

## TITLES TO PROPERTY.

### Very Unsatisfactory in Dawson at the Present Time.

#### Gov. Ogilvie Tells How the Government Intends to Remedy Them—Inquiries May Be Instituted.

The real property titles of Dawson are in a most unsatisfactory condition. The central government at Ottawa has been dilatory in fulfilling the promises which its officials have made to the residents of this territory. The titles to all property in Dawson are defective.

No doubt that at some future day the government will remedy the defect, but in the meantime the cloud which necessarily affects every lot, has a tendency to depress the values of real estate.

In 1896 Harper and Ladue applied for a patent to 160 acres of land, which has since been known generally as the Harper and Ladue townside property. Since then three other applications for land patents have been filed by private parties. These latter applications cover the ground, known as Menzie's, Day's and Smith's additions. All the property included in these applications has been subdivided into town lots. In addition to these, the government has reserved ground to itself, parts of which have also been subdivided.

Lots were sold by these applicants and from the government reserves to individuals, upon the understanding that there would be no unnecessary delay involved in securing the patents from Ottawa. A year ago last November, Governor Ogilvie notified all owners of real estate to file with the local registrar their respective chains of title to town property. It was said, at the time, that the government would soon issue the patents; and it was contemplated that the Torrens recording system would be operative here. By the adoption of this method of recording, it would be the duty of the registrar, when the patents are issued, to make out to each holder of real property a certificate certifying that he was the owner of the particular land described. This certificate, practically would be a guarantee from the government that the holder had a clear and good title to the described property. More than half of the land owners immediately filed their respective claims of title with the registrar; but to the present time, there have been issued no certificates by the representative of the government. The fact is that no patents have been given by the powers at Ottawa.

Governor Ogilvie, when questioned relative to the matter, said:

"The original patents for real estate in Dawson may arrive from Ottawa with any mail. When they do, those who have purchased from the applicants, or their grantees, and who have filed their claim of title with the registrar, will receive a certificate of title from the government. Those who have squatted on land will be ejected. There need be no apprehension on the part of property owners regarding the titles to land. The patents will issue; and as soon as possible, thereafter, the records will be straightened."

It is expected that during the coming session of parliament the government will be asked why the issuance of patents to Dawson property has been delayed for nearly two years.

#### From Thistle Creek.

Frederick A. Banker, a resident of Thistle creek, came down from that camp yesterday. Speaking of Thistle creek Mr. Banker says: "There are 30 or 35 men at work who are using every effort to find pay ground."

As it was here, so it was on Thistle in regard to a backward season and only lately has mining been done successfully. Since the cold weather has set in considerable progress has been made. On 18 above the Dunn boys have

struck some 50 cent ground. Miller and Spaine on discovery, found 20 cent dirt in one hole, but do not know how much there is at present. On 2 above the owners, May and Webster, are getting out big dumps, so they must be on pay ground. The others are simply "gophering" around after the pay streak. On Kirkman creek 12 miles above Thistle on the Yukon, 10 or 12 men have been at work this winter. From the fact that they have nothing to say, and only come down when absolutely necessary, it is surmised that pay ground exists on Kirkman. Several other creeks are being prospected in that vicinity which should be heard from this winter. Mr. Banker will go back as soon as the cold weather moves below Fort Reliance.

The town of Thistle is quiet, but the Seattle hotel, kept by Wm. Kramer, presents a lively scene each night with its crowd of pilgrims, both going and coming from the Mecca of gold.

#### High Class Music.

The Dawson Amateur Choral Society is one of the latest additions to the ranks of social clubs in this city. The object of the society is to render vocal choruses from the most eminent composers. The membership of the club comprises several vocalists of more or less note, among whom is Arthur Boyle, who, in 1895, had the distinguished honor to sing before Queen Victoria by her special command and by whom he was highly complimented. The receipts of the entertainments given here will be devoted to charitable purposes. The first musicale will be given Friday night of this week in St. Paul's Episcopal church for the benefit of the Good Samaritan hospital.

#### Licenses and Renewals.

That it might be known for a fact if the new regulations were in any way injurious to the miner and mining industry in this district, the Daily Nugget has received from the gold commissioner's office a run of six days' business, taken from dates which the holidays did not effect.

The number of miner's licenses and renewals were asked for and the following are the figures:

MINERS' LICENSES.			
1899.	No.	1900.	No.
Jan. 4	5	Jan. 6	8
Jan. 5	12	Jan. 7	6
Jan. 6	7	Jan. 8	5
Jan. 7	12	Jan. 9	8
Jan. 9	22	Jan. 10	10
Jan. 10	21	Jan. 11	6
Total	79	Total	42

  

RENEWALS.			
1899.	No.	1900.	No.
Jan. 3	31	Jan. 2	10
Jan. 4	30	Jan. 3	7
Jan. 5	13	Jan. 4	20
Jan. 6	9	Jan. 5	4
Jan. 7	9	Jan. 6	5
Jan. 9	13	Jan. 8	18
Total	105	Total	64

It will be seen that the business done in a week last year was considerable in excess of the same period for this year. In the matter of licenses, they are now issued at Grand Forks, mouth of Gold Bottom and on Dominion creek, and they might materially affect these figures. The decrease in renewals is very marked, however, and seems to denote something.

#### Gold Hill Notes.

Miss Stanchfield entertained the Gold Hill Whist Club at its first meeting in the new year. Three tables were surrounded by members deeply interested in this absorbing game. The prize nuggets were won by Mrs. A. B. Cavanaugh and E. G. Will, the former scoring the most points among the ladies playing, the latter the highest number of points among the gentlemen. Dainty refreshments were served after which Mr. Jones favored the club with a number of popular songs to the guitar accompaniment.

The usual Puritanical quiet of Sunday on Gold Hill was rudely broken last Sunday. Mutterings hoarse and prolonged, curses loud and deep were heard issuing from a cabin occupied by parties interested in one of Gold Hill's rich claims. Nor did it end with "rag chewing." Blows fell thick and heavy as black eyes and blood sprinkled furniture give evidence. "After the battle was over, after the victory was

won," and they had worn off the interested parties concluded the least said the soonest mended—and so say we all.

"Who Struck Billy Patterson," has given place on Gold Hill to something more modern. Up there the query now is, "Who struck Ben Johnson?" or "Who struck Yonn Faulka?"

#### Police Court.

Magistrate Perry's court this morning was what might be termed "a false alarm," not through any fault of the court or of the clients, but of attorneys. In most places attorneys complain of having to await the pleasure of the court. In Dawson it is different; here it is the legal luminaries who are behind, or were this morning.

The case of the Crown vs. Murphy, with Henry Beckwith prosecuting witness, which was set for this morning, was called, but was held pending the arrival of Crown Prosecutor Wade.

In the interim the case of Miller vs. Boyle for \$130.00 for wages, was called, but the plaintiff's attorney was not present and that case went in cold storage pending the lawyer's arrival. The judge looked annoyed, but refrained from comment.

In the affair of Constable Booth who is undergoing discipline for disobeying orders, the penitent is not in jail, but is temporarily camping with the quartermaster as a fitting punishment for his neglect of duty.

So far as can be learned no report has yet been made by those conducting the investigation of the alleged holdup and robbery of Court Clerk and Stenographer Switzer.

#### In Superior Court.

Young Wyncoff who was on trial yesterday before Judge Dugas for theft was acquitted the evidence not being of sufficient strength to warrant any other verdict.

This morning the case of Hawkins vs. Ross, one of the oldest cases on the court calendar, was taken up for trial.

The next case on the docket is that of Tibbetts vs. Sprague.

#### PERSONAL MENTION.

Frank Wilhelm is a late arrival from Seattle.

Mrs. Brunnell left for the outside yesterday.

Mrs. Cavanaugh came down from the Forks yesterday.

C. R. Gainer and Jack Blake are in from Australia creek.

E. H. Hayes of Last Chance, is stopping at the Flannery.

A. K. Kroenert from Gold Hill, is spending a few days in town.

Henry Jackman, a leading sport at the Grand Forks, is visiting Dawson.

J. Reaus, a well known druggist in Seattle, arrived in a few days ago.

C. J. O'Donnell of Grand Forks, is stopping at the Hotel McDonald.

John Cudahy of 43 above, Sulphur, is in town as a witness in a law suit.

Peter F. Corcoran came in from the outside in 14 days, arriving last night.

Capt. J. J. Healy is confined to his room owing to a slight attack of sickness.

A. E. Murphy, who left last fall on a visit to the outside, arrived in last night.

Frank Wilhelm recently arrived from Seattle, and is stopping at the Yukon hotel.

Frank Walker and W. S. Leonard are among the guests at the Hotel McDonald.

P. J. Campbell of No. 30 Eldorado, is a visitor in the city. He is registered at the Hotel McDonald.

F. H. Ames of the Ames Mercantile Company, is making preparations to leave for Skagway within a few days.

Jack McNeely has given up his cabin and re-engaged his suite of rooms at the Flannery. Jack says he has a strictly summer cabin.

Dr. Brown, secretary of the Yukon council, has removed his place of residence to the northeast corner of Mission street and Seventh avenue.

L. R. Fulda of the Alaska Exploration Company is contemplating a business trip to California. He will leave Dawson about the first of February.

Are you planning any improvements in the building line? Place orders for lumber with the Nugget Express. Once, Boyle's wharf.

Sour Dough Letter Heads for sale at the Nugget office.

## Nugget Express Daily Stage

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Dawson and the Forks

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Leaves Dewey Hotel, Forks, at 9 a. m.

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