

HOW A CANADIAN VIEWS THINGS.

Argument Against Some of the Mining Laws.

The Ten Per Cent Royalty and the Reservation of Claims to the Crown Comes in for Severe Criticism.

EDITOR KLONDIKE NUGGET: Dear Sir:—I note with much interest the article in the last issue of the Klondike Sun, entitled "Of Interest to Miners," in which a number of questions regarding the mining laws of this territory are asked, and through the kindness of the government officials answered. These questions are of vital importance to all parties throughout the district, and the gentleman who wrote the article signed "Canadian" certainly deserves the thanks of the public and especially of the miners for bringing these questions so prominently before the public. A great deal of confusion has arisen among the miners, owing to the lack of knowledge of these laws, and I would ask the privilege, as a brother Canadian, of adding a few remarks on the subject through your valued paper.

I am proud to be a brother Canadian and a British subject, and always boasted of the mining laws of each of the provinces which form the Dominion as being superior to the mining laws of any other nation. But certainly I am ashamed, as a Canadian, for the present existing mining laws of the North West Territory. I do not think the government intended such to be the case, and they must have been ill-advised for the good of the country or they lack the proper knowledge of the condition and situation of affairs.

Allow me to congratulate the government officials upon the law and order maintained by the military force, as no better could be desired.

With regard to the first question, as to the reserving of the alternate 10 claims by the government, I would say, as a Canadian, that it was never the intention of the government at Ottawa to reserve the first ten claims above or below discovery.

If this had been the government's intention they would certainly have mentioned the same as I am of the opinion that the government intended the public to locate the first ten above and below, as per clause 16.

The reserving of the alternate 10 claims by the government in a mining country like this, is a great wrong, and an injustice to the poor prospector, who has to endure all the hardships and privations that necessarily fall to his lot here. It reminds one of a hawk watching the crow build its nest, lay its eggs and then swoop down and rob it. Why don't the government reserve so many miles or certain unexplored rivers and tributaries in unexplored districts and prospect them at their own will and pleasure and apply the proceeds to the government coffers?

Regarding the second question, take the following instance, for example, and which of the men obtain possession of the claim. A miner locates a new gulch, say one hundred miles from recorder's office, and plants stakes on the day of his discovery. He works on his claim for (let us say) six days (as per clause 2) to assure himself that the property is valuable. He reaches the recorder's office on the seventh day and finds that the creek was located by another party, at a different point, five days after he had staked out his discovery and that this claim had been recorded the day before his arrival.

As to the third question, I think in all fairness, that this ruling should be changed. For instance, if a party of four pack overland to the Stewart or boat up the river, carrying only provisions enough for three or four months, and locate claims, I cannot understand why one of the party could not be deputized to record all the claims, allowing the other three to remain and prepare for winter working. This would be just to the prospector and it certainly would develop the mineral resources more rapidly.

In the fourth question the ruling is right in the fifth and sixth, if it is the ruling of the commissioner the public has simply to abide by it.

As to the seventh, I should suggest that to have the country properly prospected and developed where two or more claims are held by one party or company, the owner should be allowed to do all his representation on one claim, if desired, under the supervision of a mine inspector, the government establishing a price for amount of work to be done for each claim.

Eighth, this is right and will avoid disputes and litigation.

Ninth, if the government declares the tributaries of the Stewart river or the Pelly or Big Salmon separate districts, the same as the tributaries of the Yukon, I think it would meet the approval of the majority.

Tenth, No doubt this request will be granted. In conclusion, with reference to the 10 per cent royalty on the gross output, less the \$2,500 allowed by the government. This is wrong and an injustice to the miner and detrimental to our country. It is simply doing a great many Canadians an injustice, as well as those of other nationality, which is to be regarded at this stage of the boom. Why not collect a royalty on all gold that is exported to foreign countries?

Yours truly,
THE OTHER CANADIAN.
Dawson City, June 29, 1898.

The Administration Commended.

In reference to the article in your issue of June 25th under the heading "Martial Law," allow me to state that I consider the article as very unjust. If the rights of any section of the community have been infringed upon,

would it not be the main way for the parties concerned to wait on the administration in person and seek redress before going to the press? If any officer of the law exceeds his authority, there is redress; but in the case referred to there is yet a wide margin to work on. Major Walsh has the respect and sympathy of all sober-thinking people, both in the matter of closing the sautoos and sawmills on the Sabbath.

The plea for running the mills could be extended to apply to all kinds of labors, and is perfectly untenable. There is nothing of the nature of despotism in the present administration; but, on the contrary, it is thoroughly in accord with British institutions and laws.

There is not one standard of laws as applying to mining camps and another to the more staid centers; and the man who has the courage to apply the standards to such an important camp as Dawson, making life and property absolutely safe, and securing order, such as was never seen before in any mining camp in the world, should have the sympathy rather than the criticism of all good citizens.

S. S. GRANT.

THE RESTAURANT FIGHT.

Prices Lowered From Fifty to One Hundred Per Cent in One Day.

WAR TO THE KNIFE is on among the restaurants of Dawson, and where it will end cannot at this time be said. Heretofore meals have been served at the uniform price of \$2.50. About the middle of last week, however, one of the up-town houses cut the price down to \$1.25 and most of the other restaurants have followed suit, compromising, however, for the most part on \$1.50. As far as is known only one house is holding on to the old rate and the proprietor announces that the reduction made by the other restaurants will cut no figure with him.

The prices on fresh meats, potatoes and eggs still continue high and it is said among many owners of restaurants that unless the cost of these staples comes down very considerably there will be no money in the business.

The owners of the Waldorf stated to a Nugget representative that present prices will prove ruinous to the business. They did not know where the cut originated but had come down in their price in order to meet competition.

Messrs. Stevens and Moss of the Skookum restaurant expressed a similar opinion. "We are paying \$1.50 per pound for meat and \$2.50 per dozen for eggs," said Mr. Stevens, "and it is easy for any one to figure out that a first-class meal cannot be served with prices of commodities so high. In addition to this a good deal of the meat that comes in is not absolutely fresh and good and the restaurant man who lays under the impression that it is all right must stand the loss or lower the standard of his house."

Mrs. Glee of the Arcade is also of the opinion that there is no profit in the restaurant business at prevailing prices. Nevertheless she has met the cut and has no intention of backing down. Altogether the restaurant fight is a merry one, and so long as it results to the advantage of the general public, the public is in hopes that the war will continue.

Delayed Personals.

C. D. Ford, of Salem, Ore., is a recent arrival. C. P. Don and James H. Woodery, of Seattle, arrived here a week ago.

W. L. Reynolds, Ira Rank, Otis Rank and H. O. Perkins, of Seattle, arrived last Friday night. Dawson's population is estimated by some of the officials at about twenty thousand people.

John Huff, James Riddell and C. A. Crain are among the Seattleites who have arrived recently.

Mrs. Jennie Jensen, of Juneau; Miss Annie Bened and Miss M. Schmidt, of San Francisco, are among recent arrivals.

Another seventy head of beef cattle arrived last Thursday and are quartered on the sand bar at the mouth of the Klondike.

M. D. K. Wearner, Dr. G. M. Jones and Ed. Garmo, who are interested in properties near Eagle City, left for that place last week.

A private telephone wire has been run from the office of the telephone company, at Klondike City, to the office of the gold commissioner in Dawson.

D. W. Bryan, of Port Angeles, Wash.; B. F. Drinkley, Zack Clark, G. A. McCann, J. C. Craig, J. C. Hill, W. W. Wardell, A. Guber, Gus Winkler and Geo. Marlin, all of Seattle, are among recent arrivals.

E. Janne de Lamare, representing a French syndicate, known as la Societe Francaise de Klondike has been investigating Dawson properties for some time past. Mr. de Lamare will return to Paris next month.

Chas. Powell, who for the past five years has been with Sartori & Co., of Seattle, is at the Dominion. He has been receiving the congratulations of his many friends on the luxurious crew of whisks with which he is adorned.

Dawson is big in money matters. The recently arrived corps of the Salvation Army find no difficulty in making collections. It comes in in gold dust and big silver "cart-wheels." However, they have no headquarters and are badly in need of a barracks.

The barracks of the N. W. M. P. include about a square acre of ground enclosed by a high stockade of cotton-wood. The posts have all put out sprouts, giving promise of picturesqueness after a while. However, the promise will not be filled. There will be no leaves after this year.

Dr. Pohl, of Forest Grove, Ore., arrived on the Willie Irving, and his outfit, in charge of Albert Caples of same place, arrived Monday night. Included in the latter party were Miss Shanney, of Denver; Harry Dick, of Port Angeles; Wm. Cunningham and Miss Ruth Howard, of Philadelphia.

John Kill and C. L. Dixon came in last Friday with 500 head of sheep. They have them in pasture six miles up the river, and will slaughter them as the market demands. Mr. Kill and Mr. Dixon brought down their sheep in two scows, and had a very successful trip, only losing one sheep after leaving Seattle. The party consisted of Henry Zempel, B. W. Good, James Becking, Gust, Banks, Otto Dahms, Albert Eagenberg and Joe Duncanson. It will be remembered that Mr. Kill made a very successful trip into Dawson last fall with cattle, coming in over the Dalton trail. On the way out his sack of dust, containing \$2,734 disappeared very mysteriously, and no trace of it has been discovered to this day.

SOME VERY PERTINENT QUESTIONS.

Will Mr. Healy Make Answer to Them All.

It May Be a Case of the "Public Be Damped," But They Will Ask Questions, You Know, For They Want to Know the Truth.

"I am obliged to you for the compliment paid me in your last issue, but suggest that, in the future, you learn the truth before publishing articles regarding matters you are not familiar with. If you publish all the lies you hear in this country, you will be kept quite busy."—J. J. HEALY, June 29th.

A few questions, Mr. Healy:

Is it true that last winter it was impossible for the average citizen here to get goods at your store, and yet the women of the town were never denied any article you had in your warehouse?

Is it true that you would sell a pound only of tobacco to any one applicant, on the ground that that caddy was all you had, but that you had sent dog teams to Forty-mile for some; and that later you went into your warehouse and brought out another caddy and sold it at a high price, owing to the great expense in dog teaming?

Is it true that this operation was repeated several times with tobacco and other articles? And is it true that most of the goods so sold never traveled behind a dog team?

Is it true that a certain government agent, in position to do you financial good, or otherwise, could get anything he wanted for himself and friends when the public could get nothing in the line of edibles?

Is it true that you recently denied passage on your boats to an old customer of yours because he was very sick, even though he had the price and wanted to pay first-class fare?

Is it true that you refused passage to another man recently who was slightly indisposed, but on the judge of this district coming to you, you changed your mind and sold the ticket without the question being argued?

Is it true that in times gone by you have refused passengers on your boats the privilege of dicker with the Indians, on the ground that it interfered with your business?

Is it true that last fall you had orders on your books for goods and the gold thereof in your safe, yet those orders were not filled only in a limited percentage, while newcomers and the gentle sex—especially the latter—had no trouble getting their winter stock?

Is it true that the confidence of the miners and their rights as the pioneers of the country had been so abused by your company, that but for the presence of the police here last winter, personal violence would have been done you?

Is it true that on one occasion in the early history of the town you agreed to let the miners have supplies if they would go down the river a ways and cut so many cords of wood; and when they had done so and come back you refused them the full order until they should go and cut just so much more, and, being entirely at your mercy, had to do so or starve, while rich claimants on Eldorado remained undeveloped?

Is it true that you happened to have a barrel of alcohol on hand about last Christmas, when whiskey was scarce, and that you thought so much of it that you hated to let it go till Pete McDonald offered you \$3,000 for it, when you parted with it?

Is it true that on one occasion in the early history of the town you agreed to let the miners have supplies if they would go down the river a ways and cut so many cords of wood; and when they had done so and come back you refused them the full order until they should go and cut just so much more, and, being entirely at your mercy, had to do so or starve, while rich claimants on Eldorado remained undeveloped?

But what is the use of any more questions just now? Mr. Healy, our columns are open to you for answers to these interrogations. The public would like to hear from you, having heard so much of you.

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