

RIVER WATER NOT IMPURE.

Extreme Cold Weather Possesses Purifying Properties.

Little Danger of Sickness Until River Breaks—Health Officer Dr. Good's Sensible Views.

For several months to come there is no alternative to the people of Dawson but to use Yukon river water for all purposes for which aqua is needful. Until three weeks ago the people of Dawson were congratulating themselves and each other on the good winter water service. But, like "My Grandfather's Clock," which was immortalized in song, it "stopped short" and only the river was left to which to turn for water, the supply of which is inexhaustible and free to all alike. In the space of 24 hours everybody in Dawson, saint and sinner, Jew and Gentile, black and white, alien and those to the manor born, were each drawing water from the same fountain—the mighty Yukon.

Then arose considerable anxiety as to whether or not the river water contains the germs of disease, sickness and death. In order that it might be able to furnish its readers with reliable information as to the condition of the water and its properties, the Daily Nugget sought out Health Officer Dr. Good, from whom the following encouraging statement was elicited:

"At present and for some months to come I do not apprehend any danger from the use of river water. It may not be so pure as was that supplied by Col. Word's system, but still I think there is little to be feared, as the result of using water from the river during the winter. One thing we know, that there are at the various hospitals many typhoid fever convalescents all of whom are continuing to improve right along, and yet they are using the river water. If the water contained impurities to any large degree, all these patients would have suffered relapse. As it is, all are improving and there are no new cases.

"When mercury goes down to 50 below zero," continued Dr. Good, "all the earth touched by the running water is solidly frozen, therefore no impurities are imparted from the earth to the water. Besides such very severe weather has the tendency to destroy a large percentage of the germs with which the water may have been formerly impregnated.

"I would advise that water be taken from holes cut in the ice some distance from the shore and out where the current is strong and the water is deep. Water thus obtained may be relied upon as being as good and in many instances much better than that used by the majority of the cities outside, but when the spring thaw sets in is when the danger will begin. The ice is covered with garbage which will eventually find its way into the water and pollute it. The surface of all the land in and near the city is also covered with offal and impurities of all kinds which will of necessity melt in the spring and eventually find its way into the river where the water will naturally become very impure, and consequently dangerous to the health of those who then use it. But until the spring thaw, the Daily Nugget may inform its readers that nothing serious will result from the use of water taken from under the ice some distance out from the banks of the Yukon river."

From Big Salmon.

J. C. Cooke arrived from Livingstone creek on the Big Salmon, last week and has a good word to say for that hitherto much condemned district.

Mr. Cooke left there 18 days ago, coming to Dawson to settle up his business here, after which he will return. In speaking of what was going on he says: "There are seven of us interested in 26, 27, 28 above on Livingstone and

we have combined to work 27 and locate the pay. As yet we have been unsuccessful on account of water, but from the prospects we have found we are all well satisfied.

On Cottoncove there are two claims working, Nos. 13 and 17 above. On the former three men are working who have only got wage dirt so far, but the ground is not well prospected. On 17 several men are working and have rich ground. As high as \$18 on bedrock has been found and the four feet of gravel they are taking out averages so well that it is considered a fortune maker.

Mr. Cooke states that both creeks are staked from end to end, and all are recorded. Parties who staked last fall are expected in from the outside and he says that country will be well developed next year.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Messrs. Green and Epler, prominent mine owners and operators are on Sulphur creek, came down Saturday and passed Sunday in the city.

Following the example of the Board of Trade saloon, the Board of Trade restaurant has closed its doors and retired from business.

A social dance was given in McDonald's hall on Saturday night. A good attendance and most enjoyable evening are reported by all who attended.

Oliver Lawson made a flying trip on a wheel from Dawson to Skagway in 14 days. He thinks the trip may be made in from four to six days before the winter is over.

John Boodleman, of Swartz and Boodleman, 41 Hunker, was in town Saturday buying delicacies for his men. John and Ike believe in good grub, good men, good wages, good results.

George Noble has disposed of his interest in the Pavilion bar and club rooms to Ben R. Everett. The latter has for the past year or more been proprietor of the Eldorado hotel and bar in Klondike City.

John Coyne was quite severely bitten on the right hand by Thos. Chisholm's dog Nigger at the Aurora Saturday about noon. Dr. Good dressed the wound, and no serious complications are feared.

At Dr. Bourke's private hospital within the past few days the following persons were admitted as patients: Mr. Molnu, Mrs. John Yager and Joseph Cutler; discharged, Mrs. J. Stevens and Mrs. Yager.

John Stanley, formerly with the Dawson Machine and Boiler Works, has left that concern and is branching out for himself, having established himself on Third street, next to the Palace Grand in the general blacksmithing business. He is a first-class workman.

Owing to a breakdown of the machinery, due to the carelessness of an employe, work was necessarily suspended the past three or four days on one of Gates & Wilcoxon's claims, 18 below on Sulphur. Required repairs have now been made and the wheels of industry again revolve as of yore.

Chas. S. Sargent of Sargent & Pinska, was who to have started for the outside today, has been somewhat indisposed for the past week and will not be able to begin his journey for some days. He expects, while absent to visit New York, Boston and Montreal in the interests of his firm's business, returning to Dawson over the ice in March.

Joe Burke of the Yukon Mill Company, has put up a small appearing but very active saw mill adjoining the A. C. Company's electric light plant on Fourth street. The little saw is run by the company's engine located inside the building and the saw is operated by a shaft extending out on the street. The capacity of the mill is 70 cords of wood per day.

Bob Griffith, Hall Denhent and Louis Hickman are up the Klondike bringing down an immense amount of moose and caribou meat. They recently purchased from hunters 17,000 pounds of meat about 80 miles up the river. Dog teams will be used to bring it to the neighborhood of Flat creek, where horse teams will bring it to market. This will relieve the demand for fresh meat which is becoming short.

At a regular meeting of the Arctic Brotherhood Friday night the mysterious northern trail was traversed by Messrs. L. R. Fulda, E. W. Brown and O. W. Hobbs. Several applications for membership were favorably acted upon, and the applicants will be initiated at the next meeting. All those who know themselves to have been elected to membership are requested to appear for initiation next Friday night. The Arctic Brotherhood is the only chartered secret order in Dawson.

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THE STROLLER'S COLUMN.

An old timer admitted to the Stroller that the recent cold weather was nearly, but not quite so severe as that of former winters spent by him here. He said mercury was just as low this time, but that it did not appear nearly so cold as he has experienced. Like the lousy boy, the old timer does not like to be outdone. The boy said, "I have just as many lice this year as last, but last year they were bigger and bit lots better."

Speaking of cold weather experienced by old timers, Billie Strong has seen the Yukon frozen solid and kerosene in warm storage warehouses freeze until it bursted the cans. Ben Everett, the mayor of Klondike City, has seen big coals of fire freeze solid and when they thawed the next summer they would be red hot again. Jim Hall has decorated Christmas trees with candles on which the blaze was frozen and he says the effect was perfectly lovely.

But last Friday caused the oldest pioneer to say, "Yes, it's rather chilly," and the Stroller observed that the old timers hugged the barroom stoves as closely as did many of the newcomers who are "broke" and who saw Salvation Army wood for bean soup.

"This habit in Dawson of using gold dust as a medium of exchange," said a business man to the Stroller one day this week, "is all foolishness when there is sufficient currency stored in safes and inside pockets with which to transact the current business. Besides, it is a hardship on the buyer. Take for instance the man who performs labor to the amount of \$100, which is paid to him in gold dust. If he changes his dust for currency, he receives a fraction less than \$94, therefore he is over \$6 short of the money he earned if he keeps his dust and goes out shopping, where does he get off? He invests \$20 with the grocer and it is weighed from his sack; he goes to the butcher and weighs out \$5. His wife needs a new dress and \$25 more is weighed out by the dry goods man. He meets the man who furnished and sawed a cord of wood, they step into a joint where the gentlemanly gold-wearer in the little box close to the faro table accommodates them by weighing out \$25; he reckons he still has \$25 in his sack; he invests \$10 in "stack of whites" and the stack is again piled up to the right of the dealer in a few minutes; he drops into the drug store to pay for some medicine he bought last week when his wife caught cold while hanging out the clothes; he empties his sack into the pan and the druggist weighs out \$5 in payment for a mustard plaster and a box of bromo quinine.

"There," the druggist says as he empties what is left in the scoop back into the bag, "you still have the price of a drink." Let me tell you the man is lucky if, after he has had his sack tapped five or six times and \$90 has been weighed out from it, he has the price of a drink left of his original \$100."

Then the business man who is a grocer, took the poker and stirred a pan of sand which he was drying under the stove and which he confidentially informed the Stroller was to be mixed with his sugar.

Remarkable Traveling.

That the mail is arriving with all speed possible is evident from the time sheet carried by the drivers and which Agent Davis kindly showed the Nugget man. The mail left Bennett City at 1 p. m. Dec. 28th, and a complete record of its movements are kept until it reaches Dawson, where it arrived Jan. 6th, at 5:30 p. m. An entry states the time it left Whitehorse, and when it arrived at the next post on upper Le barge, the time, four hours, being remarkable speed.

James Gibbons Leaves.

Jas. Gibbons, D. L. S., came into this country in the spring of 1897 with Mr. Fawcett, and has since been engaged in making important surveys for the government. Among these are the surveys of Dawson, West Dawson, Klondike City and Grand Forks townships. He was the surveyor of parts of Bonanza, Hunker, Last Chance and Dominion creeks. He has rendered valuable service to both the government and the miners. He was employed on the Alaska boundary survey in 1893-4-5. He left yesterday morning for Ottawa and he hopes to be able to return in a few months.

Wrapping paper for sale cheap at office of Nugget Express.

Nugget Express

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