

issued to any one person in the provisional district of the Yukon. The yearly license is renewable. The holder has the right to all timber for firewood or any other purpose. All timber within 3 miles of Dawson has been reserved for the use of people who desire to cut their own wood, those without a miner's license being charged a stumpage of 25 cents per cord. All of the accessible timber lands along the Lewes and Yukon rivers, from the head of Lake Lindeman to the boundary line, below Forty Mile, have been taken up by sawmill owners and speculators.

A charge of 50 cents per ton is made for the privilege of cutting hay.

While, as stated, there is much ill-feeling in regard to the mining regulations in force in the district, the administration of the civil and criminal laws gives general satisfaction. Hon. Thomas H. McGuire, the justice for the Yukon district, prepared the following statement relative to the local government and the functions of his court:

The Canadian Government has been very anxious, from the beginning of gold mining in their territory along the Yukon, to provide for the security of life and property and the preservation of peace and order. At first the population was sparse and scattered, and it was thought that the presence of a police force and officers having magisterial functions would be sufficient, until it could be seen to what extent gold might be found and whether any considerable influx of miners would take place. In the Northwest Territories there had been for many years a quasi-military force, known as the Northwest mounted police, composed of picked men, the commissioned officers being chosen with special reference to their fitness for the mixed military and police duty to be performed by the force. From this police force the Government, in 1895, selected an experienced and tried officer, Inspector Charles Constantine, who in 1894 had been sent out to the Yukon and had made a report on the state of things in the district, and sent him in command of twenty men to establish a police post at Forty Mile, which was then the center of the Canadian mining territory. Captain Constantine and Inspector Strickland and these twenty men came to Forty Mile and built a post now known as Fort Constantine. Both officers had magisterial powers, which in Canada are limited to dealing with criminal matters. As to some offenses, they had jurisdiction to try and punish; as to more serious cases, they could hold a preliminary inquiry, and if they deemed the evidence sufficient, commit the accused for trial by a competent court. They had no civil jurisdiction except in case of disputes between masters and servants, as to their hiring, or wages, or desertion of employment.

During 1895 and 1896 the police not only dealt with the various offenses brought before them, but from the necessity of the case and the absence of a civil court, frequently dealt with matters belonging more properly to a civil court. These were chiefly disputes over the possession of chattel property, or as to the equitable division of partnership effects, such as food and boats, for persons who had agreed to prospect and mine in partnership very often fell out on the way and decided to separate. In these cases the officers when appealed to would endeavor to act as arbitrators between the angry disputants, and generally succeeded in effecting a fairly satisfactory arrangement. These rather informal proceedings had some advantages not possessed by proceedings in an ordinary court; they cost the parties