

# CIRCULAR TO BE ISSUED.

## By Dawson Board of Trade, Dealing With the Treadgold and Other Concessions--To be Widely Distributed Throughout Canada. Full Text of Circular as Prepared for Publication.

A CIRCULAR has been prepared by the board of trade of Dawson which is to be issued in pamphlet form and distributed widely throughout Canada. It deals primarily with the Treadgold and other concessions and touches strongly upon the necessity of a public water system for the mining districts. The text of the circular is as follows:

In the latter part of the year 1896 the famous discoveries of placer gold were made on the creeks in the basin of the Klondike river. These were followed in the years of 1897 and 1898 by the scarcely less famous placer gold discoveries in the basin of the Indian river, and on the hills and benches adjoining all the creeks on which discoveries had previously been made. During the past two or three years rich placer ground has been found in the basin of the Stewart river, notably on Clear, Fortymile and Henderson creeks. The more famous creeks in the Klondike basin are Eldorado, Bonanza, Hunker, Last Chance and Bear, while in the Indian river basin, Dominion, Sulphur, Gold Run and Quartz are the most noted. Not only in the beds of the creeks in both Klondike and Indian river basins but also on the adjacent hills and benches the wealth of placer gold discovered has been enormous.

The proper protection and development of all these discoveries would have ensured to the Yukon territory a population of at least one hundred thousand souls. This population, being dependent almost wholly for food and supplies on the sources outside the Yukon territory, would have afforded a large and unexcelled market to the rest of Canada for farm products and manufactured goods. The possibilities of this market have, we believe, not yet been understood or appreciated by the government, the industries or traders of the rest of Canada.

In the whole of the Yukon territory, except around the town of Whitehorse, the prosperity of the whole population depends entirely upon the production of gold by the individual placer miner. A very large part of the people are engaged directly in this pursuit and the remainder are engaged in supplying the wants of those so employed. Anything which stimulates or retards this one industry equally stimulates or retards the prosperity of the whole community. The cessation of placer mining would result in the abandonment of the territory for the present by almost the entire population. Many of the rich early discovered claims have already been worked and rough methods were worked over, leaving a large part of the gold behind, and are now being re-worked by our present improved placer mining methods, which are obviously capable of immeasurably greater improvements, as the methods used by a few of our best operators here. But the greater part of the placer areas have to the present remained unworked, in some cases through lack of water, but generally because it requires a long time and much labor to prospect thoroughly so large a country, and because it was desirable in regard to low grade ground in the earlier years, to wait for, (a) the reduction of royalty, (b) the cheapening of labor, and (c) the introduction of improved machinery.

The work done thus far has taught our miners to work ground at a small fraction of the former cost, and more thoroughly, and has located great beds of great extent over the whole Klondike and Indian river basins that can profitably be worked by present placer methods. Yet the Yukon is losing its population, and all business is depressed.

If federal taxes and royalties are reduced to a fair rate, and all placer ground thrown open to the placer miner, and a government water supply for hill and bench ground is inaugurated, the Yukon has just begun its development, and a population yearly increasing in prosperity and numbers will inhabit this territory for many years to come, affording to Canada the best market, for its size, open to her in the world. But, if the present policy is pursued, the prospector and miner will be driven from the country and the population reduced to a few hundreds, outside the employes of Treadgold and other concessionaires, who may be Orientals, or persons engaged in our civilization. Moreover, so far not a single hydraulic concession has been worked by hydraulic methods with success, and we have greatest misgivings concerning the success of these supplanters of the placer miner.

As early as 1898 the government began to close the placer ground of this territory against location to the placer miner. In that year a large part of Dominion creek was from time to time closed. In the same year also all fractional claims were closed against location. In February of 1900 the minister of the interior directed that Bonanza, Eldorado and their tributaries and benches should be closed against location. This was done, on October 7th, 1899, by a regulation closing all lapsed claims in the territory against relocation. In the year and a half which followed, almost at Ottawa, without the knowledge of the Yukon people, and at the slightest pretext, the greater part of our richest placer ground was granted in so-called hydraulic concessions. On Hunker creek were granted: The Williams (2 1/2 square miles); the Milne (2 square miles); the Anderson (2 1/2 square miles). On the Klondike, including Bear and Lindloy creeks, were granted: The Boyle (50 square miles); the Philip (3 square miles); the Bronson & Ray (15 square miles) and the Matson (3 square miles) were granted. On Quartz creek another concession (about 4 square miles) was granted to the same Boyle, while the other concessions heretofore mentioned were almost similarly blanketed by concessions which were obtained by fraud in most cases.

This ground had already, as has been shown, been closed to the free miner on the ground, but was now granted to the concessionaires who had never seen the ground. These concessions must be annulled, and this can in most instances be done in court by the minister of justice granting an injunction for an action against them on the grounds that they were issued in error and improvidence and obtained by misrepresentation and fraud. Every one of them can be cancelled by the minister for breach of conditions in their leases, but he has not done so.

In the year 1898 A. N. C. Treadgold was welcomed here as a representative of British capital. He began at once to acquire placer claims of value by purchase. In 1899 and 1900 he purchased interests in the claims and others of the infamous concessions above named. On the 31st of May, 1901, under pretence of bringing in water to work low grade gravels, with Barwick and Orr-Ewing, asked for a controlling interest in the basin of the Klondike basin. On the 12th and 29th days of June, 1901, orders in council were passed granting his request, with but little regard to the vested interests of the placer miner. Protests were at once made by the private citizen to take much interest in what did not immediately affect his vested rights and prosperity. Emboldened by his success, Treadgold and associates obtained the passage of the order in council of December 7th, 1901. This was not known here till March, 1902. It was at once seen that section 10 of the order in council made the Treadgold grant, as amended, vested in him the entire Klondike basin and already granted to others. We needed water immediately, but not for one-half year was he to deliver water in any part of the district and no effective means were provided by which he could be forced to deliver water to the placer miner at any time, while the rates he was allowed to charge were prohibitive in any event. At one blow the prospector and relocator were excluded from the Klondike basin. Within the next one-half year in which Treadgold was to bring any of the water within any part of the Klondike basin, thousands of free miners would be forced to abandon their claims by the fees, taxes, royalties and restrictions which were made grievous in more kinds of ways than it is possible in this document to describe. On close examination it was found that nearly every clause of this Treadgold grant seemed devised to impose some new burden or restriction, while scarcely any clause afforded any relief of practical relief to the free miner. One indignant protest went forth from the whole Klondike. Immense public meetings were held. Unanimous resolutions were passed condemning the outrage. Not a dissenting voice was heard. Delegates were elected to Ottawa, and relief was expected. On the 21st day of April, 1902, the previous orders in council were rescinded. A new order in council was passed, and apparently our delegates succeeded in this, whether not comprehending the legal force of its terms, or thinking it was some improvement on the prior one, or for what other reason can never be known. A wrong was perpetuated, but by what means we do not know.

Under the repealed orders in council some burdens were assumed in an alternative way by the grantees. \$250,000 was to be expended by them in the next year; 2000 miner's inches of water was to be delivered within the next 2 1/2 years; and one-half this water was to be supplied to free miners under certain regulations. True these conditions when closely scrutinized were found so drawn as to be useless to the placer miner; but they did

bear a semblance of being a quid pro quo for the immense properties and privileges granted to Treadgold, Barwick and Orr-Ewing.

But in the new order in council the grantees assumed not a single burden and paid not a single dollar for the privileges scarcely less valuable than those granted before. They are given:

1. "The sole right to divert water from the Klondike river for the purpose of generating power. They must use the right within six years, or it may be revoked. Quare: If anyone else should attempt, under any grant issued subsequently, to divert water from this river for distribution to the placer miners, may he not be stopped by injunction as interfering with the vested right of Treadgold & Company to use all this water for generating power?"

2. "The prior right to take the first 5,000 inches of water from the same river for distribution." Of what use would any subsequent right be, if the suggestion of the above quare is correct?

3. "The right to divert and use the water of Rock creek." As no claims are worked on Rock creek, the reservation annexed means nothing. Rock creek was the source which engineers have always declared the most available, perhaps the only available source for water for distribution to the Klondike miner.

4. "The right, subject to no payment except royalty prescribed, to make entry for and work abandoned mining claims on Bonanza, Bear and Hunker creeks." There is at present no royalty. Abandoned claims may be, and generally are, claims that are not worked out, and in many cases not prospected much, or at all. The former owners, perhaps, scarcely visited them after staking. Adjoining owners very often proved these claims of great value. Entry can be made by simply watching the record books and entering for claims as they lapse. They cost nothing to Treadgold to acquire or hold.

5. "The prior right to purchase mineral-bearing lodes" in a wide range of cases.

6. "Freedom from occupation rents, assessments or other dues in respect to the grantees' lands, except timber lands."

7. "The property of the grantees shall be exempt from representation." This should be read along with the right given in paragraph 5.

Under their joint effect, Treadgold holds nineteen valuable claims on Bonanza creek alone, which he had previously purchased as a placer miner, and on which he now, by the department's ruling, pays no annual fees and does no annual labor. Daily his so-called entry agents are adding to his great number of idle, unassessed claims. Thus while the free miner is taxed beyond what he is able to bear, and debarred from holding claims, and while this oppression of him has been kept up for years, Treadgold is freely granted without any condition or payment all the wishes to take in the basin of the Klondike.

These rights, with many others which space precludes from mentioning, he holds under the terms of the order for 30 years. Lifelong relief comes quickly, Treadgold and his associates, aided by government impost, will in the first few years drive the oppressed placer miner from the Klondike basin, and the grantees' right there will be none left to dispute. But further, he has the right to assign the rights acquired, or any of them, to others, and soon we may be met by the plea that new owners have acquired, some of these bona fide and without notice.

Moreover, the administration policy has been to broaden and strengthen Treadgold's claim to his immense possessions. We have only space to mention two instances. First: Creek claim 86 below discovery on Bonanza creek, owned by Treadgold, lapsed for about three months, and was re-staked and applied for by free miners. He had not even made the entry which the gold commissioner rules he was entitled to do without fee. No work had been done on the claim for years. The action of Noakes vs Treadgold followed. The result before the gold commissioner disheartened Noakes, the staker, so much that too hastily he concluded there was no law in the Yukon territory against Treadgold. The other instance mentioned is concerning the water grant on Rock creek held by Acklem and others. This small grant, somehow or other, had been made before Treadgold got his grant, and somewhat interfered with his monopoly. The

pressure put upon Acklem and his associates in regard to this grant it would be believed impossible to occur in Canada, the generally supposed home of such things being in China or South America.

Thus seems to be ending in gloom the romance of the famous Klondike gold discoveries. From the wealthiest region of Canada, in order to create a giant monopoly, for whose benefit God only knows (certainly not the government of Canada), a population, the best in the world, is being slowly driven. They are now standing at bay against fearful odds and are still keeping up the fight for fortune and prosperity. But no energy or ability can withstand, and the curtain may fall at the close of this history of the struggle on an abandoned land. To us it is a tragedy, but to you we appeal upon the principle that you should save this market for your products and aid in furthering the prosperity of Canada and maintaining her farthest outlying settled and prosperous community.

What is the remedy? The Treadgold order in council was passed under sections 47, 90 and 91 of the Dominion lands act. Under section 47 it is doubtful if a grant can be made to one and denied another. Such would not be a regulation but a subversion of regulations. It has already had the required publication in the "Canada Gazette." See section 91. But it must be laid before parliament within fifteen days of its opening, and we are advised that parliament may then annul it. Until it is laid before parliament it is an inchoate grant contingent upon the approval or disapproval of parliament. This, then, we earnestly ask of you: That you join with us in bringing every possible legitimate influence on parliament and every member thereof to procure the cancellation of this iniquitous, and to us fatal, monopoly or concession.

## Bible School Lesson for Apr. 26

Title: Paul's journey to Jerusalem. Acts, 21: 1-14.

Golden Text: The Will of the Lord be done. Acts, 21: 14.

In Paul we have a most marvelous example of Christian faithfulness, fortitude and resignation. He steadily "set his face towards Jerusalem" though not almost every stage of the journey, he received premonitory warnings, from loving friends and disciples, of what was awaiting him.

His life was characterized by a deep sense of personal duty, and no matter what the obstacles he resolutely faced them in the discharge of duty. He might have chosen an easier pathway, but it is doubtful if he would have accomplished as much in ministering to others and extending the Kingdom of Christ.

We left him, in our last study of his missionary journey, at Miletus, bidding farewell to his brethren, the elders of the church at Ephesus.

From there he went to Cos, a small island in the Aegean Archipelago, where he remained for a few hours. The day following they reached Rhodes, a famous island at the southwest extremity of Asia Minor, chiefly notable for its Colossus, an enormous bronze statue of Apollo, which spanned the harbor, and was counted as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. At Patara, the seaport of the larger city of Xanthus, Paul left the little coasting vessel and took passage in a larger ship bound for Phoenicia.

Leaving Cyprus, which he had visited on a previous journey, to their left hand, they sailed for the Syrian coast and landed at Tyre. Tyre was one of the chief commercial ports of Phoenicia. It was built partly on the mainland, and partly on an island. It is referred to as a strongly fortified city in the time of Joshua. It was the old

home of Jezebel the notorious wife of Ahab, and the chief city of King Hiram.

The Phoenicians were a nation of sailors and traders, and Tyre was in all probability the home port of more than one line of vessels.

At Tyre Paul is again warned of what awaited him at Jerusalem. But taking the revelation of the Spirit as a premonition, and not as a command, he proceeded on his way, believing that it was God's will that he should suffer for the cause. The farewell from Tyre was truly pathetic. The disciples with their wives and children escorted him to the shore where kneeling down on the beach, he prayed fervently for them.

Another little vessel carried Paul to Ptolemais, the Roman name of the ancient little Jewish seaport city of Acra, made famous in the later wars of the Crusades.

The next day he arrived by the seashore, at Caesarea, and put up at the home of Philip, one of the early deacons, whose four daughters were teachers in the church. Here he was visited by Agabus, a noted prophet of Judea, who again made reference to the dangers which lay before him, and, for illustration, took Paul's girdle and bound himself saying, "So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle. Hearing this his friends importuned him not to go up. But he begged them not to interfere with his doing what he felt was his duty. They gathered from his words that he felt himself to be under the higher leading of Christ, who sought not his own pleasure but found his highest joy in doing the will of God and ministering to others.

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## Nothing Doing His Way

Col. Opie Read, novelist and playwright, was for many years identified with country newspapers in Kentucky and Tennessee. He says that one day he approached a farmer in a Kentucky town and asked him if there was any news in his neighborhood.

"Not a bit at news," said the farmer. "We are all too busy with our crops to think of anything else. All quiet in our neighborhood."

"Pretty good crops this year?" inquired Read.

"Bully," said the farmer. "I ought to be in my field this minute and I would be if I hadn't come to town to see the coroner."

"The coroner?"

"Yep. Want him to hold an inquest on a couple of fellers down in our neighborhood."

"Inquest? Was it an accident?"

"Nope. Zeke Burke did it 'zappos. Plugged George Rombo and his boy Bill with a pistol. Got to have an inquest."

"What caused the fight?"

"There wasn't no fight. Zeke never give the other fellers a show. Guess he was right, too, cause the Rabos did not give Zeke's father and brother any chance. Jest hid behind a tree and fired at 'em as they come along the road. That was yesterday mornin' an' 'n' an hour Zeke had squared accounts."

"Has Zeke been arrested?"

"Nope. What's use? Some of old man Rancho's relatives come along last night, burned down Zeke's house, shot him an' his wife and set fire to his barn. Nope, Zeke hasn't been arrested. But I ain't got time to talk to you. Got to get back to my harvestin'. But there ain't no news down our way. If anything happens I'll let you know."--New York Times.

## Coal Dispensable

The town of Davos, in Switzerland, is considering a bold scheme for the abolition of all the ordinary form of fuel. It is proposed to erect an extensive electric plant at the confluence of two large mountain torrents, whose united waters will supply the necessary motive force. Already electricity is not only used for lighting and motive power, but is adopted in many villas for cooking and heating, and in one of the largest bakeries. The idea is to do away with all contamination of the air by the use of fuel.

Don't expect too much from other people, but encourage other people to expect a great deal from you--and be sure that you fulfill their expectations.

Don't be cynical--this is merely a form of vanity.

Don't vent on the first one you meet--the irritation caused by the mistake of another. Don't vent on others the irritation caused by your own mistakes. Don't vent your irritation on anybody.

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