

SUGGESTS A MINING BOARD

Some Things to be Considered by the Miners Themselves.

Some Hot Shot for Incompetent and Erratic Incumbents of the Gold Commissioner's Office.

The movement to organize is taking shape among the miners every day. The following communication is possibly somewhat premature, as far as the proposed improvement of the mining laws is concerned, for that will be taken up at some future time by the miners themselves after the organization is perfected. Still, it may be as well to begin considering what will be wanted, and in that way save time when the proper time comes.

Editor Nugget: The attitude you have shown in the conduct of your valuable paper and the great good you are doing in the interests of the people in this most important mining district of the Dominion of Canada, fully entitles you to the general praise and support you have already in so short a time received and which will undoubtedly be accorded to you in the future.

Owing to the great distance of this district from the seat of government and the slow and irregular means of communicating therewith, and in the absence of any representative body of the people such as a municipality, mining board or board of trade might afford, it becomes imperative the duty of a bright, intelligent and honest journalist to present the exponent of public opinion, to watch over the welfare of the people in such a manner that the government be truthfully advised of their political and social condition from time to time to enable it to govern by the well-expressed wishes of the people, more especially in a case which is apparent in the conduct of official affairs in this position of the Dominion.

It has been untruthfully stated that Britishers, other than Canadians, have found fault with the laws have been applied and arbitrarily administered by incompetent officials, when, in point of fact, there is not a Canadian miner in the camp (unless he has a pull), who is not so well versed with the laws as the British Columbia, Australia, New Zealand and Africa, together with his old-time friends from the mining regions of the United States, thoroughly ashamed and disgusted with the unprecedented and miserable manner in which this mining camp has been managed, not only to their especial detriment but to the disgrace and loss to the Dominion.

Outside of the "ring" there is but one conclusion arrived at to prevent the rapid depopulation of the camp and to close it up from settlement and development, and that is the mineral laws be fully codified, after the manner of other mining territories, for example, for example, and that they be emphatically administered according to their true intent and meaning by an educated gentleman, appointed gold commissioner, possessed of strong executive ability and accustomed to miners and mining life, the same as in British Columbia, Australia, and elsewhere. The so-called mining laws now in vogue here, are chaotic, indefinite and insufficient, and even these as a piecemeal and make-shift code have been miserably enforced and mal-administered to suit the imbecile caprices of the present incumbent of the office of gold commissioner.

The following suggestions are now respectfully submitted for the consideration of the miners of this district in furtherance of the object of straightening out all discrepancies, and for once and for all, to truthfully represent to the government the existing conditions of the mining laws of this camp and seeking its assent to a complete and suitable mining code framed by the miners, to be administered by a miner which will be in touch with the government and be a recognized authority in all matters affecting our mining interests.

It may now be considered appropriate to present a few innovations applicable in the drafting of a mineral code. 1. That all claims shall be of the same dimensions, except creek claims, 250 feet in length, and extending on either side to the rim. The bench claim, when such exists between the creek and the hill, to be 250 feet square. The hill claim to be 250 feet frontage and running to the summit. Bar claims, which exist in the large rivers, to be 250 feet square. 2. All free miners shall be entitled to hold only one claim by pre-emption in the district; but if from some cause he desires to abandon it at any time during the mining season he shall give notice of abandonment on the claim to the gold commissioner and shall then be entitled to pre-empt another claim, and so on, ad infinitum.

3. This mining region in the North West Territory to be one district only and not divided into a number of divisions. The present gold commissioner, in order to bestow favors, has created several divisions, so that more claims may be taken in than exist in the same district. It having been the custom to allow only one claim to be held by pre-emption in the district, this action on his part, is like "beating the devil round a stump." Therefore, it is more straightforward and expedient to allow the abandonment of a claim, and the making of a new location. It will also be an encouragement to prospecting.

4. There should exist a mining season and a close season. The mining season might commence on the 15th of June, when all claim-owners should be on their ground or be properly represented until its close, unless leave of absence be obtainable. The close season to commence on the 1st of October when all claims would be laid over. Of course, this would not prevent the claims being worked in the winter.

5. A miner should be allowed a discovery claim on any creek, bench, gulch or hill in the district.

6. The stakes driven by a claimant should absolutely define the boundaries of the ground he claims, except when he claims more than the law allows. If he claims less, then he does it at his own loss. Any moving or tampering with stakes to be punishable as a misdemeanor.

7. According to precedent in other mining districts, the office of gold commissioner and that of mining recorder are totally distinct and separate, and there is no reason why their duties should not be discharged in the same manner in this district. They are as follows: The gold commissioner should be a stipendiary magistrate and should be possessed of sufficient legal learning to properly administer the law when any case comes before him. He has no power to alter the laws nor to make by-laws to suit certain cases or formulate any rules or regulations which may conflict with the established mineral code, neither has he power to make ex parte rulings or to learn of or discuss mining cases with disputants outside of the court. In other words, he must be an impartial justice. He should have no knowledge of what the records may show, unless it becomes necessary for him to cause the recorder to produce them in evidence in a case which may come before him. When any mining dispute arises, he should be prepared to hear the case

in his court-room or upon the mining claim, in accordance with the rules of legal practice and without cost of proceedings to litigants. An appeal from his decisions should be obtainable in the District, either at the hands of the supreme court judge or the commissioner of the Yukon district, also without cost. It has been proven a physical impossibility for one man to discharge the duties both of gold commissioner and mining recorder, as is done on the score of short-sighted economy, for the reason that the two offices are incompatible in a legal and in a moral sense, unreasonable and injudicious; bearing in mind the great loss of legitimate revenue accruing from the business of the record office, but also giving rise to despotic, vexatious and unnecessary delay, loss and torture to all those who have business with the record office. It is a perfect farce to see the undignified gold commissioner sitting in his dual capacity, with the Bible in one hand and the gold scales in the other, administering oath for the filing of any document, elaborately drawn up by himself, generally altogether unnecessary, for the reason that the administration of justice into contempt.

8. The office of recorder should be held by a quick and able clerk, having his main office in Dawson. He should have able assistants in as many branch offices, at several points throughout the district, as may be necessary, so as to expedite his onerous duties, as well as to avoid unnecessary and detrimental delay, travel and expenses to the already overworked and over-taxed miner. He should be courteous to all and remember that he is the people's servant, not their master. The record books should be open for inspection or for abstracting to the public during office hours, when good reasons are given by any applicant, both to the gold commissioner or mining recorder should receive any fees or other emoluments over and above their fixed salaries.

9. It is quite evident that no royalty tax should be collected, for the manifold reasons so ably set forth from time to time in the press and at public meetings, neither should any reservation be made for the crown. These new ideas are without precedence and are obnoxious besides tending to a loss of revenue.

10. All the chaos and mal-administration of affairs has been caused by the camp being virtually in the hands of land surveyors who, unfortunately, happened to be here surveying the boundary line when the camp was struck, and they have remained ever since surveying claims unnecessarily and contrary to precedent and filling offices for which they are incompetent. The chief land surveyor being the only officer of the government to administer affairs in that area and with possession of the knowledge whatsoever in regard to mining life, with the biased assistance of a few original locators of claims on Bonanza patched up the rules and regulations for mining which have, with other piecemeal legislation, served the purpose of mining laws as they now exist. On his leaving the district he was succeeded by one of his proteges, in the person of the present gold commissioner, who, although he may be a very expert wood-chopper and land surveyor, is profoundly ignorant of the duties of gold commissioner and magistrate, and to this may be attributed all our vexatious experiences.

11. If a mining board is formed, or any other body that may be desired by the government, it is proper a request might be made, as follows: viz.: That a complete mineral code be framed, printed and distributed, and a gold commissioner appointed as a successor to the present incumbent. This would be the first and most important step toward "cleaning out the Augean stable."

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

PERSONALS.

Mrs. M. E. Miller of San Francisco was an arrival on the Susie.

H. P. Anderson has returned from a trip over the hills to Sulphur and Eureka.

Capt. Barrington, of the Willie Irving, is sick with fever. His place was taken on her last trip by a substitute.

Messrs. Slaus and Wilson, two of the largest owners in the A. C. Co., came up on the Susie from the mouth of the river.

The many friends of O. L. Hadley will be pleased to know that Messrs. Berry, McConnell & Parker have made him manager of the popular Monte Carlo.

Dr. Norquay has gone outside for a short visit to friends. He is in dust from the same clinic which he is about to return to the Winnipeg before turning round, but intends to make the trip over the passes before the river freezes.

Mr. E. F. Botsford, of New York, was an arrival on the Susie Monday night. Mr. Botsford holds some important positions connected in a large way with Dawson. He is general manager of the Ladue Yukon Transportation Co. and also secretary and treasurer of the Joseph Ladue Gold Mining and Development Co. of the Yukon.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Scott Snyder, charged with theft, by P. E. DeWille, was held to the superior court.

The charge of theft brought against Wm. Gorington by the French Exploration company was dismissed.

H. McCallough, charged with the theft of \$8,000 in gold dust from 13 Eldorado, by J. A. Chute, was held to the higher court and there the case was dismissed.

Mrs. S. E. Moody, charged by J. A. Chute with the theft of \$500 in dust from the same claim, was released by Inspector Harper after examination and the case dismissed.

United States Marshal.

Word comes from Washington, dated July 19th, that President McKinley appointed Robert A. Friedrich, of California, to be United States marshal for the district of Alaska.

(No news of the removal or resignation of James M. Shoup, the present United States marshal for the district of Alaska, has been received in Seattle.)

Notice to Miners.

The Miners' Committee has decided to call a mass meeting Thursday next at 7:30 p. m. to hear reports of its work and discuss the advisability of forming a Miners' Association (or Institute) and if this is agreed upon to appoint an organizer at the meeting.

The Monte Carlo Theatre. The Monte Carlo has opened for its second week with unabated interest shown by a delighted audience. The management has chosen its talent from among the most popular in Dawson, and the public appreciation is shown by the crowded houses each night.

Another New Hotel.

Dawson is to have another three-story hotel and it will be opened with a social hop on Monday night. Messrs. Stanley and Worden have just about completed the building, which is three stories high and has 23 rooms besides the necessary dining hall, parlors, etc. The "Worden," as it is to be called, is fitted out with the necessary electric lights, etc., and will be conducted as a strictly first class house at reasonable rates. Everything first class at Seattle Cafe.

George Brewitt, 130 Front St. PRACTICAL TAILOR AND CUTTER

NEW STOCK OF CLOTH JUST COME IN Come and get a Suit made in Dawson equal to anything on the outside.

GRAND OPENING MONTE CARLO THEATRE

A LARGER ATTENDANCE EACH NIGHT

With the following array of talent: JACQUELINE ROSALINE, PREDIA MOGELF, BEATRICE LEON, EMMA FORREST, GABRIEL, GRACIE ROBINSON, FRANK HOWARD, FRED BREEN, Stage Manager, HARRY WARNOCK AND HIS SUPERB ORCHESTRA

Grand Ball After the Performance

W. M. WILSON, Proprietor, R. C. GARDNER, Manager

Oatley Sisters' Concert Hall. There is nothing succeeds like success. The Oatley Sisters became popular favorites immediately upon their arrival at Dawson, and their popularity has not waned a particle since. The variety of their songs makes their work ever new, and a complete change of program every Monday provides good entertainment for thousands who do not want to dance steadily all night.

Grand Family Entertainment. A grand family entertainment will be given on Friday evening next, August 12th, at the Fairview hotel, under the auspices of the Mesquit Theatre. The celebrated Newman children will appear in a delightful program of specialties and farces. Tickets on sale at Pioneer Drug Store and Fairview hotels at \$2.50 each. After the performance Miss McIntosh will tender her usual Friday evening social hop.

Have your prescriptions filled by Kelly & Co. Druggists, Front street.

Are you eating at the Seattle Cafe?

Finest line of soaps and perfumes, Kelly & Co., Druggists, Front street.

The Seattle Cafe serves the best in the market.

Will M. A. Newell having mail for G. M. Goo please leave same at Nugget office.

Buy your meats at the Seattle Cafe market.

The man that cures dogs sick with mange or distemper lives at the Pioneer Drug Store.

Fresh vegetables of all kinds at Seattle Cafe market.

Fine line of Domestic and Imported Cigars, Kelly & Co. Druggists, Front street.

P. E. DeVillie, of the Central market, keeps his meat in a dry-proof case. Patronize a good clean market and avoid dysentery.

The finest brands of wines, liquors and cigars are served at the Green Tree bar. With the repairs that have recently been completed the Green Tree has become a favorite place of resort.

Are you buying your drugs at the Pioneer Drug Store?

Staple and Fancy Sundries. Complete stock, Kelly & Co., Druggists, Front street.

LOST AND FOUND.

FOUND. Bunch of keys, near Harper and Ladue mill. Owner can secure same by paying for this ad. at the Nugget office.

FOUND. A pocketbook marked Alex W. McKnight. Owner can have same by paying cost of advertisement.

FOUND. Shipping certificate and letter of introduction attached. Owner can secure same by proving property and paying for this ad.

LOST. A watch and chain. Lady's small, plain gold watch; three links of chain - one with gold pan, pick and shovel; the other two nuggets. Finder return to Miss Elow Wright, Combination saloon, and receive reward.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE. A good, first-class Cigar and Tobacco business. Best location in the city. Apply Hoffman Cigar Stand, J. Klein, Prop.

FOR SALE. Bargain. Claim No. 34000 lower discovery on Dominion. Enclosed Cooper's Saloon.

REAL ESTATE AND MINES.

SEELEY & CO., Real Estate and Mining Brokers, 144 First Avenue, over Dr. Reid's Dental Office. Men supplied to represent claims, and all kinds of work procured.

PERSONAL.

WILL person who received my letters by mistake please return same to Post Office. Am anxious. Jas. or J. J. Keenan.

PERSONAL. WILL A. D. Cowan please leave his address at the New England bar.

WANTED.

WANTED. Press Feeder at Nugget office.

WANTED. Girl who has had experience in book binding. Apply at Nugget office.

WANTED. A position as cook by a respectable woman. Has no objection to the mines. Address B. A. this office.

WANTED! QUARTZ AND PLACER CLAIMS Brown Mines Co. 264 FRONT STREET R. A. CROTHERS, Manager. 10 Rooms

Olympic Hotel Largest and Best Furnished Hotel in Alaska. European and American Plan. DYEALASKA GUS MILLER DENNY BROGAN

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STENOGRAPHERS AND TYPEWRITERS. EXPERT TYPEWRITING. Writing from dictation a specialty, and all work where speed and beauty figure. Legal documents of all kinds drawn. Reasonable rates. R. J. Belcher, 1111 Sydney, Hansard, opposite Dominion saloon. MRS. NELSON, Expert Typewriter and Stenographer. Library Building.

VOL. I. No. HURRAH! HURRAH! At Last Things in They Will Not S... entation Any zation Started There has been l... is destined to ach... wide reputation... of good to the m... The miners in m... appointed a com... matters of adm... ing last night w... report on work d... Col. MacGregor... Percy McDougla... read a report of... The committee h... and the admitt... communication w... commissioner, fo... regarding his ruli... reverted to the... open to re-locat... laws. It was poi... this ruling had i... in any public a... descend to an... notice that after... claims would be... public. The secretary c... had spent much... ments to the m... mass meeting; i... Livershast that... their way to us... velopments. The committee... crown's land agen... notified the publi... fend the first o... of the townsite... on Major Walsh... rected the crown's... miner's associat... feet, the ground t... association purp... the committee th... over the title. Fully organized as... committee would... build upon the g... of the organization... The committee... about the shuttin... timber of the Yuk... ized the committe... he would grant p... of firewood and... payment of the p... fact that the pos... was not considere... son said that M... had occurred in... privilege of cutti... ply to Dawson. The committee... tion to Chairman... Council, concern... places of public... reported on the... clearing of the w... house logs could... The committee... cepted. Mr. Geo. Armst... speech in which... the Yukon Terr... body to be called... the Yukon Terr... Armstrong dep... ministrations imp... armed body of so... as quiet a camp... There was no dan... cials would be p... down the river... forming of the s... all ought to take... of the district wh... far us. Major Wa... out that he would... Ottawa, but he... much of a man w... strator had neve... Mr. Frank Du... strong's motion a... reason for the c... the defenseless... were being giv... whose right to f... the administration... The motion was... dissentient vote... Mr. Courtney p... bulicway for org... tion. Seconded... ented calls were... upon showing h... mously and eath... for which he had... By motion, the... elected organizer... 100 Messrs. G... and Captain Galp... funds until such... be perfected and... The meeting w...