

## OPENING OF DOMINION BENCHES

## Rules of the Gold Commissioner Relative Thereto.

"Jumping" Will Be Prevented as Much as Possible. Number of Rights a Man has in the Northwest Territory.

The opening up for location of the Dominion creek hill claims on and after July 11 is regarded in mining circles as going to occasion the biggest stampede and rush of the season. The hill claims in question are those lying between upper discovery and No. 130 below the lower discovery. The country embraced contains a good many claims and has been withheld from prospecting and location since November 15 last year. Despite the proclamation to this effect there has been a large amount of prospecting done and many men are perfectly aware of what ground they want and have a good idea what is to be found upon it. Gold Commissioner Fawcett has decided that this information has been gained illegally and that therefore these men should not be allowed to profit by knowledge gleaned from the ground itself after it had been declared closed. Some men have squatted on forbidden claims in the hope of being the first to get in their stakes when the ground should be opened to the public. Many already have in their stakes and will seek to record the instant the ground is opened.

The gold commissioner is not at all pleased with the prospective rush and has adopted certain regulations with a view, first, to showing the strictest impartiality; secondly, to prevent any undue advantage being taken by the men who have already been prospecting and staking; and thirdly to prevent conflicting claims in several men wanting to record the same piece of ground. The commissioner will not allow the recording of any claims which have not been located by miners who have obtained permits from the gold commissioner's office to prospect the ground on and after July 11. Thus, if a man afterwards presents a claim, for record, the books are first referred to and it is readily seen whether such man is the real prospector of the ground or merely a "jumper" who is endeavoring to "head off" someone else.

The thousands of strangers in the district naturally look to the local paper for all information relative to the gold commissioner's office and have besieged the Nugget office with questions on every matter from the cutting of a stick of firewood to the size of the various claims in the district. The number of claims which one man can stake in the district is something about which there is a deal of misinformation. A man can stake and record but one claim in the "Dawson" district, so it behooves a man to make sure he has found something before staking. The recording of four claims, however, does not necessarily end his career of usefulness in the North West Territory nor drive him over to the American side. The Stewart and Pelly rivers with all their tributaries have been set apart as a separate district and a man may there again exercise his right to four claims. The two Salmon rivers have been set apart as a district with four more rights to each and every individual. Lastly, but not least, the Hootalinqua district embraces the Hootalinqua river, Teslin lake and all the leading waterways and tributaries with four more rights of record, thus giving each miner in the Yukon District the right of sixteen claims by right of location, also as many more as he chooses or has the money to buy.

## A Stampede to Pelly.

There has been quite a stampede up Little Salmon and over the divide to the Pelly river. The stampede was occasioned by an Indian who agreed to pilot a party of prospectors to where he had seen some white men digging large amounts of the precious yellow metal. The story soon leaked out, and the party of ten with the pilot were followed by six or eight hundred more people. Nothing has, so far, been learned from returning miners from the Pelly of any particularly large find; but it is yet too soon to look for it.

Many of the people who have arrived this spring will remember the shaft being sunk by Frenchmen about a mile up Big Salmon. The hole is now down thirty-eight feet, still frozen and dry but without uncovering bed-rock, and with about eight cents to the pan in the dirt. Up White river there has also been quite a rush. On the tributary a forty-foot shaft failed to find bed-rock or prospects of gold. On the other tributaries and main stream the prospects are such as to keep the crowd at work.

## The Iowa Leaves.

The steamboat Iowa, built at Garaboo Crossing left Dawson Wednesday evening for the American side. Her machinery was completely overhauled before starting and her sawmill engine traded to the Arctic Sawmill for a pair of good marine engines. The Ladue Sawmill bought the sawmill outfit on the Iowa and her party of twenty-one men have decided to devote themselves to prospecting on American territory.

## The Swimming Baths.

Dawson's metropolitan pretensions have been recently strengthened by the addition of a fresh water natatorium. The dimensions of the tank are 40 feet by 18 feet and the depth of water ranges from 3 to 8 feet. The water is taken from the Klondike and hence is pure and clean. It is changed every 24 hours and is heated to a comfortable degree of warmth by steam.

## "I DON'T BELIEVE IT."

That's the familiar saying; But Dr. Graham Now Says "That's So."

Prevarication is a disease which is believed by old-timers to start its ravages on a fellow's veracity as soon as he lands at Dyea and to increase in virulence in inverse ratio, as he nears Dawson. However that may be, it is an undoubted fact that a man gets more and more skeptical as he advances along the trail, until his mind reaches such a point of blank unbelief that he would give almost anything for a guardian who would relieve him of responsibility and tell him what he might believe or disbelieve in safety. To such a pass had come Dr. Graham, who for a few days has been a Dawsonite. Late on the evening of July 1st he was seen sitting on a stump on Dawson's main thoroughfare, and pondering, like Poe's raven. He wanted to know the day of the week, and someone had told him it was Friday night. Whether to believe or disbelieve his informant was a momentous question. His heart was heavy and sad at the depravity of human nature which made such circumspection necessary. As he idly swung his right knee in a pool of moss water at his feet, he spied an officer approaching, dressed in the brown canvas suit and cloak of the N. W. T. "Officer, would you kindly inform me whether this is Thursday or Saturday night?"

The policeman replied politely that it was Friday night, June 1st, and then moved onward.

Graham's heart fell. His own positive conviction was that it was Saturday, and then again when you can't trust a policeman, who can you trust? Ah! Another officer from the other direction. In his eagerness the doctor stood up ankle deep in the water-hole afore-mentioned.

"Officer, would you kindly inform me whether this is Thursday or Saturday night?"

The policeman gazed steadily at the doctor for one full minute, and then, with a laconic "Friday, sir," moved onward.

Graham sat down disconsolately and commenced a long meditation on the duplicity of all humanity, and policemen, in particular. Lifting his feet gingerly from the black water beneath him, he absent-mindedly smashed a mosquito on the side of his neck and gazed with unseeing Chee-chee-ko eyes into the distance.

Ah! once again an officer; this time walking swiftly and erect. That, surely, was the man to tell the truth, if ever there was one. "Officer, would you kindly inform me," he began, when the officer spoke up quickly and sharply: "To-night is Friday, and don't ask me again. That makes three times in ten minutes. I don't know but what I ought to take you in for safe keeping, anyhow."

The disconcerted doctor dropped his hat in the mud, in his hurry to get up, and with great vehemence assured him that he would believe him if he said it was Monday or every day in the week in one. The doctor bowed himself back to his tent and removing his footwear, retired to rest with many upliftings of the heart that he was not as other men, and could tell the truth once a week anyway.

## Secret Orders Booming.

Indications point to very active work in secret society circles before the winter sets in. The number of lodge men in Dawson is very large and steps toward organization have been taken during the past two weeks. The fact that cases of sickness and absolute destitution have been brought to public notice has hastened the work of organizing the different lodges in order that unfortunate and deserving members might be properly cared for. On July 2 a meeting of Odd Fellows was held in Pioneer Hall. About 200 members representing nearly as many lodges were present and from every standpoint the meeting was an unqualified success. It was decided at that meeting that immediate action must be taken to afford relief to members of the order who might stand in need thereof. To this end a movement was placed on foot to secure a building of some sort in conjunction with the orders and the sum of \$200 was subscribed on the spot for the prosecution of the work.

Col. O. V. Davis, of Spokane, 32nd degree Mason, has interested himself largely in the work of bringing the members of the different orders together. Through his efforts a register was placed in the N. A. T. Co.'s store and all Masons invited to enter their names therein. Up to date some 500 names have been secured. Col. Davis expresses himself as being greatly pleased with the outlook and states that a Masonic body will soon be instituted under the Manitoba Jurisdiction.

Steps will be taken at an early date to organize the K. of P.'s and members of the G. A. R. and a public bureau of information under the direction of the lodges may be looked for in the near future. Altogether, appearances indicate a very active fall and winter in secret order circles.

## Deaths on the Route.

Recent arrivals report the untimely death on Lake Lebarge of the Rev. W. J. Lyon, an Episcopal minister, of Gloucester, Eng., who was to take the mission at Selkirk. A Japanese cook, who was with him at the time, was also drowned. The pair were driven ashore by a gale and were forced to lighten their large boat by throwing out some of their outfit. They made the landing and decided to take their Peterborough canoe and save such of the stuff they could see still floating on the water. The canoe was overturned and its smooth sides and bottom presenting no hand holds to cling to, they soon sank out of sight. Mr. Lyon is a gentleman well known and liked in the North

West Territory, he having until recently occupied the vicarage of Meposohn.

Hugh Ross, who was with a party of five, including the Rev. Dr. McDonald, all of Inverness, Scotland, was drowned on Thirty-mile last week, by being wrecked on that same rock which has wrecked over two hundred boats this year. The reverend gentleman was left clinging to the upturned boat, while all the others excepting Ross made their way to shore on the floating wreckage. Owing to the speed of the current, for two hours and a half every effort to rescue the doctor failed; but at last another boat came so near being wrecked that its stern grazed the rock and the distressed divine made a jump for the rudder.

## Gold on the American Side.

The accounts being brought in of the gold being found on the Alaskan streams are very gratifying. The prospects on Seventy-mile and Eagle creek are exceptionally good, with some of the claims down to pay dirt and producing well.

Al. Mayo is also showing very coarse gold from Munook, where \$85,000 was washed up from eighty feet of ground this spring. While creek, the first stream up the Munook, is giving prospects of 15 cents to the pan.

All the streams have been stampeded; but it is no worse than elsewhere, and M. B. Crane is authority for the statement that supplies are very reasonable. Bacon is 18 cents and flour \$3.50 per sack.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the officer commanding the Northwest Mounted Police, at Dawson, has been requested by me to carry out the following regulations:

1. All logs, timber, lumber, cordwood and other obstructions must at once be cleared from the front street.
2. Campers occupying the streets and private property must move their tents elsewhere. At present the streets are blocked, private property is neglected, and the sanitary condition of the town is threatened.
3. All campers can secure settlers' rights on the plateau above Dawson at the upper end of the Bonanza trail. There is also ample room for the campers on the flats opposite the city.

Dated at Dawson City, June 17, 1898.

MORROW WALSH, Commissioner of the Yukon.

## NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the hearing of disputes with regard to the ownership of the undermentioned mining claims on Dominion Territory is referred with, and the sanitary condition of the town is threatened.

All claims can secure settlers' rights on the plateau above Dawson at the upper end of the Bonanza trail. There is also ample room for the campers on the flats opposite the city.

Dated at Dawson City, June 17, 1898.

MORROW WALSH, Commissioner of the Yukon.

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