

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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ROYALTY MAY BE REDUCED

New Mining Regulations for the Yukon Territory.

Security of Title to Be Guaranteed—Fines Instead of Forfeiture—Big Changes Pending.

Mr. Fred C. Wade, crown prosecutor for the Yukon territory, arrived in Dawson from Ottawa on Friday last, being accompanied by his wife and children from Winnipeg. Having attained the dignity of sour-doughhood in the territory, and having in his law practice run against many of the incongruities of the present mining regulations, Mr. Wade found himself in a position to offer many suggestions to the law-makers at Ottawa. Mr. Wade was seen by The Nugget man with a multitude of questions. "How about the royalty, the lapsing of licenses and grants, the insecurity of title, claim jumping and the rest of the burning questions of the hour?" was asked by the inquisitive news gatherer. Mr. Wade replied:

"The minister of the interior is giving the closest study to all these questions and has drafted orders in council intended to remedy once and for all a great many of the difficulties referred to, particularly those with reference to representation and renewal of licenses and certificates.

"I found the minister regretting exceedingly that owing to the abnormal length of the session and accumulation of business in all parts of Canada, he was quite unable to visit the Klondike this summer, as it is his desire when he does come to remain long enough to thoroughly investigate everything concerning the prosperity of the country, and to do everything possible for its welfare. He is even enthusiastic enough that he talked seriously of coming over the ice this winter, and will in any event reach here next season."

Concerning the newly drafted regulations now before the governor in council at Ottawa, Mr. Wade said:

"Security of title is the central idea of the proposed amendments. As you are aware, the title to mining claims were previously threatened in a great many ways.

"First, by a lapse of a free miner's license. If the regulations were strictly interpreted this would deprive the miner of his property or shift the ownership to a partner.

"Secondly, a neglect of a free miner to renew his lease would seriously endanger his title.

"Thirdly, failure to represent for three months in the year was sometimes fatal.

"Fourthly, the rimrock test by which boundaries of creek and bench claims were determined, was full of danger for the simple reason that rimrock was often buried beneath muck and gravel, and boundaries sometimes cannot be ascertained until the creek claim holder has removed considerable of the dirt of the bench claim holder, or vice versa.

"Fifthly, it has always been possible for the second staker of a claim to get a certificate of grant for the claim and become the owner of the record by placing in a sworn application stating that he was the first. On the advent of the first staker at the office he found that he had been anticipated and could only regain his claim by means of a contest in the gold commissioner's office.

"Sixthly, there is no provision for the issue of patents to a free-miner for a placer claim at any time, no matter how long he may have represented and worked his property.

All these circumstances tended to render title to some extent uncertain. Hitherto the gold commissioner has managed to get over most of these difficulties by interpreting the regulations very liberally in favor of the bona fide mine owner and prospector, and there was very little to fear under his administration.

The minister of the interior fully realized all the difficulties presented by the regulations so far as security of title was concerned, and has determined to take every step possible to make the titles to placer claims in the Yukon absolutely certain.

"The imposition of a fine upon a miner neglecting to renew his license is all that is necessary to prevent a repetition of the neglect. This is the system in British Columbia and will no doubt be adopted upon the Yukon. Second, a provision that the holder of a certificate of grant is absolutely entitled to a renewal will prevent the lapse of title as in the second enumeration.

The provision that on failure to represent for three months the claim will revert to the crown, instead of being open to relocation will absolutely do away with 'jumping.'

"If stakers who apply to record a claim are required to wait for a stated number of days after staking before the issue of a certificate of grant, he will be unable to anticipate a prior staker.

"The adoption of conventional boundaries for creek placer claims instead of the rimrock test will also do away with a great amount of uncertainty.

"The issue of a patent after a certain number of years' working will also add stability of title.

"A regulation giving placer claim owners the option of paying to the government an annual flat fee of say \$200 will be very convenient to many claim owners, and especially to capitalists and others required by their business engagements to be absent from the country for a certain part of the year, and who are at the same time anxious to invest in the Klondike. It would also effect an immense saving in very many cases. Doubtless very many who have heretofore spent large amounts of money every year in a perfunctory way in representing their claims without really developing their properties, or benefiting the public, will much prefer paying a flat rate to the government in the same way as under the existing quartz regulations. Should the revenue from this source prove considerable it might prove an argument for the reduction of the royalty.

"As I have stated, the minister of the interior is giving the closest study to all these questions and when I left had already drafted orders in council intended to remedy the evils complained of. He is also giving a great deal of attention to the hydraulic regulations, recognizing fully that hydraulic mining has a great future before it on the Yukon. The chances are that the hydraulic regulations will be fully considered and be improved on in many ways this winter."

"Mr. Wade," interjected the scribe, when can we expect the new placer claim regulations to go into effect?"

"I can't say. They were under discussion when I left."

"In alternate block reservation, Mr. Wade, the government already retains one-half the discovered country to itself. The reverting of lapsed claims to the government has been tried before. Will it not take another 25 per cent of the ground away from the prospector, making a total of 75 per cent to the government and only 25 per cent to the prospector?"

"Not necessarily. A provision for the immediate auctioning off of the ground will provide against that."

"Is Mr. Clement returning to the territory?"

"Yes."

"In his old position on the council as legal advisor?"

"Yes. His salary has been advanced to \$5000 per annum."

"To compensate him for withdrawing from private practice, is it not?"

"Yes, that is the reason. He has also been designated to administer the estates of intestates."

Thanking Mr. Wade for courteously granting such a lengthy interview upon subjects so vitally interesting to our readers, The Nugget man withdrew.

The Right Medium.

Mr. Nels Peterson, manager of the Yukon Flyer Transportation Co., is among the number of business men in Dawson who understand and appreciate the value of advertising in The Nugget, Dawson's pioneer and popular paper. In a communication addressed to The Nugget, Mr. Peterson speaks in part as follows:

We desire to take advantage of this opportunity to thank the management of your valuable paper for the many courtesies extended to us through its columns, and feel that ample returns have been made us for monies expended in advertising. Yours truly,
NELS PETERSON & CO.

Beer, ale, porter and wines served to table guests on Sunday at Cafe Royal.

A VICTIM OF FORTY-MILE

Henry Hornung Drowned in Its Treacherous Waters.

With Several Companions He Was Thrown Into the River, But All Excepting Himself Escaped.

W. M. Johnson, who has just returned from a trip to Jack Wade creek, reports the drowning of Henry Hornung in the waters of Forty-mile river on the 27th of September.

A party of six men, composed of C. Miller, Dick Styne, Chas. Mulchey, Geo. Craig and the two men above mentioned embarked together in a boat at a point about 40 miles above the mouth of Forty-mile river.

At a point about two miles below Canyon house a series of swift rapids occur, somewhat similar to the Five Fingers, in the Lewes river. Almost midway in the stream and directly in the track of the boat was a half submerged rock.

Despite the efforts of the men at the oars they were unable to avoid the rock and the bow struck it full head on. All the occupants were hurled into the icy water, which at that point was from six to eight feet deep. By dint of swimming and hard scrambling all the parties but Hornung managed to reach the shore at a point 150 yards below where the accident occurred.

Hornung, however, was unable to swim, and, after a desperate struggle, was forced to succumb to the icy waters.

The next day the body was recovered and taken to Sam Patch place, where decent burial was given it.

Deceased came to the Yukon from Tacoma, having lived in the suburb of that city known as Old Town. His effects were taken in charge by the American officials.

The Bal Masque.

The reopening of Nigger Jim's Pavilion on Thursday night was the occasion of much hilarity and amusement, intensified by the masking of some 25 of the most popular dancing girls. There were handsome costumes and homey ones; expensive ones and costumes of cheapest calico. There were nymphs, fairies and butterflies; clowns, geisha girls and negresses with mouths from ear to ear. Some were handsome, some were grave and some were gay. Some were intent upon fun; others were intent upon winning the valuable prizes offered by Jim. But whatever the character, they were besieged with partners, while the crowd of interested onlookers were packed like sardines in a box.

The harmless revelry was maintained at its height until near morning, when the prizes were distributed, the judges being George Appel, Fred Teay and Al Wessel.

Florence Lamar was awarded a handsome solid gold Yukon pin for being the best dressed lady in the bunch. Jack Carter and Mamie Hight were awarded the first prizes for being the best waltzers. The lady's present was a handsome lady's gold hunting case Waltham watch. The gentleman got a valuable fob with the buckle studded over entirely with small nuggets.

Pearl Hall and Sam Moore were awarded the second waltzing prize, consisting of a large ornamented cake.

The most comical character was Freda Muloff who, with black face and automatic mouth presented an atrocious

spectacle. The prize was a bottle of wine. Pearl Hall, as a geisha girl, was awarded the prize for the best sustained character. The costume was dainty and striking and was carried out in detail. There were several very elegant costumes, and altogether the affair was the most remarkable of the season. It was designed to mark the reopening of the Pavilion all shining with new paint and paper, and presenting an appearance of coziness and a charm very attractive to the wayfarers of the Klondike.

TO WALK TO PARIS.

Or Work His Way by Way of Dawson, as He Pleases.

L. N. Jacques is in Dawson on an odd mission. He is from Atlin and has duly recorded papers showing that he and Andy Garlarns have each wagered their mining property, one to the other, that Jacques could not start out of there and make a round trip by way of Dawson and Paris arriving back again in Atlin by March, 1900. The deeds are all duly made out subject to the foregoing conditions, Jacques to start without a penny and to ride or walk or swim, as he sees fit, but to make his own way as best he can. To a Nugget man he expressed the utmost confidence in his ability to win the property, which is well located and of increasing value.

The certificate of record to this strange compact is signed by the gold commissioner and the agreements are duly attested and sealed by Notaries Chas. Aubin, M. Graham and McLeod, all of Atlin.

Why He Suicided.

August Trabold, the owner of 58 above on Sulphur and numerous other valuable properties, was in town Monday to give the police the particulars of Alexander Lind, the man who shot himself in his cabin on Thursday night.

Lind was a single man of Scandinavian origin and about 35 years old. He worked for Trabold on 58 above on Sulphur for 43 days at \$10 per day. Water drove the men out of their shafts and Lind then had nothing to do unless he accepted a lay on Gold Run offered by Trabold. He didn't accept. His pay was not due until November, but Trabold advanced him first three ounces and afterwards another six ounces when he came to town. Lind was much discouraged when water drove him out of the drifts of 58 and remarked that life was not worth living as he was being compelled to live it. With his six ounces he tried to tempt dame fortune in town by patronizing the game. He lost. He had already provided for the fatal act by advising his friends that if anything happened to him the balance due him was to be forwarded to certain relatives in Sweden. In conformity with his wishes the \$280 still due him, less burial expenses will be mailed to his people.

A Handsome Picture.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. McConnell have departed for the outside. Mrs. McConnell took with her a handsome life size oil painting of herself painted by Mr. Richard Davenport. The work was well done and has the added merit of being a purely home production. To add still more to its Klondike distinctiveness, Mrs. McConnell took out with her a large sack of \$5000 in gold from her Gold Hill claim, which is to be used in decorating a massive wide frame to be prepared outside.

Colder Than Dawson.

At the wood pile abreast of Ainslee creek it was seven degrees below on Sunday morning and eight degrees below on Monday morning by the best make of standard thermometer.

Pocket memo books, counter blotters, time books, pens, pencils, ink, mucilage, paper fasteners, letter paper and writing tablets for sale at Nugget office.

For space in warehouse apply to Nugget Express office, in the Aurora.

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