

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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DAWSON, Y. T., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1899

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IF THIS IS NOT "SPECIFIC" ENOUGH, WHAT IS?

An Employee of the Government Records a Fraction on Gold Hill.

ABSTRACT OF TITLE GIVEN WITHOUT MEASUREMENTS.

Difficulty Experienced in Obtaining Information Concerning It.

Questions Put in a Public Office Met With Stern Rebuff—Do the Later Developments Explain the Attempted Concealment?—Is There Any Wonder the People Stand Aghast at Such "Sensations?"—The Case of Thomas Reilly, Government Clerk.

It is only a few days, comparatively, since the Nugget, in cold, black type, stated that the name of a government employe appeared on stakes on one of the most prominent creeks in this Troandike territory, bearing a date, which the Nugget was amply prepared to prove by 7 living witnesses, five of whom are at present in this vicinity, was a date when the gentleman referred to was not outside the city of Dawson. That statement has never been denied.

The Nugget is charged with "sensationalism" in its vigorous attacks upon the many sets occurring in the past in official circles. If truth is sensational then this paper is sensational to that extent; but it should never be forgotten that those in official power or upon salary from the government, have furnished the opportunity and the matter which made the truth charged as being sensational, and the public will always note that it carefully digs up all the facts on any certain matter, forming link by link its complete chain of evidence, furnishes that to the public who are rightfully entitled to be informed upon all matters appertaining to the community, and the servants of the government, whoever or wherever they may be, and assumes, entirely, complete responsibility for it.

After the interview with Mr. Fawcett in the Nugget of Wednesday last, to whom it was submitted after publication and by him approved in its entirety, in which Mr. Fawcett distinctly stated that all of the employes of his office he did not appoint—and he is to be believed—yet, despite that fact, Mr. Fawcett should have controlled his force; if it was only for one moment, for the further the Nugget investigates it finds the ex-gold commissioner was surrounded by a set of employes, cutely termed (as a merry twinkle entered the eye of a present official of this territory) as "bright" men—and the word "bright" covers a mighty lot.

THE "BENCH CLAIM" WINDOW HAS ONE. At Grand Forks is located the office of Inspector of Mines, William Madden fills this important position, and Mr. Madden has had a lifetime experience as a miner and the brains and intelligence to have organized the most successful Miners' Protective Association in the British domain. We could speak at length of his good work in behalf of his fellow-workmen, as he delved in the bowels of the earth in Nova Scotia; but he has nothing to do with the matter in hand, further than the fact that he has in his office a clerk named Reilly.

The Nugget being aware that the latter gentleman had recorded a fractional claim recently on Gold Hill, and that is considered pretty rich territory, proceeded to look the matter up, particularly as the most positive instructions are given to the gold commissioner, that in lieu of the fact that alternate claims had not been reserved for the crown, all fractions were so to revert. To substantiate this a representative of this paper applied to Mr. E. C. Benkler, the new gold commissioner, and was so advised, while the subject-matter in hand, coming under Mr. Fawcett's administration, that gentleman was sought and the question verified. Continuing the search for information, the window in the gold commissioner's office marked "Bureau of Information," was approached and inquiring if Mr. Reilly had recorded a bench claim within the past three weeks, the newspaper man was politely referred to the adjoining window, identified by a pencil-lettered sign of "Bench Claims."

There was one gentleman ahead of the reporter. The hour was precisely 11 o'clock, a. m. Behind the open window on a high stool was perched a "clark" (commonly pronounced in English-speaking communities "clerk"), whose principally attractive feature might be a Scottish Rite ring, bearing the emblematic marks of the "Perfection." "Princes of Jerusa-

lem," "Rose Croix" and Thirty-Second Degrees. Aside from this, to those who would care to notice the aforesaid "clark" with a princely salary, would be the Sphinx-like countenance denoting probably the same intelligence as his Egyptian prototypes in that land of the Nile. While remaining patiently at the window, a gentleman approached the door marked "No Admittance," knocked and was admitted, called to the side of, and entered into a whispered conversation with the above-noted ring-bedecked, Sphinx-featured "clark," about the distance the latter desired to obtain on some creek, the visitor having access to the desk, drawers, plans and maps on file at this desk. This brought the hour around to 11:45 when no business with those outside being transacted, the "bench claim clark," was politely asked if a little information could be obtained. "No," gruffly responded this enormously important "clark" "wait your turn."

Overlaid completely in the presence of this Pasha of the U. C.'s office, and in admiration of his Chesterfieldian manners and flow of language, what could the poor newspaper scribe do but meekly make a grand "salaam" and await the pleasure of this mighty two-by-four hired man. Finally the "inside" visitor being dismissed, and after the majestic bench claim "clark" had slowly completed the business on hand, the scribe ventured to overcome the silence so effectively administered to him by the "clark," and asked A. F. Hurdman in quaking fear, "Was there a bench claim on Gold Hill recorded lately by Thomas Reilly?" "Yes," came the effusive reply of the elegant gentleman hired to attend to public business. "Will you tell me whether it was a full claim or a 'fraction' was the next question put. "Oh, what's the use standing round here talking," was the Poo Bah's reply as he uneasily turned on his "high chair,"—a singularly appropriate piece of furniture for this "clark"—and, by the way, isn't it a most fortunate thing that Mr. Hurdman was born, for in all the population of Canada, Manitoba, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory, he was the only person that the power appointing him to his "clarkship" could find to fill this mighty important position. What a narrow escape the world had.

Unable to obtain any information at this point, for what reason we know not, the abstract office was next sought and, paying the fee of \$2.50, the following document was obtained:

MINING RECORDER'S OFFICE.
MINING DIVISION OF DAWSON, January 5, 1899.
TROANDIKE.
The following is a complete and correct abstract of title to Bench Placer Mining Claim on Gold Hill, bounded southerly by Olsen, down hill toward Bonanza by Johnson and Ross, northerly by Short and Oslander and up hill by Dudley, in the Troandike Mining Division of the Yukon Mining District. Claim was recorded 10th Dec., '98, by Thomas Reilly, under certificate No. 10989. Certified correct.
[SIGNED] E. D. BOLTON,
Mining Recorder.

With the stamp of the Department of the Interior thereon.

Being handed this document, the polite young man in the abstract office was asked: "Can you not give me the size of this claim?" "No, sir," he replied; "we haven't got it." "Where can I obtain it, then?" was next asked. He said, "At the Bench Claim window, I

DR. LAVILLE'S
SCURVY PREVENTIVE
AND CURE.
KELLY & CO.
First Avenue.

think." Why this "clark" Hurdman should withhold the information, we know not; neither does the Nugget care. For the information of the public the Nugget here gives it, all the same. It is pentagon in shape, being five sided, with dimensions as follows: 197 feet long one side, 108 feet on the other, one end 119 feet, the other 101 feet from corner to a point, thence 100 feet to the next corner. It will thus be seen that on Gold Hill where claims are 100 x 100 feet, containing 10,000 square feet, this particular piece of ground contains more than twice the area of the regular claims, or, in other words, you can stake off a claim 100 x 100 within the lines, and then have several fractions outside the square claim and recorded as virgin territory in rich ground by a government employe, a clerk in the office of Inspector of Mines, close by the claim. Of course there is nothing singular in this. Not at all. It only causes people to stop and think. It would be interesting to know whether this is considered under the gold commissioner as a claim or a fraction. May we politely ask for such information from the gold commissioner, as, evidently it is wrong to approach his hired man at the Bench Claim window. The Nugget will have more to say concerning this claim before it gets through.

In justice to Mr. S. H. Martin, in charge of the Bureau of Information it may pleasantly be stated that his work in that trying position is performed with courtesy and dispatch and information of a public character furnished as fully as possible. The gentleman transacting business privately, and admitted behind the partition to the august presence of his imperial "nibs" Hurdman was Mr. Jephson, whom, the Nugget was informed, was not connected with the office.

Habeas Corpus.
Attorneys Lisle and Sparling have applied for a writ of Habeas Corpus in the case of Frank Nantuck, one of the three Indians condemned to die for murder. The writ is asked for on the grounds that when Frank and the other Indians were sentenced in the supreme court of the Northwest Territory on June 13th the court had already been legislated out of existence three days before and was really then the Yukon territorial court. There is a question of jurisdiction here which Judge Dugas has taken under advisement and which may result in a new trial. Of course, the case of the other Indians will go with the test case. Another point is the question whether Judge Dugas, being of another court can, relieve prisoners condemned by Judge McGuire.

Death in West Dawson.
The death of Mr. James E. Bryant of Hartford, Conn., on last Thursday evening, was the culmination of a long protracted illness, which, despite the best of care and medical skill, proved fatal. The deceased was a man just past 30 and leaves a wife in his far away home to mourn his death. Dr. Hamilton was the attending physician.

LOCAL BREVITIES.
A company of 16 soldiers arrived in Dawson on Monday evening from Selkirk in charge of Sergeant Ward.

At the Tivoli masquerade on Friday night Lucille carried off the first prize of \$50 and Eva \$4. Claims the second of \$25. Sam Jones was judged to be the most comic and received the third prize of \$15.

Messrs. Pattullo and Ridley, barristers and advocates, have removed their offices from the A. C. Co.'s building to the Adecock building, opposite the Opera House saloon. This firm is rapidly building up a very extensive practice.

Mr. K. T. Elviage is a gentleman who professes the possession of a process whereby he can locate the pay streak on a creek without prospecting, simply making use of surface indications. Should such prove to be the case his services will be greatly in demand.

Miss Lucy Pratt, assisted by Mrs. Balderson received callers on New Year's day during the afternoon and evening. Miss Pratt's comfortable little cabin was tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens and presented a most homelike appearance. Some 35 gentlemen friends paid their respects to the ladies during the day.

Public opinion says Ester Duffy was the best dressed lady at the crowded masquerade ball at the Monte Carlo last Friday night but the first prize of a \$40 silk waist was awarded to "Madge." Maud West was awarded the second prize of \$20 and "Babe" Wallace and Sam Moore were the prize waiters, carrying off two bottles of champagne and two \$5 gold pieces.

Information Wanted.
NORTH WEST MOUNTED DISTRICT OFFICE.
POLICE.
EDITOR KLONDIKE NUGGET:
Dear Sir—Enquiry is made after a man named George Bowman, of Edinburgh, Scotland, who started for the Klondike a year ago last summer. He was formerly superintendent of the defunct Premier Cycle Manufacturing Co., of Bridgeport, Conn., and started out with some companions among whom were the following: William O'Connell, Ed. T. Calhoun, and the story is told by a partner of Calhoun's, J. C. Sachs.

Bowman is supposed to have played out in the soft snow on the Chilkoot Pass, and the leader of the party, name not given, went back to him, and with the remark: "You're no good," blew out his brains. Another account gives the scene of the murder at Calhoun's and Sachs' cabin, a short distance from Dawson.

If any of your readers know anything of the above incident or of any of the above parties, I would request them to communicate with me at once.
Thanking you beforehand for space, I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
S. B. STEELE,
Commanding N. W. M. P.
Dawson, Y. T., 7. 1. '99.

The Dining Room service of the Regina Club Hotel is such as to invite you back again.

REINDEER ARRIVE ON THE YUKON.

135 Swift Travellers Brought in by the U. S. Government.

Mr. H. E. Redmyer Heads the Expedition, Which Has Been Seven Months on the March—Circle City the Objective Point.

The advance guard of the great American reindeer expedition went out last winter for the relief of Americans in Dawson arrived in the city on Friday. The reindeer are not however laden with supplies but are being driven down to the American side for the use of the United States government in the transportation of mail etc. The expedition is in charge of Hedley E. Redmyer who is assisted by six trained men, five of whom are Laplanders and one a Scandinavian.

Redmyer started upon his trip from Camp Pleasant, 45 miles from Haines Mission, on the 5th of May last. At that time the herd numbered 164 deer. Four dogs were taken along to assist in driving the animals and rounding them up at night. Redmyer's instructions were to follow the Dalton trail to Arkell and thence to cross over the mountains to the headwaters of the Tanana and follow that stream down to its mouth. After travelling a distance of 40 miles, the country became so rough that it was found necessary to abandon a large portion of the equipment consisting, principally of harness and toboggans. Of the latter, 80 were left behind. Two weeks were then spent in allowing the deer to rest when the journey was continued, this time the outfit of the party being packed upon the backs of the deer. After another 30 miles Redmyer became convinced that the original course could not be followed owing to the nature of the country and in consequence headed in a more northerly direction. About this time the deer began shedding and it was found necessary to remove the packs from their backs and another delay resulted. The expedition then turned toward Lisack river but finding the country impassable Redmyer determined to return to the Dalton trail, which he crossed in order to be able to follow the ridge of the mountains in the warm weather. He then headed for Lake Dugard de Ash, which was reached about September 1st. From there he again returned to the Dalton trail which was followed a distance of 110 miles, the reindeer being loaded with packs. Having reached a small lake not as yet named on the maps a halt was made and and toboggans and harness for the animals were made. On Nov. 2nd a fresh start was made, the herd now numbering 131 deer.

A course was then taken in the direction of the headwaters of White River. A large lake, unnamed, was discovered and the party was delayed a week waiting for the ice to form in order to enable them to cross. When the mountains were reached it was found impossible to cross owing to the numerous creeks and abruptness of the hills and the course was again altered, this time for a lower point on the White river, which stream was struck on Nov. 20. For a distance of 275 miles they followed the course of the river, which Redmyer says he is fully convinced is the crookiest stream in the world.

On December 17th the Yukon was finally reached at the mouth of White river. A stop of eight days was made at that point to enable the deer to rest and then the march was continued down to the Indian river where the herd now numbering 135 animals is located. A few of the reindeer were lost through broken legs and by choking.

As soon as practicable Redmyer will again continue the march with Circle City as the objective point. He expects to make 25 miles a day down the Yukon.

He thinks the reindeer will assist very materially in solving the question of communication on the Yukon in the winter time. They are fast travellers and can get over a rough country at a surprisingly rapid rate, pulling from 200 to 500 pounds to the animal. They are a hardy animal and subsist entirely on moss, no feed having to be carried for them at all.

The Laplanders who came with Redmyer say that there is a greater amount of moss in the Yukon valley than in their own country, and the question of subsistence for the reindeer is already solved by nature. On an average a distance of 35 miles can be made with them in seven hours travel.

What disposition will be made of the animals when their destination is reached, Redmyer does not know. He does not himself intend to continue in charge of them after reaching Circle City.

This is in all probability one of the most difficult trips ever attempted into this country. When it is considered that for almost the entire distance the course lay through an utterly unexplored territory, and the herd was brought through with such a comparatively small herd, the credit to which the men who have accomplished the feat are entitled will be better appreciated and understood.

Mr. Redmyer is a small man but strong and wiry and just suited for the task which he undertook. The U. S. government is to be congratulated upon its choice of a man for so difficult an undertaking.

Hershberg, the Seattle clothier, will sell you clothing at exceedingly low prices.