

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY
On Wednesday and Saturday

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1899

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 Inouan and the North Pole.

The Nugget has a regular carrier and express service covering Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail or express may be left at the Nugget Express office or given to creek agents.

HOT FOR OTTAWA.

The Nugget emissary to Ottawa will work for:

1. The abolition of the royalty.
2. No reservation of alternate blocks of 10 claims.
3. No government employe, attache or official to be permitted to take up, buy or own mines or mining ground.
4. Definite surface boundaries with each claim, marked by at least four corner stakes.
5. Uniform size of claims.
6. The substitution of a set of regulations for those at present in force, the new laws to be clear-cut and not capable of half a dozen varying interpretations as in the past.
7. The restoration of mining rights to any free miner who shall demonstrate his abandonment of his last ground taken up.
8. Government trails.
9. No monopolies of any kind.
10. Security of possession without recording for any length of time to any miner who is actually upon and prospecting a piece of ground.

The foregoing are some of the many proposed regulations which have been endorsed by the miners on the creeks and which are the outcome of the actual necessities of the district.

Our neatly, type-written petitions, humbly worded, and praying to this, that or the other gracious personage to drop us a few crumbs of legislative relief have reached an ignominious fate in the waste paper basket. Only a live and determined man, present in person and with the prestige of the support of the district can enforce a consideration of our wants. With all due modesty we would like to suggest that for six months past the Nugget has occupied a very considerable share of the space of the press of Canada. Without such design upon our part this paper has furnished the opposition with the greater part of its material with which to fight the government. From scouting us, the government has now directed us to put them upon our subscription list at the regular rates; they evidently desire to be in possession of our facts at first hand. We mention these things, not in a spirit of braggadocio, but simply to lend force to our assertion that the Nugget will receive a hearing in Ottawa and will penetrate readily to the mighty presence of the very men from whom must emanate any and all relief wanted on the Klondike. Klondike mismanagement is the weakest spot in the armor of the Liberal party of Canada, and who is more capable of penetrating that unprotected and vital point than this paper which for seven months has collected and filed away what would amount to volumes if written out in detail. All this merely in the way of demonstrating what the Nugget feels absolutely positive—that the representative or representatives of this paper at Ottawa will be the right men at the right place at exactly the right time. Now then, gentlemen of the Klondike, it is optional with you whether or not you aid us in the task we have set our-

selves. You can help bring about the great reforms mentioned above and which will immediately accrue to the benefit of this entire section. Without these reforms this section is destined to languish and drag. Personally we have no more interest in the financial results of these reform measures than any one of you. It is simply in line with the policy we have mapped out for ourselves from the first, and you are invited, each and every one, to lend a helping hand that our work will be the more effective. To sum up in a very few words: Without personal representation at Ottawa you will get nothing; there is no one so well fitted to enforce a hearing and secure the necessary legislative concessions as this paper; you are simply asked to help yourselves by aiding our representative to properly represent the Klondike at Ottawa; whether you contribute or not we shall do what we can.

LET THE SOLDIERS CARRY MAIL.

The eyes of the thousands of men now in Dawson and on the creeks have been turned for months toward the postoffice in the vain hope that the long expected mail sacks would arrive. It is little less than cruelty that we should thus be shut off from all communication with the outside. What this means, only the man or woman who has been waiting in anxious solicitude for news from loved ones separated by hundreds of miles of an icy barrier can appreciate.

In addition to this unpleasant feature of the situation, great pecuniary loss has resulted to many people by reason of the non-arrival of expected remittances. Undoubtedly both the United States and Canadian governments must share in the responsibility. The fact that contracts for carrying the mail were let to parties who proved themselves irresponsible and unable to carry out their agreements does not in any degree lessen that responsibility.

But moralizing upon the failures of governments to fulfill their obligations to the people will not help the situation in the least. The question now at issue is simply this, are we going to have any mail this winter and if so, when and through what means?

The Nugget is informed that the N. W. M. P. are under instructions to forward mail whenever the opportunity for doing so presents itself, but if any systematic arrangements for giving a mail service in any degree commensurate with the requirements of the people are contemplated or in effect we have thus far no knowledge thereof.

It occurs to us that here is a splendid opportunity for the military now stationed in this territory to be employed in a most useful capacity. In as much as there have been no riots to quell nor Indian outbreaks to subdue, the activities of our soldiery have thus far been confined largely to garrison duty. Why not employ the soldiers in bringing in mail? Without doubt there are tons of mail at Skaguay and Iyca laden with messages of hope and good cheer to the inhabitants of the Klondike and only waiting transportation through to Dawson to gladden the hearts of thousands. An emergency case now confronts us and heroic measures only will bring relief. That this country should be so long cut off from mail communication with the outside world is nothing short of criminal. The soldiers are here, unnecessarily so we believe, but if anything could possibly justify their presence, it would be the fact that they were employed for the purpose we suggest.

THOSE FRACTIONS.

Mr. Ogilvie has within the past week or ten days received a special commission to investigate the alleged crookedness in public places at Dawson. It does not speak much for energetic investigation when the NUGGET's account of Mr. Reilly's acquirement of a fractional claim was the first intimation Mr. Ogilvie had that fractions were being recorded by favorites. Probably it would have been regarded as more courteous on our part had we simply taken affidavits, avoided publicity, and allowed corrupt officials to take an ex-

tended leave of absence without pay. To this we reply that we believe our own way to be much more effective. Instead of secret affidavits taken in hushed tones in secret places, and securely sealed from prying eyes in government envelopes, we publish our facts under staring headlines and defy a denial of the truth of everything therein contained. Reilly is a young gentleman whom the governor approached once upon a time on the impropriety of an official taking up ground. Reilly then and there became an ardent convert to the governor's theory of official cleanliness and agreed thenceforth to be the shining light which was not under a bushel. Since then the governor has occasionally referred to the said Reilly as "There's a man I am proud of." We all admire a man whose good judgment makes him a convert to our own pet theories. It is unfortunate that men will backslide so severely.

A question which will occur to every inquiring mind is "Was there any consideration passed to the bench claim recorder which enabled him to overlook the fact that he was recording a fraction, and to fail to note the omission of any dimensions or sizes in the application, and to enter it so that abstracts should speak of it simply as a claim bounded by so and so and so and so?"

We believe that when the governor said "No!" to the question in the interview published in our local columns he really believed what he said and that no fractions had been recorded since July 22nd. We have already published two cases wherein he was clearly deceived, and more are to follow. It is a snap at the gold commissioner's office to be able to keep the crowds of miners off multitudinous pieces of ground until some of them prove valuable, and then to run in their friends and record the very best pieces for them.

We beg to assure Mr. Ogilvie that his presence in Dawson has not acted as the official cleaner and purifier which he hoped to be. Having failed to apply drastic remedies when crookedness has been uncovered, his subordinates have forgotten their fear of him. It requires qualities of unyielding, brusque and stern discipline to hold subordinates in the path of rectitude when ground worth \$100,000 is waiting to be stolen by the simple dash of a pen. Even supposing the governor should now strongly resolve that all wrong doing in high places should cease; would this restore to the many defrauded miners what has been stolen from them? By virtue of his new authority as commissioner of investigation, Mr. Ogilvie can easily uncover the records of Messrs. Hardy and Reilly, and many others of their ilk, and our governor can always depend upon this paper for its approval, encouragement and support should he resolve upon a firm, unyielding course towards wrong doers.

WHY THEY ARE NOT WORKED.

If the royalty tax were not in existence the output of gold for the season of 1898-9 would undoubtedly be at least one-third greater than it will be under present circumstances. Claim owners, who are in a position to do so, are not developing their claims to the fullest capacity but are contenting themselves with taking out a comparatively small dump in hopes that by next year the royalty will have been removed. For instance, we know of one case where 30 men were laid off from working on a claim for the reason that the owners decided they had taken out all the dirt that was advisable for the present season. In other words, having secured enough for present needs, they preferred to allow the gold to remain under the ground rather than take it out in order to declare a dividend for the benefit of the government which has never expended a cent in the construction of a trail to enable the miner to bring his royalty to Dawson with some degree of comfort and safety.

The royalty regulation is a standing inducement for every man who comes under its provisions to make false returns upon the output of his claim. Rightly or wrongly many men will be

able to justify a false return for the simple reason that they regard the tax as altogether unjust and out of proportion. Such being the case, men who otherwise would hesitate in such a matter find it easy to satisfy their consciences in understating the value of the product of their claims.

With the development of the country's one resource so hampered it cannot be expected that capital will come in to aid in getting out of the ground the wealth with which it is known to be stored.

Light may, however, dawn upon our Ottawa legislators before another year and if such proves to be the case the royalty load stone will be removed along with other burdens.

OUTSIDE OPINION.

Flora Shaw in the London Times: Apart from the graver charges, there is much dissatisfaction with imperfections of organization, which are ascribed to inexperience and inattention to business on the part of the responsible officers. That there are, as yet, no roads, no trust-worthy mail arrangements, no sanitary organization of any kind, and no clear distribution of streets and town lots in a town of nearly 20,000 inhabitants are conditions which are held to be wholly unnecessary in view of the amount of revenue derived from the mines and the fact that the town is now two years old.

The insanitary condition of Dawson, situated as the town is upon a swamp and devoid of the most elementary provisions for cleanliness and health, is a standing menace to the community. Typhoid is permanently in the town; the death rate is abnormally high; and there are as yet no signs of any measures to be taken to avert the danger of a serious outbreak of epidemic. That mining districts cannot be surveyed, that claims in many instances cannot be recorded, that necessary information with regard to districts already staked is not open to the public are facts which have come to be regarded by the public as so many purposely designed channels for individual bribery. A half or a quarter interest is frequently quoted as the price at which good claims can be recorded, and scarcely a day passes in which some fresh story does not become current of the number of dollars which it has cost to obtain letters from a nominally unsorted mail or to make good an entrance on business into one of the public offices. In so far as the evil may be attributed to these causes, the remedy will no doubt be found in the removal of guilty individuals and the opening of communication with the world. These two laws, the timber concessions which have closed the woods near Dawson for felling purposes, thus raising the price of timber to an extravagant figure and threatening a belated famine for the winter; the latitude allowed for local rulings in other matters of material interest, and the abuses prevalent under the whole system suffice to produce a condition of affairs in which the Yukon district feels itself to be corruptly administered and badly governed.

To pass in silence over this element in the situation would be a neglect of duty on the part of any one professing to give a general report of the conditions of the country.

FEARLESS RELIABLE
INDEPENDENT

The "Nugget"

DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER

The best and most accurate history of the Klondike country that ever will be written will be found in the files of the NUGGET. Every miner should have the NUGGET in his cabin. Delivered regularly by carrier on all creeks.

Our facilities for executing

JOB WORK

are the very latest.

Prompt Attention Given to All Orders

If you are in need of any of the following articles they can be found at the NUGGET office:

- Letter Paper, Note Paper,
- MEMO BOOKS, POCKET BOOKS, TIME BOOKS,
- TABLETS, PENS, PENCILS,
- KLONDIKE MAPS, CASH BOXES,
- Bill of Sale Blanks, Document Envelopes, Deeds, Feather Dusters, Letter Files, etc.

THE "NUGGET"
Three doors north of A. N. T. & Co.

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