

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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IS IT FOUL PLAY?

In the Gillies Slate Creek Concession.

THEY GO TO OTTAWA AND GET A WHOLE CREEK.

And the Dispossessed Miners Make a Voluble Protest.

A Rich Creek Wanted by Miners is Given Away Bodily by Sifton—Some Interesting Facts of Slate Creek, on the McMillan—Dispossessed by a Partner's Scheming.

And now the assinine stupidity of the former mining regulations under which we work becomes more and more apparent. The blathering idiocy of our legislators was never more strikingly conspicuous than when the Yukon regulations were made. Here were our jumping-jack law makers climbing all over themselves a little over a year ago in their eagerness to cut down a mining claim on the Yukon from 500 feet to 100. In an excess of magnanimity they immediately afterwards increased the size of our placer claims to 250 feet by the width of the valley, and on the hills to 250 feet square. And then these lunacy ward candidates deliberately sit down and frame a regulation which allows Sifton, by a wave of his pen

TO GIVE THIS SAME GROUND away in five-mile lots to single individuals, twenty miles to four, and so on in that proportion.

But follow the story of David McGregor and watch the really artistic touch of Siftonism in the Yukon. Note the fine Italian hand of the ring of men who held up their hands in holy horror when the miner, like Oliver Twist, had the temerity to ask for more. Observe the hypocrisy of those who melted in anguish when miners asked for more than 250 feet, and then planned to give away the same domain in five-mile lots.

David McGregor is an Australian miner. More than that, he has the manhood and will to strike out for new fields and to pioneer the way to unknown placer deposits. Coming into the country all the way from the Antipodes in the spring of 1898, he avoided the congested camp on the Klondike, Dawson, and with two companions poled and lugged his outfit hundreds of miles up the Pelly and McMillan rivers.

The two companions were W. C. Weeks and C. D. Lydiard. What the work of ascending these rivers means to such as attempt it is only realized by those who have made a similar trip, and we will not attempt to describe it. Anyhow, after much prospecting and looking around an unknown stream was reached which promised well and was named by McGregor Havilah creek. Finding other prospectors at McMillan, it was decided to divide into three parties and branch out. This was done, and A. Gillies and T. D. Gillies, two brothers, went up McMillan, while McGregor and Lydiard went up the new creek, since called Slaté. After much prospecting McGregor and Lydiard located good prospects at the mouth of a stream they called Turnagain. Here they panned out gold and secured a nugget weighing three pennyweights

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and six grains. With these trophies the men returned to camp and APPRISED ALL THE OTHER PROSPECTORS

of the discovery. All hands repaired to the scene of the strike and by concerted action turned the creek, but were unable to drain it sufficient to work the bed. The prospectors scattered, looking over the country, and finally McGregor and Angus Gillies came to the Klondike to work for a grub stake, deciding that the work of opening up Slate creek should be proceeded with a little later.

The Gillies brothers were seen during the winter, Angus Gillies working with McGregor as late as Christmas and as late as March assuring McGregor he would return with him to Slaté in the spring. But now watch

HOW SIFTONISM WORKS.

About Christmas T. D. Gillies went to Ottawa and called upon the minister who has piled it onto the miners of the Klondike so heavily. The result was that when McGregor was on his way this summer to the scene of his discovery he found out that Sifton had granted the whole creek to Messrs. Gillies Brothers and Hinton.

Now, let us see as to the value of the ground given away so lavishly by this minister, who is so prodigally generous to the Gillies and so perfidious to poor Klondikers.

McGregor has applied for his discovery claim and been refused, though he makes oath and says the exposed rimrock gives 25 cents to the pan. William T. C. Genge swears that he saw 25 cents to the pan washed out of dirt taken from exposed rimrock.

Cudney A. Abel swears of his personal knowledge to the truth of McGregor's statements.

William Perkins swears that he prospected Slate creek for 15 miles and prospects were from 10 to 25 cents to the pan for he saw it washed and weighed.

Fritsy Swinde swears to the gold and is refused a claim he applies for.

All agree that the ground is unmistakably good enough for placer claims of the ordinary size and may be fabulously rich, for no one has yet penetrated to bedrock.

And this is the ground on which a miner who would have measured himself of 253 feet would have been immediately cut down three feet by the government. Hydraulic mining is necessary for the working of poor ground, undoubtedly, but under the present system of dispensing the grants arbitrarily from an office 4000 miles away, there is not only no protection to the miner, but there is opened up an avenue for fraud on the bonafide miners, which appears to be the chief characteristic of Siftonian management. Under such a system Eldorado and Bonanza creeks, instead of being in the hands of a hundred miners, would have been in the hands of two or three men who had personally called upon Mr. Sifton, and by him, been referred to Chief Clerk Riley, who, by the way, appears to be the great intermediary between concessionaries and Sifton.

The whole scheme is on a par with past acts of the clique, which has evidently resolved to milk this country like a cow, and to such an extent that the pick and pan individual miner will gradually be frozen out of the territory. Hundreds of miles of ground in the Yukon will not pay for individual mining, yet will prove a big thing to hydraulic mining companies. Yet, because of this, Sifton, through Ogilvie's recommendation, must not engage in fraudulently giving away vast tracts of Canada's wealthiest mining ground from under the feet of the miners who have at their own expense prospected it and proved it of sufficient value for ordinary placer claims. That men have applied to exhaust their rights on individual claims upon Slate creek should

prove to the people beyond peradventure that a false oath has been subscribed to somewhere by someone who declared the ground incapable of being wanted for any such purpose.

THE HUNKER CONCESSION

Is only one case of where the millions it is known to contain have been withheld from miners and turned over to schemers upon recommendation of a gold commissioner. The official holdings of Hunker concession stock proves most interesting reading, and we should truly like to know how much of the stock of the Gillies Bros. concession on Slaté had to be given up by the concessionaires before "Private Secretary" Riley consented to intercede with his chief, or to yield his professional services to the end of securing the grant.

McGregor is doing the country a great favor in protesting the grant, and it is hoped he will be able to carry it out to the bitter end.

A New Wonder.

A new phenomenon has broken loose to furnish material for theorists to ponder over. This latest marvel is located over on Calder creek, and is in the form of a spring carrying two full sluice heads of water, which spring into existence without any previous warning, and without any apparent cause for existence. The source of the spring is found on the left limit of Calder creek, up the mountain side at an altitude of about 100 feet above the creek. Prior to Sept. 15 there were no indications of the presence of a spring in the neighborhood; not even any seepage, which might suggest the presence of a reservoir beneath the mountain. On the 14th inst., however, prospectors on the creek were startled to see a good sized creek running down the mountain into Calder, more than doubling the volume of water usually carried in that creek.

Investigation showed the facts to be as above stated. The creek issues from a hole in the mountain side and rushes down to join Calder with a roar that can be heard a distance of a half mile. The immediate formation surrounding the source of the creek is a mixture of clay and gravel. Mr. F. A. Klumb, who brings the report of the spring to The Nugget, states that there is no indication of any sulphur or other mineral in the spring. The water is clear and pure, but not quite so cold as that in neighboring streams. He is of the opinion that in case the spring continues running as now appears will be the case, an immense glacier will be formed on the mountain side during the winter.

Territorial Court.

The following motions were heard by Judge Dugas in the territorial court during the week:

The defendant in the case of Hunker vs. Bannerman moved the court for a postponement of trial. The case was set down to be tried as soon as the criminal docket was disposed of.

In Mallory vs. Chute, an order was entered authorizing the taking of evidence by deposition.

The plaintiff in Waring vs. Eckelman applied for an injunction restraining the defendant from mining a certain bench claim, the property in litigation. The judge ordered that both parties refrain from working on the disputed ground until final disposition of the case.

The court reserved its decision on the application for the release of one Creese, who had been arrested by virtue of a writ of capias.

DAWSON'S BIG BRICK BLOCK

Is Pioneering the Way Upon Third Street.

Bricks at \$100 per Thousand Do not Deter Our Citizens—Intended for Warm Storage.

It makes Dawson decidedly metropolitan to see bricks piled up in front of a newly arising edifice and to observe the immortal hod-carrier engaged in the duties which have marked him as the most distinguished inhabitant of any modern city.

Dawson's first brick building is going up on Third street, between Third and Fourth avenues, next to The Nugget office. It is destined undoubtedly to prove the progenitor of a long and illustrious line of brick buildings, and as an ancestor of such promise merits a public and respectful notice.

The ground plan shows an enclosed space of 32.4x72.4, with rubble foundations well down into perpetual frosts. Fifteen inch brick walls support the roof ten feet above the foundation. The walls are built to enclose a dead air space, insuring the retention of heat within the building. The floor and roof will be double and enclose a thickness of building paper. Doors will be well fitted and double, of the storm pattern.

The object of the building is for the storage of perishable goods which will go so far next winter towards making life endurable in Dawson. Unfrozen eggs, potatoes, etc., will once and for ever abolish the old sour dough stories of a bacon and bean diet for the closed season.

The bricks are manufactured in the yards of Welsh, Mansfield and Hobbs, located on the Yukon just below Swede creek, and are of a very fair quality. The clay deposits there are extensive and 40 acres has been secured and much of it cleared and grubbed. The works have already assumed metropolitan proportions.

At a point on the Yukon near Sixty-mile the same gentlemen have opened a ledge of lime rock, and have constructed and are using a kiln with a capacity of 500 bushels. The finished product, as seen at the building, does not compare with the Roche harbor article, but is very strong and serves the purpose. Accidental pieces of quartz, together with "nigger heads," occur in the lime, but can be readily picked out by the mixer.

The sand used is not the sharp, clean Coeur d'Alene article—is rather dark colored and fine, is screened from the river beach at the simple cost of getting it, and is quite serviceable and handy.

The country is full of expert brick masons and plasterers, and the builders are having no trouble on that score. Bricks, just at present, owing to the expense of starting the yard, are from \$80 to \$110 per thousand, a price which precludes the building of brick blocks, except upon the urgent demands of the trade.

Private dining and wine rooms at the Cafe Royal

The Saving of Money is Considerable by Buying at The Ames Mercantile Co.