

The Klondike Nugget

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TO PROTECT MINERS.

A bill has been introduced before the Yukon council, the purpose of which is to secure protection for miners working below ground. With the principles involved in the measure, there will be general and hearty sympathy. There has been much carelessness in the past, the effect of which has been noticeable in the various accidents which have occurred from time to time on the different creeks.

In many cases shafts have not been properly walled, and drifts have been left without being timbered sufficiently, and from these causes no few accidents have occurred.

Lack of ventilation has probably been the cause of more disasters than any other one thing. Every few days reports are published in the local papers of men overcome by accumulated gas, with results occasionally fatal.

Abandoned shafts, left with out enclosure of any nature around the mouth have also been a prolific source of disaster.

The ordinance now before the council is expected to overcome as nearly as possible all these dangers, and make the occupation of mining in the Klondike as nearly safe as possible.

The clause in the ordinance which forbids the employment of boys under 12 years of age is specially to be commended. Children should not, under any circumstances, be allowed to work in a mine.

A thorough inspection of the ordinance in all its technical features may disclose portions to which objections may be made, but in its general provisions, the measure is deserving of endorsement.

THE METHOD OF ASSESSMENT.

The system upon which the local assessment rolls have been based for the present year is much more satisfactory than was the "turn over" plan which was followed a year ago. Under the present method, the assessment is levied upon the absolute value of the property involved and without reference to the amount of business transacted.

There is one objection, however, which may be entered, and to which particular attention should be drawn.

It will be noticed that the time at which the assessment is established, is during the period when every business house in Dawson is most heavily stocked.

Owing to the peculiar conditions which prevail in Dawson, it becomes a matter of necessity with business concerns to carry a twelve months' stock. These stocks are usually at their maximum of quantity and value in the early fall when the assessment rolls are made up.

It is quite evident, therefore, that a system of taxation, which is presumed to cover a period of 12 months, should be based upon the average valuation of property during that period and not upon maximum valuation.

A merchant may be carrying a stock of goods valued at \$100,000, at the close of navigation, and four or five months later his goods may have dwindled to a third the original amount. It is manifestly unjust that the amount of his assessment should be based upon the first amount.

It would seem that the only fair plan to pursue under the circumstances is to base the assessment as nearly as possible upon the average value of stocks throughout the year.

There is no danger of a serious freight blockade this fall. Everything is practically cleared out at White Horse and the boats now coming have comparatively small cargoes. Evidently the experience of the past two years has proven profitable.

President Roosevelt has remarked to Mr. Hanna that when the latter gentleman's advice is required in the conduct of the administration, it will be sought. And he also took occasion to mention to a delegation of Southern Democrats who came to assure him that the South would support him, the fact that he is president of all the States and of no section in particular. Evidently Teddy will be heard from. The new president possesses a good many qualities which will endear him to the American people, not the least of which is his striking individuality and firmness of character.

Dawson will soon be face to face with the incorporation question again. An inexpensive set of municipal machinery as is proposed by Commissioner Ross, ought not to prove a burden to the community. A municipal government is purely a business proposition. If Dawson can govern itself as well and as economically as the Yukon council has done for the past two years, and if all tax payers are allowed to participate in the selection of officers, nearly all the objections to incorporation will be overcome.

Somewhere a thousand or more miles from Dawson a tree has fallen down, and presto! we are cut off from the world, and relegated again to the conditions which prevailed in 1898. The telegraph line has given us a taste of the fruit of knowledge of outside doings and we feel as though that same fruit should remain constantly on our bill of fare. If, however, an occasional breakdown occurs, we may learn better to appreciate what a real blessing the wire is when it gives us uninterrupted communication with the outside world.

A good many people are induced to take a somewhat pessimistic view of the future by reason of the heavy travel to the outside which has been in progress during the past few weeks. In the opinion of this paper, nothing could better indicate the richness and prosperity of the camp. Of the several thousand who have left, the great majority have gone with comfortably filled pockets and with the expectation of returning after their vacation is over. Such being the case it does not appear that the Klondike is in such a bad way as some people would have us believe.

Public opinion will support every precaution taken by the Yukon Council for the prevention of fires. Dawson has suffered in past years to an extent that warrants measures of a very strict nature being passed. The carelessness of a single individual may result in loss to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars—and such carelessness can only be overcome by a careful system of inspection and compulsory compliance on the part of every householder or occupant of a building, with the local fire regulations.

A correspondent calls attention to the fact that Dawson will support a well constructed and properly maintained skating rink. In this idea the Nugget concurs. Previous efforts which have been made in Dawson to conduct a skating rink have failed, largely for the reason that proper care has not been given to the comfort of patrons. If some one will come forward and invest sufficient capital in a rink so that skaters and onlookers also may be kept comfortable, the enterprise should prove profitable.

Mr. A. B. Clegg, who has filled the office of manager of the Dominion telegraph line, has received a very deserved promotion. Mr. Clegg goes to White Horse to assume the superintendency of the Astor-Cortright division of the government line, the position heretofore filled by Mr. Crean. Mr. Clegg's advancement is well deserved, and he will carry with him the very best wishes of everyone who has had business with the local telegraph office during Mr. Clegg's management.

The amount of gold which has been shipped from Dawson to the outside during the present season compares very favorably with the records of previous years. It is evident already that there has been no falling off in amount of production, and when official reports are prepared, it will not be surprising if last year's output is exceeded.

THE LADY OF THE WHITEHOUSE.



MRS. THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

WAR STORY OF OLD VIRGINIA.

The Queen-Mother State of the Sunny South.

The Bearing of the Tall Soldier in Blue Overcame the Love of the Maiden Who Cheered the Gray.

it to her lips and blew a sharp little blast. Dapple pricked up his gray ears and came cantering to her side, followed instantly by a colored man servant. "You see," smiled Miss Irene, flashing an abeaming glance on the soldier, "I hold my reserve forces at a moment's warning. Here, James, help this gentleman to the horse and then ride for Dr. Werter to dress his limb." James obeyed without a word and by the time the sun was fairly out of sight the Union soldier, refreshed and made comfortable, lay asleep in the best chamber of the pleasant old southern mansion.

Meanwhile on the long veranda, Irene kept watch, her slight, willowy figure wrapped in a scarlet mantle, her flossy, raven tresses floating in the wind. By and by as the midnight stars came out and glittered overhead, above the dreamy flow of the river, above the murmur and rustle of the forest's leaves, arose the clash and clang, the roar and tramp, of advancing troops. Irene's dark face flushed and her lustrous eyes dilated. She crossed the veranda with a swift step and tapped lightly at the door of her guest's chamber.

"They are coming," she whispered. "They will take you prisoner if you remain. You must go." The soldier started to his feet and made his way out, but he reeled against the doorpost, faint and gasping for breath. "I can't walk!" he cried. "There's no hope of escape!" "Yes, there is," she said cheerfully. "Lean on me. I can help you down, and you shall ride Dapple. He knows the river road and you will overtake your comrades by dawn. Hurry! There is no time to lose!"

The soldier leaned on the brave, helpful young arm and succeeded in reaching the lawn below. "Dapple," the young girl called in her clear, silver notes, "come here!" In a breath Dapple was at her side. The girl stood and looked at the gentle creature and then threw her arms around his neck. "Oh, Dapple, pretty Dapple," she sobbed, "it breaks my heart to part from you! Good-by, Dapple!" In the next breath she stood erect, her eyes flashing through a mist of tears. "Come, sir," she said, "allow me to help you to mount. Dapple, take this gentleman down the river road and at your utmost speed." Dapple uttered a sagacious whinny, but the soldier hesitated. "Why don't you mount, sir?" cried the girl impatiently. "Will you remain here and ruin both yourself and me?" He vaulted into the saddle without a word. "Away, Dapple! Get the wind!" cried Irene, and the little mountain pony shot off like an arrow.

safely beyond reach of the enemy. He had been the captain's inseparable companion in all his wanderings. He was with him now, ambling over the green Tyrol galleys and climbing the Switzer steep.

One September afternoon, when the captain's tour was drawing to a close somewhere in the vicinity of Mont Blanc he fell in with a traveling party from New Orleans. It consisted of Madam Lenoir, her son and two daughters and a young American lady who was her companion and interpreter.

Captain Rutherford found madam a charming woman and while the young persons of the party busied themselves in spreading out a collation under the trees he lay amid the long, rustling grasses listening to madam's pretty feminine chatter and in turn relating incidents and reminiscences of his own war experiences for her edification.

Among other things he told her of Dapple and of his midnight ride among the blue hills of old Virginia.

Madam was intensely interested. "And the gallant little pony carried you safely through?" she cried, with beaming eyes.

"Safely through, madam, with the enemy at my very heels," replied the captain.

"Miss Moreton," cried madam, "will you have the kindness to pass the claret cup? And pray, Captain Rutherford, whatever became of Dapple?"

"The captain raised himself to a sitting posture. "Dapple, Dapple," he called. "Come here!"

From the forest shadows near at hand a small gray mountain pony came ambling forth. Madam Lenoir's companion, advancing with the claret cup in her slim white hand, uttered a sharp little cry and wasted all the luscious liquor on the rustling leaves at her feet.

"Oh, Dapple, Dapple!" she cried. Dapple heard the sweet voice and knew it in an instant. He broke into a joyous neigh and shot like an arrow for the young lady's side. She caught his shaggy head and held it close to her bosom, sobbing like the silly child she was.

"Oh, Dapple, my pretty Dapple, have I found you at last?"

Madam Lenoir, comprehending the denouement, looked on with glistening eyes.

Two weeks later the pleasant party was breaking up. Madam and her party were going back to France.

"And now, Irene," said the captain, "how is it to be? You will not listen to my suit or accept my love? Then you will be forced to part from Dapple again. She is mine by right of possession. I cannot give her up. Come now, give your final decision—are you willing to part from me and Dapple forever?"

Irene looked up with her old, glorying smile.

"I could bear to part from you," she said wickledly, "but never again from Dapple. If you take Dapple, you will have to take her mistress, too, Captain Rutherford."

And the captain made no objection. A month later saw Dapple's mistress his wife.

PEOPLE WE MEET.



HARRY HERSHBERG.

GAME ORDINANCE AMENDED

A New Law Passed Which Embraces Ideas of Commissioner Ross and is Favorable to Hunters—Special Meeting of Yukon Council Held Yesterday.

Another special meeting of the Yukon council was held yesterday, the purpose for which, as explained by Commissioner Ross, being to amend what is termed the game ordinance. It was intended to have brought the matter up at the meeting held the day previous, but for some reason or other it was overlooked, and as the season is at hand when the hunters are preparing to leave for the big game grounds it was considered advisable to make the needed changes at once. Under the old law individuals were allowed to kill only so many elk, moose, caribou, sheep, goats and wapati in a season, permits, however, could be secured by application in person to the commissioner, by which a greater number could be killed than that specified by the ordinance. In explanation the commissioner stated that sections "E" and "F" referred to in the new ordinance, and which it was proposed to do away with, were of no use or value as those whom it affected rarely if ever complied with its provisions. The sections referred to provide that:

"Any person who shall kill any of the above beasts shall be bound to report himself to the first mounted police detachment on his way to Dawson or the creeks, and to declare his name, the number of beasts killed and the place where he killed them."

"Any person purchasing the meat of the above beasts for trading purposes shall keep a register, showing the name of the person or persons from whom it was so purchased, the quantity and kind so purchased, and also the date of the purchase."

The commissioner stated further that he did not believe the power which had been vested in him to issue permits, as provided by the old law, was right and that it was a prerogative that he did not care to enjoy. One man had as good right to shoot game for the market as another and any discrimination was manifestly wrong. He did not approve of wanton destruction of game, far from it, but he thought if the present restrictions were removed there would be more game brought to market, it would sell for a fess price than formerly, with the result that everyone, no matter how poor, could afford a piece of fresh meat occasionally.

Under the old ordinance no person was allowed to kill during the season more than two moose, six caribou, two musk ox, two deer, two mountain goats. As amended the number is increased to six moose, two musk ox and six deer, there being no limit placed on the number of caribou, sheep and goats which may be slain, providing always that they are killed for food. The penalty prescribed for the wanton destruction of any of the animals mentioned in the ordinance is as follows:

"Any person who kills any of the beasts or birds mentioned in the said ordinance, and does not use the meat thereof for food himself, or cause the same to be used for food, or does not offer the same for sale in some market within the Yukon territory, shall be liable to a penalty of not more than \$500, and in default of payment, to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months."

The bill as amended received its first and second reading and with Mr. Senter in the chair the council sitting as a committee of the whole, it was given its final reading and passed. Under the head of motions, Commissioner Wilson gave notice that he would make a motion requesting that action be taken on the petition he had presented the council the day before, asking its endorsement and which had been laid on the table.

Mr. Wilson's motion occasioned a little tilt. Justice Dugas asked for the original petition, to which Mr. Wilson replied that as the indorsement alone was all that was requested of the council the presence of the original was not necessary; it could be procured, however, if the honorable gentleman insisted upon it. At this juncture the commissioner pointed out that he considered it necessary to give formal notice of the motion in order that the fullest discussion might be permitted. Wilson insisted the petition was ready to be forwarded to Ottawa, and that he would like its provisions indorsed without delay, and to that end he moved that rule 8 be suspended and he be allowed to introduce the motion without notice. Seconded by Prudhomme.

George Butler has a new supply of the "Flor de Manoa"—a big cigar.

ARTICLES ARE BINDING

Sailors Travel as Passengers and Sue for Wages.

A long drawn out wage case was on trial before Magistrate Macaulay this morning in which Geo. McAndrews was suing the Dawson-White Horse Navigation Co., through Captain Mattison of the steamer J. P. Light, for money alleged to be due for services rendered aboard that craft. McAndrews, with others, signed in Dawson on August 20th, for a trip to St. Michael and return on the steamer Light, but on reaching that place and finding no freight for that steamer she was laid up and an effort was made to ship the men back to Dawson on the steamer Tyrrell; but as their contract stipulated the Light, McAndrews and others refused to work on the Tyrrell, and as they had not yet been discharged, the suit was brought to collect wages up to date.

After hearing the evidence of both sides the magistrate remarked that from law at hand he would be compelled in compliance therewith to award the plaintiff his claim. However, he noted some citations and reserved final decision until later.

The Nome News still predicts a prosperous future for that camp. In this the Nugget believes there is no mistake. When the wet blanket of litigation has been lifted off from Nome, the sunshine of prosperity should become permanently established. Under conditions such as have prevailed at Nome, no new country could expect to survive.

The Governor is Busy.

Since his return from the outside Governor Ross has been the busiest man in the territory. So many are leaving this fall for the outside and nine out of ten it seems have business with the chief executive. He very graciously accords an interview to all who desire it, and the result is that with time occupied by other official duties every moment of the day is completely taken up and he has not had an opportunity since his return to attend to his correspondence. A mass has accumulated and he laughingly said today that he much feared it would be unable to wade through it all before the close of navigation.