

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)

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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.

NEW LAWS FOR NOME.

According to a dispatch published in last night's issue of the Daily Nugget, congress has grappled with the Nome question in dead earnest. A bill has been introduced into both houses which in the language of the dispatch "authorized the secretary of war to issue mining permits for claims on land under navigable waters of Alaska including bays, rivers and oceans below water mark, the claims to be 320x160 feet." While the language of the dispatch is somewhat indefinite, we take it that clear reference is made to the beach diggings at Nome which heretofore have been governed by no regulations and to which it has been impossible to secure title. It is the evident intention of congress to recognize the beach as a legitimate field for mining operations and to so control matters as to minimize the chances for disputes over ownership of ground.

The necessity of some such action on the part of congress must be apparent to every one who has any conception of the conditions which will exist at Nome next summer. The stories with which we have been regaled concerning the spirit of fraternity and brotherly kindness which has thus far prevailed at Nome undoubtedly will continue to hold good so long as there is a mile of beach, to every man with a rocker, and the inclination to work. But just as soon as the more or less insane thousands begin pouring in from below next summer, we imagine there will be heard the discordant sound of strife and contention in the air.

The strong arm of the law will need to be pretty strongly in evidence if anything like peace and quiet is maintained at Nome next summer. Thousands of adventurous spirits will flock thither only to find that others have been there before them. Disappointment will lead to dissatisfaction, and dissatisfaction to trouble unless wise laws and honest and rigid administration are there to prevent it. The determination of the size of a claim to which each man is entitled on the beach will be a move in the right direction. Uncle Sam is evidently alive to the fact that he has a hard problem ahead of him at Nome and is beginning to take precautions for solving the same.

The trouble with exclusive privileges is that they almost invariably fail to exclude. There have been all sorts of exclusive rights granted in Dawson and the Yukon territory, but sooner or later some enterprising individual discovers some sort of loophole in the exclusive franchise and competition begins. Our friend of hard luck story fame the News, while invariably opposed to anything in the nature of monopolistic rights, where other parties

are concerned, is not above reaching for an "exclusive privilege" when the occasion presents itself. In performing the "reach" act, however, for the Knobelsdorff-Campbell Nome story, our hard luck contemporary got its fingers burned, so to speak, and lacking the Spartan courage to "grin and bear it" immediately began to squeal. Truly, ambition should be made of sterner stuff.

Already there are many complaints in reference to the new law requiring the presence and testimony of two disinterested persons to substantiate the claim owner's affidavit that he has conformed to the law regarding assessment work or representation on his claim. The nature of the complaints are that it is a hardship to require a man to pay for the loss of time from their work and the expenses of the witnesses during the time they are coming to town, stopping here and going back; the total in such cases being usually about one-fourth as much as would be required if no work was done and the cash, \$200, paid instead. As to the danger from false affidavits being submitted, there is none, for the reason that the inspector of mines is too much in evidence for any man to take chances on being arrested, tried and convicted on the charge of perjury. That the law, as it now stands, works many hardships there can be no doubt, and that it should be remedied at the earliest possible date is a fact well known to all conversant with the inconveniences occasioned by it.

In yesterday's dispatches the statement was made in connection with the fighting which has occurred around Kimberley that the total number of British losses, including killed, wounded and prisoners will exceed 8000. We are of the opinion that this must have been intended as an estimate of the total British casualties since the war began. A similar estimate was received some time ago, since which time important minor engagements have taken place which have added quite considerably to the aggregate of losses. We are, however, quite prepared to credit the statement that 2000 men were killed and 6000 more wounded and taken prisoners around Kimberley. We have taken steps to ascertain if an error has occurred and should such prove to be the case it will be promptly corrected.

Mr. Knobelsdorff's lecture last night was one of the best efforts of the kind to which we have ever had the pleasure of listening. The gentleman, while evidently not a trained platform orator, has a certain force and vigor of delivery which carries conviction, especially to a man who is, so to speak, in a mentally receptive condition. Mr. Knobelsdorff denies that he is booming for Nome, but in spite of that fact he draws a very alluring diagram of what is to be found in the famous beach city. He does not fail to point out, however, the fact that stampedeers now must seek pastures comparatively new when they reach Nome. Intending Nomads would do well to remember that fact.

Notice.

SKAGWAY, Jan. 27.
To the Daily Klondike Nugget:
You are authorized to offer the sum of \$1000 reward for the return of Fred Clayton, dead or alive. Supposed to have been murdered between Minto and Hutchiku on Christmas day. Please insert this notice in your paper two weeks.
(Signed) WILL CLAYSON.

A cure for Nome fever. See Cribbs & Rogers.

THE STROLLER'S COLUMN.

The speaker was a man long past the meridian of life, yet there was about him the air of a man who has not reached his period of life without seeing something of the world. He always has a glad and a kind word and is passionately fond of music. "I frequently attend church," he said to the Stroller a few evenings since, "especially when I am certain there will be good music and I never miss one of the Sunday night concerts. In the years gone by I have invested a great deal of money in concert tickets. I always like to watch the director of a big band as he stands before his men with the magic wand whose movements are so closely watched by the players. I always envy a bandmaster and director. By the hour I have sat almost entranced as my eyes were riveted on one or the other of the world's greatest bandmasters. I have gazed on Pat Gilmore, Theodore Thomas, Liberatti, John Philip Sousa, the aged director of the wonderful world famed Mendelssohn's Boston Quintette—in fact, I have seen them all—but never did I see a more grand, innately dignified attitude assumed before a band and an audience than is that of the director at the Sunday night concerts right here in Dawson. The sight is one of a life time and should not be missed. That turn clear around is not excelled on the American stage today."

"I have often wondered while back in the States and since coming to Dawson why any bright young man should wish to join the army unless he can be an officer from the start, or have a pull that will get him one in the very near future. I don't know what the privates in the queen's service get, but I do know that out in the United States a man serves for the first three years for something like \$14 per month. Now, all I have got to say is that the young man who will voluntarily place himself into bondage for \$14 per month with no prospects of a commissioned office, has very little ambition."

"But, my dear sir," interpolated the Stroller, "you must remember that many young men enter the army purely through patriotic motives."

"Patriotic balderdash!" continued the speaker; "why don't you say laziness and be done with it? I used to live in the Dakotas and in Kansas in the early days of those places when there were lots of soldiers there, and a more good for nothing pack of vagabonds I never saw. Just look back to the late war with Spain! Was it the regulars or the volunteers that done the fighting? The latter may not have had the discipline of the trained men, but they had the sand to fight and they showed much greater patriotism than the members of the regular army. It is dislike to manual labor on the farm, in the shop at mechanic's benches, and, in fact, labor of any kind, that drives hundreds of young men into the army. I have two boys back in Montana, one 18, the other 16 years old, and if I thought they had no more ambition than to want to join the regular army I would go back and whale them until they would wish they had been born girls. And yet, when they are a few years older and if they are then needed to defend their country they will go and go with my consent. I rather think that the line of demarkation between patriotism and laziness is very distinct, although many people are not able to define it."

"Say, Stroller," said a prominent broker and mining man yesterday, "do you know that the law which makes a claim owner bring two disinterested witnesses before the gold commissioner to prove, in addition to the testimony of his own affidavit, that he has done the required representation work on his claim is a very great hardship on many poor fellows who have their all at

stake on some claim away out in the valleys some place? Nine in every ten of these fellows come to town to file their affidavits of having done the required work and then they are told "but you must have two disinterested men to swear to your statement." Well, the two disinterested men who know that the work has been done and who would willingly so testify if they were here are away out on a creek 40 miles away, and unless they are paid for leaving their work for three or four days to come to town they won't do it, with the result that it costs the man from \$25 to \$50 to comply with a little red tape section of law for the existence of which there is not the semblance of reason or excuse, unless it be to add one more straw to the already overburdened, down-trodden, law ridden mine owner."

The great stampede is on. Lured by the temptation of Alaska's gold, 400 people have left Dawson during the past six weeks, and as many more will leave before the middle of February. The goal which all will attempt to reach is 1300 miles away, and is located at the terminus of a most difficult trail. The memorable stampedes of former years pale into insignificance when compared with the eventful one of today. The rush to Swede in '97, Slavin's run to Australia creek in the summer of '98, and Nigger Jim's journey down the Yukon a year ago, seem like delightful excursions which were taken for pleasure, when contrasted with the present stampede to Nome.

Miners have quit their jobs on the creeks and have departed for the new Mecca. Men with money who have been patiently waiting for the boats to run, are preparing to make the trip now. The idlers around town are endeavoring to work their way down the river with parties who have dog teams. The rounders in the gambling rooms are playing bank for "get away" money. The fairy is more charming in her manners than she was a month ago, for a "live one" landed now might place the damsel on the golden beach before the river breaks.

For a good room try the Fairview.

See our stock of valentines. Cribbs & Rogers, Dawson and Grand Forks

If you are heading for

Nome

We can outfit you.

If you are staying at

Home

We can supply you with anything you want in the

Grocery or Provision Line

P. P. Co.

Health is Wealth!

JOIN The Club Gymnasium. \$10 per month entitles you to all the uses and privileges of the Club. Baths free to members. Instructions in Boxing and Wrestling.

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FREIGHTERS

Teams Leave Every Week for Snow Island, Selwyn and Intermediate Points. Freight Contracted for Both Ways.

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