

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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HE HAS THE POWER.

Major Walsh Can Do Away With the Royalty.

HIS POWER SEEMS ABSOLUTE.

By His Order Royalties Have Been Remitted.

And He Admits That He Has the Power to Wipe Out All Royalties if Convinced That Any Royalty Whatever is an Injustice.

It will be news to Dawsonites to learn that right here at home, without appeal to Ottawa, the much abused royalties could be abolished if the Commissioner of the Yukon was once convinced of their injustice and oppression. The following interview, courteously granted the Nugget man by Major Walsh, is a volume of information in itself:

"Major, we understand that you have been remitting royalties on claims, where it was shown they were working a hardship or injustice, and we would like to ask you the following questions: Among your other powers, has the power been given you to remit any and all royalties, if such should be found unfair, oppressive, and working an injury to the district?"

"Yes, I have been remitting royalties, as you know, when such has been shown to be oppressive."

"Then, if it should be shown you that all royalties were oppressive and working an injustice, you could yourself abolish that regulation?"

"I am quite satisfied the government would support me even if I remitted all."

The Major protested that it was the last thing in the world the government desired, to oppress the people of this district. The object of giving him such extensive powers was largely to obviate our long distance from the seat of government. Immediately relief could be given where any wrong was made apparent. As an example of the exercise of that power he cited the giving back to the claim owners on Dominion creek the alternate claims held for the crown.

"Are the claims on which royalties have been remitted quite numerous?"

"Yes, quite numerous. Not a man who appeared before this office with a statement has been charged a cent. Some have even shown a balance in their favor; but nothing was exacted."

The Commissioner then went on to state that all the royalties collected would not even pay the police bill of the district. He had seen men alone coming over the trail to the city with sacks of gold over their shoulders and asked if such a condition of safety were not worth paying for. He dilated on the unfairness of asking the Manitoba farmer to contribute to the support of this gold-bearing region. In case of the abolishing of the royalty mine laborer to pay a poll or license tax of \$30 a head. Yet revenue must be raised.

"Major, if the government disposed of its block of claims, would not that prove a source of revenue?"

"Yes, certainly, that would help out; but the government has not any claims on, Dominion creek and anything. There are some on sweet creek and such streams."

Mr. Walsh then went on to state that the royalty collected up to date amounted to but \$250,000, though there was more to come yet. It would not pay for policing the district.

"I think the time will come," he continued, "when new and better methods will be pursued and this district will be shown up in all its richness. Hills will be denuded of their soil by sluicing and the raising of revenue will be simplified. You will undoubtedly have your own government next spring and everything will be put in order. You will also have your own town government, as I shall recommend, when I get to Ottawa."

"Then, there is truth in the rumor that you accepted your position of commissioner for but one year and would shortly be leaving here?"

"I leave here in two or three weeks. I only accepted the position for a year, and while I do not regret coming, I would not stay under any consideration. I have been favorably impressed, both on the trail and on arriving here with the class of men who are swelling our population, and have so reported at Ottawa."

The commissioner then went on to state that he hadn't the slightest doubt but the government would do just all these matters, to the complete satisfaction of the people.

"Major, you are undoubtedly aware that many of our population are daily falling sick and that the authorities have contributed absolutely nothing to the relief of their destitution. Can no assistance be given our hospital?"

"There has got to be a provision made to do something for the hospital. I have thought the matter over, but have decided to wait for local government."

"It appears to be the impression of a large number of people here that the main trouble with the country here is excessive taxation, and—"

"How can that be so when the tax, whenever excessive, has not been exacted?"

"Is it just that the miner should have to defray all the expenses of the district? Do not forget the licenses, the timber permit for this or that, the other sources of revenue under this or that Royalty's supervision."

"No, indeed, the tax is not so great as you might imagine, and the amount of the goods coming in under bond from ca-

nadian ports. Then again the duties are a kind of rebate from ours. Only when the funds of the international department are exhausted can we draw on the general fund to which the duties go."

A Lesson on Good Breeding.

If there is one thing which exasperates a broad-gauge man more than another, it is the assuming of haughty authority by some two-penny-half-penny underling who apes his superiors in everything but courtesy and good breeding. The Nugget man had occasion some days ago to present some bills contracted by the Gold Commissioner's office, and incidentally to ask for some information in matters of momentous public importance. Out of sympathy with the weary, waiting crowd of patient miners at the front entrance of the recorder's office THE NUGGET man decided not to crowd his way in there but to avail himself of a convenient side door marked "Private." A diminutive type-writing apostle of Ben Johnson named Clark, who appears to have control of the opening and shutting of the entrance-way, was asked:

"Will you kindly ask Mr. Fawcett at what department these papers should be presented?"

The dignified and important opened and shutter of doors immediately swelled up like a load and with a ridiculously amusing arrogance of manner shouted out what he probably supposed to be his instructions:

"I don't know what you are thinking of, I'm sure. I tell you that neither you nor your papers can get through here. Get out of here and get in line at the front, or use the post-office; I don't care which."

With a smile the scribe made his way to Major Walsh's sanctum and was courteously received and information given him, as will be seen elsewhere in our columns.

For the benefit of pompous type-writers and over-dignified door tenders we would say that a civil answer is never quite thrown away, even on a newspaper man, and who is quite able to judge for himself whether or not he is presuming. The example of his superiors, who, however much we may differ on questions of government, are undoubtedly gentlemen both by birth and breeding—should teach Mr. Clark at least a lesson in common politeness.

Claims a Fraud.

Simon Kisick, a young Indian speaking good English and also well educated in other branches at the Roman mission of Anvik, six hundred miles from the mouth of the river, is telling a tale of woe as long as your arm of a trip he made to Chicago and other cities of the United States last fall. He has just come back with the Geological Survey party and has retained Lawyer O. M. Woodworth to prosecute his claim against a certain J. P. Light for time lost and moneys expended on that trip.

In his complaint he sets forth that last fall Mr. Light secured him for the trip to the States by a promise of \$5,000 for the two years' services. The St. Michaels Indians would not accept Light's gold dust so Kisick bought six Esquimaux dogs with good United States silver dollars. Light bought six more and a leucuring pair of the States was commenced. The Indian enjoyed the trip but the thieves of Chicago alarmed him so that he entrusted his gold sack with Mr. Light for safe keeping. The charge is now made that Light left him this spring on the streets of Seattle flat broke and without even his dog.

On Wednesday Mr. Light turned up with what he claims is the Indian's receipt in full. The Indian swears he never received a cent nor gave such a receipt. The matter comes up for settlement in the court this week.

FROM THE BARRACKS.

Pollockman Skirving, a recent arrival from Bennett, is very ill of typhoid fever. There has been some improvement and his recovery is hoped for.

Corporal Green has been detached from the Dawson post and ordered to the mouth of Stewart River, where he is empowered to act in the capacity of recorder of claims, with other powers pertaining to the gold commissioner's office.

The police have been instructed that the land on the opposite side of the Yukon has not been granted to anyone, either as a townsite or a homestead. It is unsurveyed and subject to squatter's rights prevail. Johnson's claims to contrary notwithstanding. The police will see that would-be settlers are unmolested in their rights.

NOT YET RETIRED.

No Reason Yet to Think the Rev. Father Judge Will Leave Us.

The benevolent and deservedly popular Rev. Father Judge, S. J., was asked concerning his rumored retirement from the management of Dawson's hospital. Father Gendre came down river last week, and it was supposed that he would soon assume control. However, this will depend on the very Rev. Father Rene, of St. Michaels, who will be here on the first boat.

The city of Dawson will be unanimous in lamenting the departure of Father Judge, if such should be deemed the wisest course. Alaska is really his own territory; but in Dawson's need and owing to the numerical weakness of the Canadian contingent he came forward and has done noble work indeed.

The mad rush for Dawson has brought here thousands of people without a dime in their pockets, and the sale of whose outfits at present low prices would bring but meagre returns. Yet these people are falling sick with alarming rapidity—scoury and dysentery taking to the hospital as many as seven a day. The authorities will not contribute one cent to the cost of maintaining these people nor even to bury them if they die. Everyone looks to Father Judge for help, as if his purse was as bottomless as his philanthropy is without limit. Because of the payment of royalty and for other reasons of the same kind the wealthy people of the district are not coming forward with their proverbial generosity, and "there it come a time, somebody," when St. Mary's hospital will perform have to limit its charities and cut down expenses.

A funeral home has been hired from the father's shopkeepers by the matter of labelling of his burned church which was built in the

first place by Mr. Pat Galvin. Mr. Alex McDonald has come forward with lavish generosity and volunteered to rebuild that edifice.

Three Sisters of Mercy came in on the Allice Wednesday. They will assume their duties of nursing the sick at once. Others are expected shortly.

LATEST WAR-NEWS.

Porto Rican Project Abandoned—An Aggressive Cuban Campaign.

The latest war dispatches are under date of June 23. The project to occupy Porto Rico seems to have been abandoned and the immediate conquest of the Spaniards in Cuba will be the aim of both army and navy of the United States.

American troops are being landed on Cuban soil and are joining forces with the armies of Gomez and Garcia.

Spain is in a state of terror over the activity of the American forces.

Gen. Blanco is trying to reinforce the towns and Generals Garcia and Shafter are trying to prevent him from succeeding.

Admiral Sampson thinks that Cervera is ready to try to escape and is prepared for a battle with his fleet.

Gen. Pando, second in command to Blanco, is working to the aid of Santiago with a large body of troops. The Cubans under Garcia are so placed as to force a battle before the town is reached.

A SUDDEN RISE OF THE RIVER.

Much Loss of Goods and Inconvenience Result From the Freshet.

The summer freshet of the Yukon is upon us. The upper stratas of air have become warmed and are melting the snows on our peaks and mountain ranges and causing a humidity of the atmosphere which expands itself in copious rains in the valleys below. The ground being frozen immediately beneath the surface cannot absorb any of the new supply of water while the upper moss is already soaked to reptation. The result is a sudden rise in the rivers, spreading consternation and loss amongst the many who are unfamiliar with the habits of this prince of tricky rivers and who have camped too near the water line.

On the sand bar in front of Dawson have been camped over twelve hundred new arrivals until the clean dry sand was almost invisible for the mass of white tents stretched over it. The water raised about an inch a day until it had convinced the campers that no particular harm was intended and then without any warning about Thursday noon it commenced and rose bodily several feet. If you ever disturbed an ant's nest and watched the ants scampering off pell mell with their valuables you have a faint conception of the picture of sudden industry which instantly spread over that peaceful sand spit. In many cases, before goods could be packed to the bank the water was upon the tents and the job had to be completed by wading.

Many hurriedly piled their stuff into their boats and the boats high and dry for a month and leaked like a sieve. One man named Howard pumped his boat until midnight and then lay down for sleep. He was awakened next morning by his boat having sunk to the gunwales and everything spoiled.

But the greatest loss in the aggregate came to mess and hotel caches in their tents and went prospecting up the gulch. Everyone was so busy with their own affairs that in many cases the water had risen several tiers high before removal was attempted.

Only an estimate of the loss can be made. Messrs. Waidron, Belch, Norman and others who work at the bar was cleared estimate the damage to goods at about four thousand dollars.

PERSONAL.

The friends of Dr. Adams will be pleased to hear of his safe arrival here.

The Rev. J. Morris, B. D., of the Welsh Presbyterian Church, of Beaver, Mo., is a recent arrival at Dawson.

S. T. Conking, superintendent of the Joseph Ladue Gold Mining and Development Co., left for New York Thursday evening on the Williffr Irving.

P. H. Thornton, of Los Angeles, Cal., arrived in Dawson on the 4th inst. Mr. Thornton had a photo of his boat taken at midnight and says he would not take fifty dollars for it.

The Bonanza Creek Trail.

An immense amount of work and money has been expended on the Bonanza creek trail this spring and summer, with the result that now there is a first class trail from the A. C. Co.'s store to 60 below Bonanza, the whole trail being corduroyed as far as in the 70's. Messrs. McConnell, Hamilton & Burrell are the promoters, operating a ferry at mouth of Bonanza. Work is still in progress. It may not be generally known, but the work on Third Street, right in the heart of the city, was done by this company.

Any person going on the stampede to Dominion creek, if they don't want to be beaten by mosquitos, should call at Hart & Cates' furniture store, opposite Bank B. N. A. and get one of their linen mosquito tents. Price \$5.

"Crowded to the Door."

That's the way you and the Outley Sisters' concerting every night. They are the most popular artists in the city, and their genial ways and pleasing songs will keep them so. With good voices, the latest songs and attractive appearance, the Outley Sisters will continue to draw the crowds. Their dances are perfect. The bar is also popular, because of the genial management and courteous attendants.

The dance on the evening of July 4th, in Pioneer Hall, was a great success. About one hundred couples participated, and to the strains of Huston's orchestra "tripped the light fantastic" until early morning. All wore the tri-color in honor of the day, and the affair was well managed inside and outside by Messrs. Vissel, Corbett, Birch, Burrill, LaBlanc and McConnell.

Mrs. Showers, recently of Lake Bennett, has opened a laundry near the Klondike bridge. Mrs. Showers is permanently located in Dawson and requests the patronage of all wishing a fine class of work. Ladies' and laundry specialties. Clothes called for and delivered.

A MOST DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Col. James Domville, M. P., Now in Dawson.

Says Royalty Must Be Abolished and No Claims Reserved for the Crown—Will Work for More Liberal Laws for the District.

Among the most prominent visitors Dawson has ever had is Col. James Domville, Member of Parliament from the County of King, New Brunswick. This distinguished gentleman arrived in the city last Wednesday. His visit is purely on business, though as a member of the law-making body of Canada, he will study the needs of the people here, in order that he can correctly inform his colleagues and with them enact such laws as will benefit the country.

Col. Domville is very frank and freely spoken. When asked by the Nugget man what had impressed him most since his arrival, he said that he was free to admit that things were in a deplorable state; that there seemed to be depression and a general lack of confidence in the administration. He said:

"The royalty must be removed at once, for it is a direct taxation on the virgin gold and makes the producer stand the brunt of expenses for the whole district. Revenue must be raised in order to pay the expenses of governing and policing the Territory; but taxation must be more equitable and reach all alike."

"What do you think of the reservation of claims by the Crown, Colonel?"

"It's the most pernicious piece of legislation Parliament ever enacted. From what conditions I find existing here. But the people must not go elsewhere. Parliament never considered the proposals very seriously. But it will be different now. You will have representation in Parliament beyond doubt. Under the new act you will have local government to ascertain extent, as soon as it can be organized."

"When should the new Commissioner take hold?"

"He should arrive here by August 1, as that is the commencement of his term. He will have six councillors, and the seven will make the laws for the district. The city itself should incorporate as a municipality and then it could regulate its streets, lights, fire protection, etc."

"Colonel, as a Member of Parliament, perhaps you can tell the people if Major Walsh, as commissioner of this district, has the power to do away with royalty?"

"I think he has the power; at least an order of his to that effect would be respected at Ottawa."

Press of business called the Colonel away before the Nugget man could get in another question. He may be heard, possibly, at the mass meeting to-night.

Colonel Domville is at the head of the Klondike-Seward Pioneers, Ltd., which is a London syndicate with much capital behind it. The company has 35 miles of timber grant at Pelly, and is operating a sawmill there now.

A steamer named The James Domville is expected daily with a large cargo, and another sawmill and electric light plant, which will be soon started. A warehouse will be built at once. He says his company is ready to invest large amounts here when it can be safely done, but that in the present muddled condition of affairs Eastern capitalists will keep their hands off. He will attend Parliament next session, and after having been here will be able to work intelligently for the most liberal mining laws for the district in order that the country may be more rapidly developed.

KLONDIKE CITY NOTES.

Each spring finds the water over the townsite so that cabins are generally being built on stilts.

Bill Nugget is erecting a large two-story hotel. Several other buildings are going up despite the cost of from four to ten dollars to the log.

Tom O'Brien, the well-known pioneer, has erected a warehouse and also has a large store building. He has sold his present entire stock in one lot to Frank Wright.

The trail to the mines, by way of Klondike City, is becoming the favorite route. One day last week over two thousand people took the trail for a ways out, anyway, and were counted by a near-by squatters.

A man whose name could not be learned, was on Saturday compelled by the police to desist in operating a small boat as a ferry between Dawson and Klondike City. The toll-bridge between these two points has paid for the monopoly of the business and will not brook a rival.

A number of cabins are being torn down and moved. The recent order of the police to vacate streets by the sixth, on the newly-surveyed plat of Klondike City, has caused something of a flurry. By an order of the commissioner, all squatters finding themselves on streets are empowered to move onto the nearest unoccupied lot. Captain Bliss will be stationed over there in a few days to take applications to purchase from squatters.

The island, midway between Dawson and Klondike City, is being rapidly filled up with cabins, caches and tents. It is about the last ground left untraveled on this side of the Yukon convenient of access to the cities. Previous to the settling up of the island the bridge company required but one toll, collected at each end of the bridge. The islanders would use the bridge and escape the tax by not passing the office at the farther end. Now, however, there is a weigher at each end. A half-rate is given to residents of the island.

Cost a Deal of Money.

Many of our readers will be somewhat surprised to learn that the cost of the bridge between Dawson and Klondike cities was nearly \$20,000. There is now 1700 feet of bridge and walk, one span being 250 feet and the other 210 feet. The flooring is of the spring and fall is protected against by piers and also by the original method of bodily raising the bridge another four feet. The raising of the bridge is provided for in its construction and will not interfere with traffic in the least.

Finest cigars in Dawson, Pioneer Drug Store. E. Shaw, prop. Second Ave. 2nd st. 11

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