

The Klondike Nugget

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THURSDAY, SEPT. 11, 1902.

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AMUSEMENTS. Auditorium Theatre - "The Senator." Standard Theatre - Vaudeville.

MR. McDONALD'S PETITION.

In giving favorable consideration to the petition of Alex. McDonald and others, designed to promote the interests of the mining industry, the Yukon council has taken a position which ultimately should work great good to the territory at large. Included in the document submitted by the petitioners are a number of the most important changes in existing regulations which by common consent of the community are regarded as imperative.

The suggestions made with reference to concessions are of special significance and if carried into effect would contribute materially toward lessening the evil effects which have ensued from the government's past policy in connection with hydraulic grants.

There is no escape from the fact that privileges granted to concessionaires under the regulations now in force have been sadly abused. With scarcely an exception the concessions thus far granted have been applied for in open violation of the express provisions of the law.

Ground which as a matter of common knowledge offers splendid inducements for operation by ordinary placer mining processes; is now covered by grants and thus debarred from entry by the individual miner. This condition in itself is sufficient to condemn the concession theory - but added to this is the even more convincing fact that the practice among the concessionaires is to hold their property for speculative purposes rather than to take measures for developing it.

The result has been that hundreds of acres of rich ground which should be giving employment to an army of laborers is tied up under grants the validity of which, to place it mildly, is a matter of open question.

The committee of the council having the matter in charge has recommended that the maximum area of concessions be reduced to one square mile of ground. That concessionaires be compelled to comply with all the requirements of the regulations or forfeit their rights. That no concessions be granted until inspection of the ground applied for has been made by a government engineer and that the recommendation of the commissioner and council first be secured.

The points covered are all of first importance and if adopted by the federal government will contribute materially toward the satisfactory adjustment of a most vexing problem.

Another important matter touched upon by the petition is the question of water supply. The suggestion made in that connection by the pe-

tioners is in direct line with a plan long advocated by the Nugget and hence is given the unqualified endorsement of this paper.

The future of placer mining is largely involved in the water problem. An abundant water supply furnished at the cheapest possible figure is absolutely necessary for the successful working of the large areas of low grade ground as yet practically untouched. If the privilege of furnishing water is handed out to individuals or companies it may be taken for granted that the cost to the consumer will be placed as high as possible. The miners need water but they cannot prosecute their work on a profitable basis if they are left at the mercy of a company holding an exclusive privilege.

The government could undertake no enterprise which would contribute more effectively toward the promotion of the mining industry than the establishment of a water supply system.

The limits of this article will not admit of reference to other important points contained in Mr. McDonald's petition, which in every particular is a sound, sensible document and well entitled to the favorable consideration given it by the territorial council.

The wave of enthusiasm which the News expected would accompany the announcement that Clarke had been nominated by the convention of Aug. 23, has failed entirely to materialize. On the contrary, an expression of disapproval and disgust has arisen from every section of the territory. The majority of self-respecting men among the opposition have dropped Joe in an unmistakable manner. It may now be said with absolute truth that not one of the leaders who have been prominent in the opposition movement for the past three years will take the platform in Clarke's behalf. Under such circumstances any one but a man of Clarke's calibre would draw out of the fight and save himself from humiliating defeat.

A quartz camp cannot be established in a day nor in fact within a year. The progress thus far made in demonstrating the existence of paying rock in the vicinity of Dawson has been satisfactory in every particular. Time is required to place the industry of quartz mining on a paying basis, but there is no longer doubt as to the ultimate outcome, notwithstanding predictions of pessimists to the contrary.

Just what gain has accrued to the territory as a result of the insults and abuse heaped upon Deputy Minister Smart by the News is not apparent. Mr. Smart very properly paid no attention to the blackguarding to which he was subjected by the News, justly estimating the views of that sheet at their correct value.

The Yukon public service is rapidly being systematized and reduced to perfect working order. A comparison of present methods with the manner in which the various offices were conducted in 1898 shows a most remarkable improvement.

Nearly everyone is willing to concede that Clarke is the worst dose that could be sent to Ottawa, but the great majority of people are of the opinion that a different sort of dose will accomplish better results.

There is just about as much reason to believe that Clarke will be elected as there is to imagine that the Yukon will remain open all winter.

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ONE OF THE MANY CORPSES IN THE JOHNSTOWN MINE.

The widow says to the mine owner: "Here he is, dead-killed working for you. Where were you when he was killed? Driving in your carriage, enjoying the difference between his earnings and his pay? Was one dollar and thirty cents per day too much to pay him for this risk? Was it too much to let him save something for us—who now have nothing? Is there nothing to arbitrate when the man who risks his life and gets nothing asks arbitration of the man who risks nothing and gets all?" - Chicago American.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Gist of the Bill Which Recently Passed

Divided Into Six Departments, Each of Which Has its Own Individual Head.

The ordinance respecting the public service of the Yukon territory which has passed all its stages and become a law is intended to systematize the work in the different departments of the government. By its provisions the commissioner is made the chief executive officer and head of each department of the public service. The service is made into six divisions which include the department of the territorial treasurer, department of the territorial secretary, the department of public works and buildings, the department of education, the license department, and the health department.

In the event of the absence of the head of any department through sickness or other physical disability, the senior officer or clerk assumes charge for the time being. The commissioner makes all the appointments of officers, clerks and servants upon the application of the head of the department in which the said applicant is to be employed. All employees receive such salaries as may be assigned to them by the commissioner and voted by the commissioner in council.

The department of the territorial treasurer shall be presided over by the comptroller of the Yukon territory who shall be the head of that department. It is his duty to keep the accounts of the territory and to also supervise all the books and records kept by the other departments. The fiscal year begins and ends on June 30 of each year. Expenditures will be made only by check on a chartered bank.

The department of the territorial secretary will be presided over by the territorial secretary who shall also be clerk to the Yukon council and keeper of the seal of the territory. He shall issue all letters patent, commissions and other documents under the seal and countersign the same, and all commissions under the seal shall run in his majesty's name. He shall also be the keeper of all the registers, archives and documents of the territory and shall be the registrar of the territory.

The department of public works and buildings shall be presided over by an officer who shall be called the superintendent of works. Other officers will be the inspector and accountant, engineer, and clerk of works. The duties of the superintendent of works will be to supervise all business that comes under the jurisdiction of the department, the initial expenditure upon new works, their maintenance and repair. He has no power to authorize any expenditure until a report has been submitted to the commissioner showing the necessity, the particular service it will render, the estimated cost, etc. He shall certify all bills and have the custody of all plans. The license department has two branches, the head of one of which

Dr. Catto's Platform

Dawson, Sept. 10th, 1902. Editor Nugget: - Dear Sir: - On the arrival of Deputy Minister Smart we were given to understand that he had come with an open mind, fully prepared to investigate personally the mining industry and generally to acquaint himself with Yukon affairs. Now that the same minister has departed we learn from the government organ that Mr. Smart returns to Ottawa a wiser man, intent on seeing the following reforms established. These are: The encouragement of quartz mining by the introduction of a stamp mill and diamond drill, to be worked under a competent government official, also an assay office. Further, that no more concessions would be granted for speculative purposes, as he believed in supporting the small miner, who was the back bone of the country.

Now, Mr. Editor, all these reforms were long ago advocated and published in his platform and electoral address by Dr. Catto, (independent candidate), together with others, such as transportation, not mentioned by Mr. Smart. The one reform of most vital importance was that relating to the existing rules and regulations involving the lien law controversy, which provides for the enactment of a permanent mineral code, and not merely a revision of the regulations, as recommended by Mr. Clarke, which would still leave us in the hands of the minister of the interior. This, the cardinal feature of Dr. Catto's platform, is entirely omitted by Mr. Smart. When, therefore, Mr. Ross, the government candidate appears, he will have nothing novel where-with to surprise the electors. He will simply endorse Dr. Catto's platform, excepting the main plank.

The question naturally arises: What need for a government candidate? It is clear that Mr. Smart in borrowing from Dr. Catto's platform is forestalling the framing of another by Mr. Ross. Logically, therefore, the supporters of the latter gentleman should vote for Dr. Catto. In other words, a coalition of the government and opposition forces is the natural issue.

This close unanimity will exemplify the spirit towards those reforms so urgently required.

A. C. FIELD. A Tragic Wedding. At a wedding breakfast at Paks, in Hungary, the best man was too tentative to the bride, with the result that the bridegroom's jealousy was excited. A fight between the two ensued, and the whole company present soon joined in the combat. The bridegroom, the best man, the father of the bride and her two brothers were killed, and sixteen others present were wounded, several seriously. The shock made the bride insane.

SUGGESTIONS APPROVED

Committee Reports Are Favorable

On the Communication of Alex. McDonald Directed to Mr. Smart.

The committee of the Yukon council to which was referred the communication of Alex. McDonald offering a number of valuable suggestions to Deputy Minister of the Interior Smart by which the industrial conditions of the territory, now pretty well stagnated, could be improved, submitted a report to the council last night which indicates the committee is in harmony with all the ideas presented by Mr. McDonald. The report of the committee is as follows: -

Your committee appointed to consider the petition of Alex. McDonald in respect to the encouragement to be given to hydraulic mining, quartz mining and mining by dredging, begs to suggest with reference to clause one (which recommends the reduction in area of all hydraulic concessions) that no hydraulic concession exceed one square mile in area and that every concession be forced to comply with the regulations governing hydraulic leases. That in the future no more extensions of time be granted for any reason. That no hydraulic concession be granted until the ground has been inspected and prospected by the government mining engineer and his certificate has been received that the ground is not suit-

ed for working by the ordinary placer methods. That no concession be granted without first being referred to the commissioner in council. "Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of your committee wishes to heartily endorse." Wilson was chairman of the committee which has arrived at such excellent conclusions. The clauses which are so unequivocally endorsed recommend the government providing drills for the purpose of testing ground for placer and hydraulic mining, charging a reasonable fee for the same; for river dredging provide Keystone drills and rent the same for testing river bottoms; for quartz and conglomerate mining provide drills for making tests, establish a stamp mill, assay office and mint, and control the sale of dynamite and other explosives and fix the minimum price of the same; remove the duty from mining machinery when the same can not be procured in Canada; build reservoirs in central locations and sell water to the miners.

The entire community will most heartily endorse the suggestions of Mr. McDonald and approve of the manner in which his communication was received by the council.

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