

# The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)  
ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY  
On Wednesdays and Saturdays

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Yearly in advance \$24.00  
Six months in advance 12.00  
Three months in advance 6.00  
Per month by carrier in city (in advance) 2.00  
Single copies 25

Published by E. C. Allen, at Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada.

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### WILL IT WORK IN SUMMER?

In the last issue of the Nugget was recorded the fact that a committee composed of delegates appointed on the different creeks acting in conjunction with a committee of the Miner's Association, had passed a resolution of censure upon the Yukon council for permitting Mr. O'Brien to collect toll upon the sled trail which he has built under a paper purporting to grant him authority to construct a tramway. This action on the part of the miners sustains the position which this paper has occupied during the entire controversy.

It was a very clever move on the part of the alleged tramway promoters to begin operations at the close of the summer season. We think that no particular objection would be raised had the company carried out the purposes for which it was ostensibly organized and provided suitable means for transferring sleds which would be available during the warm weather. Everyone who has seen the Bonanza trail last summer knows that for long stretches it was well nigh impassable, but everyone knows equally as well that had no tramway company been organized, a good serviceable trail would now be in use on the entire length of the creek. And more than this, the men up the creeks who are today paying tribute to a concern which we are satisfied has not the shadow of a right to exact from them a single copper, are pretty well convinced that when next summer arrives the same sloughs and mud holes will confront them as did during the past season.

To place the matter in a nutshell, the tramway concern taking advantage of the fact that nature herself in the winter time provides a good hard roadbed, secures a doubtful permit to construct a tramway and under cover of said permit takes possession of the trail and proceeds to exact toll.

We would like to ask Mr. O'Brien what he intends doing for the miners next summer. Will he guarantee that when warm weather arrives he will still furnish a hard trail to the Forks? Perhaps when sufficient toll has been collected to enable the work to be done, he will go ahead and complete his tramway. If there are any redeeming features about the tramway scheme we would like the opportunity of giving the public the benefit thereof. Meanwhile we must agree with the conclusion of the miners' committee, viz., that the whole thing is a fraud.

### THAT BEDROCK FLUME.

The cat is out of the bag at last, and the bedrock flume flurry of the last two weeks and the Miner-Sun's advertised intention of taking their own miner's petition to Ottawa is all seen to be part of the same scheme.

How prettily it works. The Miner says in its last issue: "In this the Miner will state that the matter of the changes in mining regulations as proposed by it, will be presented to the government advisory board, and are in a position to state that we are absolutely sure of the en-

dorsement \* \* \* by these advisers. Indeed, it is not unlikely that Mr. Ogilvie and the advisers here will forward the petition themselves."

The foregoing is apropos of a set of amendments drawn up by the Miner itself and to which it is endeavoring to get the signatures of the miners. It agrees also to send a man out to Ottawa with them to try and secure their passage. Now this sending out of a man with a few bogus amendments not drawn up by the miners themselves, struck us as odd in a paper whose main support is the government pay it receives, and the spending of \$1500 or \$2000 disinterestedly by that sheet in paying that emissary's expenses to Ottawa we knew to be impossible. Then the question remained what was their private scheme in sending a man to the Canadian capital. In the bedrock flume flurry of December we have the key to the whole situation. The proprietors of the Miner-Sun and their reporters, friends and contributors got their heads together and then in batches of five and six blanketed every creek in the district not already secured elsewhere with a bedrock flume application. Now it was necessary to secure the sanction and approval of Mr. Ogilvie before going to Ottawa with the applications and that gentleman has already been seen. The Miner says: "It is understood that all matters relating to franchises and concessions \* \* \* will not be considered (at Ottawa) at all except upon consultation with Mr. Ogilvie and the government representatives here at Dawson." This left the Miner-Sun with its bedrock flume aspirations in the position of carrying favor with the government here and a good card to play was to head off the agitation for a reform of the regulations by a set of bogus amendments which was not at all what the miners themselves wanted but was agreeable to those who must approve their bedrock flume schemes. That the Miner's proposed amendments have been submitted to Mr. Ogilvie as a sop to secure his approval of the flume company's plans is evidenced by the two quotations from the Miner-Sun in this article. Now comes the most audacious action of the combination. It being considered absolutely essential by the parties interested in the action that a man should go with the flume plans to Ottawa to personally lobby them through, it was considered a master stroke of diplomacy to have that representative first endorsed as the bona fide emissary of the miners of the district. It is just as if the Miner-Sun had said: "Gentlemen, come up and give our man the prestige of your support and we will send him to Ottawa at our own expense to put through our own pet blanket scheme."

But there is more to it than even the above. In canvassing for subscriptions to the Miner-Sun's bedrock flume company the cat has been allowed to stick her head still a little further out of the bag. It is hoped to be able through their personal representative, endorsed as they hope he will be by the miners, to get Mr. Sifton to suspend all prospecting, all re-locating and all staking of fractions on the creeks covered by the company, and make a grant of it all to the said Miner-Sun bedrock flume company. Mr. Sifton's open advocacy of the infamous Stickeen railroad steal proves him not to be invulnerable to jobs and jobbers and that he could be secured to engineer the Miner-Sun bedrock flume company's scheme is among the easiest possibilities.

There is a proverb about the best laid plans of mice and men oft going astray which we think will now apply. If the Miner-Sun's little balloon is not punctured we are mistaken in the make-up of the men of the Klondike.

### COMPARED WITH RUSSIA.

North Russia reaches within 24 miles of Alaska at Behring Straits and extends across Asia to the European boundary line. The climate is so much like this that the Russians in our midst are forced to remark upon it. We have thousands of miles of territory level and elevated far above the great river basins, and will resemble the steppes of Russia a great deal. Russia has

therefore solved the problem for us as to whether this land is capable of maintaining a large population. Russia has evolved a species of wheat capable of reaching a thrifty maturity in the short, hot and all day light regions of that country. A particular species of oats and other grains is also raised successfully, while hay, the great stock staple, never was raised anywhere in greater abundance. Some 85 millions of people live and thrive and perpetuate their kind in those gloomy regions, though it must be admitted they exist in a state of semi-barbarianism and semi-civilization. The Alaskan gold belt crosses Behring sea and shows up in Russia as in Alaska, but it is not by digging gold that the people live, for only about \$20,000,000 is produced each year from that entire territory. Siberia the most desolate part of the whole of Russia and equal in barrenness and frigidty of climate to anything which can be shown by Alaska or the Yukon Territory, has large settlements at intervals through the country. Distances in that land are gauged as we would gauge them; not as they would be regarded in the United States. We have with us plenty of gentlemen—aye and ladies too—who now regard a six hundred mile trip over the ice with less horror than they ever before regarded a twenty mile jaunt; many of them never before walked ten miles at one time in their lives. And so it happens that Russia is today the ideal country for travelling other than by the steam cars. The population being much denser than here the roads in the winter months are like glass from the amount of travel over them. Relays of horses carry the traveler thousands of miles at a delicious speed and in comparative comfort. The cold is about the same as here and the absence of wind just as noticeable. To sum up, that country is not only self-supporting but produces a revenue for the government besides the gold which all belongs to the crown. The possibilities of Alaska and Yukon are not exhausted when its gold is gone.

### NOW IS THE TIME.

And now we people of the Klondike have reached the parting of the ways when quick and positive decision must be made with no time to waste. Our written prayers to Ottawa have found their way to the waste-paper basket and the reforms in the regulations without which we languish are apparently as far away as ever. Throughout the English speaking half world the name of Klondike has become synonymous with misgovernment, mismanagement and unjust and oppressive laws. The English colonial office is boiling over with it. The office of the interior is full of it. The press of Canada, England and her other colonies is using columns on it. The great parties of Canada are making it their issue. Statesmen are fighting over it and if ever there was a time to make a strike for reform it is now. A personal representative of the Klondike miners who should find himself in the lobby of the house at its opening in March would have half the politicians of Canada at his back and half the press. For political reasons the conservative members of the house would espouse his cause while the anti-Sifton element of the liberals—a faction growing daily stronger and more numerous—would welcome gladly an emissary from this section laden with facts and primed with figures showing the colossal evils under which we stagger. There never again will be a time so opportune for the personal presentation of our case. Seeing this all so clearly, this paper proposes to extend its crusade against our wrongs from Dawson to Ottawa. We have made our fight here and leave it to our readers whether or not we have accomplished any of the tasks we set out to accomplish. We propose now to put a competent representative—perhaps two—into the thick of the fray by sending him as fast as dog teams can forward him or them to the coast, and steam to the Canadian capital.

There is now a problem presented for the consideration of our readers. First it will take money to lobby, and

the more money in hand the more effective the lobbying. Practical Canadian politics has created a third house which is entirely apart from either the upper or lower house. Sometimes its sessions are in one club and sometimes in another but it goes by name everywhere as "the lobby." It is in this third house that most of our legislation is arranged, speakers booked and voters first counted. Every important undertaking in the land has its representative there and now is the time for a Klondike representative to be welcomed. Secondly our representative is going directly there for the purpose of personally presenting to our legislators the case of the people vs. the government the miner vs. a strangling form of misrule. Thirdly he will go on his mission "whether you will or whether you won't," but it lies in your power to render his work doubly effective by a reasonable financial support. It lies with you whether or not he shall be doubly fortified by ample munitions of war. We will do all we can single handed as we have heretofore done through the medium of our paper; but this time we propose to fight at shorter range. Undoubtedly much good will be accomplished and each and every one of our readers will be given an opportunity to lend a helping hand. If each of our claim owners or successful laymen contributes even a moiety the fund so created will return to him and the district a thousand fold. Things are ripe at Ottawa and we are going to do what we can to pluck the fruit of the present agitation for the country with which we have cast our lot. You can aid us in this undertaking just as you will.

The decision of Justice Harper in the case of Nellie Holden charged with attempted suicide recalls the fact that the account of that event as published in this paper was denounced as false by the Miner-Sun. The Nugget has absolutely no interest in the matter and calls attention to the case again simply to point out the fact that the story as published was borne out in almost every detail at the preliminary hearing. When it is understood that a full account of the affair was in type within three hours after it occurred and when the further fact is known that when first approached nearly every party connected with the case declined positively to give any information, it will be at once seen that it was no easy matter to secure a reliable report in so short a time. The fact that our account was so fully borne out in the evidence but proves the claim made for the news columns of the Nugget that the matter contained therein is reliable.

The thorough going efficiency of Dawson's volunteer fire department is one of Dawson's best features. The report of the secretary at the last meeting shows that since its inception the department has answered 31 alarms and of that number 21 have been incipient fires. To the majority of non-thinkers it would appear that the absence of large fires has prevented a thorough test of our department; but the opposite is really the case and the absence of large fires is demonstrating their efficiency. In at least six cases out of the total of 21 there would in all probability have been a serious conflagration had it not been for the prompt measures taken by our boys. However there will be a larger fire come along some day and even the skeptical ones will be proud of the fire ladders who are giving such disinterested service.

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### KNOCKED OUT

A Skillful Plan and Together

Pat Rooney, Cleveland, Ohio, has taken a lead in the last race. The sparring contest between Curley Carr and Pat Rooney at Mount Carleton Thursday and resulted in Carr and the sponge being the 11th round. Carr weighed 165 lbs and weighed about 130 lbs. Carr was severe, with the most particularly apparently damaged round, but plucky. Carr was hit by 21 punches in the 12th, while the sponge was knocked out in the 11th.

White Carr had a fate, he showed some as a make number. Carr was a very good fighter and was a very good fighter. Carr was a very good fighter and was a very good fighter. Carr was a very good fighter and was a very good fighter.

Rooney was seen by Charley Gleason, Sam Barber and John Munford for Rooney's fight. Rooney was seen by Charley Gleason, Sam Barber and John Munford for Rooney's fight. Rooney was seen by Charley Gleason, Sam Barber and John Munford for Rooney's fight.

1. Carr sprung a trap for Rooney. Carr sprung a trap for Rooney. Carr sprung a trap for Rooney. Carr sprung a trap for Rooney.

2. Both sparred then Carr rushed. Both sparred then Carr rushed. Both sparred then Carr rushed. Both sparred then Carr rushed.

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