



# The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S HOME PAPER)

ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY

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### NOTICE

When a newspaper offers its advertising space at a nominal figure, it is a practical admission of "no circulation." THE KLONDIKE NUGGET asks a good figure for its space and in justification thereof guarantees to its advertisers a good 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 the Nugget Express office or given to creek agents.

### "THE LIGHT THAT FAILED."

The files of the Nugget contain a valuable detailed history of the Klondike from the early summer of last year to the present moment. Still more concise and profitable of perusal is the account contained in those columns of the doings of prominent men for the same period. Upon his arrival in Dawson September 3, our present Yukon commissioner found himself welcomed with open arms on every side. Addresses of welcome were presented by business men and miners alike, for somehow there was a strong and sincere feeling of hope that the man who had spent so many years of his life on the frontier in daily and hourly contact with the common people would prove to not only have his heart in the right place, but was expected to develop so staunch a sympathy for the hardy explorers of this barren region that it would sweep away the evils of oppression and misrule as a Chinook banishes the frost. "A little time, gentlemen," was the bland and suggestive promise made to each of the hundreds of individual complainants against official wrong. Lines of men with brightened faces thronged the doors of Mr. William Ogilvie's office, each one sure that but to relate his particular tale of wrongs suffered at the hands of rapacious and unscrupulous officialism was to secure immediate redress and relief; yet each and all met the same smiling plea for "time gentlemen; more time." Our columns show the invariability of the answer. Sometimes it was "I'm after these fellows." At other times it was "I'm getting things as I want them and then you'll see." Again the answer was "Don't mention these things to the public and give me all the assistance you can I'll land these fellows where—" and then an infinitely suggestive shrug of the shoulders would impart the impression to delighted beholders that evil was at last to meet its sure reward and bars and bolts would be soon meted out with the iron hand of justice to the men who were making a nightmare of honest effort and a burlesque of government.

"Give him the time he asks for" was everybody's advice; and his name has been held sacred while he shaped himself for his herculean struggle with entrenched malfeasance and organized ring methods. But there comes a time when this everlasting "sparring" for an opening suggests "hippodrome" to the spectators—when this perennial riding in armor at full tilt in the wind when the enemy is in full view, arouses in men's minds the blighting suspicion that the parade was merely to warn a friendly foe to cover. And right here and now we notify Mr. Ogilvie that that time has come in his career when suspicion has chilled his champions and none but those whose daily bread is in his hands, or those wishing for franchises which are at his disposal will stop to toady longer or strike the hands in plaudit at this grotesque parade.

Month after month the office of the commissioner of the Yukon has been be-

sieged at all hours of the day by hordes of men whose success on the Klondike depended upon an impartial hearing against the gang. Story after story of duplicity has been poured into his ears to the point of nausea, and we have yet to hear of the first case of a wrong righted or an official evil overcome through the instrumentality of this gentleman holding the highest seat of honor in the Yukon territory. "Go to the courts for redress" is poor consolation to the man who has spent his all in developing a claim only to find it recorded in the name of an official when record was refused to himself. "Go to the police" or "go to the gold commissioner," is simply a negative answer to an appeal for relief from machine methods of which neither of the prescribed courts can take cognizance. And so it has gone on from that auspicious fifth day of September, and not a single, solitary miner comes forth to relate how he was languishing in the grasp of the conscienceless gang when rescued by the all-powerful governor and restored to his own. What a record is this when not one grateful recipient of a restored stolen property stands up and says "To the gracious interference of Mr. Ogilvie I owe the restoration of my rights." Compare this with the record of even the traduced Major Walsh whom Mr. Ogilvie is so willing to investigate at a distance of 4000 miles. Scores of men can be found right here in Dawson who will hold up their right hands when they relate the personal instances where the major interfered in behalf of the friendless and said to official rapacity "Stop!" and it stopped, so far as that individual was concerned.

Mr. Ogilvie promised that by January 1, if the people only had patience, the records in the gold commissioner's office should be made public and this eternal trafficking by officials in official information should cease. Has it been done? Only the distant echo answers. He promised that upon the arrival of the required books and stationery upon the last boat, that the records should be straightened out and re-entered by a night force of clerks so that a common miner might see for himself the reason he could not record. Has it been done? Echo again is the only answer to the interrogation. He promised the office should be cleared out of suspicious people and Canada's good name be restored, if only we would refrain from forewarning the men who have done so much to bring Canada into unenviable notoriety during the past year. Have they either been removed or has suspicion been allayed by placing proper safeguards over the records or of the suspected clerks? Again is echo the only answer, and we turn from an uncongenial subject to a contemplation of Mr. Ogilvie's official virtues and even they are also of a negative character. He has refrained from interfering with the police and has refrained from interfering with the post-office. For these two great blessings we tender him our sincere thanks. The courts have not felt his influence, and in an honest court we rejoice.

### LOOKS BAD FOR BOLTON.

It took the jury just eight minutes to file out of the court room, take a ballot and file back into court and announce a verdict of not guilty against Fred H. Jones, the young man accused of obtaining a placer mining claim by false representations. In order to prove his case, Crown Prosecutor Clark had to prove to the jury that Recorder Bolton was deceived by the said Jones; that the representations made by Jones that he had personally staked the claim had so deceived the said Bolton that he had issued the grant in ignorance of the contrary being true. Bolton aided the prosecution all in his power by swearing that he would not have issued the grant had he not believed Jones to have staked the claim; that he believed Jones and swore him to the fact. So far so good, but the evidence produced by the defense proved otherwise and showed the jury how Bolton had met Jones in his private office at the Fairview previous to the recording and how as a result of this private interview with Jones and the two

discoverers, the latter were dispatched back to Kentucky creek in the morning with instructions to stake No. 2 above for Bolton and the rest of the ground in the names of the people placed upon a furnished list.

Further, it was elicited in the trial that it was the understanding that Bolton was to get an interest in the claims though he had merely hinted according to his own evidence—that he wished to own just such a typewriter as lay on Jones' table during the interview, and Jones had agreed to get him one just like it. Coupled with this evidence was the fact that at the preliminary examination Bolton had protected himself by swearing that he had not met Jones prior to the recording of the claim and did not know him to speak to. The result of the examination was that it became a moral certainty with everybody in the room, and evidently with each jury man, that it was an utter impossibility for Jones to have imposed upon Bolton in this matter or to have deceived him even had he wished to do so. The fact of the matter is that every man on the Klondike who had any mining experience at all prior to the Kentucky creek sensation is thoroughly convinced that recording without staking was openly practiced and connived at at the G. C.'s office. This being the case, there could not have been six honest miners secured in the Dawson district secured as a jury who would have convicted Jones of really deceiving Bolton even had he admitted that he had not staked, which he was very far from doing.

### WHAT ENGLAND IS DOING.

The record number of British warships is now building, amounting to 119 vessels, ranging from the heaviest battleships to the tiny torpedo boat destroyers, the figures being 16 first-class ironclads, 36 cruisers, 14 sloops and gunboats and 53 torpedo boat destroyers. Chatham dock yard is credited with the unparalleled achievement of launching three of the heaviest battleships from the same slip within 10 months. The armored ships building at a cost of \$130,000,000 number twenty-eight, with a tonnage of over 350,000 tons, the number exceeding by two the entire Russian fleet of battleships and treble the number of armored vessels in the American navy. The whole of these ships will be added to the effective strength of the British navy March, 1903, while the First Lord of the Admiralty, Mr. George J. Goschen, in two months time will ask the House of Commons for credits to still further strengthen the British fleet.

OUR worthy judge of the supreme court calls attention to the fact that in the wording of our report anent the payment of royalty by claimants recorded prior to the passage of the royalty law, there was an ambiguity which might result in a misunderstanding by the general reader. In his interesting dictum upon the subject given from the bench, he must not be misunderstood as saying that there was any doubt at all as to the legality of the collection of the royalty after the first renewal of the lease from the government. The renewal apparently brings the claim under whatever laws are in force at the time the renewal is granted, hence, while there is no certainty that the royalty could be collected on claims which were operating prior to the passage of the royalty law, the uncertainty is not present upon the renewal of the claim, when meanwhile the royalty law had been passed and has become operative. The judge's dictums are always pointed and interesting, and it is with pleasure we publish them in full.

There is something odd in the spectacle of a prominent citizen deliberately doing something or saying something in public over which he hastens to his friends in the early morning to apologize for. Yet such is really the predicament of Col. McCook, the American consul at this place. On the evening before Fawcett's departure a gathering of friends met up town to bid him farewell. Col. McCook thereupon broke into

public speech for the first time on record in his effort to enforce a man he has condemned often times. Next morning the colonel was found lustily explaining his motives to his friends as: "You see a consul's first duty is to promote the friendly feelings between his government and the country he is accredited to," leaving the inference that the indorsement of an incompetent and removed gold commissioner was a service to the United States instead of himself.

IT HAS developed that the various mining regulations of the Yukon territory have not been operative from and after their passage and approval by the governor-in-council, for the same section of the law which empowers the making of those regulations by the governor-in-council also provides that before being operative they shall be published for four consecutive weeks in the Canada Gazette. It therefore goes without saying that though there may be nothing said in the regulations themselves as to the time the regulations shall become law, it is always from four to five weeks before the completion of the publication and before they can be enforced. This law puts a number of the disputed Gold Run and Dominion creek claims on the safe side of the fence, which were supposed to be jumpable during the recent stampede.

A PLAN for securing a valuable trained reserve for the future has been brought forward by the Earl of Meath in London, England. The plan consists in organizing brigades of boys throughout Great Britain, ranging in age from 13 to 18, to engage in military drill and be made expert in the use of arms and familiar with military evolution with a view to future use in case of emergency. A committee called the British Brigade Council has been formed to carry out the plans, with Field Marshal Lord Woolsey as commander of the forces. The war office is to be asked to provide a capitalization grant for these cadet battalions. The earl anticipates enrolling 200,000 lads.

Before leaving Ottawa Mr. Tyrrell prepared a map of the Klondike and Stewart rivers and the adjoining regions, including the very latest surveys made by the government surveyors and explorers. It contains much new information about the creeks in the vicinity of Dawson, while the correct survey of the Stewart river should be especially valuable to any prospector working in that direction. For sale at this office.

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## THE OTHER

Dr. Bourke's "An Old Trick" and "One Leg Short"

When Doctors Dr. Bourke's "An Old Trick" and "One Leg Short" trial of the \$100,000 Klondike bridge plaintiff received in the Territorial witnesses for the most important of Bourke, whose test with that of the other who felt no embarrassment in their diagnosis, Dr. Bourke to examine Birt's case and then made a statement evening and for made regular calls and consecutive examinations and manipulations, no signs of injury, time that he was in sedative to promote very large dose. That the usual effect of the pupils of the he knew that Birt was from this and other corroborative evidence, he had never known how he had been injured, the doctor shorter and then said had an old-trick of by shifting the pelvis the trick for the being further, he said ways normal, that would have been the and that Birt could white on his hands have been impossible doctor also advanced perience by Birt was to result in a fracture not exceed large feet claimed were so rare of 65 years that only external signs of injury. He had early Birt was only acting bringing an action for and so informed the Dr. Norquay also to fused to let himself him at the hospital. Mr. Howard, in his care he had devoted hiring a nurse and do hospital, etc., the expenses \$2,900. He was about the constructive privileges which he had Fawcett, the purpose permit was for a pass this point, witness of original grant was lost remembered.

The Or... A curiosity dug from feet at Wm Sulphur was day afternoon and is now N. A. T. & Co. It is of horns, attached to a undoubtedly the most quadruped belonging fact, Mr. D. G. Frazier unearthed, says it be doubtedly the origin which the horns belong, must have weighed pounds.

The Hockey game played last Dawson Hockey club. It was a hotly contested resulting in a victory for more of 5 to 2. The club were: Forwards, and Dr. Edwards; cover point, R. Fortune and The defeated club was S. O. Owens, R. H. Baker for forwards; cover point, Cameron and Wm. N. Bennet refereed the Dawson as official time-keeper and Private McIvor as

Answers to Correspondents: Kindly answer, either department or by persons he gave several tests men signed lay papers improvements to Mr. of the term of their lease built by these laymen; this spring when Mr. J. J. these cabins for new lay but a refused, also refused as a reason that the cabins in the cabins from the virtue of the rights granted, etc., etc. That the fee to the legal



