

**TYPICAL KLONDIKE MINING CURIO.**

**The Clark Claim Threatened With Undignified Extinction.**

**It Was Staked Without Reference to a Base Line, and Now Lies Prone Under Four of Its Neighbors.**

A claim contest of unusual interest and embodying some legal points, the decision of which will have an important bearing on the mining interests of the Klondike, was instituted before Gold Commissioner Senkler on Wednesday. An especially edifying feature of the case is the fact that, should the decision go to the defendants, one of Bonanza's best known claims, namely, Clark's, will be almost entirely absorbed by other claims.

The proceedings in the case developed the following facts: On July 8, 1898, John E. Clark staked the lower half, right limit, of 86 below on Bonanza, and three days later succeeded in recording it. There had been no survey of the creek at that point, and, having no lines to guide him, Mr. Clark laid out his claim 1,000 feet "straight up the hill," as he described it, and put in four stakes. Later on Mr. Clark appears to have acquired a fear that the staking might prove faulty in some way, for he went to the then gold commissioner, Thomas Fawcett, and described the manner of his staking. Fawcett, Mr. Clark testified, told him that, as he was the first one to locate at that point, he would be allowed to hold the ground he had staked.

Other stakers followed, and all of them imitated Mr. Clark's style of staking. But in December last the government had the creek surveyed there and a base line established. As a result of this, and following mining regulation No. 13, the four neighboring claims were switched abruptly to the right and thrown squarely across the Clark claim.

Then the trouble began. By diligent prospecting Clark had located a rich paystreak on the claim, and sold the property to C. B. McDowell for \$15,000. The new owner naturally held to the property he had bought, and when Johnston & Willison, owners of the first claim below, notified him that he was on their ground he declined to recognize their claim. Gold Commissioner Senkler was then advised of the situation, and he ordered McDowell to cease work. As a result McDowell has brought the present action in the form of a protest against this order.

The case will hinge principally on the construction of mining regulation No. 13, which reads as follows: "Parallel lines drawn from each end of the base line at right angles thereto and running to the summit of the hill (providing the distance does not exceed 1,000 feet) shall constitute the end boundaries of a claim."

Several other persons are interested in the claim, including E. D. Bolton, A. H. Hawkins, E. L. Daniels, John Y. Ostrander and George Dudley.

**Steamboats Racing.**

When the Eldorado pulled out for White Horse rapids on Saturday afternoon last and was followed a short time after by the steamer Canadian, there was not an onlooker but knew instinctively that the circumstance would develop into a trial of speed. Both boats were known to be good ones and, as each had its champions, not a little money was staked on the outcome. Tom Chisholm is known to have \$500 up on the final outcome, and H. M. Henning and Joseph Boyle made a wager of \$100 on the result of the first 24 hours, while numerous minor bets are known to have been made.

As a result, every piece of information concerning the progress and relative positions of the boats was snapped up with avidity, and it also became evident that the people on the boats were equally interested, as messages were sent back to the agents by the officers.

Finally, on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. H. B. Strickland reached town on a barge and, as quickly as possible, reported to the interested ones. He said that he was aboard the Eldorado and that the boat reached Selkirk at 5:30 Monday afternoon, with the Canadian about an hour and a half behind. This would indicate that the boats are about holding their own with one another, and that the race is not yet won.

This news only added to the interest felt in the contest, and later information is awaited with impatience.

**How It Happened.**

The unexpected abandonment at the eleventh hour of the boxing contest scheduled for Tuesday night last afforded provocation for much speculation on the part of the disappointed ones. All sorts of reasons were advanced by the unknowing, and the situation was in no wise improved by an interchange of amenities by the principals. Reportorial inquiry developed the fact that on the evening of the contest Mr. Peterson of the Opera House, at which place the event was to be pulled off, was informed by a friend that Rooney and McKenzie had made a secret agreement by which the first named was to be put out in the fourth round and the gate receipts evenly divided. Satisfying himself that there was some ground for the report, Mr. Peterson called the two men together and told them he would not tolerate anything of the kind in his place; that the fight had to be on its merits or it would not be pulled off at all. He did not get a satisfactory answer, and so the contest was abandoned in order that good faith might be kept with the public.

Rooney denies the report of a deal and puts the blame for the affair upon McKenzie. He

claims to have told Mr. Peterson that McKenzie, knowing he had not put himself in condition for a fight, had demanded a guarantee that he would not be knocked out, or if he was he should have all the gate receipts, on the strength of which Rooney advised Mr. Peterson to declare the fight off. Rooney further says the fact that he has \$1200 on deposit at one of the banks and did not make any bets on the result of the fight is evidence that there was no arrangement for his knock-out in the fourth or any other round.

Rooney has his ticket purchased for a return to the outside, expecting to leave on Monday or Tuesday, but says he is willing to meet McKenzie on Saturday night and give him all the gate receipts if he does not put him to sleep in twenty rounds.

**New Organization.**

The cooks and waiters of Dawson met a few nights ago and effected the organization of a union or club, with the following named officers: President, James M. Brown; vice president, William Misner; financial and recording secretary, Thomas F. O'Malley; inside guard, Gus Dolph; treasurer, W. H. Ging; trustees, J. Ellis, Frank Edwards, Alex. Peterson.

The organization was named the Cooks and Waiters Culinary Club of Dawson, and in an address to the public its aims and objects are described as follows: To unite all cooks and waiters into an association for the purpose of assisting one another in distress, to provide for their widows and orphans, care for the sick and bury the dead. They ask the business men of the city for their co-operation, and promise to show their appreciation in courteous and faithful service.

**The Cleanup on Sulphur and Dominion.**

The various claim workers on Sulphur creek have been sorely tried with their cleanups. First, the creek did not open up as early as the others; then came a rush of high water, and many dams were washed out, and then, just as everything was progressing nicely, comes the present freshet and away went the dams. No. 6 below has lost three, and No. 11 and a great many others have lost two.

The cleanup, as a whole, is not satisfactory; but the fault is not with the creek, but the laymen and owners, who greatly overestimated their dumps, in many cases figuring double the actual cleanup.

On Dominion the claims are showing up better, although not up to fullest expectation. Between discoveries the work is almost completed, but above the glaciers have interfered, and the work is behind. There are many individual cleanups that run into large figures, and some that are very disappointing.

**Dawson Brick.**

Tom Chisholm is to be further distinguished by being the builder of the first house in Dawson with brick chimneys. The brick were made by Mr. Docking, a practical engineer of long experience, who says that there is no reason why good, serviceable brick should not be made here as well as anywhere. Judge Dugas, it will be remembered, fathered a brick-making project some weeks ago, but finally abandoned it.

**Was Someone Drowned?**

The belief is current that an unknown man was drowned in the Yukon at a point opposite the postoffice on Tuesday afternoon. Several people have been seen who say they heard calls for help at about half past five o'clock, and, looking across the way, one of them saw an empty canoe going down stream. The canoe was also seen by the police, who secured it, but they were unable to learn anything concerning the identity of its last occupant.

**Bryan's Klondike Admirers.**

William J. Bryan, America's foremost silver champion, has lately acknowledged the receipt of a handsome nugget chain for himself and a Yukon pin for his wife from a number of Klondike friends. Accompanying the presents was an expression of good will and esteem from the donors, which included J. A. Peterson, J. A. Chute, Falcon Jostin, R. D. Mackison, Jack Smith, Max Endleman, R. R. Lowe, O. W. Ashby, Jack McQuesten, Alex. McDonald, Billy Chappell, W. C. Lear, T. W. Ashby, James Mackison, C. F. Chapman, Sam McGowan, Louis Pond, Harry McKown, Charlie Meadows, J. D. Frapp and Thomas D. Drew.

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**Going Home?**

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CHAS. H. NORRIS, Manager Yukon Division

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