

~ THE DAILY ~ KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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NOME CLAIMS REFUSED

U. S. Authorities Decline to Give Title

TO ALL GROUND BELOW HIGH TIDE

An Important Decision Affecting Many Applicants.

The Government Has No Right to Grant Tide Lands to Individuals or Companies—Must Be Held for Benefit of Future States.

Washington Jan. 5.—A very important question has just been decided by Commissioner Hermann, of the general land office covering placer mining upon the beach of the Bering sea, off the coast of Alaska at and near Cape Nome the new gold field. The decision affects mining localities embracing tide lands below the line of ordinary high tide. Numerous applications are pending before the interior department as to locations upon such lands which have been demonstrated to contain gold in marvelous quantities. Individuals or associations of persons and incorporated mining companies are seeking concessions from the government by which they may acquire exclusive mining rights and privileges pertaining to such tide land.

The commissioner decides that tide lands in the district of Alaska are not public lands, subject to disposal to individuals, under any of the existing laws of the United States, and that the department has no statutory authority to make concessions to individuals of any mining rights pertaining to such tide lands.

A citation is made by the commissioner to the case of Shively vs. Boalby decided by the United States supreme court, in which it was held that the United States upon acquiring a territory, whether by cession from one of the states, or by treaty with a foreign country or by discovery and settlement takes the title and the dominion of lands below high water mark of tide waters for the benefit of the whole people in trust for future states, to be created out of the territory, by general laws, to dispose of lands below high water mark, of tide waters in a territory, but unless in case of some international duty or public exigency, has left the administration and disposition of the sovereign rights in such waters and lands to the control of the states respectively when admitted into the Union.

CIVIL WAR.

Victoria, Jan. 3.—News was received by the Aprangi of a bloody civil war that had been raging among the natives of Kiriwina, New Guinea. In the fighting the boss chief was defeated and eleven villages were captured and destroyed with great slaughter.

Rev. S. B. Fellows, a Methodist missionary, who is stationed at Kiriwina, in a letter detailing his experience on the strife given islands, said: "Last month while I was getting ready to attend the Dobu synod, I received

ARCTIC SAW MILL

Removed to Mouth of Hunker Creek, on Klondike River
SLUCE, FLUME AND MINING LUMBER
At Lowest Prices. Order Now.
At Mill, OFFICES:
Boyer Ferry, Klondike river. J. W. Boyle
Boyle's Wharf.

news of fighting at the other end of the island. For some years there has been widespread discontent at the rapacious greed of the head chief, Enamakala, in levying heavy tribute on the food supplies of the people. It was evident to me, when I heard the news, that the crisis had at last come, the natives of the northwest, who are as yet without a teacher, had risen up in arms against Enamakala, and after a desperate struggle, in which scores were killed on either side, they drove him from his village, Omarakana. He fled to the jungle and escaped. As soon as they found themselves in possession of Enamakala's village, the victors made eager search for the teacher, but he fortunately was absent. They killed his pigs and fowls and stole his goods. His house and garden were demolished. In accordance with native custom the victorious natives burned down Enamakala's village with the famous yam house in the center of it—the largest native building in the country. Not a stick was left to show where Omarakana stood. What wounded natives could be found were at once speared to death.

CUSTOMS SCANDAL.

Havana, Jan. 2.—An immense sensation was caused in Havana this afternoon by the arrest of ten appraisers of the custom house staff on a charge of being in collusion with many Havana merchants to swindle the government out of large sums. It is asserted that the fraud has been practiced for two weeks at least, and probably for a longer time, and it is believed that thousands of dollars have been corruptly diverted.

The swindle was accomplished by a classification of articles under which valuable goods went into cheap classes. Many merchants are likely to be arrested within the next few days.

WORK OF THE NAVY.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Admiral Watson today cabled the navy department from Manila as follows:

"Manila, Jan. 2.—The gunboats Concord, Ackley commanding, and Campanga, Leigh commanding, on the 18th inst., with two companies of infantry, captured Romblon. John James, seaman, was wounded in the knee, the only casualty in the navy. The Newark's battalion landed from the Callao, has occupied Camplona, on the north coast of Luzon. Burwell, of the Wheeling, co-operating with Gen. Young in like service, landed a battalion, which is doing excellent work daily in north and west Luzon."

CANADIAN TIMBER.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—The Ontario government had a sale of 398,000 square miles of timber limits in the districts of Algoma, Nipissing and Rainy river here today.

It was attended by all the leading American lumbermen in Michigan, who bought freely, notwithstanding the fact that the terms of sale prohibited export of saw logs, the expectation being that the scarcity of lumber and increased demand in the United States would necessitate a larger demand for manufactured stuff from Canada. The prices of limits showed a good advance.

The Hotel McDonald Dance.

Elaborate preparations are being made to commemorate Bobby Burns' day by those who are managing the function to be held tonight at Hotel McDonald. Various colored electric light globes are being attached to the lectrical apparatus, and beautiful decorations are being arranged. The dance will be held in the large dining room and at midnight a sumptuous repast will be served to invited guests.

The affair promises to be exceedingly good and entertaining.

As soon as the weather moderates, the lessees and proprietors of the Hotel McDonald, Messrs. Tom Chisholm and Harry T. Edwards, contemplate the construction of an addition to their hostelry.

The improvement will consist of the erection of two upper stories on that portion of the building, the lower floor of which is now occupied by the restaurant department. The addition will give 50 more rooms, besides hall ways, etc., for the accommodation of guests.

PERSONAL MENTION.

W. W. Roberts of Eagle City, is among the guests of the Flannery.

The Browning Sisters, vaudeville artists, departed for Dominion creek this morning.

J. H. Crowley, who owns No. 11 below on Sulphur is registered at the Flannery hotel.

C. George Johansson, a claim owner on Hunker creek, is stopping at the Hotel McDonald.

Val Diebolt, of No. 13 below on Bonanza, is in town for the purpose of buying mining machinery.

A. W. Ingalshe, of the store of Mohr & Wilkins, returned last night from an extended journey over the various creeks.

C. P. Dotan, J. C. McCormick, O. C. Hannigan and E. K. Hays, yesterday received a favorable decision from Justice Dugas in a lawsuit in which they were interested, and they will return to Last Chance creek immediately.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Rich pay has been struck on No. 3 above on Sulphur. Out of eight pans of dirt, \$11 was obtained. The claim is owned by Morrison and McDonald. The strike was made by laymen.

The handball tournament to be given at Ford's gymnasium on Thursday and Friday nights of next week is attracting growing interest. Several rival teams are already in the field and are practicing daily.

On next Saturday evening, between 8 and 10 o'clock, a concert will be held in the house furnishing department of the N. A. T. & T. Co.'s store. The services of the Yukon field force band have been secured for the occasion, and some of the leading vocal talent has been engaged. All the friends and patrons of the company are invited.

In addition to being signed by the Board of Trade committee on mails, the letters forwarded yesterday to the heads of the mail department of both the United States and Canada, were attested by a dozen or more heads of the leading companies and firms in the city. It is doubtful, however, if any of the desired benefits will be harvested by Dawson during the present season.

Nearly every official and business man in the city is anxiously awaiting the restoration of the telegraphic communication with the outside, and when the line is again in order the first day will be a busy one with the terminal offices. L. R. Fulda showed to a representative of the Nugget last night a telegram to his house in San Francisco which, in cipher, comprises several hundred words, but which, when the company key is applied will lengthen out into thousands. The late heavy windstorm did no damage to the line which is still open to Tagish.

Best Canadian rye at the Re-ins.

The Pavilion grill room gives one of the best dinners in Dawson for \$1. Everything strictly first class.—26

IS BETSCH PARTY LOST

Have Evidently Wandered From the Trail.

THEY MAY BE AT FISH CAMP

Many Deceiving Blind Sloughs Lead Off From River.

Mail Superintendent J. B. Wingate Tells of the Hardships of Nome Route—Only Native Dogs Fit for the Long Journey.

Mr. J. B. Wingate, superintendent of United States mails on the lower river, is in the city, having arrived with the mail carrier from Tanana Tuesday evening. Mr. Wingate is in charge of the route clear down to St. Michael, the government contract calling for one mail per month during the winter season from that place to Circle City, and for two mails per month from Circle this way. Seven men, each with hardy teams of native dogs, are employed in the carrier's service, and being in close touch with his men, Mr. Wingate is in position to speak intelligently as to the condition of the trail the whole distance from Dawson to the coast, including both the entire river route to St. Michael as well as by the Nulato or Kaltag cutoff.

In conversation at the Daily Nugget office last night, Mr. Wingate gave it as his opinion that not one-fourth of the people who started for Nome and who will start previous to the opening of navigation will reach their destination over the ice. In some places he says the trail is good and in others it is very bad. From Dawson to Circle the trail is very bad, there being much open water and considerable rough ice; from Circle to Fort Yukon, a distance of 80 miles, the trail is good but very dangerous, the ice being thin and rotten; from Fort Yukon to Fort Hamlin the trail is always bad owing to constant high winds and drifted snow. This is practically a snowshoe trail and any attempts to travel it otherwise are fraught with great hardships. From Fort Hamlin on down the river to Kaltag where the Nome cutoff leaves the trail is good and travel over it is easy; the river trail from Kaltag on to St. Michael is also good.

Wingate says that the people who are so anxious to get off on the trip over the ice to Nome have no idea of the magnitude of the undertaking. He says that very few outside dogs ever make the entire trip down the river owing to its great severity. None but huskies and malamutes can stand the journey, the cold wind and fine drifting snow not appearing to defeat them as readily

(Continued on Page 2.)

Come and See

Felt Shoes, bals \$6.00 pair
Felt Shoes, high top . . \$6.00 pair
Felt Shoes, Congress . . \$6.00 pair
Moccasins \$2.50 pair

The Ames Mercantile Co.

Special Sale