

LARGE LOSS OF REVENUE.

Results to the Government From Pernicious Legislation.

The Law Withdrawing Abandoned Claims From Relocation Is a Boomerang.

(From Friday's Daily.)

The effect of the recent law withdrawing from relocation claims which have been abandoned by the original locators is becoming patent to the resident government officials. They are aware of the pernicious result of this latest blunder in the management of Yukon affairs. None of the territorial officers are disposed to commit themselves as actively opposed to the measure; but nevertheless they are cognizant of the detrimental effect which the country is now experiencing.

The provisions of the law became operative on the 8th day of last December. It has resulted in compelling energetic men to live a life of idleness; it is the cause of urging countless numbers to try their fortunes on the Alaskan shore at Nome.

Perhaps the powers at Ottawa will be induced to repeal this piece of legislation the effect of which is as baneful to the government as it is to the miners.

Loss of revenue will attract the attention of Minister Sifton and his associates more quickly than petitions and memorials. The government has lost heavily on account of the passage of this law. The loss is greater than most people imagine or than Ottawa authorities yet realize. The regulation has been in force only a month and a half yet the treasury, during the past 45 days, has been deprived of an amount exceeding \$13,000. Let Mr. Sifton and his advisers peruse the reports of the recorder for the month of December and January to date, and compare them with those for the same period of a year ago.

From the 8th of December, 1898, to January 18th, 1899, the local office issued 469 mining licenses, which aggregated in revenue the amount of \$4690. During the same time 760 placer claims were recorded, the fee for each of which was \$15; this source of revenue amounted to \$11,400. The total sum derived from licenses and recording fees during that period was \$16,090. Now compare these figures with those for the time since the 8th of last December. From December 8th, 1899, to January 18th, 1900, there were issued 269 mining licenses, which amount to \$2960; and during the same space of time only 65 placer mines were recorded from which the government derived \$975. The total sum obtained from licenses and recording fees is \$3935. The difference in the revenues accruing to government equals \$12,155.

The loss of this vast sum of money is directly attributable to the law withdrawing from relocation those claims which have been abandoned. These figures only cover the space of 45 days, taken immediately after the law became operative and comparing them with the same period of time a year ago.

At the present the occupation of prospecting for placer gold is suspended. Everybody knows that the entire country has been staked, and that thousands of unprospected claims have been abandoned. It is to these abandoned properties that prospectors would turn their attention, if the law permitted. Undoubtedly, some of the claims would be low enough to warrant development, and ultimately new producers would be added to the list of paying properties. Men who are willing to prospect are constrained to remain idle.

When Mr. Sifton realizes his grievous mistake, not only to the miners of this district but likewise to his own government, he will be stupid, if he does not immediately rectify it.

Fulda's Inventive Genius.
Ever since the late fire the subject of plans for future protection has been dis-

ussed every time two or more men have been congregated. At a late meeting of the trustees of the Board of Trade the matter was discussed at length and the many dissertations so effected President Fulda that he grew reminiscent with the result that the following story was perpetrated on those present: "One time in San Francisco in the days when everybody was either selling or buying hand grenades, I conceived an idea of a fire extinguisher which was this: I took demijohns (after they were empty, of course) and filled them with a fluid of great fire extinguishing properties, into which I dropped a cartridge to which was attached a fuse. In case of fire all I had to do was to take a firebrand, run around and light the various fuses, the demijohns being hung upon the walls, then run for my life and let 'er go."

Each member of the board seemed awe struck at the gigantic genius of the president and as there was a demijohn sitting on the table around which the meeting assembled, every man began to shy off as though he expected every moment to be blown into a four bit order of hash. Seeing the consternation he had wrought, the worthy president said: "Does any gentleman remember the remark made by the governor of North Carolina to the governor of South Carolina?" And the way the meeting again got around that table caused the Daily Nugget man to imagine for a moment that he was back in Florida at a Democratic convention.

P. S.—There was no cartridge with fuse attachments in that demijohn.

New Automobile Engine.

The fire commissioners held an important meeting Tuesday evening. Only routine work was to be taken up, but the late fire brought the commissioners to a discussion on what is needed to prevent and fight fires, and as a result Dawson will see no more of the large conflagrations which have brought disaster to its inhabitants so often. Mr. Ogilvie, chairman of the fire commissioners, was called upon by a representative of this paper and he gives a most encouraging report for the future protection of Dawson.

"The fire commissioners at their last meeting," said M. Ogilvie, "decided to secure more apparatus and equipment. We have entered into correspondence with several fire engine manufacturers for the purpose of receiving an automobile fire engine with the combined capacity of both of the engines which we have now. The new engine will be able to propel itself, doing away with horses, which will in one season more than pay the extra cost of an automobile. In winter time it can easily and with dispatch be run to the immediate front of a fire, which will be in itself of great importance in the saving of hose and high pressure. I am a firm believer in larger hose, about three and a half inches in diameter, being considered more valuable in this cold climate. During the late fire the ice formed on the inside of the hose to a half inch thickness, and a little more than that at the coupling, cutting the stream down a great deal. In a larger hose, as I have suggested, it will not freeze more than a half inch, so you see it will still be throwing a large stream."

"We will enact any laws which we think necessary to prevent, and use every means obtainable to fight fires. The fire company at the Forks has asked for one of the small chemical engines, which we will loan them, and when our new truck arrives we will loan them the one we are using at present. The new apparatus will be ordered as soon as possible that it may arrive at the opening of navigation. I think from now on we can solve the vexed problem of fire protection."

Superior Court.

In Judge Dugas' court yesterday the case of Kleinschmidt vs. the N. A. T. & T. Co. for money, was dismissed. The attention of the court this forenoon was occupied in the hearing of motions regarding cases pending.

Most complete line of ladies' purses ever shown in Dawson. Nugget office.

EVENING OF FINE SPORT.

Series of Contests Given at Ford's Club Gymnasium.

A Large Audience Enjoys the Fun and Encourages the Contestants—Other Events Will Follow Soon.

When the lovers of athletics can see such a clean exhibition of fistics and wrestling as was to be seen at Ford's Club gymnasium last night, it is not to be wondered at that the place was crowded. It was pleasant indeed to see the various combatants work as it was for a purse instead of a friendly bout they were engaged in. The boxing was fast, clean and clever and the same may be said of the wrestling. A noticeable feature was the conspicuous absence of the man who claims to be a sport but will always yell, "Knock him out, Jim! Put it on t' him, Dick! Kill him, Billy!" etc.

The town is to be congratulated that at last a club has been formed for the purpose of having good clean sport, a place where the men are pitted in friendly contest. Last night's program was well arranged and the management announced that it would be much better next Thursday.

The exercise in bag punching by Phil Smith was a clever bit of work and received its full share of attention.

Jack Devine and Merritt Barnes, in a four round contest for the championship of Comedy Hollow, put up a most laughable set to.

Phil Smith and Pat Malloy then went on to the mat for four fast rounds, during which some of the pretty points in boxing were illustrated. Let no one imagine that Malloy is not a first rate capable of putting up a winning fight with any man his weight and the pace he set last night though not effecting him considerably distressed Smith.

The Hungarian (Hungry), Kid and Stull went on the mat for a 15 minute wrestling bout. The Kid has been training for some time but did not have strength or activity enough for his nery scientific opponent.

Sam Moore and Merritt Barnes were scheduled for four rounds. In the first minute of the first round Sam received a blow below the waist which put him out of business for five minutes. These men put up a pretty exhibition of cleverness and the last round ended all too soon.

C. Morrison and Jack Devine were next introduced and indeed they gave a very neat exhibition of wrestling still it was a poor match in regard to weight. Morrison being in the mosquito class while Devine was built to move houses. Their work was very clever nevertheless.

Bert Ford and Pat Malloy went on the mat for 15 minutes wrestling. It was wrestling from the east of time and, barring a few sailor holds, was a lively and very interesting bout.

Manager Ford would do well for the comfort of his patrons to have a ventilator of sufficient size placed in the hall as the opening of doors chills everyone.

It is this kind of sport which is to be encouraged and from the number of prominent men belonging to the club and its increase of members the next evening of sport will surely be a good one.

Police Court.

There were no cases up for hearing in Major Perry's court this morning, which fact would indicate that nobody was too drunk last night to care for himself, or herself, as the case might be.

The case of Madame Kluge vs. Wy-tuen for \$7.50 for sewing, as mentioned in yesterday's paper, was settled out of court Wymen having paid the bill.

Theodore Beckard was before the court with a grievance against Lester McNeal, in which a ton or more of cariboo meat which is up the Klondike river over 100 miles figures. But as

Beckard did not appear to know just what he wanted, the court advised him to go out and make up his mind.

W. H. McDonald instituted suit against Packer W. E. Terrill for \$165 alleged to be due as wages.

A man by the name of McCaskell was on hand with the request that he be allowed enough money from the crown treasury to bear the expense of his trip to the outside where he said he could secure employment. Major Perry referred the request, which was in writing, to Governor Ogilvie. McCaskell came from Skagway to Dawson early in November and has not since been able to secure employment. He has recently been sick and is quite anxious to start on the long trip over the ice.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

A. D. Edgar, who brought in cattle this year, taking some of them to Eagle City, will leave tomorrow for the outside.

An exodus took place yesterday to the creeks and up and down river. This was the result of the break in the cold weather.

J. P. Caranthers was brought in from 22 above on Bonanza to the Good Samaritan hospital suffering from an abscess of the knee.

The recent threat of the weather to grow warmer seems to have been a bluff, as this morning mercury was again down in the vicinity of 45 below.

The Criterion hotel is to be remodelled to a considerable extent. Suites are taking the place of single rooms and elegant furnishings are being placed in them.

Although snow in small quantities has fallen occasionally since the middle of last October there is not now an average of more than eight inches on the ground in this part of the country.

Work commenced on a new opera house today which is to be built on the lot where the Hoffman house formerly stood. The new company will have at its head that popular manager, Paul Bordman, which insures success.

As one indication that Dawson is improving morally and intellectually, an observing and well posted oldtimer says that there are 1100 less dogs sleeping under beds in the city this winter than during the cold season of former years.

The hook and ladder truck which has been a long time coming, arrived here at noon today, and the firemen commenced at once to set it up. It is so heavy that a large horse and probably two will be required. Chief Stewart will send the old one to the Forks.

Murray & Powell, who occupied the Bodegs before the fire, have leased the lot and will build immediately. As yet they have not let any contract for the building, but from the energetic capabilities of both these gentlemen, it will surely be a credit to Front street.

Tom Wilson, at St. Mary's hospital, who has been expected to die at any time for several days, is rapidly regaining his lost strength. During the recent fire the Sisters put up a heavy blanket on the window in his private room so the reflection of the fire could not be seen, and Mr. Wilson does not know at present nor will he until well, that the Opera house, in which he was a partner, was destroyed.

Jack Stunicy is at work on a novel stove which is to be used by Jim McKinnon and his partner on the trail to Nome. The stove is of the ordinary Yukon pattern only converted into a sleigh by placing runners underneath. McKinnon thinks he will find it the only practical way of using a stove to advantage on the route as it can be sidetracked at any point in an instant, and is ready for immediate action at a moment's notice.

On next Sunday night the Philharmonic Society will give another of its splendid concerts at the Palace Grand theater. Manager C. N. Pring is sparing no pains to get together the very best talent to be obtained in town, and on next Sunday night the program, if anything, will excel in point of excellence the one rendered two weeks ago. In addition to the string instruments there will be selections by the best vocalists in Dawson, and altogether a most enjoyable evening is anticipated.

A man for whom this is the third winter in Dawson is authority for the statement that a fewer number of men sleep in bar rooms this winter than during the two preceding ones. But he added that the number of men in the city this winter who are "flat broke" is greater than has before been known, but nearly all of them have cabins in which to sleep. Many men who sit around and sleep in chairs have money in their pockets, but they prefer to save it for meals instead of extending it for beds or for wood with which to warm a cabin.

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