

~ THE DAILY ~ KLONDIKE NUGGET.

VOL. 1 No. 8

DAWSON, Y. T., TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1900

PRICE 25 CENTS

VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE

Better Fire Protection Demanded.

FIRE OUT THE GIRLS FROM UPSTAIR ROOMS

Dawson's Prominent Business Men on the Situation.

Government Officials Willing to Do All They Can for Protection—Auxiliary Company From Field Force—Unanimity of Opinion.

Since the disastrous fire of last Wednesday considerable discussion has arisen concerning the efficiency of the fire department, as it is comprised at present, and plans for the improvement of this important branch of the public service are being formulated now.

At this season of the year it is impracticable to attempt to secure additional apparatus; but the number of firemen can be increased, if necessary. It may be possible to induce Major Heming to permit the formation of an auxiliary fire corps from among the Yukon field force, the capabilities of whom in his line of work were most satisfactorily demonstrated a week ago. It may be true that better arrangements can be had to secure a supply of water. In fact, several confidently assert that they can provide a good water system to the people of Dawson within the next 60 days; such a system as will afford the property holders on the principle business streets ample protection from destruction by fire. This system, however, if constructed at this season of the year would be costly; but the expenditure involved, great as it might be, would be only a modicum in comparison to the losses sustained by reason of the conflagration of last Wednesday.

Many business men are of the opinion that strict inspection should be maintained relative to flues and chimneys. In the past, this duty has devolved upon the fire chief, whose time and attention did not permit the exercise of proper care. It is contended that a special officer should be detailed on this inspection service, whose sole occupation should be confined to the examination of stove pipes, chimneys, etc. The recent fire might have been avoided had rigorous inspection been made of the Monte Carlo premises.

With few exceptions the property holders are in favor of a police ordinance forbidding the occupancy of rooms over saloons and places of amusement by variety actresses and dance hall girls. It is coincident that the last two destructive fires which Dawson has experienced, started in rooms occupied at the time by this class of people.

As a precautionary measure, it has been suggested that those owning buildings in the business district be compelled to provide them with brick chimneys. Many are in favor of this idea. It would certainly appear reasonable to enforce this rule as to

those buildings which are now in progress of erection.

The fact that no loss of life has been incurred by reason of former fires is attributed more to good luck than to anything else; and the proposition is being considered to require the proprietors of places of amusement to provide proper exits and fire escapes. Such a regulation would oblige all owners of houses of more than one story to construct exits from the upper stories.

The trustees of the Board of Trade will meet tomorrow night, and all these questions will be given careful consideration. Certainly some measures will be proposed looking to the better securing of property from loss by fire. A representative of the Nugget ascertained the opinion of a number of prominent business men relative to the subject.

Major Perry, when approached, refused to commit himself for the reason that as a member of the Yukon council he may be required to act on these matters in an administrative capacity.

Mr. Heron, of the A. C. Co., is of the opinion that a more powerful engine should be ordered immediately, thus insuring its arrival when navigation opens, and that the number of firemen should be increased now. Continuing he said:

"I consider it a bad scheme to have both engines located in stationary positions as they are now. This method requires the use of too much hose. After the last fire, every inch of hose was rendered useless for 24 hours. If the department would house the engines in the vicinity of the fire halls, they could be taken to any point on the river opposite a fire in the business district with not much greater loss of time than is now required to reach them with hose. I have no criticism to make concerning the management of the last fire; under the circumstances and condition, as they were, I think that the department acquitted itself in the execution of every detail.

"I certainly believe that all buildings should be inspected thoroughly and frequently by a man detailed for that particular purpose, and whose duty should be confined to this special line of work. I do not deem it feasible to require owners of buildings to erect brick chimneys just now; iron stove pipes, with air spaces around them, are practically safe.

"I think that it is impossible to construct a good water system in this country during the winter season. If the council, however, should levy additional tax for fire purposes, my company would willingly pay.

"I am strongly opposed to permitting variety women and dance hall girls to occupy the upper stories of buildings used as theaters and dance halls. Of course, all houses of more than one story should be provided with fire escapes.

"I am interested in any movement or measure which tends to improve the efficiency of the fire department, and will give it my support."

Tom Chisholm expressed the following opinions:

"The stovepipes and flues should be looked at carefully in all buildings and the greatest care taken that there is no break in the pipes.

"I did not notice any mismanagement on the part of the fire department, but there were not enough men to do the work.

"I would be willing to pay a fair tax to promote any proposition which the people would think necessary for the better protection of the town.

"About the women in rooms over business houses, I think all danger

from fire can be obviated by employing watchmen to look after the halls.

"Another suggestion I would make is that an ordinance should be made making it compulsory to place brick flues and chimneys in all large buildings. All places of amusement should have more than one exit and two story houses should have fire escapes. I have ordered one for the Hotel McDonald."

J. L. Macauley, of Macauley Bros., said:

"I think our fire department is adequate; but I think it would be a good idea to prohibit the use of canvas linings in all buildings, as this stuff is as inflammable as lint. I think the firemen worked nobly during the fire but that the force is not sufficient to combat a large fire successfully.

"I cannot see how we could have a better water system than now in use under the circumstances and I would oppose any taxation of property for the purpose of inaugurating any other system. I believe that all variety people should be excluded from rooming in business blocks."

Mr. Doig, manager of the Bank of British North America, when interviewed, answered:

"I don't not think that our fire department is sufficiently adequate to give us the protection that a city of this size should have. I am not well enough acquainted with the fire fighting business to suggest any improvement; but I should say that there are men in town who are qualified in the premises, and whose services should be secured.

"Personally I am willing to do anything which the business men and property owners deem necessary relative to the improvement of the department. I have always understood that a regulation was in force requiring brick chimneys in the business district; and I should say that it would be expedient to have such a measure passed and enforced immediately."

Mr. McMullen, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, said:

"I consider our fire protection inadequate. I would suggest that two additional engines be ordered immediately, and also a large quantity of hose. My idea is that we should have a trained auxiliary fire brigade composed of volunteer firemen to act in conjunction with the paid force and under the control and orders of the department chief. I did not notice any mismanagement during the recent fire; but it is a fact, patent to all, that the number of firemen is insufficient to combat and confine within reasonable limits a large fire.

"If it can be demonstrated that the construction of a good water system at this season of the year is practicable, I am in favor of it, and am willing to pay a fire rate of taxation for that purpose.

"I think that it is a grave error to have the upper stories of places of amusement tenanted by variety women and dance hall girls. Experience has taught us that their careless habits are a menace to property. I deem it advisable to compel business men to construct

(Continued on Page 2.)

HE WANTS TO KNOW WHY.

Injured Innocence Attended Saturday Night's Show.

Propounds a Few Plain Questions to the Officials—Has Dawson Had a Dose of Class Legislation?

Editor Daily Nugget:

Pardon this intrusion on your valuable space, but I desire to ask of the powers that be in Dawson a few questions. I ask them through the medium of your paper and trust that they may be answered though the same medium. Among other things I wish to know is, first:

Why was the family drama which was on at the Palace Grand Saturday night and attended by the best people in Dawson shut off—snuffed out, so to speak—within not over 20 minutes of the final curtain just because 12 o'clock arrived ahead of the end of the drama?

Was such action justified on the part of the officials? was it fair to those who were in attendance—decent men and their decent wives, who so seldom have the opportunity for attending a high-class theatrical performance in Dawson; and was it fair to the performers, who, having but recently lost their all by relentless fire, were striving to earn a few honest dollars by entertaining a body of respectable people who had given up their honest money?

If the above questions can be answered in a manner which justifies the officials in their arbitrary course, I will propound a few more questions, to wit:

Why did not the same law and the same officers that closed the dramatic entertainment, which would have closed of its own volition before 12:30 o'clock, close the late bazaar which but two short weeks before was kept open until 5 o'clock Sunday morning, during all of the five hours of which Sunday morning gambling was carried on and drinks—intoxicating drinks—were being sold?

Was there any gambling at the dramatic entertainment Saturday night?

Were any intoxicating liquors sold at the dramatic entertainment Saturday night?

Is Dawson subjected to the horrors and inequities of class legislation?

Will the officials answer the above questions?

I am not alone interested in having the above questions answered. There are hundreds of the same opinion as my self. It is not a question of nationality, but a question of vital importance to every resident alike of Dawson.

Officers of the law that is alleged to be just—the law that should denounce class legislation, will you kindly answer the above questions and oblige,

INJURED INNOCENCE.

For Sale at a Bargain.

Complete steam thawing plant. Four horse-power boiler in splendid condition. Apply Nugget office.

Cribbs & Rogers, the leading druggists.

ARCTIC SAW MILL

Removed to Mouth of Hunker Creek, on Klondike River.

SLUCE, FLUME AND MINING LUMBER

At Lowest Prices. Order Now.

At Mill, OFFICES: Upper Ferry, Klondike river: J.W. Boyle
Boyle's Wharf.

Special Sale

Come and See

Felt Shoes, bals \$6.00 pair

Felt Shoes, high top . . . \$6.00 pair

Felt Shoes, Congress . . . \$6.00 pair

Moccasins \$2.50 pair

The Ames Mercantile Co.