

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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THE SELWYN RIVER PLOT.

Jacob Klein Tells How His Comrades Got Rid of Him.

Charged Him With Insanity—Declared By Doctors to Be Sane—May Have a Bad Temper.

Jacob Klein, a Selwyn river miner and original locator there, is either a monumental liar or the possessor of hallucinations—or he is the victim of a dark conspiracy to rob him of his liberty and has been subjected to indignities which demand thorough research and condign punishment for the offenders. The Nugget scribe, who heard his tale, both privately and in court, must admit that he has been sinned against and has himself sinned. A brief sketch of Klein's story—how he was brought to Dawson on a charge of insanity, found to be sane and liberated—was told in a previous issue of this paper. The sequel was the arrest of the men charged with his arrest by order of Colonel Steele, who acted in his usual prompt, energetic and intelligent manner. The men are Emanuel Larson, A. L. Phelps, William S. Curtan, J. K. Kastner and George J. Bower, and they were arraigned in justice court on Monday, with Attorney Burritt appearing as counsel. The charge was that they "did on or about July 5, 1899, at Selwyn river, unlawfully conspire, combine, confederate and agree among and with each other to deprive unlawfully one Jacob Klein of his liberty, and in the pursuance thereof did maliciously and falsely write a certain letter to the constable in charge at Selwyn accusing the said Klein of insanity and breaches of the peace."

Klein went on the stand first and told his story in substance as follows: On July 5 Constable Hilliard, of the Selwyn river station, arrested me at my cabin on Selwyn. He and Larson came to my cabin and said they wanted to talk to me. They said they wanted to send me out of the country because I was insane. Hilliard said he would get me a pass and that I had better go. I said "My God, I can't do that; I came in here to make an honest living." Larson said, "Take my advice and go outside, for if they take you to Dawson the doctors will send you to the asylum for life." They said they would give me until the afternoon to make up my mind. A Dr. Owen and his partner came to my cabin during the day and he advised me to go out, saying they were too many for me and that outside I could engage a lawyer, who would communicate with the Canadian government concerning my case. In the afternoon I told Larson and Hilliard I would go when they were ready. On July 6 I started down the river with Hilliard, and on the 9th we got to the mouth of the river, where I was put into a canoe and brought to Dawson. Here I was put into a cell and kept from Monday to Saturday. Dr. Thompson and Dr. Blunett examined me and said I was not insane.

"When the other men first came into the gulch they told me we had better work it together until they got money to record. We began to work my claim and were to divide the gold; Larson had charge of cleaning up the boxes and Bower was to take care of the gold. But the gold never was divided and all I got out of my dump for all my winter's work was \$9.25. The men began picking up the nuggets as they pleased. I protested and said it was not right; Phelps told me to go to hell and made to fight me. He picked up a big stone, and I held him off and said, 'Don't you do it; stop or I'll blow your head off.' I reached into my back pocket, but had no gun and only did it to de-

ferend myself. That night the boys talked together to a late hour and the next day two of them started down the river to get a policeman. I went to Curtan's tent and he said, 'You old —, if you draw another gun on these boys we will make it hot for you.' I am like other mortals and I told Curtan to come out and we would see who could shoot best, though not to kill him, as I would not kill any man. Next day I was arrested. Hilliard and Larson were the only ones who told me I was crazy."

On cross examination by Mr. Burritt, Klein denied that he carried firearms about the gulch, except when hunting and that he had never threatened to kill anyone. He also denied having used anarchistic utterances, but admitted that he often said "There is a dark cloud hanging over us." Klein spoke in broken English and considerable tittering at his expense was indulged in by the thoughtless ones present.

Constable Hilliard next took the stand and told in a straightforward way of his connection with the affair. Bower and

was excited he did not consider him to be a fit man to be at liberty.

Dr. Thompson told of examining Klein and of declaring him to be sane, after seeing him at the jail for five days.

The defense, upon assuming conduct of the case, set out to show that how they were led to believe Klein to be insane. Thomas A. Marsh, the first witness, talked with Klein several times and the latter said on one occasion: "There is a dark cloud hanging over the nation which is likely to break at any moment. The people are rising, blood will flow and we will get our rights."

Mrs. Alice B. Fubbell told how Klein had become incensed with her husband because Klein's partner hired out to work for him, and when their boat started down the river he threw a stone into the water, saying "I hope your boat will sink like that stone."

Frank Pretty had known Klein a year and thought he was a man who talked through his hat. He had talked some of organizing "Klein's army" to re-



HON. G. R. MAXWELL, M. P.

Phelps, he said, came down to the station and lodged a complaint with him against Klein, who, they said, had threatened their lives and was carrying firearms. They also said if Klein was not removed that they would shoot him. Next day said the officer, I went up and these men signed a statement that Klein was insane; all except Larson, who, however, signed another paper and who was afraid of Klein. I interviewed Klein the following day at his cabin. He fell on his knees, wept and swore and was very violent. I started for the station the next day, and Klein appeared to be thoroughly rational. I then decided to keep him there and communicate with you, but he acted violently and was very obstinate and I decided to send him to Dawson to be examined. On going up to the camp, the men told me not to go into Klein's cabin alone, as the sight of a policeman might irritate him and he would kill me. Larson had exerted a great deal of influence over him and he went with me." Asked his opinion of Klein, the constable said that when he

form the world and make the people happy.

Thomas Hardy said he was a hot-headed man and always wanted to have his way.

Emanuel Larson, one of the defendants, testified that Klein believed in spirits; said that the spirits directed him and had led him to Selwyn river. He also told how Klein had quarreled with Phelps because the latter had picked up a nugget from the dump. Afterward Klein served 30 days at Selwyn for the alleged theft of a window. Klein was very angry with the police and told witness he didn't know what minute he would go down and kill every one of them.

Jno. F. Kastner told of Klein being quarrelsome with the men on the gulch, of flying into a passion over trifles and of threatening to shoot and cut any man in the camp. Witness drove him from his tent on one of these occasions and he said he would come back with his gun.

G. J. Bower said Klein was bossy at the camp, and would pick up a fuss if things didn't go his way. He told witness he had a notion to kill all the police at Selwyn station. The men in the camp believed they were not safe with Klein there.

A GENUINE M. P. IN TOWN.

Mr. Maxwell of Burrard Will Investigate the Klondike.

Does Not Know Very Much About Royalty and Reserved Claims—Sifton Not Coming.

Mr. G. R. Maxwell, member of parliament from Burrard, in which district is the city of Vancouver, arrived in Dawson on the steamer Victorian. Mr. Maxwell left Ottawa on the 16th ult., and with the exception of a stay of five or six days at his home in Vancouver, came straight through to Dawson.

Mr. Maxwell impresses one as being well versed in the lore of politics, though by no means being a mere politician. He is as yet non-committal upon the questions which are considered of such moment by every Yukoner, reserving his opinions until he has had an opportunity to investigate personally the conditions which exist in the territory. In conversation with a Nugget representative Mr. Maxwell spoke substantially as follows:

"I have come in to Dawson for the double purpose of enjoying a vacation after the long session of parliament and of investigating the requirements of the Yukon Territory from a legislative standpoint. Regarding the royalty and claim reservation acts which seem to be all important matters here, I have not as yet come to any definite conclusion. It is my intention to visit the neighboring creeks and personally investigate the methods employed in mining under the conditions which prevail here and endeavor to ascertain what grievances exist and how best they may be remedied." Asked in regard to the much heralded trip of Minister Sifton to the Klondike, Mr. Maxwell stated that he did not believe it was the minister's intention to come in during the present season. The unusual length of the parliamentary session would prevent him from making the trip. Asked as to the prospect of a change in Mr. Sifton's attitude toward the Klondike, Mr. Maxwell said that Mr. Sifton was an exceedingly energetic and determined man and that his opinions once formed did not often undergo change, which read between the lines, undoubtedly means that Mr. Sifton regards the royalty as a good thing and intends to stay by it.

Mr. Maxwell did not know the origin of the order closing Bonanza and Eldorado creeks from further prospecting and locating and was unable to say whether those creeks would be opened again or not.

As to the selling of reserved ground by public tender he was not sufficiently posted upon the matter to express an opinion. He seemed, however, to be of the opinion that the government is at rather an unfair advantage over the individual in that all the value which the reserved claims possess has come to them by virtue of the labor performed by holders of adjacent property.

Mr. Maxwell was also requested for information concerning the prohibitory liquor act. He did not know anything about that except that it was the general opinion in Ottawa that the regulations had been passed in order to allow of the disposal of surplus stocks supposed to be held in Dawson.

Diverging for the moment to British Columbia matters, Mr. Maxwell said that ex-Attorney-General Joe Martin was one of the ablest men in the province. He had been ousted temporarily as a matter of spite work and jealousy, but his return to power is only a matter of time.

While Mr. Maxwell was being interviewed in The Nugget's editorial office, The Nugget's artist was busy securing a sketch of the gentleman, which is here with presented.

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