that the Dominion parliament could, if it so desired, supersede or annul its own creature—the Northwest Council—but that it has done so is yet to be decided. The council created by the parliament is determined not to yield up its life without a struggle and hence the case above given.

Here is a very curious and interesting state of affairs—two legislative bodies fighting for the control of the government of one country. The present is but a test case, as has been said, but it may come to a pass where it will be wise and necessary to subscribe to the exactions and regulations of both legislatures. Major Walsh has been quite consistent from the first in claiming his powers, as is shown by his repeatedly refusing to honor the signature of the Lieutenant Governor. That gentleman has given out at different times permits to bring whiskey into this country. By Major Walsh's orders the liquor has been stopped in transit. Now comes the time of war. The Northwest Territories act brought into existence the Council of the Northwest and the Lieutenant Governor, at the same time giving them laws

for their guidance. Under section 92 no intoxicants can be bartered, traded or even be in your possession without a permit in writing from the Lieutenant Governor. This is the position taken by Mr. Bull-yea. Major Walsh, through the Crown Prosecuting Attorney, takes the position that in appointing him sole Commissioner of the Yukon the Dominion government superseded the act delegating like powers to others.

The matter is of national importance and will come up again before Justice Stearns on Monday next.

### MR. RANCY WRITES A LETTER.

#### The Ora Makes the Quickest Trip to White Horse Rapids Yet Recorded.

White Horse Rapids, July 4, 1898.  
Dear Louie and Friends:  
Talk about your limited express but this beats it all. We are now at White Horse Rapids in a little less than 6 days from Dawson, as it is now 4:30 p. m. and it was 7:30 p. m. when we left Dawson. Even at this quick time we lost about five hours at one place in getting a barge off a bar for some people besides having to cut our own wood all the way up. With wood cut and no barges to help out we would have made the trip in five days to White Horse Rapids. From White Horse Rapids to the head of Bennett's lake a few hours run so you see we will get out in great time. I will drop you another note from Bennett later on.

We passed the "Godard" at 12 o'clock last night July 3. She was just starting up the 30 Mile river. She had quite a crowd on board since it seems the Dalton trail proved a failure route. We went up 20 Mile river like a top. We were just 8 hours running, so you see it didn't bother us much.

The Five Fingers we also went through a flying but had to put out a line to steady us in account of the jump of which threw the wheel overboard.

All on board are feeling fine, especially due to the keg which Lewin brought along and which we just now emptied.

Please tell all the news to the boys in the Dominion as there were a great many wished to know what success we had.

Tell Joe Cooper that Eddie is feeling fine (since I finished shaving him a little while ago). He will drop a line from Bennett.

With my very kindest regards to Stanley Marshall and all other friends.  
I am, believe me, yours truly,  
RANCY.  
(In much haste.)

### Has License to Kick.

Messrs. B. Welch, Thomas Adley and W. F. Johnson are mad clear through. They built their boat at Bennett and ran the greater part of the many dangers of the passage of the lakes and rivers without the slightest hitch. Rapids, rocks and bars were all passed successfully and the men commenced to breathe freely as they neared the tented flats of Dawson. They found the shore line four deep in boats and decided to cross the river and camp on the flats opposite. In triumph they neared the other shore and pulled in above some scows. Before they could get out a fine, however, the current carried the boat down to the scows, and if ever dumped everything into seven feet of water and then took the boat bodily under the scows. All the light stuff such as clothing was carried away and irretrievably lost. Some of the provisions sank to the bottom and were subsequently fished out and spread on the bank to dry. Adley says: "I wouldn't kick so much at having to buy second hand shoes and clothes if we had been wrecked at White Horse or some of those dangerous places in Thirty-mile where we would have had so many companions in misfortune, but to escape every danger on the trip and then to lose all right within two feet of the end of our journey is a deplorable to make a man swear for ever more."

### Official Registration of Deaths.

Is it any more than right that some official record should be kept of the deaths in Dawson. The coroners here are Messrs. Stearns and Harper and when a suspicious death occurs under their notice they make an official record of the same. The books of Father Judge will be found to contain a register of all deaths in the hospital, but there are occasionally people who neither die by foul means nor in the hospital and some day proof may be very badly wanted of their deaths. There are thousands of men in the district who have their lives insured in favor of their families. In case of death in this far away land the collection of the very much needed insurance might be delayed indefinitely by want of proof. All deaths are not required to be reported to the police as a good many think they ought to be.

### "That Scouring Sheet."

A friend of Mr. Fawcett, the gold commissioner, suggested to the Nugget man that it had treated "poor Tom Fawcett rather badly in that it had not given him a chance to be heard in his own behalf. The knight of the pencil informed the 'friend' that before one word of that famous issue of a week ago was written he had sought an interview with Mr. Fawcett and had been refused. The 'friend' was also informed that the columns of the Nugget were wide open to Mr. Fawcett for self defense; that we considered it a matter of fairness and right a man should be given a chance to be heard in his own behalf. Filled with the budding desire of offering the much abused Mr. Fawcett the use of the Nugget columns the scribe sought the gold commissioner on Thursday evening after office hours. Hardly had a word been spoken when the commissioner flew to pieces like an over-blown toy balloon. In fact

he exploded. The air for a few minutes was blue with fiery ejaculations and incoherent stormings but the scribe caught the statements that the Nugget was a "scouring sheet" and its proprietors "no gentlemen" and that all hands would have an opportunity of long of proving its base charges against himself in the supreme court." It is not to everyone we extend the use of our columns. We simply look at it as a matter of fairness and right that Mr. Thomas Fawcett should be given the benefit of our extensive circulation for complete vindication as had been given to the charges made against his administration. We are still open to him.

### Cattle Scow Wrecked in Thirty-mile.

The treacherous waters of Thirty-mile river have added another to their already lengthy list of victims. A scow belonging to the Thorp boys and loaded with cattle for the Dawson market was wrecked last week on a large rock near the mouth of the river. The accident resulted in the drowning of one man, Shannon Thorp, from Palouse, Washington and the loss of four fine steers out of a total of twenty-one.

The rest of the party escaped and succeeded in saving the balance of the cattle. They were placed on another scow and will arrive in Dawson at an early date. Jim Cohn, who was on the scow brought the news of the wreck to Dawson.

### Lost Their Trail.

Wm. Fox has gone by the Klondike river after another moose. He feels but little discouraged over his loss of last week. He and his brother Fred had succeeded in killing two splendid moose and packing it down to their boat on the Klondike. Everything went smooth until they reached Swiftwater Slough, just above Hunker creek. The rapid current turned them over on the rifle, crushed their boat like egg shells and dumped everything into the river. They lost over a thousand dollars in guns, goods, etc., but have just gone out to try it again. One of the moose they lost was probably the largest killed this season. A fore-quarter dressed two hundred and eighty-six pounds.

### THE DOMINION STAMPEDE.

#### The Nugget's Special Correspondent Returns With His Report.

In Saturday's Special Edition the NUGGET announced that upon the return of its special correspondent who accompanied the stamped to Dominion a full account of that famous rush would appear. We give below the report as complete as received by us up to time of going to press although our "special representative" returned Wednesday a. m.

### His verbal report would make interesting reading but for the sake of his reputation as a newspaper man we refrain from publishing it.

### Steamboat Departures.

The boats leaving the past week were filled with passengers. The Margaret left for St. Michaels with about thirty-six passengers at noon Tuesday. The John J. Healy had on board nearly two hundred when she left in the afternoon. The Ora, taking the up river route, and connecting at White Horse rapids with more boats and also horses over the Dalton trail, was black with people, being loaded to her full capacity of sixty. The Governor Stongman has also gone down the river with all she could carry—about twenty-five.

### Chauncy Dupew's Latest.

Mr. S. A. Grant of Springfield, Mass., brings us the following clipped from the Springfield Republican.

"Dr. Dupew has gone abroad to be present at the new underbit wedding, to swap stories with London clubmen and to tell everybody that we are enjoying a very comfortable war. He leaves behind him a new joke about a Chinaman of Manila, who said as to the difference: 'A Spaniard he talks, talks, a Melicen he does, does.' That Chinaman deserves naturalization for an admiral pun."

### The Samaritan Hospital.

The board of managers of the Samaritan Hospital met Tuesday evening. The departure of Capt. Constantine and Dr. McKewen had caused vacancies and Capt. Stearns and Dr. S. S. Grant were elected. An election of officers resulted in the selection of H. To Rollins as president and Rev. Rowley as secretary and on arrival of supplies from the east the hospital will be open for patients. The building committee invite bids on clearing of ground and digging of drain ditches, information about which can be obtained from John Nelson. The finance committee is out with a paper collecting outstanding subscriptions and receiving new ones.

## THE REGULATIONS ARE RUINOUS

### The Opinion of a Man Who Has Had a World-Wide Experience.

#### Ethelbert G. Woodford, of London, Tells What is Necessary to Make the Klondike a Prosperous Camp—Laws Must Be Revoked.

Ethelbert G. Woodford, late government inspector of mines, Johannesburg, arrived in Dawson on the 12th, directly from London. At the present time he is the representative of large London capitalistic interests, as well as correspondent for *The Empire*, published in the same city. Mr. Woodford has had a very extensive experience in the great mining camps of the world, covering the diggings in Transvaal, Orange Free State, Cape Colony, Madagascar, Peru, Bolivia, Chili, Dutch Guiana, and others.

In an interview accorded to a representative of the NUGGET Mr. Woodford expressed himself very freely as to the effect of the present rush to the Klondike, and also told with much feeling his opinion of the mining laws and regulations now in force in the district.

"There is no doubt," said he, "that the rush to Klondike has been among the greatest known in the history of gold mining. In all my experience I have scarcely seen its equal. It is almost incomprehensible how so large a body of men could come into a country so difficult of access and in such a short space of time. Let me say, also, that the system of policing the district commands my admiration. It is a credit to the police in charge that such perfect order exists in a camp so far removed from civilization. In regard to a municipal form of government, I think when matters are adjusted here and the permanent population of the town becomes settled that local government will be established.

"In regard to the 10 per cent royalty and the 10 claims reservation regulation I consider them outrageous and disgraceful in the extreme. My opinion is that the laws were passed at Ottawa under a misapprehension of the real condition of affairs here. The legislation acted on the assumption that this whole country was underlaid with gold, and fearing that the Americans would rush in and secure the benefit thereof, hurriedly and unadvisedly passed these iniquitous measures. I cannot condemn these laws too strongly and am of the opinion that unless they are revoked, or at least substantially modified, that the country will be ruined.

"From my observation thus far I would say that this is not a poor man's country. In other words, to properly develop it, outside capital must come in. I am satisfied, however, that moneyed men cannot be induced to invest here so long as existing conditions continue. I could not and will not advise my own clients to invest here until things are remedied. Such regulations never work to the good of the government passing them. They merely open the way to official corruption and rascality. They are directly opposed to the laws of prudence common sense and equity and must be repealed if the country is to prosper.

"I am satisfied that redress for all these grievances can be secured by a proper presentation of the real facts to the Ottawa government. Intelligent argument and simple statements of truth are all that is required to bring about the needed changes."

"In regard to the duty charged upon outlots I think it a perfectly just and proper tax. Those who came in had the option of purchasing their outlots in Canadian markets, and if they did not avail themselves of that privilege, it was no more than just that they should pay a reasonable duty."

"In conclusion," said Mr. Woodford, "let me say that in so far as the country itself is concerned, I know of none which presents greater opportunities for legitimate enterprise and investment. If those in authority will but remove the unjust regulations which are now hampering all industry, the camp will prosper and turn out one of the richest in the world."

### Came Near Capsizing.

The dapper little ferry boat, Bellingham, which plies between Dawson and Klondike City, had an experience Wednesday afternoon which convinced her captain and crew that towing on the Yukon is not for them. A large double decked scow had failed to make the turn in the river above Dawson and was tied up to the bank on the opposite side of the river. The ferry boat was engaged to bring her across and a line was made fast. Hardly did they get out into the current when the line tightened and the Bellingham turned on her side. The water rushed through the doors and just for one minute it was an open question whether she went clean over or righted again. The scow was turned loose and the ferry boat turned up straight again but with two feet of water in her. All hands went to baling and then the scow was shoved ashore again and will have to find other means of crossing the river.

### From an Englishman.

DAWSON CITY, July 13th.

Editor NUGGET:  
Dear Sir—Things are rather reversed here. The people whom everyone thinks public servants really turn out to be tyrannical bosses. We all approve of the means that you take to get at them. Yours respectfully,  
ENGLISHMAN.