

The Klondike Nugget

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

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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.

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.

NEW CLERKS

There are rumors of a general break-up of the clerks in the recording office. Messrs. Bolton, Craig and Fortune having already gone, and Hurdman promising to follow in a few days. It seems the new gold commissioner has been engaged conscientiously in "lopping" off the many valuable prerogatives of the clerks upon which they have grown rich, and finally in admitting Mr. Pattullo to the office and in installing him as registrar of titles has succeeded in rendering very difficult the many questionable practices which have done so much to render the Yukon administration the great weapon it is proving against the continuance in power of the liberal party of Canada. In an effort to prevent the making of private lists of unrecorded property for the use of the "ring," we understand that promptly at the close of business at 4 o'clock the clerks not directly under the eye of Mr. Pattullo are promptly let out of the office. Besides this their presence is required again just as promptly at the hour for opening business in the morning. Seeing that Othello's occupation is gone, the boys who have had such a good thing for such a long time are contemplating a retirement in a body to private life at the conclusion of their terms of service.

The excuse given for retaining the present incumbents of the recorder's office so long in their positions when the public was figuratively up in arms against the reign of boodle and duplicity which proved so powerful under their occupancy, has always been that the books are in such a hopeless tangle that none else can decipher them. It is to be hoped that time has been taken by the forelock in the disentanglement of the records and that the long looked for cleaning out of the office will result in nothing but good to the community for whose benefit it was presumed to be established. There is one thing clear to the mind of every Yukoner in the country, and that is that the change of clerks cannot be for the worse. That they have been continued to the end of their term, notwithstanding all that has transpired under their rule, is one of the unaccountable things which the Sifton administration is being asked to explain by Canadian voters who had no finger in the pie themselves. Such a sinecure was a position in the recorder's office well known to be, and such opportunities for the sudden acquisition of wealth was it also well understood to be. That men actually approached Mr. Othello with applications for the job and offered to remit their entire salaries in consideration of securing the position. This of itself should have opened the eyes of the higher officials, and have put a stop to the things we complain of. The offer was an insult to Mr. Ogilvie, for the

maker took it for granted that the commissioner not only was fully cognizant of what was going on, but that he approved of it and gave it his official sanction.

ECHOES OF THE GREAT FIRE

It is a sad commentary upon human nature that we will persistently refuse to profit by the experience of our fellows and must needs go over the same bitter penitential road before we become equally wise with those who paid the fiddler first. Dawson will always be a wicker city and the demands of business will always build our city more or less in a bunch, thus constituting a fire trap pure and simple. We have the experience of similarly situated hamlets the world over to guide us, and we have police reports covering half a hemisphere and yet have to be twice burned out before we learn that it is even more unsafe than wooden buildings to let the ever present demi-monde dwell in the business portion of town. Personally and in numerous parts of America the great fires with which we have had a close acquaintance, all originated in the quarters of loose women. Of Dawson's two greatest fires one started in the room of "Tony" Page and this last one in the room of Helen Holden. In the yearly conventions of fire chiefs, police chiefs and town marshals, this inevitable fact has occupied a prominent part of all their conclusions—that the first condition of safety to a wooden town is to keep the demi-monde out of the business portion.

We do not believe in the oppression of this unfortunate class either by unreasonable police regulations or in rendering them the powerless victims of the extortion, etc., which we see practiced upon them in many Christian communities; yet in self protection thousands of wideawake municipalities have found it necessary to forbid them the freedom of the business portion of town for dwelling places. This is not oppression nor even one of those fruitless attempts at suppression. We say fruitless attempts, because, notwithstanding them all, the class is as old as sin and in the millenium theirs will be the last vice to perish from the face of the earth.

Some of our burned out citizens are indisposed to rebuild. Many will put up better edifices than they lost. Let the proper precautions—the result of our past experiences—be used for their protection. Let the Tony Pages and Helen Holdens go their ways unmolested but let their ways lie outside the buildings which by the force of circumstances are the most important in town, are built close together, and which represent fortunes to their owners. Renovate the fire department; get another fire engine so that if one fails we may not have to stand helplessly by and watch our town destroyed. Dawson would have been big money in pocket if she had spent \$100,000 more upon her fire department and had avoided this last great disaster. Let us not be penny wise and pound foolish again.

NEW LICENSE OFFICE

Owing to changes in the gold commissioner's office the issuing of miner's licenses has been temporarily transferred to the office of the Yukon commissioner. The distance between the recording office and the new license office is unreasonably great, necessitating, in some instances, many trips from one office to the other before one's business can be concluded. In renewing lost or expired licenses the use of a certain set of books is often required at the issuing office, while almost as frequently the same books are required at the recording office for the same purpose. If the business in the recording office has grown too great to accommodate the license clerk, then let the clerk use one of the near-by government buildings, and not move away half the length of the town. It would

be no more unreasonable if the post-office mailing and delivery were in the present building, and one was required to purchase stamps at the barracks.

THE NUGGET AT OTTAWA

It is unfortunate just at this time that quick mail communication with the Canadian capital is hindered temporarily by the condition of the river and lakes preparatory to the break-up of the ice. The following dispatch from Ottawa shows the two Nugget representatives to be on the ground, and that they have made their purpose known. At this time nothing else is known.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 3.—D. W. Semple and G. M. Allen, of the KLONDIKE NUGGET, are here from Dawson. They have been carrying on a war in their paper against the Canadian officials in the Yukon and are here to press upon the government certain reforms. They do not represent any body of men in particular. What they ask is abolition of the royalty, or a reduction from ten to two per cent., and the abolition of the alternate claims system.

That is an oddity of the law which was enunciated from the bench by Magistrate Harper on Friday last. The case in court was one of shooting a valuable dog by Watchman McLaughlin, of the N. A. T. & T. Co. stores. Evidence was being produced showing that the dog in question had several times led an open-mouthed assault upon the watchman, he being engaged in his ordinary duties and being upon the street sidewalk at the time. The case was not ended, but in order to set the defense right in preparing its case, the magistrate pointed out that there was a special ordinance authorizing the killing of a dog that was caught in the act of attacking sheep, but nothing was said about the justification for killing a dog found in the similar pleasant occupation of baiting a man or even a child.

We are rather inclined to the belief that while there may be no special Northwest ordinance authorizing the killing of a dog which may be attacking a man, there will be found in the common law of England—which is also common to the North American continent—plenty of authority for the committal of the act in self defense.

The first of May has come and gone and the oft repeated assertions of Governor Ogilvie that he would clear the water front upon that date, have been superseded by an offer to rent the ground to the occupants at the rate of \$4.50 and \$8 per front foot. Up to the first but two or three of the frontiers had availed themselves of the offer, though no preparations to move are yet in evidence. In fact a new factor has been introduced into the situation by the claim that if the ground is rentable for stores at all it belongs to Harper & Ladue by virtue of their grant. There is now another "no-rent" movement along the front, and the ground is taken that only by long and tedious process of law can they be dispossessed, and that pending a legal dispossession there can be no distraint for rent because of the uncertainty of where the title rests.

The giving of whiskey to fire fighters is undoubtedly done by our good citizens with the best of intentions, but is unwise and ought to be discouraged as much as possible. Not but a "bracer" might often be administered with considerable benefit; but when, as was the case Wednesday night, the bottle holding friends come around in quick succession and unbeknown to each other, then the only remedy is to discountenance it entirely. The excitement of fighting fire, together with the unusual exertion, will in most men start a desire for stimulant which on other occasions is wanting, with the result that many usually temperate men soon become not only incapable of their best work, but also unable to take the proper precautions for their own safety.

of the safety of the men with whom they are working.

Eventide.

WALLACE FRANKLIN SMALLEY.
The curtain of the night is gently falling,
The evening shadows creep along the floor,
From out the gloom a voice seems softly calling,
That wakes within me memories of yore.
A voice more sweet than nightwind gently sighing—
More tender than the fading tints of day—
More sweet than woodland violet dying,
Or mountain meadow freshly strewn with hay.

A form comes gliding swiftly through the gloaming,
And leans in silent rapture at my side,
While through the hallowed past my thoughts are roaming—
Sweet recollection of the eventide.

I seem to hear the sigh so full of meaning,
To feel again the touch—the sweet caress,
To see the eye with love-light brightly beaming,
As to my own that throbbing heart I press.

Oh, sweet the dream that keeps my thoughts from drooping,
The twilight hour with fondest memories rife,
So may the stars of love come gaily trooping
To cheer us in the eventide of life!

Collection of Royalty Begins

This week sees the formal commencement of the annual whupping in the gulches, and the clubs will begin to fill up with baking powder cans loaded with dust and nuggets. Simultaneously, too, will commence the collection of the crown royalty of ten per cent of the whole, which will be looked after by Captain Belcher at the Forks, Captain Stearns on Dominion and Captain Search on Hunker. Pretty soon the golden stream will begin to flow into Dawson, and activity in business circles will be resumed.

Removed, Louis Pond & Co., two doors north of Monte Carlo.

FOR SALE

FINE PROPERTY ON FIRST AVE., Block B, producing \$500 per month revenue. \$10,000. Good terms.

Also large list of other choice properties on First Avenue at Bargain Figures.
FALCON J. BLIN, Broker, 111 2nd St

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GENERAL MERCHANDISE AND MINERS' SUPPLIES.
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Our Goods are all First Class and Guaranteed.
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to the Coast
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And
Personal
Attention
will be
given the
smallest
matter of
detail.

THE NUGGET EXPRESS

E. C. ALLEN, Mgr.
NUGGET BUILDING (Nugget Building)
Next to the N. A. T. & T. Co. warehouse.