

The Klondike Nugget

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THE NUGGET is delivered at call on Bonanza and Eldorado creeks for two dollars per month. Orders may be left at this office or given to the agent for the creeks.

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.

THAT TOLL TRAIL

In its action at the last session the Yukon Council recognized the right of the people to the trails they have built prior to the blocking of the Bonanza route by the toll road now in full force. It will be remembered that the council decided and so ordered that all parts of the tramroad (?) which passed along or interfered with the miners trail should be thrown open freely to the miners who desired to use it. This much is a surrender to the principle that the people are entitled to their own. Then again the council, in its permit to Messrs. Henning and O'Brien stipulate a maximum rate which these gentlemen shall charge for toll, thus conceding another point—that a corporation shall not be dependent entirely upon the dictation of its own necessities or consciences for a table of rates. Again, the council stipulates that men afoot and with packs shall be allowed the free use of the road whether built by private capital or otherwise, thus conceding another point—that under certain exigencies the rights of a private miner are paramount to those acquired by a corporation no matter what money they have expended. Then there is the point which the council itself raises when it doubts its own power of granting a charter or even a permit to exact toll. In that curious document by virtue of which the miners are being compelled to surrender each day a proportion of their hard-won money, the council wishes it distinctly understood that if events should prove the Yukon Council to have exceeded its powers there should be no redress for Henning and O'Brien. The foregoing is an acknowledgment of a suspicion that our local law-makers may have exceeded their powers.

To sum up the situation, it is evident, first, that the Council recognizes the toll-road in some particulars to be imposing upon the public. Secondly, the toll-road cannot fix its own rates. Thirdly, the public has superior rights, and lastly, there is a doubt, at least, if Messrs. Henning and O'Brien have any rights at all in the trail.

It is also evident from the actions of Messrs. Henning and O'Brien that those gentlemen have more faith in the power of might than in the doubtful privileges given them by the Council, for the Council says distinctly that the toll from Klondike or Dawson to the Forks of Eldorado shall not exceed one cent per pound, or such proportion of that sum as they may have road built and in operation. Now the distance from Dawson or Klondike City to the said Forks is about sixteen miles and the length of tramroad trail completed and now running over the miners' own trail is not to exceed three to four miles at the outside. A proportionate rate for toll would be a fourth or a fifth of a cent per pound, yet, when Henning and O'Brien opened up for business, over a week ago, they actually had the audacity to charge a full cent per pound, and would be changing it now but for the peremptory letter from the governor which can tell them to cut their price in two.

The readers of this paper are with us in hoping that the governor will see to it that the prices are at least cut in two again if not abolished altogether.

The whole scheme is a wretched

"fake"; a plan to make a three-mile trail produce sufficient revenue to build and equip a railroad at some future date. As an inducement to the granting of the permit the concessionaires agreed to at once pay all the claims for labor performed in building the trail. Was that money paid? is a question which occurs to one at once. Is it not also a fact that such of those labor claims as were settled prior to the building of the toll gates were paid but one half in cash? Messrs. Henning and O'Brien have acted in a very high-handed manner and we warn them that every little point in their actions is being scrutinized closely.

THE GOLD COMMISSIONER'S LATEST

There is a ruling at the gold commissioner's office which cannot be justified upon any grounds whatsoever. No average mind, legal or lay, can see what right the office has to refuse to accept an application when it is pretended. The gold commissioner is given certain judicial powers, is in fact a judge in a certain class of cases, and sometimes the contest is over ground valued at more than \$100,000. What can be thought of a judge who refuses to allow one of the contestants the right to be heard in court; who, in fact, gives an *ex parte* decision upon hearing the statement. Yet, this is exactly what he does when he refuses to entertain or accept an application. Take, for instance, a case of a few days ago. A man tenders an application for a piece of ground between a certain concessionaire and a claim on Hunker. On the *ex parte* statement of the concessionaire that there is no ground there the applicant is refused the privilege of filing his application. Again and again he urges his right to be pending a survey which will show whether or not there is vacant land there; the reply is always the same: "There is no vacant ground there and I refuse to accept the application."

Such action as the foregoing is actually childish; it opens the door at once to the accusation and possibility of fraud, and it is contrary to the commonest axioms of justice or law. How any man can rule that of two or three disputants only the first one shall be allowed any standing in court is beyond comprehension. Yet it is something which occurs in Dawson every day in the week excepting Sundays, and a suspicion occurs at once to the mind of every rejected applicant that it is not done without consideration—sometimes that consideration is \$2,000 wanted for a friend, as in the case of a certain Dominion creek claim, and sometimes it is one thing sometimes another.

A man who wilfully engages himself and others in a lawsuit when he knows, or should know himself to be without just ground to stand upon should be discouraged as much as possible by being compelled to make good the losses of the suit; but upon the strength of this to prevent all applicants, excepting No. 1, from filing and thus obtaining a hearing is positively monstrous, and no one but a Thomas Fawcett would make any such a ruling.

DAWSON POLICE vs. N. W. M. P.

The incorporation of Dawson is hanging fire most unaccountably. The experience of the present civilization is that a community can never truly be at its best without a considerable measure of self-government. It is the custom of the two most highly civilized nations on earth to grant local self-government whenever a community grows large enough and asks for it. Dawson is attached to one of those two countries, has grown large enough and has asked for incorporation, yet delay follows delay in the strangest fashion. Quiet observation soon brings to light the causes of this unusual hesitation: Our government is Canadian and in our population the American largely predominates; our property-owners are largely American; Americans are known to be great politicians and would dominate city politics were an opportunity presented them. Thus they reason whose sanction and approval we must needs have before we

can cut a single sewer or do any one desirable thing for ourselves. But, what then? Supposing we admit the premises—what of it? Why cannot the powers of a city be granted the people of this burg? Why are we incapable of being trusted with the supervision of our own police, our own justice courts and the other departments? One has only to familiarize himself with American history to know that there never was a nation more capable of self-government, nor one more restless and unsatisfied without it.

It appears as if they would like us to relieve them of the onus of governing this great big camp, yet are reluctant to yield up the reins of power. We are welcome to tax ourselves and make all the improvements we want, but the police force and police courts in fact the whole machinery of effective and powerful government must be kept out of our hands. The North West Mounted Police will never be improved on, either in or out of Dawson, within the lives of this generation, yet, the most absurd picture we can conjure up at this moment is that of a great big city with its constabulary responsible to no one of its departments of government. Suppose an ordinance passed by the city for the extirpation of beggars and tramps: The N. W. M. P. are not under oath to enforce our ordinances and it is extremely doubtful if they can be asked to subscribe to such an oath. What an anomaly would prevent itself—a city unable to enforce its own measures! Were we to be granted permission to maintain a limited number of our own constables to uphold our own laws and attend to our own affairs, then there would arise at once more or less friction between the two forces of police. The fact of the matter is that when the Yukon Council gives over to us the powers of self-government, they must yield it to us. They cannot give it to us and retain it themselves at the same time. There cannot be two responsible heads for the government of Dawson, nor two sets of officials trying to enforce their own interpretation of the law. The moment Dawson takes charge of her own affairs that same moment the Yukon Territory must surrender control. For an illustration, take the matter of licensing saloons. The instant Dawson herself assumes control of the matter by ordinance, at that same tick of time the Yukon Territory acts upon the same subject become inoperative and dead, so far as Dawson is concerned.

To sum up, Dawson cannot, in reason, consent to act with her hands tied, nor take over the responsibility of self-government without the full powers she deserves and is entitled to.

ARE THEY THE SWEEPINGS.

The language credited to Ex-Judge McGuire in describing the character of the population of this territory shows that gentlemen to be exceedingly lacking in the ordinary powers of observation. If not deficient in this respect then he purposely and intentionally misrepresented the true situation. The judge, in spite of the compliments and bouquets which he lavished last summer upon the American residents of Dawson, now describes them as consisting largely of "the dregs and sweepings of the coast cities of the United States."

Let us consider for a moment just what is involved in reaching Dawson from the outside and then determine whether the judges' sweeping allegation will bear investigation.

No country on the earth, up to within a few months has been more difficult or costly of access than the Klondike. Absolutely no railroad communication, extortionate rates prevailing on steamships, packing over the trails costing exorbitant sums, duties and fees to be paid and numberless other unlooked-for expenses—all have combined to make the cost of the trip from the outside to Dawson, in hundreds of cases, prohibitive. This fact, therefore, is proof conclusive that those who finally succeeded in reaching the goal of their ambition must have been financially solid or able to secure good credit before leaving. Four hundred dollars expenditure per man would

be a conservative estimate of the average expense involved in bringing to this territory its present population. It will be found, upon investigation, that only in isolated cases did the amount run lower than that sum and numerous instances can be pointed out where double that was expended. As a general proposition a man's financial condition is a fair test of his standing in a community and any locality where the inhabitants on the average are able to draw a check for \$100 would be rated exceedingly high. From the standpoint, therefore, of the possession of actual cash the Klondiker when he set out on his travels ranked far above the average.

But ready cash was not the only consideration involved in reaching his destination. Had such been the case, hundreds who faltered and turned back on the trails would now be here. The hardships and perils of weary months spent on route never have been and never will be properly and realistically portrayed. Only the man who has been through the mill, who has packed or sledged his outfit over almost impassable trails, who has slept on the snow in the bitter cold of winter, who knows the music of the whip-saw from having actually played the instrument, who has constructed his own craft and navigated it hundreds of miles through unknown waters—that man and no other can fully realize what the trip to Dawson meant. Others may read or listen to the story, but never can appreciate it.

Every quality of sturdy, robust manhood was required or brought into play on the trail, and the man who lacked these qualities was the one who failed to reach his destination. The men of the Yukon Territory today are a picked class—-independent, self-reliant, able in every respect to take care of themselves—they ask nothing but a fair and equal chance with their fellows, and these are the men whom Judge McGuire classified among the "sweepings of the coast cities." Truly, reason, even in this enlightened day, sometimes forsake in wonted abode and flies to brutish beasts!

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THE KLONDIKE NUGGET

THE SLID DOWN

The Eastest W

A Chance for (The Winter—The Grub Supplies

A party was returning on the trail from the creek, reaching the steep, became thorough, necessary to get near, with the trail. A gentleman on the edge of the trail, the descent. R again, only resurder down the tion in the dark timbered tre, shot to the flat, got up the hill, self of his Chiles himself proceeded and side to the was made successful ends and our trouting that he-learned to "shoot"

Mr. H. TeRoller Corporation Co., who required for a year placed 25 boxes of sleds with the M which are to be competitors. tion as a superior angle of 45 deg.

Mr. TeRoller is required for at point of view. It is no necessity goods, provided say just what it not limited to in the prizes may lists should be either to the Mr. TeRoller office.

Mr. TeRoller is outside in the have recently see the A. C. Co.'s b intention of the houses next ap consult with the the construction needed improve-ness.

The company, upriver steamer their present we Mr. TeRoller is early part of Ap before the break

Editor Nugget, When I left given to unders governmental p

At the Tivol pit an Mullig While, the sn house during it yells of delight It is easily seen unqualified ap house. As an hard to excell he makes the situations in Nellie Holgate her sweethear "Stillwater Wi

Saturday eve tlemen travel 60 below on B and F. Berge's a the Tacoma li eight miles fro that a party wa to make a trip thermometer t the "get up" able night afte fact the unim fellowship of M You have the social enjoyme these frozen ree brought as was either exp were called in hotel but Mr. were turned o Hence for a w of the evening few songs th

