

THE MINING REGULATIONS.

The proposed mining regulations, or more especially the provisions in respect to the size of claims and the royalty of ten and twenty per cent. which it was proposed to levy on the output of placer mines in the Yukon district are still under the consideration of the government and it is probable that some material changes will be made.

The "other question" referred to was the proposal to charge a royalty of ten and twenty per cent. The minister was urged to modify the regulations and especially to exempt altogether from royalty the product of all claims up to a certain amount.

CLIFFORD SIFTON.

The reservation of alternate placer mining claims and a royalty of ten and twenty per cent. on the output of claims located by miners is said to be popular in the east. There is no doubt that the principle, which the government has thus put forward as its policy—of retaining for the general public benefit a share of the natural wealth of the country—is sound one and will be popular in the west as well as in the east.

But while there will be little objection to the principle there may be a good deal to the method in which it is proposed to carry it out. A royalty, for instance, of ten per cent. on a product of \$500 per week will be a very heavy tax, especially if the cost of working the claim approximates the amount received.

SENSIBLE AMERICAN OPINION.

All American newspaper editors have not lost their heads, as might be inferred by a perusal of the extracts from American papers now appearing in the Canadian press. There are, here and there, a few level-headed writers, who "put themselves in our place," when speaking of the Canadian gold fields on the Yukon and the enforcement of Canadian law there, and thus see the question impartially.

"In a few weeks or months the Americans in the Clondyke district will largely outnumber the Canadians. In fact, they do so now. Let the Americans there hold a mass meeting, pass resolutions, and draw up a petition to President McKinley, stating that American interests there are imperiled by the arrival of the Canadian miners; that the number of Americans there is largely in excess of any other nationality; that most of the property there is owned by Americans; and that American vested interests should be upheld."

"While this proceeding may seem rather peculiar, it is certainly more equitable than the Hawaiian grab. For, in the Clondyke district, it is not disputed that the Americans largely outnumber all other residents, while in Hawaii the Americans constitute the smallest portion of the population. Then again, if the islands are rich, the Clondyke placers are richer. That is the principal reason for annexing Hawaii and it is certainly an infinitely stronger one for annexing Clondyke."

Quoting the Chronicle, which said that the action of Canada in imposing a royalty was "one that calls for sharp remonstrance if not for something more," the Argonaut replies:

"These brave words, but they do not ring true when one recalls the history of the gold discovery in California. One of the first things that California did was to impose a tax on foreign miners. It was not a royalty such as the Canadian government contemplates, but a head tax, as if the miners had been animals. It was known as the 'foreign miners' tax."

One hundred feet is quite sufficient to be conceded to each claim-holder, as is the law in this province.

A SAMPLE CASE.

Among the certificates of character which the attorney-general receives there is none, we suppose, that he values more highly than those from the Wellington Enterprise. In the last issue of that paper the following remarks appear: "The decision of the full court in the case of the Kokislah Quarry Co. vs. the Queen, bears out in full the statement which we made some months ago as to the act passed through the legislature at its last meeting to replace this case on the list of cases for appeal from which it had been removed through the negligence, carelessness and stupidity of the attorney-general's department. The decision of the full court is that the act is not so framed as to cover the very case it was intended to cover. One is almost inclined to laugh at this further evidence of the incompetence and want of ability shown by the attorney-general, but we feel that he and the government should be ashamed of the part they have played in this case. Having been knocked out of court in the further hearing of the case last spring by neglecting to give the timely notice of appeal, they brook themselves to the legislature, which was then in session, to repair their shortcomings and take advantage of a company which had so far beaten them in the courts. The press of this province has said very little about this curious use of their majority in the house, but we have no hesitation in denouncing it as a most dangerous innovation and an outrage on the course of the administration of justice. We think this matter has gone far enough. Something has been said of an appeal from the latest decision to the privy council of Great Britain. For the credit and honor of the people of this province we hope no such course will be taken. It will expose to the world the devious and indefensible course of the crown to repair the faults of administration in the attorney-general's department. Pay what is coming to the Kokislah Quarry and let us hear the last of this. We say this because we understand that the government has already offered them \$9,000 in retirement, thereby to a certain extent admitting the principle that the company have a claim. It is beneath the dignity of any government to quibble over the difference." It is rather remarkable that so little has been said of the attempt made by the government to pass an act which would relieve it from the mess caused by neglect. The fact is that the passage of this act was generally unnoticed, or its intent was not understood. The attorney-general must have known when he was devising this plan of escape from his difficulty that courts everywhere frown upon interference with the rights of litigants by an ex post facto legislation. At all events, his scheme has so far had no other result than to call attention more sharply to the manner in which his department is conducted.

There is a good deal of truth in the average American daily newspaper, which must not be taken seriously. It does not represent true American feeling any more than the scum that comes to the top at election times represents the sentiment of the nation. Genuine Americanism ought to mean that privileges which United States claim for themselves are willing to accord to others. Canada, we beg to point out to the newspapers in question, has always given and will continue to give to Americans engaging in business of any kind in this country the same rights and privileges that is accorded Canadians. If our policy in this respect becomes less generous in the future it will be because our liberality is not appreciated and the same treatment is not extended to our citizens south of the boundary line.

SANDON POLICE.

Charges are openly made against the provincial police force of Sandon that they are thus set forth in one of the newspapers: "Charges are openly made by the most reputable citizens that bribery and extortion are of daily occurrence; that the red-clothed houses are subject to a system of blackmail levied by collusion between the magistrates and police; that individual freedom is under constant restraint and menace after nightfall, that the constabulary is made, with the use of money, the instrument of private revenge and of schemes of personal persecution; and that the whole management of government affairs has become so venal, so conscienceless and so shameless, that bribes have been demanded and paid for the mere perfunctory work of attending legally to the advancement of public house licenses. A recent instance is cited of an applicant being required to pay \$25 in addition to the \$250 government fee." A good many faithful supporters of the government aver that the attorney-general's department has more than its share of the dry rot which pervades provincial official circles, and for that reason it would perhaps be rash to expect any movement in the way of investigating such charges as are advanced against the police at Sandon. When the department could only allow the time for appeal to expire in a case which involved some \$15,000 of the people's money, it can hardly be counted on to show promptitude in disposing of a police scandal. How would it do for the Hon. Mr. Eberts to employ Hon. Mr. Martin to go over to Sandon and tell the people there that "they have no kick coming?"

THE STICKEN ROUTE.

Some of our American friends, with whom "the wish is father to the thought," are expressing doubt as to the navigability of the Sticken and the prospect of establishing that route to the Yukon. They need not go far for evidence to remove such doubts, for there are plenty of men who have a practical acquaintance with the Sticken. Mr. Callbreath's boat, the Alaskan, and the Hudson's Bay Company's steamer Caledonian, make the trip up that river at intervals now, and in the old canoe days the Sticken was a regular highway up as far as Telegraph creek. In those days the stern-wheeler Beaver, built for traffic between Portland and Astoria, on the Columbia river, was taken up to the Sticken and made a good many successful trips. She was not only a good freight carrier, but had first-class accommodation for passengers. Although so large—being capable of carrying 120 tons of freight and a large number of passengers—her power was relatively small. Her cylinders were only 14 inches, with a stroke of four feet, and this comparatively small power for so large a steamer shows that the Sticken current is not at all formidable. At only two or three places was it necessary to resort to "hitching." The availability of the Sticken is put beyond all question by the test of practical experience, and there is good evidence that the remainder of the route is almost equally favorable.

In this connection a circumstance that causes some surprise is the failure to make immediate use of this route. An additional river steamer or two might have been procured to run up the Sticken, with which connection could have been made at Wrangle. Then a number of pack horses could have been conveyed to Telegraph Creek for the transportation of supplies across to Teslin lake, the trail having been found quite feasible. Once arrived at Teslin lake, the way to any part of the Yukon would be much easier than from the headquarters of the Lewis river, for there are no such difficulties to surmount.

This beats them all—Leslie's Weekly prints a picture showing a pack train at Dawson City loaded with ore.

The "equal terms" which Canadians are conceded in the United States are very forcibly illustrated by the experience of the Kalo mechanic who is forbidden to do a little piece of work in Spokane. The Post-Intelligencer and the Oregonian might state their views on this little incident.

The correspondent who has been moved to allude to the apocryphal course of the government organ may recall Sydney Smith's illustration of the blue-bottle and the parasites. The amusing description of the frantic efforts of each bottle to have his largest and finest bottle accepted by the world of blue-bottle known to the world, and to apply with remarkable exactness to the earnest, if useless, exhibitions of the Colonist. Unfortunately for the ministers and their white-washer-in-general, the public is in the habit of discounting in a large measure the praises of the apocryphal parasite. With no better protection than these against the wrath of those, the members of the government are in a very poor plight indeed.

Mr. Dickson, manager of the Kootenay Electric Company, has sent the following letter to the Kalo Kootenian: "An article in your issue of July 31st has been brought to my notice in which you state that W. McEae, an employee of this company, was stopped repairing an armature for us at the Spokane Light & Power Co.'s works, Spokane, on enquiry I find that fact from this being the case the employees of the above company did all in their power to assist him in executing the necessary repairs with as little delay as possible." To this the Kootenian appends a note stating that its information came from a member of the Electric Company, who appears to have been misinformed. It is very satisfactory to find that the story was not correct, for it seemed to indicate that the unworthy tactics of the east had been introduced in the west, which has so far been free from them.

The London-Review of Reviews, in an article describing the visit of the colonial premier to Britain, says: "From the time that these premiers landed in England down to the present day they have been feted and lionized more than any other three persons in the three kingdoms." Both publicly and privately they have been treated as the heroes of the jubilee, and among all the premiers, Sir W. Laurier, who rode first in the colonial procession on jubilee day, has been easily first in popular estimation. Canada, after all, is nearer this country than either Australia or South Africa, and Canada has far advanced in the evolution of independent self-government. In all Australasia there are fewer residents than in the Dominion of Canada, but Australasia, with New Zealand and Tasmania, were represented by no fewer than seven prime ministers, while Sir W. Laurier represented the whole federated Dominion. Nor was that the only secret of the honor which was only where he paid to him. Sir W. Laurier was not only first from a great victory at the polls, but he was the first prime minister ever to make the home country a practical offer of fiscal co-operation. Even without that, his personality would have commanded attention and respect. Sir W. Laurier is of commanding presence and a born orator."

STICKEN-TESLIN TRAIL.

To the Editor: To reflect on the misdeeds of the B. C. government is so very easy that one has only to turn his footsteps in any direction in the city to hear all and sundry condemned for their inability to carry out any public work in the interest of the ratepayers. The Sticken and Teslin trail is another piece of public work which requires looking into. It is not for the purpose of retarding the making of roads in this section of the country that I have prompted me to write this letter, but from my own knowledge of this road, and the manner in which this American citizen, Mr. Callbreath, has carried out the work intrusted to him should be thoroughly venerated and lauded before the people of this country. Mr. Callbreath came down from Fort Wrangle and interviewed the premier, and without calling for tenders or giving those who are British subjects an opportunity to work, even day's work, on this trail he enabled them to pay their taxes, the government entrusted him with carrying out this important undertaking without knowing how the money was going to be spent, or where. This trail has been used by the Hudson Bay Company for 40 years, and he has only

walked over it, and we are led to believe that he was to explore and make a trail, reducing the distance by 100 miles and be able to pack for 10 cents instead of 25 cents per hundred pounds, which he has not done. Now he is entrusted with work which will cost the government \$10,000, without any security whatever that the money will be spent in the building of the bridges, culverts and corduroy-ing, or is this only a starter to enable the premier to go to London to boast of his road? (For this is a profitable business.) It cannot be disputed that the men who are to work on this trail are coming from Mr. Callbreath's fishery and around Fort Wrangle, in the United States, with the exception of three, who went up from here, but so far not one of those who understand such work and who are citizens have been employed. It would have been well if the government of British Columbia had waited until the Dominion government surveyors had sent in their report, and then spent the money intelligently and to advantage. It is no wonder that the public works department is getting into such an unsavory condition throughout the Dominion. The member for Cassiar is mixed up in this private arrangement. Royal commissions were fashionable not so long ago, and, sir, you might suggest to the Dominion government the necessity for such a B. C. government. TAXPAYER.

VICTORIA MARKETS.

Retail Quotations for Farmers' Produce Carefully Corrected.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Butter, Eggs, Potatoes, etc.

HELPFUL FOR A YEAR.

Bowed Down With Rheumatism and Sciatica. From the Post, Sackville, N. B. Records like the following carry conviction with them, and in a practical sense it might be said that this is still age of miracles. Mr. Edward Downey, of Macaan, N. B., says: "I have been a resident of Sackville for some years. I have been a great sufferer for upwards of ten years with sciatica-rheumatism. I was tortured with severe pains, which at times would become almost unbearable, and I think I suffered almost everything a man can suffer and live. I was so crippled that I could not work, and part of the time was not able to even move about. I became so weak and my system so run down that I despaired of ever getting better. My case was almost hopeless, unless, as I had abandoned work I was almost helpless for some years. I heard of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I was induced to at least give them a trial. In a short time I began to recover, and the agonizing pains left my back and limbs, so that I was enabled to walk out of doors. Before I had used more than half a dozen boxes I was almost entirely well, and could do a hard day's work. I had a good appetite, and began to gain flesh and feel like a new man. I am free from aches and pains, and have Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to thank for it all. The reporter could not help feeling that Mr. Downey's case was a striking one, as he now presents a stout, well built figure, straight limbed, and as smart in his movements as a young man of twenty."

Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla. Text: "Made and Merit Maintains the confidence of the people in Hood's Sarsaparilla. It is a medicine cures you when sick; it makes wonderful cures every where, then beyond all question that medicine possesses merit."

Rev. Alex. Grant Drowned. A Popular Winnipeg Clergyman Loses His Life in the Nepegon River. The Accident Causes Profound Grief—Biographical Sketch of the Deceased.

Winnipeg, Aug. 6.—Like a bolt from a clear sky came the startling news of the death of Rev. Alex. Grant, pastor of the First Baptist church of this city, who had been drowned in the river in the afternoon canoeing in company with Mr. Arch. Dougall, also of this city. The sad and unexpected news was a severe shock to the reverend gentleman's friends, and especially to the members of his congregation. It was hard for them to believe that their beloved pastor, to whom they had bade adieu but a few hours before, as he left on his holiday, had been taken from them. The tragic nature of the event added additional pang to the grief which all felt. Mr. Grant left Winnipeg on Tuesday for Nepegon, where he intended to spend a few days trout fishing with Mr. McDougall. He arrived at Nepegon station yesterday, and was set out with Mr. McDougall for the fishing pools several miles up the river, in attempting to pass through a rapid a fatal accident occurred. Being subjected to a violent current, Mr. Grant was attacked with cramps on being propped up in the cold water, and was rendered incapable of making an effort to save himself. Mr. Grant was a stranger to the Nepegon, and was accustomed to canoeing, as he visited the river annually to fish. He was so fond of shooting and hunting, so that the accident did not happen through inexperience. The sad news of the untimely occurrence was broken to Mr. Grant and to the members of the congregation at the prayer meeting last evening. Mrs. Grant was completely prostrated, and many others who were present were so overcome by sorrow that they gave way to tears.

Rev. Alexander Grant was a native of Granton, in the Highlands of Scotland, received his education in that country, graduating from the University of Edinburgh. He was born in 1835, the year now being 42 years of age, and was just past his majority, came to Canada with the other members of the family, settling at Prescott, Ont., and soon afterwards decided on entering the ministry, entering the Woodstock Baptist College with that object in view. His first charge was at Pembroke, and from there he proceeded to open a new church at Kinross, returning there three or four years ago. In these few years Rev. Mr. Grant had demonstrated exceptional ability and vigor for work, which led to his call to the pastorate of the First Baptist church, London, Ontario, the largest and most influential congregations in the Forest City, and his ministry there continued for eight years, and was to-day the name of Rev. A. Grant is well known in Ontario. In 1886 he was appointed superintendent of Baptist missions in Ontario, which office he held till accepting the pastorate of this city, as successor to Rev. A. Cameron in 1889. Rev. Mr. Grant was married in Ontario to a Miss Cameron, daughter of Mr. D. Cameron, traveler now in this city, and leaves a family of seven children to mourn with their mother the loss of husband and father, whose bereavement, however, is shared in sympathy by the whole community. The mother of the deceased is still living, and resides with her son, Mr. John Grant, in the north end of the city. The father died here a few years ago.

Rev. Alexander Grant came to Winnipeg in 1889 to supply the pulpit of the First Baptist church, which was then vacant. He preached his first sermon in May of that year. He was subsequently invited to become the pastor of the congregation, and having accepted began his pastorate in September, 1889, and continued uninterruptedly up to the time of his death. Last year Mr. Grant was invited to take charge of the Baptist congregation of Ottawa, with an increase of salary of \$1,800. But he declined it, as he was desirous of continuing his services to the Baptist cause in this country. He was an indefatigable worker, and through his efforts congregations were established in the city among the Germans and Scandinavians, and he was organizing another congregation among the Icelanders. Last year was the most prosperous in connection with the Baptist church in this city and throughout the whole western country. His success being mainly due to Mr. Grant's energetic work. He was revered by the Baptists far and wide and was a man of much influence. He was an eloquent and forcible speaker, both in the pulpit and on the platform. He frequently took part in political controversies, especially on questions affecting social and labor reforms. He also took an active part in the school agitation, throwing his power on the side of national schools, and in support of that movement was the author of a forcible pamphlet, which was published and widely distributed in the early stages of the agitation.

A REGIMENT OF MINERS.

New York, Aug. 9.—Robert Rollins, superintendent of Edwin Gould's Consolidated Mining Company, and a member of the Columbia University, Clondyke of Mines, has left for the Yukon to take charge of a mining expedition of work twenty claims there. The expedition is composed of Pacific coast prospectors. P. J. Lippman, of San Francisco, is president. A Denver Register with 200 experienced miners. From Denver he will go to Portland, where the Elder, chartered for this purpose, will be waiting to take the party. The steamer will take the mine to St. Michaels, the remainder of the voyage to Dawson City will be made in small boats, if the stream has not been frozen over. If it has sledges will be used.

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SENOR CANOVAS ASSASSINATED. The Spanish Prime Minister Murdered by an Italian Anarchist Yesterday Afternoon. Great Excitement in Madrid—Death Predicted—Particulars of the Crime.

A Sketch of His Career—His Country in Madrid. Madrid, Aug. 9.—Senor Canovas Castillo, prime minister, was assassinated yesterday afternoon by an Italian anarchist, whose name is believed to be Michele Auguine Gull, at the Santa Agueda. There is great excitement in Madrid. The deed was undoubtedly meditated.

The murderer fired three shots of which struck the premier in the chest and the other in the arm. The man lingered unconscious for two hours and died at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. His wife was but a short way when he fell. The premier was expected to return to San Sebastian to meet United States Minister Ford, when officially received Queen Regent. The health of the premier had been greatly of late. He had been a very quiet life, although he attended to his duties. At the moment of the assassination he was in the gallery of the parliament building for lunch. Sudden assassin, who had the appearance of an ordinary visitor, approached and fired a bullet through the body and coming behind under the left shoulder, the two lodging in the head. He instantly and never recovered consciousness. Several medical men and his wife were summoned in their attendance, but the wounds were so serious that he died in two hours. Extremities were administered amid a mingled sorrow and indignation. The murderer deliberately waited for the opportunity to fire the shot, as he only fired when he was no chance of missing. In fact, the assassin, who was arrested immediately, the premier fell dying feet of his wife, declared as such examining magistrate.

The prime minister lingered some days and passed away with the name of "Long live Spain." Further details of the assassination show that Senor Canovas and his wife were present yesterday morning at the celebration of mass chapel attached to the baths. After mass the premier sat reading and conversing with some reporters, who assassinated approached and fired shots at him with a revolver, the bullet lodging in the forehead, chest and the wounded man fell to the ground. The premier was carried to his residence at 1:30 p.m., after extremities had been administered him by the Dominican order. The murderer was immediately arrested by people in the vicinity of the scene. He was severely wounded and might have been killed had he not been for the protection afforded by a number of civil guards who ran to his aid. The prisoner, who declared he killed the premier "in accomplishment of a just vengeance," first gave the name of Rinaldi, and claimed that the deed was the outcome of an extensive conspiracy. Later, however, the assassin confessed that his real name was not Auguine Gull, but he was 29 years of age, a native of Boggia, near Naples, and had left Italy and come to Spain in 1896. After reaching Spain, Gull according to his confession, resided in Barcelona and participated in the work of the various anarchist association that place and vicinity. After going to that place for some time, Gull fled to France and Belgium and returned to Spain in July last. After his flight the anarchist seems to have completed his plans for the assassination of the prime minister. He left Madrid for Santa Agueda at the same time as Senor Canovas de Castillo, and awaited his opportunity.