

### THE LOCAL LAY SYSTEM.

#### Presents a Serious Question Not Easily Solved.

#### Mine-Owners Assert That It Tends to Retard the Development of the Country.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

The system so generally in vogue in the Yukon, that of letting lays on mining claims, is peculiar to the country. Undoubtedly, it is the outgrowth of the bond and lease contracts, which obtain in the mineral bearing districts of British Columbia and the United States, but local customs and written agreements have so modified the character of "lays," that there exists only a mere resemblance between them and the formal contract of bond and lease. In fact, there are no legal precedents applicable to lawsuits, relating to the interpretation of lay agreements either express or implied, excepting such precedents as have been established by the territorial court in this judicial district. This mode of developing mining property was devised to meet the strange conditions existing here. Most of the claim owners, in the early days of the camp, were not able to bear the expenses necessarily incident to the development of their properties, others were not disposed to spend much money in prospect work, and their ground was opened by laymen. Perhaps many of the conditions which occasioned the custom, have passed away; it may be true that this manner of developing property has survived its usefulness; but it is questionable indeed if the time will ever come when lay agreements shall be totally discarded in the Yukon.

Whether the lay system is advantageous or not to the industry of mining in this territory is a serious question, and one not easily determined. Without doubt the misdirected efforts of men unskilled in mining who nevertheless secured lays on valuable property, have retarded the development of some good creeks. Sulphur is perhaps the most notable instance of the truth of this assertion. A year ago last fall innumerable lays were let by the claim owners on this tributary. As a general rule the laymen soon became dissatisfied and quit their properties; bad reports were based upon their judgment; and as a result wrong ideas respecting the worth of Sulphur properties were entertained by the people generally. It is only within the past six months that these false impressions have been eradicated, and the value of the creek has been established by the prospect and development work of the claim owners themselves.

There are two sides to every question, and the one in respect to lays is no exception to the rule. Most of the men who own claims assert that the custom of lays operates disadvantageously to the district generally. They contend that laymen do not thoroughly prospect the ground, and that they are too easily discouraged. When the claim has been abandoned by a layman its market value immediately decrease. On the other hand, it is affirmed that innumerable good claims have been opened by laymen, and that the system has been and is of incalculable benefit to the territory. A prominent mine owner who does not care to be quoted or the reason that several of his properties are let on lays, said:

"I believe that the conditions which gave rise to the lay custom are passing away. I do not favor the system for the reason that it does not tend to thoroughly prospect virgin ground; and the unsuccessful efforts of a layman too frequently place a false estimate on the worth of the property which he has abandoned. After this winter, I shall not let any claims on lays."

It is undoubtedly true that much dissatisfaction has been occasioned to

claim owners and miners by lay agreements; and it is a fact that the system is losing favor each successive season.

#### Balance All.

On the night of the 16th Mrs. John Manning at her roadhouse, 60 below on Bonanza, will give a St. Patrick's ball to which the general public is invited. A pleasant time is promised.

On the same occasion J. C. Shafer will give a dance at his roadhouse on Gold Bottom. Shafer's dances have been leading social functions on the creeks this winter. The landlord is a crack violinist and always makes his dances a success. Everybody is invited to his St. Patrick's hall.

#### FORREST CONVICTED.

(Continued from Page 1.)

Early in November he had requested and had received a deck of cards from the prisoner; that about three weeks afterwards, when the Cunningham affair was published, he examined the particular deck which he had in his possession and discovered that it was marked; that he gave these cards to Constable Booth, and that the marks on them were similar to those of the deck against which Cunningham had played.

Tom Chisholm and Thomas Sparks, on behalf of the defense, testified that they had no knowledge of marked cards having been in use at the Aurora; both of them swore positively that Cunningham and Booth, the latter particularly, attempted to extort money by threatening criminal prosecution. Forrest denied that he had dealt with marked cards, and corroborated Messrs. Chisholm and Sparks in their statements to the effect that Booth endeavored to secure a bribe, in consideration of which the officer agreed to drop the prosecution.

After the submission of the evidence, the arguments of counsel and the instructions of the justice, the jury retired and within ten minutes returned to the courtroom with a verdict of guilty. The prisoner will be sentenced some day during the present week. The penalty provided for the offense of which the prisoner has been found guilty is imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years. A fine, according to the statute, cannot be imposed.

The testimony deduced at the trial reflects great discredit upon Constables Booth and Cunningham. Booth is certainly a disgrace to the efficient force whose uniform he is permitted to wear. Were it not for the masterly efforts and resourceful mind of the crown prosecutor, Thomas Forrest would have been acquitted.

Tomorrow the cases of the Queen vs. Garton, charged with receiving stolen goods, and the Queen vs. McBeth, accused of stealing a dog team, will be called for trial. The actions of the Queen vs. Murphy and the Queen vs. La Plant are set for Tuesday, March 13th. The trial of civil cases will be resumed after the conclusion of Queen vs. La Plant. Friday, March 9th, and Monday, March 12th, will be devoted to the hearing of motions.

#### Taking It Easy.

It is said that there are people now on the trail between Bennett and this city, who have been traveling for 30 days and are yet some distance up the river. It is not that the trail is bad that they make such poor headway, but that they are hauling their sleds "by hand" and, being well supplied with provisions, feel that the more of the latter they eat the less heavy will be their loads.

#### Fire in Monroe's Cabin.

About 7:30 o'clock last evening the department responded to an alarm which was occasioned by a fire in Curly Monroe's cabin, situated on the north side of Fourth street, between Second and Third avenues. The firemen were obliged to break in the door and windows in order to play the water upon the blaze, and in a little while they succeeded in quenching the flames. The cabin was not destroyed; but the furnishings were either burned or in-

jured irreparably by water. The fire was evidently started by an overheated stove. When the blaze was discovered, Mr. Monroe, the occupant, was down town and the cabin was locked.

#### PERSONAL MENTION.

G. E. Ames is a guest at the Fairview.

J. R. Reed, of Gold Bottom, is in Dawson.

W. C. Leak is among the guests at the Fairview.

J. W. Patterson, of Bonanza creek, is visiting the city.

Hugh McKenzie, of Hunker creek, is a visitor to the city.

Joe Mock came to Dawson from the creeks yesterday.

Dan McLellan recently arrived in town from the outside.

Charles Wage and wife are registered at the Fairview.

Miss Celia Smith will leave for the outside tomorrow.

D. A. Campbell, from 4 above upper on Dominion, is in town.

Park Jewell, from 25 Gold Run, is spending a few days in town.

A. Chisholm, from 2, above upper on Dominion, is enjoying a short vacation in town.

Sam Stanley and wife returned yesterday from a short visit to Mr. Stanley's mining property.

Charles Worden and wife arrived in Dawson yesterday from the outside. They are at the Fairview.

M. F. French and Charles Baller were discharged yesterday from the Good Samaritan hospital as convalescent.

Thomas Lloyd and Thomas Trembley, superintendents at 17 Eldorado, are in town on business pertaining to the mine.

John Gock, a miner from American creek, arrived here yesterday. He will return to his properties before the end of the week.

Mr. F. H. Griffith will hereafter represent the N. A. T. & T. Co. on the creeks. Mr. Griffith has been associated with the company for some time, but intended leaving some days ago for the outside. The company, however, has made him such an advantageous offer that he has definitely decided to remain.

#### Insolvent.

The affairs of the Nugget Express are in liquidation. Messrs. Pattulo & Ridley state that a meeting of creditors of the express will be called and an assignment of all assets made to an administrator for the benefit of creditors. In reply to several inquiries made at this office, we will say that the Nugget Express was a separate and independent business enterprise and in no wise connected with the Klondike Nugget. This paper is in no way affected by the insolvency of the Nugget Express.

#### Notice.

There will be a meeting of the K. of P. Social Club at McDonald hall on Thursday night. All members are requested to be present to hear the report of the executive committee.

F. W. CLAYTON, Sec'y.

#### Shoff's Cough Balsam; sure cure.

**FOR SALE OR RENT CHEAP.**  
Hotel Ladue, 69 Hunker is an eight room house, neatly furnished. Also barn and dog house. With good patronage now—the cleaning—the coming summer diggings—it cannot fail to be a good investment.

When in town, stop at the Regina.

Private dining rooms at the Holborn.

The most popular house in town, the Fairview; new management.

Best Canadian rye at the Regina.

The choicest goods and the cheapest prices. Royal Grocery, 24 ave.

Imported French peas and mushrooms 50 cents per can. Royal Grocery, 2d ave.

The best blend of Mocha and Java coffee in Dawson. Royal Grocery, 2d ave.

The Holborn Cafe for delicacies.

Carbon paper for sale at the Nugget office.

**First Boat for Nome.**

Steamer W. K. Merwin, now lying on the Dawson water front, will be the first boat to leave for Nome. Capt. Talbot has rearranged the stateroom accommodations so that 84 berths are available for first class passengers. The Merwin is a staunch sea boat, 130 feet in length, built with deep draught for the Puget sound business, and those who were accustomed to travel on her on the Sound endorse the Merwin as the best sea boat on the Yukon river.

safe and seaworthy for the trip from the mouth of the river to Cape Nome. Through tickets to Nome are now on sale at Yukon Dock.

R. A. TALBOT, Master.  
c-7. FRANK J. KINGHORN, Agent.

#### Public Notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ellen Acklen and Charles George Johnson have purchased from the government the 76 34 acres known as the Acklen ground, and that therefore they are entitled to all the surface rights thereon.

All persons who have squatted there are hereby notified that they must settle with the above named proprietors of the ground before the 1st day of April, 1900 for any part of the ground occupied by them on the lines of the agreement entered into by the said proprietors with the Government, communication of which agreement can be had either at the Crown Timber Office or at the office of S. M. Graff, Agent, Room "D" A. C. Co's Bldg.

Squatters failing to settle with the said proprietors before the said date will render themselves liable to removal.

Dawson, 17th of February, 1900.  
(Signed) F. X. G. SELIN,  
Crown Timber & Land Agent.

## Sunday Evening Concert

### Palace Grand

# MARCH 11, 1900

SYMPHONIE ORCHESTRA  
Wm. Gorbacht, Conductor  
Best Program of the Season—Reserved Seats on Sale at Reid & Co., Druggists.

ZIMMERMAN & RADCLIFFE, Managers

Seattle St. Michael Dawson

## Empire Transportation Co.

# Empire Line

TRANSPORTATION & STORAGE  
Yemans & Chisholm.....  
.....Dawson Agents.

Seattle Office, 607 First Ave.

## Health is Wealth!

JOIN The Club Gymnasium.  
\$10 per month entitles you to all the uses and privileges of the Club. Baths free to members. Instructions in Boxing and Wrestling.

3rd Avenue BERT FORD, Prop.

## C. J. Dumbolton

### ...TAXIDERMIST

FIRST CLASS WORK....  
Hunters bring in your game. I will buy all the heads and birds you have.

CITY MARKET Opposite S.-Y. T. Co.

## CITY MARKET!

...NOW OPEN...

## Tons of Choicest Beef Arriving Daily

We respectfully solicit the patronage of our old-time customers in and out of town.

## C. J. Dumbolton & Co.

Second Ave., Opp. S.-Y. T. Co.

## MOHR & WILKENS,

DEALERS IN  
The Finest Select Groceries  
IN DAWSON  
E. Cor. Third Street AND Klondike Bridge  
and Third Avenue

## Why Buy Meat in Town

When you can get Fresh Meat at Dawson Prices at the

## Grand Forks

## Meat Market

FRED GEISMAN, Proprietor.

.....Opposite Gold Hill Hotel.

Received Over the Ice, a Full Line of  
**GLOBE VALVES**  
and Steamfitters' Supplies

McLennan, McFeely & Co. Ltd.  
DAWSON, Y. T.