

TROUBLE IN THE YUKON.

There is going to be serious trouble in the Yukon district. If the information contained in a private letter from Clondyke can be relied upon (says the *Victoria Times*). The peaceful Canadians who have claims on the Clondyke will likely be compelled to use guns to defend their property against unscrupulous Americans, who believe that in the far-off Yukon district they can set British law at defiance. There is no reason to doubt the reliability of the information contained in the letter, as the sender was once a prominent British Columbia merchant, who has always been careful about his statements. He is at present at Clondyke, where he holds one of those fabulously rich claims that yield hundreds of dollars to each bucketful of gravel. This very richness is the cause of the excitement.

Circle City, which is in American territory, has been infested with the worst characters in the United States fugitives from justice, who find there immunity from punishment for their past crimes. When the only discovered placer grounds were in the vicinity of Circle City, they were very jealous about their rights, and protested against any Canadian taking up a claim in American territory, where according to the law, twenty acres were allowed for a placer claim. When the discoveries were made on the Clondyke and adjacent streams, Inspector Constantine, of the mounted police, who acts for the Dominion government, allowed each claimholder to stake off 500 feet by 600 feet, or about six acres. For registering this he charged \$15—three times the ordinary fee.

These claims soon turned out to be enormously rich, and the news of the discoveries soon reached Circle City. The tough element soon crossed into Canadian territory, and, taking advantage of the liberal Canadian mining laws, which allow Americans to take up claims in Canadian territory, they prospected for claims for themselves. They soon found, however, that they were too late, because all of the ground had been staked off long before they left Circle City. Then these men began clamoring that too much land had been allowed for each claim, and boldly intimated that unless the resident authorities decreased the size of the claims, they would use force.

The letter stated that Inspector Constantine and his little band of police would be powerless to cope with nearly one thousand desperate characters, who are well armed. The miners in Canadian territory, however, were determined that whether they were justified in holding so much land or not, they would not surrender any in order to satisfy the unwarranted demands of unscrupulous foreigners. They held that they paid a treble fee for registering their claims, and that they would retain

wise. If necessary, these miners would shoulder their guns to assist Inspector Constantine and his police in maintaining the law.

From what is known of Inspector Constantine, he will stand no nonsense, and cannot be frightened by the threats of unprincipled adventurers. If necessary, he would swear in special constables to quell any disturbance.

PERSONAL.

Warren Watkins, Howe sound, who owns a number of claims there, is in the city, where he will spend some time.

William Jones, who is deeply interested in Cariboo properties, left for that district on Wednesday morning.

Percy Whitworth and a party have left for the mountains beyond the head of Harrison lake on a prospecting tour. They will be gone for about four weeks.

W. Kent and party have returned from a prospecting trip up Stave lake and through the mountains toward Harrison lake. The party made a number of finds.

Mr. John MacQuillan, one of the leading mining men of Vancouver, accompanied by Dr. Carroll and others, left here yesterday for the Slokan, to be absent about three weeks.

Mr. John A. Veach, superintendent of the Fern Gold Mining and Milling Co., went up to the mine on the 15th inst., to take charge of the installation of the stamp mill and concentrating plant.

Samuel Hodges has taken up quarters at the Sherman house, and placed on exhibition a large number of samples of high-grade ore. He is accompanied by James Cannon. They expect to leave for Victoria on Sunday next.

The CRITIC office was favored this week with a visit from one of San Francisco's leading merchants, Mr. A. Repsold, senior member of the firm of A. Repsold & Co. While the gentleman is not directly connected with mining matters, he sought information which he proposes to disseminate among Californians, as inquiries are being frequently made of visitors to British Columbia concerning our mining prospects and resources. He considers that business is improving to a great extent along the north-western coast.

C. D. Rand returned on Sunday from a trip to Chicago, New York, Boston, Buffalo, Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa. He says that the interest taken in the Kootenays by the people in the east has largely increased since his last visit. He thinks this is due to the proving up of several properties, and the good results obtained from the mines that are being actually worked. In New York, Boston and Chicago investors were waiting till the experimental stage has passed. Mr. Rand is assured that many leading investors of those cities will visit British Columbia during the coming summer. If they are as favorably impressed in proportion by what they see as they have been by what they have heard, large

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