

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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"BIG ALEX. McDONALD"

Given a Rich Claim by the Obliging Thomas Fawcett

WHO EXPLAINS IT BY TESTIMONY WHICH PROVES FALSE.

The Richest Man in the Klondike is Exempted From the Payment of Royalty

Until He Gets Ready to Pay it—Some of the Ways in Which Fawcett Favored Rich Companies and Individuals—Dr. Bourke Gets Excited and Rattled But Nevertheless Produces Some Valuable Testimony—The Net Around Mr. Fawcett Gradually Closing In.

The power of "big" Alex. McDonald over the late Gold Commissioner Fawcett and other former officials of the Klondike, was the interesting theme which occupied the time of the royal investigation on Monday and, while it was not on that occasion carried to a legitimate conclusion or even thoroughly prosecuted, the small amount of evidence adduced was prolific in suggestion of great possibilities. The investigation was held at Pioneer hall, agreeable to previous arrangement, and about half a hundred people were present. These ever and anon broke into applause and marks of approval as a point was gained by the prosecution, represented by Dr. Isidore McWm. Bourke, as a bit of sharp repartee fell from his ever ready lip. The doctor was in a most congenial element, though he occasionally allowed his anger to supplant his prudence, and a stinging thrust at some of his unsuspecting victims was often followed by a rebuke from Commissioner Ogilvie, one of which was a clear intimation that a repetition of the offense would land the gentleman in jail. This afforded a spice to the proceedings that made them interesting, though much tediousness also attended by reason of the varied imperfections in the prosecution and the frequent interpositions on the part of Mr. Fawcett's attorney, who positively declined to admit of anything in the nature of either charges or testimony relating to events subsequent to August 25th.

THE CHARGE LAUNCHED.
The doctor advanced as his first charge that Fawcett had recommended to Major Walsh that he give to Alex. McDonald a claim on Dominion creek during the time it was closed, because Alex. had sustained a loss by reason of a bad purchase.

Mr. Ogilvie immediately volunteered to disabuse the doctor's mind of the belief that there was anything crooked in the transaction. Alex., he said, had purchased a claim from a man named Clare; a contest was instituted by another man, to whom the claim was finally awarded. The trouble was due to a mistake on the part of the government, and Alex. was allowed to make another claim as a sort of recompense for the loss he sustained.

But this explanation failed to satisfy the doctor, and he had Mr. Fawcett called to the stand and interrogated. The explanation corroborated the explanation given by Commissioner Ogilvie, but went more into detail, and said that the mistake was occasioned by reason of the fact that the two men who staked the claim had applied for record at different offices unknown to the officials, and Mr. Fawcett had recommended the step he did because he considered it an act of justice. Major Walsh agreed to the recommendation, and Alex. was given a rich claim.

FRAUD ON FREE MINERS.
This statement impelled the doughty doctor to ask if there were any other such acts of kindness on record, and finally to demand that the ex-official produce proof of it in court if it could be found.

Mr. Ogilvie: It is an article in the government policy that no one shall suffer through the negligence of officials.
Dr. Bourke: Very good, but I think if that is the case it will bring forward a good many applications here.

Attorney Woodworth was next called to the stand by Dr. Bourke. The gentleman expressed, as a preamble to his testimony, the opinion that the closing of Dominion was a fraud on the free miners of the district, and that his feeling had been often outraged by the manner in which certain things had been done here by the officials. The expression of sentiment elicited a mild rebuke from Commissioner Ogilvie, and Mr. Woodworth then got down to business. Two of his clients, he said, applied for record of claims 15a and 16b on Dominion. On one of the applications the clerk wrote: "This

claim will not be recorded except on recommendation from the minister of the interior," but he declined to do anything with the other application, "as the claim belongs to Alex. McDonald, the government has given it to him." Mr. Woodworth then appealed to the minister of the interior in behalf of both clients, but has as yet received no reply. "Yes," concluded Mr. Woodworth, "I told Dr. Bourke that I do know of corruption in the gold commissioner's office; but what I know I acquired as an attorney, and I must decline to disclose it." Commissioner Ogilvie said he did not know to what extent an attorney is exempted from testifying.

THE WEDGE DRIVEN HOME.
At this point Alex. McFarlane was called to the stand by the doctor, and that young gentleman immediately dropped the startling information that Alex. McDonald had purchased 15b from him; but that he had never paid for it. McFarlane, so the testimony ran, purchased the claim from Clare, and McDonald purchased from him. The consideration was \$3,500, and Alex. paid down \$1,000, giving his note for the balance. When the contest between the two stakers was decided in favor of the other man, McDonald demanded his money back, and McFarlane, recovering the notes, returned them to him.

"When Alex. was going out," continued the witness, "he told me he had never received anything from the government on account of the deal, and that he was going to Ottawa to see about it; but since I learned what did actually happen I have set him down for a liar. I think it was improper for the officials to give him a claim in substitution for the one he lost; they should first have learned that he had sustained a loss. If he gets the claim I shall certainly ask him for my pay."

At this point Attorney Tabor asked for an adjournment of the case until Tuesday morning, at which time the necessary documents could be had in court, which was agreed to.

ALEX'S WATER FRONT GRAFT.
Dr. Bourke then called up his charge relating to the water front, wherein he specified that one of the Queen's highways had been given into the possession of Morrison and McDonald for private gain, and intimated that certain of the government officials had profited by a "tear up" of the revenue seal, but he presented his interrogations by asking for the production of a letter from the surveyor-general to Fawcett, in which the doctor said the ex-commissioner was told that "so long as he was not extremely bad he would be supported."

"That is a private letter," cried out Mr. Fawcett, "and who ever let the doctor have it did very wrong. It had reference to matters not provided in the regulations. It is not official and should not be produced in public."

But the doctor demanded its reading and said it might as well be produced, as he had extracts from it. So a hunt was made for the letter, Mr. Tabor asked if the letter was written after the 25th of August and a great deal of confusion existed generally. The letter was finally found and Commissioner Ogilvie proceeded to read it carefully, "all by his lonesomeness." This didn't seem to suit the crowd and one of them was finally impelled to arise and say: "Read it aloud, Mr. Commissioner. We would all like to hear it, I am sure."

Commissioner Ogilvie finally finished his private reading and then read the letter aloud. It proved to be much less wicked than the doctor had led his hearers to expect and there was a feeling of keen disappointment. It merely advised Mr. Fawcett to act on his own judgment when a question came up that was not provided for in the regulations.

ALEX'S OTHER GRAFT.
At this point, while the arrival of witnesses was being awaited, Dr. Bourke, who was too restless to see any time wasted, called up the

matter of Alex. McDonald's unpaid royalty. Mr. Fawcett, in answer to interrogations, said that he had prepared the regulations governing the collection of the royalty; but that upon Major Walsh's arrival he had been relieved of the duties of that office and the mine inspectors, so that he did not know how the regulations were enforced nor how much Alex. McDonald owes. He then further relieved himself of responsibility by reading a letter from Major Walsh to McDonald, in which the writer acknowledged that Alex. had most patriotically invested large sums of his earnings in the Klondike instead of taking it away, as did others and expressed the belief that an immediate payment of the royalty due from McDonald would seriously cripple that gentleman; all of which led the major to propose that the gold king might pay half of it in September of last year and the balance in May of this year. Witness was also of belief that the arrangement was a just one.

A three-cornered jangle here ensued, in which "the 25th of August" was often heard above all else and the doctor compromised the several points at issue by calling to the stand a gentleman named Jenkins-Hewell, who, he asserted, had been thrown into jail for neglect to pay the royalty and had been forced to suffer great losses as a consequence of the trouble. Mr. Hewell was in the midst of his story when he was ruled out on the point that the subject was not relevant to the charge and it was all over "the 25th of August" again.

The doctor then took up another charge, which was, in effect, that claims 15, 16 and 20 Eldorado were held over by Clerk-Holdman and finally recorded for persons not then in the country, one of whom was a son of Major Walsh.

Mr. Ogilvie: But that can hardly be possible for Major Walsh has no son.
Dr. Bourke was taken aback by this turn, but quickly retorted: "Well, it's a wise dog that knows his own father, and from my knowledge of Major Walsh while he was in Dawson I am glad he left no son."

Here Mr. Galtun undertook to criticize the doctor for wilfully misrepresenting Mr. Fawcett to them, and was given so sharp a rap on the hand for it that Commissioner Ogilvie was moved to tell the doctor that he would be committed to jail if he were not more temperate in his language.

WASTED TIME.
Mr. Grottschler was called at this point and the investigation was switched back to the water front matter. Mr. Grottschler was a willing and honest witness and told all he knew about the collection of the rents, but his knowledge absolutely went no further and he did not know of anyone but McDonald's Morrison who profited from the lease of the ground.

Mr. Fawcett testified to signing the lease, as the resident representative of the minister of the interior and on the recommendation of Mr. Wade, the crown-land agent. He knew of no one but McDonald & Morrison who profited by the transaction; he had not, in any event.

Attorney Pattullo, Mr. Willson, Mr. Doherty, Mr. McFarlane, Mr. Finlaison and others were also appealed to, but they knew no more than did others of the identity of the "dark horse," who is supposed to have been in on the deal. It looked to the doctor, apparently, as if his case was going by default and he clipped out something about "blood money," "favors to Alex. McDonald," etc., after which it was agreed to adjourn further hearing of the charge for several days in order to look up witnesses who might be able to throw light upon the subject, and the investigation was closed for the day.

A POSSIBLE DARK HORSE.
Tuesday's proceedings were exceedingly irregular and misdirected, the investigation whipping from one charge to another and many professed witnesses being summoned. Alex. Calder, Miss Mulrony, Mr. George, Mr. Fawcett, and others were placed on the stand by Dr. Bourke, but excepting that of the two witnesses last named, the evidence was valueless.

After incidentally serving notice upon Mr. Ogilvie that on James Daly had paid \$25 for the privilege of recording a claim after hours, the doctor allowed Mr. Fawcett opportunity to produce a document to show that he had once allowed a man to stake a new claim after suffering loss through the purchase of another which was given to a third party on a contest. Mr. Fawcett admitted, however, that he knew of no other case where royalty had been laid over as had been done for Alex. McDonald.

The water front problem was then tackled again but nothing of interest was developed until Mr. George was put on the stand and asked to relate the particulars of an interview he had with former crown-land agent Wade during the late summer. Witness stated that, during said interview, he asked Mr. Wade among other questions what share he was to get out of the water front rents for the part he played in the deal, to which Mr. Wade replied none. Later on the question was again put, and Mr. Wade then replied that he was to get

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DAWSON'S ENEMY ONCE MORE.

Fire Destroys a Little More Water Front Property.

Water Falls Again at a Critical Time—The Flames Stopped With Grappling Hooks—The Boys Work Like Trojans.

Another expensive conflagration took place on the water-front Saturday, in the same block as the last one. It originated in the California restaurant, owned by Messrs. Miller & Carroll and located opposite the Pioneer saloon. From the statements made by occupants of the place, it is believed the fire originated in the roof by reason of a defective stovepipe; but it had, doubtless, burned unknown to them for a considerable time, for it suddenly blazed into the kitchen like a flash of lightning and spread with such fury as to drive the people from the room almost empty-handed. A volume of heavy smoke issued simultaneously from the roof, and it was evident at a glance that the situation was serious.

An alarm brought a quick response on the part of the fire-ladders, and a stream from chemical engine No. 2 was soon playing into the burning building, which was, by that time, completely engulfed in the flames and smoke. The second chemical followed suit in quick order, but the two streams proved impotent against the strength of the flames. Chief Fletcher was quick to comprehend the gravity of the struggle before his men, and he had the steam engine run down to the river in quick order. Two good streams of water were forthcoming within ten minutes and their effect was immediate and encouraging. But by that time the flames had spread to the several buildings occupied by Wright & Pfeiffer, restaurant, on the north the Valley Meat Market, Yukon Trading Co. and Anderson Bros., painters and decorators, on the south, and a scene of confusion was presented as scores of men aided in carrying away the endangered stocks of goods.

The fight was a stubborn one, but there was never any question, even when the streams played out for want of steam in the engine, what the outcome would be. Chief Fletcher also put the grappling hooks into use, and the frail structure were pulled into the street to prevent them adding to the flames. After an interval of ten or fifteen minutes, the engine was running a good head of water again and the fire was gradually forced into extinction. The weather was very cold, the contact with cold water from the streams was not only uncomfortable but dangerous, but the fire boys worked with the greatest devotion and intelligence; their garments, soaked with water and covered with a coating of ice.

THE LOSS.
The total loss aggregates about \$15,000, and is divided as follows:
Wright & Pfeiffer, restaurant, \$5,000
Miller & Carroll, California restaurant, 2,500
S. B. Saunders, Valley meat market, 2,500
Anderson Bros., painters, 3,500
Johnson, McCaugh & Burt, provisions, 4,000
Sargent & Pinaka, clothiers, 2,000
Total, \$15,000

NOTES.
Johnson, McCaugh & Burt, of the Yukon Trading Co. carried about a \$12,000 stock, of which the bulk was lost. Mr. Saunders' loss included 1,500 pounds of dog food and 500 pairs of felt slippers. Anderson Bros. saved much of their paint, but three-fourths of their wall paper stock was destroyed, which is very annoying because, at this season of the year, it cannot be replaced.

Messrs. Carroll and Miller and Mrs. Miller, of the California restaurant, were all painfully burned, the first-named quite badly. Their loss was augmented by the destruction of \$50 in cash.

Chief Fletcher was proud of the work done by the men and declared that better could not have been done by any other volunteer service on earth under the circumstances—an opinion in which the onlookers generally agreed.

Within an hour from the departure of the firemen from the field, the work of repair and rebuilding was already under way.

Selwin Nearly Mounted.
J. A. Ennis, a bustling Montana man, who claims the distinction of being the first one to get horses through to Teslin Lake, came down from Selwin on Sunday, and is a guest of his friend, Harry Smith, of the Klondike hotel. He confirms the report that Selwin creek has proven a disappointment, and says that of 200 men who were there this winter not more than a dozen will remain there after the arrival of spring. Mr. Davall, on discovery, thinks his prospects justify a continuance of operations, and Mr. Klein will continue to hold the fort at Klein gulch, but Mr. Ennis knows of no others who will stay on the creek. He reports that the creek prospects appear to be materially stronger.

Notice.
This will notify the public that H. B. Matchett never has been and never will be in any sense a representative of the Nugget. His former connection with our printing office in the capacity of pressman is no wise warrant him in imposing upon our friends up the creek as our representative now that his services have been entirely dispensed with, and if this is not found to be sufficient to cause it to cease we shall, if necessary be compelled to avail ourselves of the assistance of the law.
L. H. NUGGET

Service to Forks. Stages will run on the following:
Dawson for Grand Forks 9:30 a.m.
Grand Forks for Dawson 3:00 p.m.
Dawson for Grand Forks 9:30 a.m.
Stages five hours in Dawson to receive prompt attention.
Express office, Front St.
W. Williams, the wood on Bonanza?
to eat well and enjoy good to the Cafe Royal, second
for freighting and wood W. Williams, 17 above Bonanza House.
Stationery, time, pens and paper and envelopes at
at the Cafe Royal to receive of the patronage of the
service of the Regina Club to invite you back again.
room and board by the Club Hotel.
for freighting and pack Williams, 17 above Bonanza, the White House.

PERSONAL CARDS

LAWYERS
T. M. A. L. L. B., Advocate, Commissioner, Notary, Office in Northwest Territory Building.
Barristers and Solicitors, Charles Public, Conveyancer, Monte Carlo, Front Street.
Advocates, Solicitors, Commissioners, etc. Office, 3rd St., Dawson.
DRUGGISTS & MEDICALS
G. M. B. S. R. C. P., Late Surgeon to Winnipeg, Office, Klondike Hotel, 12 Peiophane No. 16.
Physician and Surgeon, J. S. College, Philadelphia, Pa. Hospital, Eldorado City.
DENTISTS
LEE-CROWN and Bridge, Platinum or Rubber Plates, Billings. All work about 15 A. C. office building, Jewellery and Gold.
S. All work guaranteed, Express Co., Eldorado.
FOUND
A foundland dog named on 22 on Bonanza. Finder and receive reward.
FOR SALE
Mass Thawing and Hoisting Plant, boiler and engine, with a Joslin, 111 2nd Street.
NOTICES
SUNDAY SCHOOL: Regular morning at 11 o'clock, class at 3 p. m., Friday evenings at 7:30, Saturday evenings at 7th.
SUNDAY SCHOOL: Regular Sunday and 7 p. m.; Bible class at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday evenings, Pastor; A. E. H.
SUNDAY SCHOOL: Regular Sunday and 7 p. m.; Bible class at 7:30 p. m. Wednesday evenings, Pastor; R. M. Dickey, Minister.
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