

WESTERN CANADA'S CLAIMS

Urges Upon the Government to Protect Its Interest.

Against the Enterprise of Its Yankee Neighbors Across the Line—Some Plain Facts.

From Thursday and Friday's Daily.

The future historian of Canada, in chronicling the events transpiring in this country during the Laurier regime, will probably refer to the gold discoveries in the Yukon as being most worthy of notice in consideration of the great opportunities which were thereby opened up to Canadian enterprise and development. In perhaps no other feature of its policy has the Liberal government so egregiously failed in its duties to the people of this country.

Passing by for the occasion the scandals which have sprung from the administration of the country, let us consider the effect of the 10 per cent royalty.

Under present conditions, of the \$200,000 collected in 1899, which was less than 5 per cent of the total gold exportation, the principal contributor was the honest miner, although he was treated somewhat, doubtless, by stock companies, and mine owners who tried to take any chance of confiscations. Now, the miner who leads a hard life is certainly entitled to consideration at the hands of the government. It is no wonder that he becomes discouraged with a country which puts a heavy handicap upon his labor. The present heavy royalty has largely the effect of either making him a perjurer or driving him from the country to seek elsewhere conditions which are not so oppressive. If he goes, as has been the case in many instances in the Yukon, with him also goes royalty and revenue of every kind. If his lot is made easy, he will develop the country, and trade and revenue will consequently increase.

The shrewdness and foresight which has marked the American government's appreciation of the Yukon situation is in striking contrast to the lack of statescraft displayed by the Liberal administration. When the gold discoveries were made known to the world, the authorities at Washington made haste to establish an assay office at Seattle for the purchase of gold as it came from the Yukon. The certificates issued by this department were made payable either in Seattle or other cities in the United States, as desired, without any charge for exchange. The result has abundantly justified the step from an American standpoint. The city of Seattle is today being built up by the millions of gold which annually pass Vancouver on the way to the United States assay office at Seattle.

Exchanged for money, goods are purchased in that city and carried back to Vancouver in American vessels to Skagway en route to Dawson. As some 10 per cent of the goods going into the Yukon are brought to the Pacific coast from the east, the farmers, merchants, and manufacturers of Eastern Canada form some idea of the millions of money annually lost to them under the present policy of the Liberal government.

When the provincial government of British Columbia a year ago attempted to divert some of this trade by guaranteeing the assay certificates of offices established at Vancouver and Victoria, it was found that on account of necessary charges for exportation of the gold, and exchange, these certificates were at a disadvantage compared with Seattle money values. It was demonstrated that even were the assay offices in these cities on a par with Seattle, the gold could not be had, because fully 75 per cent of those coming out with gold dust were Americans who make Seattle their headquarters. These miners would wait several days longer at Skagway for an American boat sailing direct to Seattle in preference to going by a British vessel to a British Columbia port. A premium is actually placed on this wholesale exportation of gold to Seattle, because gold dust at Dawson under existing conditions is sold at a discount from its real value that the expense of taking a trip out to the coast is paid for by the difference obtained by selling the precious metal at the Seattle assay office.

That it is the government's duty to carefully examine its position on this subject must be apparent to every one who would see Canada reap as much as possible for Canadians from the wealth of the northern gold fields. It has been suggested to tax the gold as it leaves the country rather than the

miner who digs it, if thereby trade could be promoted and the necessary revenue for administration obtained. For, where the dust is exchanged, the money will be spent; and the Yukon miner does not generally trouble himself searching for low prices. If an assay office were established by the Canadian government at Dawson for the exchange of gold dust for currency, there would certainly not be the same inducement for the miner to leave Dawson for Seattle or elsewhere. Merchants and commercial travelers could then meet and do business in Dawson and much of the trade now going to Seattle could be captured by Canadians.

By the abolition of the present 10 per cent royalty and the establishment of a government assay office in Dawson for the purchase of gold dust, making liable to confiscation any gold being taken out of the country without the appointed fees being paid, a great burden would be lifted from the shoulders of the miners. The gold could be exchanged for Canadian bank notes, and sufficient deducted to pay royalty, maintenance, transportation and insurance on the gold. If the miner, on the other hand, wished to take the gold out he would have to go to the assay office and pay the charges just the same. This would result in most of the precious metal being sold in Dawson.

And the miner coming out would not have so much inducement to pass Canadian cities. Indeed, having Canadian notes and drafts he would be drawn to Canadian ports where his money would be received at par.

Western merchants are fully alive to the golden opportunity which Canadians, under the present government are missing, and the Vancouver Board of Trade has passed a strong resolution appealing to the Dominion government for the abolition of the obnoxious royalty and the establishment of a government assay office at Dawson.—Vancouver Province.

Fire Protection Suggestions.

Although last night was the date for the regular meeting of the Board of Trade, no meeting took place owing to the absence of Mr. Joslin, Mr. McMullen and others, which left the board without a quorum.

Some informal discussion of public affairs took place between the members present, and some very interesting correspondence was read. One letter in particular, from Montgomery Beggs, of San Francisco, dealing with fire protection and insurance rates, was very much to the point, and contained many valuable suggestions. Chief among these was one regarding fire walls. These, the writer suggests could be built at not too heavy a cost, of red wood and asbestos, placed in alternated layers of three or four in thickness, and the whole covered with iron.

This combination, the writer, who is an acknowledged authority on fire protection, assures the Board will check a fire just as effectively as a brick wall, and can be built at a comparatively small cost.

His suggestions concerning the substitution of brick or terra cotta for ordinary stove pipes, has been made before, and is not at present practicable here by reason of scarcity of some of the material and therefore the expense is too great.

What he has to say about water service is good, but unfortunately impracticable under the existing state of affairs in that direction.

A Yellow Publication.

On September 6th, when the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's steamer Walla Walla, from San Francisco for Puget sound, arrived at Victoria she was ordered to the quarantine station at William Head, where the passengers and crew, in all upwards of 200 persons, were retained for two weeks.

That the "marooned" party had a lively time is evidenced from a four-column folio paper gotten up on the island which they named Microbeville and printed at Victoria. The paper is called the Walla Walla Suspect, and is printed on yellow paper. At the mast head appears the name of the Walla Walla's captain, A. L. Hall, as proprietor; Geo. Butler, who reached here yesterday, is editor-in-chief, but as he has 15 assistants, it is not likely George has much to do but use the blue pencil.

Every line in the paper is original and much of it indicates remarkable journalistic aptness. A sketch artist was not wanting, and the publication is appropriately if not beautifully illustrated. One pleasing feature about the detention at the island was that there were no cases of smallpox.

Lowering Water Mains.

D. A. Matheson has a large force of men at work digging ditches into which the water mains encased in boxes, will be lowered and the company is confident that this process will prevent freezing, which it probably will in the larger mains in which the water is kept in circulation. Owing to the large number of men employed in the work, only ten days or two weeks will be required in which to complete it.

NO MORE CROWN REVERTING

Of Claims After the 9th of the Present Month.

But all Will Be Subject to Relocation—Present Reverted Claims Announced November Second.

Too late for publication yesterday, a brief synopsis of the following very important orders just received from Ottawa by Mr. J. Langlois Bell, assistant gold commissioner for this district, was given. Here are the orders in full: Privy Council of Canada. Order 2117.

Extract from a report of a committee of the honorable the privy council, approved by his excellency on the 4th September, 1900.

On a memorandum dated 27th August, 1900, from the minister of the interior, stating that by an order in council, dated the 5th of September, 1899, the action taken by the minister of the interior in instructing the commissioner of the Yukon territory to reserve from entry until further notice the hill and bench claims on Bonanza and Eldorado creek which were not entered for at the date upon which the instructions were received by him, was approved.

The minister is of the opinion that the time has now come for throwing open to entry the claims to which reference is made in the above mentioned order in council.

The minister therefore recommends that the order in council of the 5th of September, 1899, above referred to, be not acted upon hereafter.

The committee submit the same for your excellency's approval.

JOHN J. M'GEE,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

The Honorable the Minister of the Interior:

I hereby certify that the above order in council comes into force upon the 9th day of October, 1900.

J. LANGLOIS BELL,
Assistant Gold Commissioner.

Privy Council of Canada. Order 2095. At the Government House at Ottawa, Tuesday, the 4th day of September, 1900.

His Excellency in Council:

Whereas, by an order in council, dated the 7th of October, 1899, provision is made for the amount of work to be done on a placer mining claim in the Yukon territory, or the amount to be paid to the crown in commutation thereof, in order that a holder of a claim may be entitled to a renewal of his entry therefor, and paragraph 6 of the said order in council provides that no mining claim, forfeited for whatever cause, shall be relocated, but every such claim shall revert to the crown to be disposed of as the minister of the interior may direct.

And whereas, it appears that this provision has not proved the effectual protection to the bona fide miner that it was intended to secure, and that the reversion to the crown of mining claims, forfeited for any cause is not likely to promote the future development of the territory.

Therefore, his excellency, by and with the advice of the queen's privy council for Canada, is pleased to order that the order in council of the 7th of October, 1899, above referred to shall be and the same is hereby rescinded and the following substituted in lieu thereof.

Any free miner having duly located and recorded a claim shall be entitled to hold it for a period of one year from the recording of the same, and thence from year to year by re-recording the same, provided, however, that during each year and each succeeding year, such free miner shall do, or cause to be done, work on the claim itself to the value of \$200, and shall satisfy the mining recorder that such work has been done by an affidavit of the free miner, corroborated by two reliable and disinterested witnesses, setting out a detailed statement of the work done, and shall obtain from the mining recorder a certificate of such work having been done, for which a fee of \$2 will be charged.

Provided, that all work done outside of a mining claim with intent to work the same shall, if such work has direct relation and be in direct proximity to the claim, be deemed, if to the satisfaction of a responsible government officer, to be work done on the claim for the purpose of this section.

Provided, further, that any free mine or company of free miners holding adjoining claims not exceeding eight in number, may, notwithstanding anything in the regulations to the contrary, work the same in partnership un-

der the provision of the regulations upon filing a notice of their intentions with the mining recorder and upon obtaining a certificate from him, for which a fee of \$2 will be charged. This certificate will entitle the holders thereof to perform on any or more of such claims all the work required to entitle him or them to a certificate of work for each claim so held by him or them.

The holder of a claim may, at his option, in lieu of the work required to be done thereon each year pay to the mining recorder in whose office the claim is recorded the sum of \$200 for each of the first three years, but for the fourth and succeeding years the sum of \$400 must be paid in lieu of work done on the location or in connection therewith, as provided by the regulations.

A certificate from the mining recorder that such payment has been made shall relieve the person making it from the necessity of doing any work during the year.

If at the end of the year the annual amount of work has not been performed, nor the commutation fee paid, as above stated, the claim shall be deemed to be abandoned, and open to occupation and entry by a free miner.

Any amounts received in lieu of assessment work shall form part of the consolidated revenue.

JOHN J. M'GEE,
Clerk of the Privy Council.

I hereby certify that the above order in council comes into force upon the 9th day of October, 1900.

J. LANGLOIS BELL,
Assistant Gold Commissioner.

Will Have Hard Times.

From now until the close of navigation every day will witness the arrival in Dawson of many men who will experience difficulty in living through the winter or until work regularly opens on the various creeks, as there will be but a limited amount of winter work done in many localities. These men are coming in on scows in which capacity they are, of course, required. For the past ten days there have been notices conspicuously posted in Skagway which read: "Men wanted to go to Dawson on scows at \$5 per day and board."

This card is catching hundreds, and it is but natural that it should, for the very plausible reason that \$5 and board looks big and is big in the eyes of those who heretofore have considered \$2 per day without board big pay. As ten days is the average time required to bring scows at the present stage of the water from Bennett to Dawson, the majority of these men will land here with only their salary, \$50, and that amount in Dawson does not go far in supporting an unemployed man, as many learned last fall to their sorrow and regret.

It will not do to take these men up as vagrants for the reason that they are coming in good faith, and, in many instances, believing that there is no doubt but that they can find employment. That hundreds will be grievously disappointed is a foregone conclusion, and that many will experience hardships is certain.

Will They Make It?

In Dawson at present are several of the most uneasy men the city has ever contained, the cause of the uneasiness being that their individual wives are supposed to be somewhere between Seattle and this place, but headed this way, the question of concern being: Will they make it or will they be delayed because of low water and caught in the ice? None of the C. D. Co.'s steamers will make another round trip and it is extremely doubtful if the smaller boats will succeed in doing so. The small streams and feeders all being frozen or frozen so as to greatly reduce the volume of water which they have been pouring into the Yukon or its tributaries, the water in the steamer channel has fallen very rapidly lately, so much so that navigation is now a matter of difficulty and considerable danger. For scows and light craft, however, it is thought there will be no hindrance for some weeks to come.

Two Views of the Same Man.

"Why did you take that man's case?" the fresh graduate of the law school asked after his father, the old attorney, had bowed a client out of the office. "There is no possibility that you can win it for him. One glance at his face shows that he is the briber and all around rascal he is accused of being."

"Is that so?" the old man replied. "I'm sorry to hear it—really sorry. I wish I had known it."

"Why, you must have been able to see for yourself if you are any judge of character at all."

"I am usually pretty good at such things, but I must confess that I didn't notice it in this case. In fact, I didn't see his face at all."

"Didn't see his face?"

"No. He had a wallet in his hand that took my eye. Now you go to work and copy off that brief, and after this if you want to learn the business watch me, not the other fellow's face."

—Chicago Times-Herald.

NEARLY DROWNED YESTERDAY

Young Jack Dormer Was Saved by Carl Gilbert.

The Boys Were Playing in a Boat Near St. Mary's Hospital, When One of Them Fell In.

Last evening near the foot of the steps leading down to the river near St. Mary's hospital, there came near being a tragedy and would have been one in fact, had it not been for the courage and presence of mind of 10-year-old Carl Gilbert, who, by his cool headedness and promptitude at the critical moment saved the life of his companion Jack Dormer.

The boys had gone down to the river to play, which of course, to make the story complete and truly conventional, at least one of them had been forbidden to do. Arriving at the beach, it was found that the pieces of drift which comes that way, floating from the city above, did not come close enough in shore to be conveniently reached from the bank, and, as usual, there was the convenient boat, moored just at the right spot. They climbed into this and found that from the stern they could reach almost everything coming down.

The boys played here for some time, and, in accordance with juvenile ideas, were having lots of fun, when the end came.

Young Jack Dormer was up on the stern seat reaching over into the water after something when he was suddenly precipitated overboard, and the water was deep, the current strong, and just here is where the hero in knee breeches comes in.

Carl Gilbert, when his companions' feet slipped on the frosty seat, and he went headlong to the depths below, did not do as most of boys, and plenty of grown people would have done; he did not run to the shore for help, but having a stick in his hand he fixed himself securely in the stern of the boat and waited for Jack to come to the surface, which he did presently a few feet below where he went down, and entirely out of reach of the boat. Carl promptly put the end of his stick in the hands of the boy struggling in the water. Then began the struggle to get him out.

Fortunately for all concerned, Mrs. Dormer, the mother of the boy in the water, had become uneasy at the absence of the young idea, and, knowing where he was apt to be, went to the river looking for him. Arriving at the top of the hill she saw the boys in the boat; saw Jack's dangerous position in the stern of the boat, and was just in the act of calling to them to come away when Jack fell in.

Of course the mother made all haste to the rescue, where she arrived just in the nick of time.

"Hold on a little longer, Jack," said Carl, who had heard the mother coming, "your mother is coming."

"Hold on to him, Carl," called Mrs. Dormer, "I am coming."

"I can't hold on much longer," was the reply coming from the trembling lips of Carl, who was holding on with all his might. Then the mother arrived and succeeded after some difficulty in dragging the venturesome but now thoroughly wet, frightened and half-drowned Jack from the Yukon.

All this is well enough, and may incite other boys to emulate the action of young Gilbert, but it might be as well for both boys and parents to remember that all companions of boys who go fooling around the river are not Carl Gilberts, and that even in this instance the occurrence only, missed being a tragedy by the merest hair's breadth and a combination of circumstances almost providentially fortunate.

Boys of that age should be kept away from the river, which, by reason of the extreme coldness of the water is one of the most dangerous in the world, and if their memories are not long enough to remember when they have been told not to go a means of lengthening them will readily be connived by the discerning parent.

Justice Dugas Returns.

Last evening when the Columbian tied up at the C. D. dock, a great many passengers came ashore, and many of them were expected by friends who were on hand to meet them. One of the last parties to leave the boat was Mr. Justice Dugas and wife, who were met by Mr. Girouard, P. C. Wade and others.

The justice is looking well and seems in better health than when he left here, and is, in excellent spirits, and says that while he had a pleasant time while away he is very glad to get back to Dawson.