

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
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NOTICE

When a newspaper offers its advertising space at a nominal figure, it is a practical admission of "no circulation." THE KLONDIKE NUGGET asks a good figure for its space and in justification thereof guarantees to its advertisers a paid circulation five times that of any other paper published between Juneau and the North Pole.

The NUGGET has a regular carrier and express service covering Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail or express may be left at the Nugget Express office or given to creek agents.

THE TALE OF A FRACTION.

Dominion creek is some forty odd miles from Dawson to its nearest point and by reason of its remoteness and its known wealth has been the scene of more scandals than any other creek in a section famed for its unsavory official doings. The irregular closing and opening of that creek hurled many an honest man into the depths of despair and of itself made many a "grafter" and governmental "stand in" rich for some time to come. But the injustice of the old regime did not cease with the coming in of Mr. Ogilvie. Indeed we doubt if anything so bold was ever before attempted as has just been perpetrated upon Dominion creek by and with the approval and consent and under the direction of the Hon. Wm. Ogilvie, commissioner of the Yukon, royal commissioner, and now legally qualified advocate at the Yukon bar by a law of his own making. We refer to the recent occupation by a friend of Mr. Ogilvie of that valuable governmental fraction lying between No. 13 above lower discovery and No. 36 below upper discovery on Dominion creek, in the Indian river mining district. This particular piece of ground has been again and again refused to applicants and was considered as one of the few really good mines which have fallen to the government by reason of the decision on old creeks to take fractions in lieu of the alternate claims reserved by the regulations. Many an envious eye was cast upon that irregularly shaped piece of the earth's surface, and many wise heads were put together in an attempt to evolve some scheme whereby the government could be relieved of the care of such an exposed valuable. But every plan fell through and the original stakers had the satisfaction of knowing that if they did not get what they rightfully considered theirs, neither would anyone else get it, and the chances for the originals were as good as for the grafters. Some of the schemers even went so far as to personally intercede at Ottawa for the quick and private sale of the fraction; but that plan fell through like the others. Then just at this moment a man appears upon the ground who gives the name of Bock and refuses to listen to the warnings of neighbors that he is trespassing upon government ground. Strangely enough the police pay no heed even when notified and thus the first government fraction in the country is today being worked before the eyes of everyone by parties shrouded in mystery and who know enough to give no names but Bock.

For an explanation of the why and the wherefore of the Dominion affair one must go back to last summer and Mr. Ogilvie's arrival. G. B. Swinehart, then proprietor of the *Midnight Sun*, before its amalgamation with the *Miner*, threw out a net for the new governor and landed him the first cast. Some men's hearts are reached through their stomachs but the capture of Mr. Ogilvie was effected through his unfathomable vanity. A few glowing eulogies in the *Sun* and then a flattering two-column cut, showing him posed in awful majesty and piercing the dim perspective with an eagle eye,

and the capture was complete as that of a poor little trout dangling upon the sportsman's hook. At first it is peremptorily refused, but each succeeding refusal is weaker than the last, and an assent is finally secured, for who can refuse a favor which costs one nothing, to an individual who knows our weak spots and is not afraid to "put it on thick." And so it comes that G. B. Swinehart is today, through his Mr. Bock, installed on that fragmentary Dominion claim, and none can say him nay.

It must not be supposed that the claim has been given bodily to the occupant. Such a course would be tempting the wrath of the gods too openly. "In consideration of his determining for the government whether or not the adjoining claim holders are undermining the claim, the party of the first part will work the ground but will not take any of the gold taken therefrom." His share of the gold is to be left to the commissioner. Does it not occur to the commissioner that the encroachments of the neighboring claims can be as readily determined to a fraction of an inch from the underground workings of the suspected claim as from the fraction itself. And if there is any merit in that argument at all will it not equally apply to every other valuable government fraction in the country? The fact of the matter is there is not a miner upon the Klondike but will look upon the entire affair as a "job" as soon as the details are understood. Meanwhile Swinehart, through his men under Bock, is sinking in the reserved ground, unmolested and unafraid. The powers which have kept off a thousand and one men in the past year, have no terrors for the man who by the simple twist of the wrist in adulation can render those powers meek as water, dole as lambs, blind as bats and careless of public censure as he who invented the expression "The public be damned."

THAT MASTERS AND SERVANTS ACT.

The "Masters and Servants Act," as seen in operation in the Yukon territory, is something fearfully and wonderfully made and has created considerable consternation during the winter in diverse quarters where its peremptory workings were but imperfectly understood. Some blame the law for their ruin, while many a defenseless wage-worker has risen up and called it blessed. On the whole we believe the law a righteous one and productive of the greatest good to the greatest number; yet we are not slow to observe that in our judgment the customs of a country, craft or calling should be always taken into consideration in determining the time when the payment of wages falls due. It has been a wholesome shock to a host of employers the past six months to find that their employes did not have to sue them or to even hire a lawyer to get the wages which was due them. A simple complaint before the police magistrate and the employer comes up to stand what he mistakes for a suit which may be indefinitely postponed. The magistrate satisfies himself that the wages, or part of them, are really owing and then under the act gives the man who owes it a limited number of days in which to pay the money and costs or go to jail. The first impression made upon one unused to the law is in the nature of a severe shock at this peremptory way of dealing with what may be considered as small debtors. Imprisonment for debt has been unknown to the English speaking race for a hundred years and this strikes one as a survival of one form of it, yet it is more nearly an imprisonment for contempt for attempted evasion.

The law is designed to give employes the benefit of more rapid courts than that provided for the ordinary suit-at-law, and before invoking its stern alternatives the magistrate must satisfy himself not only that the money is owing, but that it is also due. Custom has so much to do in determining just when wages become due that it cannot be ignored. A farmer in Ontario engages a field hand, and though nothing should be said about the time of payment custom establishes the falling due of the wages

each and every month, and the masters and servants act would, we believe, become operative at those times should the wages be left unpaid. Ninety-nine out of each hundred laborers in the mines of the Klondike are to be paid at the clean-up, this including even the richest claims on Eldorado. Is not then the clean-up time of payment the custom of the craft or calling; and providing nothing is said or conveyed to the contrary at the time of the hiring, should not the magistrate take cognizance of these things when a bunch of men take the bit in their teeth and invoke the law because the mine owner was not far-seeing enough to secure a written contract from his men before putting them to work? It is a regrettable condition of this region that a mine owner or layman will have oftentimes for many months a hundred thousand dollars in his dumps and yet be begging a little money at 10 per cent a month to live on.

By a curious misuse of words the payment of money at the clean-up has come to be spoken of as payment on bed-rock, and these "bed-rock propositions" are unquestionably the custom of the land as regards wages. Wage earners who cannot wait until then should carefully stipulate this fact when they go to work and then there can be no question as to the result or the justice of the calling in of the act in discussion providing the employer attempts an evasion of his obligation.

NOT GOOD ARGUMENT.

The *Toronto Globe* is the ably edited exponent of the government party of Canada and as such, its conclusions are often mistaken, though its utterances are never without interest. The following editorial will be seen to be founded upon an interview with Mr. John Patterson agent Mr. Aulay Morrison, M. P., published some time ago exclusively in the NUGGET:

"We have scarcely seen a complaint from the Yukon yet that hung together. One was published the other day from Mr. John Patterson, who professed to speak the mind of and by the authority of Mr. Aulay Morrison. Mr. Morrison's prompt disclaimer that the gentleman spoke his mind or had any authority to speak for him confirmed the idea that has been gaining ground all the time, namely, that the output of mendacity in the Yukon runs a close race with the output of gold. But taking Mr. Patterson's statement, divested of Mr. Morrison's imprimatur, let us see how it stands examination. The chief accusation is that the entire workings of the administration of the laws seem to have been directed against the efforts of the honest prospector and in favor of the speculator. In another part of the statement it is said that 'in all our travels and in conversation with scores of men, hard-working miners for the most part, we failed to find a single man who could speak a good word for the gold commissioner or his subordinates.' The gentleman doth protest too much. If, according to the first statement, one class of men are robbed for the benefit of another, surely Mr. Patterson would have come across a few of the latter, who would speak a good word for the gold commissioner. If they would not after having, as alleged, received such benefits from him, they were ungrateful indeed. We prefer to believe, however, that Mr. Patterson employs exaggerated language, just as he misrepresented his commission from Mr. Morrison.

"We have no doubt in the world that the miners on the Yukon indulge in breathings against the government. We quite believe that the reservation of alternate sections and the imposition of a royalty are not at all popular measures on the creeks. Will the papers which give currency to these breathings proceed further and say that the alternate sections and the royalty should be abandoned? It would be absurd to suppose that in administering a country like the Yukon under totally new conditions some mistakes will not be made. The percentage of royalty may be too high, it might be thought advisable to raise the amount that would be exempt from it, so that allowance might be made for a miner with a comparatively poor location; but to ask that men who have struck locations worth millions should not be required to contribute something out of their winnings to pay for the running of the country is too absurd. If the opposition desires to take that view the government will be ready to meet it either in parliament or in the country. To say that hundreds are leaving the country disgusted is wholly beside the mark. Doubtless hundreds have

not been able to secure locations, either poor or rich. The government is not to blame for this. Are those who have secured millions leaving the country disgusted? These are the men who are being taxed."

If the leading government paper of Canada desires to be set right in regards to Mr. Aulay Morrison it will allow itself to be informed that Mr. Morrison's authorization or non-authorization of the interview does not even in a small way affect the result since the sentiments conveyed in the interview are the well known sentiments of Mr. Morrison, communicated here to numerous of his friends, and which we do not for one moment believe he has repudiated from that day to this. The *Globe's* argument amounting to nothing is not nearly so forceful as that generally seen in the *Globe* since the discrimination against the many for the betterment of the few is as old as sin and things might very easily be as described by Mr. Morrison's spokesman and yet Mr. Morrison meet very few men indeed on the creeks who could be found to say a good word for either the gold commissioner or the balance of the Yukon government.

The NUGGET would like to advise its big contemporary that the exemption clause on the royalty law, as practiced on the Yukon, is as much a farce as anything that has ever transpired in the regulations. The *Globe* supposes—as does also that part of Canada which gives the matter any thought—that the poor miner is protected by an exemption clause which exempts from royalty the first \$2500 extracted from a claim each year. This is not so. As Mr. Aulay Morrison said through Mr. Patterson, "The entire working of the administration of the laws seems to have been directed against the honest prospector," for according to the interpretation placed upon the regulations here, if a prospector picked up a nugget on his 365th day out with the pick it would be subject to royalty less 1-365th of \$2500. Many a poor miner was forced to pay royalty last year under this interpretation whose total diggings were but a few paltry hundreds of dollars, in a country where it takes thousands to live. To our way of thinking that horrible pittance was simply wrung from the hungry stomachs of a friendless miner since it was wrested from what was less than was needed for the healthy maintenance of the body.

The *Globe* does not know these things and is slow to believe them, but we make the statement especially for the benefit of that misled journal and our statement goes uncontradicted.

Teeth extracted without pain by Dr. Ryerson, Chisholm block.

A Good Map 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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SOLDIERS FED

America's Army to Be

One Wonders How Staff Issued By Cases of Poison

CHICAGO, March 15.—Before the army proved to be sensibly the regular army, the first cavalry, the 1st, the representative Davis testified that canned roast beef thrown away, because testified that he had found maggots.

"Maj. Lee asked: 'where?'
'They were canned,' replied.
Col. Davis: 'Are you of tanning, the intense heat that were dead.'
Dr. John B. Shaw the Third Illinois the voyage from No. 10 canned roast beef a great deal of complaint and nausea nourish the men. use of it. The wit to piomaine poison would develop in 12 hours after a can was properly sterilized.

Dr. Shaw told a night to look after were reported to be canned roast beef. fully, and it seemed tons of morphine pain. They were sick with a great deal of trouble.
'When the men roast meat was the Maj. Lee.
'Yes, the canned them diarrhoea and 'Did you, in an discontinuance?'
'Yes, sir, to my i 'Did the commis out how these thin 'He came several night. I think it was all right and Sometimes we sub on, but a great deal and had to be cond upon the army ration been starved to d money they got fo the commissary stor 'What was the beef?'

'I think it was L not sure. I tried not: it was abscot 'When the beef order it emptied o 'We tried to hav under the intense in almost as soon 'The next witness one of the Third l of the voyage fr Rico.
'There were a g the canned roast plaint about the e was nauseating me for examination pulsive. The me 'In reply to Maj sickness of one T whatever to eat The second day h hard tack, but 'The man became week.

Col. Henry L. command of the came a brigadier He said that on good deal of un canned roast bee complaint was th lot of it and it cans had swollen In reply to Maj he tried to eat so nauseated him s tainly was undi tate. He regard of the sickness o to eat the refrige gave him diarrh

Over WASHINGTON, M clerk of the Distr after, so long as l income from it, l \$20,000 and \$25,000 the rest will com increase in the result of the new for Alaska. Und had of business the obtained an