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"I am Nothing, if Not Critical."—Shakespeare.

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EDITORIAL.

THE REVISED YUKON REGULATIONS.

The amendments of the Yukon mining regulations, formulated by the Dominion Government, appear, so far as can be gathered, from doubtless generally correct synopses of their chief provisions which have been telegraphed to the press, to improve the Northern mining code in some important respects, whilst, however, leaving very much to be desired, and embodying very much that is open to the strongest objection, as regards other points. The enlargement of a miners' placer claim from 100 to 250 feet meets half-way the demands in this respect of the men in the Yukon, and embodies a desired betterment of previous regulations by making them more liberal, as they assuredly ought to be, in a sub-Arctic region that is exceptionally trying, and beyond all others on this earth, hazardous. The discoverer of a new ground, is moreover; certainly, at least, entitled to the concession now made, of double frontage, extending to 500 feet.

It is also better, as lessening the number of a still assured host of troublous contentions between working miners and the Dominion authorities, that instead of an absolutely futile attempt to reserve alternate claims to the State, the alternation is to proceed by groups of ten claims, thus retaining for the State alternate sets of claims. The matter will, however, still prove very difficult to adjust, whilst

if the Government's reserve groups of ten claims each be used for the purpose of letting in block to organizations—generally largely representing "outsiders," there will result grievous disappointment and disaffection amongst Yukon goldseekers, who will, in many thousands of cases, find themselves unable even to earn living wages if, as expected, there be this year an inordinate inrush to Klondike and other Yukon districts of from 200,000 to 250,000 persons. Like objection, rather less in degree, applies to the provision that "subaqueous" gold ground in the Yukon should be leased at a fixed fee of \$100 per annum, plus the usual royalty. The word "subaqueous" reads ambiguously, and it is to be hoped will be found so interpreted in the code, as to make it quite clear that only dredging leases are intended, which leases must,—the work being costly and involving large risk of disappointment—of necessity, be granted over reaches of some length. If, however, the word "subaqueous" is possible of strain so as to include shallow creek claims covered, it may be, by a few inches or only a foot or two of water, and thus easily dammed for pick and shovel work, it is clear that there is strong objection to the allowance of such big State grants in a land where the individual miner, with little capital save thews and sinews, will, in any case, stand at great risk of being "crowded to the wall," and then literally starved out. Surely, even a dredging lease in the Yukon need not, in each and every case, include such a length as five miles, whilst the fixture of a definite rental of \$100, instead of a competitive one, obviously opens the door to all kinds of favoritism by men in office, and even Canada's present administrators, fair as is deservedly the repute of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and certain of his colleagues, are only human, some of them, the Hon. Mr. Tarte being a distinguished example in point, being quite exceptionally so. And already, indeed, there are ominous rumors of the grant of a lease of big and probably specially rich Yukon areas, to, or in favor of some of the world's greatest capitalists, necessarily to the exclusion of many otherwise eligible opportunities of the working miner.

Lastly, we hold that it is very bad policy to exact 10 per cent. royalty on gold output from men