

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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A. F. GEORGE, Associate Editor

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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.

MAIL.

Much misunderstanding is prevalent among our American friends as to what constitutes the American mail which is debarred from passage by the Canadian mail contractors this winter. General Supervisor Wilcox was seen by The Nugget the past summer and granted a long interview on American mail matters, he being the special United States emissary to straighten things out in the great Northwest. Mr. Wilcox stated positively that there had been a mutual arrangement between the two governments by the terms of which there would be absolutely no discrimination in any mail matter for the Skagway-Dawson route, including all way points. The American mail which the Canadian government cannot possibly be expected to handle through its contracts is that addressed from one United States point to another, as for instance San Francisco to Circle City. Letters originating in the United States and addressed to Dawson, Selkirk or other river points, become Canadian mail as soon as delivered across the boundary to the proper officials.

We are promised a service this winter much superior to last. The new trail avoids all open water excepting Lakes Lebarge and Bennett. Steamers will ply on these waters, carrying the mail, until frozen in. The overland trail is even now in working order, and the mail can be rushed right through just as soon as the river permits of passage to Selkirk.

VULGARITY.

It is probable that no two men in Dawson could agree upon just where to draw the line between common decency and vulgarity or indecency. One man goes into hysterics to see a lady on the street in bicycle abbreviations, or an actress on the stage in a trifle of lingerie and little else; while another, who believes his feelings to be just as refined, passes indifferently by the nude pictures in the saloons or art galleries, forgets a ribald witticism as soon as heard; is unaffected by the thousand and one shocking indelicacies of everyday life, and sees naught to excite censure in the modern variety stage.

The subject of decency is brought to mind by several communications received from our friends. Several of them, to our knowledge, are new arrivals in Dawson. On the outside they patronized good theaters attended by ladies and gentlemen indiscriminately, where everything that could possibly be construed as a suggestion was rigidly excused. In Dawson they drifted into a variety theater, and while they admit they were highly entertained, they would resolve themselves into a committee of the whole for the enforced

elevation of the stage and a compulsory infliction of a rigid morale as inflexible as the blue laws of Connecticut.

Had these same writers lived a hundred years ago and taken part in the conversations of our great-grand parents, they would certainly have agitated for a suppression of speech. They would have been inexpressibly shocked by our grandmother's broad manner of referring to things which in these days are tabooed in polite society.

There are a few simple rules which we would suggest to those who find themselves easily shocked. If they don't want to hear swearing, let them keep off the trails; out of the mines; avoid the road-houses; by all means keep out of the saloons and never go within hearing distance of a man driving dogs. If ribald witticisms give them cold shivers, let them avoid all gatherings of men; keep out of miners' camps of an evening; keep away from groups engaged in idle conversation; shun their fellows; stuff their ears with cotton if anyone is seen approaching; build a cabin on Simulky creek and live alone. If they object to suggestions, let them avoid all variety theaters; all the usual pleasure resorts; keep away from picture galleries; wear double thick blue spectacles at the ballet; rid their library shelves of two-thirds of the world's literature; taboo the human sciences and shun all knowledge of that frailest of all animals—man.

Dawson varieties are just as they are outside, excepting perhaps that they are better. A man is not worldly wise who goes there with the expectation of hearing a sermon on the virtues of celibacy.

Theaters are like merchants, in that they strive to give the public what it wants and what it is willing to pay for. Performers are very sensitive to public approbation and public deprecation, and their salaries depend upon their powers to please. If a crowd prefers the rollicking amusement of coarse buffoonery, witty impersonation, "risque" songs—in fact the low comedy of the theater to the refined humor of Charles Lamb, it would appear to us as if our correspondents have a huge field open for them in the "elevation" of the audience, after which the stage will be found to have quickly "elevated" itself in conformity with the improved public tastes.

VAGRANCY.

In nineteenth century civilization the courts of the land are supposed to be devoted to justice. Whenever they miss the object for which they are established, it is for the public and the press to call their attention to the fact of their wandering from the purpose of their establishment. It was never intended in the economy of government that its courts of justice should be debased to revenue raising. Assessors and tax collectors and sheriffs are provided for this end—not courts of justice. It is as out of place to reduce a court to the level of a profit making machine as it would be to compel the Yukon council to take in washing to increase the public revenues. If a man is charged with any offense which brings him before the magistrate he is either guilty or not guilty. If not guilty, he should go scott free, without having to settle the costs. If guilty, the record should say so and the man should be dealt with accordingly.

We are led to the foregoing remarks by the case of Frank Lightpost, mentioned in our local columns. Until three weeks ago the evidence showed he was employed by John Kellum as night foreman on a Dominion creek claim. In town he indulged regularly in patronizing the public games. He was arrested on a charge of vagrancy, but upon proving himself to be a miner, was discharged "upon payment of the costs."

The incongruities of the case are apparent. The vagrancy law is the greatest monstrosity of the century. Under a strict interpretation of its provisions, ninety-nine out of every hundred men in Dawson can be arrested, fined and imprisoned, at the option of police and police magistrates. That it is not more abused than it is, speaks well for both police and police magistrate. But this law and this court have been drafted into the revenue raising industry. Fifty dollars was considered Lightpost's share of the necessary taxes to run the territory. Though a free miner, he is arrested under the sweeping charge of vagrancy. Not 500 men in Dawson could free themselves of that ambiguous charge if arrested. One may have quit his last job or have been fired a week ago and have money to burn, yet be a vagrant. So it happens that though Lightpost proved himself a trustworthy working man, guiltless of aught but patronizing games which are tolerated in Dawson as long as run on the square, it was optional with Magistrate Perry to discharge, mulct, or imprison. By paying the costs Lightpost secured an acquittal.

Fines under this vagrancy law have amounted to over \$7000 in a single day, the men paying their fines and immediately returning to their tables and their games. Gaming is considered legitimate in Dawson, and is probably run more open and square here than in any place in America. That the laws, the courts and the machinery of justice should be debased to the level of tax-collecting is a sorry sight to anyone having the dignity of those courts at heart.

A Canadian writer throws cold water on Admiral Dewey's victory at Manila. It's easy enough to figure out now that the Spanish fleet was a collection of "tubs"—but the writer forgets to mention the land batteries, torpedoes and the uncertainty of it all. Dewey fought that battle in the face of danger of annihilation from submarine explosives. It was quite exciting, when one stops to think of it. And if it were so meritless as the Canadian scribe says, why have all the nations of the earth so suddenly taken a tumble. Seattle Times.

Comparing California with the Transvaal it will be seen that notwithstanding its immense output of gold, which has amounted to date to nearly \$1,000,000,000, California cannot compare with the Rand. It was estimated by Sir Alfred Milner when he went to South Africa, as England's high commissioner, that the mines of the Transvaal contain two thousand five hundred millions of dollars, or to put it in figures so that the eye may comprehend it as well as the ear, the sum of \$2,500,000,000.

The refining influence of woman is already felt in our midst and the change worked by the arrival of a thousand wives and daughter, the past summer is

apparent on every hand. Tinware on the table is being exorcised and the stores are selling white tablecloths, even to miners who never had a wife. This thing will have to stop sometime or we shall be using napkin rings and finger bowls in the road houses.

How many men on the Klondike have grown rich by legitimate mining? How many by work? It is a grand field for speculation and speculators, but beats all creation for the success which attends the genus "graft".

Better keep quiet about those "rich diggings" at Cape Nome or the Canadian commission will push that boundary line over, even though it be 1500 miles west!—Seattle Times.

'Twas ever thus in childhood's hour," and while the poor miner is shortening his life by ten hours a day in a smoky shaft, the white-collared gent in town "coppers" his efforts, and wins.

It is said that several Puget sound logging camps will have to close on account of the scarcity of labor. Pay of \$2.50 to \$3 per day fails to get the men needed.

Boston papers are throwing cold water on Cape Nome. When the treasure ships come down the Nomers can respond by an exhibition of the "yellow stuff."

The railroads will receive over a quarter of a million dollars for handling this year's salmon packed on Puget sound alone. Salmon must indeed have golden scales.

All Spanish fortifications in Cuba are to come down. They are unpleasant monuments of a day that is past.

Weyler must be very much pleased at the progress (?) made by Gen. Otis in Manila.

Telephone Inventor in a New Line.

Prof. Graham Bell, inventor of the Bell telephone, has been summering at his beautiful home in Baddock, Cape Breton. It is understood that this year he is devoting nearly the whole of his time to experiments with flying machines, and is confident that he is not only on the right track, but within measurable distance of success. He is developing the kite idea, experimenting with planes of various sizes and weights. He has discarded the generally accepted principles that the machine must be of extraordinary lightness, and is calculating on securing stability and steadiness from weight.

First Mail.

Postmaster Hartman informs us that the first attempt at forwarding the mails over the ice to the outside will be made on Wednesday next, the mail closing on Tuesday night.

Frank Buteau's own make-miner's picks for sale at A. C. Co or Frank Buteau's blacksmith shop, Klondike City; thirteen years' experience. \$5.25 without handle, \$6 with handle. Name stamped on every pick.

The cheeriest barroom and the choicest drinks will be found at the Cafe Royal annex.

Forks Office.

The Nugget Express

THE DEWEY HOTEL.

TERRITORY

Harry B. Kelly

They Robbed teen of B tenced to

Harry B. J

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