The Klondike Nugget

TELEPHONE NO. 12.

[Dawson's Pioneer Paper]

Issued Daily and Semi-Weekly.

GEORGE M. ALLEN. ..... Publisher

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LETTERS

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KLONDIKE NUGGET.

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1903.

GLOOM DISPELLED.

The strongest argument that has been brought forward in many long months to prove the firm and lasting foundations upon which the Yukon Territory is being developed into a great commonwealth was contained in yesterday's issue of this paper.

In the short space of two days gold dust to the value of nearly one million dollars was brought in for sale and deposit with the local banks.

The silent eloquence of that brief statement should do more toward dissipating the feeling of uneasiness that has been manifest in business circles of late than all the newspaper articles and platform deliveries of a year.

The language of cold, hard facts is a language that cannot be misunderstood or misinterpreted. Not even during the halcyon days of 1898-'99, when single claims on Eldorado were producing their hundreds of thousands, was the record of Wednesday exceeded. Gold is coming from every portion of the district and the universal testimony is that the yield for the season will go beyond all conservative estimates.

Moreover, the important point should be observed that the precious metal is not confined to a few hands but is widely distributed, the amount noted above representing the aggregate deposits of hundreds of men.

And this, it should be noted, is only the beginning. The prevailing cold weather has greatly hindered sluicing in many quarters, and it will be several weeks yet before the winter's dumps are all washed up.

Meanwhile, summer operations and preparations therefore are in active progress throughout the gold bearing district, giving assurance of a tremendous added yield during the months to come.

It is absolutely safe to say, in the light of knowledge already within the possession of the community, that a larger number of individual miners will realize a profit from their operations during the present season than ever before. More care has been exercised, better and more economical methods have been introduced and results have naturally been far more satisfactory than otherwise would have been the case.

The era of experimentation has largely gone by. Mining is now followed as any other business. Huge losses from expensive and useless machinery are infrequent and investments now made in that direction are determined upon with an intelligent conception of results likely to ensue.

Dawson as well as the other portions of the district have passed through a period of depression, consequent upon causes of a purely artificial character. Experience has been bought and paid for at an extremely high price—but with the advantage of that experience the territory should now have before it a period of permanent and substantial prosperity.

There are still those in the country whose political hopes and aspirations are founded upon the misfortunes, real or imaginary, of the people, but in the face of the tremendous activity throughout the district political misanthropes have small scope for their operations.

The gloom of the past winter has been dispelled and the district is going forward at a satisfactory pace—all prophets of evil to the contrary notwithstanding.

We are in receipt of the annual report sent to us by the Lake St. John Colonization Society, which is exceedingly well gotten up. The cover is in five different colors and is most artistic, representing a girl at the spinning wheel. The interior is profusely illustrated with agricultural scenes of that great fertile region of Lake St. John, which render this report one of the most interesting of its kind. The text is full of valuable information particularly interesting to those who keep in touch with the movement which is making Canada greater and more prosperous every day. Altogether this report is a great credit to that powerful and popular society which works so energetically for the prosperity of the Dominion.

The concession question should be sifted to the bottom during the presence of the investigating commission in Dawson. If one supreme effort is made, we believe that the government will be won over to the wishes of the people. All the facts bearing upon the situation should be elicited and if this is done there can be only one result. The concession must go.

It is satisfactory to note that U. S. Consul Saylor has secured a remedy for the annoying delays in the transmission of United States mails. The situation has been very exasperating during the winter—not due it should be noted in any way to the mail contractors. The latter have performed their duties in a most acceptable manner.

A steamer has sailed for the new Tanana diggings but no announcement has come from the Sun of a staff of special correspondents sent to report conditions.

Berlin has been pronounced a wickeder city than Paris by an assembly of divines. There is no escape from such expert evidence. Paris must furl her colors.

The News has become such a pronounced calamity howler that it could not distinguish an evidence of prosperity with a microscope.

Baseball without "rooters" would be worse than Hamlet with the melancholy Dane omitted.

Agriculture is now entitled to be reckoned one of the great industries of the Yukon.

She was a teacher of vocal music. Her mind was occupied, to the utter exclusion of the external world, with profound thoughts on the subject of nasal tone.

En route to the post office she had, in lieu of her fare, proffered the street car conductor her hand to shake. To the clerk at the post office she said:

"How much are stamps?"

"One cent or two cent?" inquired the clerk, laconically.

"Two cent. How much are they?"

Opera "Erminie" at the Auditorium for four nights, commencing Monday, May 25th (Victoria day). Prices of admission: General admission, 75c; orchestra stalls, $1, $1.50 and $2.00; balcony, $1.50 and $2.50; boxes, 4 seats, $10.00, 6 seats $12.00 and $18.00, 8 seats $20.00 and $24.00, 10 seats $30.00.

Tickets at Cribbs', First avenue.

Horticulturist (on his travels)—Are you having any trouble in this part of the country with the San Jose scale?

Stage Driver—I can't say for certain, but I think I heard some of the boys say the bosses had refused to signit.—Chicago Tribune.

CITY'S CASE DISMISSED

No Evidence to Convict William Vogel

Team Was Employed at Wood Hauling But No Stipulation Made as to Pay.

William Vogel was dismissed by Mr. Justice Macaulay in police court this morning, the charge that he, without a city license, keeps a team for hire, not being proven. The charge was preferred by City Clerk and License Inspector E. Ward Smith and the prosecution was conducted by City Attorney Donaghy.

Smith was the first witness and testified that Vogel has no license for draying.

J. E. Wilson, a freighter, testified that Vogel keeps a team that was yesterday engaged in hauling wood from the waterfront.

James McKinnon, not James of renown as a campaign orator, testified that he is a teamster in the employ of H. A. Stewart and that he drove Vogel's team yesterday.

H. A. Stewart said he used Vogel's team yesterday in hauling wood for McPherson but that no arrangement had been made about paying for the use of the team.

Jas. Dollar had seen Vogel's team hauling wood yesterday but knew nothing of the terms on which it was engaged.

Wm. Gray knew even less than the preceding witness.

Attorney Donaghy submitted that he had not proven his case and stated that he could not, therefore, ask a conviction.

In dismissing the charge his lordship suggested to Vogel that if he intends to do hauling in Dawson it would be well for him to take out a license.

Daring Swimmers

It is hard to believe that human beings can become expert enough at swimming and diving to be able to catch fish in their watery home, yet it is so.

The native Hawaiians are the ones who do it, and it is a common sight in the districts that are not densely populated to see men, women and children engaged in thus catching fish, shrimp and crabs.

Sometimes they crouch in shallow water and feel around the coral and lava bottom for the creatures. So skillful have they become by practice that even the swiftest fish rarely escape. They can seize a crab and jerk him out of his rocky lair before he can use his claws.

The Hawaiians are assisted in this mode of fishing by the fact that many species of Pacific Ocean fish hide themselves in clefts in the rocks and lie there when danger threatens.

This habit is utilized by the men and boys to catch those fish which live in deep water. They tie a bag around their waists and dive straight down to the bottom. There they hold fast to a rock with one hand, to keep themselves on bottom, and with the other they feel and grope in the crevices or under the overhanging rock ledges till they get their hands around a fish. Then they put him into the bag and grope for another one until they have to ascend for air.

A daring kind of fishing is that for the octopus. The Hawaiian dives to the bottom and pokes a stick into crevices and holes in which the octopus loves to hide. When the stick touches one of the ugly things it invariably takes hold so tightly with its tentacles that it can be dragged forth. The moment the fisherman has thus hauled it out, he lets himself ascend. He goes up so fast that he reaches the surface before the angry and stubborn devil-fish has made up its mind to let go its hold on the stick. When he reaches the surface the Hawaiian grabs the octopus and instantly bites deep into its head, thus killing the brute at once.

Another rather daring form of fishing is that for the ula, a species of lobster. When the fisherman is ready to go down for this creature he wraps his right hand in a long piece of cloth. Then he dives and feels around with his bandaged hand until he finds the ula. Frequently he will work so fast that he will bring up two or three ulas from one dive.

Now and then the fisherman finds a puhi in a hole instead of an ula. Then the bandage does not save him from being badly bitten, for the puhi is a great sea eel of immense strength and with jaws set with immensely sharp teeth.

SERIOUS DAMAGE

High Water Threatens the North Bank of Klondike

The present high water in the Klondike it is feared will play havoc with the cribbing placed along the north bank last winter by the city council at a cost of $4000. At the time the work was performed the water was at its lowest stage and it was thought by the committee of public works having charge of the matter that a sufficient depth had been gone for a foundation so that it would hold beyond all peradventure of a doubt, but it seems that the force of the water and the constant pounding and gouging of the ice for the few days it ran after the breakup of the river was so great that the wall must have been undermined in places as it can easily be seen to have settled in spots, the surface being at present very uneven. Should the riprapping be washed away during the high water the amount of damage that might be done by the river is enormous, as with no protecting wall the force of the current striking fairly against the sandy banks would eat them away in no time. In the past few years the inroads made into the flat during the spring freshet have been considerable and it was to prevent a repetition that the council took up the matter and caused the retaining wall to be built that is now threatened.

Butter Maidens

The ancient town of Zerbst in Europe is preparing to erect a new column on which to set one of its two "Butter Maidens." The butter maidens are two figures that are among the most remarkable and interesting of the city curiosities of Europe. One of the figures is 440 years old and the other is 650 years old.

From time immemorial the figures have been the municipal landmarks. No one really knows what they represented originally. But an extremely old legend explains them this way:

Many generations ago no one could buy butter inside the town of Zerbst because the city tax was so high that the peasants refused to enter the gates. Consequently the women of the town had to walk many miles to a place outside of the city called the Butter Dam, where the peasants had established a butter market.

At last a noble countess took pity on the women of Zerbst. She appealed to the authorities of the town, but they declined to lower the tax.

Finally, finding that all appeals were in vain, the countess offered to pay the city authorities a golden dollar for every foot of distance by which the butter market was moved near to the city.

Her fortune lasted just sufficiently to pay at this rate for moving the butter market to the spot in front of the town hall, where the "Butter Maidens" stand now.

According to this story the "Butter Maidens" were placed there as a memorial of the worthy deed. One of the figures is shown with a big round pat of butter in her hand. The other holds a great bag of money.

An ancient tradition provides that whenever the wooden column on which the figure stands is to be replaced by a new one, the one figure is not to be removed until the other one is put up, so that the town shall never be without a "Butter Maiden."

A handsome carriage drawn by two fine horses drew up at the Arlington hotel the other day and a fine-looking man with a closely cropped white beard alighted. The coachman, as straight as a ramrod, sat in the driver's place. On the side of his hat he wore a red, white and blue cockade.

"That is the White House carriage, is it not?" asked a patron of the hotel.

"No, sir," replied Brown, the head hall man. "That is the carriage of the Mexican ambassador."

"Then the Mexican ambassador has copied the White House cockade," insisted the questioner, "for I saw a red, white and blue cockade on the hat of the White House coachman only yesterday."

"No, sir, you are mistaken again," replied Brown respectfully. "It is the White House that has copied the cockade of the Mexican ambassador."—Washington Cor. N. Y. Herald.

Job Printing at Nugget office.

A Water Duel

Near the border which divides Siberia from Russia lived Court Arkadyevich, a country gentleman. His daughter, Marya Alexandrovna, an attractive girl of eighteen, was sought in marriage by many of the sons of the neighboring landed proprieters, but seemed to prefer Ivan Mikahailof, a lusty but lazy young fellow who had never been known to take an interest in but one thing—the town fire department, which he had organized and drilled, becoming very expert himself in the drenching of burning buildings.

A battalion of troops came to the town commanded by Major Nikolai Levin, a middle aged man whose private fortune was large. From childhood he had been accustomed to having his own way. He had studied and practiced the use of every weapon, and when any man stood in his way he would insult him, challenge him and, if necessary, kill him. All kinds of weapons had been tried against Levin, from a Turkish scimiter to a mountain howitzer, and he had handled every one with perfect skill. He had no sooner set eyes on Marya than he fell violently in love with her. Marya, though she accepted his attentions, could not be completely won over from her athletic suitor, Ivan. Levin at last concluded that with Ivan in the way he could never win the girl, so he made up his mind to kill him. He soon found a pretext for considering himself insulted by the young man and sent him a challenge.

Marya heard of the intended assassination and was much troubled. In her extremity she sent for a former schoolmate, Kostia Sanin, in whose ingenuity she placed great confidence, and asked him to help her.

"Well, I will offer him my services, and if he accepts them I will see what I can do for him," said Sanin.

A few hours later Major Levin received a visit from Sanin. "I am to arrange this affair between you and my friend Mikahailof," he said, "and, since he is the challenged party, choose for him the weapons, the time and the place of meeting."

"That is your right. It is immaterial to me with what weapon I fight, and I beg you will choose that with which the young man is most skillful."

"You show a magnanimous spirit, major, and I shall meet your wishes. The only weapon with which Ivan Mikahailof has any skill whatever is the nozzle of a hose. I therefore choose this weapon."

"If you think you can turn the affair into a jest, you are mistaken."

"I propose no jest. The terms are that you and your adversary are to go into an unheated room, wearing no clothing whatever, each furnished with a hose, and play upon each other till you are satisfied."

"What an absurdity!"

"Nothing of the kind. You know that the temperature here at this season is never above zero and the water is icy cold. Neither of you will be able to endure the torture more than half an hour without dying a terrible death, and in any event there is great probability of pneumonia setting in after the combat."

Sanin then named the time and place and took his departure.

The major submitted the case to the officers of his battalion, who, after long deliberation, decided that he must accept the terms. At the appointed time he and his antagonist stood stark naked in a large room, each armed with a half inch nozzle. At a given signal the water was turned on by the seconds, and the contest begun. Ivan had always lived in that northern region, while the major had been born in the south. Ivan was hardy, while the major was delicate and sensitive from having led a luxurious life. At the first stroke of the icy water he was shaken by a terrific chill, while the sturdy Ivan, who had bathed in water as cold that very morning, braced himself against the shock and stood upright and firm as a rock. One of the seconds stood with a watch in his hand, while the other kept a hand on the water cock. At the end of two minutes time was called and the water turned off. The principals were permitted to move about for two minutes to recoup and break the ice forming on their bodies, when they were required to take their positions, and the water was turned on. At the end of the next round Levin was shivering terribly, his skin was livid, and his lips were blue, while his opponent had readily restored circulation. At the end of the next round the major was informed by those of his officers who were present that he might give up the unequal contest without sacrificing his honor, and he declared that he was satisfied. He was taken into a warm room, dosed with hot liquor, rubbed and put between blankets. Nevertheless he was stricken with pneumonia, from which he nearly died. Ivan polished himself with a crash towel, put on his clothes and took a brisk walk.

Kostia Sanin went to Marya and gave her an account of what had occurred. "You are now free to marry either of those men you choose. I presume from your interest in Ivan that your choice will fall on him."

"No, it will not fall on Ivan."

"Then it is the major."

"No, nor the major."

"Well, then, I should like to know what all this trouble has been about."

"To change the subject, how shall I reward you for helping us out of this difficulty?"

"Well, you might let me kiss your hand."

"What do you say to my lips?"

A light broke in upon Kostia. He went to Marya, took her in his arms and kissed her, but when he had kissed her once there was no stopping.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY

Matter at Standstill Until Title is Obtained.

The matter of the Carnegie library is now at a standstill until a deed to the site for the building is obtained and a duly certified copy of it forwarded to the great library builder or his American representative. If the building is to be erected this year there is little time to be lost. Members of the city council are of the opinion that the matter of getting title to the property will be adjusted within a very short time.

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H. Pinkiert
AUCTIONEER
And Commission Merchant
Front St. Opp. L. & C. Dock.

"See here," cried the tailor as Slopay, having donned his new suit, started out of the store, "you're forgetting something."

"Indeed?" said Slopay. "What is that?"

"You must remember our understanding. I made this suit for you only because you said you wanted to pay cash for it."

"And I still want to, but I'm sorry to say I can't!"—Philadelphia Press.

Popular prices of admission for the opera "Erminie" at the Auditorium the first four nights of next week. Plans open at Cribbs' drug store, First avenue.

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Seats for Erminie are now on sale at Cribbs' drug store, First avenue.

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