

BADGES FOR LADY MEMBERS.

The Dawson Fire Department Now of Both Sexes.

A Surprise Party at Mrs. Yaeger's—Resolutions of Respect and Praise—Fire Boys 'Do Themselves Proud' in Presenting Badges.

Thursday evening a delegation of the fire department, headed by Chief Fletcher, repaired to the home of Mrs. Chris Yaeger, next the Family theater. Mrs. Florence Hamburg is stopping with Mrs. Yaeger, and, by a piece of innocent duplicity, the presence also of Mrs. L. Huson, had been secured. The party of ten firemen effected an entrance and without any waste of time the three ladies were called together by Chief Fletcher and presented with a handsome solid gold badge—apiece in the name of the Volunteer Fire Department. He remarked upon the pleasure afforded all the boys to recognize, even in so small a way, the services and merits of the ladies. A. F. George was called upon to present the resolutions, prepared for the occasion. The following were read:

WHEREAS, the members of the Dawson City Volunteer Fire Department are greatly beholden to three distinguished Dawson ladies, Mrs. L. Yaeger, Miss Florence Hamburg and Mrs. L. Huson for a benefit masquerade ball tendered the department upon last Thanksgiving eve; and

WHEREAS, the ladies by their tireless energy, forethought, skill and good management, made of the affair the longest success of its kind ever taking place in the Yukon territory; and

WHEREAS, the unequalled success of the occasion is wholly attributable to the clever administration capacity of the aforesaid ladies; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the members and officers of the Dawson City Volunteer Fire Department, do hereby tender those ladies our most sincere thanks and our highest regards; and

Resolved, Further, that we tender them each a small testimonial of our appreciation, which may be worn as an ornament and treasured as a keepsake; and

Resolved, Further, that we do assure them that the memory of their kindly assistance is a spur to us in the work we have laid out for ourselves, and a constant source of encouragement; and

Resolved, Further, that we do now and hereby constitute the three most estimable ladies as full honorary members of the department to be by us ever held in the highest esteem; and

Resolved, Further, that these resolutions shall be spread upon the minutes, published in the local papers, and a copy presented to each lady by our secretary.

The badges are of solid banker gold, in the form of a Maltese cross, bearing the letters "D. F. D." On the lower division of each cross was engraved the name of the recipient. On the back was engraved, "With best wishes." In the center of a cross is a goldpan, and in the goldpan, in relief, is found a fireman's helmet, trumpet and hook and ladder.

The ladies responded in a few words of thanks and fastened the handsome badges upon their bosoms, after which other ladies and gentlemen arrived and social pleasures of converse and play were indulged in until after midnight. During the evening abundant and tastily-prepared refreshments were served by the ladies, including ice cream, such as we get outside. All voted the affair one of the pleasantest ever enjoyed in the country—as, indeed, it could not help but be when engineered by the same three clever ladies who made such an exceptional success of the fireman's benefit masquerade.

A Yukon Christmas

Christmas day was the occasion of many an old-fashioned gathering where the joys and pleasures incidental to the day were fully indulged in. Among other pleasant affairs which marked the return of the season of good will and general rejoicing was a Christmas dinner party given by Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Lowden at their home on claim No. 19 upper Bonanza. The occasion was a doubly pleasant one by reason of the fact that the birthday of the hostess was celebrated along with the other festivities. A Christmas tree was not lacking to add to the gaily and the numerous remembrances which hung from its branches attested the fact that Santa Claus had not overlooked the Klondike in his rounds. The Christmas dinner was the crowning feature of the party and under the genial influence of the good things that contribute to the enjoyment of the inner man, the guests forgot temporarily the fact that they were celebrating Christmas in the icy regions of the Arctic zone.

After disposing of the dinner an evening of merrymaking ensued which reminded all of many similar occasions in homes far away to the south.

The following were present: Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Lowden, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Pickel, Miss Josephine Pickel, Mr. Lee Word, Mr. G. M. Allen, Mr. Ches. Boundy and Mr. W. P. Allen.

Christmas Ball.

Pioneer hall was crowded to its utmost capacity on Christmas eve, by those who had come to participate in the grand ball, announcements of which had been made from time to time during the past weeks. Manager Lawler had taken pains to see that the very best musical talent in the city was secured and a handsome souvenir program was presented to each one who attended. The floor had been carefully waxed and probably afforded the best dancing surface that has yet been seen in Dawson. Many handsome costumes were observed on the ladies, and the bright colors made a charming contrast to the black-coated gallants. White the dancing was at its height a flashlight photograph of the scene was taken and shortly after midnight the guests repaired to the hospitable dining-room of Miss Mulroney and full justice was done to a splendid repast.

The dining-room was decorated profusely with evergreens and festoons of bunting. A gaily trimmed Christmas tree added highly to the effect.

After supper had been served, dancing continued until a late hour. The pleasure of those in attendance, however, was sadly marred during the latter part of the evening. The management had announced, through the columns of the local press, that the dance should be an exclusive affair and that no objectionable characters would be admitted. In spite of this fact, during the intermission for supper several persons were admitted to whose presence objection was strongly raised. Whether or not this was done with the consent of the management, the general opinion prevailed that good faith had been broken with those who had purchased tickets. In consequence a great many ladies and their escorts left the house.

Parties who contemplate giving exclusive dances in the future should take warning by this affair that they must live up to their agreements if they expect the patronage of the respectable element of Dawson citizens.

Sweet Charity.

All will remember the Elks' social session held last week? One of the first acts of the Elks' club of Dawson from the receipts of that session was to donate \$100 to the Salvation Army of Dawson as an evidence of appreciation of the good work being done by this non-sectarian institution which is doing such noble work in this city.

CONDENSED-OUTSIDE DISPATCHES.

There is a proposal to establish in the Montreal city council a cabinet to control civic affairs on the same lines as the Dominion and Provincial cabinets. This, of course, implies the election of aldermen on party lines.

The Duke of Connaught is bringing his son, Prince Arthur, up after the fashion of the Kaiser, for the young prince has already begun his military training. He is quite young and will shortly be going to Woolrich. He was to be seen at the recent manoeuvres, enjoying the mimic warfare immensely, with a son of Lord Cadogan and little Lord Herbert as gallopers to him.

The revenue collected for the government in the Yukon for the 7 months ending with July is thus stated: Sale of lots in Dawson City \$28,450; liquor permits, \$6,829; certificates and licenses issued by the gold commissioners, \$90,961; fines, \$1,895; lease of water front for three months, \$7,530; Crown timber accounts, produced, \$391,292. Total \$526,158. In addition, \$24,000 was collected on behalf of the Northwest Territorial government for saloon licenses.

During the Cuban war 279 men were killed and 1,423 wounded. After the declaration of peace the figures are stated to be as follows: Died in campaigns, 95; died in camps of recruiting, 150; died in camps of mobilization, 800; miscellaneous hospitals and homes, 70; giving an estimated total of those killed by disease at 2,085, while the estimated total of those stricken by disease was in round numbers, 40,000.

Appropos of the Kaiser's visit to Palestine, a road from the gate of Damascus to the summit of Mount Olivet, it is announced, was made by the Sultan's order, for the convenience of the Empress of Germany during her forthcoming visit to Palestine. The sultan is really most accommodating to his Christian visitors, and it is to be hoped his majesty has also had the roads made up to his capital, for they are without exception the worst made roads in the world.

A decrease in the birth rate is troubling England as well as Canadian ecclesiastics. It was brought up at the recent church congress in England by the Dean of Ripon, who said that if this state of things went on it was a case in which the nation must go down. It would be a case of national suicide, which was all the more terrible to him as a Christian because it meant the forsaking of the natural law of God. For the sake of what? For the sake of a wretched calculation and childless home where luxury and ease should dwell? Can the boastful Anglo-Saxon be in his decay?

Just now, when there is so much talk about an understanding between Portugal and Great Britain, the following sketch of the rulers of the little kingdom should not be without interest: Queen Amelie of Portugal is an advanced woman, though she is queen of one of the least progressive nations in Europe, and a daughter of the conservative house of Bourbon. When this gay and pretty married King had been brought up in England, married King Carlos I. of Portugal, she did what few royal women do—she fell in love with her husband. Some time ago King Carlos' figure went the way common to most stout men, and though he has borne it with good nature, after Amelie it was a deep source of distress. After traveling about with him to many spas and "cures for obesity," and seeing no cutting down of the royal waist measure, she set to work to achieve a sufficient knowledge of medicine to enable her to conquer her husband's one weakness.

CHRISTMAS NOTES.

Good-bye to Christmas '06. Did you hang up your stockings? The banks were closed on Monday. The postoffice was closed all day Monday. Couldn't have been more delightful weather. Many private dinner parties were given in different parts of the city.

The government offices generally granted a full holiday Monday that the employes might celebrate Christmas. Looked more like a metropolitan city than Dawson-on-the-Yukon to see the decorations within and without the business houses.

A delightful dinner was tendered a few friends on Sunday by Judge Watrous, of Bear Creek and Messrs. W. C. Watrous and E. C. Allen, at their handsome home in this city. Probably in no private home in the States was a more elaborate dinner served, from Eastern oysters to plum pudding, than there, during which Mrs. D. W. Semple was presented by the gentlemen above named with a beautiful nugget bracelet and Mr. Semple with a handsome Meerschbaum pipe.

A most impressive service was held at St. Mary's R. C. church on Christmas eve, beginning at midnight, when Rev. Father Judge, assisted by the two clergymen of the parish, celebrated the entire high mass. The church was beautifully decorated—the altar being especially favored. A large choir, under the leadership of Mr. Erhardt, augmented by strong male and female voices and string instruments rendered delightful music. Every available inch of room was occupied by worshippers and visitors.

Secure reserved and box seats at Kelly's drug store for the Wondroscope. Next Sunday at the Monte Carlo.

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