

THE NELSON CAMP

A Promising Town Kept Back by United States Law.

THE LEGAL DRAWBACKS

A Race For the Comstock Mine That Is as Interesting as the Thrilling Chariot Race in Ben Hur—McCool Won Race, But Lost in the Courts.

P. A. O'Farrell writes the following letter from Nelson, Wash., to his newspaper syndicate:

Nelson is located at the junction of Fourth of July creek and Kettle river. Built on the reservation a few hundred yards from the boundary line of British Columbia, one sees here in miniature all the evils of the conditions now existing in the Colville reservation. Nelson is an ideal townsite. It is on the banks of a lovely river and at the confluence of three valleys, but every one of the six or seven hundred people who live at Nelson are violating the law by endeavoring to build a new city and make themselves a home therein. In fact, the townsite itself is obtained by fraud. Only on a mining claim is a white man permitted to build himself a shack or a cabin or a home, and the whole of Nelson is staked out in placer mining claims. I need not say that if the ground on which Nelson stands was to be mined a thousand years there would not be gold enough saved to pay for 10 per cent of the farm-same ground were a cultivated farm.

Gold is found everywhere in this country. There is not a cubic foot of alluvial deposit in the Kettle river valley in which gold dust cannot be found. But it is not there in paying quantities, and not a man takes up a placer claim on the Colville reservation except for the purpose of defrauding the government. Be it, however, remembered that the fraud seems necessary, and "necessitas non legem habet." All over the reserve thousands of men are drilling away at the rocks, striving to win the gold concealed in the quartz lodes. These men are big consumers and so are their families, and towns must grow up to supply their wants. Nelson is such a town. Yet only by locating a placer claim could one of these people secure a right to shelter himself beneath a roof. This is anomalous and even hateful.

Plenty of fine timber. There is a great quantity of fine timber on the reservation. But no white man can cut or haul it except for mining purposes on his own mining claim. Hence vast numbers of mining claims are located for the purpose of procuring the right to cut logs for a cabin, or, in other words, to steal the timber. In fact, illegality and fraud and stupidity reign supreme on the Colville reservation. In stating these facts I make no complaint against the people living on the reserve; I merely point out the gross stupidity of not opening the reserve in a proper manner.

Only a white man who weds a squaw has any rights. The squaw man farm the land in the northwest; he can graze his cattle on a thousand hills; he can cut and hew the forest; he can sow and reap, and plant and prune, and fish and shoot. But no white man can do this unless he makes the daughter of the red man his wife.

But there are only a few hundred squaws on the reserve altogether, and the young ones are being too carefully educated and trained by the Sisters at the Mission to marry the adventurers who would wed them for gain. There is another serious evil that needs the immediate attention of the government. Bad whisky is being smuggled into the various mining camps and the smuggled whisky is brought there principally by the half-breed Indian. I met one at Eureka camp who had brought a ten-gallon keg across the Indian trails, and the same fellow has been plying his trade ever since the opening of the reservation. Nelson, of course, has no liquor stores, but a few hundred yards away on the Canadian side a canny Scotchman runs a hotel and liquor store, and thither the illicitly imported whisky is brought. It is in fact the typical prospector enticing his friends across the line just to have "a wee droppie" with the Scotch hotel keeper.

Are Only a Few Indians. I am afraid that both Congress and the executive have but the crudest ideas about the Colville reserve. There are but 70 or 80 scores of Indians all told, and yet the reserve is equal to an imperial province in size. It is larger than several of the New England states. It is exceedingly mountainous, the hills and mountains being hundreds of feet high, where nature is prolific in her fruitfulness. The Indians are rich in stock and cattle, and their grain fields and gardens and orchards are a thorough surprise to the traveler. Moreover, since the coming of the miner the Colville Indian is reaping a harvest of gold. The peaches and the plums and the prunes and the pears that formerly rotted in his orchards or were fed to hogs now find a ready market. During the winter he sells his wool to the miner at \$50 a ton, and the miner cannot protect himself, because if he does not buy from the Indian he has to procure it in Canada and pay duty and excessive freight. The miner is really a heaven-sent benefactor to the Indian. With the miner's advent has come enterprise, competition and emulation among the Indian farmers. Greed has infused a new life among these red men, and I would not be at all surprised to see the few Colvilles now left eventually transformed into good American citizens. But above all things the reserve ought to be opened for settlement as rapidly as possible. The south half must be opened for mineral rights, and at the same time the whole should be opened to settlement. The fraud and chicanery that is now being practised by good men in order to procure a piece of land on which to build a home is in itself disgraceful. The stealing of government timber, the cheating of the revenue laws, the numerous disadvantages that the working miner is placed under by the provisions of the law are all sledgehammer arguments bidding Congress and the president to

put an end to the disgusting conditions existing on the Colville reservation.

La Fleur Mountain. On the right bank of the Kettle river, overlooking the town of Nelson, is La Fleur mountain. I strongly suspect that the French missionaries bestowed this appellation on the mountain in admiration caused by the countless wild flowers that carpet these mountains in the early bloom of summer. The Colville mountains are not well wooded, but the finest bunch grass and the loveliest wild flowers are everywhere.

On the side of the mountain is the Comstock. The Comstock has the richest copper ore to be found in the entire Kettle river country. All of the ore taken out of the shaft so far will average over 80 per cent in copper and the mine bids fair to be phenomenal. But this property has already given rise to more heart-burnings and more uncharitable accusations than all the mining claims in the state of Washington. For ten years prior to the opening of the reserve Hugh McCool and William Hughes had been aware of the value of the Comstock. Hugh McCool, an Irishman by birth, had lived for a quarter of a century on friendly terms with the Colville and Okanogan Indians. With them he had traded horses and employed them as carriers, and, being himself a man of most upright and honorable character, he had long since won the respect and even love of the Indian. And from the Indian Hugh McCool learned of the Comstock, tested it for values, and resolved that when the reservation was opened he would make a race for life to own it.

Took a Position as Collector. Meanwhile the hard times came and Hugh had to take a position as deputy collector of customs at Marcus. He owed his appointment to Collector Sanders, Martin Maloney and other leading Democrats. In the lightness of his heart Hugh McCool told one of these democratic leaders of the existence of this rich prospect and his hopes in regard thereto. From him the chiefs of the Democratic wigwam heard of the Comstock and they prepared to declare themselves in. Finally 17 of the leading Democratic office holders secured an equal interest with McCool. This band raised some money and sent one of the principals to Washington to aid in opening the reserve.

McCool had been promised a ninth interest in the property and the first news of the signing of the proclamation opening the reserve. Needless to say he received a great deal more than his share. He had secured the services of a district attorney for Washington state was one of the fellows that, by ways that were dark and tricks that were not vain, had counted themselves in on the Comstock. But the same gentleman also thought of his interest with Hugh was too small, so he created a syndicate in Spokane to equip an expedition which would filch the Comstock from Hugh McCool. In fact, Mr. Cleveland's office holders in those days were more than ready to grab the property on official duty, and Judge Brinker was the worst of all. For he did not try to gain in the way opened to every citizen, but by means of the chicanery of the law. When the Brinker expedition found the Comstock it had already been located three weeks before under the supervision of Hugh McCool. This was prior to Mr. Cleveland's proclamation, and under a decision of Judge Hanford, declaring the reservation open, priority of location, however, did not deter the Brinker crowd, and they claimed the property as the La Fleur.

They laid, of course, as much right to it as pirates to the plunder of a treasure ship, but they were all learned in the law, and they were all in all its tricks, and in Judge Hanford's court they demanded an injunction forbidding Hugh McCool and his associate, William Hughes, from touching a pound of the ore taken from this claim, which had been watching and waiting for 10 years.

Hanford Granted the Injunction. To the surprise and horror of every one who knew the facts, Judge Hanford granted this injunction. He permitted the pirates to go upon the ground to loot the mine at their pleasure, and the real discoverers, the real locators, were quietly to stand by while this was done. It is true that the injunction was asked for by the district attorney who served in Judge Hanford's court for four years, and that the decision was sweeter than honey and the honeycomb to him. But could not Judge Hanford tell the difference between fraud and honesty, between truth and falsehood? In this instance he scouted truth and honesty out of court and gave his countenance to chicanery and fraud. Meanwhile President Cleveland had declared the reservation open, and Hugh McCool was waiting at Marcus for the news. The Comstock was 52 miles away, and Hugh had relays of horses to carry him over the road with the speed of lightning.

An Interesting Race. Mark Gilliam received the news of Mr. Cleveland's opening order first, and he was off and ferried across the river before McCool got word. But McCool was soon in hot pursuit. Gilliam is a splendid horseman, and heaped over the hills and mountains along the Kettle river valley with the speed of a gazelle, for he knew that if he reached the Comstock first he would gain more than a king's ransom, and he raced that 52 miles with the endurance of one of Dumas' demigods. But he knew only too well that behind him was a man of iron nerve, the man who would win the prize or die. To be sure he had the start, but McCool knew every inch of the road, and when the shades of night would fall McCool's chances would be doubled. Meanwhile McCool had crossed the ferry, mounted his horse and with set teeth and iron resolve, set out in pursuit of Gilliam. It was for more than a king's ransom to him. His manhood was at stake, and all the blood of the heroic clan which descended through McCool's veins was on fire. Up hill and down dale, across river and ravine, through the open glade and the thick forest, chased McCool, with Gilliam way ahead. But the latest seemed against him, for before he reached his first relay his horse gave out and almost drove McCool to despair. Just then, however, an Indian and his wife rode up. The squaw was mounted on a noble-looking steed, and McCool knew that if he reached the Comstock with the squaw dismounted and gave her horse to Hugh. I wonder did knight errant ever receive a more welcome gift from woman than this gift from the red.

McCool won the Comstock, for as he again flew forward he knew the prize was his. At the last relay, in the dusk of a win-

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Kennedy Bros. & Purgold

Weekly Market.

The market has been steady for the past week. Large sales of Dundee, Poorman, Josie and Monte Cristo are reported. The shipment of Poorman ore made last week gives most satisfactory results, showing \$16 a ton profit after all expenses. Shares in this company at anything like the present price are a pick-up.

There are rumors that the Josie is to change hands on a basis of 30 cents a share, but this needs further confirmation. There is a proposition before the city council, supposed to be from an English syndicate, offering to erect a plant for the treatment of ores at a rate not to exceed \$7 per ton, conditional upon the city turning over to said syndicate all water rights to Rock and Murphy creeks and releasing the company's ground and plant from taxation for a term of 20 years. The plant is to cost about \$1,000,000. The council has very wisely invited the board of trade to confer with it in regard to the matter. The treatment of \$7 ore, would indeed be a boon to the camp, but the question arises, might it not be too dearly bought. The result of the first shipment of ore from the Dundee sent to Nelson shows a net profit of \$12 per ton. This is most satisfactory, but since this shipment was made the values in the mine have more than doubled, so we may expect at least \$30 profit on the next shipment.

Table with columns: NAME, Par value, Price last week, Price this week. Lists various commodities like Butte, Deer Park, Dundee, etc.

Kennedy Bros. & Purgold ROSSLAND, B. C.

CODES: Bedford McNeill, A B C and Clough's. Cable Address, "Nuggets."

Correspondence Solicited.

Certificate of Improvements. NOTICE.

Kalanash mineral claim, situate in the Nelson mining division of West Kootenay district. Where located: About four and a half miles east of Deer Park. Take notice that the Pine Ridge Gold Mining & Milling company, limited liability, free miner's certificate No. 3178, intend, 60 days from the date hereof, to apply to the mining recorder for a certificate of improvements for the purpose of obtaining a crown grant of the above claim.

Further take notice that action, under section 37, must be commenced before the issuance of such certificate of improvements. Dated this 16th day of Nov., 1897. 11-25-101

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The WEEKLY MINER contains the mining news of the entire Kootenay district.

Price of Silver New York, Dec. 1.—\$16 per ounce; Mexican silver certificates, 59 1/2.

THE SILVER BELL

The Report of the Annual Meeting Recently Held.

NOT A QUORUM OF STOCK

Hence It Will Be Necessary to Hold Another Meeting—Reports of Officers—The Lessee to Mr. Harrington Confirmed for a Portion of the Property.

As intimated previously, the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Silver Bell Mining company, limited, was held in the company's office, Rossland, on the 17th instant. There was not sufficient stock represented, so that it will be necessary to assemble again, when sufficient proxies are in, for the purpose of confirming the proceedings. Bannell Sawyer of Montreal was the only shareholder present from the east, although most of the stock is held there.

The president and general manager, John Harris, Esq., read his report, stating that "his firm, Harris, Kennedy & Co., had bought out G. A. Pounder's interest in the Silver Bell about the 16th of September, having inspected the property on the 10th of September and the directors' meeting was held in the office of the company, when Mr. Pounder resigned and John Harris was selected as his stead, with Graham Kennedy as secretary. Two of the company's properties were leased to Harrington & Connolly, to be worked for one year with right of renewal at the end of the year. The lessees to spend \$500 per month in development, and the profits to be divided equally between the lessees and the Silver Bell company.

The property consists of three claims (Nancy Lee, Lone Jack and Silver Bell fraction). The Lone Jack is crown land, the Silver Bell fraction has not been leased. The development work consists of a 98-foot shaft. The buildings and plant consist of shaft-house, containing an 18-horse power boiler, engine and hoist, a No. 2 steam hoist, drill, forge, bellows, tools, fittings and bunk-house adjoining. There is also a good wagon road connecting with the Red Mountain railway and the Northport wagon road, a platform about two miles there is a platform erected at the railway track to unload machinery and ship ore. In addition to the sum received from the sale of treasury shares Mr. Pounder claims to have spent \$1,904 from his private income and Mr. Tibbitts \$33,177. This makes a total of \$12,851.97 expended in placing Silver Bell property in present condition. The cash assets are \$133.88. Mr. Harrington, the lessee, is a practical miner and will begin work on the property at once, and, considering the condition of the treasury and finances of the company I think it is the best thing that could be done under the circumstances.

This was followed by the secretary's report, submitted by Graham Kennedy, acting secretary. He stated that he had sent out 870 notices to subscribers, but had not yet received proxies sufficient to enable the meeting to transact business conclusively. One difficulty experienced resulted from the habit of certificate holders failing to have stock entered upon the books in their own names. Thomas Anderson, accountant, had worked for seven days on the stock books and reported as follows:

Table with columns: Promoters' shares issued, Treasury shares issued, Total issue, Balance of shares in treasury, Total certification.

The title to the property is vested in the Silver Bell Mining company, limited,

McCool Beat Out of the Prize.

But in McCool's case the spoils did not go to the victor. Banded against him and Hughes were Judge Brinker and his confederates, who were resolved to own this mine. They set the machinery of the courts in motion. They had money and McCool and Hughes had little, and Judge Hanford smiled instead of frowning, with the result that Hughes had to sell out to them for \$10,000, and McCool had to accept a 1-40 interest in the property which would have been chiefly his if it had not been his curse to have been a Democrat and known the fellows that Mr. Cleveland saw fit to occupy public offices in the state of Washington. The Brinker crowd are now in control and are managing it to suit themselves.

In the same district and not far away is the Lone Star and Washington, which looks as if it were going to be a very rich mine. I saw several other most promising properties, such as the Copper Queen, in the same neighborhood, and I do not hesitate to say that Nelson must become a mining center of great importance.

Good Ore From the Poorman.

Returns from the recent Poorman shipment show that it netted \$15 above the cost of mining, transportation and smelting. The ore was only expected to return about \$10 net.

An Up-to-Date Catarrh Cure.

WOODVILLE, Ont., Feb. 23, 1897. It gives us great pleasure to testify to the excellent effects of Dr. Chase's Catarrh Cure. It has completely cured me of the Catarrh in the head. I praise it as an up-to-date cure. JAS. STUART, Harness Maker.

Price of Silver.

New York, Nov. 24.—Bar silver, 58 3/8; silver ounce; Mexican dollars, 45 1/2; silver certificates, 58 3/4 to 59c.

PERSONALS.

L. F. Williams, the secretary of the Le Roi company, went to Spokane yesterday. W. B. Norman, the secretary of the Rossland Water & Light company, returned to Spokane yesterday. O. F. Caldwell, a mining man of Kaslo, is in the city on a visit.

FROM THE RECORDS.

Transfers. NOVEMBER 17. Justice, Jacob R. Ritter to John Carroll. Blue Bell Fraction 1/4, Sherbrooke 1/4, Hugh O'Brien to A. L. Seane. CHS No 1-2-4, Harry Daniel to J. A. Harrington. C. T. K., Edmund Wragge to Jas. Bird MacKnight.

NOVEMBER 18. Boston, Edmund Wragge to J. B. McKnight. Monarch, Edmund Wragge to J. B. McKnight. Wellesley, Edmund Wragge to J. B. McKnight. Billy, Wide Awake, Hannah, Lily, and Sky Jack, Geo. Finlay Macdonald and James Gunn to J. G. Abbott. Original 1/4, Jas. Anderson to D. Deig. Fliglin 1-5, J. B. McArthur to J. S. Fraser.

NOVEMBER 19. Ida May 1/4, Muttro 1/4, Morrow 1/4, Adwood 1/4, Angus to H. E. Robertson. Golden cross 1/4, Golden Age 1/4, Mackie 1/4, John McHale to Robert Mackie. Golden Age, Golden Cross and Mackie, Harry Smith to F. M. McLeod. Almaden, Edward N. Bouché to F. J. Walker and Mary E. Rammeimyer.

NOVEMBER 23. Golden Cross 1/4, Golden Age 1/4, Mackie 1/4, Nevada 1/4, Stephen Walsh to Thos. Stack. Same transfer, Thos. Stack to F. M. McLeod.

NOVEMBER 23. Richmond Lass 1/4, Gorilla 1/4, Chas. E. Wynn Johnson to H. A. Keller. Gorilla 1/4, C. E. Wynn Johnson to F. S. Algiers.

Certificates of Work. November 17.—Adeleide, El Paso, Nannie.

Two Dollars JUMBO IS AL

A Good Body of Ore Main Tunnel

SHOWING UP VE

Intention Is to Shortly Ledge, Which Is C Wide-Velvet Machin tion—Work to Be Bes

The Jumbo is looking now. In the face of the good body of mineral ha the showing has steadily ing the past ten feet. I and spar in considerable all coming in and fair v returned.

The tunnel is now in and it is believed the which it is being drive hand. The present work nature of a drift, and probably be started in shortly to open up the over 100 feet wide. The now being driven for h

by the upper tunnel immense body of iron ore \$10 to \$14, together with quartz averaging in the \$20, and several streaks of saying into the thousa present tunnel a depth of level even better val tained than in the upper

The Jumbo is being op eight-hour shifts, and p made at from 40 to 50 f

St. Gasha, the n company, came up yeste the property.

Machinery in Motion o Robert Rogers, constru for the James Cooper M many, is back from the V has been superintending position of machinery, w a 35-horse power boiler power hoist. It is the in the development work speed. A force is to be p the Portland, which is e erty of the New Gold Co Columbia. Captain Mor for the company, who w to attend its annual mee weeks since, has been rec and is expected back in a company intends to have the Eschbach property, w with a view to its purcha grade silver proposition Elocan City and there a in the group. If the gro expectations it will shi property of the company.

SUNSET TO BE The Litigation Concern Comes to an GRAND FORKS, Nov. 2 R. A. BROWN, the own

Sunset copper property meen country, is about t whereby a Rossland com come the owners of this Brown says that he is property in order to prot he proposes to use in cla the Volcanic property, w object of much litigation is the richest copper p west, assaying as high a copper.

Last Thursday just a and McCallum were abo Victoria to attend the Seattle mining case on which they received a telegr solicitors which informe case was settled, and al exact terms of the settl learned for a few days v pendence now on the wa will have arrived here.

MUST PUT UP GRAND FORKS, Nov. 3 It is understood that the toms department has Ellis & Cawston put u bond before their 75 de returned to them. The c by Customs Officer McDe in the Similkameen cou since because they were p the reservation without a cattle are now in custo Wash.

A Plant For Gre The company that is m C. property near Greeny H. Harrison is man bought a complete plan from the Canadian Ran of which Frank R. Men drill compressor, a 3 boiler, a sinking pump, a hoist and a full line of cost of the entire plant intention is to ship the y city Tuesday morning.

Price of Silver New York, Dec. 1.—\$16 per ounce; Mexican silver certificates, 59 1/2.