

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 its justification thereof guarantees to its advertisers a paid circulation five times that of any other paper published between Juneau and the North Pole.

The NUGGET has a regular carrier and express service covering Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail or express may be left at the Nugget Express office or given to creek agents.

RE TOM FAWCETT.

And now, we come to the obituary of "Poor Tom Fawcett," as Mr. Fred Wade used to describe the ex-gold commissioner. With a trusting innocence, as "childlike and bland" as that of the "heavenly Chinese," he forced the issue upon us under the most adverse circumstances to ourselves and the result is laid before our readers in our local columns. By stupidly threatening Messrs. Miner and Kelly with criminal proceedings he brought us to the rescue, even after we had withdrawn from active prosecution until a proper commission to investigate should arrive, either extending Mr. Ogilvie's powers after August 25th or sending in new commissioners of inquiry. And now, the damning evidence is in and confronts Mr. Fawcett in cold type. A question which arose in every spectator's mind on Saturday last was: "Will Fawcett ever receive his just dues?" A stern duty now awaits our Yukon commissioner! It takes an uncompromising and staunch integrity of character for one official who has been ever on the friendliest terms with another, and who, by a turn of fortune's wheel, has been hoisted to the position of judge over that other—the accused having been once upon his staff and his right-hand man—to judge that unfortunate mental phenomenon with cold, impartial justice.

In this connection we wish to point out that no force whatever attaches to the protestations of the best of motives of men accused of wrong doing. By a curious phenomenon of the brain, the mind of man is ever engaged in justifying its acts to conscience. Does a man neglect his family; then brain tells conscience that it was justifiable, from the heartlessness of that family or from the pressure of surrounding circumstances. Does a man commit a capital crime; then conscience is pacified with exaggerated pictures of the victim's offenses. Is a wife untrue; then mind says to conscience that the infidelity was justified by the cruelty or neglect of the husband. It is astonishing how this self-justification holds true even to the smaller offenses of daily life. Does a weakly gold commissioner extort \$2000 from two unoffending ladies in the interest of a wealthy citizen by a cry of "protest" when there was no protest; then conscience is pacified with the argument that the money was really owing to the big mining man by someone and that the ladies were securing very valuable ground and could very well afford to take up the indebtedness, and that to cause the ladies to believe some weight attached to a fictitious mortgage on lapsed ground which they were innocently restaking, was holy duplicity in a righteous cause. Does a public officer use his official position to enforce the payment of a righteous debt from an innocent party; then a plausible salve is applied to conscience that the end justifies the means. There never was an offense committed but what, by some peculiar mental process,

the guilty person goes through a course of self-palliation and comes out purged of everything but the most righteous motives. So convinced are the guilty ones of their own righteousness that the force of the conviction often affects the weaker of the surrounding humanity, and we are called to witness the painful spectacle of scores of delicate ladies calling at the jail and leaving bouquets of tear-bedewed flowers for a Durant, a Blank, a James, a Younger, a Cole, a Spies or a Peace.

Mr. Ogilvie must not expect of Mr. Fawcett that he will ever acknowledge malfeasance. The same structure of the mind which makes malfeasance possible is accompanied by an obscure mentality of abnormal activity which justifies that official obliquity most emphatically and sincerely. There is no foundation in fact for the popular pictures of Benedict Arnold spending the latter end of his life in the deepest retrospective remorse. The same phenomenon of mentality which rendered his offense possible was accompanied by an undoubted justification to his conscience. Ask any of the judges of the land if the men whom they are called upon to assign to a felon's cell ever showed the absence of this self justification. Visit our jails and you find the same thing; and then let our Royal Commissioner ask himself if any weight attaches to the mere self asserted innocence of the men he is called upon to judge. The upright bearing and pre-terested integrity of convicted men during trial has been the theme of some of the most noted of English verse, and of itself goes for naught. It usually requires the training of years and years in court before a man acquires that eminence of lofty mindedness which we find in our judges, and which to the unphilosophical mind appears often as hard heartedness, but which in reality is but the human rendition of Blind Justice weighing with impartial scales. Even a twenty-year judge is often thrown into mental anguish by the necessity of putting aside his pity for the trembling yet self-righteous culprit before him. Older than the Bible is the cry from the parched throats of the condemned, "Judge! for God's sake, I am innocent."

THAT LAST ISSUE.

The Tuesday issue of the *Miner-Sun* claimed to deal with the present farcical investigation into the acts of government officials being perpetrated at the court house, and was under the caption of "Fawcett Exonerated." We have not nearly as much space to devote to the *Miner-Sun* as that paper devoted to the *Nugget*, but we wish to say *en passant* that this paper never joined issue with Messrs. McDougall and Armstrong in prosecuting Fawcett, and during the hearing of their first charge, after which they resigned, was merely present in a reportorial way. The *Miner-Sun* knew these things, and was simply, as usual, false to what it knew to be the truth. There is also no record of the *Nugget* ever withdrawing its charges against Fawcett, so that in representing these things as facts the *Miner-Sun* is simply stating lies at so much per lie in favor of their purchasers and masters. We had no intention of referring to these things, only the *Miner-Sun* refers to the *Nugget* in one senseless paragraph, amongst a hundred others, as a "social scab." From the senselessness of the surrounding paragraphs we are very much inclined to think that Editor Logan had simply floundered beyond his depth, and didn't know what he was saying; that the lapse of manners and memory was in the nature of paresis, as though in the exhilaration of a recent addition to a depleted exchequer by a donation from official sources, there had been an irresistible intoxication which had overcome all better judgment. No blame attaches to the government organ in its efforts to defend its masters, though we must admit that the truth is being handled in a most reckless fashion, and we think they sold themselves body and soul too cheaply for even so valueless and noninfluential a sheet. The palsied-trembling of paralytic morals is on every page; the uncertain hesitancy of a foprous conscience in every paragraph; the hopping gait of a

yoked slave in every line, and the pest house atmosphere exhaled from its bought and paid for columns is simply nauseating to even its hundred and fifty readers. We repeat, we had no answer to make but for the rank personality of that "social scab," and we submit to Editor Logan that in that particular he showed poor judgment and the rankest want of manners, besides adding one more untruth at the behest of his masters.

To show how fearful are the people here that justice and right cannot prevail in this land of hopeless government, it is but necessary to point out the constantly recurring rumors that the toll gate on the O'Brien trail has been re-established and the miners are being again forced to pay tithes to the already rich. The rumors were of course false, yet the readiness with which they are believed shows a great and unnecessary lack of faith in our courts and its presiding judges. We have reason for greater faith than that, and believe that unless superior orders come from Ottawa overriding the limits of our court, the miners will ever receive substantial justice at the hands of our broad-minded judge of the supreme court.

The *Boston Globe* has made the startling discovery that many of the inhabitants of the Philippine islands are polygamists, and further, that those pestilential islands are the hotbed of polyandry or the marriage of one wife to a plurality of husbands. The unhappy Bostonese are greatly alarmed, and the immediate construction of the trocha by the aid of which they hope to withstand the expected onslaught of the diabolical Filipinos will be ordered.

McDonald's Unpaid Royalty

When the royal investigation was opened on Tuesday morning, Col Donald McGregor addressed Mr. Ogilvie and asked permission to put a few questions to Mr. Fawcett at the request of many miners.

Permission being granted, the colonel asked if Alex McDonald had not a great many good claims. Mr. Fawcett replied in the affirmative.

"And has the royalty on these been collected?" next put the colonel.

"I don't know about the amount," replied Mr. Fawcett, I know that it has not all been paid.

"Has the time elapsed when it should have been paid?" was next put.

"I don't know, but I think it has," was the answer.

The colonel had some other questions about Alex McDonald's connection with the gold commissioner, but deferred to Commissioner Ogilvie, who said all these matters were to be investigated next week.

The investigation was then adjourned to Monday.

Where Are They?

NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE, TERRITORIAL OFFICE, DAWSON, Feb. 17, 1899.
Yukon NUGGET: Enquiry is made for one, Robert B. Hunter, who was formerly at Toronto, Ont., Hartford, Conn., and New York City.

Also for Richard Raymer who was for some years at Victoria, B. C.

If either of the above parties will call at the above address they will oblige. I have the honor to be Sir, your obedient servant,
S. B. STEELE,
Commanding N. W. M. P., Yukon Territory.

Library Changes Hands.

The public library has again changed hands, having been purchased by Dr. McDonald from Dr. Grant, and in the future it will be under the supervision of Mrs. Shornborn, Mrs. Kaiser having resigned as librarian, much to the regret of all who know her gracious ways. The library now has 1169 volumes and is nicely located in a well lighted and comfortable room in the A. C. building.

A Parson in Trouble.

Rev. Dr. Macdonald, who was in Dawson last summer and who delivered a lecture, while here, on "Bobbie" Burns, is back to his parish, and according to a *Glasgow* paper, is in trouble with his Presbytery because of the length of his trip. The *Glasgow* paper says: Dr. Macdonald, the "Braw" minister of a

brave little Kirk" in Inverness, set three months ago on his journey to the Klondike. He did not, he stayed away six months instead of three.

The matter was brought up at the meeting of the Presbytery this week by the clerk, who declared gravely and with great circumlocution that the Presbytery are called upon most seriously to consider how they stand.

Dr. Macdonald coolly replied that he had no explanation to offer; that he was not at his journey's end when the three months expired, and that the members of the Presbytery would well advise where he intended to go, if he had not made special effort to come home he might have been frozen up all the winter.

The Presbytery solemnly discussed this daily reply for some time, the Rev. Murdo McKenzie expressing the opinion, that, although they set there a night they would not make any thing out of the doctor, who had an extraordinary faculty for making loopholes for himself out of all difficulties.

The only remedy was, "no to give him leave of absence again—in short, to tie him down to his work."

Dr. Macdonald: I have no objection if you pass a vote of censure on me. But you will not prevent me going away when I like.

In the end the Presbytery purged itself by agreeing—that the explanation made by Dr. Macdonald for his absence is not satisfactory.

Song of the Shirt.

Beautiful sparkling water that over the pebbles ran—
Over the shining sands the miner had in his hand.
Water as clear as dewdrop until it touched the dirt—
But the miner soiled the water by washing his dirty shirt.

—ROSA MONE.

CREEK ITEMS.

On 9 above on Hunker, a nugget was picked off the dump the other day weighing \$2 20.

George Hammer, a legman on 17 above on Hunker, reports striking the pay streak, and running into and through some remarkably good ground.

Wm. H. Bard has acquired the well known "Armenian" claim, which is a second tier bench opposite the left limit of 60 below on Bonanza. The consideration was \$15,000.

Gold Bottom is continuing to show up very well, although nothing extremely rich has been uncovered, a number of claims have fairly paid. Several claims on the right fork have paid also, 4, 8, 9 and 10 above, and most of the claims from 1 to 8 above the mouth.

No. 6 below upper on Dominion is showing up in first-class style and Messrs. Johnson and McAlpine employ 30 men at wages. Twelve holes are on the pay streak, cross-cutting 15 feet wide and some very fine pans have been found. A nugget weighing \$37 was recently found.

A good collection of ancient bones were recently found on 16 above lower on Dominion. They consisted of a skull and horns resembling those of a buffalo, but much larger, measuring 36 inches from tip to tip, and being very heavy. One of the horn bones were cracked and in the crack was lodged a nugget weighing, probably \$1.50. This was found about 19 feet deep, and great two feet from bedrock.

On the Fisher Gold Hill claim on Friday last was dug an odd appearing nugget or quartz "nigger head," through which the stringers and threads of gold were interlaced in a most interesting manner. The nugget had a total weight of about seven pounds, and the gold in it is estimated to amount to from \$100 to \$200. The odd quartz theory miners are situated at the end, adjoining the quartz origin of Klondike quartz. The quartz is what the miners call "bull quartz."

The delay of the gold commissioner in sending out surveyors to settle the boundary lines between the benches on the left limit and the creek claims at number 5 and 6 above lower on Dominion is proving a great hardship to the men who are thrown out of employment, according to report. About a month ago the owners of the creek claims decided that the ground claimed by the bench men would be a welcome addition to their creek claims so they filed a contest, and the police were sent out and ordered the bench men not to stop work.

The creek laymen on 6 above working in line with the bench ground and also had to stop work. The ground in dispute is a low bench just at the base of the hill and is from 6 to 10 feet to bedrock. Fair pay has been located in several holes and the creek, 20 to 30 feet below, has deeper ground and no very rich pay, as yet. This needless delay of the officials in settling the matter is keeping about 30 men idle and they are thoroughly disgusted with the present state of affairs. They have been put to considerable expense and are losing the best part of their season's work, as some of the laymen have the ground for only a short time.

A High Average.

Colonel Steele, while talking on general matters with a *NUGGET* man this week, dropped a statement to the effect that the men of the N. W. M. P. from Dawson to Bennett, are actually covering an average of forty-five miles per day to the men this winter, according to the official reports in his possession. As quite a number of the men are kept constantly at town duties and doing clerical work, the figure would indicate that some of the others are doing some "mighty tall mashing."

YOU PLACE THE ORDER

WE DO THE REST . . .

Will make purchase and deliver goods (either express packages or freight) to any claim on the creeks.

HAVE YOU TRIED OUR SERVICE?

—THE—

Nugget Express

E. C. ALLEN, Manager.
MAIN OFFICE—In the "Phoenix"
BRANCH OFFICE—Forks of Eldorado on Bonanza.

Orders may be given any agent or driver of team.

THE PIEDMONT

Dave Colskey
Frederick

Wouldn't Koo per Day to the N. W. M. P.

Mr. F. R. Burr takes on from known here, arrived outside, including on Jar through alone. tative at the K said the passage by the legislator created a great. ping to a degree and the Athir Canadians quote they were gen not that it was laws do not allow in Alaska, but b dispute between fishing, mining a commission, measure had a solution of the

Asked about t steamer Piedmonts, Mr. Burnh tively without age was washu toria, a few wea mains of a stea known marine Pacific coast fo evening prior Mr. Burnham about town to Dingley, of Mal N. S. Thompson from the outside the Yukon here to Eagle, where J. A. Rouse, friends in the J the Dominion E the outside a fe interesting art one hundred ce lean-Spanish co

Dave Colskey participated in a tributary of as a consequ bed with a pair through the ice ment. He is time, the feet b Indian river tri deal of attentio going over in

Mr. Gibson, a the axiom that eat work." E the *Nugget* Ex \$30 in dust, wh and, believ ing fell into the li son, he made t Anglin. But the vision of M aud, seeing a week returned ful owner.

Cl Gold Commis sion this week Waugh, which ing the bound bench claims otion was prim of the creek a which led Mr men to stake while still go the ground ay in conformity regulation, wh tage of the cre tired official t fore Gold Com only to effect the trouble. the defendant son, through appeal to Ott ed by Attorne

The followi ing delivery: C. J. Muirky W. Schuyl A. E. Berray, A. Marcus, Char Combs, J. KI Taylor, G. W Goodman, Jos L. C. Dobbett, W. Raymond, M. Ogden, S. B

A Fir The firemen folds of their response to t There was no interred, for t the hour late; after the usat investigation More had