

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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THEY ARE AT IT AGAIN

More Government Ground Recorded by Proteges.

REFUSED TO GENUINE MINERS FOR A YEAR

But an Imminent Exposure Brings About Restitution.

And Now the Whole Thing is Made Public—How Things are Still Working at the Office—No Millennium at the Gold Commissioner's.

What a snap Dawson officialdom would have been and would be now but for the vigilance of an alert press. The latest exposure is that of valuable government ground refused to miners and prospectors for upwards of a year, and recorded on July 25 to W. D. Madden and W. M. Wiles.

On No. 80 below on Hunker a small sized stream makes off on the left limit, known as Eighty pup. Unlike most pups it has a discovery claim. By the law of the land, as interpreted by the gold commissioners, the first nine claims above the discovery are open for entry. The applicants for Nos. 8 and 9 were put off by various excuses, and before they grasped the situation, Nos. 1, 2 and 3 below discovery were recorded, and the pup declared closed. The shady character of this proceeding which recorded from 3 below to 7 above, making eleven claims in all, was self-evident since, if the law could be overlooked in this instance why not again. Numerous applications were put in for the ground and stakes became as plentiful as brush on the claims. One gentleman, after being refused by Recorder Bolton, went personally to Mr. Senkler with his case. The gold commissioner protested that the ground was bona fide government reservation and could not be recorded. The gentleman finally gave up the attempt to locate, but

Offered to Bet Mr. Senkler \$100 That the ground would be recorded—probably by a government employee—within the year. This was in March last. To see how near the prognostication came to the truth let us follow up the history of the gulch.

Prior to March 1st, some dozen applications had been made for the ground. Among them was that of G. R. Smith, who, upon being refused, decided to await developments, since he was fully persuaded—as were others—that the ground was merely being held for someone else who would appear upon the scene just as soon as the original locators disappeared. Along in August Mr. Smith discovered that Nos. 8 and 9 above were occupied, cabins were in process of construction and laymen being secured to work out the ground in a hurry. A couple of weeks ago The Nugget was aware of the suspicious condition of affairs and an emissary was detailed to spy out the land. It proved no trouble to discover that the ground in question had been regularly granted to W. D. Madden and W. M. Wiles on July 25th. But the discovery of this fact by those outside the commissioner's office seemed to act as a stick in an

anthill. In fact it proved a most disturbing element in the situation, and there was a scurrying and scattering of dry bones which raised quite a dust in the eyes of the investigator. Evidently an alarm was raised at the appearance of The Nugget on the scene, and now inquirers are informed with child-like innocence of manner that the ground has been taken from Messrs Madden and Wiles and returned once more to the poor government.

Now, The Nugget has no intention of acting in the capacity of custodian of the government reserves since it is fully persuaded that the reserves are unjust in the first place, and a constant source of temptation to underpaid clerks in the second. Our object in following up this and other similar cases is a desire to purify the official atmosphere in Dawson, and to see that the most ordinary miner is given an equal chance with the influential pets and proteges of the recording office.

The value of a fearless press like The Nugget lies in its power to make wrongdoing a boomerang unto the unscrupulous perpetrators. We had and have no objection to Messrs Madden and Wiles securing as much of the government ground as is possible, but we do not propose to stand quietly by while dozens of honest miners are turned down for the benefit of these two men—or anyone else. We submit the foregoing case as proof positive that The Nugget has not outlived its usefulness in exposing wrong in high places. The millennium has not dawned on the Klondike, and neither is all holy and serene in the recording office. The fact that the miners' champion stands ready at all times to investigate, ventilate and criticize the first relapse into the crookedness which has agitated Canada from end to end, is the best deterrent at hand, since the government will not investigate for itself.

The practically giving away of government fractions and reserves—accounts of which have been published in The Nugget—is not of itself prejudicial to the interests of the miners, providing all are given an equal chance. On these terms and these only will The Nugget consent to be silent, when the domain is being divided up. The royalty and reservation clauses of the regulations can be completely suspended without drawing comment from this paper—but the government must play no favorites.

Washed Down the Klondike.

On Tuesday morning Mr. Robert Pickett, of Picket & Devlin attempted to cross the Klondike from Dawson to Klondike City with a team drawing a loaded wagon. During the present low stage of the river it has not been impossible to ford the river across the bars at the mouth, but on this occasion when the horses got belly deep and the swift flowing stream was beating against the bottom of the wagon box, the horses lost their footing and could not regain it. Bob cut the traces of the struggling animals and they rolled over and over, nearly to the Yukon. It took several men some 20 minutes to get them to their feet, but it was finally done and the horses appeared none the worse for their involuntary bath and narrow escape in the icy waters of the Klondike.

Last Chance for Cape Nome.

Steamer Monarch, under command of the veteran Yukon river captain, Joe Green, leaves Yukon dock for St. Michael Thursday, Sept. 21st, at 7 p. m. The Monarch holds the banner record for passenger business on the lower river, having left Dawson on her first trip this season, June 17th, with 290 passengers. The Monarch has never yet touched bottom on the Yukon, and has the enviable reputation of being the most popular boat on the run. A large passenger list has already been booked for this last trip.

ARTHUR GODDARD INSANE.

A Jury So Decided Last Monday in Territorial Court.

Thomas Thornton Convicted of Stealing Jewelry and Gold Dust From Charles Goldstein.

The case of the Queen vs. Arthur Goddard was called at 10 o'clock on last Monday morning. As the readers of The Nugget well know, Goddard took the life of James Prater, May 31st last. The deed was particularly atrocious, Goddard having struck the deceased on the head with a hatchet, and then cut his throat with a razor. When apprehended, the defendant evinced no concern for his rash act, and in explanation, merely said, "I was his partner, and he was a traitor to me." Doubts as to Goddard's sanity were expressed at once. The trial on Monday only involved the issue of whether the accused, at the present time, is sane, or insane. The jury was composed of the following gentlemen: Graham McTavish, H. Bailey, C. M. Pring, Thomas H. O'Brien, Thomas Low and James Purdy. After being empanelled, the prisoner's counsel, Mr. McCaul, stated that all the doctors, including the physician of the N. W. M. P., who had examined Goddard, were of the opinion that the latter was insane, and that Mr. Aikman, the crown prosecutor, admitted such to be the fact. Before closing his remarks, Mr. McCaul read the following article from the Chippewa Herald, printed at Chippewa Falls, Wis., on Friday, Jan. 6, 1882:

"Sad Accident.—On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. J. H. Goddard's only son 'Artie,' who is about 6 years of age, was sledding on the Central street hill, in front of A. S. Stiles' residence, when his sled turned and went over the embankment, taking the little fellow with it. He was picked up in an insensible condition, and carried home, where he now lies in an exceedingly dangerous condition, the fall having produced a concussion of the brain and spine. The sympathy of the whole community goes out to the afflicted parents, and many are the earnest hopes and prayers that their only son may recover."

Mr. Aikman arose and conceded the insanity of the accused. Judge Dugas instructed the jurors that they could arrive at a verdict from the admission of the prosecutor, and from their own observations of the prisoner's demeanor, while in court. Without leaving the box, the jury found that "on account of the insanity of the defendant, he is unfit to take his trial." The point established by the verdict is that Goddard is insane at the present time, and, therefore, incapable of pleading guilty, or not guilty, or of properly conducting or defending himself in court. The verdict of Monday does not determine nor decide Goddard's mental condition at the time of the commission of the alleged murder; neither does it touch the issue of whether he is guilty or not guilty of any crime. The effect of the trial is that the prisoner will be sent

immediately to a government insane asylum in Canada, where he will be held in custody until further proceedings have been taken. It is quite likely that his father will go to Ottawa, upon leaving here, and request that his son be released. It is very probable that the government will turn Goddard over to the charge of his father, who will take him for treatment to his home in Wisconsin. The actions of the prisoner on Monday clearly evidenced that he was of unsound mind. It took the united efforts of four policemen to conduct him to and from the court room; he made repeated and strenuous attempts to release himself. During the trial, he struggled with his guards continuously.

Thomas Thornton Convicted.

On Monday morning, Thomas Thornton was tried in the territorial court for having stolen 70 plain gold rings, 50 set rings, 60 ounces of gold dust, 30 ounces of nuggets, 10 gold chains, a gold tester and about \$50 in silver. The property belonged to Charles Goldstein, and was taken from his place of business near Bartlett Brothers' office on Front street, about 10 o'clock on the night of July 31st. Goldstein testified that on the evening of the robbery the prisoner came into the store, and sold a quarter of an ounce of gold dust; that the latter took observations of the jewelry, nuggets and gold dust in the show case; that, immediately after the accused left, the complaining witness locked his door and visited a neighbor for about ten minutes; that when he returned he found his store door unlocked, and his show case opened; that the valuables, as above described, were missing; that he immediately reported his loss to the police. Corporal Wilson testified that, having reason to suspect the prisoner he arrested him at the entrance to the Arlington bunk house a few days after the robbery; that the prisoner, when apprehended, dropped a handkerchief in which were tied about 30 gold rings, five watch chains and several nuggets, which were identified as part of the stolen property; that, when searched, the gold-tester was found upon the person of the accused; that the prisoner had given no explanation at the time of his arrest of the manner in which he became possessed of the stolen goods, nor would he divulge the whereabouts of the rest of the property. Mr. Goldstein and Corporal Wilson were the only witnesses for the crown. The defendant had no attorney. In his own behalf he admitted having been arrested with the stolen goods in his possession, but asserted that he had received them from one John Glover, who, at the time, was tending bar at the Rochester saloon; that Glover told him that the jewelry had been brought from the coast; that the prisoner was to sell them at the request of Glover; that he, the accused, had no knowledge of the whereabouts of the rest of the jewelry and nuggets, nor of the gold dust and silver money; that he was an industrious man, a cook by occupation, and that he had a wife and four children residing in Seattle. Mr. Aikman, the crown prosecutor, waived his right to speak. Judge Dugas instructed the jurors, who retired, and, after a few minutes deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty, as charged. The sentence will be imposed on October 1st, and in the meantime the judge will ascertain the previous habits and occupation of the prisoner.

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