

THE DAILY KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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A "FAKE" ISSUE

Daily News' Mining Number Condemned By Claim Owners.

A TISSUE OF EXAGGERATION AND MISREPRESENTATION

The News' Estimate of the Cleanup False and Misleading.

A Nugget Representative Interviews the Principal Claim Operators and Secures the Facts--General Indignation Expressed--The Whole Thing a Product of Imagination--What Brand Does the News Use?

On Thursday, the 24th day of May, the Dawson Daily News issued a special edition which purports to contain a correct statement of the production of gold in this territory during the past 12 months. The publication attempts a statistical review of the principal creeks and adjoining hillsides, and alleged estimates are made of the outputs of the various claims.

The inaccuracy of the compilation is apparent to anyone who is acquainted with the mineral resources of the district, and many injurious and baneful effects will necessarily result, if the numerous false assertions of our local contemporary are permitted to remain uncontradicted. Most unfavorable comments have been made regarding the pretended facts, which are contained in the special issue. A paper which assumes to possess some knowledge of mining affairs here should not have been guilty of such an egregious blunder, and the majority of claim-owners and laymen are indignant at the flagrant misrepresentation of matters concerning the only natural resource of the country.

That portion of the public which is not directly interested in mining property derives a little amusement from a report that rivals in extravagant exaggeration, the sensational articles which were printed in outside papers during the years of 1897 and 1898, when the

tales of Klondike wealth were so distorted by falsehood as to lose all semblance to the actual condition of affairs.

In order to lend an air of truthfulness to its publication, the News makes the statement that "the facts presented were compiled from data gathered from each claim being worked, care being taken to make it as accurate as all circumstances would permit." The Nugget received information from many miners who contradict the assertions, which were made in the News regarding their respective properties. These particular complaints became so general that it was deemed advisable, in the interest of claim-owners and laymen and for the information of the public to expose the utter unreliability of our contemporary; and, accordingly, a representative of the Nugget was detailed to traverse a few of the principal creeks and ascertain the truth respecting mining affairs. Many persons, who own or control ground, were interviewed, and they are practically unanimous in condemning the News for its false and exaggerated account of this season's production. With the exception of a few instances, no representative of our local contemporary had called at the claims for statistical information.

Space will not permit a reference here to all the creek properties; but the worthlessness of the reports which appeared in the News of May 24th may be ascertained from the consideration of some of the claims below discovery on Bonanza.

Our contemporary asserted that No. 80a is owned by William Bradley and that the value of its cleanup would be \$25,000; as a matter of fact, the property is owned by Brady and Apple, no work of any consequence was done during the winter, and no gravel at all was washed this spring. Probably the News refers to No. 80, owned by William Bradley; but the production of

this claim will not exceed in value the sum of \$9000.

It was reported that Lees and Berstein are owners of No. 79, and that the output would amount to \$7200. The ground is owned by Reese and Berstein, and Mr. Reese asserts that he never saw the representative of the News, and that the dumps will wash about \$4800.

The product of No. 76b was estimated at \$10,800. Mr. W. O. Smith, the owner, when questioned by the representative of the Nugget, replied "I was not interviewed by the News reporter, and his report respecting my property is incorrect. The output will not exceed \$1400."

No. 67 was said to be owned by Reno and Fountain, who would clean up \$12,000. The names of the owners are Renaud and Fontaine, and Mr. Renaud calculates that the property will produce less than \$6000.

No. 66, the owners of which are without the territory, was accredited with a probable cleanup of \$10,000. Mr. D. G. Allen, who is working the claim under a lay agreement, says: "I have never told anyone what I thought the dump was worth, and I am satisfied that its value will not amount by a considerable sum to \$10,000."

It was stated of No. 58 that O. F. Park was the owner, and that its output would amount to \$30,000. The real name of the owner is O. F. Pike. In speaking of the report in the News he said: "I never saw the News reporter, and I do not believe that he was ever on the claim. My output will not exceed \$6000."

The product of No. 57 was estimated at \$35,000. The owners declined to make any statement respecting the worth of gravel which has been extracted. They assert that the value of their cleanup is greatly exaggerated by the News. It was asserted that No. 52 would produce \$84,000. As a matter of fact the output will amount to about \$35,000.

To No. 51, a production of \$6000 was ascribed. The property was let on a lay, and some few weeks ago, the original layman sold their dump for \$300. The total result of the cleanup amounts to \$800.

An estimate of \$45,000 was placed upon the output of No. 49. Mr. Delaney a layman on the claim, says: "I am of the opinion that \$6000 is a maximum figure at which to place the value of the dumps on this claim. I never saw the representative of the News, and it is not likely that he was ever on the property."

Govan Pichon was alleged to be the owner of No. 47, and the production was calculated at \$50,000. The owners of the property are Gauvin Brothers and Pichon. Mr. A. Gauvin says: "The News reporter did not visit this claim. I do not know where he received his false impressions; but he certainly displayed remarkable ignorance in estimating so high the value of our cleanup. It will not exceed \$15,000."

No. 46 was said to be owned by A. Bonanta, and the output was fixed at \$18,000. Mr. Beneyton, the owner of the claim, states: "A man who represented himself to be a reporter on the News, called on me a little while ago. He did not ask for any information respecting my property, but inquired for the names of claim-owners in this vicinity. I replied as well as I could, and he departed. I am surprised that my dumps have been valued at \$18,000, for the fact is that the ground will not produce a fourth of that amount. I shall probably realize \$4000 from the cleanup."

No. 45 was accredited with a production of \$180,000. Mr. Sinclair, the owner, asserts: "The output has been grossly exaggerated. It will not exceed \$60,000."

It was stated that No. 44 would produce \$36,000. The owners emphatically deny that they have given information to any reporter; and they decline to say anything respecting their property other than the value of their cleanup has been exaggerated by the News.

To No. 43 a production of \$60,000 was credited. The dump will not wash over \$20,000.

Respecting No. 35, it was asserted that \$5760 would be produced. The property is worked by laymen, and they declare that they were not interviewed by a News reporter, and that their output will not exceed \$1000.

The ownership of No. 31 was alleged to be vested in A. H. Gray, and the value of the dump was estimated at \$30,000. The property is owned by A. H. Day, and in commenting upon the misstatement respecting the property he says: "I saw the representative of the

News, but I positively declined to make any conjectures in regard to this spring's production. His estimate of my cleanup is exaggerated."

The output of No. 30 was calculated at \$60,000. Mr. Hugh Day, the layman on the claim, refuses to disclose any facts in reference to the worth of the gravel which has been extracted. He gave no information to the News reporter.

It was asserted that H. F. Backett was the owner of No. 30a; but the correct names of the owners are H. F. Becket and Welcome McDonald.

No. 28 was alleged to be owned by H. Osborne & Co., and the output was estimated at \$30,000. Osborne & Co. are owners of the upper half of the claim, but their portion of the property has not been worked during the winter. S. P. Lynn & Co. the owners of the lower half have a dump, which is valued at \$10,000.

The production of No. 25 is fixed at \$4800. The property is owned by the Anglo-Klondike Company, whose agents decline to estimate the value of their dumps.

Claim No. 24 was sold a little while ago by Kinney & Co. to Mr. McGilvray. All of the parties who were or are now interested in the ground refuse to state the amount of gold which will be produced; but they are unanimous in asserting that the estimate of \$8400, which was made by the News, is greatly exaggerated.

To No. 23 was ascribed a output of \$3600. The truth of the matter is that the claim has produced this spring \$1592.

No. 20 was said to be owned by Alex McDonald, and the dump was calculated to be worth \$8400. The upper half of the property is owned by Mr. McDonald; but his portion of the claim was not worked. The lower half is held by William Chappel, and his part produced \$2400.

The output of No. 18 was estimated at \$42,000, but the owners assert that they did not give any information respecting the value of their probable cleanup to the News reporter, or to any one else.

The production of No. 17 was alleged to be \$80,000, but the men who have the property under a lay agreement, assert that the dumps will not wash over \$25,000, and the News estimate was not obtained from them.

The output of No. 16 was fixed at \$15,000; that of No. 15 at \$50,000; and No. 14 at \$60,000. Mr. McKay, who is an owner in all these claims and who is actively engaged in the management of them, says: "I never gave a representative of the News an estimate of what our properties would produce; indeed, I do not remember of being interviewed. I must refuse all information relating to the probable value of our dumps."

The output of No. 13 was alleged to be \$40,000. The layman who is working the property declares: "I never saw the News reporter, and I decline to state what I shall probably wash up, you may publish, however, that the estimate of the News is a gross exaggeration."

Concerning Nos. 11 and 12, it was said that the production would amount to \$100,000. The laymen on No. 11 assert that the representative of the News did not visit the property, and they will be satisfied if they clean up one-tenth of the sum which has been estimated as the value of their dumps. No. 12 was not worked at all.

Numerous other claim-owners were interviewed, but lack of sufficient space prevents the publication of the text of their respective statements. However, the tenor of all of the conversations are the same: the News has grossly exaggerated the outputs of the claims on all the creeks, and the alleged information which was printed in its special edition of May 24th is unreliable and untrustworthy.

The liquors are the best to be had, at the Regina.

Newly opened--Mrs. West's ice cream and confectionery parlors.

SENKLER TRIAL

Now in Progress Before Justice Dugas, Acting as Special Commissioner.

D. G. McTAVISH GIVES HIS EVIDENCE

Concerning a Conversation Between Senkler and Simpson.

VERY CRIMINATING WITNESS

Against the Gold Commissioner is Introduced in the Person of W. H. Fisher.

At 10:30 o'clock this morning, Justice Dugas, acting under and by virtue of a royal commission, commenced the investigation of the charges which are preferred by D. G. McTavish against Gold Commissioner E. C. Senkler. The magistrate immediately upon assuming his position on the bench, notified Mr. Woodworth, attorney for the complainant and Mr. Wade, who appeared for the defendant, that the examination of witnesses would be conducted by the justice himself; and that the advocates would only be permitted to make suggestions to the magistrate.

Mr. D. G. McTavish the complainant was the first witness. He testified that he had written to the minister of the interior the letter which had occasioned the issuance of the commission for an investigation; that his accusations against Mr. Senkler were based upon information which had been obtained from W. V. Sommerville and Thomas McDonald. All of the complainants testimony was of a hearsay character, excepting that which related to conversations and meetings of Dr. Simpson and Commissioner Senkler. The witness averred that in July, 1899, he overheard the doctor ask if a grant which had been issued to one Hobson would be cancelled. The commissioner replied that he had not talked concerning the matter with Hobson. Thereupon, Dr. Simpson retorted "You ought not to hold a fraction for a man for a year." At another time in August, 1899, Dr. Simpson, just before his departure for the outside, spent a few hours with Commissioner Senkler in the latter's private office.

The principal witness examined to-day was W. H. Fisher, who is employed as an accountant in the N. A. T. & C. Co.'s store. Mr. Fisher came here from Montreal in 1898. In May, 1899, he inquired of Commissioner Senkler of a certain fraction on Last Chance; Mr. Senkler answered that the ground was open for location and Fisher accordingly staked. On May 17 he attempted to record, but A. F. Hurdman, a clerk in the office, refused the application. The witness made several other efforts to secure a grant, but he was always unsuccessful. Afterwards the ground was recorded by Harry Duffendorfer.

Besides the oral testimony, some documentary evidence was submitted today, and in all likelihood, it will be some time before the official investigation is terminated.

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.....J. W. BOYLE

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