

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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ANOTHER STAMPEDE TO DOMINION.

An Effort Being Made to Jump a Half of Rich Claims.

A Serious Legal Technicality Which May Cost Honest Miners a Half of Their Claims if Not More—Refuses to Record.

A writer has said: "The evil men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones." Mr. Fawcett is no longer gold commissioner yet the mistakes made during his incumbency are just beginning to bring forth a plentiful crop of fruits. On Friday and Saturday of last week a mysterious rush occurred to the Indian river district to the usual accompaniment of whisperings and mysterious notification of friends. Such things are easily investigated and it took but a few minutes to discover that the stampede was headed by a lawyer and his friends and was founded upon a technicality of the law, the objective points being the best creek claims between the discoveries on Dominion and on Gold Run. The Nugget has long known that many of these claims were subject to a legal quibble owing to Mr. Fawcett's irregularities and rulings but had hoped the point would never be raised and the present owners left in peaceable possession.

The facts are these: Prior to August 7th, 1897, the size of a creek claim as provided in the regulations was 500 feet, and it was under those laws that Eldorado and Bonanza were staked. Dominion was also stampered under those laws, but the larger part of it was subsequently abandoned or was never recorded at all or was staked by men who had already exhausted their single rights in that district. On August 7th, 1897, by a hurried act of the Ottawa council the size of claims was unjustly cut down to 100 feet owing to the ridiculous stories then afloat throughout the world of the uniform and untold wealth of the ground. When the new regulations arrived here accompanied by large red posters to be stuck up here and there throughout the district, they were unceremoniously pigeonholed by Mr. Fawcett, who realized at once that they were unworkable and unreasonable. Only in the case of new discoveries, as on Roschud, Swede and Moosehide creeks and on French Hill and Gold Hill was the new law enforced. By an odd working of his mind the G. C. decided that upon creeks like Dominion which had been discovered under the 500 foot law, 500 feet should remain the size of claims. Consequently all locations upon Gold Run and Dominion made after August 7th were recorded at the old size. On January 18th, 1898, the government found it had acted too quickly and changed the 100 foot law to become operative at some future time so it went into effect at once. Severe winter prevailed and it was May 17th, four months afterwards, that the first copy of the new law arrived in Dawson. Thus from August 7th, 1897 until May 17th, 1898, claims were being recorded 500 feet long when the law at no time was more than 250 feet. The stampede on Friday was to take 250 feet of all the claims recorded subsequent to August 7th, 1897. The injustice which will be worked is apparent at once when it is learned that most of these claims are rich and are in the hands of men who have purchased from the original stakers at a good round price, supposing that they were getting 500 feet, as shown in the recording certificate.

Among the various officials and others seen by a Nugget representative, on Saturday was the new gold commissioner, Mr. Senkler. In the short interview asked for and courteously granted, Mr. Senkler showed himself predisposed to do what will be indorsed as right by anyone in the district, excepting the few who are striving to profit by the technical error. He was asked:

"Mr. Senkler, do you care to state how you stand in this matter—how you will rule?"

"I am very, very sorry the point has been raised at all. I shall, undoubtedly refuse to record the claims when the stakers present them for record on the ground that the land in question is already occupied. A protest will probably be filed and the matter carried to Ottawa over my head. What they will do there, I cannot say."

"Was the 'tip' on the possibly vacant ground promulgated to friends from this office?" was asked.

"No; it was not. In this instance the office is, undoubtedly clean. The point was not raised in this office. I have confidentially discussed the matter with my legal advisers but cannot prepared to say how the matter was made public. You may rest assured that it was not through me or my office."

Mr. Senkler impresses one at once as a man of both intelligence and integrity and, as is seen in the foregoing, is, above all, disposed to do what is right. The only question remaining is: What are the miners on Dominion and Gold Run going to do about it? It is apparent at once to every mind that to engage even the best legal talent in the country and endeavor to have the matter decided legally would be both foolish and unprofitable, as the law is self-evidently on the side of the stamperers. The only way to do is to make proper representations to Ottawa and have the past illegal acts of Mr. Fawcett made legal in this particular case by special legislation. This will require, in all probability, a hand in Canadian politics, and the Nugget is about to present itself at

Ottawa for that very purpose. Two members of our staff are to be dispatched at once to Ottawa to carry on the fight against corruption in high places; for workable and just mining regulations, and to prevent the dispossession of miners who can be seen at once to have every moral right to their claims even if lacking the legal qualification.

It is altogether probable that the "jumpers" will apply to Judge Dugas for a mandamus to prevent the working of the disputed ground until the matter is settled at Ottawa.

Can't Stake Fractions.

A most important decision was given on Monday by Judge Dugas in the suit for a mandamus compelling the gold commissioner to record fractional claims. His lordship decided that the fractions were properly reserved to the crown. In arriving at this conclusion the judge took into consideration the extraordinary powers of the late Yukon commissioner Major Walsh, and also the much talked of and seldom seen letter from the minister of the interior regarding these fractions. The Dominion land laws provide for the reservation to the crown of any crown lands in the Northwest territory at the option of the governor in council. Before leaving Ottawa, the council was in such a state of absolute darkness regarding the conditions here, and so fearful of the regulations they were ignorantly making into laws that in Major Walsh was vested their own powers in all mining matters. He was empowered to amend, vary or alter the mining regulations at his discretion. Major Walsh received from the minister of the interior a letter suggesting to him the expediency of reserving all fractions to the crown in lieu of the alternate claims which had not been reserved to the crown as directed in the regulations. After consideration the major directed Mr. Fawcett to act in conformity with the suggestion of Mr. Sifton. In his decision of Monday the judge held that the instructions of Major Walsh had virtually the same effect as a similar order from the governor in council. Attorney Robertson, for the fraction claimants, says the case is to be attacked again upon other lines.

Will Send Two.

The Nugget has decided to send two representatives to Ottawa instead of one as originally contemplated. Mr. E. C. Allen, one of the proprietors and manager of the Nugget, and Mr. D. W. Semple, who has been associated with the paper during almost its entire existence, will undertake this important work. Both gentlemen are experienced winter travelers and will endeavor to make a record trip to the coast. They will leave immediately upon the completion of the necessary arrangements.

LOCAL BRIEFS.

The Sunday night performance at the Tivoli was attended by a good audience and a high class performance was given.

The winner of Jake Cronin's gold watch was Chas. Bush, engineer of the fire department steam engine, and the number of his ticket was 68. Andy Young was the lucky shaker in the absence of the principal.

The Tivoli electric light system is the cause of much favorable comment. Behind the procession is a switch-board of ten switches making an endless variety of combinations instantly possible in the lighting of the house.

The Dawson Club gives an entertainment tonight in honor of the ladies of Dawson. An interesting and entertaining program will be presented and an enjoyable time is assured all who attend. It will be strictly an invitation affair.

Regarding the much wanted George Bowman, vaguely reported lost at various points between here and the coast, J. M. Wear called at this office Saturday to say that a man of that name is running a road house at the mouth of Stewart river at the present writing.

The Monte Carlo is still holding its favor with the public and the nightly performances are well attended. The Sunday night concert has lost none of its popularity and the illustrated songs of Fred N. Tracy are simply more and more appreciated each week.

On Saturday night the skating rink was again opened to the public and is being illuminated by a high candle power arc lamp and four incandescent lights. A plentiful supply of coal oil torches are in place, in case the electric lights should fail. The illumination is most brilliant and makes the rink doubly attractive.

The "pugs" and indeed all who enjoy a good exhibition of the manly art, are looking forward to the 20-round contest between Sam Barber and Charley Gleason on January 27. Both men are "top notchers" and have met men who today are famous in ring circles. Barber once fought the redoubtable "Soldier" Kelley some 10 rounds to a draw while Gleason's reputation is fully established in California.

Monday, for some unknown cause, was the worst day for frozen faces this winter. In the afternoon the sight of some pedestrian holding up another foot-passenger to advise him of the whiteness of his nose, his cheek or his chin, was quite common. The thermometer indicated less than 40 below and the air was almost still; but it seems the mildness of the past week had encouraged everyone to too much exposure of the face.

Farewell Party.

Mr. Thebo, the pioneer stockman, leaves within a day or two for the outside to return this summer with more beef stock. On Monday evening a farewell dinner was tendered him at the handsomely appointed home of Mrs. Chris Yager. A company of friends was gathered to say farewell and by their jovial company to leave a pleasant recollection of Dawson and Dawson's people in the mind of the traveller.

DR. LAVILLE'S SCURVY PREVENTIVE AND CURE.

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when far away from these frozen regions. London and other European points will be visited before the return over the Skaguay or Dalton trail, and possibly much property will be sold. His many old time friends wish him success upon his journey. In the evening a surprise party of ladies and gentlemen stormed the Galvin building, and in the hall upstairs danced till morning.

PERSONALS.

Miss Edith Robinson returned on Monday night from a visit to her brother, who is located on Lombard creek.

Messrs. Ames and Wilkins, the merchants, are preparing for a trip out over the ice to return with the birds in the spring.

Messrs. C. Baker and D. Swecker left on Saturday last on a prospecting trip down the Yukon. They intend prospecting in several creeks below Twelve-mile. It is their intention to be gone for a period of three months.

Frank H. Browning departed for the outside on Monday, January 8, with a party of three. Frank is one of the most energetic hustlers and indefatigable workers who struck Dawson this summer after almost a year of continuous work upon the trip. The snow storms of last fall caught him with his outfit on the summit of White Pass and Lake Bennett froze over before he could get down. Undaunted at his ill success he found him at once selling lots as the president of the Hyva Land Company, a business for which he had been particularly fitted by an extensive experience in Pacific coast booms. In Dawson Frank has made his mark and takes out with him a large assortment of properties for sale, some of them his own. His large acquaintance on the coast will afford him a large clientele and he may be expected back before the departure of the ice in the spring with ample means to properly work the unsold properties. Thistle creek and Atlin lake will be visited on the way out.

Yukon Council Meetings.

Ferry license for Laura Griste was laid over. The incorporation petition of the Regina club was referred to Judge Dugas.

The incorporation petition for the Dawson club was referred to Judge Dugas.

A communication from Dr. Barrett regarding fees for the care of indigent sick was laid over. The application from the lawyers for a telephone in the court house was submitted to Judge Dugas.

An account for \$4,323.50, from the hospital for the care of the sick sent there by the government was filed.

Section 41 of the medical ordinance was amended so that the fine for violation of its provisions is reduced from \$200 to \$100.

An account for giant powder used at the fire was presented and referred to Col. Steele to ascertain who ordered and used the powder.

A letter from John L. Rees was submitted asking a higher price for the government printing. Referred to Messrs. Ogilvie and Lithgow.

No action was taken on a communication from dog owners, calling attention to the provision of license and asking for a stock inspection ordinance.

The application of Miss B. A. Maloney for the exclusive privilege of purifying and delivering the Dawson water supply was referred to Judge Dugas.

An account presented by James Gannon, Greenleaf and Elson for buckets lost at the fire was referred to the comptroller with orders to pay if the bills were not excessive.

A communication from the comptroller called attention to an inclosed account from the Yukon Star which was not in accordance with the terms of the printing contract. An account was demanded.

Judge Dugas was appointed to consult with the medical association in regard to a communication from Dr. Geo. H. Dunnean who wishes an amendment to the medical ordinance whereby Canadian graduates from colleges with a four years' course should be admitted to practice.

The board of license commissioners recommended the appointment of salaried sub-inspectors for Dawson, Forty Mile, Grand Forks and Stewart, and the following appointments were made: Inspector Belcher for Dawson, Staff Sergeant Rivers for Grand Forks, Corporal Belcher for Forty Mile, Corporal Green for Stewart, Sergeant Serrill for Selkirk and Inspector Strickland for Tagish. The salaries attached to the positions are: Dawson \$200, Grand Forks \$250, Forty Mile \$100, Stewart \$100. No action was taken upon the complaint made by road house keepers that licenses were too high for the traffic.

WEDNESDAY, 12TH.

The Miners' Association petition for incorporation was referred to Mr. Clement.

Dr. Svendsgaard asked for a pharmaceutical association. Referred to Mr. Clement.

The Yukon Hygva Water Supply Co. want to supply Dawson. Referred to Mrs. Thompson, Good Will House.

The council decided not to buy any tickets to the argument on the night ball. Members individually can do as they please.

Dr. Svendsgaard asked for the incorporation of the Svendsgaard Drug & Hospital Co. Referred to Mr. Clement.

The reletting of government printing was referred to Mr. Clement, the newly seated member and adviser of the council.

No action was taken in the matter of the request for relief from Messrs. Richards and Holland pending the arrival of remittances from home.

The members of the bar asked \$1000 for a law library. Consideration was postponed until the assistants could furnish a list of books they require.

Ridley & Yarwood applied for permit to dam the Dawson river on the opposite side of the Yukon river and supply Dawson with water. Consideration was postponed.

Mr. Hobbs asked for a lease on the foreshore of the Klondike for the storage of rafts, etc. The council directed the clerk to write for fuller information as to fees and obstructions of the river by booms, etc.

MONDAY 16TH.

It was decided that the police court stenographer must be paid out of the police funds.

The account of Dr. McCloud for \$25 for attendance upon a destitute sick man was laid over for more definite specifications.

An informal chat on the Dawson incorporation ordinance and the matter of assessing debtors brought the meeting to a close.

Attorney Clement was asked to report at the next meeting on a draft ordinance submitted by Mr. William for the administration of estates.

HAS BECOME A POPULAR MOVEMENT

Miners on the Creeks Rally to the Support of the "Nugget."

The "On to Ottawa" Proposition Meets the Wishes of the People—They Know That Their Cause Will Be Earnestly Espoused.

The exposures in the Nugget in its last three issues have aroused the feeling of the miners and mine owners of the creeks to a high tension, and it has been simply a marvel the manner in which hearty, earnest, substantial support has been freely tendered to this journal, since it determined to go to Ottawa by representatives, and with the knowledge in its possession and the influence called to its aid outside in the Dominion, lay before the government the personal petition of 20,000 earnest workers and developers of this Yukon Territory. The never varying and fearless policy adopted and consistently pursued has never wavered, and the miners have forsaken the stereotyped petition route, and are more than willing to place their case in the hands of the Nugget to plead their cause, knowing well that the mistake of a year ago will not be made of trying their case at Vancouver, to a great plurge made on Associated Press wires and forwarding the capital at Ottawa of what will be asked for. Every day the enthusiasm increases, and rallying around the standard of aggressive righteousness, in a journal not afraid to espouse heartily their cause. Well equipped will be the representatives to Ottawa, in every particular, and prepared to present the case of the miners of the Klondike in the most forcible manner. When the Nugget put this movement afoot it had no idea that it would assume the great popular proportions that it has. While it was well aware of the enormous increase of circulation pouring in upon the office, it scarcely realized that a chord had been struck which would peal forth in so loud a refrain. Gentlemen on the creeks be assured that no stone will be left unturned to remedy the evils existing in the past toward you, or to procure such legislation as will benefit you in the future. Write nearly all know what changes in legislation are to be asked for, the Nugget goes farther and demands the instantaneous dismissal, prosecution and conviction of every one connected with government offices proven to have participated in defrauding the innocent ignorant, and "grabbing" territory, rich in wealth, to the exclusion of those who have honestly worked for and earned it.

This is as much to be desired as anything else, and we promise faithfully to the miners of this district, that, failing to obtain for them clean, honest legislation, such a rain of exposure of wrong as will make Canada ring from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and even old Mother England stand as paralyzed as what she shall hear of doings in the Yukon. The opportunity is now. The time has come. No time must be lost. The ring must not be permitted longer to "graft" in this community. There will be no wavering on the part of this paper. The miners can help themselves now as never before, if they care to help the Nugget. We ask nothing for ourselves, but this prospectively grand mining camp shall not be ruined by a lot of "ringsters" milking an over-productive cow, if this paper can prevent it.

Thistle Creek.

Captain A. S. Crane, who took the Florence S. into winter quarters, returned Monday from an extended trip over the Thistle creek district and has some interesting information showing the extensiveness of the gold deposits. The latest developments on No. 72 below discovery show it to be 22 feet to bedrock with but little muck and eight feet of pay gravel sunning in fine gold from five cents at the top to 80 cents to the pan on bedrock. The discovery claim is but nine feet to bedrock, nearly all gravel, with the workers picking as much as \$1.15 per day from the dump in small sized nuggets. On No. 134 above discovery as much as 40 cents and 50 cents to the pan is being taken out. No. 2 above is well out to good pay and claims 20 cents to the pan.

It is interesting to learn that the benches are now receiving attention. On the left limit opposite the upper part of the discovery claim a 60-foot drift has been made and the bedrock shows 18 inches of pay dirt giving 25 cents to the pan.

Blueberry creek is also receiving some attention. On No. 28 of this creek the muck was found to reach to within half an inch of bedrock yet the yield of the half inch in the prospect hole was \$6.80.

No. 42 on Scotch was giving 20 cents to the pan when water drove the workers out before reaching bedrock.

No work yet on Green.

Australia is not receiving attention beyond the first two claims at the mouth.

Satna has a number of holes to bedrock with nothing showing up yet.

Thistle creek gold is now in circulation at Stewart though the owners dislike to use it as the 10 per ounce allowed in commerce as it assays much higher.

Claims Bought and Sold

By Louis Couture, North West House, two miles above mouth of Klondike.

The packed houses performers since the time that the Tivoli will do business.

Eastern Oysters at the

of the Regina Club to you back again.

clothing, will sell you in the city are at the

Dog Doctor the Pioneer Drug Store

to Loan express office, Front st.

om and board by the Club Hotel.

ign and see what he has furnishing goods and

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