

The Klondike Nugget

TELEPHONE NUMBER 12
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From Monday and Tuesday's Daily.
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY.

We are in receipt of a communication dealing with the question of transient traders. The writer devotes himself to an attack upon the established business houses of Dawson, the gist of his argument being that legislation along the lines suggested by this paper will leave the business of supplying commodities to the district entirely in the hands of the big companies.

We do not publish the letter for the reason that the author stipulates that his name is not to be used "under any consideration." Nevertheless the point he raises is worthy of remark as indicating to what extent prejudice will sometimes blind the human intellect against facts.

The suggestions advanced by this paper had in view two objects. First the extension of some measures of protection to local merchants against illegitimate competition, and second, securing to the public treasury a revenue from transient traders who unless directly licensed would practically escape taxation altogether.

Any measures passed along the lines indicated would be of equal benefit to every company or man who conducts a legitimate business enterprise in Dawson throughout twelve months in the year.

The big companies no longer have a monopoly in the matter of importing goods. The small merchant in Dawson has become a more important factor each year and at the present time the number of merchants who are preparing to import their own goods for the coming season is surprisingly large. These men are all employers of labor; many of them have their families in Dawson and their money is kept in constant circulation. That no greater benefit would accrue to the large commercial concerns than to the smaller ones will be patent to every one who is able to view the matter from an unbiased standpoint.

Our objection is not particularly to the operations of the "saw man," but rather to the theory of permitting outside business houses to establish agencies in Dawson for a period of a few weeks during the "rush" season, without contributing handsomely to the public coffers for the privilege.

These concerns remain in business merely long enough to "clean up" as much money as possible and depart with their gains at the earliest possible moment. The entire community suffers when money is thus withdrawn from circulation, and as long as it is within the power of the community to protect itself there is every reason why steps in that direction should be taken.

We are quite willing to recognize the fact that there are two sides to every question and the columns of the Nugget are open to discussion of this as well as all other matters of public moment.

We do not believe, however, that an opinion which cannot be published over the author's signature is entitled to consideration.

CHINESE DIPLOMACY.

The capacity of the Chinese for subtle diplomacy has been forcibly demonstrated in the method by which they propose to raise the \$500,000,000 indemnity required by the powers in settlement of all damages arising out of the Boxer demonstrations.

In order to secure the required amount, the Chinese propose to assign what are known as the "transit" taxes. These taxes consist of a sort of local impost levied by each district through which it is desired to transport goods—foreign goods being taxed particularly high. The rate of charges vary in different localities according to the pleasure of the officials charged with the duty of collecting the taxes.

Toll houses occur often within a distance of 20 or 30 miles of each other and in consequence the value of goods increases very rapidly as they are taken into the interior.

The effect of this system of tariffs thus far has been to effectually prevent foreign goods from reaching a market in China at any considerable distance from the coast. The Chinese do not want goods of foreign manufacture brought into the country under any circumstances. It is a part of their diplomatic policy to maintain the strongest possible barrier against all encroachments of foreign competition.

In view of this condition their willingness to assign the "transit" taxes is not difficult to understand. These taxes amount each year to less than \$10,000,000, which sum will not pay interest on the amount of indemnity required, to say nothing of making provision for a fund with which to pay the principal.

Should the powers insist upon raising the tariff rates in order to increase the amount of revenue, there would be no particular objection offered by the wily Chinaman. Any addition to the present "transit" taxes would merely throw a greater burden upon imported goods and to that extent discourage a trade which is in anything but a flourishing condition under existing circumstances.

It will be seen therefore, that the powers, according to the Chinese plans, are to be left between the horns of a dilemma. If the transit taxes remain as they are at present, the debts will never be paid. If the taxes are increased, the door to Chinese trade will be closed a little more tightly than has been the case heretofore. And still we talk of establishing schools for the instruction of the unenlightened Celestial.

The decision handed down in the United States circuit court of appeals in San Francisco relative to the Nome receivership cases will have a very wholesome influence upon the atmosphere surrounding Alaskan officialdom. Undoubtedly Nome has been the scene of all manner of corrupt practices and the prompt manner in which the courts have taken hold of the matter when once it was brought before their notice is most satisfactory. That an official should have any license to abuse the privileges of his office for the mere reason that he is located 3000 or 4000 miles away from a superior authority is a theory entirely repugnant to every accepted principle of government. The decision of the United States court which is published elsewhere in this paper will command the respect and admiration of right thinking men everywhere.

Holders of Spanish war bonds are endeavoring to force the payment of the same upon Cuba. At the termination of previous insurrections in that island in which of course Spain came out victorious, the entire costs were invariably saddled upon the Cubans, special taxes being levied to produce the requisite revenue. It was on the supposition that the late rebellion would result in Spanish success that purchasers were found for the bonds. Now Spain has lost Cuba and has nothing herself but an empty treasury and the bondholders are whistling for their money. It is not probable that Uncle Sam will do anything to help them out of the difficulty.

The order to remove the demi-monde from within the immediate haunts of the town will be received with general approbation. Vice cannot be entirely done away with but that is no reason why it should be permitted to flaunt itself continuously before the public.

The American Express Company presented each one of its 30,000 employees with a five dollar gold piece at Christmas. We wonder if the time is at hand when corporations are to be endowed with souls.

If the author of the poem entitled "The Return of Spring," will send us his address, the manuscript will be mailed to him postage prepaid.

Some splendid records have been made in transporting the mail of late. Let the good work go on.

KNOCKED OUT AND ROBBED

Is What Geo. E. Nichols Says Was His Portion

When He Renewed Old Montana Acquaintance With Hot Tamale Thompson at the Forks.

The trial of Molly Thompson, accused of robbing Geo. E. Nichols of \$503.50 at the Globe hotel at Grand Forks last Friday, occupied the attention of Police Magistrate McDonell yesterday afternoon. Nichols told very graphically and minutely under cross-examination the story of his trip to the Forks and his return therefrom a poorer and wiser man. At the time of his arrival at the Globe hotel he had on his person three gold sacks, one containing \$105 "in this pocket," said witness, slapping his hand on his right hand trousers pocket, "10 ounces in my left hand hip pocket and \$128.50 in my left hand front trousers pocket, with a silver quarter also in my right hand trousers pocket." He went from the Aurora No. 4 to the Globe hotel which is just across the street to get some currency in exchange for dust. Stepping inside the hotel he met Molly Thompson and saluted her with the question, "Where have I met you before?" It was discovered that they both hailed from Great Falls, Montana, where she had been running a "dive" and he had been in her "dive" a few times and had then met her and remembered having seen her when he stepped into the Globe hotel. She took him around to show him her house and then led him into a small room upstairs when she ordered drinks. At that time he was perfectly sober and distinctly remembered everything that occurred. Having to see a party on business at 6 o'clock he started down the stairs and weighed out \$2 to pay for the drinks. Then it was a little before 6 o'clock; he stepped behind the bar and sat down with Molly sitting close beside him who tried to get him to order a "small bot" which he refused to do. She then ordered it and afterwards another one. Chatting a while longer about old times in Montana, he finally said "I can't afford to buy wine, but I will buy a glass of hootch, which is good enough for you." The drink of that glass proved his downfall, for when he awoke at some time between 10 and 11 that night he found himself upstairs on a bed with a bruised and swollen left eye and pockets which had been relieved of their golden lining. The silver quarter was the only reminder he had of being a man of means a short time before. Groping his way down stairs he inquired of the bartender, "if it is not possible to rob a man without killing him," to which the barkeeper had replied, that he knew nothing at all about it. He had then gone to his room at the Aurora No. 4 and had laid complaint to the sergeant the next morning.

After hearing the evidence of the prosecuting witness, the case was continued until today.

This morning the Molly Thompson case was continued until this afternoon when evidence for the defence will be heard and it will be known whether or not it is a "hot tomale" as Nichols endeavored to prove.

Magistrate McDonell was in the magistrate's chair this morning. Phil McDonald was in the witness box and Andy McDonald was in the prisoner's box the latter being charged with forging Phil McDonald's name to a note for \$500. The case got no further than as above stated, friends of the defendant having come to his rescue and squared the difficulty with the result that Phil McDonald did not desire to further prosecute the man who had made so free with his name.

Tom Chisholm, assisted by D. Wenzell, being convinced that Chisholm was paying for more wood than he was burning, made a few marks such as rabbit tracks, pot hooks and monkey wrenches on a number of sticks and Saturday night Wenzell camped by a nearby window and before 7 o'clock his vigil was rewarded by seeing a man come in the alley with a sled, load it up with wood and depart with it, hauling it around on Second avenue where he left it stand for three hours. In the meantime the assistance of Constable Stutz had been secured and when the wood hauler returned and started away with the sled and load he was promptly arrested. Louie Blum was the prisoner and on his trial he made a strong effort to convince the court of his innocence, claiming to have pur-

chased the sled from a man who came to him in the Bank saloon, the salesman throwing in the wood that was on it. But the evidence against Blum was very straight and a penalty of one month's imprisonment at hard labor was imposed.

If Madge Osborne told the truth this morning when she said her husband is in San Francisco, she said considerable for Mr. Osborne's good sense, but if that individual cares anything for his vine and fig tree he will do well to hie himself to this country for, according to Madge's own story, she is very naughty. About 10 days ago Madge complained to the police at Gold Bottom that her cabin on 20 below on Hunker had been robbed of blankets, pictures, a comb and pair of gold scales by William McMasters with whom she said she had been living since last July. She soon repented of having complained about William, who, by the way, returned the stolen property next morning, and wrote him a letter telling him the police were looking for him. The letter which was couched in very endearing terms was read in court and was the occasion of Madge doing considerable squirming in the witness box, but owing to a number of alternate layers on her face of brick dust and venetian red it was not possible to say whether or not she blushed. Almost the only thing adduced from the evidence was that Madge as a woman, is several degrees below zero as registered by the thermometer of morality, and that William McMasters has been living on the avails of her shame. The charge of the theft was dismissed and William was given five days in which to get out of the country.

Not on the Program.

A feature of last night's entertainment at the Savoy was not on the program and was not known to be "on tap" until it began. It took place in the lobby, the principals being two local aspirants to pugilistic honors, White and Devine. The story is that White was the aggressor and was offended at a recent article published over Devine's signature. White made a rush at Devine who side-stepped until he could divest himself of his coat when, eye-witnesses to the affray say, Devine turned loose, but no very serious damage was inflicted or sustained by either. The bout was of short duration.

Passengers Arriving.

On the last of the C. D. Co.'s stages to arrive were five passengers, a part of the way, four of whom were delivered here ahead of schedule time Sunday night. They were Frank Potts, Jon Burke of the A. C. Co., Dan Anderson, formerly of the Bank saloon, and Paddy Brown. The one passenger who came a portion of the way was Dave Allen, familiarly known as "One-Eyed Riley," who came to where the stage went through the ice on a sandbar when the man who took a number of Dawson banking houses down the line, became discouraged and decided to wait for another stage. An hour after he turned back, the stage was merrily proceeding on its way as if nothing had happened. Riley of the one eye was not joking when he telegraphed from Whitehorse for money, as the men who came in Sunday night say he is dead broke.

Frank Potts, since leaving here the latter part of the open season, has spent two months at his old home in Kansas City and also visited many of the middle western points. He came in over the ice about a month later than this last year when, he says, the trail was in better condition for travel than at present. He fell in with a "flock" of Elks at Skagway and was duly antlered before getting away.

Building Up Dumps.

From a person who makes three round trips each week between Dawson, Grand Forks and the upper end of Eldorado, the information is gleaned that dumps on both Bonanza and Eldorado are now growing with wonderful rapidity and the next cleanup will be the largest in the history of those creeks. In the course of a short time work will be in progress on nearly every claim on both creeks, much more improved and heavier machinery being used this year than last. On all the creeks new life is said to have been taken on and everything points to a big harvest of the "yellow" that delights the eye.

The Dog Pound

A number of complaints have recently been heard concerning the unsuitable building where dogs found roaming the streets are detained until called for by their owners or until they find new masters and homes by way of the public auctioneer. In order to put the subject before the public in a proper light and to show that the impounded dogs are receiving the attention of the authorities, Capt. Starnes informed a Nugget representative this morning that it was not deemed advisable to expend any money on the old building as plans and specifications for a new one have been prepared and will be submitted to the council at its next meeting, and an appropriation will be asked for so that work may commence immediately. In the meantime, the canines will be given due consideration and their present quarters made as comfortable as possible.

James McDonald Going.

James MacDonald the popular manager of the McDonald hotel, expects to leave for the east a week from tomorrow, and will not return till after the opening of navigation.

Mrs. MacDonald will accompany her husband and the pair will go as far as Nova Scotia.

Upon his return Mr. MacDonald will resume the management of the hotel with which he has been connected since its opening, and under whose roof he has made so many warm personal and business friends who will miss him during his absence.

Concert Postponed.

The grand concert which was to have occurred on the 26th, given in aid of the Free Library has been indefinitely postponed owing to the serious illness of several of the ladies who were assigned prominent parts in the program. Among those who are indisposed at present are Mrs. Ritchie, Mrs. Devig, the Misses Larsen, and a number of ladies who were to appear in the chorus.

Book Keepers Needed.

Since the Beicher-McDonald case has been in progress considerable talk has arisen, not so much on the case in point, or its merits, as about its causes in a general way.

Said a business man yesterday, "If all people doing business would keep a proper set of books, it would be the means of keeping many differences out of court, as many matters that have to be adjusted by the courts at present would never result inasmuch as an argument if properly kept accounts were at hand."

"There are many reasons why this has not been done by many in Dawson previous to this year, not the least of which was due in the busiest time of '97-8, to a shortage in paper, to say nothing of books which were practically unobtainable, and people out on the creeks who foresaw the necessity of keeping some sort of accounts, were almost reduced to the necessity of keeping them on a shingle."

"Now, however, there can be no excuse for not keeping proper business accounts, and those who do not do so may find that loose conduct of business affairs is much more expensive in the long run than the proper way."

Mail From Nome.

Mail Carrier McGonigle arrived today from Eagle City with 10 sacks of U. S. mail, eight of which is consigned to Skagway from Nome and way stations along the lower river. Four of these came through direct from the beach city. At the Dawson office two sacks were left one way mail sack containing letters from Nome and all way points and another from Fort Cudahy and way points.

There is two sacks of mail coming down the river supposed to be second-class matter which is due to arrive this afternoon.

Mumma's, Pomeroy or Perinet champagnes \$5 per bottle at the Regina Club hotel.

CHILLED ROPE SHEAVES, All Sizes

AUTOMATIC SELF DUMPING TROLLEYS

BRASS HOSE CLAMPS

MANUFACTURED BY

McDONALD IRON WORKS

J. E. DOUGHERTY, MANAGER

Works, 4th St., opp. Government Telegraph Office. Office, 2nd Ave., near McDonald Hotel.

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