

# CLAIM RIGHTS

**At Cape Nome Are Still Subject to Much Discussion in Congress.**

**VARIOUS BILLS ARE NOW PENDING.**

**The Committee Is Striving to Obtain Information.**

**NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED.**

**War and Interior Departments Not in Conflict—Adequate Laws To Be Enacted.**

Washington, Feb. 18.—No foundation exists for the report that the war and interior departments have locked horns over Cape Nome beach rights. Both departments are keeping hands off entirely, in the expectation of legislation during the present session of congress. Under other circumstances the war department might be willing to issue permits for dredging, but just now a large number of applications to carry on such work along the Alaskan coast are held up by the secretary on the ground that there is no telling what action congress may take, and he does not wish to do anything that might have to be done differently within two or three months.

The interior department takes the same view of the case, although Commissioner Hermann, of the general land office, has unofficially given an opinion that 20 acre claims for mining purposes could not, under existing law, be held to apply to tide lands or the sixty foot reserve. Good lawyers from Alaska, now here, claim that the law in question, establishing a sixty foot reserve, does not apply to land containing gold, or where land adjacent to the beach has not been taken up as homesteads.

Since the interior department holds to the contrary unless congress by new legislation specifically overrules it, the matter will be taken up in the courts. It is not possible at this time to say what legislation will be enacted relative to the situation at Cape Nome.

Bills are pending before the public land committee of the house giving the interior department full authority, and other bills are before the military committee of both houses to give authority over beach lands to the war department. In no sense, however, can this be construed as a controversy between the two departments.

None of the bills are prepared by the departments themselves. Their author is being men who are interested in beach mining by dredging or otherwise, and who have drawn up bills to suit their individual purposes. Members of these committees have reached no agreement.

Nothing has been done further than to give hearings to representatives of various interests now here.

W. J. Milroy, of Cape Nome, has given the committee a full understanding of the situation, but says it is impossible to forecast what will be done. He has pointed out what he deems bad features of the various measures, and is confident none of the bills now before congress will pass just as they have been introduced, and thinks the outlook fairly good for some definite enactment. Representative Jones, member of the public lands committee, says no discussions of mining bills for Alaska have been had by his committee as a body. Speaking of hearings by the committee, he said today:

"Some of the Alaskans now here argue that no legislation is needed; that all can be left to the miners themselves. Others say that congress should fix the size of claims that can be taken up, but all unite in agreeing that powers of attorney in locating should be abolished. There is a strong sentiment in the committee in favor of no legislation regarding the tide lands below ordinary high water mark, and fixing the maximum size of the claims on the beach above high water line, leaving the rest to miners' meetings. Claims 100 feet wide on the beach and no one man to be permitted to take up

more than one claim within a distance of several miles are propositions that seem to meet with favor in the committee."

It is openly charged by representatives of Alaskan interests now in this city that the bill of Senator Nelson's bearing the title of a bill to preserve rivers and harbors and other purposes, inaugurates the leasing system for all tide lands and beach lands in the district of Alaska through the war department, and that this bill, if enacted into law, will permit a monopoly of beach mining in that district. It is also charged that its attempt to have these lands leased and controlled by the war department is backed by wealthy capitalists, who are endeavoring to obtain control of the best gold producing sections throughout Alaska.

It is claimed that this system would produce results now governing the Canadian placer fields, and would work the utter destruction of rights of individual miners.

### Atlin Hopeful.

A. H. Preston, who was engaged in the milk business in Dawson last fall, and who left for the outside early in December, has just returned, the greater portion of his time while away having been passed at Atlin, where he has interests.

Mr. Preston reports Atlin as being the winter home of fully 2200, who are quietly loafing the winter away and all anxious for the advent of the time when they can again go to work, although he says there is considerable "dead" work being done in that district this winter.

Four large hydraulic plants are being prepared for, the machinery for which is being shipped by rail to Bennett and sledded from there to Atlin over the ice. These big plants are being taken as one result of a trip to England taken by "Sailor Bill" Partridge some time less than a year ago. "Sailor Bill" and his mining partner, Mrs. Hitchcock, are both well known in Dawson, the latter having some pretensions to literary attainment and fame. She and Partridge acquired large hydraulic as well as quartz interests in the Atlin district early last year, in which the "sailor" was successful in interesting an English syndicate. Two quartz mills will also be in operation in that district by the opening of the mining season.

Mr. Preston says the people there still have faith in the country, and believe that, with the immediate repeal of the alien exclusions act, it is destined to fulfill the predictions made of it in August of 1898, when it was heralded to the world that Atlin was as rich a mining district as the Klondike.

### Trail Troubles

From A. H. Preston, who has just arrived over the ice from Bennett, it is learned that many outfits which are leaving the upper country for this place are falling by the wayside as did many of the scows which started last fall, but from different causes. The scows stopped through lack of water to float them, while sleds are stopping through want of propelling powers. Mr. Preston states that many horses which are fat and strong when the start is made become completely exhausted after only a few days, and in many cases are left with their loads at stations along the route. He tells of one man who left Bennett with two sleds on which were 1500 pounds each and drawn by single horses, which were large and apparently in excellent condition. By the time Whitehorse was reached one of the horses gave out and was left with his load. The second horse only held out one more day when he, too, with the load, was left by the wayside.

Preston has made the round trip over the ice this winter and has had enough of that sort of travel to satisfy him, and is willing to "let" his share of the Nome trail to anyone who wants it.

### Mr. Shorrock in Charge.

Mr. TeRoller, the resident manager in Dawson of the S.-Y. T. Co., has left for a business trip to the outside. During his absence, Mr. E. G. Shorrock, the S.-Y. T. Co.'s assistant general manager, will be in charge of their Dawson business.

D. A. Shindler has just received assortment of whips, Stilson wrenches, extension jaws, 3/4 and 1 inch return bends.

### Weather Report.

The minimum temperature last night was 26 degrees below zero. Towards morning the weather greatly moderated, and at 9 a. m., the instrument at the barracks recorded 4 degrees above zero.

At noon the thermometer registered 28 degrees above.

Ice men, important. For sale one ice plow, complete; call at Shindler, 109 Front street.

### For the Lenten Season.

Mackerel, salmon bellies, bricks of codfish, kippered herrings, Oulkins, lobsters, shrimps, crabs, anchovies, sardines, young mackerel in oil, clams and Bluepoint oysters. Royal Grocery, Second ave.

## PRESENT DAMSON PRICES.

Compared With the Quotations of One Year Ago.

**The Necessities of Life are More Plentiful and Much Cheaper Than They Were Last Season.**

Generally speaking, the necessities of life are only a trifle lower in price than they were a year ago. Some commodities which were very scarce last winter are plentiful now. The article whose prices of 1899 and 1900 afford the greatest contrast is sugar. Last season this commodity commanded \$1 per pound; at the present time it sells for 20 cents. Milk is another necessary which has greatly cheapened. A year ago, it sold for \$1 and \$1.25 per can; now, some brands are retailed as low as 25 cents, and three cans of Eagle milk can be obtained for \$1. The price of butter likewise shows a marked decrease. Last winter it required considerable influence besides money to secure a can of butter. A man of local importance could obtain an order from the manager of one of the large stores. This requisition was honored by a clerk, who felt that he was doing the customer a personal favor. The cashier who accepted the money cautioned the fortunate patron not to divulge the fact that the article had been purchased at the particular store. Then small dealers charged various prices ranging from \$2.75 to \$4 per can raw butter.

Now, there is plenty of this commodity in town, and merchants are anxious to dispose of it at \$1 per pound. Flour is lower now than a year ago, but no doubt its price will greatly increase before the opening of navigation. The Ogilvie brand, which is considered to be the best, rose \$1 a sack yesterday, and is selling for \$8.50; all other kinds average about \$7.50. Fresh potatoes and onions are held at 75 cents per pound. Last year these articles brought \$1. Granulated potatoes are scarce, and are selling well for 50 cents per pound. Canned vegetables are retailed at \$8 per case; but peas and string beans are scarce and command \$2 more. Tomatoes have increased \$1 per case; and are selling for \$9. There is plenty of canned fruit, and the average price is \$14 per case. Dried fruits are about the same as they were a year ago—25 cents per pound. Rotted oats are 22 1/2 cents per pound. Jellies and jams average from 50 to 75 cents a can. Fresh unfrozen eggs are held at \$3.50 per dozen; frozen ones are selling for \$1.75.

The prices of meats are not so high this winter as they were last. At present, there are more meats of all kinds in Dawson than there were a year ago. Game has been exceedingly plentiful during the present season, and large quantities of fresh beef have recently arrived. By the carcass, beef is selling at 50 cents per pound; steaks are retailed from 65 cents to \$1 per pound. Mutton is wholesaled at 70 cents, and chops are selling from 75 cents to \$1 per pound. Pork by the carcass is held at 60 cents, and by the pound, it brings 75 to 85 cents. Moose and cariboo are wholesaled for 30 cents per pound, and steaks between 50 and 60 cents. Mountain sheep retail at 85 cents per pound. There is no scarcity of chickens in the market, and they are selling for \$1 per pound. Canned roast beef and mutton demands \$1 per pound can. Good hams range in price from 60 to 75 cents per pound. Bacon is quoted at 60 cents.

The condition of business is better this year than in 1899. Merchants expect to remain here and take more of an interest in their trade. Notwithstanding the strike at Cape Nome, Dawson has pleasant prospects for the coming spring and summer.

### A French Traitor.

Paris, Feb. 18.—The sensational newspapers of Paris publish a story with regard to a sub-chief of one of the bureaux of the ministry of marine, named Philipp, who is said to have been discovered in an offer to furnish Great Britain information relating to the freighting of vessels for the Transvaal in French ports. It is alleged that in the letter containing his proposal he asked 25,000 francs in return for the information. It is also alleged that in the letter was seized, on the strength of information given through Dr. Leyds, whereupon M. Philipp absconded.

The nationalist journals insinuate that he received timely warning from the French government, and was thus enabled to escape to England.

Dr. Leyds, however, denies that part attributed to him in the affair, and the British embassy has issued a formal repudiation of any relations, direct or indirect, with Philipp.

According to the Journal des Debats, Philipp has gone to the United States, where he formerly lived, and where, it is said, he became a bankrupt as the result of his unfortunate management of his business as a picture dealer.

The method by which he was trapped recalls the Dreyfus affair. He received a letter inviting him to meet a veiled lady, as in the notorious case of Lieut. Col. Du Paty de Clam, at a well known cafe. Here, according to the story, he indiscreetly revealed his designs to the veiled lady, who immediately informed the department, which promptly proceeded to investigate. Before action could be taken, however, the bird had flown.

### POLICE COURT.

But little business was transacted in the police court this morning. Two or three men were there for the purpose of instituting suit for wages alleged to be due for labor performed, and which they are not able to collect; hence their object in invoking the aid of the law.

With a full sense and conviction of the solemnity of the occasion John Zeller plead guilty to violating the Yukon health ordinance for which he was fined \$1 and costs, or seven days labor. John lost no time in drawing from the interior realms of his pants a well filled gold sack; but as only the "dollars of our daddies" is accepted in payment of fines, he went out and secured the currency.

E. B. Kenner who conducts a grocery store not far from the postoffice has a neighbor, J. G. McLaughlin, who is a butcher and meat dealer and whose place of business is indicated by a "piggy" suspended by the hind legs thereof from a hook in front of the door. Being a man who takes thought for the morrow, Mr. McLaughlin keeps on hand fuel wherewith to counteract the chilling blasts of Boreas as they "sasha" up and down the snow covered, rockribbed vale of the Yukon. While Mr. McLaughlin would scorn the accusation of his not being a liberal minded citizen, yet he has concluded that there is a limit to liberality. Having arrived at that conclusion, he had his neighbor, E. B. Kenner, the dealer in groceries, canned goods, "et cetera," arrested last night on the charge of stealing wood to the value of 70 cents—three quarters less one nickel. When the case was called this morning, Mr. Kenner stood up as did likewise Mr. Leroy Tozier. The latter asked in behalf of the accused that the case be continued until this afternoon in order that his attorneys, Messrs. Clark & Wilson, could be present. The request was granted by the court and the accused was allowed to go on bond until 2 p. m.

Warrants were issued this morning for four men who, having no visible means of sustenance, are charged with supporting themselves in the main part by gambling. These four are the latter end of a list of upwards of 60 gamblers who within the past week have been arraigned and fined the usual monthly quota, \$50 and costs of \$5, in all \$55.

### Recent Order Interpreted.

As published in yesterday's issue of the Daily Nugget, an order was recently issued by the Governor, in council at Ottawa, which provides that "any free miner having duly located a claim may obtain an entry therefor by paying to the mining recorder in advance a fee of \$15 for one year; or \$75 for five years." By the concluding paragraph of the order, it is also provided that "any free miner having duly located and recorded a claim shall be entitled to hold it for the period for which he received an entry." The provisions of this order will go into effect within the next few days. When this recently enacted law becomes operative, a free miner, upon the payment to the mining recorder of \$75, will be entitled to a right of entry for five years upon a claim which he has duly located and recorded; and furthermore he is entitled to hold it for the period for which he receives an entry, according to the last paragraph of the new law. What effect will this recent order have upon the former laws, respecting miner's license and representation work? Does the new order operate as a repeal of all law conflicting with it? If a miner obtains a right of entry to a particular claim for five years, he is entitled to hold for that period of time. If he fails to renew his miner's license at the end of the first year does the claim revert to the crown immediately? Or does he continue to hold his right four years longer? The same questions arise in reference to the representation.

Commissioner Senkler, in speaking of the matter, said: "The new order does not repeal the laws respecting miner's license and representation work. If a miner fails to comply with these old regulations, his claim will revert to the crown, irrespective of the period for which he secured a right of entry."

### Lots of Gold.

George Noble is in from his claim, 13 below on Hunker, and after hearing his account of the progress being made out there, all of his many friends are after him to promise to set them up in business or buy each of them a steamboat after the cleanup. George looks his auditor straight in the eye and says: "We are taking out 2700 wheelbarrow loads of dirt every day and every wheelbarrow load will wash out \$20 of as fine gold as was ever taken out of the ground." From this it is evident that 13 below on Hunker is a good claim.

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