

The Klondike Nugget

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday

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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.

THE RETIRING GOLD COMMISSIONER.

The report of Thomas Fawcett's successor being on the way to Dawson came at a time when the community was suffering from a great dearth of news and the welcome tidings spread up the gulches even before we had time to put it in cold type and print the papers. It was heard by all with immense satisfaction, and congratulations were poured in upon this paper at the successful termination of its crusade against the incompetent administration of that gentleman and which incompetence has cost so many men so much of their stock of both health and wealth.

It is doubtful if another man in Dawson could leave behind him so few friends as the unfortunate occupant of the office of the gold commissioner. He could never control his subordinates even had he been possessed of a mighty desire to do so. Again, the mental sagacity of the gentleman is of such a peculiar description that he is utterly incapable of appreciating the right of every man in Klondike to the utmost consideration at his hands. From somewhere or other he had obtained a firmly planted idea that the common people—the poor miners—should come to him hat in hand, and with humble mien accept gratefully whatever scraps of justice fell from the gold commissioner's table. The lack of a proper humility in the brave-hearted men of the Klondike was a constant source of irritation to this disguised representative of an effete feudal system, and many an independent miner has been peremptorily ordered from his mighty and sacred presence for daring to presume an equality of manhood with this majestic man of morbid misanthropy. The outgoing gold commissioner has been the faithful and consistent friend of as many rich men as you can count upon the fingers of one hand; let them save him the mortification of a recall if they can.

It may be taken as an axiom as true as gospel that no man can persistently and superciliously ignore the people now-a-days and continue to remain in office for any great length of time. A wise man accepts this fact and acts in accordance. Being in touch with the people the Nugget knows, better probably than most, the deep-rooted and undying antipathy of the people to the retiring gold commissioner. The gold commissioner's powers for good have always been great in this community, yet are atrophied from disuse. It is not everyone could have so completely estranged the regard of a brainy and law-abiding people as has Mr. Fawcett in the few short months he has occupied his present position. In half a lifetime of varied experiences upon land and sea, we have never met a character which will stand out in our remembrance for life for its unique lack of adaptability as the first gold commissioner of the golden Klondike. A three-foot man in a 10-foot suit of clothes; a bull in a china shop; an apothecary on the throne; the sphinx delivering the funeral oration of Mark Anthony over Caesar or Hoyt as King Lear would not be a whit more incongruous than Mr. Thomas Fawcett as gold commissioner.

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE TRAILS.

The building of roads has long been considered the especial province of gov-

ernment by our race. The Romans first taught Britons the art of governmental road-building upon a broad gauge plan, and the writer has often ridden and walked over those still existing monuments to the sagacity of the world conquering Roman legions. The stage-coach era resulted in the construction of some few pieces of private road for the benefit of some competing stage coach line which desired some special advantage. By a natural process of evolution these became afterwards government roads, collecting toll for purposes of repair, and in process of time were turned over to the public as free as all other roads. The British colonies have invariably taken their governmental road building proclivities with them, and under varying conditions, needed roads or trails have been the special care of that government. British Columbia, our nearest colonial neighbor, is famous throughout America for one thing more than any other, and that is for her broad-gauge road-building policy. The Australians here will bear out the NUGGET in its statements that in that colony not only are awards offered to the discoverers of new gold fields, but the government invariably proceeds at once to build roads there, be the expense what it may.

In comparison with other colonies how narrow appears the road-building policy of the Yukon territory. Trails and roads were never more needed in any spot on earth, and the road-building prerogative is turned over to private companies, whose only object is or can be to extort wealth from users. Does a trail need to be built up Bonanza? then whose duty is it to build it? Mr. Henning's or the government's? Is a trail needed over the divide to Sulphur? Then let it be done by the rightful authorities, established as right by precedents in Britain nearly two thousand years ago.

It may be urged that with few exceptions tram-roads and railways are always matters for private enterprise. True; but is not the Bonanza trail, on which toll is being collected, a prostitution of the railroad building idea. A company secures a charter for a tram-road, and without building such a tram-road proceeds to collect toll over its right of way made usable for sleds by snow and ice, not by ties and rails. Is there not a great distinction between charging a reasonable price for the transportation of freight and a heavy toll for using a trail?

Again, the men up the creeks complain that this private trail has been established in such a manner as to prevent the establishing of a public trail where it ran last winter, and which is the only available route up the creek. For most of the distance from Dawson to the Forks the only trail is the public one, yet by blocking Bonanza creek this private company compels every one to "stand and deliver." If this piece of private road had not been built the miners would be peacefully, even if slowly, wending their arduous way to their respective claims.

But leaving out the matter of individual injustice of this single case, the principle of farming out governmental prerogatives or duties will not stand the test of discussion, and on that ground alone the government is asked to build and maintain roads and to let the people retain those they already have.

A POSSIBLE RENEWAL.

The information printed exclusively in our Wednesday's issue concerning the difficulties which have arisen in the Spanish-American peace commission is of a most important nature. It may precipitate another struggle, the results of which certainly would be more far-reaching than was the case in the recent war. Spain is still pursuing her time-honored but exasperating custom of trickery and deceit. She makes the preposterous demand that the immense debt saddled through her own agency upon the Cubans shall be assumed and paid by the United States government. She has also notified the United States that the withdrawal of the remainder of

the Spanish troops from Cuba shall be conditioned upon a prior departure of the American troops from the Philippines.

Spain always has and doubtless as long as there is such a name on the map of Europe will display the same Bourbon spirit. She never forgets anything and never learns anything. Now that hostilities have ceased and the American guns are no longer playing havoc among the Spanish war ships, the old spirit of bombast has returned and Spain has probably convinced herself that the next time the result would be far different.

It will occur to many people, however, to wonder with just what means Spain would carry on the fight should hostilities be reopened. It is hardly to be supposed that Cervera's fleet now lying on the bottom of the harbor of Santiago de Cuba will avail her very much, and her Philippine fleet has not been put to many practical purposes since Dewey paid his respects to it last spring. Besides, if all reports are true, the Spanish army would not enter very enthusiastically into further difficulties with the United States. It will be very surprising if the latter government tolerates any unnecessary delay or trickery on the part of Spain. In fact the American people as a whole are just in a humor to see the war carried across the Atlantic and right up to the walls of the Spanish capital should Spain force a renewal of the fight. Uncle Sam has shown a surprising amount of magnanimity in dealing with his fallen foe, but it may be expected that should Spain give proper occasion, the heavy hand of retribution will fall upon her in a way she will not soon forget.

SALOON LICENSE.

The Yukon council has directed the drawing up of a saloon and hotel license ordinance as detailed in our last issue. It is not always that a taxing ordinance is popular with the class it proposes to tax—indeed, this willingness to be taxed is decidedly novel and strange. A few minutes' thought upon the situation reveals the causes leading to the desire to be taxed and the effects of this ordinance if carried out as it will be. The Canadian whiskey law requires that dealers shall be men of responsibility and property, and that the business shall be conducted openly and in inns adapted to the care and custody of patrons. In Dawson has grown up a class of whiskey dealers who are utterly outside the pale of the law. Over 100 of Dawson's whiskey drinking establishments are behind locked doors and the proprietors are hardly the law-abiding class which the law alone prescribes shall handle the traffic. We refer to the denizens of Second avenue and their ilk. In rented cabins, with no property seizable by the law but some bawdy tapestries and curtains, with a case of cheap goods secured from a friend upon credit, these dandies enter into competition with the men who have expended vast sums of money in securing a site on a public thoroughfare and in building inns as prescribed by law. The Canadian liquor law is exacting and severe and was designed to keep the business out of the hands of the very people who on Second avenue and in other localities are handling it in Dawson.

There is a protection to the public in confining the traffic to our Front street establishments. The ever-swinging doors give a publicity which guarantees fair treatment. Everything within is square and above board and open to inspection at all hours of the day and night. Nothing within but is under the broad glare of gaslight or lamplight. Contrast these conditions with those prevailing upon Second avenue. Bared doors and curtain-concealed windows the moment an unwary patron is secured; darkened rooms and mysterious sideboards for the detection of Mr. Fly; whiskey which no one guarantees and no security for the "sack" of the fusel-oil benumbed miner. Never inspected gold scales, and liquors which may or may not be the product of a combination of drugs to the eternal ruin of the stomachs and lightening of the pockets of the seduced inhabitants of these polar regions. Absolutely no protection for the unwary and

all in defiance of law and detrimental to the interests of the public.

The foregoing presents some of the reasons why a good high license for liquor houses would not be unpopular. Another reason is that some of the oldest of our inns have already paid a \$2,000 license and have received absolutely nothing in return. A licensing ordinance would be unjust unless cognizance was taken of this fact.

The consensus of opinion amongst Dawsonites is that a high license would be both acceptable and wise legislation. Once the ordinance is adopted our police can be depended upon to enforce its exactions. Legislation to suppress the social evil is always futile, but wise governments insist upon regulating it. It has ever been deemed unwise to allow these people to enter into irresponsible competition with lawful and law-abiding citizens. Not only is it unwise but unjust also to require the expenditure of thousands of dollars to legalize the traffic by our better citizens, and then allow a class of people to sell without restraint who hold themselves amenable to no law but the personal fear of the police.

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THE KLONDIKE NUGGET

WORK BEGUN

The New Creek

Mr. J. P. Simons is going on up Theories as to J. P. Simons apector has come recently discovered view Mr. Simons affairs in that prominently before neighboring creek I have examined can say from act stance of twenty a well-defined w Eldorado creek already been su tering results taken out runn of nuggets which found. "Recently a g paid to the ben only occur at i that in many benches have sl creek bottom. that the bench which I notice of No. 6 above. Asked in reg would be on the Simons stated be fully 250 more than 200 getting grub at ig other prelin 34 is already a Mr. Simons are objecting s stakers used to the creek for the writing on hand, indicati staked by the Before the cr et posts at th limits of the Under the law of 250 feet on blocks. In on claims were st aserved bloc ders but was each of whom in addition to titled. It is tion can now survey of the equal to thr queen's reser missioner Og ground open made. No. 3 above this claim an discovery he There are t Dominion cr cated on Sept pper by Mu has a half-int discovery. P similar inter No. 1 above Muller, W. A above is ow Jas. Webster owned by G No. 5 by W. A Mr. Simons the topograp mation of the Dawson and belt extends try on the r fied that the Yukon when will leave fo will return e engineers a tends tracin of what he ancient riv On Wedne nanza tram of one cent over their way. The Bonanza a among the at the cov are placed the sledder and thus a On Satur given at th members of and 2nd o sided as ch sioner Ogil In every re success, du efforts of Messrs. M A choice dowing: M ard, Capt. Mr. Ogilvi