

# The Klondike Nugget

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday

Each issue reproduced in the United States for distribution throughout the world.

Office: COR. SECOND ST. AND FOURTH AVE.

EUGENE C. ALLEN, Business Manager  
GEO. M. ALLEN, Managing Editor  
A. F. GEORGE, Editor

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Yearly in advance, \$24.00  
Per month by carrier in city (in advance) 2.50  
Single copies, 50

### ADDRESS COMMUNICATIONS

In reference to advertising and subscriptions, to  
**THOS. J. CHURCH**  
Cable representative for United States and  
Canada. De' r' l'orton Bank Building, Seattle,  
W. S. U. S. A.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1896

### 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 Juneau and the North Pole.

### "CAN GOOD COME OUT OF NAZARETH?"

No substantial improvement will or can take place in the gold commissioner's office as long as the present Fawcett system of overtime is allowed. The clerks of the department are paid a wage which in Manitoba would be a comfortable income but which in Klondike will not buy the cigars of an ordinary government employe. In order that these clerks could be retained in the service Mr. Fawcett has permitted a system to grow up which is imbecile as a policy and villainous in its results; and that is the system of overtime, paid for by the highest bidder amongst a public frantic at being denied access to an office without which they can do no business.

What is the natural result of such a system? It is to the interest of every employe of the office that a blockade during the day be maintained at the door. It is to his interest that all information should be withheld wherever possible. It is hundreds of dollars in his pocket that very little business should be transacted during the day with the hordes of applicants, and that they be driven almost to desperation by long waiting and fees of losing their claims. At last they reach the "dig-up" stage or oftener borrow from their friends to pay some clerk overtime. The usual rate for overtime has been one dollar for one minute. Upwards of two hundred dollars have been earned in one day by one clerk while the poorest job in the office, held by new clerks outside of the inner ring is worth as a revenue producer what would make Mr. Ogilvie's salary look small by comparison.

But it is not the money they make which is objectionable. The Nugget will only applaud the successful money-maker when that money is made legitimately and is not wrung from the needy and oft times hungry people, as are the most of the recorder's office fees for "overtime" work. No business men undertake to stand in line for days with the legitimate applicant for admission to the gold commissioner's office. Mr. Fawcett himself realizes this and shows his contempt for that line of weary applicants by giving passes which admit busy men at the front door without awaiting their turn.

Thomas Fawcett's administrative capacity is so limited that when he was brought face to face with the overtime proposition last winter he could see only one road to improvement and that was to turn the clerks out and lock the doors. The howl that went up from the men who now could not get in to record at all caused the vacillating commissioner to throw open his doors to the clerks and re-inaugurate the fee system under his official sanction.

Mr. Fawcett is weak. He tries to hide his responsibility behind his statement that no part of these immense fees goes into his pocket. If a man loses a claim by not being able to get legitimately into the office to record it, and if the "fee" system is responsible for the loss, he is not apt to use the fine discrimination of exempting the gold commissioner from

blame when he upbraids the office as wholly corrupt and beyond redemption. The contempt felt for the gold commissioner by the great mass of honest Klondikers is easily seen when he appears abroad by the many covert sneers and remarks which are heard on every hand.

The commissioner's callousness to public opinion is easily seen by the positive greed and contemptuous apathy with which he hangs onto his position. Mr. Ogilvie is an industrious man in the performance of his official duties, but it strikes the public very forcibly that it is an utter impossibility for him to devote as much time to the gold commissioner's office as will always be necessary as long as Thomas Fawcett stays at the head of it. In connection with Mr. Fawcett we always think of the lines written of a certain transport on leaving London for the penal colony of Australia:

"I am a patriot, be it understood;  
I leave my country—for my country's good."

### AN EPIDEMIC OF "JUMPING."

It is doubtful if ever a mining camp before was so afflicted with the "jumping" mania as is the Klondike. Hundreds of claims, the owners of which have complied with every requirement of the law—some of them even to the extent of renewal months ago, have been restaked within the last month or two, the new stakes sometimes being six deep. There is a philosophical reason for it all. In the first place its extent is due to nothing more than the stampede principle which causes men to follow like sheep in the footsteps of others whose objects and motives are not thoroughly understood. As is well known if one man were to stop in some thoroughfare and gaze steadily and motionless at the top of the nearest building, refusing to answer the questions of passers-by as to what he was looking at, within a half hour there would be thousands standing and looking at the top of the same building. In the case in hand the stampede was started by a ring of lawyers—led by stakers who were advised that their leaders were in possession of "inside" information and a strong pull in the gold commissioner's office. Plenty of men were found willing to go out and stake on "halves" for the privilege of this backing and the result is what might be termed a "law-suit hold" on the claims. They have still to be won in Mr. Fawcett's court of supposed justice. How incapable that man is to decide impartially between a poor dispossessed miner and a clique of intelligent and influential lawyers, every man in Klondike knows. His unfitness is unusually vast, and no one but Mr. Fawcett's "intimate friends" feel at all secure when a case has to be adjusted by him, no matter how righteous their cause may be. That his "intimate friends" are only too willing to leave their cases with him but prove them thoroughly cognizant of the all powerful influence of "intimate friendship" in Mr. Fawcett's court.

But this was only the start of the stampede. Hundreds of men not backed by the inside clique, in a hazy way knew partly what was going on and started staking on their own account. Their long faces upon returning from the gold commissioner's showed them not to have met with the same encouragement as their predecessors. Nevertheless there is a feeling abroad of the utmost insecurity amongst claim-holders similar to that in Central America, where no one knows at what minute they may be dispossessed by an avaricious and fickle government. Security to life and property should be guaranteed by any government doing business under the Union Jack, but there will indeed be no general feeling of security of mining property as long as Mr. Fawcett occupies the position of gold commissioner in Dawson.

### CAN'T SEE THEM BUTCHERED.

The peace commissioners selected by the United States to determine the details of the peace declared by the protocol signed between the two warring nations have a herculean task before them in the matter of the Philippine islands. For two years before the declaration of war between the United States and Spain the Philippines had been

carrying on an insurrectionary war on their own account. When Spain became embroiled with the United States, Admiral Dewey was not slow to avail himself of the internal troubles of the Spaniards and he carried the rebel chief, Aguinaldo, back to the islands to reinforce him by land. No one doubts that the rebels gave Dewey much valuable information prior to the engagement at Manila, and in other ways contributed much to the wonderful success of the American ships on that occasion. Diplomats are interestedly watching the outcome of the peace commission's meeting in Paris. In the terms of the protocol the United States did not ask for possession of the islands beyond the retention of Manila. Spain is undoubtedly not at all anxious to give them up. The United States is under no obligation to free the Philippines but the question now arises "Can the United States, as an exponent of the humanitarian civilization of the nineteenth century, deliver over to the enemy the people who have been their allies?" That the freedom of the Philippines was not in the terms of the alliance is dodging the question. They have aided the United States and at the present moment are only withheld from striking blow after blow at their hereditary enemies by the action of the United States authorities in maintaining peace. If the commission should decide upon complete neutrality in the inexpressible conflict of Spain and her colonies then she should at least put the two combatants back where they were when she took a hand herself. President McKinley will lose much of his sudden popularity if he allows the butchery of the semi-barbarian allies who, according to Spanish customs, have forfeited their lives by aiding Spain's enemies.

### SHOULD TO BE LOOKED AFTER.

The obstruction of the river by boats and rafts along Dawson's water front is doing much to advance the probable cost of fuel in Dawson the coming winter. Wood rafts coming down cannot get within fifty or a hundred yards of shore and a performer must snub to rafts already there. The results the past week were disastrous to both the rafts coming down and the rafts tied too far all went down the river together. This is not a timber country and the loss of several thousand cords of wood every few days will cut considerable figure in the probable cost this winter. There ought to be someone with authority to superintend the water front who would make rules and carry them out providing that boats, rafts and steamers should have free access to the water front. Time should be allowed them to discharge and take on freight but there is no excuse in the world for anyone blocking several hundred feet of our one to long a water front by the tying up there of rafts and boats all summer.

The Nugget tells all the news just as it happens. Twice a week—\$2.50 per month.

### Removal.

After Saturday, August 27th, the Canadian Bank of Commerce will be found in the new premises, between the barracks and the Gold Commissioner's office.

A down-town branch will be opened for the accommodation of the bank's customers shortly.

H. F. WILLS, Manager.

**CALIFORNIA RESTAURANT**  
FOR FIRST CLASS MEALS  
Reasonable Prices Try It

**YUKON SAW MILL CO.**  
MANUFACTURERS OF  
First Quality Matched, Dressed,  
Rustic, Roofing, and Rough Lumber.  
House Loks Furnished, Cordwood &c.  
Orders filled promptly.

**STANDARD OIL CO.**  
Have now in Stock a Full Supply of  
COAL OIL, LUBRICATING OILS  
AND ELECTRIC LIGHT AND GRANITE CANDLES  
Office, Cor. First Ave. and 8th Sts.

**FRENCH ROYAL RESTAURANT**  
LEADING CAFE OF DAWSON  
GAME OF ALL KINDS  
EVERY DELICACY OF THE SEASON  
French Dinners Noon until 10 p. m.

**THE PIONEER**  
DIXMORE, SPENCER & McPHEE, Proprietors  
BEST GRADES OF  
SCOTCH and CANADIAN WHISKIES  
And the Old Favorite Brand of  
**JACK McQUESTIAN CIGARS**

**THE AURORA**  
TOM CHISHOLM, Prop'r  
COR. FRONT AND SECOND STREET  
Headquarters for  
**BEST OF WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS**  
Mixed Drinks a Specialty

YOU WANT THE BEST?  
OF COURSE YOU DO!  
**CHOICE LIQUORS, WINES, MIXED DRINKS  
AND CIGARS**  
AT  
**"THE NEW ENGLAND"**  
McGrath & Patterson, Prop'r  
Sole Agents for M. Fortier & Co., Montreal

**ELDORADO SALOON**  
HALL, MCKINNEY & YOUNG, Proprietors  
**KLONDIKE CITY**  
Finest Brands of  
**Wines, Liquors and Cigars**

**THE KLONDIKE HOTEL**  
DAWSON  
NELSON SMITH, Prop'r  
Each room furnished with fine spring beds and  
modern comforts  
**EUROPEAN PLAN—FINE RESTAURANT IN CONNECTION**  
FINEST WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS

**THE NORTHERN**  
ASH & MARKING, Prop'r  
**Choicest Wines, Liquors and Cigars**  
Expert Mixologists  
**MINING HEADQUARTERS**  
FRONT STREET DAWSON

**Combination Saloon**  
Is the Place to go for fun and amusement. Finest kind of Liquors and  
Cigars.  
**Lloyd, Harrison & Co., Proprietors.**

**The "Monte Carlo"**  
FINEST BAR IN DAWSON  
QUALITY OF WINES AND LIQUORS THE HIGHEST  
Mixed Drinks a Specialty  
**HIGHEST GRADES OF CIGARS**

**THE OPERA HOUSE**  
BAKKE, WILSON & JEFFERSON  
Proprietors  
**DAWSON**  
Headquarters for Best of  
**Wines, Liquors and Cigars**  
Mixed Drinks a Specialty

**Job Printing**  
In all its Latest Styles executed from  
new type faces at this office. . . . .  
We have facilities for

**Check Binding**  
**Perforating, Numbering and**

**Stapling**  
**STOCK VERY COMPLETE AND WELL ASSORTED**  
Plenty of type and press facilities for the quick  
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**Pamphlets, Blanks and Programs**

**THE KLONDIKE NUGGET**

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