

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)

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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.

LAWS RESPONSIBLE.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found interviews with representative business and professional men as to the effect upon Dawson of the promised spring stampede to Nome.

These expressions of opinion were sought from men who, having important interests in Dawson and on the adjacent creeks, and hence being brought constantly in touch with the life of the community, are well qualified to judge of the matter concerning which they have been asked to speak.

It will be seen that a very large proportion of them take substantially the view many times expressed in these columns to wit: the regulations now on the statute books for the government of this territory and more especially those designed for the control of the mining industry, will ultimately result in the practical depopulation of the territory unless radical modifications are forthcoming.

The government at Ottawa has been informed through petition, through letters and through the statements of responsible men who have gone to the capital for that specific purpose, of the evil which the laws have wrought in this territory. The plea of ignorance of conditions can stand no longer. If Ottawa is still in ignorance that ignorance can be described only by the term "criminal." Petitions, letters and personal representations have been answered by legislation so restrictive and so prejudicial to the best interest of the territory, that hope which buoys the human spirit under the most trying circumstances is rapidly giving place to a feeling of helplessness.

Thus it comes, as shown in the interviews referred to above, that men are giving up valuable interests and making enormous sacrifices to cast themselves into the maelstrom of humanity that will be found at Nome next summer.

The legislation for the government of this territory has been a travesty upon justice from beginning to end. When will it cease?

NOME EXCITEMENT.

The excitement being caused by flattering reports from Nome is but a repetition of what was witnessed on the outside, and especially in the Puget sound country in the summer and fall of 1897, when the news of the fabulous wealth of the Klondike was heralded throughout the land. Then it was that business men left their stores, bankers their banks, clerks their counters, farmers their plows, smiths their forges and loafers their haunts, and all joined in one mad rush to the land of golden promise. The wealth of the country had not been overestimated. Gold was here

in abundance. It is still here in millions of dollars and is being taken out by hundreds. Old Mother Earth is giving up her riches to those who, having secured a claim on her surface, are delving into her interior. Yet, but a small, very small percentage of those who were in the mad rush and who have since come are getting a portion of that wealth except as it is earned by the exercise of bone and sinew in the form of manual labor.

The history of the Klondike will, in a great measure, be repeated at Nome, which place is now the Mecca of, at a low estimate, 100,000 people. That there is gold in abundance is as true of Nome as it was of the Klondike, but that a few will get it to the exclusion of thousands, will also be just as true of Nome as it was and is of this district. But the Nome rush is on and will continue with more vim, vigor and energy than was ever displayed by the Klondike craze.

Thousands were poor when they left the states years ago to seek redress from poverty in this country. They are still poor and see no prospects of bettering their conditions. Such being the case, they are going to Nome still in quest of the phantom wealth. Their experiences at Nome will, in many cases, be but a repetition of their lives here. The masses will endure hardships and exposure and, after two more years of privation will, if no new field further on is discovered, return to their former homes on the outside, aged in years, doubly aged in appearance, broken in purse and in health, and rich only in that great American characteristic: Love of adventure, and with the spirit which prompted them to start out years before still alive and responsive to the reports of other Eldorados.

QUARTZ POSSIBILITIES.

Before the placer mines now being worked in the Yukon territory are in any degree exhausted, there will be quartz discoveries made sufficiently valuable to insure their development on a large scale within a short time.

Already tests and assays have been made of ore taken from various localities on the Yukon between Dawson and Five Finger rapids which demonstrate beyond the peradventure of a doubt that quartz mining on a large scale is only a matter of a short time away.

By the middle of next summer the railroad will have reached Whitehorse and from that point down the river its construction will depend merely upon the outlook for business on the lower river.

We apprehend that within another year at the farthest sufficient quartz development will have been accomplished to warrant the construction of the railroad through to Dawson.

With this issue the Daily Klondike Nugget reaches the dignity of being one week old. The reception which the paper has met at the hands of Dawson's citizens has gone far beyond the most sanguine expectations of the publishers. The Daily Klondike Nugget is an established, accomplished fact. We aim to present the news briefly and just as it is, without coloring. That this policy commends itself to the intelligence of the community is amply demonstrated by a steady and constantly increasing patronage.

ARMY OF 80,000 NEEDED.

So Says German Officer Writing to London Times.

Boers Are Acclimated and Well Provided With Horses and Munitions of War.

A German officer, writing from London Times, says an exchange, confidently asserts that Great Britain will need 50,000 more troops in South Africa before it can conquer the Boers. He estimates the Boer force at 50,000 and he holds that it is hopeless to try to overcome this with an army of 80,000, all told, as the British are planning to do.

The British are compelled not only to subdivide their forces but also to reduce them at each advance by leaving behind garrisons to hold the rear communications open. The climate is also new to the troops, making a considerable percentage of sickness inevitable. The Boers have plenty of horses, ammunition, and food and are familiar with every yard of the country. They can find Dutch sympathizers throughout Natal and Cape Colony to give them aid. They can stand privations that would kill British soldiers and they can shoot. They have adopted a guerrilla mode of attack which is fairly certain to prolong the war indefinitely. The German military critic calculates that at least one-half of the present British force will be frittered away in garrisons of occupation, in keeping open the base lines, in checking uprisings among the Cape and Natal Dutch, in sick lists and the like, leaving only 40,000 men for active service on the fighting line. This force would be inadequate to crush 50,000 able bodied and determined Boers.

There are many reasons for believing that the German expert is correct. The English in South Africa are confronted, says an American exchange, with conditions much like those which we had to face in Luzon, only the Boers are more formidable enemies than the Filipinos. When we went into the Philippine campaign we thought 15,000 to 20,000 men would be enough to crush Aguinaldo. Such a force would have been sufficient if the nature of the country and the methods of the enemy had been different. But we learned by hard experience that the conditions required a force out of all proportion with the numerical strength of the enemy, and we have been compelled to send a total of about 65,000 men to complete the task. The Boers have all the natural advantages in their favor, the same as the Filipinos had, and one Boer is worth a dozen Filipinos when it comes to using a rifle with deadly effect. The distance in time from London to the South African fighting line is greater than that from San Francisco to Manila, and the British are at a disadvantage at every step.

Unless the Boers make some egregious strategic blunder—which they are less likely to do than the British—the invading army has more of a task cut out for it than it seems able to master.

It will not be in the least surprising if Great Britain is compelled to send another army corps to South Africa before General Buller dines in Pretoria.

A Metropolitan Grocery Store.

J. L. Timmons, who has officiated as host at many a convivial party at the Cafe Royal has closed that resort and opened in the same place a first-class and modern grocery concern.

The store is fitted up in regular metropolitan style and the shelvings are loaded with fresh and inviting looking goods, evidently just opened from their cases. Mr. Timmons is an old hand at this business, as is evident by the appearance of his store. It is his intention to build up a large family trade and sell in quantities along all the creeks.

Call and see our stock of playing cards, leather pocket case with each pack. Nugget office.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

The U. S. consulate is now located in room 6 of the Aurora block.

Geo. Woodworth, who was reported as dying from the effects of blood poisoning, is rapidly recovering.

Opera house performers may obtain their clothes and wardrobe, which was saved from the fire by calling on Constable Booth.

Acting U. S. Consul Adams says that since December 1st, no fewer than 19 expeditions have started out for Nome, each party averaging from four to five persons.

On account of the fire, the raffle of Mrs. Anderson's watch, which was to have taken place on Wednesday evening is postponed until Tuesday at 8 p. m., when it will be held at Mrs. Fancher's on Second avenue.

Emil Stauff has just returned from a visit to all the important creeks in the Klondike and Indian river districts. The general outlook is good, he says, for a prosperous season. The mines are worked with economy as the watchword, and claims which were valueless last year can now be worked at a profit.

The Palace Grand will open tonight, an agreement having been entered into by which Mr. Meadows gives a half interest in the business to O'Brien and Jennings and Leo and Conchita; the later to furnish a company with a \$1000 a week salary list. Mr. Meadows refused a \$1000 a week cash offer, \$8000 to be paid in advance.

The little steamer Aquilla will soon be refitted for a trip to Nome. She will have in tow the lighter Rock Island. The Aquilla, though she has been roughly used, will prove to be a money maker on Norton sound, for if properly repaired she can show her heels to anything afloat in northern waters. Billy Perkins will have the boat in charge.

When the recent fire broke out, Mr. and Mrs. Harry O'Brien of the Opera house, who occupied a cabin in the rear of that building, began to pack up their possessions. Mrs. O'Brien first put all the family cash, amounting to \$70, in a purse which she left for a moment on a stool. In the meantime, others came to assist the family in the work of moving. The purse—well, the purse has not since been seen.

In Thursday's issue of the Daily Nugget mention was made of the departure from this place five weeks ago of F. F. Matlock for his home in Skagway, and also that no word of his arrival had been received. Thursday evening his brother J. D. Matlock of this city wired to Skagway asking for his welfare. An answer received last evening states that W. F. Matlock arrived safely in Skagway and later went below on business to Pendleton, Oregon.

All singers who are lovers of high class music are invited to attend practices which will be begun next Friday evening at 8:30 in St. Paul's church. It is proposed to give a concert, as soon as selections can be prepared, for the benefit of the Good Samaritan hospital, and much pleasure is anticipated of the program. This notice should meet with a hearty response in consideration of the object in view.

Mohr & Wilkins have made another assault on the grocery trade of Dawson. Not satisfied with the purchase of the Hoffman stock, they have today completed the purchase of the entire stock carried by Borand and Windhorst, on Third street. These gentlemen evidently believe there is a future in Dawson, as they are continually increasing their stock whenever opportunity presents itself. It is to be hoped that this belief may be borne out by the fact.

The P. P. Co.

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The Best--The Cheapest

Branch Store

Front Street, Opposite S.-Y. T. Dock

Warehouses 2nd St. & 5th Ave.

Parsons Produce Co.