

ESCHWEGE HAS RUN HIS STRING.

And McDougall Starts After Him with Blood in His Eye.

With Warrants and Documents Sufficient to Hang Him—Eschwege Posing as a "Bloated Bondholder" and Wealthy Investor.

"The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small"—which, being translated into modern phraseology, means that justice does sometimes catch up with a man, and in such measure that he often "gets it in the neck." It is this prospect that now appears to confront a once prominent citizen of Dawson, who was known by the euphonious cognomen of Michael C. Eschwege.

It all came about in this way. Eschwege, not long ago, fell in with McDougall, who is one of those square-jawed fellows who, because he is honest himself, thinks everybody else is until the contrary is proven. It was at Eagle City, where Eschwege has been hibernating for a time, and whither McDougall lately went on a stampede. They had met before at Grand Forks in a casual way, and Eschwege lost no time, at the second meeting, in ingratiating himself with his former acquaintance, to whom he represented himself as special correspondent of the Vancouver Province and agent for the Van Patten Syndicate of London.

It appears, upon inquiry, that Mr. Johnson's application for the coveted ground was for agricultural purposes and that he went so far as to plant a little garden about 50 feet square, on the river front; but that the privileges he is now operating under is that of a townsite, which is looked upon as locating quite distinctly a "nigger in the fence"; also, that on the surveyed premises are several regularly located placer mining claims, some of which have been, or are being operated, which still further complicates matters, though seeming to strengthen the contention of the squatters.

There is no doubt that the fine advantages offered at west Dawson will make the place a popular one for residence during the coming summer and that property there will become quite valuable; but these facts afford no reason why 200 to 400 miners, who took up residence in the direction of the often representative of the government, should be molested out of a large sum of money or be forced to abandon their humble homes for the benefit of a select coterie.

Time and disclosures only added to Mr. McDougall's ire, and he resolved to run down and punish the offender. So, on Sunday he left for Eagle City, armed with a letter from Capt. Hansen to Capt. Richards, at that place, and one from Col. Steele to the police at Forty-Mile, asking for Eschwege's apprehension. But McDougall's scheme of revenge is more comprehensive. He purposes, after catching Eschwege, to call a miners' meeting, lay the whole matter before them, and ask to be the executioner. In case they see fit to order the man whipped, he will then have him turned toward Dawson, and as he steps over the line taken in charge by the police for further prosecution, McDougall is terribly in earnest, and if Eschwege should have the misfortune to meet him on the trail, there will be a need of a coroner's inquest rather than a miners' meeting.

Another seeming outrage upon the rights of the free miners, and one quite in keeping with the long list of shady transactions which has made the government of the Klondike infamous the world over, worked its way to public notice on Sunday night, when the entire population of west Dawson, consisting of between 300 and 400 persons, were notified that they were trespassers and that the time had come for them either to "shell out" to their masters or to "mush on." Intimation of this was previously given out by Mr. Fred Johnson, who claimed to have received a grant of the land on which the cabins are, and when, in response to a call for a public meeting of the inhabitants on Sunday night, about half a hundred assembled at one of George Leon's cabins, they were told so in pretty plain language by the gentleman.

Mr. Johnson told the assemblage that he "took up" the ground two years ago next June and that it has now been given to him by the government. That the government in August and September last, surveyed the premises and it had developed that, out of a total of 72 cabins 41 are in the street, while in other instances two or more cabins are on the same lot; that he had caused a survey to be taken by Mr. Barwell, by which the lots 50 x 120, as surveyed by the government, had been cut in two and only three or four cabins left in the street; and that he desires the residents to appoint a committee who would confer with Mr. Barwell relative to his plan before he put it into operation. He had decided to fix an arbitrary price upon each lot; but to submit it to arbitration if desired by the occupants of the premises.

Mr. Campbell, who had been tacitly selected as spokesman for the west Dawsonites, set forth the merits of his constituency very clearly. He said that nearly every man who had built a cabin there had done so with the permission of Major Walsh, who guaranteed to them security of their squatter's rights; that they believed those rights would hold over a subsequent grant, such as Mr. Johnson admitted his to be, and that he could not out a single one of them; that for them to agree to submit to Mr. Johnson's survey would make their title date from that time only; that his scheme to cut the lots in two, far from having any philanthropic motive, was simply done to enable him to exact more money from the holders of the ground; that the squatters are satisfied with the present government survey, even if there are 41 cabins on the street, which is doubted.

John Gillis expressed the belief that, before Mr. Johnson's plan was agreed to, a deputation should wait upon Commissioner Ogilvie and ascertain the position of the government concerning the question, and this proving to be the unanimous sense of the meeting, Chairman K. C. McDonald, Secretary John Gillis, George Leon and Messrs. Campbell and Kineaid were chosen to constitute such committee, with instructions to call upon Commissioner Ogilvie on Monday and report at a meeting to be held Wednesday night.

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Klondike News Abroad.

W. C. Duncan arrived in Seattle from Dawson on February 20. He will be remembered as having brought in 6,000 dozen eggs last spring, on which he realized handsomely. The P. L. credits him with taking out \$20,000 in dust and drafts, besides having valuable mining interests here.

Wm. E. Saunders, known on the trail to Dawson as "Red Bill," and W. C. Meyers, a Cripple Creek miner who left for the Klondike with him are missing, and it is feared they were murdered.

W. J. Rogers has arrived at Tacoma from Dawson. To a newspaper man he expresses the belief that Dawson will be a permanent camp.

A romantic drama, in which a returned Klondiker was a victim of clever scoundrels, has just ended at Seattle. Con Van Alstine was one of the lucky Klondikers of early days, and went out with a good fat poke. Upon reaching Seattle a conspiracy was formed by Attorney Winstock, Emma Norton and another woman, by which the latter soon became Mrs. Van Alstine. The latter then induced Van Alstine to turn over \$31,000 to her, which she was to divide with her accomplices. The whole affair came out in a suit brought by Van Alstine, and on February 21 a decision was rendered in his favor, the court setting aside the marriage and ordering the return of the \$31,000.

Word has been received from Benton Harbor, Mich., that Frank Phisactor, a wealthy Klondiker, who recently returned to his home at Baroda, Mich., has been married there and become a public benefactor. He has bought every corner in the village of his youth, erected an opera house, new stores and new residences, and this spring will put in a new electric light plant and a complete water system. He says he is going to make Baroda the central point in that county as a summer resort. It behooves Mr. Potato-Pingree to look closely after his political fences in the future after this, or he may wake up some morning to find his pasture in the possession of the lucky Klondiker.

From Circle City.

The following is an extract from a long letter both interesting and edifying:

"The present season has witnessed the exposure of at least two Tanana 'fake finds,' which have the characteristics of many other 'fake finds' in Alaska. An old fellow started a stampede farther from Circle City early last summer. He had an old Montana mining partner, a comrade in the war, too. The partner came

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to Alaska two or three years ago, having promised to exchange information with Old Chap, who remained prospecting in the States. Partner came down to San Francisco last year with a ton or less of nuggets gathered at some mysterious point on the Tanana. Partner gave Old Chap the information necessary to enable him to reach the spot, and forthwith came to Alaska. He was provided with all sorts of documents to prove his statements, even to what purported to be a San Francisco mint certificate of the receipt of the stated directions in his hand, and would lead the party, which started across the country from Circle. As they neared the Tanana, the guide, instead of getting warmer and warmer, seemed to grow colder and colder in his search. He was a simple, unassuming, apparently harmless old fellow, but he soon demonstrated that he knew little or nothing of robbing it. One day he wandered a little way from camp and got lost. He was found with some difficulty by his companions, and it is said, he then broke down and confessed that partner was a fake, but that his wife at home was a medium, and her spiritual guides had told her of the presence of a rich deposit of gold on the Tanana, and promised to guide her husband thither. Old Chap was more plied than chided by the men, but it was a disgusted and travel-worn outfit that trudged into Circle a fortnight or so later.

A Good Nap 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 cts.

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