

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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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 the equator and the North Pole.

"THE NEWS" ON RELIGION.

Our contemporary, the News, has discovered a mare's nest which it exploits at great length for the benefit of what it believes to be a childishly credulous people. With all the gravity of a trained ape acting as judge at a dog and monkey show, the News assures its readers that religion has at last been invoked to complete their oppression, and that the Catholics are about to embitter their thralldom by levying a general tax to advance the Catholic religion by teaching it in the schools. With the painstaking veracity of Ananias, and with the lachrymose affection of Clara Morris in East Lynne, the News assures its patrons that this system "prevails throughout Canada," and results yearly in the shedding of buckets of blood, "at which the progressive world has ever wondered."

If it were not vulgar we are very much disposed to cry Rats! to our estimable exponent of Canadian blood-thirstiness. Volumes could be written upon what the News does not know of either our good fellow-citizens of the Catholic denomination or of the Canadian school system—not to speak of its annual pitched battles between Catholics and non-Catholics.

Let us try once and for all to put our contemporary right on this matter. First, there is no such legislation impending in the Yukon council, as it asserts there is. True, a school ordinance was at one time discussed; but since only one school is necessary, and that of the most elementary character, and in Dawson, it was decided that nothing but a few books and teachers were required. The books and teachers are on their way now to Dawson, and that is where the matter rests.

Secondly, Catholic schools are not the "prevailing system throughout Canada." In the province of Quebec the majority of the tax-payers are Catholic, and a proportion of their school tax—contributed [by themselves]—was turned over to the denominational schools. In several other places the same thing has occurred, but the schools in non Catholic Canada are as a whole, as free of all religious teaching as the most agnostic agnostic—including our friend the News—could possibly wish.

In the third place, and most important of all, the insinuated blood thirstiness of the religionists of Canada is a slur upon its best population and a distinct falsehood without a shadow of truth. In trying to trade upon the religious prejudices of Catholic and Protestant the News shows its absolute unfitness to exist in a community made up of the best people of both religions.

It presumes upon the intellects of the Protestants being sufficiently shallow to take the false alarm which it raises, and

expects them to rally around its standard and support its slander upon the Catholic half of the population. On the other hand it is distinctly untruthful when it declares that a Catholic coup de main is imminent in which non-Catholic tax-payers are to be bled for the benefit of an opposing religion. Such perversion of truth, such a slander upon those of our population who have not yet lost all religion, is a searing, blighting libel upon Protestant and Catholic alike. To publish an insinuation that blood must flow freely, or our children must be content to attend Catholic schools is one of the earliest symptoms of paresis, and the News should at once place itself in the hands of someone skilled in the curing of congenital imbecility. It at least should be confined in a padded room, where, in its ravings, it can do itself no harm. Meanwhile, we assure our readers that no Catholic or A. P. A. movement is on hand to disturb the amity with which Catholics and Protestants are today living side by side. The distorted vision of our contemporary is the result—not of events—but of incipient idiocy.

U. S. ELECTION OUTLOOK.

Quakers in England and anti-expansionists in America may decry war as much as they please, but that party which goes in for conquest, aggression, and a spirited foreign policy will ever be close to the hearts of the people. Volumes have been written showing the cruelty of even the most righteous war; hundreds more demonstrate beyond peradventure the hollow mockery of this thing called glory; argumentarians have deduced from history undeniable proof that war never yet righted a wrong, nor strengthened a right which was not of itself already victory, all this and more, yet war still goes on and the world worships a military or naval hero, a Grant or a Dewey, a Wellington or a Nelson, with the same fervor and disinterested heartiness given a Moses or a Joshua many centuries ago. Human nature has not changed much since the earliest history recorded the doings of men. The sum of human knowledge has been constantly increased, and each death dealing invention, from the discovery of powder to the 30-knot torpedo boats of today, has been hailed by humanitarians as the precursor of the discontinuance of war. Until the declaration of the late war America was counted as amongst the most peaceful of great nations, and even within her own boundaries she was sometimes suspected of having degenerated from the lofty, conquering spirit of glorious ancestors. But no sooner was the roll of the war drum heard than petty partisan politics were all forgotten and there stood an united nation as ready to fight as ever were the followers of Hengist and Horsa, the barbarians.

Truly the peace party has much to make it sad when [after 35 years of peaceful proselyting the first clang of sword or bayonet carries every convert clean off his feet, and makes him a shouting enthusiast over the slaughter of "men and brothers," who he has been taught to believe are the weaker and less intelligent races who inhabit desirable countries. The wise politician may or may not be thrilled by the sounds of war, but in the United States he has nevertheless trimmed his sails to the direction of the breeze and we find the Republican party declaring it

self for an expansion, which means war or it means nothing. The pro-trust proclivities of that party are forgotten by an enthusiastic people, while the flag is waved in their faces, and the pending election will be as safely a Republican victory as if the Populists and Democrats had gone out of business. With humanity constituted as it is, it is suicidal for any party to take up a conservative peace and anti-expansion policy as its platform. The Republican candidates must needs be very weak men indeed not to win the coming United States election

PARCELLING OUT THE TERRITORY.

So Indian river is being parcelled out in five and ten-mile lots just at a time when, as per our local columns, it is becoming valuable to the individual miner. At the present rate of granting concessions the Klondike and Indian river districts will be entirely closed to prospectors within six months. Unless a radical change is made in the administration of this country in 180 days, there will be nothing left here to attract any but a population of concessionaries, investors and the contract laborers which will be engaged outside by the grantees and brought in here at wages which will not secure the services of men already on the ground.

Bonanza and Eldorado are now entirely withheld from the pick of the prospector. Forty-eight concessions of from five to twenty miles in extent have now made serious inroads into the other creeks. In 24 weeks' time, unless something brings our government to a sudden halt in its wholesale giving away of the mineral lands of the territory, there had better be put up a sign at the summit or the passes advising all comers that they will not be allowed into the territory, since it has already been parcelled out, and the incoming miners must secure a permit to trespass from the owners.

What a condition is this. Once before the Liberal government of Canada endeavored to cede the territory, and that was to McKenzie and Mann. By a narrow shave the measure was defeated in the upper house and the public congratulated itself that the Yukon territory was still open to the hardy miners of the Northwest. How little the government was understood by the people of the Klondike is shown by them believing the government had taken its defeat philosophically and would not again try to withdraw the country from location by miners. Here is the thing very nearly accomplished, and all within a very few months.

When a prospector now goes to the office to record, the first thing done by the clerks is to look over the list of grants, since the chances are the ground is included in some 20-mile concession. As grant after grant has been made, the recording clerk has found his office more and more of a siacure until today there is little done there but to give renewals, issue miner's licenses to work, file mortgages, record bills of sale and keep the miners off the grass, so to speak. The problem of recording claims fast enough to keep down the crowds of applicants ever thronging the door of the office has been solved by the simple process of withdrawing most of the ground from location. In a short time there will be no Canadian Yukon problem from the same reason. Since the days of the Canadian Pacific steal

there has not been anything to equal this parceling out of the mineral lands of the nation.

We cannot help but wonder if M. Deubreuil spoke the truth in the Dreyfus trial when he stated that "If every officer who is in love with his neighbor's wife were dismissed from the army there would be very few left." No one in all that immense throng disputed the point with Deubreuil, nor was he called down in court for such a sweeping statement. To date he has not been called out by any of the numerous officers of the French army, and the incident was dropped as nothing but slightly amusing. One of two things must be true. Either the officers are pleased with the gentle insinuation as to their susceptibility to the "grande passion," or being guilty, they are like the little boy caught with his hand in the jam pot, and who had nothing to say for himself. The French army officer is a class by himself. As a rule he is very touchy about his honor and dignity, and very careful of the polish on his boots. What are his code of morals when he accepts as a compliment the statement of Deubreuil is hard to say. The world looks on amused, while he occupies his time with intrigue and lovemaking and in looking fierce. The title of "degenerate" has been bestowed upon him by an observing public, but he continues to smile and effervesce, and the imputation of loving every man's wife but his own occasions but a knowing wink and a smile from the ladies.

The business men of Dawson would do well to remember that The Nugget has the only bona fide circulation in the Yukon territory. Each issue penetrates to the most distant point of the farthest creeks. A regular subscription route is permanently established on every creek and each issue of our paper is regularly delivered by regular carriers. Advertisers should not forget that a few copies of a paper thrown into the hotels and stores around town is simply a "blind" for the fleeing of advertisers. The Nugget's circulation has not dropped off one single copy, notwithstanding the slight depopulation of the creek, but instead has each day and each issue increased its subscription, and today occupies the unassailable position of being the only Dawson newspaper of four that even attempts to circulate amongst the miners. The Nugget goes to practically every miner's cabin in the Klondike. We guarantee a circulation equal to that of every other paper in Dawson combined.

Our contemporary, the News, is crowing over its little special like a pullet which had just gotten rid of its first egg. Wait until the Nugget Illustrated Anniversary number appears and see what a Klondike number ought to look like.

There is one Canadian law which the Americans should emulate, and that is the prohibition of concealed firearms, and with the law we should have the Canadian efficiency of enforcement.—Alaskan.

Brotherhood Matters.

Mr. E. J. Fitzpatrick has been deputized to attend to the details of the organization of a Dawson camp of the Arctic Brotherhood.

A. F. GEORGE,
Special Organizer for the Yukon.

You can get stationery in big variety at the Pioneer Drug Store. E. Shoff, chemist.

Reduced rates at the Cafe Royal.

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