

BRILLIANT OPENING

"The Parish Priest" at the Auditorium.

Bittner's Excellent Co. Makes Their Bow to a Crowded and Fashionable Audience.

The house which greeted Mr. Bittner last night upon the occasion of the re-opening of the Auditorium and the reception that was accorded his company could not have been other than gratifying to that round purveyor to the whimsical tastes of a discriminating public. Early in the day practically all the seats were sold and a half hour before the curtain was rung up there was not an atom of standing room to be had. Everyone remarked the improvements Mr. Hall had made in the interior arrangements, the decorations and the pretty effect produced by the removal of the unsightly boxes in the second tier and the substitution of the open loggias. One thing more is needed, and oh, so badly. If the management can be prevailed upon to elevate the seats in the balcony still more he will be entitled to a monument as a benefactor to mankind. Such a bobbing by everyone excepting those seated in the first two rows in a mad endeavor to occasionally catch a glimpse of the stage was never before indulged in. The rubber in one's neck was actually stretched to the point of breaking. The dear old familiar creak in the stairs is missing, but there still remains the noise caused by the shuffling of feet on the bare floors of the passage-ways made by the individuals who are always thirsty between acts and who never return to their seats until the curtain is up and the play has started again. Burlap matting is not expensive and it is so efficacious as a deadener of unwelcome sounds.

It had been seemingly so long since Dawson had an opportunity to enjoy a play that the audience was in an excellent mood and not at all prone to be critical. In fact, there was but little to criticize, unless it was the introduction of a specialty where it was uncalled for by the action of the play. Why such is done will probably always be a mystery known only to those behind the scenes. The rhythm of the play is spoiled and it seems very amateurish.

Concerning the personnel of the company, it is everything that could be expected and the season opens with all indications pointing toward a winter of rare delight. Taken altogether there has never been a company in Dawson to compare with the present and it is a positive pleasure to see the made members walk on the stage in a dignified manner and not with the gait and mannerisms so characteristic of the vaudeville, to not hear the King's English so horribly mutilated and to not see them stand with their arms akimbo. Dawson theatregoers have had much to bear in the past. Individually, there is not one in the cast of "The Parish Priest" who is not entitled to commendation. Miss Kelson, as Katherine Corrigan, the rough diamond from the Emerald Isle, is most excellent. Her dialect incomparable, and she never forgets to use it, while

her vivacity is infectious in the extreme. Miss Freeman plays Agnes Cassidy, the spoiled child of her father with a temper of her own. She has a very pretty, well modulated voice and made many friends by her clever work. Mrs. Bittner received quite an ovation upon her re-appearance and in the latter part of the first act was presented with a handsome bouquet by admiring friends. As Helen Durkin, the niece of Father Whalen, Mrs. Bittner was very delightful. The character of Father Whalen fits Mr. Bittner to a nicety. His is a physique that will not admit of him playing any and every part, but as the rotund, amiable, loving peace-making priest of the parish, the part could not have fallen in more capable hands. Mr. Frank Readick, leading man of the company, has a comparatively small part this week but makes much of it. His enunciation is very distinct and his every action shows a thorough familiarity with the stage and the finished actor that he is. In the denunciation of his brother in the second act he received much well merited applause. Mr. Montgomery is very good as Dr. Edward Welch, the ambitious practitioner who is led to make an engagement with the heiress while living another. Mr. Chris Moran plays Frank Dougher, the finance of Miss Cassidy, whom she throws over in a fit of petulant anger. The comedians, Mr. Hooley and Mr. Morris, both made pronounced hits. The former in rough Irish dialect with a splendid makeup was bubbling over with wit while the mere appearance of the latter was sufficient for more than a ripple of applause. Two such genuine makers of fun are rarely seen together and in the comedies produced this winter there should be no end of amusement afforded of the side-splitting variety.

Manager Bittner is to be congratulated on the excellent aggregation he has gotten together and the long evenings of the approaching winter will be less dull by their presence. The company is entitled to the heartiest support of the community and as Dawson is proverbial in her patronage of good things there can be but small doubt that the close of the season will show a handsome balance on the right side of Mr. Bittner's ledger. The production for next week will be "Don Caesar de Bazan."

WATER FRONT NOTES.

The Whitehorse left for up river points last night at 8, the following taking passage: F. Aug. Heinze, E. L. Wetmore, Mrs. French, Mrs. Creiger, Chris. Dorsey, J. J. Barber, Etta Bean, Chas. G. Lamont, W. A. Hall, W. G. Harrison, A. B. Newell, A. E. Morris, La Fleurer, Miss Sadie McNamee and Nellie Simpson.

The Dawson arrived last night at 5:30 with 114 head of cattle, a heavy cargo of merchandise, 50 sacks of mail and the following passengers: Chas. S. Carroll, Wm. Oslin, Mrs. D. Moody, Miss G. C. Moody, Jennie Tyrrell, Mrs. M. Freeman, O. P. Hubbard, Alice Leal, Frank Baker, P. J. Sullivan, J. T. Friend, Thos. Kloe, Chas. Worden, W. D. McKay, R. H. Robertson and R. A. Miller.

The Sarah reported at Eagle yesterday evening with 400 tons of freight aboard. She will be in tonight.

The Mary Graff arrived at 9:30 last night with another tremendous cargo, among which were 998 sheep, 50 cattle, a drove of hogs and a miscellaneous assortment of merchandise.

The Casca is expected tomorrow.

The Prospect will arrive from Whitehorse tomorrow, leaving on Monday for Stewart river points.

ALONG TWO BUSY CREEKS

Happenings on Bonanza and Eldorado

Jimmie McNamee is Happy and Constable Wright Won a Foot Race.

Mr. Pete Erickson of 10 Eldorado has forty men at work and is taking out an immense cut this season.

Messrs. White & Streets of 13 Eldorado have just placed a new 3-in. pump in the cut, and the claim that was sold this spring for \$18,000 is looking up fine for the season.

The big Stanley & Worden plants that have been running so industriously for the past four years are shut down. The owners will go out to get larger machinery to run on a big scale next season.

Messrs. Bates & Weinberg who have had a lay on 37 Eldorado for the past two years are both building large cabins for the accommodation of their families, whom they expect in from the outside in a few days. Mr. Weinberg states they have lots of ground left and will be on the claim for several years to come.

Messrs. Lee & Erickson purchased the Kinsey & Kinsey claim on Gold Hill last week and are making preparations to work the claim the coming winter.

Mr. J. R. Reed sold his store on 46 below Bonanza and is going to the outside soon.

Messrs. V. V. Blodgett and E. K. Carruthers, day and night foremen on 61, 62 and 63 below Bonanza, have things in fine shape for the season. Thirty-five men are at work on the two shifts, and a 40-gal bucket drops into the sluice box every minute. The above gentlemen are to be congratulated for the able manner in which the work is being conducted on the above claims.

Mrs. Jas. McNamee has just returned from the outside. Mrs. McNamee was accompanied by a sweet little tot that makes Jimmie the happiest man on the creek.

The big quartet on 39 Eldorado is one of the attractions on the upper creek. The manner in which the old college songs are sung makes one think of "ye olden times."

Sandy Frew and K. Wright ran a 50-yard dash at the Forks the other day, and lots of money changed hands. Wright won the race, but many claim Frew could have taken it. Fred Shaw lost \$500 by betting on the wrong man.

Messrs. Hartman & Gilmore, who purchased the Brown claim on King Solomon's Hill, are taking out more dirt in one day with their hydraulic system than Brown took out in 60 days last summer with his rocker method. Mr. Hartman is an old newspaper man and the good luck that has befallen him is not envied by any of the boys. All success to you, "Jakie," may you prosper beyond your wildest expectations.

Misses Ethel and Winnie Hartman, who have been attending school on the outside, have come to the Klondike to spend their vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. Zahn, who have lived on 35 Eldorado for the past two years, have left for 20 above upper Dominion.

Orr & Tukey's stage broke down the other day. Chas. Bell loaned the boys his rig to complete the trip.

Mr. John H. Reilly of 12 Eldorado had the pleasure of greeting four brothers the other day, who came to the Klondike for the first time from Duluth, Minn.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay of Gold Hill were made happy by the arrival of a baby girl at their home last Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Thompson of 43 above Bonanza came to town with their two children last week. The children go to the outside to attend school the coming season.

Lawn Social

The public of Dawson and surrounding district are invited to a lawn social on the grounds surrounding St. Andrew's church and manse on Tuesday, August 12, from 4 until 10 p.m. No admission fee will be charged. All are welcome.

The ladies will be prepared to serve tea in the hall from 6 to 7. Light refreshments also will be provided on the grounds at a nominal charge. Outdoor games are being arranged. The band of the N.W.M.P. will be in attendance and selections will be rendered on the pipe organ. It is hoped that all who feel disposed will go and enjoy an evening in the open air.

Job Printing at Nugget office.

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NORWOOD'S BIG DESIRE

Would Take All Water From Upper Bonanza

Makes an Application for 3000 Miner's Inches—Proposition is Ridiculous.

For twenty days prior to Monday, the 4th, there was an innocent enough looking piece of paper posted on one of the bulletin boards at the gold commissioner's office, an application for a water right such as have been made hundreds of times before, something which is required by the regulations yet is rarely looked at by the average individual who has business in that department of the government. The twenty days required for such posting have expired and it now transpires that the application referred to if granted would work a hardship on the miners of upper Bonanza equalled only by the original grant made to Treadgold. Its effect would possibly be even greater than that of the so-called octopus, for not only would the hillside and bench claims be deprived of water unless they paid an exorbitant figure for it, but the creek claims through which Bonanza flows and which have the prior right by their grants over all others to as much water as they require, would also have their supply cut off without as much as by your leave. The application referred to was made by H. H. Norwood on July 15, the notice being posted the same day. In it he states that it is his intention at the expiration of twenty days from date to apply to the mining inspector for authority to take, carry away and divert to such claims within the watershed of Bonanza creek or tributaries as to the applicant may seem advisable, or from its natural channel, 3000 miner's inches of the unentered and unappropriated water of the stream known as Bonanza creek during the term of 25 years from the date of entry, for mining purposes, with the object of using the same for any class of mining operations on such claims, or of selling or leasing same to owners or lessees of such claims at a price not to exceed twenty cents per miner's inch per hour. Together with the authority to take, carry away and divert 200 inches of the unentered and unappropriated water of each of the tributaries, such diversion to be made sufficiently far up said tributaries to enable the applicant by damming to carry such water by its natural flow from such dam by a lateral ditch, flume or pipe to the main ditch so to be constructed for use as aforesaid. Such diversion from Bonanza creek to be made at a point situate at or below the junction of Carmack's forks with Bonanza creek. The point is indicated by a conspicuous post and the proposed ditch or flume will follow along either side of Bonanza valley with the right to cross and re-cross the same and any of its tributaries when and so often as the applicant may desire; such main flume or ditch to be constructed or laid to Grand Forks within three years from date of entry, with the right to extend the same at any time thereafter and the right to construct laterals at all times. The location of the proposed ditch is marked by conspicuous posts every quarter of a mile.

If Captain Norwood had desired anything further at the hands of a munificent government he certainly would have asked for it, and still he makes no claim to modesty. What he asks for with so much assurance is so enormous that the extent of it is at first not grasped. In the first place Bonanza never carries 3000 inches above Eldorado except in the

most extreme high water and if the applicant were given the grant for which he applies there would not be one drop of water left between Carmack's forks and the mouth of Eldorado during three-fourths of the sluicing season. The richest claims on Bonanza are above the Forks and to deprive them of the water to which they are entitled would effect a loss of thousands and thousands of dollars every year. It may be said that it is impossible for the creek claims to be deprived of the water, but if Mr. Norwood secures his grant builds his dam and ditch and takes the water, what then? The enormity of the injustice is more apparent when it is seen that the supply is to be acquired by the gravity system which would mean that before any height is attained that would make the water of any use to the bench claims and afterward drain back into the creek a long distance would have been passed which would be left without a drop of water. Then, too, take 200 inches away from the tributaries of Bonanza and what is left. Even Eldorado does not run that amount except during the spring of the year. And at twenty cents an inch per hour how many claims could stand such a holdup? It takes sixty inches of water to make a sluiceway which is the smallest amount of water that can be worked with to an advantage. That would mean \$12 an hour; \$120 for ten hours or \$240 for a day of double shift which is the manner in which claims are generally worked in the open season. The utter absurdity and general rottenness of the whole deal is seen on the face of it.

Several attorneys who have been spoken to in regard to the matter are inclined to believe nothing will ever come of the application for the reason that the gold commissioner has not the power to issue the grant asked for. An order in council was passed the 7th of last December, presumably for the sole benefit of Treadgold, revoking section 10 of the placer regulations, which took away from the gold commissioner the power to grant to free miners a water right allowing them to sell water to their neighbors on adjoining claims. A miner located on a bench may put in a pumping plant and elevate water from the creek for his own use, replacing it in the creek even above the point of intake, but he can not sell one drop to anyone though he may have five hundred inches more than he can use himself. Norwood's application is for a purpose directly the reverse from that which any other free miner is permitted to do. It is generally conceded the fairest and most equitable method for the department to pursue is to restore the regulations as they originally were. Give any man a right to pump water

and sell it at a reasonable rate providing the water is returned to the creek at or near the same point from which it is taken and no one is injured thereby.

The only steps that have been taken to prevent the grant being issued has been in the nature of a letter of protest which a number of the miners on upper Bonanza mailed to the gold commissioner. No action of protest has been begun and as the time has expired it may now be too late. The gold commissioner has referred the matter to A. J. Beaudette, the government mining expert, who will make an examination and report accordingly. Outside of the legal aspect and as to whether or not he has the power to issue the grant, the action of the gold commissioner will depend upon the report of Mr. Beaudette.

Won His Hearers.

London, July 29.—Mr. Chamberlain's appearance in the house of commons today was marked by a speech which won the applause of even such opponents as Henry Labouchere. Mr. Chamberlain dealt comprehensively with the past and future of South Africa.

"We have no intention," he declared, "that the Boers should break with their old traditions. We desire that they should reserve all the best characteristics of their race, and hope they will shake hands with us, thus securing prosperity in South Africa under the flag which protects different races and different religions."

That sentiment was the keynote of the speech.

Dealing with the much-discussed labor question, Mr. Chamberlain said he believed the inducement to labor should be held out to the blacks, but no scheme of compulsory labor would receive the slightest government support. There was no intention of packing the country with Britishers, but so much Transvaal land was lying idle that the colonies could only be made a great corn producing factor by bringing in British settlers.

Mr. Chamberlain's speech evoked criticism of the financial features of the policy outlined for South Africa from Sir William Vernon Harcourt, James Bryce and others. Mr. Bryce said he hoped the national scouts would not be used as police, but Mr. Chamberlain said he could not see why they should not be so employed, for they would make admirable civil guards. Mr. Chamberlain also said he hoped the royal judicial commission going out to South Africa would exercise the king's clemency in view of the large number of sentences imposed during the war.

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