

The Klondike Nugget

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KLONDIKE NUGGET. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1903.

NOT A MATTER OF POLITICS.

The absolute cancellation of the Treadgold concession and the establishment of a government water supply system are the most important demands, which the people of this territory have to make upon the federal government. In modified form, the Treadgold octopus still has its grip upon the country and until that grip is removed there must be no cessation of effort in opposition to it.

It is true that the concession exists as yet only by virtue of an order passed in council and lacks confirmation at the hands of parliament. It is also true as is indicated by the telegram from the premier to the local board of trade, that there is no intention of seeking such confirmation during the present session.

In the meantime, however, the order in council must be attacked, so forcibly and determinedly that its revocation of necessity will follow. The movement must be one of the whole people and raised entirely and absolutely above the sphere of partisan politics and personal ambitions. The aid of the commercial organizations throughout Canada, which are looking in this direction for a market will undoubtedly be extended as also such assistance as can be rendered by the press of the Dominion whose interest will be solicited.

The preliminary steps inaugurated by Acting Commissioner Wood, for the preparation of plans and specifications for a system of water supply are, we believe, an earnest of the government's intentions.

But the very fact that the initial step has been taken affords all the better reason for a popular movement, designed to indicate to the government the important bearing exercised by the proposed project upon the future welfare of the district.

When the results of Engineer Thredau's work in laying out the preliminary surveys are ready to be conveyed to Ottawa, a petition with no less than 10,000 signatures will also be in readiness to send, setting forth the necessity of the government undertaking the enterprise and establishing beyond doubt the fact that the water supply question is the paramount issue before the people of this territory.

This document should be accompanied also by recommendations of a similar character from every organized body in the territory including the territorial and city councils, miners association and all other organizations which carry with them the slightest weight or influence. In short the movement must be so broad in its scope that it will be recognized as representing the voice of the whole people. It is not a political movement in any sense of the term. It is not designed to promote any personal interests or foster any petty ambitions. It will not be permitted to be made the plaything of politicians or a stepping stone to preferment and any man or clique of men who attempt to turn this demonstration of popular wishes to personal account will be branded as enemies of the community.

It must not be said in Ottawa that the propaganda for the overthrow of Treadgold and for the establishment of a government water system has been inaugurated for the purpose of manufacturing political capital. Such is neither the purpose nor intention.

It is not a movement in opposition to the government nor can it be said that there is any tinge of politics behind it. The whole community is irrespective of political affiliations will be asked to join hands in one supreme effort to secure from the government assistance that is absolutely imperative if this territory is to become a permanent and well established community.

Commissioner Congdon will return to Dawson within the next two weeks and undoubtedly will be able to furnish full information with respect to all Yukon legislation now contemplated by parliament. In the meantime the petition regarding Treadgold and the proposed water system will be widely circulated and will be in readiness to lay before the Yukon council at the first meeting of that body, which will undoubtedly occur immediately upon Mr. Congdon's return. The work of circulating the petition should be pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

The extension of the homestead laws to Alaska by congress will have a tendency to take population away from this territory. As a matter of self defense and national pride parliament must do something to attract population in this direction. A public water system will make the territory prosperous for an indefinite number of years.

Dawson and the Yukon territory as a whole are alike interested in the question of a public water supply. The people must hang together in the matter or after a while there will be nothing left to hang to.

WEATHER REPORT

Shows Considerable Variation Today

The weather report today shows quite a variation in the temperature all along the line.

The thermometer at Dawson is on the upward trend again to the general satisfaction of everyone.

Tagish today shows the coldest degree, 24 below, with a clear atmosphere, while Yukon Crossing is next at 17 below and cloudy.

Dawson is the only point where snow is reported and that was only a light fall early this morning. The report is as follows:

Atlin—cloudy, calm, 10 below. Tagish—clear, calm, 24 below. Lower Lebarge—clear, calm, 2 below.

Hootalinqua—cloudy, calm, zero. Big Salmon—clear, calm, 5 above. Yukon Crossing—cloudy, calm, 17 below.

Skikrik—cloudy, calm, zero. Selwyn—south wind, zero. Stewart—cloudy, calm, zero. Ogilvie—cloudy, calm, 2 below. Dawson—snowing, calm, zero.

Fortymile—cloudy, calm, 2 below.

A Big Nugget

On Olson's claim on No. 6 Irish gulch a big nugget valued at \$76 was discovered recently. The nugget is almost entirely pure gold having scarcely a trace of quartz visible. The claim in question is one of the best on the gulch.

Bank officials say the new method of vertical writing is going to make writing easier, and, therefore, commoner. In other words, verticality and uprightiness are not so thoroughly synonymous as they seem.

Swedish Famine Fund.

The Vice Consul for Sweden and Norway wishes to acknowledge the receipt of the following subscription for the relief of the famine stricken people of Sweden:

John H. Henderson & Co., 31 B. Sulphur creek \$75

All contributions should be forwarded to T. D. Pattullo, Vice Consul for Sweden and Norway, who will forward same to the home authorities.

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CONCESSION MUST BE ABOLISHED

Board of Trade Has Begun Aggressive Measures to Accomplish the Overthrow of Treadgold Octopus

Dawson, Y. T., March 6, 1903. To the Editor, The Klondike Nugget: Dear Sir,—It is the wish of the Dawson Board of Trade that you forward a copy of telegram sent this day to Messrs. the Honorable Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada; Clifford Sifton, Minister of the Interior; William Mulock, Postmaster General, and James Hamilton Ross, Member of Parliament for Yukon, and which reads as follows: "Suppose any attempt to pass order in council or act in parliament that will in any way confirm Treadgold concession. Are having monster petition signed and reliable data prepared to forward Ottawa asking government to aid in furnishing water for mining purposes. People are a unit in making demand and will insist upon government protection from monopoly of Treadgold Octopus."

Will Go Before Parliament With a Petition Asking for the Establishment of a Public Water System—Prosperity of the Country Depends Upon the Securing of Favorable Action.

The Dawson Board of Trade, "H. C. Macaulay, Pres." And it is the further wish of said board that your influence, help and co-operation in assisting the people of this territory to make the necessary recommendations to the parliament of the Dominion of Canada to prevent the passage through parliament of the Treadgold concession and water grant from Klondike river and Rock creek such as is and has been contemplated. The Treadgold concession and water grant as granted by an order in council and which when ratified by the parliament at its next session will become law is in the opinion of this board one of the most iniquitous measures that was ever inflicted upon a people, and (in the consideration of the Dawson Board of Trade) will work a great hardship upon the people of this territory since it will mean the virtual bankruptcy of all the property holders of Dawson and surrounding territory, and instead of the Klondike becoming the prosperous country we expect it will virtually become the property of Mr. Treadgold and those who are associated with him in his scheme. An immense petition to the Dominion parliament to cancel and disallow this measure is being prepared and circulated (a copy of which will be sent you) embodying the objections of the people of the Yukon to the granting of this measure and asking the government to provide water for the miners of this territory.

earnest co-operation and assistance in helping us to prevent this measure from becoming law. Yours truly, DAWSON BOARD OF TRADE.

PETITION.

To the Honorable the House of Commons in Parliament Assembled: The petition of the undersigned residents of the Yukon Territory humbly sheweth

1. That by order in council of April the 21st, 1902, certain privileges are granted to Malcolm Orr Ewing, A. N. C. Treadgold and Walter Barwick, in connection with the proposed establishment by them of a system of water supply for washing out gold-bearing gravel in the district therein described, including the Klondike river, Bonanza, Bear and Hunker creeks and their tributaries.

2. That the benefits conferred upon the grantees are of incalculable value and involve an enormous exploitation of the public resources of this territory for the benefit of a few favored concessionaires.

3. That in the opinion of your petitioners the accumulation of extraordinary powers in the hands of a single corporation, such as is effected by the above order in council, will lead to the paralysis of the independent commercial and industrial life of the community and will prove in the highest degree oppressive and injurious to the public welfare, since the grantees are thereby enabled to crush out competition and to reduce to a position of practical servitude the individual miners in the extensive district affected which includes the richest portion of the Klondike.

4. That the need of this territory is not the creation of monopolies but their prevention, and the encouragement of the individual miners by securing equal privileges and opportunities to all as far as the law and the administration can provide them.

5. That for the promotion and development of the mining industry of the Yukon a cheap, abundant and effective water supply, furnished at a minimum of cost by the government at the earliest possible moment, is absolutely essential.

Your petitioners therefore pray— (1) That the order in council of April 21st, 1902, may be cancelled completely, and that no special privileges shall hereafter be granted within this territory with respect to wood, mining, water or any other class of rights affecting the general public; but that all persons shall be restricted in such matters to the rights conferred upon every member of the community by the mining regulations.

(2) That the supply and distribution of water for general mining purposes within this territory shall not be controlled by any private person or corporation, but either that it shall be undertaken by the Dominion government as a public work, or that power shall be given to the commissioner of the Yukon Territory in council to construct such a system and to raise the necessary funds by bonds guaranteed by the Dominion.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

No Change Here

King Edward's first levee is described by those attending it as large, brilliant and stately. The king was more formal than was his custom when Prince of Wales. But notwithstanding the immense trade Dunham is having, he greets his customers with the same hearty welcome as he always has, and in the future as in the past they are sure of getting the very best quality of groceries in the Dawson market at the Family Grocery, corner Second avenue and Albert street. All eggs candied before delivered to customers.

Power of Attorney Blanks for the Tanana-Nugget Office.

If this were done it would mean the commencement of a new era of prosperity for this camp, the population of which would materially and rapidly increase and an immense avenue for Canadian manufactures and merchandise would be opened up and not only would this territory be benefited but the benefit would extend to the whole of Canada, by a measure of this kind. It is our conviction that the government will be unable to obtain this object, and should the government allow the Treadgold concession to become law it would (in the opinion of the Dawson Board of Trade, and I might say of the people of the Yukon generally) be a tremendous setback to the prosperity of this country. Now, in order to convey to you some idea of the magnitude of the grant which Mr. Treadgold and his associates are looking for and which it appears likely they will receive, if the intention of the minister of the interior is allowed to be carried out, it having been recommended by him we believe, that the said Treadgold and his associates receive the sole and prior right to divert and take water from the Klondike river up to 5000 miners inches for distribution and use in the district, said district comprising the beds, banks, valleys, slopes and hills of the Klondike river, of Bonanza, Bear and Hunker creeks and their tributaries, also the right to divert and use the water of Rock creek, which water we are informed by Mr. Joseph McGilivray, a mining engineer of long experience, amounts to 8000 inches, natural flow, and which would give Mr. Treadgold and associates the sole right to divert and sell 13,000 inches of water. Now a miner requires with which to sluice his dirt 50 inches of water, which is the amount considered necessary to make a sluice head, and should the Treadgold company at the rate which, we understand, is the contemplated charge (25 cents per miner's inch per hour) it would cost that miner \$12.50 per hour or \$300 per day of 14 hours, which is the length of the working day here during the summer season. Now this grant of 5,000 inches from the Klondike river and the natural flow of Rock creek, amounting to 8,000 inches, making a total of water at Treadgold's command of 13,000 inches, or 360 sluice heads of 50 inches per sluice head, costing the miner in this country \$78,000 per day, or \$10,140,000 per year of 130 sluicing days, which is the length of the sluicing season here, would mean this: That the holder of the same would practically own the country, all the hill claim owners would have to come to him for water or allow their claim to remain un-operated for lack of same, and Mr. Treadgold and his associates would be receiving all

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SCHEME OF MATT Q To Make States O Territories Has Private Ends of H Which He Wishes to See New Mexico. Washington, Feb. 15.—A prominent and scandalous scheme for the annexation of New Mexico brought before the United States Senate today. "And to think that money-making plot," said a Republican senator, "is permitted to hold up the blockade all other business the most dignified legislative world at the mercy of a man is too much for silence." So great is the disgust of the Republican senators with the little plot fathered by Matt Q. of Pennsylvania that they would be surprised to see a Republican senator continue his holding up the senate. The true inwardness of the scheme is known. In many cases to this time, in deference to politeness, they have allowed to speak out in secret. There are signs that public opinion is beginning to be virtuous. The facts about the omnibus and conspiracy are as follows: Last year ago a number of the recognized lieutenants of Senator W. H. Andrew, mostly known in Pennsylvania as "Doll" Andrews, went to New Mexico to invest in lands, mines and properties and to take part in the territory. They threw themselves into the movement, and for which are of a very practical nature. A number of these men, the state of Quay organized a corporation known as the Pennsylvania Improvement Co. This corporation projected a line from Santa Fe to the Mexican border, several hundred miles long. A few miles were built, and the remainder of the project exists only on paper. The promoters soon found themselves in two difficulties. One was that it was impossible to sell in the east the railway bonds issued in New Mexico, and that to secure the money which to finish the road they had to have New Mexico as a state. The second was that the territorial form of government they could not get the money along the line of the road, and to vote bonds they were admitted to the state and placed under a state.