

We print a letter from Mr. F. S. Barnard. Before commencing upon it, we wish to say that this was not the only letter relating to the proposal of the Great Northern, which was published because it was intended to be published anonymously. Mr. Barnard thinks that we restrict the freedom of the press when we close the columns of the Colonist to anonymous letters upon a subject of this nature. With this view we do not agree. We are simply preserving that freedom from abuse, for once the flood is opened to anonymous letters, the difficulty of closing it is so great as to make the task almost impossible. We speak from a full experience. The difficulties which Mr. Barnard suggests are not likely to arise. He assumes a case of a C. P. N. employee who may desire to favor the project, and appears to take it for granted that if he did so, he would bring down the wrath of his employers upon his head. Such a person could easily find a way to have his views presented to the public without his name being known. There are other newspapers in Victoria and other people who will gladly place before the public any views which may be in accord with their policy. In saying this we do not wish to be understood as admitting that the C. P. N. Company is hostile to the proposed scheme, or that its employees would be taking their living in their hands by exercising their rights as free men. Indeed, we think we can show that the C. P. N. interests will be advanced, and not injured, by the adoption of the proposal by the ratepayers. But of this more by and by. What we wish to speak of to-day is the principle of Mr. Barnard's claim as to anonymous communications.

There are certain things, which may expediently be discussed anonymously. These are questions purely of a public nature. Political questions can be a rule be so treated, because in them the personal interests of individuals are so small that they can be conveniently ignored. But when business proposals are to be dealt with, there ought to be perfect frankness, and the first step towards perfect frankness is that disclosures of correspondence on such a subject should be either not made at all, or, if made, they should be in a form which is not abusive, but which is frank. It is essential that the personnel of disputants in such matters should be known. Let us suppose that there is some person, who is very greatly interested personally in seeing an enterprise go through, and the magnitude of whose personal interest is likely to warp his judgment. Ought not the public, whom he desires to influence, to know this, and is a newspaper acting fairly by the people in permitting such a person to present arguments and opinions without it being known to any one except the editor, who he is? We think on consideration Mr. Barnard will see that the balance of expediency is in favor of the position taken by the Colonist, and that this position has not prevented him from assuming the full responsibility of what he has already written anonymously in the best possible proof that it is a wise one. No one will say that Mr. Barnard's personality is not a factor, and an important one, in any matter which he may discuss.

A MINT.

Mr. Fielding's announcement that a branch of the Royal Mint is to be established here at a time when it might excite criticism, but we are so desirous that such a step shall be taken that we accept the statement without reserve and congratulate the government upon having yielded to the strong representations that have been made on this subject in the past from British Columbia. On the principle of giving credit where it is due, we think it right to state that the late Governor, Mr. James, was the first to establish a mint in British Columbia, that is, of course, since the early effort made in that direction in the Senate to keep this question before the front. Messrs. Earle and Prior have done the same in the Commons, several members of the legislature have been active in the same direction, among them Mr. Heineken. Many representations were made to Ottawa on the subject, but up to the present they had borne no fruit. We earnestly hope that Mr. Fielding's promise can be accepted, as we are disposed to accept it, and that the very near future will witness the establishment of the proposed branch of the Royal Mint.

The matter of location is of prime importance. There is no use in placing a mint far away from the source of supply of gold. This province and the Yukon are the great sources from which Canada will draw its gold, and we are satisfied that once a mint is set up in a convenient locality, a large portion of the gold produced in Alaska will find its way to that institution. That the Mint should be set up in this province is so plain a case that argument is unnecessary. Where shall it be? We want to see it in Victoria, and no state must be set up there. We know the strength of the claims of other cities that will compete with us, and we must lose no time in putting our claims under the consideration of the government. Hitherto the press, in agitating for this important matter, has not spoken of any one locality more than another, and necessarily the

legislature has not favored any city at the expense of the others. The time has now come when we must make a fight for our own city. At the outset, we wish to say that we do not take the position that if Victoria cannot get the Mint, it does not want any other place to have it. We want to see it in British Columbia, and preferably in Victoria; but in British Columbia anyway. It is in this spirit that we suggest the propriety of immediately beginning a non-political agitation to bring about this result. Perhaps His Worship the Mayor will see his way clear to calling a public meeting to lay the claims of this city before the government at the earliest possible day.

THE TARIFF AND PROSPERITY.

The Times says it cannot be denied that the changes in the tariff have contributed greatly to the prosperity which Canada has enjoyed during the last few years. It certainly can be denied, and a great many people are denying it right vigorously, indeed, the Conservative party, which includes a very considerable portion of the people of Canada, deny it and have always denied it. Therefore, His Worship the Mayor says its statement cannot be denied, it says something unwarranted by the facts. But we do not wish to play upon words. Our contemporary means, we suppose, that it is a fact that the revised tariff has made the country prosperous. The memory of those who can remember the Canadian history for twenty years or so will bear us out in saying that it was a cardinal principle of the Liberals that the tariff never had anything to do with making good times. When the Conservatives need to claim that the prosperity of Canada was due in some measure to their fiscal policy, a shout of derision used to go up from Liberal circles, and the country used to be told by the organs of the newspapers of that party that it was a nonsense to make any such claim. The Times cannot complain if we apply to its argument the answer which its political friends used to make to the contention of the Conservatives.

But our contemporary's position is not sustainable in point of fact. The prosperity of Canada has come from causes within the country, and not from the fact that importers have saved a little money on duties upon certain articles. These causes of prosperity are several, and we do not propose to attempt to enumerate them all. Here, however, are some of them. The great crops gathered in Manitoba and the Northwest, and the opening of the mining district in Ontario, the expanding market and better prices for lumber, and especially for lumber exported to Great Britain and other European countries from the Eastern provinces, the development of mining in British Columbia, the discovery of gold in Klondike, and an active period of railway construction. These are the things that have contributed to the prosperity of Canada, and not the changes in the tariff. To these things the changes in the tariff have contributed only in an infinitesimal degree, if at all.

NOT THE RIGHT THING.

Mr. F. J. Deane has been appointed secretary to the commission on Oriental Labor, and presumably is under pay from the Dominion government. As it is not a permanent billet, it can hardly be said to him that he takes his office in his hands when he goes on to the stump for government candidates. The pay attached to the position is not a very serious matter, and hounds in the event of a change of government Mr. Deane would relinquish the secretaryship without grief. All the same we very greatly question the propriety of Mr. Deane travelling around the province as a government speaker and talking politics. It would be better if he would leave the political arena alone as long as he is in the government service. Partisanship in a government official is not desirable, least of all when the duties of that official have relation to such an important matter as Oriental immigration, which has already been discussed in a partisan aspect before it has been disposed of.

THE RAILWAY FERRY.

We take the following very interesting extract from the Vancouver World, for the purpose of showing how the proposed Great Northern connection is regarded in that city. It is satisfactory to find the World taking so broad a view of this very important question: We have the best of reason for believing that there is a perfect identity of interest between President Hill, of the Great Northern, and Messrs. Mackenzie and Mann, who claim that the control of the charter of the Vancouver, Victoria & Eastern railway is vested in them, as to the building of the projected line in lower Fraser valley. Mr. Hill's system and thereby taps the trade of Kootenay Lake, the Lardeau country and White Mountain railway the Great Northern competes at Rossland with the Canadian Pacific as it does also at Nelson, Sandspoo and at New Westminster. Mr. Hill is most anxious to secure control of the Victoria traffic named. He likewise desires an outlet in British Columbia for Eastern Canada, British and European goods, as well as securing a share of east-bound traffic. The only plan by which this can be accomplished is by utilizing the character of the Great Northern which will include the construction of a line to Chilliwack and thereby secure control of an exceedingly rich traffic-producing country on the south side of the Fraser, from the Surrey City Valley through the municipalities of Delta, Surrey, Langley, Matsqui, Sumas and Chilliwack, in all of which the strikers are busy. The season of the year are badly handicapped, for want of railway or other transportation facilities. The building of a line as is now contemplated, as the

World has in by-gone years repeatedly pointed out, will afford a very desirable class of settlers relief in this respect. Not only this, but instead of the country being sparsely settled, as it now is, and being thousands of acres of very desirable land still in its virgin condition, but in many instances heavily timbered, and with thousands of acres of those now there would take fresh courage and make substantial improvements upon such a large area, as well as the producing capabilities thereof would be largely increased and accessible markets found there; the year round, conditions which do not now exist. Of course the main object the people of Victoria have in view in this matter is to have transcontinental trains arrive and depart from their city; to draw the trade of the south side of the Fraser river in the lower valley, to their city, as well as the great interior that they have at present. The cost for all this will not deter the people of Victoria from taking the plunge they are about to do. It is with them, at the present juncture, any sort of savings, however they may be made, the entrance of another railway line into their city.

But there is more than the building of the line, the ferry connection we are referring to in the scheme. It is no accident that the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway company will not make any such claim of their interests in that concern, provided the considerations for so doing were satisfactory to them. It is that they are actually accomplished—and it is on the basis of the fact that the ferry connection was extended to the upper end of Vancouver Island, from which a superb, fast, up-to-date line of steamers would ply to and from Skagway, and other ports. The federal as well as the provincial governments will be asked for heavy bonuses, in aid of the undertaking. Our contemporary, the Victoria Colonist, has of late been urging the adoption of a "progressive policy" upon the Government, and it is upon the basis of this that the Government is urged to extend the ferry connection to the upper end of Vancouver Island, from which a superb, fast, up-to-date line of steamers would ply to and from Skagway, and other ports. The federal as well as the provincial governments will be asked for heavy bonuses, in aid of the undertaking. Our contemporary, the Victoria Colonist, has of late been urging the adoption of a "progressive policy" upon the Government, and it is upon the basis of this that the Government is urged to extend the ferry connection to the upper end of Vancouver Island, from which a superb, fast, up-to-date line of steamers would ply to and from Skagway, and other ports.

There is no connection between the Great Northern railway and the proposed line to the north end of the Island with steamers to Skagway. Neither was there ever any "out" in the "bag" on this subject. In its advocacy of railway extension on the Island, the Colonist has taken care repeatedly to mention that a railway ferry to the Mainland was necessary to make this complete. We are glad to have the World with us on this great question.

A MINT.

One of the earliest efforts to get the government to take into consideration the desirability of establishing a mint in British Columbia was made by Mr. J. A. Mara, who represented the Island in the House of Commons previous to the elections of 1896. On July 18th Mr. Mara brought up this question and urged very strenuously that it should be acted on, both by reason of the direct business advantage and as an advertisement to Canada. He spoke of the fact that the subject, adding facts which would be very well worth reproducing if the matter had not passed beyond the stage when argument is necessary. The finance minister (Mr. Foster) saw some difficulties in the way, notably that of cost, which he thought would make it inexpedient to have a committee at the time on a bill relating to Dominion notes, and the discussion took a wide range, finally taking in bimetallicism, and dropped without any further expressions of opinion than those quoted.

At this time the idea of establishing a Mint in Canada was regarded by financial circles as an absurd thing. It was hardly possible to get any one to think seriously about it. But since then the output of gold has enormously increased in Canada, and the importance of having some provision for its coinage has become a matter of great importance. The House of Commons was accordingly convened for the purpose of considering the desirability of converting the vast quantities of gold now being produced in Canada into sovereigns, so as to swell as much as possible the volume of gold currency in the United Kingdom. It will certainly be a great advertisement for Canada to have exports of gold in particular in our trade with the United Kingdom. In the session of 1897, in that of 1898, and also in that of 1899, resolutions were passed in the local house dealing with this subject. They were all of a general character. Resolutions have also been passed by several of the Municipal Councils in the province, and also by the Boards of Trade.

In this connection it may be interesting to remind Colonist readers of the facts regarding the mining of gold coin in this province forty years ago. We are indebted to a letter issued by Dr. J. S. Heineken for the details. In 1858 there at once began a great influx of people into British Columbia. Governor Douglas was then administering affairs, and he was impressed with the importance of devising a means whereby the value of gold taken from the source could be returned to the source of the government to establish an assay office in Victoria. Very shortly afterwards the legislature presented an address to the Governor, asking for the establishment of a mint by the Home authorities. In 1860 the establishment of the assay office was the establishment of the Westernmint as the site. The institution was opened in May, 1862, when silver fac-similes of the proposed gold coin were struck. Later five twenty and ten dollar gold pieces were struck, but the coin was never used. The reason for this was that the officers of the mint asked for an increase of salary, that the miners preferred to come to Victoria to

trade rather than stop at New Westminster, that the institution did not pay, and that there was a foreign demand for most of the gold bullion.

POLITICAL HUMBUG.

We suggest to the Times that it would get along just as well if it avoided anything resembling personal attacks upon candidates. Last evening it spoke of Col. Prior as a political humbug. This is of itself not a very serious matter, but we do not like to see a contemporary descend from the attitude it has so far taken throughout this contest. The application of the term to Col. Prior is because he is not in favor of the Liberal scheme of British preferences. It says that if he is not in favor of this policy, he ought to be silent. The Old Flag, it is true of Col. Prior; it will likewise be true of every other person who is unwilling to accept the preferential scheme, and as there are thousands upon thousands of such people, the irresistible inference is that the Liberal party is a humbug. Our contemporary will not make any such claim of its own party for a moment that every Conservative should at once "haul down the Old Flag." It will not pretend that its own party absorbs all the loyalty of the Canadian people. Now, it is very clear that if this is meant by Col. Prior, it is not necessarily true of Col. Prior, which shows the remark of the Times to have been an exceedingly improper one, for it does not pretend that it is any other reason to impeach his opposition to this special feature of the Liberal tariff. We think, therefore, that we can apply the language of the Times to its own argument and say it is a political humbug. The question of British preferences is purely a commercial matter. Is it an advantage to Great Britain? Is it an advantage to Canada? Could it be any other plan have been devised which would have been more advantageous to Canada and not less so to Great Britain? These are the questions which ought to be considered when British preference is dealt with. To import into such matters reflections upon the loyalty of a candidate is utterly indecent.

CHINESE MATTERS.

The Anglo-Germanic agreement as to China continues to be the topic of discussion in diplomatic circles. We have seen in the United States papers that the agreement may have been anti-fated so as to lead the world to suppose it was arrived at previous to the despatch of the Washington note somewhat to the same effect. Our neighbors have said some very funny things in connection with this Chinese crisis. There is no one who desires that the American soldiers should go to work with our soldiers in a manner that showed they were to be chaps of the old block. But they were no braver than any one else, and neither they nor any other of the white troops did such good work as fell to the Japanese. This was not because the latter are the superiors of the former, but because they were better equipped for the work cut out for them, and being the strongest numerically, were given the heaviest part of the operations. Our neighbors have refused to recognize this patent fact, have claimed that the burden and heat of the day rested upon the American contingent, and that all the glory of the advance on Peking belongs to the Sticks and Stripes. They ought to be ashamed to claim anything but the credit of a very amusing thing in an illustrated paper. In an article designed to show the glorious work done by "the Fighting Ninth," there is a picture showing this brave regiment advancing against the enemy, and a foot note explains that some white dove in the picture is the "Ninth" who were unquestionably doing its duty, in reserve, but one would hardly select a scene where somebody else was in touch with the enemy as an illustration of the fighting qualities of a corps. So also the United States admiral on the Chinese station has been lauded to the skies. He did not do anything in particular, probably because there was not anything in particular for him to do. This did not prevent a bumper correspondent from writing from a town in Illinois to an English paper that this admiral had shown greater qualities than Nelson ever displayed. So, too, in the field of diplomacy, our neighbors claim to have done it all. It must be admitted that they appear to have shown very good judgment.

TAXATION AND DUTIES.

If the same number of people in Canada pay into the federal treasury more money than they did, it cannot be denied that they are taxed to a greater amount. In 1895 the amount of taxes collected from the people was \$25,446,178; in 1896 it was \$27,019,972. The difference between these two amounts is \$1,573,794, and it is perfectly idle to say that under the Liberal tariff the people are not paying more taxes than they were under the Conservative tariff. The fact is that the people of Canada have been taxed, that the people of Canada have paid into the Federal treasury during

the last fiscal year \$250 per head more than during the last full year of the Conservative regime. It is not worth while going into particulars to show how this taxation was made up. That is a detail. The fact of the increase is undeniable. How this increase was collected, what was done with it, or whether or not the people could afford to pay it, are all beside the main question. The Liberals promised a decrease of taxation, and in five years they have increased the annual contribution of the people to the government of the country by 50 per cent. There is no escaping this fact. It cannot be explained away.

The Port Angeles railway project has taken on new activity, and the news from that city indicates that active construction will soon be undertaken. During this sort of weather, the lot of people in queuing must be very hard to bear. There should be close supervision of passengers embarking at Skagway.

As the Colonist was prompt to protest against the Sound mail being sent by the Utopia, so it now admits that as yet the service has been satisfactory.

There were some inaccuracies in the Colonist's report of Col. Prior's remarks at the recent meeting, which will be set right in to-morrow's paper. Present indications are that the truth of the matter is that the number of gold-seekers that will attract prospectors will be large.

His Worship the Mayor, who is confined to the house by a bad cold, has telegraphed to the Colonist that he agrees fully with the suggestion that a public meeting should be held at an early day to protect the interests of the city in the matter of the proposed mint.

A commercial crisis due to too great commercial activity is the strange thing that threatens Sweden just now. Business is too active for the amount of money in circulation. We fancy this scarcity of currency must be due to the hoarding of gold by Continental governments.

Mr. Duff told the good people at Tolmie school house that he had not the slightest doubt that Messrs. Drury and Riley will be elected. Mr. Duff has not been able to inoculate his candidate with his confidence. They do not claim that success is in sight. Mr. Duff is a picturesque speaker, and must not always be taken too seriously.

Mr. Duff says the question of an all-Canada line to the Yukon will come before parliament next session, and he wants to see men represent Victoria, who will be in favor of the project. In this Mr. Duff does not stand alone. We all hope this, and if Messrs. Prior and Earle are elected they can be counted upon to do so.

Mr. Riley says the fact that the people of Skagway, wanted to shut Canadian trade out of the Yukon, because they are in favor of the Liberal party, is proof that there has been no mismanagement at Dawson. The logical connection between these two things is not obvious, and Mr. Riley ought to take the electorate further into his confidence and show them what it is.

Mr. Riley is in favor of the extension of the E. & N. railway to the north end of the Island. So doubtless is Mr. Drury, so also is Col. Prior, so also is Mr. Earle. In fact, a detective could not find a man in Victoria who is not in favor of it. No matter whom the people may elect, they will be found advocating this important enterprise. So our friend Mr. Riley cannot claim this as any special reason why he should be chosen in preference to any one else.

The teachers of Vancouver do not like an order made by the school board that they are to take part in politics. We are inclined to sympathize with the teachers, and very greatly doubt the right of the school board to make any such order. Once we admit that a teacher is entitled to vote, he has the logical right to endeavor to convince others how they should vote. The reason given that policy will interfere with the discharge of their duties, seems very far-fetched.

The presentation of the address to Admiral Beaumont yesterday was one of the best managed and most satisfactory public functions ever witnessed in Victoria. It was really a very touching leave-taking.

Commerciaisons to the passengers on the City of Seattle, who will have to spend two weeks at William Head. There seems to be a laxity in the supervision of steamers leaving Skagway. The United States authorities have a duty to perform in this connection.

The political prophets are getting in their work. What use is there in it? A man may think that his party will carry the country, but what is the use in saying that he knows it? Never mind what the prophets say. Vote according to your convictions. The Times last night had it figured out that the government will have a comfortable majority. But neither the Times nor any one else knows anything about it.

No one ever believed that Sir Wilfrid Laurier offered a senatorship to Mr. H. H. Cook or any one else for \$100,000 or more. It is a very old story. Once upon a time there was a distinguished newspaper man in the United States who always had a wicker partner upon whom the responsibility of all questionable acts was laid. Is there a wicked partner in Mr. Cook's case? Somebody offered Mr. Cook what he states, or else he is a liar above all others, and we notice that none of the Liberal organs have yet stamped him with that character.

John Charlton is to be unopposed. Mr. Charlton is the gentleman who wrote to the Forum that the British preferential tariff was a failure.

We have received some letters relating to the Great Northern's proposal to be published over the writers' proper names. That in discussing the matter in the Colonist, correspondents must sign their letters. The proposal is made by reputable business men and will be discussed on the public platform by its advocates openly and before all men. The newspapers, in treating of it, will have to assume the responsibility for what they say. The anonymous correspondent has an irresponsibility that it is not desirable any one should enjoy in discussing a subject of such grave importance.

W. C. T. U.

I commend unto you Phoebe, our sister, which is a servant of the church in which she is connected. The apostle Paul writes this in the XVI of Romans. He begins with her name, the list of his personal recommendations or salutations to the Roman church, and recommends her at greater length than any other person, and goes on to say: "She hath been a succour of many," and of himself also, evidently she filled no menial office. He was glad to have her help, for he had, besides that came to him daily, the care of the things of the churches. He did no care for this life for his own sake, or undertake to do anything for the sake of the church, as far as he was concerned, he was a member of the Christian church, also "a servant of the Lord." He was instructing the young and in visiting the poor, sick, and afflicted.

The women of the Christian Temperance Union endeavor to follow in the footsteps of Phoebe, St. Paul's favorite person, as far as in them may, and believing that the advancement of the temperance cause is of vital influence in the furtherance of their object, every endeavor is striven to attain a curtailment of the drink traffic.—Communicated.

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WO SANG.

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To the Electors of Vancouver District.

GENTLEMEN: The Liberal-Conservative Convention held at Nanaimo, has elected Mr. Bryden as its candidate in the coming election.

I accept that honor as a STRAIGHT CONSERVATIVE and hope to win because the party I represent has made Canada what she is to-day. I have no other ambition but to see you all prosper. I have no other ambition but to see you all prosper. I have no other ambition but to see you all prosper.

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Your obedient servant, CLIVE PHILLIPS-WOLLEY.

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CHATHAM STREET (near Cook Street)—Lot 90x120; cottage, 6 rooms, \$1500; exceptionally easy terms. Apply 40 Government Street, B.C. Land & Investment Agency, Limited.

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NORTH SAANICH—Three or four very good farms. Call now for list. Apply 40 Government Street, B.C. Land & Investment Agency, Limited.

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GORDON HEAD ROAD—11 acres, all cleared and fenced; barn; ready for cultivation; \$1800. B.C. Land & Investment Agency, Limited.

ESQUIMALT ROAD—Handsome building sites, just opposite naval recreation grounds; about 1 1/2 acres; cheap and easy terms. Apply 40 Government Street, B.C. Land & Investment Agency, Limited.

GORDON HEAD—Part of section 84, Victoria; 100 acres; well adapted for small fruit or chicken ranch; \$2250; easy terms. Apply 40 Government Street, B.C. Land & Investment Agency, Limited.

VICTORIA AND LAKE DISTRICTS—About 700 acres; within five miles from post office; 200 acres under cultivation; 500 acres of timber; well adapted for purchase; very cheap. Apply 40 Government Street, B.C. Land & Investment Agency, Limited.

LAKE DISTRICT—About 50 acres, partly cleared; 100 acres of timber; very good soil and level ground; cheap. Apply 40 Government Street, B.C. Land & Investment Agency, Limited.

HIGHLAND DISTRICT—Three farms for sale in this district; building on each; from \$1800 to \$2000. Apply 40 Government Street, B.C. Land & Investment Agency, Limited.

METCHOSIN DISTRICT—An exceptionally fine farm of over 300 acres; about 100 acres under cultivation, which yields very heavy crops; orchard, etc.; good buildings, etc.; \$2500; easy terms. Apply 40 Government Street, B.C. Land & Investment Agency, Limited.

TWO LOTS ON OAK BAY avenue; good building site; \$500. B.C. Land & Investment Agency, Limited.

Another Stampede

Rich Placer Ground Found in a Place Opposite Moosehide Creek.

It is Close to Dawson and Hundreds of Claims Are Staked.

Quartz Excitement in the Klondike—Good Reports From Chilkat.

Steamer Danube brings news that another rich placer strike has been made in the North. While there were mine on the steamer who told of the late discovery in the Chilkat, in the Stewart river district, in Canadian territory, in British Columbia, and which has been arrived who told of a later discovery, rich placers—8 and which has been made possible for a big stampede from Dawson.

Rich placers have been unearthed on the Moosehide creek and on the bar of the Klondike river four miles above Dawson. The Dawson News says that stampede are still rolling away from the Klondike capital, with hatches in hand in a continuous stream. A mining agent of the White Pass & Yukon railway, who has returned to Dawson from the new strike says "Mr. Heacock struck a claim and hit rich back to work. Just how