

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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DAWSON, Y. T., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1899

PRICE 25 CENTS

ANOTHER FRACTION

Staked and Recorded by Under Officials.

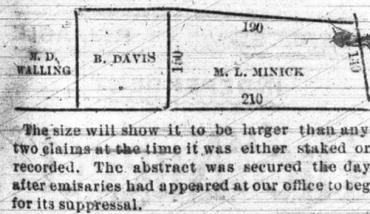
HURDMAN IS VERY KIND TO A FELLOW CLERK.

Recorded Directly Contrary to the Gold Commissioner's Orders.

Subordinates Worked Their own Sweet Will While the Ex-Gold Commissioner was Helpless—How the Clerks Combined to Disobey Orders—Nobody Outside the Official Ranks Allowed to Record Fractions—Transferred the Day After Recording, Probably for Security's Sake.

The records of the gold commissioner's office are as full of suspicion as an egg is full of meat. At \$2.50 per record one can now investigate within certain limits. A stroll on Gold Hill brought to the Nugget man's attention an odd shaped piece of ground, bearing the name of M. L. Minick. As an employe in the office was known to bear that name, and as the recording of claims by employes is a somewhat toothsome morsel, it was decided to invest the sum of \$2.50 on the matter, and find out if M. L. Minick was the same as the Mrs. M. L. Minick in the office. This turned out to be the case. To show the way things are still conducted in the gold commissioner's office it may be interesting to tell that though Mrs. Minick has left the service there is an underground communication somewhere quicker and surer than a telephone with all the Bell and Graham patents in existence. The Nugget applied for the abstract, as stated, of Mr. Fortune, and also inquired of a neighboring claim, and then proceeded about his business. Within one hour the representative of one of those persons was at our office, with a long and cloudy face protesting against publicity, and in a short time was followed by a representative of the second principal bent upon the same errand. It will be seen that the underground telephone from the office to the people with suspicious sized claims is in effective operation.

The piece of ground is about the sixth tier, upon an irregularly staked piece of ground opposite the left limit of No. 3 Eldorado. The recorded size of the claim shows it to be an irregular rectangle with unequal sides.



The size will show it to be larger than any two claims at the time it was either staked or recorded. The abstract was secured the day after emsaries had appeared at our office to beg for its suppression.

The following is a true and correct abstract of title to the undermentioned property, as taken from the records in this office: Being bench placer mining claim on Gold Hill opposite the left limit of numbers 3 and 4 Eldorado Creek, bounded up hill by Sechrist's claim, up stream by Davis claim, and down stream partly by Goodrich claim, in the Troandik Mining Division in the Dawson District. Recorded by Mrs. M. L. Minick on October 5, 1898; certificate number, 11,481. October 6, 1898. Mrs. M. L. Minick sold whole of this claim to N. C. Richards; certificate number, 15,168. Certified correct.

E. D. Bolton, Mining Recorder. The abstract was read by the scribe, and seen to be worthless at a glance. "Here! This thing is no good to me. If I was buying the claim what good would an abstract be which did not show whether I was getting a square foot or a square mile? I want the size and I want the date it was staked."

Clerk Fortune became instantly intensely interested in a paper he was regarding at the table. Fortune's clerk dropped his eyes and shook his head deprecatingly. The scribe continued: "But I've got to have the sizes. Of course I know them, but I've got to find out what she applied for, even if you don't show it on the record." Fortune's clerk gently shook his head and shrugged his shoulders. "That's the orders."

He was answered in the negative, and smiled skeptically at the man of pencils. After an animated conversation he went below and verified the order and gave the information desired. The size of the claim is as given in the diagram, and the date of staking was August 27th.

There was one thing elicited in the conversation of vital interest to all. The regulations require that applications shall all be made on "Form II." This is usually done in the case of outsiders, but according to Fortune's clerk, with the silent approval of Clerk Fortune, those inside the office only make verbal application for what they wanted, so that sometimes it could not be told what had been applied for, one foot or 10,000. All that was necessary was for one employe to turn round from her typewriter to another employe on a high stool, say a few words and secure a title. It would be interesting to know just how many common miners and prospectors applied for that particular piece of ground; between August 27th and October 5th, while Hurdman was holding it for his fellow employe.

How did Hurdman come to record for her a piece of ground two or three times larger than the claims given any outsider at the same time? How was it they were able to keep the figures back when wanted on an abstract? What was the object of hiding the date of staking? What's the meaning of all this secrecy? Didn't Hurdman know what sized piece of ground he was allowed to give to applicants? Was there any consideration in this recording of large pieces of the government's domain to a fellow employe without a written application? The lady on Wednesday last was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Mr. N. C. Richards, the same gentleman to whom the claim was so hurriedly transferred the day after it was recorded. What was the occasion of the hurry to transfer when nearly two months had elapsed between the time of staking and recording? Was there any desire on anybody's part to hide anything by introducing the "innocent purchaser" into any prospective suit for recovery? How does it happen that when the abstract was asked for the person supposedly owning the ground was apparently notified nearly 24 hours before the abstract was turned over to the applicant? Was this done with any desire to give everyone time to seek cover if cover was advisable? If everything was O. K. in the staking and recording of the claim, why this alarm upon the simple asking for an abstract? What was the reason of this subterranean messenger service? The following questions and many others instantly occur to one upon hearing of the case and are respectfully submitted to the honorable governor of our territory as leading questions when the case comes up before him for investigation. He is invited to observe that a clerk in a subordinate office, on October 5th, during the incumbency of himself, Mr. Wm. Ogilvie, as Yukon commissioner, did in some manner acquire a piece of ground in size contrary to the laws then in operation or in existence at this present time. We ask him to take notice that at the date of recording, October 5th, by Gold Commissioner Thomas Fawcett's rulings there were two whole claims and a fraction in the ground recorded by Hurdman for a fellow employe. That this was in direct violation of the orders from Fawcett to his subordinates. That for such offenses as these by uncontrolled and uncontrollable clerks, Mr. Fawcett has been made to unjustly suffer the scorn and hate of an outraged people. His excellency is asked to take note of these things and when Mr. Hurdman shall appear before him to so regulate his investigation that to the public domain may be restored most of the land unjustly taken from hardy and honest prospectors by the machination of the ring.

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

LOCAL BREVITIES.

No. 33 above on Hunker is beginning to turn out some very good pay. Da'sy DeAvara had \$300 in gold nuggets stolen from her room a few evenings ago while she was in the theatre. An enjoyable evening was spent by a large number of ladies and gentlemen at the skating rink, which was reopened Saturday night.

The common estimate of Dawson building contractors is that not less than \$200,000 will be spent in Dawson next summer in buildings and improvements.

Mr. Russell L. Bates was the author of the poem "The Big Stampede," which appeared in a recent issue of this paper. Inadvertently Mr. Bates' name was omitted.

The success of the last "lady's evening" at the Dawson Club has decided the management to repeat the evenings every fortnight commencing with this evening.

L. M. Enright and Wm. R. McCarty, laymen on No. 33 above on Hunker, are getting as high as an ounce and a half in a half "in picked pans." The claim is owned by D. Sagier.

Jimmy Carroll, for Moss the lightweight who knocked out "Kid" Williams some few weeks ago, wishes to challenge the winner of the Agnew-Bracelet contest, or falling in that would like to see the color of any other light-weight's money.

The postoffice department was on the quiver to get the last batch of Canadian mail distributed and did not leave the building that night until it was all completed. On applying in the morning the crowd was astonished to find the mail ready for them.

Chas. Peterson was killed in a drift on 50 below on Bonanza one day last week by the caving in of loose dirt. It was about 3:15 in the morning and he descended the shaft before the heat of the night's fire had escaped. The covering hanging dirt had not had time to re-freeze and broke away, catching him in a stooping posture and smashing his skull.

There has been a change in the house heating apparatus of the steam fire engine. A heater was used which came with the engine and it burned coke costing about \$10 per day. A return coil, the suggestion of Mr. Stingle, now runs to the big wood heater and the engine is maintained at the boiling heat without an additional fire, saving the city some \$300 per month.

Charles A. Dunn, engaged at work on No. 26 above on Eldorado, while cutting shavings with a draw knife, preparatory to putting in his fire for the night in the drift he was working, made a slip with the knife, and cut a deep gash just below the knee cap which penetrated to the bone. The man's nerve is illustrated by his climbing a 24-foot ladder while bleeding profusely, without a murmur, and slitting on arrival at the windlass man's feet above. Temporary relief was given by bandages and applications until a surgeon was summoned from the Forke. Mr. Dunn is reported now as doing well.

Complaints are being made that men on the various creeks are taking up bogus quartz claims for the purpose of adding the timber therefor to speculation. These timber claimers are entitled to not only use the timber on their own claims for mining purposes, but also what timber may be standing on vacant government ground adjoining after their own is gone. It is supposed that the speculators expect to reap a good thing from the timber on their 15-acre claims when the placer miners shall have burned what little timber stands on their own patch. Timber inspectors have been dispatched up the Klondike to investigate the matter thoroughly and report.

The past few days has kept a Nugget representative at the gold commissioner's office rather regularly. While there a conversation was entered into with a man waiting for an opportunity to see the gold commissioner, who had been waiting in line for four days. He was becoming much distressed as he had left his boy and a partner out on a distant discovery while he came in and transacted his business. He left them there for the day's provisions expecting to have been back before they were quite out. Quizzed by the man of news it developed that his business was such as might have been transacted with a rifle had he not been afraid for his life to impart his information to them for fear he would lose all. He would transact his business, direct with Mr. Seukler or no one. It looks as if it will be with no one for the gold commissioner is simply over head and heels in engrossing cares since the developments of the last few days.

POLICE COURT ITEMS.

P. Hanson, mauling and extra vociferous, \$20 and costs.

J. Hickman was ordered to pay \$22 back wages to J. Martin.

L. Severson was directed to pay \$30 to D. Labrand and \$50 to W. Bonner.

John Murray forgot he was not on his own native heath and was discovered shooting off a gun on Sunday morning. Consequence \$5 and costs.

Mrs. Vincent was sued severally by four men for wages due. Hunter was allowed \$38, Kennedy got \$38, Barnes got \$38 and Terry got an allowance of \$100.

Reeves, the man who wished to give to Martin a third interest in all claims which he secured through information secured from that same inquiry clerk was bound over to the next assize.

Martin Anderson, who was captured at White Horse while making his way out of the country with the proceeds of the sale of his partner's caches, has been held over for trial at the first assize.

G. Wolf carefully stretched his stomach over a too great measure of liquid happiness and collapsed. Not having \$20 left over he will one record over a stretch of trail three miles long. Made it in thirty-five minutes; former time was forty-five minutes. The trip was 45 miles and 15 over the mountains, a cut off. I made the whole in one hour and twenty-five minutes, heating the schick record twenty-eight minutes. The team I have now are warm numbers, and the passengers are getting in better shape, and are both pleased with the trip. I think next winter you will be safe in figuring on regular winter trips to the coast.

News from "Nugget" Team. Mr. Min brought in a letter from Mr. Watrous, from which the following extracts are taken: LITTLE SALMON RIVER, Jan. 14, 1899. Manager Nugget Express—Tomorrow we sleep at Big Salmon River, and four days from today we will be on Lehigh. Today I made a record over a stretch of trail three miles long. Made it in thirty-five minutes; former time was forty-five minutes. The trip was 45 miles and 15 over the mountains, a cut off. I made the whole in one hour and twenty-five minutes, heating the schick record twenty-eight minutes. The team I have now are warm numbers, and the passengers are getting in better shape, and are both pleased with the trip. I think next winter you will be safe in figuring on regular winter trips to the coast.

HELD ON A CHARGE OF PERJURY.

Kentucky Creek Suddenly Becomes the Observed of All the Observed.

The Old Method of Recording Before Staking is Objected to—Bolton Not Quite Sure Whether he Always Reads the Oath.

The celebrated perjury cases came up before Magistrate Starnes Tuesday, and when adjourned at five p. m. some cases had been disposed of, all but one being committed, and that one held up for trial in the Territorial Court, while the eleven had to apply to Judge Dugas for permission to give bail. It will be remembered that on September 29th, last year, three men appeared quietly in town, and after a few days recorded a new discovery on a stream they called Kentucky creek, emptying into Nine-mile creek, below Dawson, on the Yukon. There was, of course, a stampede, but as usual the men who went to stake came back to mourn, for the ground had been already staked in some mysterious manner by persons believed to have been in Dawson all the time. The result was a confab in the commissioner's office—afterwards all dutifully denied in the government organ, as usual. It was a long time coming to a head, and the arrest of the three discoverers was kept as profound a secret as possible. At last one of them "squeaked." Wm. Duffield made an affidavit that most of the staking had been done by either himself or a partner. At the preliminary hearing he was called onto the stand and confessed to each individual staking as it came up. E. D. Bolton, recorder, completed the evidence in most cases by testifying to swearing the prisoners that they had staked the claims in question. Corporal Richardson had been down to Kentucky creek, and had chopped slabs off the flattened trees, and had the unbroken slabs in court, bearing the handwriting and signatures purporting to be that of the prisoners.

The first case called was Fred H. Jones. He was represented by Attorney De Journal.

Wm. Duffield testified to discovering the creek with his partners. Had come to Dawson September 29th. Jones and Bolton had met the discoverers at the Fairview hotel that night, and Bolton had asked questions. Had made a map, and Bolton said, "Come around in the morning at ten minutes to nine, and I will record for you." Jones gave the money to pay for the recording. His partner's names were Dagne and Duteine. Had confessed to the authorities.

George Dutche corroborated the last witness. Recognized the envelope shown him bearing names as one passed him by Jones before returning to the creek. Yes, he identified the names.

Corporal Richards had accompanied witness Duffield to Kentucky creek, returning last Saturday. Duffield had pointed out the stakes he had written and identified the writing as his own. The corporal identified the stakes in court. Jones was committed and will have to get an order from Judge Dugas before he can be allowed out on bail.

The case of Thos. Boldman, was similar. Duffield had staked No. 5 above in his name and Bolton testified to recording it and administering the oath. Francis Downer and L. Backhold testified to seeing prisoner in Klondike City September 29th and 30th, he having recorded as staking on the 29th. Committed without bail unless ordered as before.

Francis Downer recorded on the 7th of October and Duffield testified to seeing Dagne write the filing on the stake. Identified the stakes in court.

A. H. Bowman testified to being in Klondike City on the 29th of September, the date of the supposed staking. Corporal Richardson identified the stakes.

Dr. W. M. Bruner's case was similar. Bolton testified to recording No. 8 above for him on October 10th. Bolton weakened this time and would not swear positively to remembering reading the oath to him. Acknowledged that sometimes he told parties to read. Always administered the oath afterwards. Duffield testified to staking for him. Held for trial.

A. H. Bowman was next. Bolton testified to recording No. 2 above for him and swearing as usual. Downer said Bowman was at Kentucky creek on the 29th day of the staking. Duffield identified the stakes in court as those he had put in. Richardson knew them for those he had brought from the creek. Prisoner admitted he had not staked the claim and was committed for trial.

Ernest I. Foster was committed on about the same testimony as Bowman. Said he did not know that he took an oath in recording. Committed.

Edgar B. Brown recorded No. 11 below. Bolton testified it might have been one of those cases in which he let them read the oath themselves. Duffield owned up to the writing and Corporal Richardson identified the stakes. Committed for trial.

Sam Kirk recorded No. 9 above. Bolton testified it was possible he had forgotten to administer the oath though he had no reason to think he had. The name was on the list so Duffield said he had staked for him. Kirk's bonds were continued to the superior court.

The court was adjourned until 10 o'clock Wednesday. No reference was made at the examination, but report has it that the administering of oaths by Mr. Bolton will be attacked.