

# The Klondike Nugget

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SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1898

## WHY WON'T THE COMMISSIONER DO IT?

Things seem to be at fever heat. The air is full of murmurings, like distant thunder before an approaching storm. Business is growing stagnant, ambition is becoming dormant and energy is relaxing—as though the palsied hand of fever had been spread over the whole community.

On every hand you hear the royalty, crown claims, the withdrawal of creeks from prospecting, the small claims, and the reverting of claims to the crown being discussed, and the regulations roundly abused. The older miners haven't the courage to go ahead, and the newcomers, awed by the doleful aspect of their more experienced friends, hesitate to undertake that which they know is backing an almost sure losing game; tension is wrought to the highest pitch, and something must be done. Work will be suspended, practically, for the winter unless the royalty is cut off, and there will be no great amount of actual prospecting unless the reservation of claims is abolished. Some Australian miners have likened the present situation to that which existed in Australia previous to and which led up to the Eureka stockade riots, in 1857. That riot is a part of English history and need not be outlined here. Suffice to say that the miners had been burdened with first one unjust regulation and then another until they arose in their might and drove every mining official from the neighborhood, with the result that there was a speedy adjustment of differences and the miners accorded just rights.

Only last month in West Australia, the Premier, who had added one burdensome regulation on top another, was deliberately mobbed by the miners, and after investigation the miners were pardoned, a new Premier installed and a new code of mining regulations established that was satisfactory to all.

We decry riots, or anything approaching one, and have no hesitancy in saying there will be nothing of the sort attempted or thought of here—although we are reliably informed that at one time last winter it came very nearly to pass. Our Australian friends merely cited the riots in their country to show how little abuse the subjects of Great Britain will stand there as compared with all they have to put up with here.

It is stated that the Administrator of the Yukon district has the power to set aside any and all of these obnoxious regulations.

Does he hold that power?

If he does hold that power, why does he not come to the relief of the camp and with one stroke of his pen wipe off this blight?

Royalties have been knocked off "where to collect would be a positive injustice." Is it not the most apparent thing to everybody here that any royalty whatever is a positive injustice? Then why not knock the whole thing off. It's a parallel case. If one can be done so can the other.

It takes time for resolutions and grievances to go to Ottawa and get back. Work should already be in planning for the coming winter. But as stated before, most of the mines will be shut down except for assessment work, unless the owners can know more definitely where they are going to get off at.

Will the Administrator do for the

district that which it needs first to stimulate development and keep this large population busy and thus make them contented? Then would the sun shine on the camp again. Scowling faces would be all smiles, and instead of the mad rush from the mines and the country there would be a rush to the mines, and the output next spring would startle the world with its greatness.

Will the Administration say the word? Organization has been made by loyal Canadians to work for the correction of these unjust mining regulations, and they will accomplish their end in a peaceful way, and as promptly as the distance between Dawson and Ottawa will admit of. But to allow work to proceed at once, the Administrator should exercise his prerogative and abolish the royalty, at least at once.

## WHY THE ROYALTY WAS IMPOSED.

Present the royalty proposition which is receiving so much discussion just at this time, it may be mentioned that at the time Mr. Tom O'Brien was at Ottawa last year in the interests of the miners his efforts to get a reduction of the royalty and other important concessions were largely neutralized by the miners and prospectors themselves who gave to the newspapers of the world the statement that from \$8 to \$1000 to the pan was the result of digging on the newly discovered Dominion creek. And this right at the time when Mr. O'Brien was pleading poverty and trying to impress our rulers that the district could not possibly be worked with such charges on industry and enterprise.

Mr. O'Brien is inclined to believe from what passed at Ottawa that even should the royalty be abolished there would immediately be put in its stead a poll tax or some other means of raising a revenue adequate to cover the expense of the proper government of the district. The poll tax proposition as against the royalty has some supporters on the ground that in paying the expenses of government alone from royalties the burden falls upon one class alone—the owners of producing mines. The poll tax would catch all alike, business men and miners, and speculators who come in with a big outfit in the spring which they sell out at a handsome profit and then take the quickest way out to escape the winter.

## OUR BAD STREETS.

It is becoming quite a common thing to see teams mired down on our main thoroughfares, some with and some without loads. Some good work is being done by the teamsters in conjunction with the property owners; slabs are laid down and covered with sawdust and then you have a clean, substantial piece of road for the summer. But the spots so improved are mostly on one side of the street, and separated by unimproved stretches which are a menace to both horses and teamsters alike. It is only by having the proper authorities superintend such work that it can be prosecuted in a consecutive and workmanlike manner. The government is doing some work on the trail up Bonanza creek by corduroying the worst places, but with the exception of a frail bridge over the slough and the chopping out of a few roots at the south end of town, Dawson is being left to work out her own salvation. Hardly a day passes but more or less rain falls and the streets would be a disgrace to a week-old camp, let alone a two-year old city of fifteen thousand inhabitants. British Columbia has expended hundreds of thousands of dollars in and in building roads to districts not nearly so important as Dawson, and her highway to Askeroff, blasted for miles out of the solid rock, is the pride of that corner of the world; but the peayune policy of the territorial government is simply to let us "paddle our own canoe," as we shall soon have to do literally as well as figuratively on the streets of Dawson.

## IT WILL BOB UP.

Under the head of "Martial Law," our contemporary starts out to pat the administration on the back. It points to the excellent order of the city, the few

fight, murders, robberies, drunken brawls, etc. Does any person deny that the police protection is unexcelled? Isn't it the pride of every citizen? But is police protection all the people want? Because we have this splendid protection and good order, does it lessen the fact that we are practically under martial law? That the voice of one man in this district is supreme and from his edict there is no appeal? Decidedly no. Who inaugurated and organized the magnificent police service of Dawson? Was it not a man whom every one admired and who has now been sent from us? Does our brother editor know that the beautiful and affectionate letter presented to Capt. Constantine by the Pioneers Association and citizens of Dawson was most reluctantly signed by some of the powers that be? Why was he sent from us after the good work he had done, and when he was so close to the hearts of the people? Our contemporary boasts of having interviewed "many prominent saloon-men."

The interview might as well have been made by an officer, for in the case of either the answers would have been the same. But unrestrained and unawed they speak their minds, and that most forcibly. But at the tail end of its article, even the *Sun* drops behind a cloud and has to admit that something is wrong, and then smooths things over by telling what will be done.

The people are glad to know on which side of the fence that paper is. As a toady to the administration it has lost all prestige and will be regarded with suspicion. A paper without a policy is like a dog without a home—kicked at every corner and run from every house.

Our esteemed contemporary boasts that it is the pioneer newspaper of the Klondike. True, it issued two days ahead of *The Nugget*, but *The Nugget* was so close on its trail that we think both are pioneers. It is not usual for rival newspapers to select the same day for publication, and as our contemporary had already chosen Monday of course it gave them the lead. If Brother Swinehart thinks the boast will avail him ought we shall not call him down. But in his mad rush to get to Dawson and get out the first paper our brother editor traveled day and night and brought a limited plant and a still more limited stock of paper. *The Nugget* slaved along with a first-class plant and a year's supply of stock. With the early boasting of the *Sun*, its inglorious setting may come only too soon, and *The Nugget* may write its obituary under the caption of "Another Pioneer Passes Away." But we hope the boats will get in Brother Swinehart's stock and allow him to continue publication. There is held here for two papers, and competition insures to the public more news for the same money.

**SHAFTER'S ARMY REPORTED LANDED:**  
Sampson Will Proceed to Batter Down Moro Castle at Once.

New York, June 19.—A special from Mole St. Nicholas, dated midnight, says: A government dispatch boat has just arrived here and the officers forwarded rush dispatches to Washington. It is said that the dispatches announced the safe landing on Cuban soil of Shafter's army of 16,000 men. It is reported that parts of the army landed at three different points, one of them being Guantanamo. Admiral Sampson feels himself free to attack Moro Castle. The admiral is certainly informed that the gallant Hobson and his crew are no longer confined there, so he is going to wipe Moro off the face of the earth. With the dynamite guns of the Vesuvius and the batteries of his warships he would have smashed the castle long ago, but Hobson was imprisoned there and Sampson and his crew think that as a coward puts a child or woman before him to ward off a blow, so the Spaniards put Hobson and his crew of marines in Moro to avoid the bombardment of that fortress. One dynamite shell from the Vesuvius would leave the gray old fort a smoking ruin.

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