

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

VOL. I. No. 20

DAWSON, Y. T., SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1898

PRICE 50 CENTS

TO JUMP DOMINION.

A Scheme to Take Advantage of Fawcett's Illegal Action.

THE "GANG SLIPS" AND A DAMNING LETTER REACHES THE PUBLIC.

Spies to Get Their Pick of the Claims and One Tenth of All.

An Exasperating State of Affairs Brought About by Incompetence if Nothing Worse in the Gold Commissioner's Office Men to be Legally Robbed of Their Claims on Technicalities Schemes and Schemers Exposed to the Public Gaze.

The NUGGET has long been in possession of information which shows that a "coup" was intended by schemers in town to beat certain bona fide prospectors and locators out of their rightful claims. The information has been withheld from publication for the reason that it implicated prominent men who were said to have been induced to drop the scheme because information had leaked into the office of this paper. Thinking the miners were safe we allowed the matter to drop and at last it was almost forgotten. Now, however, we find the scheme going ahead with diabolical regularity and we desire to raise a warning voice to our friends on Dominion creek.

But let us tell the story from beginning to end. A year ago it will be remembered, Dominion creek was staked. Owing to there being two discovery claims there soon became entanglements from overlapping of claims between the two discoveries. Here is where the bright mind of our gold commissioner shone in resplendent brilliancy. With the mighty grasp of a mental giant he decided to at once prevent further complications by closing the creek. It was easily done. When a tired, worn-out prospector came to town to record something he had dug and delved for weeks to find and when he at last succeeded in reaching the window of the aforesaid mental giant, he was simply informed that "the creek is closed." How easily it was done. The well-fed, thickly clad and warmly housed gold commissioner simply smiled at the lagged and weary prospector and gave him to understand that in his infallible wisdom he had decided to close the creek.

"But," said the prospector "you have let me dig out there for several months since the day you say you closed the creek! Why didn't you notify me so that I could quit prospecting on ground which I would not be able to record!"

The G. C. haughtily replied: "I thought it would be plenty time enough when you came in to record." But all the same the G. C. realized he had worked a hardship on the men at the window and he ended by telling them to quickly go back to their claims and when in his wisdom he decided to open the creek he would give them the preference in recording. On this understanding the men went back to their claims on the unrecorded lower end of Dominion, and built cabins. Work during the winter revealed their claims to be good, and much as they tried to conceal the fact it soon reached the ears of the Dawson schemers. With devilish ingenuity a plot was hatched. In the scheme were required a lawyer to advise, a type-writing scribe to draw up contracts and a man or men who had access to Fawcett's office to furnish maps and numbers and other information of the ground to be recorded. Then men were to be found who would be willing to go on Dominion and stake over the rightful holders, and would do so over a half interest in the gang in consideration of the gang getting the claim recorded for them. The gang depended largely upon the weakness of Mr. Fawcett for their success. After getting the claims staked and after securing a type-written half-interest from each staker, they would present themselves to Mr. Fawcett, and their lawyer would advise him he had kept the creek closed illegally. Then they expected him to break down, as he did in the "Dominion muddle," and irrevocably insure the men who had trusted in his word and were cordially spending their time out of the creek at work. Falling to get him to record, they proposed to compel him, by their influence, to make a note of the fact that they had applied for record. An appeal to Ottawa was expected to open the creek, and as their men were absolutely the first who could show any records of application

for the claim, they would get them and the gang would "cop" off a half of every one. The above reads something like a romance. But if you fellows on the lower end of Dominion creek are skeptical we ask you to walk around your claims, look for stakes and see if you can't find these names: DEPPE, BARRETT, OSGOOD, KELSEY, COLLINS, HOLLAND, LYNCH, and a dozen more. Come to town and we will direct you to a certain law office where half-interests in your claims are lying neatly typewritten, signed and sealed. We would like to warn the owners of 47, 99, 76, 86 and the rest of the lower claims not to go to sleep. And, what is more, we give fair warning to the gang that if they don't drop the scheme right here and now we will print the name of every mother son of them in our columns and hold them up to public scorn.

But don't think that the gang has got only one iron in the fire. Don't get over confident that the Devil sleeps and is harmless. The coming of the New York sharps is as proverbial as the penchant of a colored man for chickens. The peculiar official atmosphere of Dawson is distinctly favorable to schemes and schemers. With strong and morally stalwart men in control the schemer would have to starve or shame-facedly shoulder a pick and go to work. The following letter was for a short time lost from a certain man's pockets on Bonanza. The contents were copied and the letter replaced.

FRIEND CHARLES: Krelfom wants you to go about 3 miles above McCormack's fork on Bonanza and go to each claim on the creek and find out if there is a cabin on them, or if there has been any work done last year and who is the owner now. If any wood is cut, some perhaps may be lying in the cabins and representing and yet not doing work. Get full information and make a separate list of each claim as far as they are staked down the river. He wants to get a list of all the represented and unrepresented claims in his possession. I leave at 3 for Hunker to do the same work. For this we get our pick of any claims and one-tenth of all.

HOLLAND.

The words in italics are interpolated by the scribe to make reason of the sentence.

To properly understand the above letter one must take cognizance of existing circumstances as brought about by the intelligent administration of affairs by Thomas Fawcett. Without lawful warrant it will be remembered that he decided that all unrepresented claims should go to the crown and not be open for relocation by miners. The result of that ruling he never anticipated. Miners no longer had any fears of anyone doing detective work upon them because it would profit no one to inform. A miner one day shy on his representation had nothing to fear, because there was no one to take him up on a technicality, none had anything to gain by so doing. The result, as might be expected by anyone less intelligent than Mr. Thomas Fawcett, has been that claim owners have been more or less careless. Men with more than one claim have spent more than a due proportion of time on the claim they were working the hardest. Men from adjoining claims have worked for one another and laid themselves more or less open for spies, not believing there were any in the country. The revelation made by the above letter is like a thunder clap from a clear sky. Our object in securing it was to warn the diggers on the slides of the existence of a gang of shysters and sharps who were prepared to involve them in such endless litigation at the slightest technical slip that they would be glad to part with their claim for a fraction of their value or consent to accepting a fractional interest in their own claim to avoid losing the whole.

From further information in our possession it is seen that the spies are spurred on largely by

the fact that it will cost them nothing but the work of relocating and a little hard swearing. The gang will furnish the brains and the knowledge of law and the influence, the spies have but to obey the instructions of their well-organized masters and then pocket their pick of all the claims and one-tenth of the whole.

The imbecile policy of vacillation pursued by the gold commissioner at this place is responsible for many a man's loss of his claim. Those who are near to him and who therefore know "which way the cat will jump next" have only to be in the possession of very ordinary intelligence and a touch of low cunning to be able by reason of their knowledge to lay snares for the enrapturement of much wiser and better men.

We warn Mr. Holland as he values his scalp to keep away from Hunker. "Friend Charles" had better leave Bonanza immediately he hears of the publication of the letter he is carrying around in his pocket at this moment. If there are two things on earth which a Yukon miner despises more than anything else it is a spy and a gang.

The lesson of the two foregoing schemes is that unorganized miners are a mere football for organized rascality. Every man and woman on the Klondike owning a claim or working in the mines should band themselves together in the Miners' Association for mutual protection. Then, and only then, will "the wicked cease from troubling and the weary be at rest." With a strong association there could have been no "Dominion Muddle," no gang of "inside" schemers.

Dumped Into the River.

Friday afternoon, just as the Yskoner blew its first departure whistle, the center wharf of the N. A. T. & T. Co. broke down and precipitated its load of humanity into the river. There was a yell of dismay and a rush from the broken wharf and then a general scramble to assist the thirty people struggling in the water. All were rescued with nothing more serious than a few mouthfuls of water and a thorough wetting. Among these who went in were, F. E. Jones, Martin D. Young, Daxe Hieher, Ole G. Oleson, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Wentzel, A. J. Hageman, Geo. Johnson, Wm. Peterson, E. R. Sogerman, Geo. F. Jewett and Al. Bolden. It was the last-mentioned who caused the collapse of the overcrowded and flimsily-constructed wharf. He was just wheeling a truck from the boat loaded with a large, heavy box of munitions, and just as the wheels of the truck struck the wharf she went down.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

On next Monday a private school will be opened in Dawson under the charge of Miss Lulu Alice Craig. The school will be held in the Church of England building. Miss Craig comes highly recommended and her school will doubtless prove a success.

Reek Island No. 1 arrived in Dawson on Tuesday after a series of small mishaps and fire-some delays. She is the first boat of the Alaska Mining Co., but comes up chartered by the Frank Waterhouse Co. She left St. Michaels July 8th, so that she has been considerable over a month on the river. She brought up 72 passengers and 400 tons of freight.

The Alaska Exploration Company are making extensive improvements upon their property, having acquired additional ground and employing a large corps of workmen in the erection of warehouses. Mr. Fulda expresses great confidence in the future of Dawson and the country generally, and his company is closely identifying itself with the future prosperity of both.

Mr. John Wynn is the lucky holder of ticket No. 24, which entitles him to a free first class passage from Dawson to Seattle, on the Columbian Navigation Co.'s boats. Mr. Churchill, agent for the company, contributed the ticket, to be raffle for the benefit of St. Mary's hospital. A very neat sum was realized for Dawson's worthy institution in which so many charitable acts are performed.

The Canadian arrived Tuesday. She is a sister ship to the Columbia, which is making a trip to White Horse rapids. She was well-loaded with freight and passengers and made a good trip. She has aboard a gang of carpenters who have built her entire upper works since leaving St. Michaels. Another coat of paint and a few trimmings and she will present the same favorable appearance made by the Columbia. The Canadian Development Co. is to be congratulated on its boat.

The many friends of Dr. Merryman will be treated by him in case of sickness or accident through or against, not for less or even for gifts. We learn that until he can submit to examination and legally qualify for practice he will not desert his patients. The doctor is from the famous Rush Medical College of Chicago, one of the most orthodox and excellent schools in America and it is with extreme satisfaction that his many friends learn of his intention to qualify at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Bulyea, member of the Territorial council, will leave on the Canadian for the outside. He came here about April 11, representing the Regina Government and succeeded in pushing the famous whiskey case through. Mr. Bulyea is a gentleman of unassuming worth and has impressed those with whom he has come in contact as the possessor of a steadfast integrity which is particularly noticeable in these times of public criticism of officials. We are pleased to hear that the gentleman thinks of returning at some later day to take care of his private interests here.

Col. Hunter, the author of "An Old Timer," a book which has run through several editions and has a reputation throughout America, has arrived in Dawson. He has served through five Indian wars, and was one of Gen. Howard's chief scouts. The colonel has had nearly half a century's experience in fighting, and had settled down to a well-earned repose in Washington, D. C., when the Klondike gold fever got hold of him in its most virulent form. He took quite a prominent part in politics during the early settlement of the State of Washington. The colonel has with him his wife and mother-in-law.

Important cablegram at the Nugget office for D. Tyler Lang.

HOW JOHN DONNELLY LOST HIS CLAIM

He Cannot Secure Admission Through the Front Door.

The Entrance Fee at the Side Door is Paid, But He Finds the Claim Recorded Although Fawcett Had Told Him Such Was Not the Case.

The manner in which business is conducted through the gold commissioner's office is well illustrated by the case of John Donnelly. It is no wonder that men are becoming desperate when such things are occurring every day. With conditions as they are there is absolutely no encouragement for a man to exert himself, for he knows that if he locates and stakes a claim, especially if it be a good one, the chances are more than even that in the end he will be beaten out of it. It is putting the thing very mildly; in fact, it is the broadest kind of charity to say that such things come about through incompetence or ignorance on the part of government officials.

But, let every miner and every prospector in the country listen to Donnelly's case, and then decide what chance he has against such conditions. Here is the story, just as Donnelly himself tells it:

"On the 20th day of August I staked a bench claim on the lower half of No. 2, on Discovery tributary of Bear creek. The same evening I came in to Dawson, but returned to the claim on the next day, the 11th. I remained on the claim prospecting until the 13th. On that day I noticed a man on the claim, but paid no attention to him until he had gone away. About two hours later I found a single stake on which was a name, so poorly written and spelled I could not make it out. On the same day I was told that the claim was already recorded. I immediately came back to Dawson and on the 15th succeeded in getting inside, through the private door. I saw Mr. Fawcett and he told me distinctly that the claim was not recorded, but that in order to record I would have to go out and take my chances with the rest in getting inside. From the 15th to the 20th I waited in front of the door trying to get in, but could not do so and then went back to the claim and continued prospecting until August 24th.

"I then returned to Dawson, and the time by paying the policeman on guard \$4 I succeeded in getting inside. This was on August 26th. I went to the recorder's window and asked to record the claim. The answer was that the claim had been recorded on August 13th, by Wm. H. Alramsky. I do not know who Alramsky is, but this much I do know, that my stakes placed on that claim on August 20th, were the only ones ever placed on it, except the one stake driven on August 13th—a day later than the day on which the records show the claim was recorded."

There, in a nutshell, is the story of the treatment an honest man receives at the hands of men who are sent here ostensibly to see that the rights of all are protected. Is it any wonder that confidence in the government is shaken? Is it any wonder that the name "official" has become a by-word and a thing to be scorned and held in contempt by every honorable man? But, let them take warning. This thing is not going to continue forever. A day of reckoning is coming, and just so surely as it comes there will be an "airing of dirty linen" in Dawson history which has scarcely seen an equal in Canadian history.

Yukon Officialdom.

The following is from the Vancouver World of July 27th:

"There is certainly something wrong in the circles of Yukon officialdom. The numerous reports, and some of them from reliable sources, proclaim emphatically that the conduct of certain persons now in authority at Dawson requires prompt consideration, and we feel that the Federal authorities will provide for a searching inquiry into the alleged misconduct of Attorney Wade and others. If the charges against the former are substantiated, his resignation should be asked for, and that at once. If there is any grabbing of the peoples heritage by speculators, and it is charged that there is, it must stop or an outraged people will wreak vengeance through the courts. By this course public indignation is now mounted that we attach and blame to Hon. Mr. Selton and his department. It must be remembered that putting wrongs to right in the Yukon district is a matter which cannot be accomplished in the course of a few days. All the government can do is to select men who they have every reason to believe will administer the affairs of the district in the most honest and efficient manner. This has been done and in most cases the officials have proved true to their trust, but it seems that there are others who are in that country mainly for what they can make out of it, and being far from the lash of the Minister's whip, they take the liberty of administering the law according to their own ideas. It is to be hoped that Mr. Oulvie, the newly appointed administrator, will drop the heads of any obnoxious civil servants into the basket, and it is certain that he will, if he finds wrong doing progressing, for he is acknowledged by all to be one of the best and best looking officials who has ever entered the northern regions. Such men as he are a priceless boon to any country and the government has been congratulated on every side over his appointment. It is to be hoped he will be given a wide range of power in order to protect the rights of the people—especially the poorer classes who go into that wild, vast territory. But there must be no dallying with the question of monopolistic grabbing, thereby shutting out the weak and struggling miners; it must be stopped at once."

Our Exchange Table.

No. 1 of volume one of the Klondike News reached our table Tuesday of this week. It is a specially gotten up issue of 36 pages and cover, printed and illustrated in San Francisco and containing pictures and write-ups of persons and of places of interest in this section. The write-ups and matter of the issue were gotten up in four weeks, in January and February, and \$40,000 of business secured. There were printed 100,000 copies of the issue. The literary merits of the paper warrant much approbation.

Front St.
TER
COME IN
EATRE
ING
Co.
eamer
ER
S
AUGUST 25,
hip
ttle, and
s.
ets &c.
100 Rooms
Hotel
American Plan
ALASKA
DENNY BROOKS
Hotel
AND WHITE PASS
Plan
accommodations,
White Pass, B. C.
WORDEN,
Bet. 1st and 2d Sts.
Lighted by Electricity.
for Mining Men,
liquors and Cigars.
Stanley Proprietor
& CATES
LERS IN
USE FURNISHING GOODS
Description.
Bank of North America
OF SKAGWAY
AY, ALA.
Received for Collection on
orable Terms
SIDENT AND MANAGER
const get fixed up with
lothes at
ton Store
KEY Manager
Hats, Caps, Gent's
ings, Etc.
SKAGWAY, ALA.
of Trade
IE, Proprietor
the Best Restaurant
Alaska