

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday

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NOTICE.

When a newspaper offers its advertising space at a special 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 Nugget has a regular carrier and express service covering Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail or express may be left at the Nugget Express office or given to creek agents.

INCORPORATION "NIT"

The incorporation of the town of Dawson seems to have died "aborning." Six months ago it was believed by some very good lawyers here that it would take only about 10 days to perfect the incorporation. At that time the desire for incorporation was very nearly unanimous among our citizens and what little opposition there was, was weak voiced and feeble. Large meetings were held by citizens and no less than two charters were submitted to popular approval and one of them afterwards presented to the Yukon council as the wish of the people. On various excuses the charter was kept hidden for months while the council gradually got in its fine work on the taxing power. Through an indiscretion on the part of the ex-crown prosecutor it became known that the charter asked for by the citizens was to be so mutilated in its important provisions as to be scarcely recognizable. Gradually a very strong opposition, to such fragmentary crumbs of self-government as was offered began to grow to formidable proportions and a storm was known to be awaiting the production of the charter after its maltreatment at the hands of the council. More excuses and more delays and the matter is still in statu quo.

The true inwardness of the whole proceedings is plainly apparent to all. The American population of the Klondike is not to be trusted with such self-government as they are used to at home nor such as is given to Canadian cities inhabited by Canadians, while at the same time it is feared to offer them the abortion of self-government which the council has prepared for us. Afraid to give self-government, and equally afraid to offer any less describes the situation clearly. It is an indication of extreme weakness for a government to be in such a predicament. The illustrative two horns of a dilemma fits the case nicely. A middle course is weakly decided to be the part of wisdom so our sages of the council do nothing at all. It is always safer, gentlemen, to do nothing at all. A policy of masterly inactivity is yours, gentlemen, and you are to be congratulated upon the readiness with which you assume the parts laid out for you.

THE BOUNDARY, AGAIN.

The Nugget is in receipt of a thoughtful communication from Surveyor Barwell anent the creek claim boundary question. Our correspondent points out that while the '97 regulations give the creek boundary as "from base to base of hill or bench," seriously enough, nowhere in the regulations is a bench claim defined. By common usage a bench claim has come to mean an old creek channel at a distinctly higher level than the present one. Mr. Barwell takes the ground that the present confusion over boundaries arises from this "base to base" definition, and that only a bed-rock boundary will ever meet the difficulty. He thinks that bed-rock at a distinctly higher level will solve the difficulty readily and that no creek man should be able to lodge a complaint un-

til he has sunk to bed-rock himself, when it would be a comparatively easy matter to determine whether the alleged bench was really a bench or was on the creek claim level.

Mr. Barwell does not accept the suggestion which has been made which would make all claims 250 feet square or 500 feet square, surface boundary, hill or creek. He points out that endless confusion would then result as to water rights, a matter which at present is causing but little complaint.

It may be suggested to our correspondent that under certain conditions a surface boundary between four stakes can be eminently fair and proper. In the first place if A and B arrive upon a given creek at or near the same moment and A stakes out 500 feet square without prospecting to find out where the pay streak is, and B stakes alongside and gets the streak without any more prospecting than A, it is no more than is happening every day on the benches and has not been considered a cause for complaint. The amendments asked for by the miners in a memorial addressed to Ottawa some three months ago provides for an unlimited time for prospecting if it is done continuously, during which time the stakes can be moved as often as desired, only stipulating that the similar rights of others must be respected. At present, as is well known, the boundary disputes are between men who located over a year apart, which with a surface boundary regulation would have given the creek man ample time to have decided which side of the valley he wanted. In wide creeks, such as Dominion, the 1000 foot limit to a creek claim does not allow of the claim taking in to the base of the hill on both sides, and on superficial thought it would seem as though there should be some time at which the owner should have to elect upon which side of the valley he wanted his claim or whether he wanted it in the middle. To hold it open indefinitely until bench men have acquired almost vested rights and then to move the bench man off the moment he strikes pay is a distinct hardship. The fact of the matter is that the present regulations are indefinite and unworkable and should be changed at once.

THE NEW PROCESS.

Steam thawing is a success. Notwithstanding the lugubrious prognostications of the thousands who viewed those "chee chiao" devices as the dreamings of an addled brain, they have come to stay and those who haven't got them are wishing they had. Each successive season up the creeks the fuel problem becomes a more and more important one and the extravagance of burning the ground with an open fire which allows the escape of over 90 per cent of the heat of combustion is becoming each day a more apparent evil. The frozen muck which almost defied fire yields readily to the steam points of the new process and admits of their insertion by the mere pressure of the hand. In the water filled gravel beds of the creeks there is little or no trouble in inserting the points to a depth of four feet. For a few hours the drills are allowed to feed live steam into the bank and then the points are withdrawn and the holes plugged up. On some of the creeks the heat is then allowed to spread for from 12 to 24 hours, and strangely enough seldom penetrates back to the face of the drift. This shell of frosted earth, oftentimes not more than a half inch in thickness, is brought down in the morning by a single blow of the pick, and the heat is found to have softened the earth an equal distance in each direction.

The steam points and drills yet in use are quite primitive and often unsatisfactory, with an immense amount of room for improvement, yet the economy in the use of fuel runs often as high as one cord where 10 has been used before. A cursory examination of the half protected lines of steam pipe through icy drifts is sufficient to convince one that our miners have a great deal to learn about steam and the readiness with which it parts with its heat. Nevertheless the winter of 1912-1913 has brought in the steam thawing machines to stay and

it is more than probable that the future will show but two kinds of mining practiced to any extent upon the Klondike, steam thawing and hydraulicing.

THE STRANDED BOATS.

All sorts of stories have been coming up the river lately regarding the sure destruction of certain steamers when the ice shall break up in the spring. One traveler reported 24 boats on bars or frozen in the main river where the first rush of ice would break them into match-sticks. Others have reported the loss of certain boats as "inevitable" while others have been positive that "nothing but a miracle can save them."

Old timers are not nearly so positive of the loss of the steamers as the newcomers, for there is a peculiarity of the river—especially at the lower end—which has not been taken into account. Several of the frozen-in boats last winter reported on their arrival in Dawson that owing to the great difference in latitude of the upper and lower river there is a rush of water from the head waters to the points lower down which causes a flooding of the ice to the depth of several feet long before the ice itself breaks up and rises to the surface. Several boats drawing as much as three feet of water made their way up the stream through this "flush water" for a hundred miles and had ample time to seek a convenient slough after the ice gave warning. The ordinary precaution was taken of chopping the boat free of the ice and the bank before the freshet or they would have been held down in an icy grasp beneath the flowing water. To what extent these stranded steamers will be able to avail themselves of this peculiarity of the river is of course mere conjecture. The flood will come in a few weeks more and the calmness with which the captains and crews of these 24 boats are awaiting the crucial moment when the rushing waters from above shall first cover the ice, and then tearing it up in half acre floes will proceed to mow down banks and forests, crushing everything it meets on its way to the sea, speaks well for their nerves if not for their judgment.

JOURNALISTIC DISCOURTESY.

On February 4 the Victoria Colonist and the Victoria Times published a story of suffering and distress to a man on the Yukon stricken with scurvy and lying for weeks alone in his cabin without food and without water excepting such as he could reach from his sleeping bag. The story was true for it was taken bodily from the Nugget and we had taken pains to verify it, but the Colonist, forgetful of the commonest journalistic courtesy, published it as news gathered from returning Dawsonites by their own enterprising reporters and while repeating the Nugget word for word neglected to give due credit. When a newspaper leaves its publishing house the news it contains is certainly public, but its phraseology and stories are no more properly subject to piracy than the press or the type on which the paper was printed. The Times had the decency in this case to credit the story where it properly belonged, yet this paper is also not altogether blameless for on October 6 was printed bodily "A Joke on Dawson," stolen word for word from the Nugget and printed as the production of their own ten-dollar-a-week funny man. Not only was due credit refused but in the body of the article where its authorship would have been betrayed, the enterprising penny-a-liner had carefully omitted all mention with a view, evidently, of himself reaping whatever credit belonged to the story.

SOME FICTIONS.

The rejuvenation of the mail service is something long to be remembered in this land of disappointments. Among other things brought in by the mail carriers are columns and columns of clippings from every corner of America showing that while for months no letters got through from the outside, a multitude of letters reached salt water from here. And such letters too. One writes to the Los Angeles Record: "Whiskey is now sold for 15 cents a glass, and two weeks ago Sunday the streets were full

of drunken men, etc." Another fanciful person writes "The fire destroyed about 150 small houses and fully 1200 people are houseless." Another writes "The largest nugget yet discovered on the Klondike was brought to town today and weighed nearly \$1500." The next one goes one better and says: "A mountain of solid ore running \$140 to the ton was uncovered the past week near the Bonanza trail."

The foregoing are but a few of the many samples, or variations of truth which have been sent out from Dawson as facts. To the balanced mind it is an amusing psychological study as to why and how a sane person will sit down and pen such out and out fictions when the truth is so much more easily told and will not react upon the teller as these fictions invariably do.

The Cuban debt of 600,000,000 is in a bad way for ever getting paid. The Cubans themselves had no voice in assuming the debt when it was first imposed upon them. The debt was mostly incurred by Spain in the prosecution of the late 10 year war with those unfortunate islanders. At the conclusion of the war the Spaniards bonded the indebtedness which it had created and gave Cuba as security for the same. Never for one moment did the Cubans themselves agree to assume the debt and Spain herself being so nearly bankrupt, the bonds passed from hand to hand at a very low valuation, each holder being thoroughly conversant with the instability of the security, each holder knowing full well that at any moment Cuba might wrest freedom from the grasp of Spain and the securities become worthless paper. The expected has happened and Cuba is free, while the bonds are of course to be repudiated by Cuba. Spain washes her hands of them while the United States refuses to guarantee them. Oddly enough the bonds are largely held in Spain which of all countries on the earth was seemingly the only one which really believed in her own power to hold her possessions as long as she wished.

As will be seen in our local columns the Yukon council has taken steps to protect itself from the approachments and blandishments of water franchise seekers by compelling the absence of any interested member of the council during the discussion of the matter and by disallowing their vote upon the subject in hand. The movement is all very well in its way, but the trouble is it does not go far enough. By a sweeping rule it should be made a misdemeanor for a member of the council to be interested in putting through any franchise whether it is for water or for whiskey. By a curious coincidence each member of the council, excepting Colonel Steele, is a lawyer. Naturally enough anybody desiring a valuable concession from the government will engage one of the legal firms which has as a partner one of the members of the council. It is only natural to suppose that the men looking for franchises have the ordinary horse sense which would suggest the retaining of one of the legal firms represented upon the council.

LETTERS PACKAGES FREIGHT

Delivered on the Creeks.

Our Teams leave daily for Eldorado and Bonanza Every Wednesday and Saturday for Hunker, Dominion and Sulphur.

THE NUGGET EXPRESS

E. C. ALLEN, Manager.

MAIN OFFICE—In the "Phoenix"
BRANCH OFFICE—Forks of Eldorado and Bonanza.

Orders may be given any agent or driver of team.

BACK AGAIN

A Bunch of In Trail

Joseph Ladue Still Very Dead—At Skagway Don

Mr. W. H. B. Ladue townsie co Saturday after a two coast. About two actual traveling, the put in in resting a thanksgiving day a return trip by Arth T. Co., who left ag day.

Mr. Lyons has been business and saw at his house in Pl very ill with the took him out so su his physicians thin recovery and he al of retaining, a J Ladue is much opp Mr. Lyons met M Mud Lake on the well and making the coast on the B are reported to ou excepting that r up "Little Willie's some nursing w member will be pre Ames & Wilkins and would be able days.

Mr. Gage was w Seattle, for Mr. A for the interior rig Nothing authori time of leaving the ure of Alex. McDon pany.

An epidemic of la States by storm and deaths from it we alone.

Mr. E. F. Botsfo Lyons right in. Joseph Biddle wa on the outside. A had more or less the trip. Biddle w some 27 times. T taken by a Chinook rain and for two knee deep.

Frank, the attem the mail carrier, cheerful and enie sort of a defense w winner.

The recent arriv the death of the Kl Klondike being use epithet. The rec severe setback in t law, the steamboat with people before scarcely carrying a from recent develop repeated as it is sev of British Columbia Skagway is very newspaper reports to be made by the now in session. Sk that she is to be in merces of the Can tude for misgovern violent demonstra should be done.

The United States late rates of excha stocks and railroa the forest and 79-19 de phenomenal year excess of exports each week and va re to decorate and their appreciation An era of prosperi bids fair to continu

"The Last Dr. McWm. Bourk utor to stay for an royal commission, therewith on Satur matic.

Addressing Comm said he had been n that ex gold comm parted for the out prised the commis take with him certai to the investigation investigated and th it were true. Mr. O not know that it v sisted the doctor, " valuable papers?" ing the layovers, b ing," replied Mr. O Thereupon the d able indignation: " said, in effect, "that case longer, while b and I feel the nec you sorry you can ligat I do. I have l leaving that Mr. Fa out of the country p hearing of the chag permission I will w Therat, he bandic from the place. Th