

ENGLISH ARMY IN INDIA.

Cost of Maintaining Defense There is Very Great.

Native Soldiers Paid \$3.50 Per Month for First Three Years—Rations Issued With Care and Exactness.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)
The ever-increasing prodigality with which England is drafting upon her military resources, both at home and abroad, makes it pertinent to recall to mind that British India and her vast population of nearly 400,000,000 are practically kept in check by only 70,000 British troops. These troops usually serve ten years in India and are transferred from one military station to another every two years. "Tommy Atkins," at least when in India, is very precious in the sight of the British government. As he stands in his uniform, a disciplined soldier in the prime of health and strength, he is said to have cost a paternal government the sum of \$2000 American money, and he is valued accordingly. His daily rations are carefully examined by medical experts, and his one quart of ale and one ounce of rum are served out to him with the greatest regularity. When the exigencies of the service permit, he is sent in the "hot season" to the mountains, where he works on the roads and gets a laborer's allowance besides his pay. When on the plains everything is done that possibly can be accomplished by his officers to make his life pleasant, and if he behaves himself a good conduct stripe is added to his coat sleeve and a penny a day (2 cents of our money) is his income. When he gets drunk he goes to the cells for a week or is given a five-days' drill. In due time he returns to England and enjoys a pension—that is, if he does not fall victim to the climate. The biggest outdoor attractions at the Indian military stations are the cemeteries, the one at Peshawar alone containing the graves of 3500 British soldiers.

The full strength of Great Britain's Indian army, in round numbers, approximates 300,000 men, of whom 230,000 are native and 70,000 British soldiers. In addition to this military force there are about 20,000 enrolled European volunteers, and a native police, officered by white men, nearly 200,000 strong. The army proper is divided into three main forces, known as the Bengal, the Bombay and the Madras divisions, all of which are under the commander-in-chief of India. A native Sepoy regiment usually consists of 800 men, and is commanded by seven English officers, namely, a commandant, two wing commanders and four wing officers. There are also sixteen commissioned native officers, eight of whom are subadars, or captains, and eight jemadars, or lieutenants. The noncommissioned officers are eighty in number, all natives, forty of whom rank as havildars, or sergeants, and the remaining forty as naiks, or corporals. In the cavalry the captain is styled risaldar, the lieutenant, risajdar. The chief native officer of an infantry regiment is the subadar (major). Every regiment is divided into ten companies, each of which is usually made up of a different nationality, such as Goorkhas, Sikhs, Dogras, Pathans, Punjabis, etc. It is owing to this precaution that a combination of forces for the purpose of mutiny becomes almost impossible. The Goorkhas and Sikhs, whose loyalty is rated the highest, are in some localities permitted to constitute entire regiments by themselves.

The pay of the Sepoy or native soldier is \$3.50 per month, with a gradual increase after three years' good conduct service. The pension system is particularly liberal and is really the magnet which draws the native recruit. It is so skillfully arranged that there can be no jobbery, and twice a year the pension officers visit the great centers of population to pay the pensions. When a Sepoy soldier falls in action his wives—and there are four of them—are all pensioned, as well as their young children. As regards the artillery branch of the Indian army, white men only are employed, both as commissioned officers and in the ranks, and the guns of all forts are entirely manned by Britons.

As to the fighting qualities of these Sepoy soldiers, the Goorkha ranks first; in fact, many English experts believe that the Goorkha, who is a native of Nepal, is the best soldier in the world. Sturdily built, of an average height of five feet three inches, the Goorkha is equally good in a hand-to-hand contest with the bayonet or at long range with the rifle. The Sikh ranks second as a

soldier of the native contingent. He comes from the Punjab, averages six feet in height and is supple, sinewy and athletic as the stereotyped red Indian. The Sikhs and Goorkhas are ancient enemies, and did their best to exterminate each other in the Sutlej war of 1846. The Pathan probably stands third in the native list as a warrior, but does not class with the other two tribes named above in the matter of endurance, and there is always a doubt about his loyalty.

A unique native regiment in the employ of the British is that known as the Guides, which is composed of a motley race of freebooters, who for many years were the terrors of Northern India. This old principle of setting a thief to catch a thief has worked excellently, and the guides have the reputation of being the fiercest fighters of the entire Sepoy army.

If corroboration were required of the martial qualities of the native Indian soldiery, the Nepalese war of 1814, and the siege of Kalunga in particular, will afford any needed illustration. At Kalunga 600 Goorkhas were entrenched in a stockade and succeeded in repulsing fierce assaults of the British. It was only when this brave band had lost 530 of their number that they hoisted the flag of truce, and the loss they inflicted on the British amounted to thirty-one officers and 710 men. Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Reindeer for Nome.

Messrs. Vernon & Co., have secured the steamer Reindeer and the barge Duff for the Nome run. The Reindeer will be remembered steamed from Vancouver to Dawson under her own steam and is a safe and thoroughly seaworthy boat. She will make the trip direct to Nome, stopping at St. Michaels. The barge Duff is the only craft on the river built on true barge lines. Frank Simons has secured space and accommodations with the company to carry his people and scenery to the beach city. The steamer Reindeer is now at Five Fingers in a safe harbor and will land at Dawson immediately upon the opening of navigation, taking on her passengers and freight and casting loose for the down river voyage at the earliest moment possible.

The Arctic Brotherhood.

At a regular meeting of the Arctic Brotherhood Friday night the degree was conferred upon P. H. Hebb and R. L. Hiltz. The camp decided to hold a social session on the last Friday night of each month, and the first of the series will be held Friday night of this week.

At the meeting previous to that of last Friday night honorary office of Grand Camp Patriarch was created and filled by the election of C. J. Riley, who stood god father to the order when it was instituted aboard the steamer City of Seattle, on the 8th of March, 1899, since which time eight subordinate camps, with a membership of over 2000 members have been organized.

Another Route to Nome.

The most feasible and practical winter route, and one that is unknown to the public in general, yet one that has been known to the Russian inhabitants of Juneau and other localities for many years, is the old Russian trail which starts from Katmai, and is blazed through to St. Michael and Nome. A number of persons have already gone over this trail, and last winter several persons came out that way.

To reach Nome by this route, says the Seattle P. I., the person who wishes to make the journey will have to take the steamer at Juneau for Katmai. From that point the trip is made overland by dog teams. Across the Alaska peninsula to Koggiuns is only 80 miles and can be easily made. From Koggiuns the trail leads to Carmel, a Moravian mission. From the mission to Tikheik, a village on a large lake of the same name. This lake is drained by a river and chain of small lakes that empties into the Kuskokwim river, and the trail follows this river and lakes that empties into the Kuskokwim and thence to Oknagatut, a Catholic mission, from which point it is only a short distance to Ikomuk mission of the Greek church on the Yukon river. From this point the trail leads up the river to the Holy Cross mission and Anvik, and from there to the Eatan reindeer station and Unalaklik. From the latter place Norton sound can be crossed on the ice and the trip to the Swedish mission and Nome can be easily made.

The entire distance is less than 750 miles after leaving the steamer, and at no time will the traveler be more than 30 miles from a mission station or village. This old trail has been traveled for many years and is blazed the entire distance and can be made in from 20 to 30 days.

Parties wishing to sell or buy mining property call on or address Norton D. Walling, Grand Forks.

JOE VINCENT IS A WINNER.

Gold Commissioner Senkler Decides Contest Case in His Favor.

Suit Brought on Technical Grounds for Valuable Claim is Decided in Favor of Defendant.

An important decision has been handed down by Gold Commissioner Senkler in the case of Webus vs. Vincent, a copy of the judgment in which case is herewith appended. The case should stand as a warning to professional claim jumpers and men who seek to deprive others of the benefits of heavy investments upon purely technical grounds. Briefly stated, the defendant, Joe Vincent, purchased from Fred Parker the original locator, the property in question, hillside on the right limit opposite the upper half of 78 lower Bonanza, and proceeded to expend a sum of money aggregating almost \$10,000 in developing the ground. After expending this money and locating the pay, Vincent's title was attacked by one Verbus, who claimed to be the original locator of the ground in dispute. It developed in the trial of the case that both Verbus and Parker had applied for the same ground under different descriptions. Parker had, however, secured his record before Verbus applied for his and subsequently transferred the ground to Vincent.

Verbus did not offer any objection to Parker's title and apparently did not discover that he had any rights in the premises until Vincent located the pay on the claim. Then Vincent's title was attacked, and resort was had both to the gold commissioner and Judge Dugas' court by Verbus. In both instances Vincent was sustained, the decision given today finally deciding the case.

Messrs. Fattulo & Ridley represented Mr. Vincent, who expresses much satisfaction with the able manner in which his case was handled. The decision in full is as follows:

The plaintiff staked the upper half, left limit, of No. 78 below on Bonanza, on the 17th July, 1898, but did not record until September 24. One Fred Parker staked on August 15th, and recorded, August 23d, what he described as the lower half, right limit, of No. 77 below on Bonanza.

Between July 27th and September 2d, 1898, the ground staked by the plaintiff was open to location. (Nelson vs. Donnelly.) It was between these dates that Parker staked and recorded the ground which he described as the lower half, right limit, of 77 below on Bonanza.

The survey of the Parker claim in September, 1899, under Mr. Parker's direction showed the location opposite the upper half of 78, and not opposite the lower half of 77, as he described on applying for record.

Parker staked before this portion of Bonanza creek had been surveyed. The creek being about 1000 feet wide at this point, I would not therefore, consider the misdescription made by Parker could be construed as carelessness or neglect such that should disentitle him to the ground he staked, owing to the difficulty in such cases of properly describing a location with relation to the creek claim upon which it fronts.

The question is whether Parker's evidence, with Mr. Smith's, also with what has been heard as to the work done from the time of the staking thereof, is such as to establish the original position of his location posts in the face of the misdescription above referred to. Parker says his original upper post as shown in the survey of his claim is still standing, but that at the time his survey was made his lower post had disappeared. He is, however, satisfied the ground, as surveyed, is within the ground as originally staked. The only conflicting evidence is that of Mike Gulenrich, who says he saw Parker stake in the summer of 1899, at the fine dividing creek claims 77 and 78. The writing on this post he declares claimed up stream, not down. Mr. Parker alone testifies as to the actual staking. The position of the work done upon his location is consistent with his evidence. The stakes are the root of title in all cases. One describes his location as well as he is able. The result is purchasers should always find out the actual position of adjoining prior locations before the purchase is made.

I think the owner under the Parker location is entitled to the ground as shown upon Mr. Bolton's plan, dated September 16th, 1899.

Dated Dawson, March 19th, 1900.
E. C. SENKLER,
Gold Commissioner.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

The Klondike Nugget

(GARDNER'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BROS., Publishers

INCORPORATION.

A concerted effort made among property owners in Dawson at the present time would, we have reason to believe, result in securing the incorporation of the town as a municipality almost immediately. The question is, do those most interested desire the formation of a municipality. Until the present time there have been no local taxes of a direct nature imposed upon the residents of Dawson, and in consequence there has prevailed a very general disposition among property owners to leave matters as they are—as long as the apparition of the assessor and tax collector has not appeared on the scene.

Now, however, the Yukon Council comes forward and proposes a revenue ordinance, the proceeds from which are to be used in defraying the ordinary expenses of conducting the affairs of the town. This does not mean that all the local revenues are expected to be derived from the proposed ordinance, as a large sum is already received from the various other sources of revenue which the Council has at its disposal. But, once placed in operation, this system of taxation will naturally be made each year the means of raising a continually increasing sum to meet the requirements of a constantly growing community.

The question of incorporating Dawson as a municipality, therefore, assumes an entirely different appearance from that which it has previously borne.

The Council claims the right of levying taxes for municipal purposes, and has announced its intention to make immediate use of that right. It begins to look very much as though Dawson will soon occupy the position, almost anomalous in British history, of a town which pays taxes, but has no voice in electing the taxing authority.

If the town is to be taxed, we are of the opinion that the time is ripe for incorporation.

On the other hand, if the Yukon Council retains all the revenue producing machinery under its own control, as indicated in Gov. Ogilvie's interview, printed in another column, the advantages to be derived from incorporation are open to serious question.

IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.

The Council is willing to grant Dawson the right to become an incorporated municipality. Gov. Ogilvie has said as much, and, doubtless, when he speaks he speaks with authority.

The terms upon which he desires to grant the right to incorporate account perhaps for the willingness of the Council to allow the incorporation act to be placed in effect. Briefly stated, the plan, as outlined by the commissioner, simply means that the Council is willing to turn over to the town its liabilities, but intends retaining under its own control all resources of any value.

There may be desirable features about this plan which we have not as yet been able to discover, that is to say, when viewed from the standpoint of the town. Looked at from the Council's point of view, we should say that the idea is not without its advantages.

Gov. Ogilvie says that the police court fines would all be retained under the control of the territorial government. Just why this should be the case, he does not say. The proportion of fines

levied in cases originating outside the city is very small—indeed, amounts to little or nothing. Why, therefore, in the event of the organization of a municipality, this revenue should be considered "territorial revenue," is difficult to grasp.

Doubtless, the incorporation idea, as held by Gov. Ogilvie and the Council, has its good points, but they all point in one direction.

CLAIM JUMPERS.

There are men in Dawson, as there are men in every mining camp on earth, who spend their time looking about for opportunities to defraud others of their rights upon purely technical grounds.

They make it their business to watch the development of a claim until they are satisfied that the ground has a value sufficient to justify the owner in making a fight for it. If such proves to be the case, search is made for some insignificant technicality upon which to base a contest action, more often, however, in the expectation of forcing a compromise than in the hope of securing a favorable decision.

The present status of litigation before the courts is favorable to the methods pursued by such schemers. There are more cases ahead than can possibly be adjudicated before the arrival of the vacation period, and in consequence a compromise often comes about merely for the sake of avoiding expensive and tiresome delays.

This condition makes the harvest time for the claim jumper, whose sole business in life is to prey upon the misfortunes of others. Whenever discovered, these men should be exposed and forced to do honest work or leave the community to which their presence is a continuous injury.

Complaint has been made at this office that water is being delivered in town which is taken from the river and sold for well water. The people buying this water, naturally, do not take the precaution in its use that they would if they knew from what source it came, and, consequently, sickness is bound to follow. The water from the river is now unfit to drink, and, under any circumstances, should be boiled before using. A visit to the water holes near the bank of the river will prove this to the most skeptical, as running water, foul with the poisonous sewage of the city, is seen flowing down the banks of the river. The authorities should make an example of anyone caught peddling river water for household purposes.

The bicycle, as a means of winter travel, has become an established fact on the Yukon river. The season during which the trails may be said to be in good condition for bicycles is necessarily short, but during that time the bicycle has excelled every other means, both for speed and economy. Wheels built specially for the Klondike will soon be advertised to catch the eye of the prospective musher from the outside.

There is more beef now in Dawson and coming in than can possibly be consumed before the arrival of warm weather will render more or less of it unfit for use. Whether parties who are handling beef have made or lost money, they had much better put the price down within the reach of everyone than run the risk of consigning large quantities to the river upon the break-up.

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