

AT DAWSON'S THEATRES.

The Orpheum and Palace Grand Well Filled:

"U and I," and "Just Behind the Scenes" Are Enthusiastically Received.

From Tuesday's Daily.
At a few minutes past 9 last evening the Tyrrell blew her final whistle and steamed down the river. Then the crowd divided itself and went to the theaters. It was late, therefore, when the curtains rang up on the first scenes, not because the theater people were tardy, but because Dawson and his wife, and she was largely in evidence, went to see the Tyrrell off, and the shows could not begin without an audience.

"U and I" at the Orpheum was well patronized, the house being filled so that standing room was not easily found.

There is no plot to the musical skit presented last night, and the general outline of the piece is so well known by theater goers of this and former years, that it seems to require little or no description. It is filled to overflowing with funny situations and places where the audience does not have to find an excuse for laughing, and those who witnessed the first presentation of the piece at the Orpheum last evening were not slow in showing their appreciation of the merits of both the piece and its producers. James F. Post as O'Donovan, did some clever character work, the opportunity having been lavishly given by the author. Robert Lawrence, as Professor John Ungerblatt, ran a close second in the manifested appreciation of the audience. Beatrice Lorne, as Mlle. Vermicelli, the comic opera singer, was enthusiastically received, and deserved every hand she got.

The cast is too long, and space too limited to admit of personal mention of all the characters, but there is not one who does not deserve separate mention. The moving pictures at the end of the performance proper were up to their usual high standard of excellence, and were received in a befitting manner by the audience.

Manager Simons of the Palace Grand is fast demonstrating that the boast he made at the opening season of the house, that he knew what Dawson theater goers wanted, was not an idle one. The production of the piece "Just Behind the Scenes" last night would have done credit to any company in any town, and whatever else may be said of a Dawson audience, the charges of coldness cannot be successfully imputed to them. They appreciated the efforts of the company to entertain them last evening, and said so in a way that makes glad the hearts of actor people the world over.

Mabel Cassidy, the leading lady, is fast endeavoring herself to the theater goers by her clever work.

Mr. Cassidy is too well known both as a clever and conscientious actor and a man of marked originality to need any introduction or comment to keep him in the public eye. To say that the rest of the cast is bright and artistic is to use but a lame expression. That the public like the work of the company may be seen any night by the way each member is greeted when he or she steps upon the boards.

Stage Manager Cassidy made the announcement last evening that the management had decided to cut the price of admission from a dollar to fifty cents. At the previous price, however, the house was very full, so that a cut in prices was not made with a view to securing more business.

The City of the North.

Rev. J. C. Speer, of Victoria, who recently returned to that city from a visit to Dawson in a letter to the Times says: "The city of the North this side of Dawson will be Whitehorse. Everything points to this being a great city. The reports of its mining properties are, I believe, reliable both as to copper and gold, and particularly the former. The future of Dawson is assured for twenty years to come. This being the case the through connection to Dawson, via the White Pass railway, and the Canadian Development Co.'s steamers should be largely patronized, for it is scarcely reasonable to expect any more comfortable or advantageous way of getting into the gold country of the North. It is quite true that there is no such boom now as we saw three years ago. With such splendid shipping facilities as are afforded by the Canadian Development Company it is not at all likely that the White Pass railway will be extended through to Dawson. With the present

shipping facilities provided, partially by the splendid fleet of steamers belonging to the C. P. N. Co., thousands of people and thousands of tons of most valuable freight are passing through to the Klondike from the coast cities."

In the Old River Days.

When one steamboat comes alongside another on the Mississippi each tries to pass the other. That is an invariable rule of the river. It is as much a rule on the river as it is in driving. A man is out in a light rig and has before him far as he can see a smooth, wide, unobstructed dirt speedway. He has a good, fresh spirited horse that wants to go and needs muscle to hold back.

Another outfit, under precisely the same conditions, comes up alongside and tries to whisk by. The man is not living who will keep his pull on the lines and let the other outfit throw the dust in his face. He will give his horse its head, and there will be a race.

Neither driver will have started out with the intention of racing. He may have made up his mind to eat just sooner than race, but let the other rig whisk by and he's after it "hotfoot," as the saying is.

It is the same way in steamboating. No pilot likes to take the wash and broken water of another boat, especially if the other boat is slower or more heavily loaded.

It is in the human blood, and no amount of danger from overtaxed boilers, narrowness of channel, sand bars, shoals or snags will deter the fast boat from showing its heels to the slower boat.

I have seen passengers in the olden time, when everybody knew a good deal about the river and its dangers, come up to the captain of the boat they had taken passage on and say to him solicitously:

"Now, captain, I want you to assure me of one thing, that you are not going to race. I've got my wife and children on board, and I don't want to expose them to needless danger."

"Of course we won't race," the captain would answer, and he would mean it when he said it.

In a little while along would come a slow, heavily loaded scow of a boat and try to pass us. The captain would get busy and so would the pilot, the engineer and the firemen.

And as the competing boat would shade down to a small speck on the rear horizon the passenger who was so anxious to keep his family out of needless danger would come up from below, wiping a pair of bruised and dirty hands and, inflating his chest proudly, say to the captain, "She never touched us."

That passenger had been down on the boiler deck during the race passing cordwood to the stokers to put under the boilers.

That's how it is with steamboat racing.—St. Louis Republic.

Stage Glimpses.

They are now calling Mrs. Langtry's acting in "The Degenerates" a Christian endeavor.

Richard Mansfield is letter perfect in 11 star parts, several of them among the largest in the drama.

Nat Goodwin has an option on a play to be founded on "The Hon. Peter Stirling," the novel written by Jas. Leicester Ford.

Primrose and Dockstader are talking of opening a theater in New York to be a continuous performance of minstrelsy and to run all the year round.

Kate Rorke, who played in America with Beerholm Tree, is to produce in London a play by the overrated Echeagaray called "The Sin That Cleanses."

Charles Hoyt is back in New York working on a farce that he has nearly finished. He has another new play in his mind which he expects to work out soon.

It is alleged of A. H. Wilson, the German comedian of "The Evil Eye," that he is a nephew of the late Senator Wilson of Iowa and was disinherited as a punishment for adopting the stage as a profession.

Charles Wyndham is to act in "The Crusaders," which was such a failure in its original production in 1891 that Henry Arthur Jones, the author, immediately retired from theatrical management, on which he had embarked with his play.

The name of the play manufactured by Lavinia H. Van Westervelt Dempsey, erstwhile "Queen of the Holland Dams," has been changed again. Now it is "The Open Door." It started as "The Neutral Ground" and then became "The Patriot Spy." The last company that went out with it got as far as Washington.

Some Dough Letter Heads for sale at the Nugget office.

Carbon paper for sale at the Nugget office.

PERSONALITIES.

John MacGowan, of Clay county, Florida, claims to be the oldest pensioner in the country.

President Rhee of Rochester university owns one of the best collections of oriental manuscripts in the world.

Gen. Luke Wright of the Philippine commission will be accompanied to Manila by his wife and daughter, Katherine.

Sir William Howard Russell, the dean of war correspondents, recently celebrated his eightieth birthday in good health.

It is rumored in London that Joseph Chamberlain expects to visit this country by way of a vacation at the close of the South African war.

Dexter Chamberlain Bloomer, husband of the Mrs. Bloomer who gave her name to the first species of dress reform for women, died recently at the age of 84.

Senator Frye, of Maine, is something of a Nimrod and one room in his Washington quarters is devoted to his guns and fishing tackle, while the walls are adorned with trophies of his arms.

New York rumor has it that when his party reaches Germany in its tour around the world Alfred G. Vanderbilt will stop at Bonn to take a course in philosophy at the university there.

A friend of President McKinley says that in his congressional days he was the most wonderful of readers and would master three or four large books on political economy at a single sitting.

Michael Krieger, a resident of Nova, O., is the exact facial and torsorial double of Oom Paul. He was born at Utzwiller, Alsace, in 1823, but came to this country in early youth and since 1838 has lived in Ohio.

George R. Sands, who recently died in New York, was for nearly 48 years a champion clog dancer. He was the pioneer of clog dancing in this country and for nearly 20 years was a feature of the old Barnum shows.

Maj. Frederick A. Mahan of the engineer corps, U. S. A., has been placed on the retired list on his own application after 30 years' service. He is a brother of Capt. Mahan, and was formerly secretary of the lighthouse board.

When Lady Pauncefoot leaves Washington, she will, it is said, receive as a gift a diamond sunburst to cost \$2500, the money to be raised by her society friends, as a mark of the esteem in which she is held. Each contributor is expected to subscribe \$25.

Col. Girard, of Neufchatel, Switzerland, has had a curious experience. On one and the same day he celebrated his eightieth birthday, his golden wedding, the silver wedding of his daughter and the marriage of his granddaughter. His friends accuse him of unprecedented economy, as he made one festivity celebrate all four events.

Borrowed on His Salary.

"Apropos of borrowing money on one's salary," said a prominent merchant of this city, talking of that peculiar phase of the loan business, "I am reminded of a curious case that came under my observation not long ago. A young man employed on the clerical staff of a large concern here was given a tip on a 'good thing' in cotton. It came to him in such a way that he felt absolutely certain of cleaning up a nice little sum of money, and as he had no funds of his own just then he took the liberty of borrowing \$250 from the house. In plain English he stole \$250 from the firm's current cash, and when he lost, as he did, he found himself in the deuce of a fix.

"However, he was able to carry things over without detection for a few days and in the meantime succeeded in getting a loan of the necessary sum on a private money shark. The loan was for six months, and he agreed to pay 15 per cent a month, or \$475 altogether. That was pretty steep, of course, but I have known a dozen cases of extortion almost as bad.

"At the expiration of the six months the young man paid the \$225 interest and hustled up another \$250 loan to life the principal. On that second loan I think he paid 10 per cent a month. At any rate he kept on borrowing from Peter to pay Paul for nearly three years—to be exact, 34 months—at the end of which time he had actually paid more than \$1250 interest and still owed the original debt. He had a growing family on his hands and in spite of all his squeezing and scraping was never able to get rid of the load.

"During the last year he had fallen into the hands of a salary shaver, and eventually he was prevented by sickness from making a payment, and one of his orders was presented to his employer. Upon that he made a clean breast of the whole transaction, and his boss, instead of discharging him, took up the debt and is letting him pay it off a little at a time. This is an absolutely true story and shows what can happen to a fellow when he gets in the lion's paws."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

New Mining Inspector.

Commissioner Ogilvie has been advised by the last mail of the appointment of A. N. Robertson as mining inspector. He was appointed at Ottawa. It is expected that he will arrive in Dawson at an early date, but as yet has not been heard from.

The Klondike Nugget

ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BROS., Publishers.

LABOR LIENS.

There is clearly need of legislation to protect the laborer against possible loss of his wages. Many men worked all winter long under contracts, the provisions of which they did not know themselves, and when time for settlement came found that their signatures were attached to agreements which practically relieved their employers of all responsibility. There are men who must be protected against themselves and who require to be restrained by law from signing away their rights. On the other hand, there are employers who will take every advantage of the ignorance of those in their employ and defraud them in every way possible. Restraints must be placed against them that they may not take too great advantage of their men.

Care must be taken, however, in granting legal protection to the laborer that no injustice is done the employer.

The latter has his right also, which must be respected. A contract once entered into must be observed by all parties thereto with equal strictness.

We are of the opinion that a laborer should have a first lien for his wages upon the dump he takes out or assists in taking out, but if employed by a layman we are unable to see any legitimate reason for holding the claim owner beyond the value of the dumps. In many cases the claim owner is not in touch with the work done on his ground, and a law making him responsible for the obligations of his laymen would give

the former, which would result in doing away entirely with the lay system.

If a dump fails to yield the amount due for labor performed upon it the deficiency should be met by the man or men who contracted with the workmen. We agree with the opinion that the whole dump, including both claim owners' and laymen's share, should be held for the payment of wages. But in such a case the claim owner should not be held beyond his interest in the dump, where the layman has assumed entire responsibility of employing the labor.

"PAY AS YOU GO."

There will be more claims worked on the "pay as you go" basis during the coming year than ever before. The "bedrock" plan is a make-shift which should be avoided wherever possible. When men are compelled to look forward to a period of several months before receiving any remuneration for their services, their work is very apt to prove of an exceedingly poor quality. More especially is this the case when a doubt exists as to the ability of the claim operator to liquidate his obligation when clean up time arrives.

Labor is too expensive a commodity in this country to be employed under any circumstances where the very best results are not to be obtained. It makes no difference what the nature of the business may be, men who are employed at from 80 cents to a dollar per hour must give their employer the benefit of their best efforts or consequent loss to him will ensue.

It is idle to contend, and the record of last winter has amply proven the contrary, that men who are employed on the "bedrock" basis will give equal service with those who receive their pay at stated intervals. They are not certain of ever being compensated for their work and hence enter into it in a half-hearted manner, which is absolutely certain to prove disastrous to all parties concerned.

A great many instances can be cited in which claim owners with rich properties have been compelled to resort to the "bedrock" plan, owing to the fact that the entire result of the preceding year's work has been invested in different enterprises, or sent outside. Such men are beginning to realize that it is far more satisfactory and much more economical in the long run to hold out sufficient of their output for the next season's operating expenses. The man who is able to pay cash secures results far over and above what accrues to the man who prefers, or is forced by circumstances to operate a period of six or eight months before effecting a settlement of his obligations.

CONFIDENCE WARRANTED.

Dawson is holding her own in a manner that must convince the most skeptical of the solidity of the foundations upon which the town has been built. During the winter the cry was sounded up and down throughout Canada and the States that with the opening of navigation Dawson would be practically deserted. The stampede to Nome was destined according to these prophets of evil to take away from Dawson every man who was not absolutely tied down by property and other interests in such a way as to make it absolutely impossible for him to leave.

As a matter of fact, there are almost, if not quite, as many people in Dawson today as there have been at any time during the past 12 months. Large numbers have left for the lower country, but a constant stream of people has been coming down the river in small boats as well as on the steamers, and the net loss in respect to actual population has been small. The time for doubt or worry as to the future of Dawson is past. The town is now on a business basis such as is warranted by the actual resources behind it and has lost almost entirely the appearance of feverish fluctuations which marked it during the early days of the boom.

Business houses are now able to figure almost as accurately upon receipts and expenditures as is ordinarily done in similar concerns on the outside.

All indications point to a constant increase in the volume of business transacted. Mining operations will be conducted during the coming season upon a much more extensive scale than has been the case heretofore which means an indirect impetus to every line of business in Dawson. Before the river closes again immense steam plants will be brought in by scores of mine owners, who have begun to realize that there is economy in operating a big plant, where their ground will justify the use of any machinery at all. Low grade dirt in immense quantities will be worked this coming winter at a profit, something which has been practically impossible heretofore, and this means increased employment of labor and a steadily growing pay roll.

The confidence which has been so universally shown by the substantial population of Dawson in the stability and permanence of the town will undoubtedly be thoroughly justified by circumstances. Their faith has been backed by their money and we believe, without question, that there is ample warrant for that faith.

Care should be taken immediately to provide a supply of school books this summer to equip a first-class public school during the coming winter. Last fall the books which the council, after long and arduous effort, managed to order, were caught in the ice and failed to materialize in Dawson, and so far as the knowledge of the general public goes, they have not arrived as yet. No possible excuse can be advanced for failure to provide a school next winter. With all due consideration for the efforts of Father Gendreau in maintaining a school last winter, we submit that Dawson must be provided with a public school in the ordinary acceptance of the term. Nothing else will be satisfactory to the people at large, nor can any reasonable argument be advanced in favor of any other plan.