

river on a saw log and get away. The men who formed the meeting were helpless; they could not find anyone who would pay, and they knew that as the Mounted Police were in there their decision would fall to the ground, and they had to admit themselves beaten.

These and other instances knocked them out, but perhaps the next case I will tell, will show you more plainly what was tried. In the first place, after the discovery of Bonanza, the miners all staked claims, and of course some who failed to obtain locations were disappointed, and a meeting was held, at which it was decided to resurvey the claims, stating they were too long. They cut a rope, which it was alleged was fifty feet long, and sent men up to re-measure the claims. They cut down some of the claims to 400 feet, to 350 feet, and even 300 feet, putting in new claims, which they located themselves, it being, of course, desirable for their own interests if they could manage it, to secure the intervening space between claims like 16 below, which were known to be rich. The result was confusion, the original owners were shoved off their workings, no one knows where. As the authorities took no action, some of the men came to me. I said I had no authority, and told them to go to the agent. They said they had been to him, and he would not do anything, so at last I said if they would get up a petition and ask me to survey the claims, I would undertake to do it. I drew up the petition for them, and enough of each side signed to enable me to feel justified in going to work. I surveyed the claims and threw out those interpolated claims altogether, much to the disgust of the miners who had called the meeting. Some made dire threats, and said they were going to have my survey thrown out, but when I got up to where they were, I found they were very lamb-like. Finally a number waited upon me to see if they could not put in a protest against my decision to Ottawa. I said I would help them all I could to enter that protest, and would draw up the petition and send it to Ottawa for them. I asked them why they didn't go and see the agent, to which they replied, they knew he would do just as I said, and I replied that if they went to Ottawa they would find themselves even in a worse position. After we had talked a while, I finally said: "Gentlemen, the worst feature of this case is the position in which you are yourselves." They asked me what I meant, so I explained that they had rendered themselves liable to punishment for a misdemeanor, the penalty for which was a fine of \$300 or imprisonment for three months or so, and that they were also indictable for perjury, which I explained to them was, by Canadian law, a serious crime, which rendered them liable to fourteen years.

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