

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

VOL. I. No. 56

DAWSON, Y. T., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1898

PRICE 25 CENTS

MAIL CARRIER NEARLY MURDERED.

The First Mail Man Out of Dawson Followed and Way Laid.

Sandison Comes Near Losing His Life but Closes With His Assailant—Frankie a Dawson Criminal.

The dangers besetting a Klondiker are not all in frost and ice. E. W. Sandison, it will be remembered, left Dawson on the first day of November with mail for the outside. He had some 80 pounds of letters and proposed to sled that and his blankets over the edge ice before the main river became passable. He is a big strong man and all were confident that he would be the first man out. However, it was slow work making camp every night and many a long detour had to be made in order to avoid open water. Corporal Richardson passed him with the official mail and several unnumbered pedestrians also overtook him. But there was a man on his trail from the moment he left Dawson, who had no desire to pass him living. Sandison came in this summer with a scow load of turkeys and successfully negotiated their sale. It was known to only a few friends how much money he was carrying out with him but it was known to all that he had some. A man named Frankel, who had spent several terms in the Dawson jail, was at liberty when Sandison started out and it appears resolved at once upon a bold course to make a stake quickly and get out of the country at one and the same time. Unnumbered by aught than a pair of light blankets the mail carrier was at last overtaken by the sleuth.

No opportunity had presented itself for a number of stations where both men spent the night for the sleuth to commit the foul deed on which his mind was bent. Sandison at last noticed the fellow reaching the same stopping places as himself nightly and got acquainted. The would-be thief and murderer told a plausible story of hardships and misfortune on the Klondike and his condition at the time bore out the story for he hadn't a dollar left. Sandison took pity on him and invited him to come along. From there on to a point a mile this side of Hootalingua the two journeyed together, Sandison paying all the bills or furnishing the food when they camped out. At the last camp mentioned Sandison had chosen a camping place away from the beaten trail—a body might lie there forever without being discovered. Frankel evidently saw his opportunity. The criminal took the first spell in the robes with Sandison at the fire. At two in the morning Sandison crawled in while Frankel fed the flames. Naturally Sandison was soon asleep with his gold sack upon his person and his mail under his head. Frankel picked up the axe; it had a short broken handle; one of the prisoner's hands is maimed by the loss of all but two fingers. Probably to this fact the mail carrier owed his life for he was awakened suddenly by repeated blows on the furs and parka hood, which completely enveloped his head. He is a large and nervously quick active man and had the prisoner disarmed and in custody in a trice. Though bruised and bleeding he found himself strong and not very seriously hurt as the furs had prevented the sharp bit of the axe from penetrating. With the axe for his sole weapon he took Frankel to the police station at Hootalingua and had his own wounds dressed. When the report left Hootalingua the injured man was doing nicely and it was believed would start upon his outward trip after a few more days. Preparations were also in progress for forwarding the intended murderer to the Tagish post for custody.

It is supposed by those who know that Sandison had some \$2000 with him in cash. Being known as a most responsible man it is believed that sundry amounts in bills and drafts were also enclosed in the letters he was carrying.

Fire Department Doings.

The fire boys of the volunteer department held their last meeting of 1898 on Wednesday evening at the engine house, Chief Fletcher presiding.

The new fire ordinance of the Yukon Council was read and explained to the boys of the department. It makes the authority of the chief paramount during a fire. He can order the destruction of property without redress, just as in his wisdom may appear proper to do. Each member of the department is constituted a special constable during a fire and citizens must neither interfere nor dictate but must in all things follow directions.

The new by-laws were debated and adopted. Firemen who fall three times in succession to respond to the alarm, unless they can produce what may appear to the chief to be a good and sufficient excuse will be ignobly dropped from the roles.

Pretty silver badges were shown and adopted as the official fireman's badge. The design is a Maltese cross with gold pan in the center bearing department emblems. In large letters is found "D. F. D." Beneath is engraved the rank or the company of the possessor. The badges are to remain the property of the department and subject to the disposal of the chief, excepting where a member receives an honorable discharge after three months of good service, in which case the badge becomes his private property.

The resignation of T. C. Healy, as president, was accepted.

The following were the unanimous choice for officers during the coming year: chief, Fletcher; assistant chief, Stumer; secretary, Moran; assistant secretary, Marks; treasurer, Galpin; captain of hook and ladder, Hastings; captain of Chemical No. 1, Evans; lieutenant, Morris; captain of engine, Slaus; lieutenants of hose carts, Jacobson and Matchett; captain of chemical No. 2, Dundan; lieutenant, T. L. Evans. The department also recommended to the fire commissioners that Messrs. Bush and Stingle be reappointed for the next year as engineer and fireman of the steamer.

It was decided to give a department dance about the middle of January and Messrs. Bush, George and Botts were appointed a committee to start the ball rolling and report at the next meeting.

Assistant Chief Stumer presented the department with a ball box and gavel. A hearty vote of thanks was given him.

It was decided to call the boys together at 8 o'clock Monday for purposes of drill.

T. C. Healy was made an honorary member of the department.

New Year's Greeting.

When "Davy" saunters forth from town
With rapid stride and dog-team mashing
With special sleigh well-loaded down
With nuggets up Bonanza rushing—
With nuggets—that the boys may get
The latest news and choicest reading—
'Tis then the miners all forget
The Arctic cold, nor winter heading.

And when the Nugget carrier bold
Way off on Sulphur or Dominion
Has braved the summit's blustering cold
To carry news, thought and opinion,
To cabins where the workers live
And delve for nuggets, bright and shining—
'Tis then some brighter thoughts they give
To other things than gold and mining.

Here's a New Year's Greeting to the boys—
May all their hopes find full fruition;
May future days bring many joys,
And each one realize ambition.
Long, long deferred or sought in vain
For lack of gold, May mine all render
A harvest rich, this year again—
This wish the NUGGET boys all tender.

RUSSELL S. BATES.

From the London "Times", Sept. 30.

It is deplorable to admit but it is idle to ignore the fact that the administration of the Klondike District and the relations which exist between the representatives of the government and the public leave almost everything to be desired.

The population remains on the whole orderly and law-abiding but it is in the open and emphatically expressed anticipation of the changes which are to give satisfaction must include in their operation both the system and the personal.

To put the position as it is plainly and openly stated in Dawson there is the widely prevalent conviction not only that the laws are bad but that the officials through whom they are administered are corrupt.

It is hard on innocent and upright individuals whose administrative duties may be performed with scrupulous integrity to be associated in the sweeping charge which is made against the whole official body but there is no disguising the universal decision and innocent and guilty stand at present condemned together. It is impossible to talk for five minutes on business with anyone in the mines or in the streets without some words occurring on the subject, and it is a painful experience for Englishmen proud of the purity of the British system of government to be compelled to listen to the plain-spoken comments of Americans and foreigners.

At the Methodist Church.

On Monday evening the First Methodist church celebrated the advent of Christmas with much enjoyment and innocent festivity. The house was packed to the doors. Captain Jack Crawford was present and by special request occupied the chair. During the evening, in introducing the various participants in the program, the captain favored with a number of his inimitable original poems and stories to the voiceless delight of the gathering. Dr. Grant made one of his whole-souled speeches and the following numbers were given: Solo, by Miss Houck; duet, by Miss Swan and Mr. Cook, solo by Mr. Boyle, solo by Mr. Cook, solo by Miss Swan, recitation, "The Volunteer Organist," by Mr. Bathurst; recitation, "The Common Soldier," by Miss O'Neil; recitation, "The Old Man's Christmas Present," by Miss C. Walsh.

To Dawson Via McKenzie River.

J. F. Redmond, mail carrier for the Arctic Express company has arrived in Dawson from Fort Yukon. He came over the McKenzie river trail and thence down the Porcupine river to Fort Yukon. He reports that P. C. Richardson, the mail contractor, sent 60 tons of mail up the river by the Seattle No. 4 which boat was left at Munook. Richardson then had 10 tons of the mail transferred to the Victoria which is now in winter quarters at Fort Yukon. Mr. Redmond brought in 125 lbs. of mail from different points on the river as far down as

Wearo. He met Captain Hansen and Captain Ogilvie and their party on the N. A. T. Co.'s steamer Barr half way between Forty Mile and Eagle City. A city government has been elected at Eagle City with a justice of the peace and other officers. Captain Richardson, commanding the U. S. troop at Fort Yukon, expects soon to accompany a squad of soldiers to Eagle, where they will be permanently located and several prisoners will soon be brought from Forty Mile to Dawson by the N. W. M. P.

Steamers are scattered along the river at different points in winter quarters. The A. E. steamer Arnold is located 28 miles below Forty Mile. The J. C. Barr of the N. A. T. & T. Co. is fast in the ice 32 miles between Eagle and Forty Mile. The Columbia Navigation company's steamer Sovereign is tied up at Circle, and 35 miles below that point is the Robert Kerr of the N. A. T. & T. Co. The Victorian and J. J. Healy are safely quartered at Fort Yukon. At the Dahl river there are seven or eight steamers belonging to different companies.

Takes His Seat Monday.

The new gold commissioner, Mr. Senkler, takes his seat in the gold commissioner's chair on Monday morning, January 23. Mr. Fawcett has been fixing no dates for the hearing of mining disputes for the past week and will take no more. The cases he has on hand at the present moment will not be interfered with by the new incumbent but will be heard before the retiring commissioner. Thus Mr. Fawcett and his farce of a court will be continued for another 20 days. Two months ago when the pressure upon the government became so great as to compel the removal of Mr. Fawcett it is hardly to be supposed that the government so hurriedly sent in a successor expecting him to take his seat for more than a month after he got here and refuse to take the office. Neither did the people here who have business with a gold commissioner desire this unaccountable delay. Every man knowing his cause to be just was anxious for the new commissioner to take his seat; those having but a "lawsuit hold" or a shadow of a right were satisfied with the delay. Messrs Bolton and Craig are to be superseded by the gentlemen who accompanied Mr. Senkler to Dawson.

Monday is also the day set by the Yukon commissioner for the throwing open of the records to the public. This was done some three months ago and was set so far ahead in order that there could be no excuse for further delay. The public has not yet been advised that the promise will be carried out.

POLICE COURT ITEMS.

C. Des passed the Christmas limits in his "jag" and it could not be overlooked. \$25 and costs.

C. B. Johnson is putting in four months on the wood pile. His particular offense consisted in stripping a neighboring cabin during the absence of the proprietor.

T. McKelson was exceptionally jubilant over the advent of Christmas and wouldn't take no for an answer. 10 days on the wood pile will clear his vision so that he may perceive the "straight and narrow path," when it again offers.

W. Houston is the man who fired off a couple of pistol shots on Second street, the other evening and occasioned such a still hunt by police and others for a supposed suicide. If the man had been required to pay each of the men on the hunt \$1 an hour the escapade would have cost him more than his fine of \$5 and costs.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich spent Christmas with Madame Granger.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hubbel, Miss Gilmer and Mr. J. B. Churchill were guests of Mrs. J. A. Elwell on No. 3 Eldorado during the Christmas week.

There will be two interesting sporting exhibitions at the social session of the Dawson club on Wednesday next besides the usual program of song, recitation, etc.

The grand female minstrel show which occurs next Thursday at the Family theatre is certain to be one of the winter's successes. Dawson society will turn out en masse to see the ladies in black.

Miss Lucy Grant and Mrs. Balderson are introducing the American custom of everyone calling upon their old friends on New Year's day. An open house to friends on Monday afternoon from 3 to 8.

The "French Bal Masque" of Wednesday night was not all the howling success anticipated for it. It is too far from town on a cold night for lightly clad females and few were there and none in costume.

The ladies of the Eldorado City and Social Club entertained the club on Saturday evening at the Presbyterian church where an excellent program was given after which refreshments were served, consisting of coffee, cake, sandwiches, etc. Mrs. J. A. Elwell superintended the lunch, assisted by Mrs. Comstock, Mr. J. A. Elwell, Mr. J. B. Churchill and Mr. J. N. Davidson.

Corporal Green, who has been acting recorder at Stewart since the Thistle strike, has been spending his Christmas in Dawson. He reports that from July 9 until December 20 he had recorded 219 claims on the various creeks up there.

There had also been 43 licenses issued making a total of about \$35,000 collected. The official temperature at Stewart has been -38 below zero.

Uncle Andy, the popular and energetic seller of the Nugget, wishes his favorite paper to express a word of kind appreciation for him to his friends for the many kindnesses and words of good cheer which he has received from his friends during the holidays. He wishes for him to bid his patrons all a happy New Year and a big year of prosperity and health. We think the old gentleman means every word of it for he would not leave the office this morning until we agreed to do so.

Special Notice.

At the Salvation Army, Tuesday, January 23, Auction of Children; Thursday, January 25th, Musical Blizzard.

A STRONG EXCEPTION TAKEN.

To a Sweeping Statement Made in a Recent Publication.

Thinks There Are Many More Than Four Good Women in Dawson—Thinks He Would Be Personal if His Own Family Was Here.

Editor Nugget:

In its last issue the *Miner-Sun* combination published at its office just north of the barracks assures its readers editorially, that "Dawson society is an odoriferous stench." In another portion its leader says: "Could one set in a single quadrille be filled if all our elect should attend at once?" Again we find: "It will be fittingly described as the Big and Pure Four; and now, as we have enough for one set swing your partners and balance all."

Mr. Editor, in 40 years of life, thank God, I have retained enough decency in myself to keep in touch with enough of the good and pure to know that the foregoing is the vilest slander ever perpetrated even upon such an unconventional and heterogeneous mass as is Dawson society. What think the 250 citizens of this community who are here with their wives? What think the 50 mothers and fathers who are here with their young daughters? What think the score or more of brothers who are so tenderly caring for cherished and loved sisters. Just think of the assertion of this slanderer: "Four good women on the Klondike." Who gave this foul slanderer the insight into the characters of that society to which the writer of that article claimed not to have access? Who gave him the divine insight into all hearts which enables him to detect beneath the assumption of virtue (his own word) "the charnel house beneath the rose"? How many of Dawson's feminine population has this vain and evil minded man met? And even should he have met them all who gave him that God-like power to read all hearts and decide that in every instance but four the assumption of virtue was a lie?

Mr. Editor, the man overstates himself and when he informs us in the article under discussion that he is unfamiliar with the people he is branding as infamous scoundrels and scoundrels his own distorted visage.

Mr. Editor, such evil minded men as must be that which promoted the leading article in the *Miner* are a greater disgrace to the community than any of its worst criminals. Such people expect to shine by comparison with the society which they think they are able to debate to a filthy level. Their own lustre must be so dim that they can be distinguished only when all else is made black. Mr. Editor, if my own wife or daughter had happened to be with me in Dawson I know I should have made a personal matter of this the worst insult to decency I have ever seen published. Approaches to it have been made before and the authors are serving time in the various American penitentiaries. That Americans who are here with their families will submit for one instant to this statement of the *Miner* going to the world unchallenged would prove that everyone of them left the best part of his manhood behind him on the passes.

FRANKLIN ARNOLD, American.

Official Temperatures.

The government report for the week ending Wednesday, Dec. 28 is as follows:

	Lowest	Highest	Wind Miles per hour.
Thursday	-17.7	-32	1.7
Friday	-16.4	-32.1	6.0
Saturday	-18.0	-146	2.8
Sunday	-15.2	-1.6	2.3
Monday	-11.2	-13	1.3
Tuesday	-20.6	-27	0.8
Wednesday	-23.0	-20.2	1.2

Christmas Under Difficulties.

Christmas was spent and celebrated in a variety of ways on the various creeks, chiefly by feasting and sometimes by dancing, but the most unique report comes from a small outlying creek where the residents determined upon a snow balling contest. Of course Klondike snow is as little adaptable to this purpose as flour or cornmeal, but "where there is a will there will prove a way" and so it came about that two large log fires were built 100 yards apart and the dry snow piled up around with shovels. Then the upper creek boys divided from the lower creek boys and each crowd took a fire. There was allowed for the manufacture of a pile of snow balls with the aid of the artificial heat and then an assault was simultaneously begun. Among the upper creek boys was a crafty native of the lower provinces. He realized that the crowd with the greatest amount of ammunition would win the final heat of the contest and he furnished two pails and packed water from the spring so the fire to the eternal discomfiture of the other crowd. His boys, by the aid of the water, could make six snow balls to the other men's one, and such snow balls too. Fired without the fire circle they froze solid in five seconds and will maintain their spheroidal form and their rigid contour until next summer's sun have had several weeks opportunity to test their hardness. What happened the other follows is best told by the honorable wounds which they show today as a result of the attack.

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And Avoid the Hillside.

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and) CHEST PROTECTORS
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The Klondike Nugget

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

On Wednesday and Saturday
 M. C. ALLEN, Manager
 GEO. M. ALLEN, Editor
 A. F. GEORGE, City Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1898

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.

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

NOT NECESSARILY PATRIOTISM.

A most commendable thing is patriotism. Naturally enough we appreciate our own or our country's patriotism more than the same desirable emotion in a Chinaman or other foreigner. But there is a condition of the mind so widely unlike it and yet so nearly akin to patriotism as to be mistaken for it by nine out of every ten we meet. This feeling is not particularly a love of one's own country as a hatred of everyone else; not so much a warming of the heart to one's fellow countrymen as a hatred of foreigners. Patriotism inspires its possessor with a desire to build up, reform or maybe glorify his own land or people; the other and more ungenerous feeling would simply tear down, belittle or in some other way administer injury to the land across the ocean or boundary or the strange people who inhabit it.

Which of these feelings was it which inspired our Ottawa government and its myrmidons when they framed their Klondike policy? The howl was at once raised within those legislative halls that "Americans" were taking the country; Americans of enterprise and daring were braving the passes and cascades in swarms and were about to secure a percentage of the "plum." Was it love of Canada and Canadians or dislike of America and Americans which instigated the system of intolerable taxation, monstrous irregularity and flagrant imposition which is causing the British home office to raise its hands in holy deprecation at the news from Klondike? The true motive is apparent. Patriotism would not dictate a policy which involves Canadians as well as Americans in the same evil effects of misgovernment.

But the thought arises "Is there then no discrimination at all in the situation?" Indeed there is. In spite of all the assurances to the contrary the feeling is here and is growing that Canadians must and shall be given special prerogatives or privileges, or to put it more clearly—that Americans should be made more distinctly to feel the yoke. As a very prominent Canadian said to the public just before leaving Vancouver: "It is Canadian territory and belongs to Canadians; Canada proposes to keep all she's got." Instances are piling up daily of this anti-Americanism and there is but one redeeming feature in the entire situation and that is that British Islanders, South Africans and Australians are showing absolutely no indications of being afflicted with this "Gringomania."

ABANDONMENT OF CLAIMS.

A proposed amendment to the mining regulations emanating from the miners themselves and which it is proposed to forward to Ottawa, is the restoration of miners' rights after the abandonment of the one claim which a miner may stake in a district. There are several premises essential to a thorough understanding of the matter, the first and greatest being that a self-supporting miner who will at his own cost dig into vacant and other

wise worthless ground, is a most worthy citizen and deserving of every consideration. A second premise which is only applicable to such desolate regions as this is that without the presence of the aforementioned desirable citizens the government would have in its possession a barren, frozen, unpopulated waste, absolutely unproductive of revenue, utterly worthless and simply filling out the purpose on the map by filling out the geographical lines of a continent. The inevitable conclusion is that it is asinine and suicidal for that government to say to those men: "If you dig into that barren ground in any one place and find it worthless we cannot let you dig any more." This is practically what it amounts to when a miner is given but one right.

It is true a man cannot work himself more than one piece of ground at any one time. The proposed change is that in the event of the ground proving worthless the miner be allowed to post up notices of abandonment and also file same with the recorder. At the expiration of 30 days his rights are restored and he tries his luck on another piece of ground.

There also appears good reason to a thinking man for not allowing instantaneous abandonment. An undesirable element in any mining camp is the man who would, if allowed, stake out the entire surface of the country and sell to later arrivals. If abandonment and restoration of rights was allowed without the saving 30-day clause there would be collusion at once between buyer and seller. Both would walk out to the claim together, the one would abandon while the other took up the land. A man who sells a claim does not do so because it is worked out or proven worthless, and is not at all on the same footing with the genuine prospector or miner who desires to abandon simply that his right to stake may be restored.

BRIGHTER PROSPECTS.

As the season advances more encouraging reports continue to come in from the outlying creeks. The mild weather which has prevailed of late hindered development work very considerably but it also allowed opportunity for completing other work just as important. With the sinking of the mercury again, activity has been resumed all along the line and we may expect to hear frequent reports of paying strikes. The new creeks in some instances will not turn out to meet expectations but the situation today is brighter by far than it was three weeks ago. Every new lay or claim upon which the pay streak is located means an increased volume of business for Dawson and a consequent increase in the prosperity of our city.

It must be admitted that business in Dawson during the past month has been anything but satisfactory. The principal difficulty has been a lack of money with which to transact business. It may be expected from this time on, however, that a steadily increasing stimulus in all lines of trade will be felt. Bed rock is being reached every day on the different creeks and the pinnings which are made from time to time are gradually finding their way into circulation. Another 30 days should find business in Dawson assuming normal proportions.

The construction of public highways is essentially a governmental function. This fact was recognized by even the most ancient of nations for they realize the importance of bringing distant communities in close communication with each other at an individual expense as small as possible. The toll road is an institution which in most countries has long been abolished. We have no doubt had the Yukon Council been under the impression that a toll trail was to be constructed under the terms of the paper they granted to Mr. Henning and associates, that the paper would not have been granted. Had there been no tramway company the miners would long ago have had constructed a serviceable sled trail, for the creek bed itself when frozen forms a natural roadway. In that event no toll would have been collected and the miners would have been substan-

tially as well off as they now are in so far as the trail is concerned. How a toll sled trail built under a charter for a tramway can be justified is beyond ordinary comprehension.

It goes without saying that social lines cannot be drawn as tightly in Dawson as they are in more settled and older communities. The conditions under which this city was founded are so peculiar that no other result could be expected. Almost every corner of the globe is represented in the population of Dawson and any attempt to separate the wheat from the chaff from a social standpoint would be simply an endeavor to obtain the impossible. This fact, however, should not necessarily mean that respectable people are to be debarred from participating in the few social pleasures which are placed within their reach. Skeletons which are securely hidden need not injure anyone even though their existence be a matter of easy guess work. But decent people have the right to expect protection from characters who flaunt themselves before the public for advertising purposes and the right should be respected.

The time which the Yukon council has consumed in deliberating upon the incorporation ordinance certainly does honor to the importance of that document. It will be very surprising, if after all this expenditure of energy and brain work any opportunity be presented for picking flaws in the ordinance when its terms are finally agreed upon. The citizens of Dawson are awaiting the promulgation of the incorporation measure in much the same spirit that the barons of England awaited the signing of the Magna Charta. We only hope that the Honorable Council will pay as much consideration to the pressure of public opinion in this instance as King John granted to the good steel of his loving but rebellious subjects.

EVENTS move in cycles; history repeats itself; man in his actions but duplicates past acts of himself or progenitors. And so it happens that we have arrived at the era of new resolutions, the advent of New Years day, 1899. A popular move in Dawson just at this particular moment would be a temperance revival. We have properly celebrated the great racial holiday as it has been celebrated since long before the year one, and now the stool of repentance has been brought forth from a year's hiding just as undoubtedly was done more than 3000 years ago by our piratical and long haired ancestors after similar experiences.

Did the Sun swallow the Miner or did the Miner swallow the Sun or did Mr. O'Brien in pity for this pair of Jonahs swallow them both, or was Mr. O'Brien the Jonah and have the Miner-Sun jointly and severally engulfed him? These questions are all intensely interesting and an answer to them would relieve an anxious public from a great deal of suspense. But until they are answered the people will continue to wonder by just what combination of circumstances the Sun and the Miner and Mr. O'Brien became related to each other.

OUTSIDE OPINION.

From the Winnipeg Daily Tribune: It seems to us that, considering the important place the newspaper occupies in the education and the amusement of the people, the law ought to allow it great latitude in its comments upon public men and matters. Personal spite and ill will ought never to find their way into a newspaper. The utterances of public men, as well as their official capacity, are fair themes for newspaper comment. In dealing with such matters, journalists have the right to exercise their discretion, severely condemning where they consider censure was richly deserved, and inflicting milder chastisement upon those whose deeds or words were less culpable.

It seems a trite truism to state that the bold expression of honest convictions is beneficial both to the community at large and to the journal which ventilates them.

If it should ever happen in Canada that juries sitting upon libel cases made it a rule to bring in the newspapers guilty and award damages to the com-

plaintants, journalists will find themselves so heavily handicapped that they will abstain altogether from commenting upon public measures and the actions of public men. How damaging this course would be to the country need scarcely be pointed out. Dishonest politicians in power, released from the censorship of the press, would so handle the resources of the country, that, while they themselves become enormously wealthy, the people they governed would be plunged in the deepest distress. But fortunately for us libel cases are few in Canada, and newspapers in this country can rejoice in a wide and well deserved freedom.

NORTHWEST EXPRESS CO.

Commencing Dec. 5 will run dog teams
Dawson to Bennett
 Every 10 days, carrying passengers and mail. Road houses and well stocked relay stations en route. Experienced drivers. Leave mail at office or care of A. C. Co., Fairview Hotel and Regina Cafe. For further information apply to
C. F. Smith, Mgr., 262 Front St.

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ASSAYER AND ANALYTICAL CHEMIST
 Gold Melted into Bars. All Work Guaranteed
 17th St., adjoining new Regina Club Hotel.

YUKON SAW MILL CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF
First Quality Matched, Dressed, Rustic, Roofing, and Rough Lumber.
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LEON, LINDA AND ARNOLD
 Connecting with Palatial Ocean Steamers at St. Michael, Direct for San Francisco, Cal. We are in the field for business. Our stores and warehouses are now in course of construction at Dawson and other points along the Yukon river.
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Are Prepared to Deliver
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FINEST LINE OF FURNITURE IN DAWSON.
 Hotels and Lodging Houses a Specialty.
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 Fine Line of Gentlemen's Suitings, Just Arrived.
 Water Front, bet. 1st and 2nd Sts

FEARLESS RELIABLE

INDEPENDENT

The "Nugget"

DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER

The best and most accurate history of the Klondike country that ever will be written will be found in the files of the NUGGET. Every miner should have the NUGGET in his cabin. Delivered regularly by carrier on all creeks.

JOB WORK

Our facilities for executing
JOB WORK
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 Prompt Attention Given to All Orders.

MEMO BOOKS, POCKET BOOKS, TIME BOOKS,

TABLETS, PENS, PENCILS,
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THE "NUGGET"

Three doors north of N. A. T. & T. Co.

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THE TOWNSITE OF EAGLE CITY.

Lots Offered for Sale at Public Auction; but Further Sale Postponed

The Eagle City Land & Improvement Co., who are interested in it—A Big Scheme, if Successful, that Will Make Quite a City.

Attention has been called during the past week to public announcements in the press of this city that townsite lots in the townsite of Eagle City, Alaska, in American territory, would be offered for sale at public auction to the highest bidder. These advertisements, as well as a banner carried upon the streets of Dawson referred to the "Eagle City Land and Improvement Company" as the proprietors of the property, and as this appeared to be a peculiar proposition, viz., the endeavor to sell in Dawson, and at public auction, lots in the territory of Alaska was a sufficient matter for the NUGGET to look the proposition up and report to the public the result of its investigations regarding the fact that the Eagle City Land and Improvement Company was patronizing the business columns of this paper—a fact, however, also, that never stands between the duty the NUGGET always feels it owes to the people.

It is not the intention here to state that any intention existed or exists to wrong any person, in the disposition of these lots or the properties of the above-named company in any manner, as the names of many of those, as far as the NUGGET has been able to trace, connected with the scheme, stand high in this community commercially and otherwise; but there are so many circumstances attached, that without any especial comment, further than may be necessary to explain or interrogate upon conditions as actually found, that the whole matter and result of the investigation is alluded to, and placed before the public for its information and act upon that information, as in its good business judgment, it may deem best. Let us, therefore, put the whole matter in order and under its several heads, and what started the NUGGET upon its tour of investigation.

THE EAGLE CITY MINING AND DEVELOPMENT CO.

About the time that the matter of selling Eagle City townsite lots was first broached in this city the NUGGET had in its possession the full and complete signed reports of two miners meetings held in Eagle City, and by a committee of miners in the peace, good order and affairs of that particular community run, and from all accounts the aforesaid peace and good order is especially well preserved, and with little or no expense in the way of salaries or titled officers. These reports recounted the action of the committee concerning an investigation held concerning the Eagle City Mining and Development Co., and the findings of the committee were that of the parties associated in this concern, Messrs. C. G. Caruthers, Geo. T. Hall and W. H. Smith were ordered to leave Eagle City forthwith, and the order was obeyed with alacrity, for justice is administered in that officerless community in unhealthy doses to those found guilty of acts incompatible with the path of rectitude. The above facts are stated as the NUGGET possesses them only for the purpose of stating that the similarity of titles of this company and "The Eagle City Land and Improvement Co." might mislead the public in considering them one and the same, and as will be shown further along in this article such is not the case.

THE EAGLE CITY LAND AND IMPROVEMENT CO.

For a long time the NUGGET has been aware that a large block of land fronting upon the Yukon river, had been taken up in the name of "placer claims," that these "placer claims" or an interest in them, was held in this city in escrow until the purchase price could be raised and the mineral status had been laid out in lots for business, residential and other purposes. A short time ago the NUGGET was approached concerning this townsite proposition and terms of advertising as "The Eagle City Land and Improvement Co." were about ready to place their property upon the market. These rates being made satisfactory a contract was agreed upon. This was done through the real estate and mining brokerage firm of Crawford, Edwards & Whittren, of which Mr. Whittren was and is the manager of the Eagle City Land and Improvement Co. The next step was the publication of the announcement of the auction sale to take place at the Yukon Mining Exchange, while the NUGGET had out its lines, endeavoring to obtain the status of the company. It seemed to be a difficult matter to do so. A company with so formidable a name it would occur to the ordinary lay mind would have its officers, a general place of business, some officials connected therewith set forth as a guarantee to the public, as is generally done to invite the investment of those seeking homes or otherwise. There was an absence of this in this case. At last the avenue of information led to the office of Mr. Philip Sheridan, who lately acted as crown prosecuting attorney, who arrived here in September, and who has since then been prominent in the promoting of several large deals in this territory, and appears to be a most successful organizer of schemes of large proportions, and organization of capital.

Following this avenue, a NUGGET representative called upon Mr. Sheridan and seeking an interview the reporter proceeded to inquire of Mr. Sheridan as follows:

"Mr. Sheridan, will you tell me what you know of the Eagle City Land and Improvement Co.?" to which Mr. Sheridan replied "Is this for publication?" and he was informed in the affirmative. "Well," said Mr. Sheridan, "the Eagle

City Land and Improvement Co. is a company owning the townsite of Eagle City, and now placing its lots upon the market."

To economize in space and avoiding the queries and answers, Mr. Sheridan's information to the newspaper man was, that connected with the scheme were Nels Peterson, W. H. Bard, McConnell & Parker, D. H. Pingree, and Crawford, Edwards & Whittren, and the company owned 470 lots in Eagle City. Noticing that Mr. Sheridan had omitted his own name he was asked "Are you not connected with it too?" Mr. Sheridan replied that he was. "Is your company incorporated, and if so who are its officers?" "No, it is not incorporated, simply an association of partnership." "What kind of a title does a purchaser get for his lot?" was next asked. "We can give no title directly but we have a placer claim title to five placer claims, the assessment work on which would be \$500 for five years, and a patent has been asked for, which when we secure it, will enable us to give titles to each purchaser from us." "What then does he get now in case he invests?" and Mr. Sheridan continued "We simply give him a receipt for his money, and at the end of 30 days if we have received our title, a deed to the property." "Who furnishes these receipts?" was the next question put. "Well, Mr. Whittren will do that," replied Mr. Sheridan. "Have you sold any lots yet?" was asked by the scribe. "Not many, four or five," was the reply. "What did they bring?" followed the pencil pusher. "Oh, one \$95, another \$100 and up to \$115, I think," said Mr. Sheridan. Efforting no further information the scribe departed.

Monday and Tuesday auction sales were held at the Yukon Mining Exchange, and thither the NUGGET man wended his way later, and inquired how many lots of the Eagle City L. & I. Co. had been sold, and was informed that two had been sold. "What price was obtained for them?" One for \$95, the other \$100, was the information furnished. "What payment was made on them and what kind of title did you give the purchaser?" "Oh, we only collected 50 per cent of the purchase price, and gave them receipts for their payments. We deducted \$19.50 or 20 per cent of the purchase price and turned the balance over to Mr. Whittren" was the answer to this question. "Didn't the purchasers wish to know anything about their titles in buying property?" was inquired. "We only gave them receipts for their money, and although the receipt given did not so state, the terms of sale did, that in 30 days if no title passed, their money would be refunded." "Who are the officers of the Eagle City L. & I. Co., or to whom would the purchasers look for a return of their cash in case of failure to receive title?" was the next question, and it was replied "that they did not know; they were only auctioneers in the matter but presumed Mr. Whittren to be the manager of the company."

The sale of lots at auction was discontinued on Wednesday last for reasons best known to the company probably, and when they will be resumed is not announced but of course will be undoubtedly.

Eagle City it is likely to prove true will have a future before it, as an important point on American territory, and it is only justice to Mr. Sheridan to say that he has been connected with some large enterprises since coming here, and his services obtained in a number of large deals, such as the Pioneer Railway company operating on the Bonanza trail. The Eagle City is no diminutive proposition when one stops to consider that with 470 lots at a low average of only \$200 each would amount to nearly \$100,000, while should the place prove of much consequence, many would bring ten to twenty times that sum. As far as stated, the NUGGET places the above information before the public for its guidance.

How a Stampede Originated.

There is a good story, although expensive to one party, connected with a late stampede. A short time ago, mention was made of a great find on Carlisle creek and a stampede was at once organized on most extensive lines and this is the way it originated. It is stated that the captain of the steamer J. F. Tyrrell, now lying in winter quarters about 20 miles up the Yukon river came down to Dawson and in a quiet, unostentatious manner, judiciously elicited the report that he had prospected on Carlisle creek and the finds per pan simply ran into the fabulous. Among the most enthusiastic of the report followers were Dr. Wills and Frank Swanson who at once began a stampede of some two hundred men and started for the new Eldorado. Ascertaining that this was being done, the Tyrrell's captain immediately sent a note to his engineer, who remained aboard the steamer suggesting that when he should be called on for information relative to the strike he should substantiate it. Being a most conscientious man, however, when the stampeding party had found its way to him, the engineer denied the whole matter most emphatically, that he had ever been on the creek at all, knew nothing whatever of it, and further, there was nothing in the matter, and gave away the whole "snap" of the jestful skipper. After being gone some ten days the party returned, and the round doctor and his side partner are wondering "where they are at." And of such are some of the follies of stampeding, as a rule.

St. Mary's.

The report for the week ending December 28th, shows there has been 9 new patients entered and 16 discharged, leaving a total of 68 at present in the hospital. There were no deaths to report—the continued cold weather appearing to have an ill effect upon the fever germs.

THE PULLMAN BAR AND CAFE

J. R. ARMSTRONG, PROP. D. K. HOWARD, Manager. 262 1st Ave., opp. Outley Sisters.

Tivoli Theatre ONLY FIRST CLASS THEATRE IN DAWSON.

ROBERT BLEI AND JOE COOPER, PROP'S.

Week of Dec. 26th SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT OF CAD WILSON AND GALAXY OF NEW STARS.

S.-Y. T. CO. SEATTLE-YUKON TRANSPORTATION CO.

W. D. WOOD, Pres., Seattle. CARRIERS AND TRADERS

STAPLE AND FANCY PROVISIONS, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

For rates, prices and other information call on H. TEROLLER, AGENT, S.-Y. T. Building, Water Front, West of A. C. Store.

North American Transportation & Trading Co

MERCHANTS AND CARRIERS

Miners' Supplies a Specialty. Jobbing Trade Solicited. ALL OUR GOODS GUARANTEED

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

CAPITAL PAID UP \$6,000,000

In addition to the present office next the Barracks this bank has opened a branch office on 2nd Street, in the Alaska Commercial Company's new office building.

A General Banking Business will be Done at Both Offices.

H. T. WILLS, Manager.

Svendsgaard's Drug Store

ANGLO-AMERICAN HOSPITAL

EACH THE BEST IN TOWN

ROCHESTER SALOON

Two Doors from Bank of B. N. A., 2nd St.

Wilson's Rye Whiskies \$4.50 Scotch Whiskies \$7.00
Walker's Club " 5.00 Hennessy & Martell Brandys 8.00
Burk's Irish " 7.00 Gin " 7.00

W. A. ROBERTSON, Mgr.

THE PHOENIX

BAR, RECEPTION ROOMS AND DANCING.

P. A. McDONALD, Proprietor.

"YOU KNOW THE REST"

Ogilvie's Hungarian Flour

Yields 20 per cent More Bread than Best American Brands.

Contracts made for monthly winter deliveries of

DRY CORD WOOD.

RICE Jeremiah Lynch Warehouse.

THE MONTE CARLO THEATRE

CHRISTMAS WEEK

ALL STAR BILL

Blanche La Mont The Great

The Only

Moving Pictures

of The

Corbett-Courtney

Fight.



NORVILLE & D'AVARA

DICK MAURETTUS

ALEX. SCHWARTZ

SAN NEWMAN

DAISY D'AVARA

EMMA HULL

HELEN ARTHUR

Fred N. Tracy the Popular Baritone and others

ADMISSION 50 CENTS

Including Check Good for Drink at Theatre Bar

The Fairview DAWSON'S FINEST HOTEL

MISS B. A. MURPHY, Prop.

AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN PLAN.

STRICTLY FIRST CLASS.

All Modern Improvements.

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A. T. & T. Co.

