

Memorial to Mr. Sifton

Dawson, Y. T.,
April 15th, 1902.
Editor Nugget:—
I enclose documents which
I have prepared to be telegraphed
to the Hon. Mr. Sifton in Canada as
the wires are up.
Yours truly,
R. W. SHANNON.

LETTER FOR PUBLICATION

Honorable Clifford Sifton,
Minister of the Interior,
Ottawa, Ont.

I have been requested by a number
of leading and representative
operators of the Yukon, having
upon the creek concession, to draw
attention and that of the public
opinion and that of the public
opinion to the measures.
The names of those who are
not politicians but
business men. Their object
is to embarrass the government
and expose a real grievance and
a pending calamity. It is
my opinion that no modification
of the concession will suffice
to remove the evils with which it
is afflicted, unless totally
abolished. The land threatening wide-
spread disaster.

The absence of many claim owners
and the passage of time have prevented
the concession from being as largely
signed as it might have been, but it
is my opinion that the substantial
opinion of the practical
mine operators of
the district.

In view of the above and the sub-
sequent memorandum to your respect-
ation, I have the honor to be,
your obedient servant,
R. W. SHANNON.

MEMORANDUM CONTAINING OBJECTIONS
OF PRACTICAL
MINERS IN THE YUKON DISTRICT
TO THE TREADGOLD
CONCESSION.

The preamble to the order-in-coun-
cil of June 12th, 1901, gives as a
reason for the privileges granted the
fact that the mining now carried
on in the Klondike district be-
cause of the inadequate supply of
gravel is necessarily confined to the
working of the richest gravel only,
and that large tracts of gold bearing
gravel are unworked.

It is true that there are large
tracts of gravel unworked for
want of a sufficient quantity of
water, at the same time the men
operating in the district are gradually
extending their land and applying
hydraulic machinery to the pur-
pose of working the same. Among
these are operators who have
been identified with the country
since its discovery and have grown
rich.

The statement that the richest
gravel is worked at present is
correct; it is partly and only
partly true. The hydraulic system
has already been introduced by
private enterprise. For example: Mr.
McDonald has employed it on the
Bonanza creek, Mr. Johansen
and others have followed his
example and have placed hy-
draulic machinery upon the ground
during the coming season.

The operators above mentioned work
the richest gravel only, but all
gravel on their claim, leaving
the remainder undisposed of. In the
natural course of affairs, if miners
are allowed to proceed as they have
been hitherto and without inter-
ference, other capitalists will un-
doubtedly proceed on the same lines,
and this means without any cost
to the country, without any special
provisions, without favoritism and
without injury to any other inter-
ests, the whole of the gold bearing
gravel will be operated up to a cer-
tain height, which height will be de-
termined by the cost of raising the
water from the creek level up to the
level of the gravel and by the values of
the gravel encountered.

The grantees under the orders in
council are only required to give a
small elevation, the miners who are
operating using hydraulic apparatus
are raising water themselves to a
height of 300 ft. at a less cost than
the Treadgold and his associates are
authorized to charge.

levels at a cost sufficiently small to
allow them a fair profit.

This, however, is a contingency for
the future and a plan that can only
be adopted fairly and with profit to
the district after the creeks which
are now being worked have been ex-
hausted. Under present conditions
the creeks are worked continuously,
but, should a large company with an
extensive volume of water operate
the higher levels, there would be a
discharge into the creek beds of so
much dirt or debris as to effectually
put an end to operations in them.
For economical mining it is abso-
lutely essential that the creek claims
should be worked out before hydrau-
lic operations on a large scale are
commenced on the hill sides. The
miners who work on the creeks
carry on their business at present
with a fair profit, having only to
handle the dirt naturally coming to
the creek, but a discharge of de-
bris from the hill side would add to
the expense of their operations as to
take away their profit and drive
them out of business. In our opinion
it will be from 10 to 20 years, if
then, before the district has been so
far worked as to call for any such
wholesale grant of lands as is in-
cluded in the Treadgold concession
or justify its adoption.

Injurious Effects of the Concession.

The above incontrovertible facts
and considerations establish clearly,
we believe, the following proposi-
tions:

That no capital has been kept out
of the country by the want of such
a scheme; that the needs of the
country, in so far as the application
of hydraulic machinery to mining
operations is concerned, are being am-
ply met as they arise by private en-
terprise and will continue so to be
for many years to come; that the
concession secures nothing that the
miners are not already providing for
themselves; that it saves nothing in
the cost of the water to those who
require it, and that if taken advan-
tage of to carry out the purpose in-
dicated in the preamble of orders in
council, it will have a disastrous
effect upon the operations at present
going forward in the creek beds.

We now propose to consider an-
other important feature of the ar-
rangement. It is provided by the
orders in council that all abandoned
claims on Bear, Bonanza and Hunker
creeks and their tributaries—this
includes Eldorado—shall be deemed to
be vested in Mr. Treadgold and his
associates, on and after the first day
of January, 1902.

It might be supposed by a person
ignorant of mining that a claim
which has been abandoned is by that
very fact proven to be inferior and
non-productive, or at least not suffi-
ciently productive to pay for being
worked by the private individual.
This, however, is very far from the
truth. It is the universal experience
in mining countries that claims may
be prospected 3 or 4 times and
abandoned and may yet turn out to
be rich and profitable. The value of
the gift made to Mr. Treadgold and
his associates is incalculable, but we
believe it is no exaggeration to say
that it runs up into millions of dol-
lars.

The effect of a blanket concession
like this is to close up the district
and withdraw it from relocation.
When it is remembered that the dis-
trict included in the grant comprises
the greater part of the gold bearing
area which has been exploited in the
vicinity of Dawson city and that it
contains almost all the roads and
improvements that have been made
by the government in the mining
territory, it will be seen how im-
portant the consequences of this
measure will be.

The prosperity of the district, the
diffusion of comfort among all
classes, the continued influx of popu-
lation and the attraction of further
capital for development—all depend
upon the abandoned claims being left
open to be further prospected by
private individual miners and re-
located.

The closing of the district will be
injurious to the interests of the wage
earner. At present the mining area
is thickly populated with individual
wage earning operators. These men
are not occupied continually, being
usually idle part of the year. Dur-
ing the idle period they are accus-
tomed to prospect and try to find
something for themselves.

It is not alone those who are for
the time being idle who engage in
prospecting, but there is another
class of wage earners even more use-
ful. These are men who are ambi-
tious to better their condition. They
work first, in order to earn a small
reserve, and spend weeks, sometimes
months, searching for the precious
and valuable metals. More often
than not they fail and have to begin

again. It is in this way that the
resources of the district are exploit-
ed. Such is the universal practice
throughout the world.

The capitalists who have been en-
gaged in developing the country de-
pend upon the two classes of labor-
ers above mentioned for their supply
of workmen. By closing the district
to further prospecting, both the
capitalists and wage earners above
spoken of will gradually disappear.

There is no longer any incentive
for the individual wage earner to
stay, as he is prevented from looking
about for claims for himself, and, as
explained above, he cannot obtain
continuous employment the year
round.

The capitalist must go because he
will be compelled to import labor
for a short period of the year at
higher wages and consequently the
cost of production will be increased.
Banks of gravel that would be work-
ed with wages on the present scale
could not be profitably operated on a
higher scale. Further, the ground
now owned by individual miners
will be worked out in many cases in
from 3 to 5 years and the operators
will then be compelled to seek fur-
ther locations, not from the govern-
ment or under public regulations
open to all the world, but from a
private firm, whose interests is
strictly financial, and whose only
object will be to get every dollar
they can out of the property they
control.

The machinery belonging to miners
and mining companies now in the
country represents millions of dol-
lars; this would be rendered idle and
consequently valueless, since the
owners would be at the mercy of a
universal landlord and must either
submit to his terms or leave the
country.

It may be asked why they could
not remove their machinery outside
the Treadgold concession and com-
mence operations anew. The answer
is that the concession covers nearly
all the roads and improvements made
in the district by the government;
consequently in moving to a location
outside the concession new roads
would have to be built to reach the
objective points and no individual
could stand the expense. It would
in fact be cheaper to bring in ma-
chinery for a new district from the
outside up the natural water-ways of
the country than to attempt to move
it from its present position across
intervening mountains and valleys to
other places.

Minor Details.

The ordinary miner has to pros-
pect, mark out and enter upon his
claim. The grantees under the order
in council are saved all that trouble
since it is provided that all mining
locations now or hereafter abandoned
on the various creeks included in the
grant, are to be deemed to be vested
in them without entry.

The ordinary miner has to pay \$15
per claim per annum rental and to
do work to the extent of \$200.00 on
each claim (called "representation")
—see order in council 12th June,
1901, sec. 13, sub-sec. 5). Mr.
Treadgold and his friends are relieved
of these expenditures—sec. 13,
sub-sec. 4 and 5.

The grantees are to expend during
the present year at least \$250,000,
and this is presumed to be some kind
of return for the enormous grant
made them.

It is stated that 1310 abandoned
claims became vested in them Janu-
ary 1st, and March 1st of the pres-
ent year. In the hands of private
miners, these would have entailed an
outlay as above of \$215 each at least
or an all \$281,650 per annum, some
portion of which would go to the
government, while the government
will get none of the \$250,000 re-
quired to be expended by the concession-
aires.

In any event we consider the ex-
penditure required of the grantees
trivial in comparison to the extent
of the gift made to them.

We are confident, from our experi-
ences in this and other mining coun-
tries, that every abandoned claim in
the district will be taken up within
3 years at least if the district is
left open to individual prospectors,
and that most of them will be taken
up within one year.

The grantees are required to de-
liver within the district during the
summer of 1902 a flow of 3000 cubic
feet of 18,000 gallons of water per
minute at such an elevation as to
afford a pressure at an effective head
of not less than 800 ft., and this at
a charge of 25c per miner's inch per
hour. One private operator in the
district himself raises 1500 gallons
per minute for his own use to a
height of 300 feet at a less cost than
25c. There are others doing the
same thing quite as cheaply, and ad-
ditional new machinery has been
placed on the ground for the same
purpose by still other parties.

Generally.

It is our firm conviction that if
the arrangement is not repealed and
the orders in council rescinded, they
will put an end to individual enter-

prise in the Yukon, will paralyze
every branch of industry there, will
cause the people at present in the
country to get out of it as quickly
as they can work out existing hold-
ings, will hand the country over
bodily to a gigantic monopoly whose
interest it will be to carry on their
operations with Chinese or Japanese
labor and will in fact complete the
ruin of the Yukon Territory, not at
a distant day but within the next 4
or 5 years.

Dated at Dawson, this 15th day of
April, 1902.

Signatures:—
G. Geo. Johansson, for Johansson
& Black (30 claims); James Hender-
son, manager for McDonald Bonanza,
Ltd. (16 claims); Geo. T. Coffey,
manager Anglo-Klondike Mining Co.,
Ltd. (40 claims); Albert Trabold,
(46 claims); L. Pallaid, manager
Syndicate Lyonnais (15 claims);
Charles Af Dunn, manager for Stan-
ley & Worden (12 claims); McKay,
Nelson & Dalgarn, (13 claims); Ger-
vais & Simard (10 claims); Thom-
san & Granger, Patterson & McAs-
kill, Paull & Cordt, Southier Bros.,
McKnight, Chilo & Bagley; White,
Sheets & Co.; Fyle & Danson; Alex-
ander & Rhidan; Higgins & Whyte;
Johnson & Lee; Brazeau Brothers;
Nordstrom Brothers; Yeager & Co.;
Badger & Co.; Henderson & Tauge;
Fax & Co.; Miller & Curtis; Clark,
Stafford & Williams; Disher &
Christianson; Weeks & Co.; Bourke
Bros.; August Ryberg; Frank Agnew;
H. McGuinness; Isaac Watier; James
Burnfield; F. Hicks; E. A. Wendt;
Martin Murray; Patrick King; Fimon
Fraser; J. S. Cameron; H. E. Bou-
cher; Joseph View; T. Potter; C.
Andrews; James Butler; John A.
Moe; J. P. Simonds; John Erickson;
C. J. Putrow; James Hall; H. C.
Belcher; Charles J. Anderson; P. H.
McCormick; F. C. Johnson; C. W.
Sankey; J. B. Shattuck; Carl Blom-
quist; C. M. Van Cleave; James
Munroe; R. G. Wilson; James Cos-
grove; Lee Sholson; Ben Jones;
John Macaulay; A. W. McLeod; A.
F. Stander; Charles Reid; Noe Du-
fault; A. Binett; Joseph Duleau;
George Harvey; H. Y. Crockett; R.
J. Oliver; John Mellon; K. L.
Smith; H. C. Ash; S. D. Hartman;
R. Gilmore; Kenneth Sinclair; John
Kerns; Louis Renand; A. H. Ander-
son; E. McWilliams; Frank McCand-
less; John Knoll; Albert Dalton; B.
A. Burton; J. F. Brown; J. McIn-
tyre; Louis E. Miller; John L. Eby;
Charles Olsen; Henry Aviser; Robert
Casilty; J. McGrath.

AT GRAND FORKS.
The Grand Forks Social Club gave
another popular dance last Friday
night. Although the night was quite
stormy the hall was comfortably
filled and not too crowded for good
dancing. Excellent music was fur-
nished by a harp and violin and the
floor was in the very best of con-
dition so a good time was spent by
all. The last dance of the season
will be given next Friday, April 18.
The melting of the snow will soon
make the roads impassable, so until
dry weather sets in the dances will
be discontinued.

The Literary Society held its final
meeting last Friday evening at the
church, with Mr. McDonald in the
chair and Mr. Foster as organist. An
excellent program was rendered con-
sisting of recitations, readings, vocal
and instrumental music. The recita-
tion given by Miss Maymie McDevitt
and the singing of Mr. Fitzpatrick
were particularly well received. Mrs.
McLeod and Mrs. Patterson in their
duet, "A Gypsy Maid," were the re-
cipients of enthusiastic applause. The
Rev. Dr. Grant and the Rev. Mr.
Pringle gave a short address and
spoke on the general trend of the so-
ciety and the good it had done. Be-
tween the first and second parts of
the program there was a short inter-
mission, during which a fine luncheon
was served, which added to the
evening's enjoyment.

Criminal Leniency in Paris.

It is just a year since Mlle. Chau-
vin, the lady barrister, made her
first appearance at the Paris bar.
Interviewed on her experiences, she
states that the fact that she is a
woman seems to be forgotten by
both bench and bar, and she no
longer excites the slightest curiosity
at the law courts. She has appear-
ed in some fifty cases during the
year, including a divorce case. She
far prefers equity work, however,
and never wants to enter an assize
court. In the first place, she says,
one has to tell too many untruths
there, and, secondly, for her part she
resolutely refuses to accept a brief
unless absolutely convinced of the
justice of her client's cause.

Mlle. Chauvin looks upon the sick-
ening leniency meted out to murder-
ers in Paris and especially to murder-
esses with disgust, and stupefac-
tion and adds that no woman need
trouble to get a divorce. She need
only to kill her husband to obtain
her freedom and become a popular
idol.

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