

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. Quære : 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 quære 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 he 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. Unless relief