

## PREFATORY NOTE.

DAWSON, YUKON TERRITORY, CANADA, }  
March 31st, 1900. }

TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA:—

The following is a true account of Yukon affairs as they appear to every man in the Yukon Territory:

There is no difference of opinion, though a few interested people may give a different account. The statements speak for themselves. The inferences are those of the public, the only possible inferences.

Politics and journalism are alike contrary to my nature. But it is impossible for any British subject to stand by, idly indifferent and see the Dominion of Canada exploited, its people wronged and driven out of their country, and the British throne insulted by a number of lawyers and journalists who call themselves a Government.

The Department of the Interior is in a state of trepidation. The Minister of the Interior has gone so far astray that he is afraid to do what he knows to be right as well as expedient. He is afraid to throw the Yukon district open to prospectors and miners, though he knows that by doing so the treasury would derive more revenue from recording fees alone than from the sale of the so-called Crown Reserve.\*

The Minister of the Interior has already disposed of the valuable parts of the Reserve in accordance with clause 16, "in such manner as may be decided by the Minister of the Interior." He is afraid to reverse his policy of closure because of the accusations that would follow. He would be accused of putting a temporary closure on the country to enable him to dispose of the valuable parts secretly. He would be accused of doing exactly what he has done. The sale of Crown Reserve is intended to make the people of Canada believe that he disposes of their country publicly. Well, he will be taught in time what a despicable, pitiful, ridiculous figure he presents when, on hearing from Mr. Clement that this account of his administration is going to Ottawa, he sends a hasty telegram to Dawson to say that the Crown Reserve is to be sold here at public auction on the first day of June. The "sale" will be a large business. He might have stated whether it will be in the forenoon or in the afternoon that he is to sell his half of the Yukon district. Why this telegraphic haste? Does it indicate a panic in the Department of the Interior? Why should the sale be held in Dawson? Why, if not because the property is valueless? Why not dispose of it secretly to reliable back-door friends in Ottawa?

There is a rumor that the latest arrangement is to sell the Reserve in

\* Everyone who remembers the sale of the notorious Crown Reserve by Sheriff Eitbeck will say this was a true prophecy.

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