

THE SEMI-WEEKLY NUGGET.

VOL. 4 NO. 20

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 1900.

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BRITAIN READY

To Engage France in Warfare That Will Cause the Earth To Tremble

PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE

By Both Nations to Meet in Conflict Very Soon.

PERHAPS IN THREE MONTHS.

France Looks to Russia for Aid, Which Will Doubtless Be Supplied—England Fully Awake.

From Saturday's Daily.

London, March 10, via Skagway, March 16.—A European war of great magnitude is now one of the probabilities of the near future. The South African campaign has assumed a secondary place in the affairs of England, and the British government is utilizing all its resources to meet the graver dangers which threaten it at home. Great preparations of defence are being hurriedly made, and the only interpretation of such measures is that the cabinet officers of England are fearful of the interference of continental powers.

The war party in France is in the ascendant, and is too strong for the ministry to control. The republic is strengthening her positions at home and abroad. The French newspapers have assumed a very bellicose tone towards England; and the latter country is charged with having adopted an aggressive attitude in Egyptian matters. France claims that she has the full support of Russia and Germany against England. War is considered inevitable by the people of France and even the plans of operation have been published by the Parisian press.

High British officials say that they fully expect war with France, and that Britain is straining every nerve to meet the emergency. Before the expiration of three months, England and the French Republic may be hostile powers.

Pacific Coast Bills.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Representative Jones has secured a majority of the committee on merchant marine and fisheries to stand with him in opposition to the pending ship subsidy bill, unless it is amended to give some benefits to Pacific coast vessels. The committee meets tomorrow, and a warm fight is expected. An adverse report is probable. In the senate a favorable report is looked for.

A bill was introduced in the senate today by Senator Foster, providing for the construction of a government cable line from the United States to the Philippines. A distinguishing feature of the bill is that it requires the cable to be laid from some point on the coast of Washington, and that it shall run via Alaska and north of the Aleutian islands, to the island of Attu, and

ARCTIC SAWMILL

Removed to Mouth of Hunker Creek, on Klondike River.

Sluice, Flume & Mining Lumber

Offices: At Mill, at Upper Ferry on Klondike River and at Boyle's Wharf.

.....J. W. BOYLE

thence to the boundary between Russia and Japan; thence, with several stops to the Philippines. An independent cable, from San Francisco to Hawaii, is provided for.

Government ownership and operation is the key of Senator Foster's bill. It provides for a grand system of Pacific cables, and primarily gives telegraphic facilities to the territory of Alaska. The cost of the entire system is limited to \$8,000,000, a half million to be immediately available.

The lighthouse bill which passed the senate today is Foster's. Representative Jones introduced a bill to repair the steamer Thetis at a cost of \$50,000, for use as a revenue cutter.

Gale and Flood.

Boston, Feb. 24.—The gales of the equinox have scarcely ever exceeded in force the storm which swept over New England, leaving in its wake damage by flood that is almost incalculable.

For 24 hours a heavy rain, after wiping away what few traces there were of snow and ice, brought to a climax the most unseasonable winter New England has known for a great many years. Tributary bodies of water which a few weeks ago were so low that the almost unheard of condition of drought in midwinter was threatened, have been changed into torrents of more threatening volume than in the usual spring freshets. From drought to flood, with all the damage done at both extremes to the manufacturing, logging and ice harvesting interests, is now added the cost of replacing bridges swept away and of repairing railway and highway beds torn up.

The most extensive damage reported is along the Merrimac and Connecticut rivers. The blow was fierce along the coast, but shipping, usually less in volume at this season, had ample warning of the storm.

At Manchester, N. H., Almer H. Jackson, a mill hand, attempted to jump over a rivulet, but fell into the water, and was washed away and drowned.

Washouts stopped traffic on the Boston & Maine line at Nashua and on other smaller lines.

Dispatches from various sections of Vermont and Maine place the rainfall at over three inches. The Connecticut river at Bellows Falls rose nearly five feet during the day, and as most of the smaller streams are running wild, a further rise of six or eight feet is looked for.

Engineer on Trial.

San Francisco, Feb. 22.—The trial of Chief Engineer McDonald, of the transport Manauense, charged with neglect and incompetency, commenced before the British consuls here today. The inquiry was offered by the English consul at McDonald is a British subject. The examination will be a searching one and will occupy some days.

Capt. Barneson, commander of the vessel, told of her voyage from this city to Manila and return. He stated that the engines broke down, that the electric plant became useless, necessitating the use of lamps; that water flooded the engine room; that the engine could not be used for pumping and many other things which have given foundation to the stories of the terrible voyage of the transport which have appeared in the papers of the country.

A Jolly Time.

St. Patrick's day was pleasantly celebrated last night by about 50 people in the roadhouse of Mr. and Mrs. John Manning, situated at No. 60 below on Bonanza. Quite a number of prominent residents of Dawson attended. An enjoyable dance was given, together with an excellent lunch. Frank Kelly, the comedian, entertained the guests with rag time songs and dances. Among those present from the city were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Chisholm, Mrs. O'Donne, Mrs. Wilson, J. F. Macdonald and Colin Macdonald.

Arrival of Mail.

Early this morning 22 sacks of mail arrived at the Dawson postoffice. The consignment left Bennett last Sunday. Today, Postmaster Hartman and his assistants are engaged in sorting the letters, and the office will be open for distribution to the public on Monday morning.

Weather Report.

The minimum temperature last night was 10 degrees above zero. At 9 o'clock this morning the official instrument recorded 10 degrees above. At noon, the thermometer registered 56 degrees above.

Mrs. Fancher's ladies' spring goods have arrived. Call and inspect.

COUNCIL SESSIONS

The Scene of Much Discord, of Which the Public Is Kept in Blissful Ignorance.

THE WIDENING BREACH INCREASES.

Get the Minutes and Publish Them," Says Judge Dugas.

"GIVE PEOPLE ALL THEY ASK"

Citizens' Petition Is the Bone of Contention in the Local Branch of the Dominion Government.

There is a breach in the Yukon council which is widening with each succeeding day, and which, if the council was of local origin, would threaten that body with dissolution.

The council is a peculiar creation in that it is both a legislative and executive body and is entirely subservient to the government at Ottawa without regard to wishes and opinions, likes and dislikes of the local constituency of both the Yukon and Dominion governments, as the former is but as a child of the latter.

It is this utter disregard of the desires and interests of the British subjects now in the Yukon, and for which disregard the local branch of the government is not wholly responsible by any manner of means, that is now causing a clash in the Yukon council, for the reason that several members of that body coincide with the nine tenths of the Canadian and British subjects here in believing and asserting that with decided action on the part of the council the desired betterment of conditions may and will be brought about, and that by them the interests of not only the British subjects but of all residents of the Yukon will be best served.

Within the past few weeks a mighty effort on the part of Canadian citizens has been and is still being made to enable them to have declared operative an act passed nearly two years ago by the Dominion parliament, authorizing local representation of two members on the board of the Yukon council, which representation would be selected by popular election by the legal voters of the Yukon district. As the readers of the Nugget well know, efforts are being made with the above mentioned representation on the council in view, but these efforts are not being met with that degree of success which the activity with which they are pushed would warrant; and it is this apparent apathy on the part of certain of the present members of the board which is causing this variation of feeling concerning this and other questions of very great importance to the people of the district.

The reading public of Dawson doubtless wonder why it is that they frequently hear rumors of happenings at the meetings of the Yukon council, and yet are never informed by the local press as to whether these rumors are true or otherwise. For this apparent neglect on the part of the press to print the detailed accounts of the council's deliberations it is subjected to severe and frequently harsh censure at the hands of those readers who are not conversant with the manner in which the press of Dawson receives its accounts of the doings of the council for publication. Representatives of the press are not permitted to be present at that body's deliberations, and the clerk of that body is not permitted to give out for publication one jot or tittle of what takes place until his minutes are first written up and submitted to the rigid inspection of the president of the council, who is Governor Ogilvie. That official reads the minutes with care and deliberation, blue penciling any and all items which to him may appear best suppressed from

publication and consequently from the local constituency of the government to which the local branch is subservient and a part.

The governor having exercised this press censorship, the minutes, or what are left of them, are again put in shape by the clerk with all blue pencillings omitted, and a copy of them is given to each of the local papers for publication.

This, therefore, is the reason why the newspapers are seldom ever prepared with the information which would enable them to confirm or deny the reports which are frequently current regarding what may transpire in the privacy of the board's meetings.

But, as "people will talk," it is almost impossible to keep closed all avenues through which matters of public importance is apt to escape, and it was through one of these unguarded apertures that the Nugget first obtained a hint to the effect that at a late meeting of the honorable body the question of local representation on the council had been made the subject of most animated and heated discussion, the interests of the people—the Canadian subjects in the Yukon district—being ably and persistently championed by Mr. Justice Dugas, while the proposition was as strenuously opposed by the presiding officer, Governor Ogilvie. With rumored information as to the events of the meeting referred to, the Nugget started a little investigation with the result that the following interesting information was obtained for its readers:

When Justice Dugas was asked as to whether or not questions arising from the citizens' petition had caused discussion in the meeting of the council, that gentleman replied:

"There was some discussion on an amendment made by myself to a motion concerning the granting of local representation on the board. But get the minutes of that meeting and publish the whole thing. Those minutes should be given to the press and published for the benefit of the people who are interested."

"But, judge, those minutes were not given out by the clerk for publication." "Well, they should be. I never do or say anything at council meetings that I wish to conceal from the people. I say what I mean, and stand by what I say. Go and get those minutes and publish them."

When asked "Do you favor local representation on the board the distinguished jurist replied:

"Certainly, certainly. Give the people what they want and all they want. But get those minutes and publish them."

Commissioner Ogilvie was interviewed by a representative of the Daily Nugget this morning.

"Is it true that the clerk's minutes of the proceedings of the council are submitted to you for examination before they are given to newspapers for publication?" inquired the reporter.

"Yes," replied the commissioner.

"And it is a fact that you often expunge portions of these minutes?"

"Yes; such is a fact," answered Governor Ogilvie.

"What is the object of keeping from the people certain business transacted by the council?"

"Well, our duties are of a dual nature; they are administrative and executive. Frequently we act as a sort of privy council. The clerk is not permitted to disclose anything which transpires at our meetings, unless it is sanctioned by me; and I act according to the opinion of a majority of the council. We are responsible only to the government at Ottawa for our official acts, and not to the people here."

"Would you favor a resolution admitting newspaper reporters to the meetings of the council?" was the next question.

"Not at the present time. Our room is not sufficiently large to accommodate

(Continued on page 6.)

PUBLIC MEETING

Number Two Is Called By the Citizens' Committee for Next Friday Night

FOR FULL AND FREE DISCUSSION

Of Matters of Vital Import to the Yukon Territory.

EVERYBODY WILL BE THERE.

Admission Will Be Charged for Box and Balcony Seats—Down Stairs Free.

If there is one thing more than another for which the people of Dawson are noted, it is for the tenacity of purpose with which they take hold on a proposition and hang like the grim death to a pole horse. It was some time before our citizens finally worked themselves up to the point of calling the first public meeting at which steps were taken leading to a redress of grievances, and that meeting when held, indicated that its participants had enlisted for the full term and would never ask for quarter until the desired objects were attained. The ice having been broken, it is easy to break any thin covering that may again form on the surface of the former aperture.

As the objects for which the former meeting was held have not been satisfactorily attained, and as the public mind has been pretty thoroughly educated in the meantime, it has been decided to hold another public meeting of which the following notice has been furnished the Nugget:

The citizens' committee appointed on the 12th of February, 1900, for the purpose of taking steps to secure representation for the electors of the Yukon territory on the Yukon council, and in the house of commons have decided to call and do by this notice call a public mass meeting to be held at the Palace Grand opera house, in Dawson, Y. T., on Friday the 23rd day of March, next, at the hour of 7:30 p. m., to receive the report of the committee regarding representation on the Yukon council, and in the house of commons at Ottawa, and to take action in connection with the said report, and receive further instructions from the citizens, and the discussion of such other matters in connection with the administration of the Yukon territory, as the meeting may deem advisable.

The committee will take measures to secure perfect order throughout the meeting.

The down stairs portion of the Palace Grand opera house will be open to general admission without charge, for those interested in the object of the meeting. For admission to the upstairs and balcony the management of the Opera house will as usual charge.

The committee will give the full text of the reply of the government to their petition for representation.

For Sale at a Bargain.

Complete steam thawing plant. Four horsepower boiler in splendid condition. Apply Nugget office.

Shoff, the Dawson Dog Doctor, Pioneer Drug Store.

Boys on the Creeks

This Is for You...

Hurry Up to Lay in Your Spring Supplies. Some Things Are Getting Scarce and Are Going Up. Special Prices to Our Regular Customers Who Outfitted at Our Store, and Liberal Treatment to Everybody.

The Ames Mercantile Co. F. Jansen, Res. Manager

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED DAILY AND 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.

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 1900

**From Saturday's Daily.
MAKE IT OPEN.**

The Yukon Council, in denying the right of the public and press to be present at its legislative sessions, is violating the established rule of such bodies the world over. The Council has jurisdiction over and is daily appropriating moneys derived from the various sources of local revenue. It makes laws for the government of the community in all matters excepting those over which jurisdiction is maintained at Ottawa. The reports of the meetings of the Council are subject to absolute censorship before they are given out to the press for publication. Such matters as in the judgment of the Yukon commissioner are considered suitable for publication are given to the press, and other matters are stricken out. The Nugget maintains that such a condition of affairs is nothing more nor less than outrageous. The citizens of Dawson, whose money it is that the Council appropriates, and who are expected to render obedience to the laws which the Council passes, are entitled to know the methods of procedure which maintain in the Council, and to learn directly, and without the reports being subjected to any kind of censorship, what those proceedings are.

As long as present methods are followed, the Council will always be subject to suspicion, both as to its motives and its actions.

WAR IMMINENT.

Great Britain is preparing for a war greater even than the one she has just been conducting. Volatile, fickle, France, John Bull's traditional enemy, but not infrequently his warmest friend, sees or thinks she sees, in the strain placed upon British resources in the Transvaal, the longed for opportunity to square up old accounts. The war spirit appears to be in the ascendant throughout France, and the newspapers and war advocates are calling in such urgent terms upon the government to prepare for war that resistance to their clamor seems impossible, even if the government felt so disposed. France claims to have the support both of Germany and Russia at her back, but there is as yet nothing to indicate that this claim is founded upon anything like substantial grounds.

Germany, while at times manifesting a spirit of unfriendliness toward Great Britain, has never indicated a specific desire for the severance of the relationships now existing. Germany is conservative, notwithstanding the fact that she has a ruler who is somewhat erratic. Her immense war force is maintained rather for the purpose of insuring peace than with any desire to prosecute campaigns for conquest. What she would have to gain, aside from some possible colonial accessions, is doubtful. Nevertheless, the situation is apparently regarded in England as involving possibilities of the utmost gravity. It has taken no little effort on the part of the government to place the present forces in the field in South Africa. To meet

the requirements of such a war as would result from an attack by France upon England would strain the resources of the empire to the utmost.

The situation, however, is being met with that unflinching firmness which is characteristic of the race. If England has one or a half dozen enemies to fight, they will be fought singly or together, and as long as there are men and guns left with which to fight.

President Steyn's prophecy that startling events will precede the fall of Pretoria may yet be realized.

COAST PROPERTY.

The Pacific coast cities are all experiencing a boom, due in a very large measure to the fact that the Alaska trade is assuming such tremendous proportions. In Seattle and San Francisco the steamboat companies are already preparing to handle the increased tonnage, and in consequence every line of business has been stimulated. The former city is filled with eager Nomads and returning Klondikers, each one of whom contributes his mite toward the prosperity of the Sound City. It is stated by parties just arriving from Seattle that real estate in that city is held at three and four times the figures asked three years ago, with prices still stiffening. This would indicate a measure of prosperity which may well cause the Queen City to rejoice. The Alaskan trade has been a veritable Godsend to all the coast cities, but more particularly to Seattle, which is generally regarded as the center around which the Alaskan business revolves.

There appears to be a diversity of opinion regarding the desirability of working claims by the lay system. It is a well known fact that many laymen have spent months of labor upon a claim only to find that their work has been in vain and without results. At the same time the marketable value of much good property has largely depreciated by reason of the fact that laymen have in many instances failed to prospect properly the ground they were working. There is considerable room for doubt as to who has suffered the most from the lay system—the layman or the claim owner.

Business during the past few days has shown a general improvement. Local merchants are pleased with the increase in trade, the volume of which is steadily increasing. Reports from leading mercantile firms indicate that the volume of business, if anything, is greater than at the same time 12 months ago. This condition speaks highly for the stability of the town. From now on until the end of the cleanup, business should continue to show marked and steady improvement.

This is St. Patrick's day, and the patron saint of the Emerald Isle is being properly honored in Dawson. If, as a result of the joy incident to the occasion, an unusual number of worshippers appear at the shrine of the police court magistrate Monday morning, the Nugget bespeaks for them a degree of leniency in accord with the nature of the circumstances.

Wanted.

One 15 and one 20 to 35 horse power boiler, new or second hand. Address with description and terms, Allan R. Joy, room 15, A. C. office building.
Do you feel weak, nervous and generally run down? Our celery, with beef, iron and wine will make you good as new. Cribbs & Rogers, druggists, opposite Palace Grand. Branch store, Grand Forks.

STROLLER'S COLUMN

It was on one of the late bright warm afternoons; the sun was singing brightly, and a number of men were basking in its rays by sitting on a pile of lumber on the river bank on the west side of Front. For some time the subject under discussion by the party had been that of steamboats, and all kinds of craft, from an American man of war down to a fishing smack, had been "treated" when one of the most venerable men in the party said:

"Do you know, men are very much like water craft. No two of them are of the same draught, and I speak of their mental attainments, no two are of the same breadth of beam. It is usually the light draught boat that makes the most noise coming up the river, and it is usually the light draught men-who make the most noise as they travel along the highway of life. The merchantman or battleship that displaces thousands upon thousands of tons of water makes less noise in furrowing her way through the ocean than does the little gasoline launch which a rattle would overturn were it not for her centerboard. And this is just exactly the way it is with men. Take John Smith, for instance, right here in Dawson. John is always bobbing up, no matter where he is, and he talks to other men as if they are mummies. One of his stock expressions is 'I, as a business man,' and 'I, as a business man,' and 'I, as a business man,' ad infinitum until people who hear him mentally exclaim with the apostle of old 'How long, Oh, Lord, how long?' Now, John is one of these light draught fellows who has to make noise in order to be noticed at all. Otherwise he would go through the world without exciting comment favorable or otherwise. Who he is or what he was before, coming to Dawson only God and John appear to know. All we know is that he is here, and is determined at all times and under all circumstances to keep people impressed with that painful fact. It is pleasant to contemplate, however, that John will never break into print for the reason that there is not a print shop in town that could publish one of his articles, as there are not sufficient capital 'I's' to set one of them in type. However, John has his good qualities, just the same as a little steamer. He is useful in some channels where no ballast is required, and with all his vast business experience would be much missed if he were, some day while pondering over a sense of his own importance, swell up and burst like a toy balloon."

By the time the old skipper had finished the above harangue, only two of his original ten auditors were with him, and one of them was asleep; and as the other got up and shuffled away he heard to mutter: "That old windbag hit it right when he took to the sea; no calm would ever be found around any jammer that carried him aboard."

"Do you know that for the past three days the worst walking has been on the best sidewalk in town, and that is the walk along front street in front of the barracks. The speaker was a lady who had been out on some charitable mission and had walked until she was tired. Continuing she said: "It would certainly take but a little while for them to clear the snow and ice off the walk if they would put the prisoners to work at it; and I should think they could now be spared from the woodpile for a little while, as during this weather there will not be so much wood needed as when it was so cold."

And with a sorrowful look at her he-dragged skirts, the lady passed out of the store to further prosecute her good work.

"Had a great time up to my house snowing," said a clerk in a Dawson store to the Stroller yesterday. On being asked what constituted the 'great time' he replied: "Well, you see, I only get a very moderate salary for this country, as I am not what would be accounted a first class clerk on the outside, where, to tell you the truth, I always followed logging; so of course, we ain't been living very high this winter. Fresh meat has not been seen on our table in five months as often as I have fingers on this hand, which you see is shy the forefinger—snapped off by a log chain on a log raft seven years ago. Well, I had been reading in the papers a whole lot lately about so much fresh meat and eggs comin' in that it made a deep impression on my mind, and do you know that as a result I had the greatest mess of steak and eggs ever eaten in Dawson smokin'. I had two big, fine porterhouse steaks and four fresh eggs all on my plate at one time and was just sorter leanin' back admirin' the layout and congratlatin' myself on my snap when * * * Holy Moses! My wife gave me a prod in the ribs with her elbow and said: 'Are you goin' to sleep all day? Hop out and start the fire and slice off a lot of bacon; now get a move on yourself, or the first thing you know you'll lose your job.' An' don't forget I want \$20 of your salary this week, as I'm goin' to have a new dress, and I must have some new stockings, as the weather is getting soft an' I can't hold up my dress on the streets until I get some new stockings.' I got up, but you can bet that bacon tasted rank to me this morning."

Billy Gorham

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How About Your Watch?
Our Klondike Rings
Are Beauties....

Manufacturing Jeweler.
Now Located at New Store in the Orpheum.

Large Stock, Small Store

Hardware

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Merchandise Bought and Sold For

Spot Cash

...Come In and Dicker I'll Buy, Sell or Trade...

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ANY OLD THING FOR SALE

From a Needle to a Steamboat

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Finest Liquors. Our Cigars are famous for their excellency. Front St., nr. the Casino.



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Commercial Agent, Dawson

FIRST BOAT FOR NOME

STEAMER MERWIN is now in Winter quarters at Dawson, and will be ready to leave at opening of navigation, sailing direct to Nome, without delay or transfer at St. Michael. Tickets and berths can now be secured at

YUKON DOCK, Frank J. Kinghorn, Agent

Trunks and baggage stored in Dock Warehouse until departure of boat.

OFFICE HOURS, 9 to 5.

COAL AT THE A. E. CO.

Avery Sells

Quaker Pancake Flour

25c. A PACK

SPRING WILL SOON BE HERE

Says Old Chief Isaac of the Indian Village at Moosehide.

He Explains Predictions By Observations Based on Nature and Natural Indications.

(From Friday's Daily.)
It is doubtful if there is a single section on the entire North American continent in which at this season of the year reference is made to "old Indian sayings" regarding the advent of spring and the accompanying seed time. Even in the Eastern States where the red race has been wholly extinct for nearly a century, the old Indian sayings and legends regarding the severity or mildness of winter and the prospects of an early or late spring are still quoted and more or less credence is still reposed in them. And there is much more solid reason than guess work in the weather conclusions and prognostications of the Indian, for the reason that, having no artificial means of assistance in determining the weather for tomorrow they rely wholly on indications of nature not only for the weather of the near future but for that of months and seasons to come.

Yesterday afternoon the weather reporter of the Daily Nugget, in company with a young Indian who is employed here in the city, and who is well versed and talks quite intelligently in English, and who is fluent in the matter of interpreting his native tongue, sauntered down the river to the Indian village at the mouth of Moosehide, where for upwards of an hour a three cornered conversation was carried on with Chief Isaac, who for more than 80 years has resided in the Yukon valley. For a wonder, the old man was perfectly willing to talk and a present of a piece of tobacco made him really communicative. But he would not commit himself on the subject of spring until that of the closing winter had been disposed of. As nearly as the reporter could get it from the young Indian, the old man's recital was about as follows:

"As early as September it was plain that the approaching winter would be an unusually cold one. All the indications pointed that way. A larger amount of fuz than usual formed on the small branches of trees and on sprouts of all kinds; the little points which will develop into buds as the sun increases in warmth were covered with extra thick fibrous folds. Moose and caribou killed early in the winter all showed a more heavy growth of hair than usual, and the ptarmigan all had more down on their legs than is common in ordinary years. I felt as early as the latter part of August that the river would close early, for the reason that a certain species of fish which are usually caught as late as the middle of September they appeared to leave the river. In this I was right for the river closed fully two weeks earlier than usual; and my other predictions proved correct for the winter has certainly been one of more than ordinary severity, although I have seen others fully as cold and a few much colder."

Having disposed of the winter by what all must admit, a very logical process of reasoning, the old chief proceeded to speak of spring, and it was noticed by the reporter that instead of having outward signs on which to prognosticate spring weather, he uses his reasons and beliefs solely on the preceding winter, which he says, have not materially failed him in the close observation of considerably more than half a century. Regarding the coming spring the old man said:

"With but seven exceptions in a period of 60 years, a winter such as we have had has been followed by an early spring, as the evil spirit appears to have spent all his force and energy in piling up ice and seems to be glad to relax his hold entirely and give way to the spirit of light and heat that comes to contend with him every spring, and which two spirits seem to sometimes have long contentions before the spirit of winter and ice will give up. But this spring is sure to come early unless it is another exception. After many winters just like we have had I have known the ice to go out very early in May, but only three times in my life has it ever gone out in April, and the last time was 31 years ago this spring. I have known it to go out many times before the 10th of May. Last year it was the 17th. This year I expect it to go between the 5th and 12th. There will be plenty of fish in the river very early this spring; there always are after long, cold winters. The foliage of the trees will be unusually heavy this year and much rain will fall, but

there will not be many clouds except when it is raining. The sun will shine strong and the coming summer will be warmer than was the last one."

Having finished, the old man slowly turned his time-scared visage to the eastward and looked long and earnestly towards the distant hills. A few half audible mutterings escaped him, which the young man interpreted as "me to talk of heat and sunshine, when for me, old and crumbling like a dead tree surrounded by evergreens, there will be no heat and sunshine until I find it in the happy hunting grounds to which all the companions of my youth have long since been borne."

As the weather reporter of the Nugget slowly walked back over the ice path to Dawson he wondered if a man with all the learning of a David Starr Jordan or a Dr. Harper stands any higher in the estimation of God Almighty than does this simple child of nature who sees—

"Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks, Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

A la Dawson Poultry.

Forty dejected and homesick gamblers returned to Knoxville the other day, says the Savannah News. On Christmas day, with 100 gamecocks, they left on a steamer for an isolated resort down the river, where they expected to have a great cocking main and return to the city next morning. The steamer carried no lifeboats. Before the destination was reached the steamer went on a saundar and stuck fast "ten miles from nowhere." The weather was very cold and ice formed about the craft. The sports, determined to make the best they could of the situation, improvised a pit on the deck and held a few fights. As the hours went by and the night grew colder and the ice in the river thicker, there came no hope of getting the boat off or of being rescued. Then someone became hungry, and it was ascertained that the sandwiches had given out. There was nothing to eat on board! For some hours longer the sports put on a brave front, but finally hunger got the best of them and they put their gamecocks—valued at five to one hundred dollars each—to slaughter. For two days and two nights they hung up on the sandbar, eating chicken that fairly tasted of money.

Two Tall Stories.

A writer in a Boston publication says that not long ago a hawk caught a fish in Long Island sound, but while flying with it to the woods to devour it at leisure, the fish floundered from the hawk's hold and dropped into a farmer's yard, where a big mastiff was sitting. The dog caught the fish as it came down, and the hawk swooped after it, but the dog turned and ran into the house, placing his trophy, yet alive, at the feet of his mistress. It proved to be a large bluefish, and it was served up that night to an appreciative family. The dog ever since has been seen to sit in the same place at the same time, evidently impressed with the belief that his good fortune may be repeated.

A street car struck Giuseppe Marate, a sailor, in Philadelphia Christmas day, knocked him down and dislocated his shoulder. He was put into a wagon and hurried off toward the Pennsylvania hospital. The wagon jumped over a rut in the pavement and the jar reset his shoulder. When he got to the hospital the surgeons found the shoulder all right, bandaged it and sent him back to his vessel.

Hats Off, Please.

The trustees of an Iowa church recently passed the following resolutions, which if it is hoped will have a salutary effect:

"Resolved, By the official board of the Methodist Episcopal church, that it, being in perfect harmony with movements all over the country and that it is in strict conformity with customs and with laws in some of the states of the union; therefore, be it
"Resolved, That the ladies of the church and congregation be encouraged in the removal of their hats during the morning and evening services. That while we admire the artistic creations of the headgear of our wives and sweethearts, we will promise not to lose any of our love or affection for them if they will unanimously grant the request of this petition."

Hundreds Coming.

From persons who arrived yesterday evening over the ice from Bennett it is learned that even more people than were expected are now en route over the ice and headed this way. One man, with whom a Nugget man conversed last night said it is safe to assert that 300 people will arrive between now and April 1st, and fully 500 will come in before the ice breaks. Those who will arrive within the first two or three weeks are nearly all bringing goods of one description or other, while the last to come will travel light, with no other object in view than that of reaching here as speedily as possible. It is a fact that many people actually

prefer a trip over the ice at an equal expense to one down on a steamer. There is something fascinating about the trip, and to those who have once made it in ordinary weather it has charms which prompt them to make it again.

From now on until the first steamer casts off her lines for down the river the population of Dawson will increase to such an extent that the large number who have already left over the ice for Nome will scarcely be missed.

Both Men Working.

Dick Case and Pat Malloy are both getting down to hard work in the matter of training for their glove contest of 10 rounds which will take place at the Orpheum on the night of the 29th. This will undoubtedly be the most spirited contest of the entire winter series. Both men are in fine shape even now; and with additional preparation there is no reason why either of them should fail to win; but the fact that both will be in such fine condition will serve to add increased interest in the event.

Editor De Succa Arrives.

Mr. Chas. E. De Succa, for a long time city editor of the Daily Alaskan, Skagway's leading newspaper, which paper is owned by his father, arrived in Dawson yesterday evening, 17 1/2 days from Skagway. He came in light, hence the good time made. Mr. De Succa expects to remain in Dawson until the opening of navigation when he will proceed on to Nome. He is a versatile writer, an Arctic Brother, an Eagle and an all around good fellow.

Buck and Wing Contest.

Last evening, at the Orpheum theater, Annie O'Brien won the buck and wing dancing contest for the championship of the Yukon territory, and the side purse of \$1000. The decision of the judges was unanimous, and was received with unqualified approval by the large audience. Frank Kelly, the defeated contestant, at the conclusion of the match delivered a speech in which he bitterly attacked the award of the judges, and imputed to them improper motives. Even had his objections been well taken it would have been exceedingly ill-mannered in him to have expressed himself in such discourteous language. But Kelly had been fairly beaten, and his unfounded exceptions to the final decision merely served to render his conduct disgusting and reprehensible.

The contest commenced at 20 minutes to 12 o'clock. The judges were Ed. Dolan for Annie O'Brien, Tom Rooney for Kelly, and Dick Gardner selected by the audience. The time keepers were James Donaldson, Ben Ferguson and Otis Randall. Frank Kelly appeared first. He danced for 6 minutes and 45 seconds, during which time he executed 24 different steps, and repeated four. His time was perfect. Miss Annie O'Brien immediately followed. She danced 8 minutes and 35 seconds, and executed 46 steps, six of which she repeated. Her time was not so good as that of her contestant, but she excelled in execution, inasmuch as she executed more steps than Kelly. The judges arrived at their decision within a few minutes after the contest.

The theater was crowded with spectators, most of whom were attracted by this dancing match. It is reported that Charlie Brown is anxious to dance against Miss O'Brien and that he is willing to bet from \$500 to \$2000 that he can win.

A Popular Institution.

It is stated by old timers in Dawson that never in the vaudeville history of the city has any playhouse or resort more deservedly popular than is the New Orpheum. It is an institution in the management and conduct of which the people have confidence. The joint stock or co-operative company is composed of well known and respected ladies and gentlemen, and the public feels that in patronizing the Orpheum they are patronizing deserving people. The new theater has been an eminent success since its initial curtain raising.

Sensational Report.

Frankfort, Ky., Feb. 25.—A report was circulated Monday that, acting under the orders of Gov. Taylor, a fore of state militia was to be sent to the state penitentiary and force the release of Doug Hayes, who is serving a term of five years for manslaughter and who was pardoned by Gov. Taylor last week, but whose release had been refused by the prison authorities. Warden Eph Lillard left here Sunday night for Louisville, but the state board of penitentiary commissioners was notified that such action was to be taken. Commissioner Fennell at once telephoned the prison authorities to lock the prison gates, but to offer no resistance outside of that, even if the militia undertook to batter down the gates and take Hayes away by force.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BROS., Publishers.

CONCERNING TELEGRAMS.

A review of the columns of our esteemed contemporary, the News, reveals the fact that during the short space of its existence it has devoted a great deal of space to the subject of telegrams. At the very outset of its career it assured us all, with a great deal of gravity, that through some special dispensation of Divine Providence, together with the assistance of various and sundry powerful influences, known only to those deeply versed in the black art of political intrigue that it [the News] had the first call on the telegraph line. Such bits of stray information as it did not care to use, the other local papers would be allowed to publish, provided they could get them. The telegraph line was always referred to in the News' columns with some expression bordering upon paternal solicitude as though it [the line] was, after a fashion, an offspring of it [the News]. We were told so often about the extensive telegraphic service the News would have that we began to believe that the telegraph line had become a possibility only by reason of the nurturing care which the News bestowed upon it. It appeared to be a sort of "me and the government" arrangement, with the News in the role of "me." But, alas, for well laid plans. The government undertook to conduct the telegraph line without even so much as asking the News' advice, assistance or consent. This was shock No. 1. It actually had the audacity to sell the use of its line to the Nugget at exactly the same rate charged the News. This was shock No. 2.

But the crowning shock to the somewhat perturbed sensibilities of our amiable contemporary is the fact that the Nugget, by the exercise of unremitting "hustle," is getting its telegraphic news from 10 to 24 hours ahead of the News. On last Monday, for instance, the Nugget published news of the expedition for the relief of Mafeking, the reported quarrel between Rhodes and Col. Kekewich, and several other telegrams of minor importance, all of which appeared in the News of Tuesday. In Tuesday's Nugget appeared the facts in regard to the election of Judge Humes as mayor of Seattle, a mine explosion in Virginia, the authorization of the big British war loan and other important happenings, on the outside, all of which were published with religious accuracy in Wednesday's issue of the News.

We don't wish our contemporary to understand that we are making any complaint at all. We consider that news once published is public property, and is legitimately available for reproduction in other newspapers, although ordinarily it is customary to give credit for the same.

We refer to these circumstances merely to correct any lingering impression which may yet remain in the public mind that the government has given any newspaper an exclusive franchise for the use of the telegraph line.

THE END COMING.

Apparently the end of the Anglo-Boer war is not far distant. Kruger has forwarded messages to London, asking that terms be given by virtue of which a cessation of hostilities may be brought about, which indicates that the Boers have prolonged the struggle about as long

as their resources will enable them to do. It is stated in the dispatches that an uncompromising reply has been returned by the cabinet, and that if the Boers give up the fight it must be unconditionally.

We are unable to see how any other reply could have been sent. The war has been bitter and bloody, and was undertaken to decide whether Briton or Boer should rule in South Africa. To settle the war without settling absolutely the dominant question at issue would be childish. Thirty thousand lives lost will in all probability be a small estimate of the casualties in the war, and it is impossible to approach any estimate of the monetary cost involved. There must not be, and will not be, any doubt left as to which power is to be master when the war is finally brought to a close.

As noted in these columns several days ago, attempts to corner the local market on staple commodities have thus far signally failed. It often happens that the would-be maker of corners falls short in his estimate of available supplies in the market, and in consequence at the very moment he thinks his hands are on enough to give him control of affairs he discovers that his figures have been altogether too small. There is no excuse for any corners in Dawson at the present time. Supplies of all kinds are here in quantities to supply more than the demand from now until spring, and with the reopening of navigation there will be hundreds of tons of all classes of provisions rushed in immediately. These circumstances, taken in consideration with the fact that large quantities of commodities are daily arriving by sleigh from the outside, preclude the successful realization of any of the ambitious efforts that may be made at corners.

The report which appears in the telegraphic columns concerning the murder at Haines' Mission in October is in line with the traditions of all the Alaskan Indian tribes. To the minds of the Indians it does not make very much difference whether the man who actually killed an Indian is himself in turn killed. The point with the Indian in such a case is that an Indian life has been given up and a white man's life must be given in turn. If more than one Indian is killed, an equal number of lives of white men must be sacrificed in order to meet the aboriginal idea of justice. When the Indians who were executed in Dawson last summer were informed that three of them were to be hanged, they expressed great surprise that so many of them should die when only one white man had been killed. They firmly believed that, inasmuch as they had succeeded in killing but one white man, only one of their own number should in turn be made to die. The white man's idea of justice was entirely incomprehensible to them.

The government telegraph has recently reduced by more than one-half the rate formerly charged for press dispatches. This action on the part of the government enables us to print twice as much telegraphic news as was formerly possible. The government's revenue is not cut down any, and the newspaper reading public is the gainer. Supt. Crean and the other representatives of the government who interested themselves in the matter are entitled to the thanks of the press and public alike.

