

The Colonist.

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1897.

Published Every Monday and Thursday

The Colonist Printing & Publishing Company, Limited, Limited Liability

W. H. ELLIS, Manager. A. G. SARGENT, Secretary.

TERMS: THE DAILY COLONIST. Published Every Day except Monday

Per year, postage free to any part of Canada. Five cents per copy in advance.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST. Published every second day.

Per year, postage free to any part of the Dominion of the United States. \$1.00

Per month, if delivered. 75 cents. Subscriptions in all cases are payable strictly in advance.

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THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS.

Referring briefly to the reported intention of the Dominion government to hold alternate claims on the Yukon as a reserve, we said yesterday that it had some good features. After considering it more fully, we must say that the proposal seems an impossible one. It is very desirable that the country should get as much out of the gold mines as can be reasonably obtained; but we are at a loss to see how alternate claims can be retained by the government. Suppose two men go into a district and stake out adjoining claims, must one of them give his claim up to the government? And if so, which one? We can understand how if the government should prospect the whole country and stake out claims, it might sell every alternate one, but it passes our comprehension how they can talk about every alternate claim now. Suppose a man finds a claim at the mouth of a stream and there is not an other claim within five miles of it, will the next claim be retained by the government? The proposition seems an examination to be such an impossible one that we can hardly think any attempt will be made to carry it out. As to the proposed royalty, it is so enormous that it can never be collected. Gold is easily smuggled out of a country and if a large royalty is exacted, it will not be paid. If the royalty were a reasonable figure, say 5 per cent, there would be no disposition on the part of some miners to shirk it, but we fear the majority would, as was the case when Sir James Douglas attempted to collect a royalty on Cariboo gold. If twenty or twenty-five per cent is exacted, a premium will be placed on smuggling outwards, and unless the government is prepared to station an officer on every claim, it would be impossible to collect the amount. If the report from Ottawa is correct, one is almost justified in considering that the government has lost its head over the gold craze. We tell them very frankly that if they attempt to enforce regulations for the reservation of alternate claims and the collection of excessive royalty, they will bring about a state of anarchy on the Yukon. The government should also be very careful lest in seeking to get a revenue out of the mines, it forces the miners to do their purchasing of supplies out of Canada, as they will do if they smuggle out their gold.

OUR UNREASONABLE NEIGHBORS.

The Oregonian is misinformed. It says there is no way to get into the Yukon without crossing United States territory. Our contemporary ought to read up before it undertakes to speak ex cathedra on this subject. In the first place British subjects have just as much right to navigate the Yukon as American citizens have. By the treaty made between Great Britain and Russia in 1825, whereby the rights of the two countries in that part of the Continent were defined, it is expressly stipulated that British subjects shall forever possess the right of free navigation of the rivers flowing across the Russian territory as fully as the same is enjoyed by subjects of the Czar. The United States bought Alaska from Russia and only got what Russia could sell, and this right of free navigation was not and could not be taken away by reason of any treaty between those two powers. But, to remove all doubts, the treaty of Washington between Great Britain and the United States expressly stipulates that the navigation of the Yukon and the Stickeen is free to British subjects. It is not at all likely that the United States government will attempt to inter-

ferre with these treaties, and thereby sacrifice the right to the navigation of the St. Lawrence and the St. John. A few merchants in the Pacific Coast cities of the United States need not flatter themselves with the idea that they can make their government play the part of a repudiator and a pirate among the nations merely to compel a few miners to outfit with them.

There is one point that we would like the Oregonian and every one else to get well into their minds, namely, that there is a perfectly good all-Canadian route to the Yukon, which does not go anywhere near United States territory, even the Oregonian.

The Oregonian says it is hardly likely that a railway will ever be built from the Cariboo Pacific to the Yukon, which it says would be "a stupendous work." It would not be very stupendous at all, for after the first hundred miles or so it would be through easy country, and one that would develop a large business. But it is not necessary to start from the Canadian Pacific.

Wide valleys extend from the ialets of North Western British Columbia all the way to the Yukon waters, and if it is necessary a railway could be put through at no very great cost. Moreover, the railway would run for every mile through a highly mineralized country.

The Oregonian revives the question of the Alaskan boundary, which it thinks will become acute, not because of the ownership of the gold fields, but because the terminal points of some of the routes to the interior are involved. There is only one point so involved, namely, that at the head of Lynn canal, and if that were given without question to the United States, it would make no very great difference, for the reasons we have stated, but the United States is a civilized country, and is not likely to make its reputation sink in the nostrils of foreign governments by refusing to allow goods in transit to cross a narrow strip of land that nobody will ever inhabit, and where it would be utterly impossible to find anyone to buy them. The Oregonian is making an absurd exhibition of itself over this matter. It grieves it and some of its contemporaries very much to know that Canada will not permit United States cities to capture the trade of a portion of Canada.

THE HARDSHIPS OF THE YUKON.

We do not wish to say anything that will encourage any one to go into the Yukon. It would be well nigh impossible anyway. On the contrary, we wish to emphasize to every one who contemplates going the importance of counting well the cost. The expense of outfitting is the least consideration. The journey into the interior is not a very serious matter to healthy men. But the privations, the hardships, the disappointments that will have to be confronted, cannot very well be estimated in advance. We hear of men giving up good situations to embark on a Yukon venture. This, except in the case of a robust young man, with no one dependent upon him, would be a very grievous error, although it is always possible that such a person may make a strike so rich as to make him fully see like wisdom.

What we have to say just now is more for those who stay at home than for those who go. All of those who go into the Yukon will leave friends behind them, who will be anxious as to their welfare. To these we wish to say that there is no danger about crossing the passes. At least there is none on the White pass any more than on many country roads. There is always a risk when people are careless, but with ordinary prudence no one need be at all inconvenienced or endangered on this part of the journey. The trip down the river is long, but not perilous to those who understand such navigation. There are only a few places where there is difficult water, and if the travelers take ordinary precautions they can go through them safely enough. The winter will be long and hard; but we do not know that anyone has yet perished in the Yukon because of the severity of the winter. The chief question to be considered is that of food, although a secondary and very important consideration is that of fuel, and there may be a shortage of dry wood this winter, although it is said there is plenty on the Klondyke. Captain Conside reported in the spring that the stock was getting scarce in some places, and it will doubtless be necessary to carry much of this winter's supply for a considerable distance, that is the supply for districts that have been operated for a year or two. There is coal in the river valley, but just how available it is for use, we do not know. There will be plenty of food this winter, for every one is taking in sufficient for himself, and the river steamers have carried up a good quantity. The fuel question will doubtless be satisfactorily solved. We therefore see no reason why there should be much distress among the miners this winter, unless there is a block on the passes. Next summer, when the prospectors begin to move out into the new districts, the greatest risks will be incurred. We do not wish to convey the impression that a winter on the Yukon bears any resemblance to a picnic. It will be a hard season for novices to put through, and hundreds of them will wish themselves back home again before spring opens. Nevertheless we think there is a dispo-

sition very greatly to exaggerate the danger of the venture, and that the friends of those who go need not be over-anxious for their welfare.

That special party from Chicago that is going to the Klondyke by way of San Francisco and St. Michaels may get there this year; but the chances are against them. They hope to go from San Francisco to St. Michaels in fourteen days longer. Allowing them two days to transfer to steam launches and to get into the Yukon, it is safe to say that, starting as they propose on Saturday next, they will not be able to begin the ascent of the Yukon until after August 26, and they will make pretty good time to do that. They will then have 1,725 miles of steaming up the Yukon to do. At ten miles an hour continuous sailing day and night this will take them into the first week in September. If they have no exceptional delays, they may do it; but they stand a first-class chance of being caught in the ice in the river.

SECRETARY SHERMAN, of President McKinley's cabinet, says no discrimination is made in the United States against British subjects in regard to mining or land tenure. Secretary Sherman simply does not know what he is talking about. Of course British subjects are not treated differently in the United States from other foreigners, but they cannot acquire mining rights. When the gold excitement was on in Alaska many Canadians went up there to take up claims, but were denied the privilege because they were not citizens of the United States. Persons not citizens of the United States find themselves blockaded by the laws in most of the Western States if they attempt to acquire realty of any kind.

SOME very foolish people who came over from Seattle to go North on the Islander allowed themselves to be misled by the representations of the Seattle papers about the proposed collection of duties on the head waters of the Yukon being "only a bluff," and found themselves likely to be in rather straightened circumstances when the duties are paid. The Colonist was told of quite a number of people who would be without money altogether after paying the duties. One or two of them talked rather recklessly about forcing their way past the officers. They will probably change their mind on this point before they get to Lake Tagish. It was a wicked thing to deceive these people into believing that duties would not be exacted.

THERE is a little point about winter mining in Alaska that has not been mentioned. Owing to the fact that the smaller streams freeze up solidly, it is impossible to mine in the bed of the stream simply by lifting out the frozen stream and piling it up on the bank. When spring comes the stream that came down in the previous fall thaws out and can be used for sluicing. It is proverbial that a mill cannot grind with water that has passed, but when it comes to lifting up a river and putting it on the bank so as to have it handy to use in the following spring, you have pretty nearly knocked the old proverb out.

The Nelson Tribune speaks about the Colonist and Mr. Heinze's railway schemes. Will the Tribune oblige us by citing a line from the Colonist which will justify its oft-repeated assertion that the Colonist is aiding Mr. Heinze in his railway schemes? Until the Tribune does this, it will pardon us if we regard it as a malicious falsifier, telling what it knows is not true, simply because it has not wit enough to discuss things that are true and at the same time worth saying.

It was the COLONIST that started the opposition last winter to the proposed lease of Stewart river. Late reports show how right we were. The Stewart is a great river. It may be as rich as any stream ever discovered. Reports say that it is richer than the Klondyke. What a snafu it would have been if the little plan to lease it had not miscarried. What was in that little deal anyhow?

THOSE Seattle men who had to sell their outfits in Victoria because they had not enough money to pay the duties on them, will have not many compliments for the people who deceived them about the alleged "bluff." They have the additional comfort of knowing that they could have bought their goods here just as cheaply and saved the duties.

LODGE CREEK forces itself to the front with as good looking gold as any one wants to look at. We believe this is the latest strike reported; but if any other is heard from before this edition of the Colonist goes to press, the story will be found elsewhere in our columns.

IS THERE much gold in Alaska? We incline to the opinion that great finds will be made there. A vast region at the head of the Copper River, the Tawana and the Kusko-Kwim remains to be prospected. We do not know why the auriferous belt should stop at the 141st meridian.

The avowed policy of the Dominion government to hold every alternate claim in the Yukon for public purposes, so that the people of Canada as a whole shall benefit by the great discoveries, has many things to recommend it.

KOOTENAY MINES.

The Upper Arrow Lake Country Comes to the Front With Good Ore.

Prospecting Duncan River—A Strike on Toad Mountain—The Monarch Bond Taken Up.

One of the biggest discoveries yet made in the Interior is just reported from the Upper Arrow Lake country by Alexander McMaster, who returned last week from Lexington creek, a small stream running into Fish creek, which flows into the northeast arm of the Upper Arrow lake, not far from Arrowhead. He has brought with him several large samples of ore from the Katsup, a claim bonded a year ago by Mr. McMaster, C. A. Baldwin, W. R. Myers and S. C. Chisholm, all of Rossland. Mr. McMaster says a solid body of galena and iron pyrites has been opened and that the hanging wall had not been reached when he came away. The foot wall is slate and it is porphyry on the hanging side. The ledge appears to be fifteen feet wide—that is, it is fifteen feet between the slate and the porphyry. It remains to be determined whether the solid ore extends from wall to wall. The owners of the property were greatly elated when Mr. McMaster returned. All will leave for the mine at once and arrange for the taking out of ore in large quantities. It is ten miles from the lake to the mine and there is a good wagon road all the way except the last three miles. The ore will be packed on horses on the wagon road. Assays show the ore to run 42 ounces in silver and 68 per cent in lead.

PROSPECTING DUNCAN RIVER.

J. M. Anderson, manager of the Gold Hills Exploration Company, is down from the Duncan river country, where he is conducting several prospecting parties in systematic work. He reports satisfactory work by his parties on several tributaries of the Duncan, principally upon Bear, Boulder and East creeks. The locations upon the last named are principally of gold bearing quartz. He also reports a large number of claims in the district and more constantly going in, many coming over from Fort Steele. He brought down a number of fine samples of rich ore, but has had no opportunity to develop the claims. The little stream Idaho, which runs up the Duncan, almost to Bear creek, has been of immense service to prospectors, who rarely take their own boats. Mr. Anderson has now an assayer at his headquarters camp in the person of J. K. Edgar, a son of Speaker Edgar of the House of Commons. Much difficulty is experienced because of the arrangement of the mining divisions, and Mr. Anderson is of opinion that all the territory on the Duncan river side of the divide should be in the Ainsworth mining division, as it is much easier to come to Grand Forks than to go to Trout Lake City to record locations.

THE NEWS SHOWS WELL.

A gold strike of great importance has been made on the Irene on Toad mountain. It is three and a half miles from Nelson, one mile from the Silver King, and is owned by Messrs. Kelly and Driscoll. The claim has a four-foot vein of oxide quartz, carrying free gold, that was discovered during the progress of assessment work. Nearly two years ago Mr. Kelly bought a half interest in the claim for a mere trifle because it overlapped an adjoining one owned by him. He never thought much of it, and neither he nor the former owners made a close inspection of it. Last week he was idly kicking at the dump pile when his eye was arrested by a glint that sent a delicious thrill through him. A closer inspection showed it to be free gold, and specimens taken from it would assay up into the thousands. Mr. Kelly almost stopped on himself in his eagerness to get down the shaft, which was ten feet deep. He found considerable free gold. He at once put a force of men to work sacking the ore on the dump, and will immediately ship it to the smelter. If the returns meet with his expectations, a large force of men will be put to work. The ledge lies in the same belt as the one at Exchequer and Athabasca. The dip is only about 10 degrees to the south, and Mr. Kelly thinks he has a true fissure vein.

THE BOND LIFTED.

On the 21st inst. the bond on the Monarch claim, in Greenwood camp, was taken up. This claim was bonded last January to W. H. Young, formerly of Spokane, but now of Victoria, for \$12,500. The owners were Thos. Humphrey, E. Keighly and J. W. Lind, of Anaconda, who received a cash payment of 10 per cent at the time the bond was given. Now they have received the balance of the purchase money agreed upon.

THEY FEEL LONESOME IN ROSSLAND.

It will be a long cold night for those who go to the Klondyke this season. Men without money and the power of great endurance should stay away from that country; but the thirst for gold will no doubt override every obstacle, and that section will be found as full of starvation and destitution as India in consequence.—Rossland Record.

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E. G. PRIOR & CO., Ld. Ly. Have the following up to date Haying Machines just arrived: Toronto and Brantford Mowers.

upon under the bond, so the ownership of the claim has passed to Mr. Young and those associated with him in the deal, which was arranged by Jack Lacey, formerly of the Com d'Alene country, but now of Anaconda. Sufficient work has been done on the Monarch to entitle the owners to a crown grant, which has been applied for, the usual certificate of improvements having already been issued. The claim is one of three known earlier as the Snowshoe group, which consisted of the Snowshoe, Gold Drop and Monarch.

Premature weakness, spermatorrhoea and diseases of men are curable, and the certain cure is H U D Y A N. H U D Y A N has been tried by 10,000 men living on the Pacific Coast, and it is highly endorsed by these people. Ten thousand living witnesses is better than the greatest fortune a man can save. Ten thousand people say H U D Y A N is good; ten thousand people know H U D Y A N is good; ten thousand people recommend H U D Y A N. If you need a remedy for failing manhood you should get the H U D Y A N remedy treatment.

One of the most important deals that has taken place in this country for some time was the sale of the Pilot Bay smelter to the Omaha-Grant Smelting Company this week. The company is now in full possession of the property, and will proceed at once to get things in shape for resuming operations on a large scale. Just how soon the company will be ready to receive ore is not yet known, but it will certainly be some time yet.

A deal has been completed by Mr. F. H. Silverwood, of Spokane, for the purchase of the Blinmark group, on the South Fork of Kalo creek, for \$35,000.

The Pilot Bay smelter has been purchased by the Omaha and Grant Smelting Company of Denver, Colorado, and Omaha, Nebraska. It is expected that they will at once get things in shape to commence operations on a large scale.

The ore shipments through Kalo for last week were 811 tons.

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It is, of course, desirable that a member of the Provincial Bar should be chosen for the position, rather than that a judge should be sent out to this Province from the East, and we are pleased that the Provincial Bar will be found to contain material thoroughly fitted for the appointment.—Columbian.

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