

THEY JUMPED CLAIMS TWO YEARS AGO

Things Have Gone From Bad to Worse Since Then.

An "Inner Circle" Then and an "Inside Ring" Now - There Has Been no Purification Sacrifice Since He Left the Country.

On page 598 of "Wyman's Land and Mining Laws," a pamphlet containing Surveyor Ogilvie's report on this section, the following momentous sentences:

It appears a great deal of staking for absence has been done, some of which have turned up and some have not. This has caused confusion and leads to a good deal of what might be called fraud, for it is easy for a few in the inner circle to know what claims have been recorded in accordance with the law and what have not. They can then for themselves directly or through the intervention of a friend have the latter jumped for their whole or partial interest. It appears this has been done in several instances.

If this was true at the latter end of 1896 and undoubtedly was, how much more true is the condition of today. Right under the nose of Commissioner Ogilvie is the "inner circle" profiting by the knowledge of what has been done, for instance, the recent rulings of Mr. Ogilvie regarding the whole of the unrepresented claims being open to prospectors. Under Mr. Fowler's ruling all stakers of the 200 feet farthest away from discovery were refused permission to record. Lists were made of these vacant pieces of ground and were strongly in evidence Saturday night during the stampede which followed Mr. Ogilvie's ruling.

There is but one place where such lists could have been made out and that is the office where he kept all the records. Men went out on the creeks who confessed to friends that a list of what they got would have cost \$2000 the "inside," which, we presume, stands for the "inner circle," mentioned by Mr. Ogilvie, when he was surveyor.

The "inner circle" of Surveyor Ogilvie's report to his government in 1896, has, in 1898, simply become the "inside" and men who have ignored it and refused to divide up have found to their sorrow that the honest prospector in Klondike is at a great disadvantage, to say the least. Even should he find a piece of ground vacant and with indications that it contained gold in paying quantities, the fact of the recorder might be that "to all intents it was recorded," and the secrecy maintained over the records would prevent the unfortunate prospector from discovering what he might be fully convinced was false.

The people of the Klondike endorse Surveyor Ogilvie's statements in 1896, and in 1898 beg to assure Commissioner Ogilvie that during his absence things have gone from bad to worse.

Some Trenchant Figures.

The question is often raised whether the Yukon territory would be on a self-supporting basis if royalty on the output of the mines was to be abolished. The Newget has long been in search of information which it believed it obtained would show this section of the Dominion to be altogether the most profitable piece of territory the Dominion possesses. The investment may be small but the returns in taxes and royalties aggregate enormous sums. The financial returns to the government from this territory is information which the government for reasons of its own allows to reach the public in homeopathic doses. The figures given below are not culled from the government budget and many of the items are merely estimates made by officials whose duties bring them close to the information desired.

A handsome income is first secured by the issue of miner's licenses at \$10. A license is necessary to own or even work on a claim so that it is safe to assume that out of a population of 25,000 people at least 20,000 have a miner's license in their pockets. The income from that source would for one year be \$200,000. It costs \$15 to record or renew each claim, and there are between 10,000 and 12,000 claims. At the lower number the amount received by the government would be \$1,500,000. The sale of government lands last year netted \$28,800. The royalty to date is something over \$300,000. The fees at the recording office for 113,000 transfers are not obtainable - kept sub rosa, like any other information wanted there. Figures secured from Major Walsh before he left show that from December 1st to July 1st, the amount was \$5,430. The year's returns will undoubtedly be more than treble that amount, but for the sake of being well within the limits the Newget simply doubles it at \$10,872. The whiskey coming into the country is charged \$2 per gallon for the necessary permits. That being so \$400,000 is not too high an estimate of the revenue from that source. For retailer's permits there has been paid the sum of \$80,000. The sale of confiscated liquors is a somewhat uncertain quantity, but will easily net over \$5,000. Court fines and fees for a half year were \$1,800. Double that for one year would be \$3,600. Water front rent one year \$20,000. Sale of townsite at \$50 per acre, \$1,000. The returns from the sale of postage stamps, etc., have been variously estimated \$10,000 for mail matter going in and out. Vast tracts of timber have been sold and royalty collected on as much more. Mr. Williston has

been asked for the figures but considered them too incomplete for publication. However, it is not too high to place it at 100 square miles, at \$500, which would net \$50,000. Royalties on stamps, etc., have been collected on the vast amount of timber sold. However, it is for one writer in the Newget that \$1,000. A final total in the Newget is \$1,100,000. It has been given to the world in the Newget for the sale of government land \$1,200,000 paid for staking

permitted \$700,000 customs and other exactions on the shipments and by ways of the river. The grand total of the foregoing is \$2,300,872. There are a number of items which from uncertainty have had to be omitted. Nearly two and a half millions exacted from a country whose total output and production last year was but \$7,000,000. Allowing for possible over statements the exactions for the past year have been at least \$2,000,000, wrong from a population of 25,000 people. With the exceptions of the royalty and a few small items every dollar of it has been extorted from poor men. None have been spared, and nationally never considered. To offset the tax exactions there was an estimate made at the commencement of the fiscal year for the cost of the police and judiciary. The estimate was based upon the cost last year when the police came in over the passes and paid the highest going price for transportation for their goods, and then lost a part of them afterwards. The estimate was nearly \$100,000 but is altogether too high, seeing that where they paid at the point for packing last year, the cost this year has been less than \$100 per pound. Another estimate of a nearly equal amount was made for the maintenance of the soldiers now stationed at Fort Selkirk. For similar reasons the estimate for them also is much too high. However, allowing them the figures claimed, how insincere appears the claim that royalty is exacted simply because without it there would not be sufficient revenue to pay running expenses.

That the total production of the Yukon Territory last year was only seven millions and that so large a sum as two millions was wrong from it would tend to show that the well defined policy of the government is to bleed the poorest of her provinces for the benefit of her richest. No other explanation can be offered.

Sunk at Hootalinqua.

There again an brings word down the river of the sinking of the steamer Anglian at the junction of Thirty Mile and Hootalinqua rivers. Before sinking she was run onto the shelving bank as far as possible so that her decks are still above water. The Anglian left Dawson some weeks ago with passengers for White Horse. From there she dropped down the river to Hootalinqua with the intention of going up that stream to Lake Teslin for the balance of the soldiers belonging to Col. Evans' command, together with their supplies. The river was found to be low and the trip had to be abandoned when within 35 miles of the lake. On the way down some 40 miles from the mouth of the river a rock was struck which stove in two planks. She was beached and temporary repairs made with a plank and blankets. The patch shifted with results as above stated.

There are 68 soldiers yet to come down from Lake Teslin, together with some 600 tons of military supplies. There are also 500 sheep and three cow-loads of cattle reported coming down the Hootalinqua.

The First Snow of the Season.

The first Dawson snow fall of the season occurred on Sunday night about 8:30 o'clock. "Is that snow?" was being asked by pedestrians and could not be answered because of the warm ground melting it as fast as it fell. The landing of the Susie with her searchlight on in full power revealed the air full of the feathery couriers of Father Frost. The warm sunshine of the day made the arrival of the white warning of the coming winter a great surprise to many who found themselves out in the chilly wind with nothing on but the lightest of summer clothing. Muckboots, moccasins, mitts and masks will soon be the style and it behooves us all to overhaul our "dunnage bags."

A Handsome Craft.

The Susie arrived Sunday night about 8:30 o'clock. As on her last trip she came in under dark with her white painted sides brilliantly illuminated with hundreds of electric lights and her powerful search light in full swing. Crews gathered to see and admire the partial A. C. boat which reveals so many peculiarities on closer inspection. The wind was blowing strongly on shore and the handsome craft had to be handled very skillfully to avoid damage to herself on the fleet of steamers and river boats tied up at Dawson's limited waterfront. Her passenger list was light, but she adds to the A. C. Co.'s stock something like 600 tons of supplies. The Susie tied up to the bank every night, but was only 17 days from St. Michaels.

The Miners' Institute Building.

Specification for a Miners' Institute building have been placed in Mr. Lisle's law office and sealed tenders are invited for. From the specifications we learn that the building committee has decided upon a building of logs sawed on three sides, the building to be 15x21 feet and a story and a half high. The lower story is to be nine feet from floor to ceiling and the upper floor seven feet from floor to rafters. The lower floor is to be underlaid with sawdust and the roof to be double and lined with building paper. Doors are to be double and in every respect the building is going to be a quarters for miners in an arctic region. The building committee consists of Messrs. McArthur, Col. McGregor and Curtis Galpin.

Hundreds of Applicants.

Outside the rear of the Newget will be a warning that a single notice that a few men were wanted to go up the river to build cabins for some of the police posts, posted at 10 o'clock on Monday last, brought hundreds of applicants to his tracks as early as 1 o'clock the same day. The demand for a job in and about Dawson is not at all equal to the supply and every prospecting Klondiker should be told of the building of these Victoria or Seattle.

WAR SMOKE HAS BLOWN AWAY.

How the Evacuation of Cuba Will be Accomplished.

The Commission is Now on Its Way and in a Short Time the Final Arrangements Will be Made.

Boston, Aug. 27th. Arrangements have been made for the speedy departure of the commissioners charged with the supervision of the evacuation of the Spanish forces from Cuba and Porto Rico. The Cuban commission, consisting of Gen. Wade, Admiral Sampson and Gen. Butler will sail on September 3rd, on the auxiliary cruiser, Resolute. The Porto Rican commission, consisting of Gen. Brooke, Gen. Gordon and Admiral Schley will sail from New York on the transport, Admiral Schley will transfer his flag to the New Orleans, which will remain in port during the progress of the commission.

Boston, Aug. 27th. Senator Jesse of Maine, a member of the peace commission, passed through Boston on his way from Washington to Maine today. In an interview Senator Frye stated that he was reluctant to accept the position.

President McKinley did me the honor to ask that he particularly wanted me to serve on the commission," said the senator. "What his reasons are, though, I must decline to tell you. Neither can I say what will be the terms of the United States that will be offered to the afflicted states commissioner to those of Spain when the commissioners meet in Paris. I hold everything that transpired between myself and the president confidential. The commissioners of the two nations will arrange the terms and draw up a treaty, but that treaty must pass the sanction of the senate. The senate will meet in December, and while there is no telling when the commission will conclude its labors, I hope that the treaty will be ready to lay before the senate during his session. It is expected that if arrangements can be made for the accommodations, the commission will sail from New York, September 17th. That is, as far as we know at present."

Senator Frye declined to state his position regarding expansion, and stated that it was impossible to tell what the commissioners would decide upon.

Porto Rico, of course, will go to the United States," he said, "and the Ladrones Islands, so much was settled by the protocol. Beyond that nothing can be said just now."

In discussing the question as to whether or not the United States will be likely to demand more than Manila and the island of Luzon, Senator Frye said: "There are other islands in the Philippines that are valuable. The commissioners, you understand, can exact whatever trade benefits they wish. Outside the conquered territory it cannot now be told what will be demanded."

Evidences of High Living.

A member of a metropolitan police force came across a boy the other day who was wheeling home a load of oyster cans and bottles, and earnestly to know what use the lad could put them to be made direct inquiry.

"Going to throw them over into our back yard," replied the boy. "I took two loads home yesterday."

"But what do you use them for?" "It's a trick of the family," exclaimed the lad. "How trick?"

"I'd just as lief tell," continued the boy, as he spat on his hands to remove hold on the barrow. "We are going to have some plashings come in from the country. We may not have much to eat, but if they see these cans and bottles and boxes they'll think we've had sters, champagne, figs, and hats till we've got tired of 'em, and fare living on bread and butter for a bonny change."

The officer scratched his ear like a man who had received a new idea.

First Honorary Member.

The by-laws of the Miners' Association provides for honorary membership consisting of persons not eligible for active members. Ladies are classed in that category. The first lady to avail herself of the protection afforded by the association to its members is Miss Minnie Starr, the charming young lady who ascended the capacity of night cashier at the French Royal Cafe. All honor to the young lady whose sympathies are as right as her judgment. The Newget proposes three cheers for the first honorary member. May the young lady stay with us long enough to see the association with a membership of 2,000, and to preside over some of their social institutions which are destined to become the events of the year.

POLICE COURT ITEMS.

J. R. Cates was let off with just \$5 and costs. D. Robertson got full and noisy and his sack as lighter by \$20 and costs.

Frank Taylor was very full and inclined to talk back, so he paid a fine of \$20 and costs. J. Demoyan was intoxicated, noisy, and would not come to be contributed \$25 and costs.

W. Woodling was fined \$20 and costs because it was not the first time he had been pulled for drinking too much.

Henry Seaman got up \$30 and costs, the costs including \$9 for a pig in which it was necessary to carry him and his "jag."

Nitella Faye, Mrs. F. Neville, Blanche Blanchette and Blanch Montigny paid a fine of \$20 for being occupants of houses of ill fame.

The police records of the past week show that the ordinary drunk and disorderly ones have graduated from the 25 grade from various causes to 210 and over \$200 fines.

Thomas Conly was full again and paid a fine of \$20 and costs. He wants to the court now for the third offence means six months hard labor without the option of a fine.

There are several good ratings for sales, best location in Dawson at cheap large prices, call at once and secure first choice. HANEX No. 627 office.

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