THE DAILY KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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A FORCIBLE MEMORIAL

Laid Before His Excellency Lord Minto by the Citizens' Committee.

A CONSERVATIVE REVIEW OF THE PAST THREE YEARS.

Reasons Given for Changes in Existing Mining Laws and Regulations.

Sharp Criticism of Legislation Which Has Practically Closed the Country and Driven Prospectors to Other Fields—Existing Evils Are Exposed and Many Reforms Are Asked Which the Governor-General Will Carefully Consider—Most Powerful Document Which Has Ever Emanated From Any Organization in the Klondike.

Yesterday afternoon the citizens' committee presented to the governor general the memorial which is appended hereto. Considerable doubt had been raised as to the reception of the committee by his excellency, but all questions were set at rest by the receipt of a letter from the governor general's private secretary, in reply to a note from Secretary Joe Clark, of the citizens' committee.

The committee was invited to meet with his excellency at 5:30 p. m., and at that hour the following members assembled at the vice-regal headquarters: Chairman Col. MacGregor, Secretary Joe Clarke, Messrs. Woodworth, McDonald, Williams and Prudhomme. His excellency gave further evidence of his interest in the affairs of the territory, and desire to obtain the fullest information regarding our wants.

Not only did he allow the reading of the petition in full, but after the reading of the same he sought further information from the various members of the committee, and over one hour was spent in this manner by his excellency and the committee.

The reception of the committee was as private as possible, and a free discussion of the conditions took place, only his excellency, Capt. Graham, A. D. C., Private Secretary Sladen, and the committee were present.

The various members of the committee were more than pleased with the results of their efforts and express the belief that all the matters in question will receive his excellency's most earnest consideration. The memorial in full is as follows:

To The Right Honorable Sir Gilbert John Murray Elliot Kynmound, G. C. M. G., Earl of Minto, Viscount Melgund, Baronet of Nova Scotia, and Governor-General of Canada, etc., etc.:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

The petition of the undersigned humbly sheweth:

1. That on the 13th day of February, 1900, the undersigned were duly appointed a committee of the citizens of the Yukon Territory to petition for and secure representation of the said citizens on the Yukon Council and in the House of Commons of Canada.

2. At two large subsequent mass meetings of the said citizens, your petitioners were commended for the faithful performance of their duties, and at a mass meeting held on the 5th day of May, 1900, which was the largest indoor mass meeting ever held in the Yukon Territory, your petitioners were requested and authorized to represent the citizens of the Yukon Territory on all questions arising between the date of said mass meeting and the election of the duly qualified representatives of the citizens. Up to the present time the Yukon Territory has not had the boon of responsible government, but has been governed by appointed officials and not by representatives chosen by themselves.

3. Since the 13th day of Feb., 1900, communications have passed between your petitioners and the Yukon Council, and petitions have been addressed to your excellency in council, and to the Parliament of Canada, and your petitioners now wish to thank your excellency for bringing the subject matter of our various petitions before your advisors and before the Parliament of Canada.

4. The famous discoveries of gold in the Yukon region, and particularly in the Dawson district, were made in the autumn of the year 1896, and became widely known during the year 1897, and in that year and in the following year there was a large influx of people to the Yukon Territory, of about 30,000 or more souls, and a population of about 100,000 for the Yukon Territory seemed assured.

5. Upon hearing very much exaggerated accounts of the richness of the said famous discoveries, the Privy Council of Canada adopted a most burdensome tax known as royalty, which was first placed at twenty per cent of the gross output and later on was reduced to ten per cent. This taxation had the effect of being practically a tax upon labor and a fine for developing the resources of the Yukon Territory, and has had the effect of shutting off the development of all save the richest placer mining claims of the Yukon Territory, or has forced them to be operated at a loss. Along with this burdensome taxation came a system of imposts and restrictions upon the various industries and commerce of this territory that greatly added to the burdens of the citizens and retarded the development of the territory, and the mining regulations adopted in the years 1897 and 1898 were evidently made without proper knowledge of the conditions existing in the Yukon Territory.

6. A fee of $10 per annum was imposed upon every individual who attempted to explore, prospect or work for the hidden riches of this territory, and if successful in the search therefor a further fee of $15 was charged for recording or renewing each claim in the Yukon Territory.

7. Under the guise of prohibition regulations, there was instituted a system of liquor permits and prohibition of local manufacture that had the effect of shutting down all legitimate breweries in the Yukon Territory, and at the present time there are two well equipped breweries in Dawson shut down, while hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of American beer is for sale all over the Yukon Territory. Thus making this country, as far as the manufacture of beer is concerned, solely under the control and monopoly of the beer manufacturers of the United States of America, while liquor permits were not at any time and are not at this date issued to the parties who pay licenses to sell liquor, but to speculators who seem to have the power of obtaining permits, which are denied legitimate dealers of the territory. These speculators sell their permits granted by the government at largely increased rates, and supply the territory with liquors at an enormous profit to themselves and at a great cost to the people of the territory.

8. The burdensome imposts of the mining regulations alone would have seriously retarded the development of that industry and the prosperity of the Yukon Territory, but their bad effect was augmented by the other facts set out herein, coupled with such an apparent indifference on the part of the Parliament of Canada to inform themselves of the needs of this territory, and remedy the same, as has never been paralleled in Canada, or, in fact, in any British colony.

9. On the 25th day of November, 1897, the then gold commissioner, contrary to the mining regulations then in force and in a direct breach of faith with the miners who were then exploring and prospecting Dominion creek, closed the said creek against location, and in 1898 the gold commissioner, together with the then commissioner of the Yukon Territory, closed the hillsides and benches along said Dominion creek against locations by the free miners of the Yukon Territory, and this closure was enforced by the authorities until the 11th day of July, A. D. 1898.

10. On the 30th day of March, 1899, contrary to the regulations made by order in council, all benches and hillsides on Bonanza and Eldorado creeks were closed against locations by free miners, and said action was, on the 5th day of September, 1899, confirmed by the Privy Council of Canada, and said districts have never been reopened for the location of placer mining claims.

11. During the time when these closures were being made and enforced on the various creeks, hillside and bench claims, in the gold mining region of the Yukon Territory, large parts of the said closed portions and other parts of the Yukon Territory were granted by the government at Ottawa as hydraulic concessions and certain fractions have been granted in compensation for alleged grievances, which alleged grievances ought never to have been in existence.

12. Thus, while the creeks were closed to the ordinary and necessary prospector as above set forth, in the autumn of 1899 the relocation of abandoned claims was entirely done away with in the Yukon Territory. The population was driven from the Yukon Territory by what was a practical prohibition of development, and large tracts of the richest placer mining ground of the Yukon Territory has been handed over in concessions, and the said concessions include and take in valuable fractions which have been denied to the prospector and have been handed over to the concessionairies for the small sum of $150 per mile, so that at the present time prospecting and new discoveries have practically ceased.

13. These public acts were not the only ones from which the people of the Yukon Territory have suffered. The office of the gold commissioner for long periods was practically inaccessible to the free miners of the Yukon Territory, and prompt transaction of business was only secured by influence with the clerks of that office, and when the public or interested parties knew of the miscarriage or wrongful grant of any mining claim or ground to individuals it was most generally found that several transfers had been recorded to innocent parties, which made it impossible to rectify the official wrongdoing, and even at a very late date the administration of the said office has been such that the officers of the Northwest Mounted Police were forced to take proceedings against a clerk in said office, which proceedings ended with the fining of said clerk and his later fleeing from the Yukon Territory, while his fellow conspirators are at present incarcerated in the common gaol of the Yukon Territory.

14. During the year 1898, the grievances and oppression of the people of the territory became so great that it drove the population of this territory into such a state that rebellion was only prevented by the energetic persuasions on the part of the loyal British subjects residing in the Yukon Territory, who pledged their words that these wrongs would be righted when and as soon as they were brought to the knowledge of the government and Parliament of Canada, and the assurances at that time given by the loyal citizens of Her Majesty have not yet been made good, and your petitioners are of the opinion that such grievances have never been known to exist in any British colony heretofore, and are even worse than those which caused the dissensions in Canada in 1837 and 1885, and exceed the grievances which caused the outcry of the Uitlanders of the Transvaal.

15. According to the best information of the persons best qualified to judge had the Yukon Territory enjoyed proper laws and been freed from the burdensome taxes and the complained of regulations and administrations this territory would have now had a population of about one hundred thousand, and would have offered an unequaled cash market to Canada, such as by conventions and treaties and preferential rates the various governments of Canada have sought for the last thirty years, without avail, as the population of this territory, would have been wholly dependent for food stuffs, clothing and machinery, upon the several other parts of Canada.

16. It soon became more and more apparent that the regulations and conditions and restrictions adopted for the Yukon Territory, were having a most baneful effect upon the development of the territory, and were practically driving the population therefrom.

17. Representations of the conditions of the Yukon Territory, and the need of reforms in our administration and laws have from time to time been made by private individuals to the government of the Dominion of Canada, and the government have seen fit to make certain changes on the representations of these individuals, some of which changes were a benefit to the territory, while others were as great a detriment as the wrongs they were intended to remedy, and it has now become apparent that none but duly elected representatives of the people of the Yukon Territory will have influence enough with or possess the knowledge requisite to point out to the Parliament of Canada the necessary reforms without which the resources of the Yukon Territory will remain undeveloped.

18. In spite of the facts above set forth this territory at the present time has a population of about twenty-five thousand, of whom at least one-third are British subjects, while perhaps one half the remainder are eligible for naturalization.

19. The annual gold output is close upon $20,000,000, and the revenues and taxes in royalty, customs, etc., etc., derived from this territory is over $2,000,000, or about one-tenth of our annual production of the territory, and about one-twenty-fifth of the total gross revenue of the Dominion of Canada. This territory is therefore by all means the most overtaxed, and in proportion to its population the greatest revenue producing part of the British Empire, with the least material benefit to the citizens paying said taxes.

20. Though in the fourth year of its existence and while paying the heavy taxes above set forth, this territory has no proper roads, and transportation to the various creeks, except in the winter time, is extremely difficult. The bridges across our rivers are toll bridges, and the roads are almost wholly neglected as may be observed by Your Excellency, and such roads as we have are of the most recent construction.

21. On account of the above facts and uncertain mining regulations and the natural difficulties attendant upon opening up this country, much litigation ensued. But until quite recently only one judge was provided for the Yukon Territory, while the court of appeal was in another province, and the law's delays resulted in a practical denial of justice to litigants.

22. This territory and the whole of Canada has also suffered on account of having no free British port of entry, which would enable the citizens of the territory to bring their goods and supplies from the other portions of Canada without being put to the expense, inconvenience and delays necessary to cross the strip of territory in South Eastern Alaska, and which has given a great commercial advantage to the merchants of the United States of America, which should have accrued to the benefit of Canadian trade and Canadian merchants.

23. It was with these facts in mind and in order to secure redress for the various grievances under which the territory has suffered that this committee, your petitioners, were appointed and have labored.

Wherefore, Your petitioners pray that Your Excellency will take means to bring before your advisors and the Parliament of Canada:

First—The necessity for immediately doing away with or at least greatly reducing the present royalty tax on gold mined in the Yukon Territory.

Second—The necessity of preparing roads and bridges and affording free means of communication within the Yukon Territory.

Third—The necessity of opening for location to free miners all parts of the Yukon Territory owned by the government which are fit for placer mining.

Fourth—The necessity for reducing the present fees for free miners' certificates and for recording and renewing placer mining claims.

Fifth—The necessity for altering the hydraulic mining regulations so as to secure for the free miner the right to locate, record and work any ground which is fit for placer mining whether covered by a concession or not.

Sixth—The adoption and enforcement of such mining regulations as will encourage to the utmost the prospector first, the miner second, and the investor third, and throw open the country for the fullest and freest development.

Seventh—The necessity of granting representation of the people of the Yukon of at least two members in the House of Commons of Canada.

Eighth—A Legislative Council wholly elected by the citizens of the Yukon Territory.

Ninth—The necessity of putting the liquor trade of this territory under such regulations as to subject it to the laws of trade and insure commercial freedom.

Tenth—Establishment of proper courts and a court of appeal in and for the Yukon Territory.

Eleventh—The necessity of securing or establishing a free British port of entry on the western coast of America within reach of the headwaters of the Yukon river, in order to encourage the trade and commerce between the Yukon Territory and the other portions of the Dominion of Canada.

Dated at Dawson this 14th day of July, A. D. 1900.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

DONALD McGREGOR,
CHAIRMAN OF CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.
JOSEPH A. CLARKE,
SECRETARY OF CITIZENS' COMMITTEE.

Last night Lord Minto held a reception from 9 until 10 oclock at his quarters, when a large number of people called and were presented.

It was 10:30 this morning when the cavalcade got started on the trip up Bonanza. Both Lord and Lady Minto started on horseback, but an extra wagon was taken along in case they should tire of the first form of travel. They were accompanied by Major Wood and a mounted guard of honor from the police force, members of the citizens' committee and others, making from 15 to 20 persons on horseback; and by Gov. Ogilvie, members of the Yukon council, Judge Craig, Mr. Wade, Col. MacGregor and others in wagons.

The party was heard from at opposite 90 below Bonanza, where the wagon in which Messrs. Ogilvie, Wade and Girouard were seated went "kerchug" into a mud hole as deep as an abandoned prospect shaft. The wagon was broken and the last seen of the commissioner of the Yukon he had his hat pulled down over his eyes and was footing it up Bonanza like a quarter horse. Messrs. Wade and Girouard were not reported, but nothing serious is anticipated.

It was the intention of the party to take luncheon and witness a cleanup on Mr. McGillivray's claim. They will probably not return to the city before 9 o'clock this evening. No definite program has been announced for tomorrow.

When in town, stop at the Regina.

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Meals at all hours. The Criterion.

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ROYALTY MUST GO

Is Conclusion Reached at Ottawa After Careful Investigation

OF YUKON LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

An Assay Office to Be Established in Dawson.

CHIEF JUSTICE RUSSELL DEAD.

Boers Plot to Capture Lord Roberts and Kill His Staff—Other Telegraphic News.

Ottawa, Aug. 10, via Skagway, Aug. 15.—The investigations that have been so carefully made regarding existing laws and regulations for the Yukon will be speedily followed by such action as will leave no cause whatever for complaint.

First, it has been determined that the royalty will be entirely aboljished and a government assay office established in Dawson, where gold will be taken from miners and others at its exact worth, certificates being issued therefor which the banks will cash at their full face value.

Second, a small export duty will be imposed on gold itself, but as the miners will have a chance to dispose of their gold at the assay office, this export duty will not directly affect them.

In addition to this lifting of that portion of the burden, Engineer Tasche, who is now in the Yukon has orders to expend liberally from the appropriation for roads and trails leading from Dawson to the various creeks, thus doing away with the present excessive charges for the transportation of machinery and provisions to the claims.

As the Yukon will also have two elected members in the territorial council, thus will every reasonable request of the people of the district have been met and complied with.

Big Firm Suspends.

London, Aug. 10, via Skagway, Aug. 15.—The wholesale firm of G. A. Gillivray & Co., has suspended payment. It dabbled freely in real estate in Manitoba and the Northwest territory and suffered heavy losses.

Baron Russell Dead.

London, Aug. 10, via Skagway, Aug. 15.—Baron Russell, lord chief justice of England, died this morning, the result of an operation for tumor. He had been ill two weeks.

A Boer Plot.

Pretoria, Aug. 9, via Skagway, Aug. 15.—A Boer plot to make Lord Roberts prisoner and kill his staff has been dis-

(Continued on Page 4.)

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