The Klondike Nugget

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

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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.

LET US GROW.

The much looked for abolishing of the royalty of 10 per cent on the gross output of the mines has failed to materialize with the arrival of the new officials last week. The miners' committee sent last year to Ottawa were given to understand that patience would be rewarded at last and the chances were that the royalty would either be entirely removed or reduced to a figure which would practically remove the present discouraging features of the tax. Instead of the relief we have been praying for in petitions to Ottawa we have in our midst a gentleman whose official title is "special commissioner of mines." The popular impression appears to be that this gentleman is here with a view to preparing a report on the mines of the district for the edification of the government. The people of the Klondike ought probably to feel very grateful that after two years of groaning under an unfair tax we have at last awakened a desire in the hearts of our government to hear something about our mines, and they have to that end sent an expert here. At that rate of progress it will take but a generation to obtain relief from the ills we complain of. But how marvelously quick they could change the law when they believed they were not getting their proper proportion of the wealth which is the result of the sacrifice of health and strength and oftentimes the lives of the toilers here.

We know positively of rich claims which will only be worked in a very small way this winter—just enough work to keep someone on the claim to care for it. There will be hordes of unemployed this winter, everyone of whom would be put to work if the royalty was removed. There are thousands of acres of ground in the district which will only pay to work on a large scale; and the capital to work it on a large scale will never be forthcoming in the face of a 10 per cent royalty. What business man in Dawson could conscientiously advise the working of the average ground here abouts when even the large per cent of the gross earnings, which would go in wages would be subject to the 10 per cent tax on industry and enterprise. That a few of the richer claims can and have paid the tax is no criterion of the country. Does not every practical man in the Klondike know that it costs 50, 60 and even 70 cents to dig a dollar? Then why should the 70 cents be taxed?

With a revenue last year from this country of over two millions, and an output of less than seven millions, the collection of a royalty, which is daily working to the injury of the country, appears even childish. The royalty was only about $360,000 of the whole amount of taxes collected, so that it takes but a very ordinary mind to grasp the fact that it is the *people* in the country and its *expansion* which can yield revenue on a large scale. If the government wants money from the Yukon Territory why not remove restrictive laws and let us grow; we will create a source of revenue which will take the palm from any section of Canada with a hundred times our population.

That the royalty has been remitted in numerous cases the past year but proves that in the judgment of the administration the tax was in those cases unfair and a hardship; the world at large has no knowledge of the remitting of the tax, and investors for our miles of poor land are deterred by the unreduced royalty.

THE WRONG MAN.

The feeling of utter insecurity of property which has become so intense during the last nine months of Thomas Fawcett's incumbency of the gold commissioner's office has been abated somewhat by the arrival of Mr. Ogilvie. The reason of the satisfatory improvement in the condition of public confidence is simply that the public regards Mr. Ogilvie largely in the light of a court of appeal. It is true that Mr. Ogilvie's powers extend to the reviewing of the gold commissioner's decisions; but so they do in each of the many departments excepting of course the judiciary. It is quite certain that notwithstanding his powers, Mr. Ogilvie's ability to overlook and review the decisions of his subordinates is limited by the hours of the day. He cannot possibly find time to give painstaking thought to but few of the details of the affairs over which his subordinates preside. How then can he be expected to correct the many abuses of Mr. Fawcett's office and still retain that gentleman at the head of affairs. The versatility of the gold commissioner's decisions, his kaliedoscopic changes of opinion and his well known irritability at the idiosyncracies of the many applicants at his shrine of justice, all proclaim him the wrong man in the right place. But there is one way in which the G. C. can avoid a surfeit of appeals to his superior and that way is to render his decisions through the postoffice—that is to say by mail. It has been so convenient in the past that we suggest the continuance of the same in future. The applicant who receives an adverse decision by letter is apt not to get that letter for from one to two weeks after the decision has been made. Meanwhile his more fortunate opponent can have legally disposed of the claim and therefore introduced into the case the further entanglement of "the innocent purchaser." The right of appeal—or better speaking—the privilege of appeal is apt to be of little consequence to the "common miner" in a case as above, but the weal or woe of the "common miner" has ever been the last consideration in the heart of the man who last winter let applicants lie out on the snow all night in front of his office with the thermometer at 40 degrees below zero.

SHOULD DAWSON OWN WATER WORKS?

Incorporation of the city of Dawson cannot come too quickly. The dark nights are upon us and lurking criminals find the shadows of lumber piles and cabins fit nooks for deeds of desperation and daring. The individual members and officers of the mounted police are brave and efficient, but what kind of patrol can they be expected to maintain over 600 acres of a city in such a pall of eternal blackness as we are beginning to experience. We must have light, and a scattering of arc lamps at various corners will be found to add to the powers of a policeman a thousand fold. Lights we must have; and it may be the wisdom of the new town government that the city should own its own plant. Therefore it is the opinion of the NUGGET that charters for electric lights, water works and kindred corporations should not be granted too hastily by the new government of the Yukon Territory before incorporation. Water works and sanitation go hand in hand as health measures and are municipal functions; the same is true of the police and street lighting.

A GROWING POWER.

The Miners' Association is a growing power in this community. Men who at first were inclined to look askance at the organization are now coming forward and promising their moral and in many cases financial support. Even the government organ which at first could not cast too many slurs upon the association and the men who bore the brunt during its first battles, now comes forward to pat the organization upon the back and tell its members what fine fellows they are.

There is nothing on earth succeeds like success. Men are attracted by it as a needle by a magnet. Many will hold back from aiding a cause they know to be worthy simply because they fear ultimate failure and dread the association of their names with the word. But no one need hesitate allying himself with the Miners' Association on such grounds. The crucial period in the history of the organization is passed. With a paid membership approaching 150, a building soon to be completed and an able and enthusiastic corps of officers pushing the work with might and main the prospects for the Miners' Association are most flattering.

It should be noticed that membership can be secured on payment of five dollars for six months and the remaining five dollars at the end of that time. This special provision was made to enable those who are not in a position to pay the full year's dues at one time, to still be able to secure the benefit of the association's protection. The members of the standing committee and other officers are authorized to issue membership tickets. Intending members may secure certificates from any one of these gentlemen.

INCORPORATION.

Dawson will soon be an incorporated city. There is no more doubt of it than there is concerning the freezing of the Yukon this winter. There are so many glaring public evils to be wiped out by local self government that it almost goes without saying the community is unanimously in favor of the move.

We have had taxes enough, so far as that is concerned, but the revenue has gone with monotonous regularity to the outside. When Mr. Bulyea left Dawson he stated that the saloon license money collected by him would be available for local improvements. Such may have been the case but no one thus far has seen the improvements.

We understand that when incorporation takes place the municipal authorities will have all the powers ordinarily conferred upon such officers. That is to say in the matter of raising and expending local revenue, in making improvements in streets, drainage, water supply, public lighting, etc., the city officers will act independently of the representatives of the Dominion government. Again it should be pointed out that no citizenship qualification is required of voters. Every man in Dawson, be his nationality what it may, who is possessed of a minimum of taxable property is entitled to vote for the city officers. For this reason it behooves the entire population to interest themselves in securing incorporation. This step having been successfully taken a long advance will have been made toward securing local representation in Parliament.

The time is not far distant when the question of men will come up. Already in a quiet way suggestions are being made and names considered. This is entirely proper. Too full discussions in such matters cannot be secured. But the first duty confronting Dawson is to take the steps necessary for securing information. When that is done it will not be difficult to find gentlemen, capable and willing to fill the various city offices.

Removal.

After Saturday, August 27th, the Canadian Bank of Commerce will be found in the new premises, between the Barracks and the Gold Commissioners office.

A down-town branch will be opened for the accommodation of the bank's customers, shortly.

H. T. WILLS, *Manager.*

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FOR FIRST CLASS MEALS
Reasonable Prices — Try It

YUKON SAW MILL CO.
MANUFACTURERS OF
First Quality Matched, Dressed, Rustic, Roofing, and Rough Lumber.
House Logs Furnished, Cordwood &c.
Orders filled promptly.

Seattle-Yukon Transportation Company
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300 Tons of Staple Provisions
Now on sale, wholesale and retail, at Dawson.
For rates, prices and other information call on
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Agent, S.-Y. T. Bldg.
Water Front, west of A. C. Store.

The Fairview
DAWSON'S FINEST HOTEL
European and American Plan
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ELEGANTLY FURNISHED ROOMS
EVERY MODERN IMPROVEMENT
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BEST OF WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS
Mixed Drinks a Specialty

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CHOICE LIQUORS, WINES, MIXED DRINKS AND CIGARS
AT
"THE NEW ENGLAND"
McGrath & Patterson, Prop'rs
Sole Agents for M. Fortier & Co., Montreal

ELDORADO SALOON
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KLONDIKE CITY
Finest Brands of
Wines, Liquors and Cigars

THE KLONDIKE HOTEL
DAWSON
NELSON SMITH, Prop'r
Each room furnished with fine spring beds and modern comforts
EUROPEAN PLAN FINE RESTAURANT IN CONNECTION
FINEST WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS

THE NORTHERN
ASH & MANNING, Prop'rs
Choicest Wines, Liquors and Cigars
Expert Mixologists
MINING HEADQUARTERS
FRONT STREET — *DAWSON*

Combination Saloon
Is the Place to go for fun and amusement. Finest kind of Liquors and Cigars.
Lloyd, Harrison & Co., . . . Proprietors

The "Monte Carlo"
FINEST BAR IN DAWSON
QUALITY OF WINES AND LIQUORS THE HIGHEST
Mixed Drinks a Specialty
HIGHEST GRADES OF CIGARS

THE OPERA HOUSE
BAKER, WILSON & PETERSON
Proprietors
. . DAWSON . .
Headquarters for Best of
Wines, Liquors and Cigars
Mixed Drinks a Specialty