

WHAT HAGERTY SAYS OF FAWCETT.

The Reporter of the "Government Organ" Tells What He Knows.

How a Woman Managed to Get Inside Information From the Gold Commissioner's Office—An Order Relative to Saving Claims for the Crown that Never Went into Effect.

In a recent issue the Seattle P. J. says: The official corruption of Dawson, the jobbery in recording mining claims, is described by J. M. Hagerty who was employed upon the Midnight Sun, as being more audacious and greater than has yet been told.

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"The triumph in finance has been largely due to industrial progress. The output of pig iron has been about 11,615,000 tons, the greatest yet reached in any year by 2,600,000 tons, and greater than Great Britain ever reached by 2,600,000 tons. Yet the consumption in manufacture has been still larger in spite of net exports of pig iron ten months 163,000 tons, for un-sold stocks were reduced in eleven months 380,000 tons. Exports of iron manufactures in ten months were about \$67,641,536 in value, against imports of \$13,497,817. Prices show for the year in the table of comparisons have been unusually steady, varying not 5 per cent for pig from the lowest to the highest, and for finished products not 6 per cent."

"Failures in the United States for the week were 252, and in Canada 23, total 271, against 299 last week, 292 the preceding week, and 410 the corresponding week last year, of which 295 were in the United States and 21 in Canada. Of failures in the United States 74 have liabilities exceeding \$5,000, and 178 liabilities less than \$5,000. For four weeks of December total liabilities of firms failing were \$11,097,605, against \$10,366,580 last year."

What the Colonist says: "We frankly admit that we do not care to make anonymous charges against public officials; yet in regard to the Yukon it is almost impossible to get persons to allow their names to be used. Three classes of reasons are given. One is that the complainants regard knowledge of the existence of scandal as an advantage to them in dealing with the officials; another is that they have paid for privileges and it would be foolish to lose the advantage thus gained; a third is that the complainants will have business to do with officials in Dawson next year, and do not wish to handicap themselves. To some people these will seem like very insufficient reasons, but when men make specific allegations, and give one or the other of these grounds for being unwilling to have their names used in connection with them, it is impossible not to be impressed by them. The Colonist has seen scores of people from Dawson, who were outspoken in private as to the wrongful acts of officials, persons of excellent repute, Englishmen, Canadians, Australians and Americans, but they all seemed influenced by the idea that it would not be safe to allow their names to be connected with anything publicly. One of the most unfortunate things in connection with the Yukon scandals is the existence of the feeling that it is not safe to speak out plainly, that the government is determined upon protecting the officials, and that the man who prefers charges will be black-listed. This is a most melancholy feature of the case. It ought not to be in any part of Canada that a man should be afraid to expose wrong-doing."

Old Mail Coming In. The thousands of people who have been disappointed by the non-receipt of letters which they know have long been on the way to them from the states, will be interested in learning that the accumulated mails of September, October, November and December—or at least a considerable portion of it—has at last been gotten under way and is now en route to Dawson. It was first seen by T. Snow being worked down Lake Bennett on or about January 21, and a day or so later it was overtaken at Cariboo Crossing, the foot of Bennett, by a gentleman who arrived late on Monday.

But you'll have to give up half of the claims you stake, said she. "She had secured this list from the gold commissioner's office in advance of anyone else, and was on the ground with her party ready to stake before others could reach there. And the party did stake and record of claims. Had I wanted to mix in that kind of business I also could have secured a claim or half of one."

"There was a few days later another illustration of the gold commissioner's methods. It was given out his office at that after September 1st, only one-half of a claim could be recorded—the half nearer discovery claim. The other half was to be reserved for the crown, subject to further instructions from Ottawa. Many claims had been recorded under this new order. "As soon as I heard of it I went to Fawcett to get a statement from him and he outlined this new policy. It seemed to me to be such a stupendous fraud and outrage that I wanted to have indisputable evidence. I wrote down the statement and had him sign it. Then I refused to Gov. Ogilvie for a statement, but he insisted to discuss the matter; he would not be quoted."

He contented himself with a declaration that Fawcett was the most honorable man in the Klondike region. However, when I showed a "proof" copy of his remarks and he saw that statement in cold type, he considered it a little too strong. It then described Mr. Fawcett as being one of the honest men of the Klondike. "Well, this statement of Mr. Fawcett and that of Gov. Ogilvie were never published; the two officials held a consultation during the afternoon and as a result they re-issued the order. Now then, here is the point: Fawcett claimed in his signed statement that he had instructions from Ottawa to permit the record of only one-half a claim. How then could these two gentlemen rescind the orders from the capital? Is it not sufficient proof that there were no such orders from Ottawa at all? It was simply intended to hold open one-half of each claim in order to await developments. Wherever the original locator had a rich claim, the remaining unrecorded one-half of it would have been secured by a friend or a dummy of the government ring."

"Had this policy been followed it would have given the gang at Dawson a one-half interest in all the future discoveries of the Klondike. But the officials were thoroughly frightened by the newspapers and the storm which it was seen they would arouse. "You could not get a claim recorded at Dawson for less than \$10 or \$20 without waiting in line for several days. Then if you did remain in line until your turn came you might be put off for several days till the ring sent out a man to learn if your claim was valuable. If it were, they told you that it had already been recorded. In fact the only way to do business was to go in the back door which cost from \$10 to \$20. I know one man who paid \$250 to record his claim."

"I don't agree with many of those persons who believe that Fawcett was merely incompetent and not dishonest. I know that most of the rascality has been blamed upon his chief clerk, Bolton. But in my opinion Fawcett is dishonest and he stood in with all these deals. There were several syndicates in Dawson which handled the business for the government officials. These syndicates secured claims, which real locators were robbed of and they worked them. I suppose that they had con-

tracts with the officials making a proper "divvy" of the profits. Alex. McDonald was at the head of one of these syndicates and that is the manner in which many of the Kings of the Klondike made their money. "I never saw any official corruption to equal that at Dawson except the operations of the whiskey ring at Skagway and Dyea."

Wonderful Times in the United States. The year of 1898 has been the most unparalleled year of financial success the United States has ever had, as is shown by the review of the business situation by Dun and Bradstreet on the last day of the year. Dun says: "The year 1898 has not only been one of victory, of important increase in territory, and of incalculable expansion of the influence of the United States among other nations, but has surpassed all other years in financial and industrial results. The center of financial power has crossed the ocean."

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day with official mail for Commissioner Ogilvie. This gentleman says the mail is in charge of Mr. Sigel, who left here with mail for the outside during the early winter, and P. C. Richardson, who has a mail contract, and that it was being "mushed" by five horses and a large number of dogs, about 40, at the rate of four or five miles a day. Later in the journey, when the use of horses would not be advantageous, the men in charge of the mail resorted to using dogs only. The receipt of this mail will be looked forward to with the greatest interest and solicitude.

The Atlin Diggings. The British Columbia Review of December 10 has this to say of the Atlin gold fields, which are experiencing such a boom just now: On Birch creek three of us, in removing the runnings, took out \$90 in thirteen hours. One bench claim on Pine creek, a quarter of a mile above discovery, has produced \$1500. The adjoining claim at one side has yielded \$900. Across the creek one man packed dirt down to the stream in a sack, washed it out alone, and got \$100. On discovery, Wright creek, one man has taken out \$1000 with a rocker. Three nuggets from the same claim were worth \$80. The largest fan \$29. Pine, Spruce, Birch, Wright, Dixie's, Bear, Muskat, and Ruby creeks comprise the principal mining country so far discovered. All of these creeks prospect well. Wherever a man has put in a sluice-box or rocker a claim has paid from \$10 to \$150 a day. We call it a poor man's country because it is easy of access, easy to work, and you do not have to pay royalties, or get permits. You can contract now for the delivery of freight from Skagway at six cents a pound. Already between 4000 and 5000 claims have been located. Those which have been worked have shown up well. Two men can go there with grub for the summer and their whipsaws and in a week can be taking money out of the ground. In five days two of my companions and myself made our sluice-boxes, carried them three quarters of a mile, and were sluicing. There will be a big rush in the spring. Operations for the winter have ceased. I presume that there will not be more than 150 men winter there. The man who goes in in the spring will simply have to take his chances with the crowd. The country is large and there is no telling what will be discovered. A friend of mine sent a prospector across country to the headwaters of the Hootalinqua river. He returned with the news that he discovered twelve creeks in the country traversed and that they prospected well. The country as a whole is rolling, gravelly, and spotted with groves. One can ride through it with a horse. There is plenty of grass, and if one takes the trouble to cut it he can keep a horse all winter without much extra expense. Indians say that it is a dry climate. I judge that they have about 3 ft. of snow in winter."

When You're Away From Home. When you're feelin' blue or indigo—when you're a way from home, En faces ain't familiar on the new streets that you roam. You'll find them all a-leadin' on they'll disappear from view. When you run across a feller from the same ol' town ez you.

If you ain't been the best o' friends, it softens up your heart. You feel a warnin' to him that'll kinder give a start. To a long on lastin' friendship that you'll allus cast a glow. With a good word for the feller from the same ol' town ez you.

You'll find his voice sou'n's sweeter, ez he mentions some o' Bism. Then it nester when you'd meet him airy mornin' in the mornin'. En, when you say good-bye, en part—ez some how folks must do. You hate to leave the feller from the same ol' town ez you.

Where Is He? The following is an inquiry addressed to the N. W. M. P.: Miss Lillian Estelle Beckley, Flat H., 4247 Cottage Grove avenue, Chicago, Ill., requests news of her brother, to whom she thinks some accident has occurred. His description is as follows: Age 34, on September 17th; height 5-foot-10; long, oval face; fair complexion, brown hair, blue eyes, reddish-brown beard and moustache; quick and alert in movements, with military carriage. Name, Eldon L. Beckley.

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