

COMPARISONS, THEY SAY, ARE ODISIOUS

How the Yukon Differ From Those in Other Camps.

Review of the Situation Here, Coupled With Methods Pursued in British Columbia. The Whole Argument is in Favor of the Latter.

THE NUGGET: I herewith request space in your valuable columns for the publication of the following comparison between conditions as they exist in this territory and what I have observed in other camps:

This valuable portion of the Dominion has resources both abundant and rich enough, and a population, cosmopolitan and intelligent, embracing in numbers sufficient for the enjoyment of all the rights, privileges, freedom and favorable conditions elsewhere existing under British institutions (unfortunately many of these have been, and are still ignored or overlooked owing to the incompetency and want of experience of subordinate officials sent here to exercise a one-man power.)

This mining territory from its inception to the present time has been woefully neglected by the LIBERAL (save the mark) government at Ottawa, the policy pursued being rather to agitate it up from settlement and the development of its vast resources and throw it back to its long-neglected primeval state.

In order to fully appreciate the status, a comparison may be made between the imperial policy of Great Britain in regard to her colonies on this continent before confederation took place and that now apparently in operation, particularly in this Yukon territory.

Take, for example, the province of British Columbia which was well-governed as a Crown colony, and the seeds then sown are bearing the same good fruits as a province of the Dominion under responsible government. Many here will remember, especially the old British Columbia miners, the time that the Hudson Bay Co.'s charter expired, and the whole of the Dominion, including British Columbia, passed to the crown.

Just at the nick of time, when the late Sir James Douglas was both governor of the Hudson Bay Co. and the colony, gold was discovered on Fraser river and as the population of the colony at that time consisted only of Hudson Bay employes and a few settlers (the rush to the diggings naturally came from California and the other Pacific states, consequently the "chee charkos" were, for the most part, American citizens (and good ones they were). After suffering the usual hardships and mishaps they arrived on the Fraser and developed good diggings on its several bars. As might have been expected there shortly arose some troubles with the natives and some warfare took place (some said at the time that the white men shot the Indians as they would crows) but this was something like the monstrous yarns we hear of in the Yukon today; however, Governor Douglas, who was in Victoria, heard of this and he forthwith visited the Fraser and exhorted the miners to be friendly and treat the Indians properly (they being, no doubt, taken by surprise at the new order of things) and then proceeded to swear in one of their number as a stipendiary magistrate and gold commissioner, after which everything went on peacefully.

In course of time some of the adventurers went inland, leaving the Fraser and about 400 miles distant discovered "Cariboo," then another rush took place, and a good camp was struck. The miners then framed their mineral code of laws which received the assent of the government, which laws are still in operation with few amendments.

Gold commissioners, were appointed, each having a recorder and a constable, and a supreme court justice visited the camp once a year to hold an assize and general goal delivery *sine prius*, bankruptcy, etc.

The taxation was moderate and equitable and devoted wholly to expenditure in the district for building roads, trails, bridges, etc. A royalty was collected for a short time but being very obnoxious and detrimental to the development of the camp it was soon abolished. A gold escort was in existence for a short time and this was eventually disbanded.

There were no mounted police, no troops in the country excepting two companies of Royal Sappers and miners under Lieut.-Col. Moody, who was stationed at New Westminster, directing the building of the military road from the Fraser to Cariboo.

The expense of this great work was borne by the imperial government, as was any deficiency that might arise from the revenue of the mining district: n providing other roads, trails, etc.

All of the foregoing conditions in regard to the laws, revenue, etc., still exist in British Columbia, under confederation, and all those who lived under them have been well satisfied.

With regard to the population of British Columbia in the early days, it was almost entirely composed of American citizens, very few coming from the mother country and those at long intervals. British Columbia has, therefore, to thank the Americans with their usual enterprise and pluck, for the present prosperity which now exists and which has made British Columbia the foremost and most valuable province in the Dominion, at the same time taking into consideration the extra intelligence of its people and their consequent progressiveness in their western life as compared with the slow-going old fashioned, inexperienced folk in the east.

It was a trite saying of Horace Greeley's "Go

west, my boy! go west!" and although in old times the "wise men" were in the east, yet, in this year, A. D. 1898, the close of this glorious century of progress it will be found that most of the wise men are in the west especially on the Pacific coast, because we generally get more light.

In the completion of the comparison attention is now drawn to the Yukon territory and a cursory review may be taken of its condition, good and bad.

Those who have had ocular experience and who are possessed of more or less prescience must be assured that this mining region (leaving aside the theory of the great geologist, Baron Von Humboldt) will prove the greatest in British possessions. The same argument applies to the district of Alaska (somewhat in the same long neglected condition as the North West territories) in the possession of the United States. When the Imperial government (which has still something to say in the Dominion) let alone the government at Ottawa, arrives at a more perfect knowledge of the importance of the Yukon valley then, misgovernment will come to an end and the territory will progress so rapidly and produce such wealth that some of the indebtedness of Canada to Great Britain will be decreased for at least better interest paid; the Canadian Pacific Railway, may be able to pay dividends and the farmers and manufacturers will have a great and ready money market for their products, which are now being imported by our more enterprising American cousins. What would this camp be today but for the old pioneers, mostly American? What benefits have we received from Canada? "None!" Every Britisher who is here will say "None!" no competition in trade; no investment of Canadian capital, etc.; no government expedition. A despotic one-man government until lately administered by an inferior Canadian official and understrappers lic chooses to appoint.

Concurrent with non-existence of a properly formed mineral code, the mode of taxation is impolitic, inequitable and extortionate. There are many modes of taxation that might be legitimately collected without complaint and made to supersede the absurd and obnoxious ones now in vogue, for example, the payment of license for trading in all its branches, according to amount of sale values, licenses for all hotels, saloons, theatres, dance halls, etc.

At the present time few are taxed but the producers and they in excess; why are the non-producers not taxed? As taxation now exists it has the effect of depopulating the country and closing it up for future development.

The miner from his start at the coast is taxed for the goods he is able to pack for a season's prospecting and the clothes he wears, and for the lumber to build his boat or raft. Was ever such a thing heard of anywhere else? These are the called customs duties. When he gets to the mines he has to take out his license which purports to grant all the privileges of a free miner shortly after, which very often after finding a claim he is obliged to find that instead of his being free, he is under the arbitrary control of a sapient (?) gold commissioner and his rules and regulations, and his claims or some portion of it is taken away from him.

Then comes the record fee and the boodle fees, the stumpage on timber fees, the royalty of 10 per cent on his hard earnings.

Then on account of concessions granted to monopolists, such as land grabbers, tramway, bridges and ferry concessionaires, he has to pay taxes indirectly for high-priced land to build his cabin, tolls at bridge and tramway, etc., when moving from place to place.

He pays high prices for interior articles of diet and clothing because the camp is over-estimated by a few Bonanza kings and is fair game for all they think they can bring to earth.

The enormous revenue collected which should be expended in a great measure in the country until it becomes more passable is being squandered in keeping a large establishment (who ever saw such a one in any mining camp?)

- It kills the goose which lays the golden eggs.
A commissioner and council and staff.
A gold commissioner and staff. (rotten)
A collector of customs and staff.
A timber agent and staff. (unnecessary)
A land surveyor and staff. (unnecessary)
A resident supreme judge and staff.
A detachment of militia!!! (unnecessary)
A detachment of N. W. M. P.
The only serviceable portion of this great official body is the N. W. M. P. They are incapable of filling any of the above positions: being of good birth, education and training, they are most ably commanded and their duties embrace all the branches of the military service, viz. cavalry, artillery, sappers and miners, infantry and police: This was the most distinguished corps both in the Riel rebellion and at her majesty's jubilee, and are capable of assisting the necessary civil officers in addition to their police duties, and they should be retained, their pay being substantially increased.

With the exception of a visiting judge a gold commissioner being also a stipendiary magistrate, a recorder with necessary deputies, a collector of customs and a postmaster are sufficient.

All the other unnecessary offices might be abolished. Both the land laws and timber laws are inapplicable here.

The squatter's right should be sufficient and no monopolies of townsites or timber rights should be granted as there are no agricultural tracts nor timber lands of any value except for mining uses.

Neither is it proper to survey the claims on the several mining creeks: let the old custom obtain where the miner pre-empt his claim with his stakes as the boundaries. There is therefore no use for surveyors or timber agents.

If the laws of British Columbia with a few (Continued on 11th Page)

TO PLEAD THE KLONDIKE'S CAUSE.

Mr. Aulay Morrison, M. P., Leaves Dawson for the Outside.

He Has Investigated Reasons for Complaints - The "Nugget" Fight Endorsed - Reserved Claims Should Be Opened.

Mr. Aulay Morrison, of New Westminster, B. C., and member of Parliament for that province, left Dawson for the outside by dog team the latter part of last week. Mr. Morrison is hastening his homeward return in order to be present at the opening of parliament. Since his arrival in Dawson he has spent the greater portion of his time in company with Mr. John Patterson, a friend of many years, in an investigation of affairs as they exist in the Klondike country. Before his departure he authorized Mr. Patterson to give to the NUGGET his views of what he had seen and heard during his sojourn in this district. He was unable personally to do so owing to pressure of time in making preparations for his departure.

Concerning their travels and experiences Mr. Patterson spoke as follows: "Mr. Morrison and myself spent several weeks in making the rounds of the different creeks. It was his desire to get to the bottom of matters here and in consequence he studied the question, not from information that could be secured in Dawson but from what he actually saw and heard by actual contact with the men who are working upon the various creeks. Our trip covered a tramp over Bonanza, Eldorado, Quartz, Little Blanche, Toronto, Sulphur and back to Dawson by way of Dominion and Sulphur.

"Mr. Morrison as a member of the party in power regretted very much to find so many cases of mal-administration of the mining regulations by representatives of the government, in all our travels and in conversation with scores of men, hard working miners for the most part, we failed to find a single man who could speak a good word for the gold commissioner or his subordinates. The general feeling seemed to prevail over all the creeks that Mr. Fawcett's administration has proven a blight to the development of the country. Hundreds of men discouraged and disheartened have left for the outside or for the lower country, driven out by the conviction that an honest man had no show against the manipulations of schemers.

"The entire workings of the administration of the laws seem to have been directed against the efforts of the honest prospector and in favor of the speculator. Mr. Morrison considers it most disgraceful that so many willing men are compelled to accept lays on claims instead of being able to work ground, which they can call their own. The policy of the government in reserving for the crown all fractions and the alternate blocks of 10 claims - he considers as being preposterous and suicidal. If the government attempts to work these claims they will cost more than they will produce. The only solution for the matter is that the government throw these claims open for re-staking.

"Again, after looking the situation over, carefully and thoroughly he is of the opinion that the royalty tax is unjust and unequal and should be immediately removed. It is a burden which the government is unwise in placing upon the people.

"Mr. Morrison objects very strenuously to the gold commissioner's decision whereby certain claims on Dominion creek are made 1000 feet in width. It is his belief that these claims should be set out into four parts and in this way three more men who perhaps are working lays or pulling their sleds over the ice in order to get out of the country could secure claims of their own.

"Mr. Morrison endorsed the NUGGET for the policy it has pursued and believes it has fought a good and consistent fight for a better order of affairs in the Yukon country.

He goes to the outside primed with accurate and reliable information, gained at first hand and his sympathies are entirely with the hard working miner who at risk of life and property has come into this country to assist in its development.

"The miners of the Klondike may rest assured that his voice will be heard and his influence felt on their behalf at the coming session of parliament."

Entire Outfit Stolen.

Louis Nichols and his brother returned to Dawson last week to find their cabin entered and their winter's outfit stolen. The men had been working for the past three weeks on a bench claim opposite No. 17 above on Bonanza.

Two weeks ago a friend came in to town and found everything at the cabin O. K. The brothers having consumed their stock of grub came in on Thanksgiving to replenish from the cabin. They found the staples wrenched out and a clean-up made of nearly all their edibles. Among other articles they lost 7 sacks of flour, 150 lbs of bacon, supplies for two men of sugar, milk, rice, beans, fruit and candles. The cabin is situated on Lane street, well back toward the hill. The loss will run up to about \$300. The matter has been reported to the police, but up to date no clue to the thieves has been found. Three other cabins in the same neighborhood were robbed recently of smaller amounts.

About all that was left in the Nichols' cabin was a can of milk and a small piece of bacon.

A Good Trip for 50 Cents.

The Mine Exchange Map of the Klondike Gold Fields, should be in the hands of every miner. For sale at the NUGGET office. Price 50 cents.

A minstrel show in aid of St. Mary's to be given on Christmas night at the Tivoli.

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