

for all their personal problems and difficulties. Most failed in this quest, as is ever the case in human experience, but many who failed to find gold discovered that they had made a far richer strike in the Yukon. They discovered themselves, their strengths and weaknesses. They discovered the hidden depths in human personality which cause men under stress to rise to unbelievable heights of moral grandeur or sink to depths of despair and depravity.

A MOULD FOR CHARACTER

"I do not intend to moralize at length on the Gold Rush and those who took part in it. Yet, looking back over those 64 years, we can see the event as a moulder of character. Most who participated in the search for gold left the diggings better men for their experiences....

"No matter what his past position in life, a man was judged by his performance on the trail, the manner in which he acted when he was favoured with sudden wealth or cursed by bad luck, the way he behaved toward his fellow-men. The Golden Rule was applied as a measure of a man's worth and it is no mere sentimental gesture that it is still both the emblem and the motto of the Yukon Order of Pioneers.

"It is fitting that this ceremony tonight should take the form of a re-dedication to these principles. In times of stress and strain man turns to his Creator. The old adage has it that 'man's extremity is God's opportunity'. So it was on the Trail of '98. Devoted servants of the Church were in the forefront of the Gold Rush. They shared the hardships of the trail and left a profound impression on Dawson, the miners and the townfolk. I welcome the representatives of the Christian Churches which concerned themselves with the spiritual needs of the men and women on the Trail of '98. I am sure they are recalling those church leaders - the Right Reverend William Bompas, Father William Judge of the Society of Jesus, the stalwart pioneers of the Methodist and the Presbyterian churches, and the band of eight members of the Salvation Army - both lads and lasses. These spiritual leaders from all denominations were a power for good in a period of moral instability that tried men's souls.

A RIVAL FOR STRATFORD

"In this auditorium tonight I sense the spirit of the Gold Rush. As we join in dedicating Dawson City as an historic site, so designated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada...I am sure we are aware that tomorrow it becomes the site of a Festival destined to rival Stratford, Upper Canada Village, Fort Henry, the Citadel in Quebec City, Fort Garry, Batoche, Old Fort Louisbourg, as a bit of *Canadiana*. There is the same feeling of wonder, I am sure, that we have about the Gold Rush, the same realization that somehow the impossible has been achieved.

"For Tom Patterson of Stratford Festival fame, the romance of the Klondike and the historic remains of the Dawson of 1898 were a challenge to his creative imagination. Why not present a summer festival here, a festival built around the Gold Rush days and staged in its centre? A theatre was the prime essential and Dawson had that, in the Palace

Grand. In late 1959, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended that Dawson be regarded as an historical complex. As an initial step it was recommended that the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources acquire and preserve the Palace Grand.

A SIMPLE JOB

"Acquisition of the old building was a simple matter. The Klondike Visitors' Association of Dawson co-operated by acquiring the property and turning it over to the Federal Government. Preservation and restoration were more difficult. For two years the project went forward and today we see the results. I think you will agree that all concerned are to be heartily congratulated, for what we see is evidence of authentic historic restoration at its best. Last summer I visited Upper Canada Village and what has been accomplished here is of the same historical excellence, although the task has been infinitely more difficult.

"Restoration of the Palace Grand has been the major contribution of the Federal Government to the Gold Rush Festival. But it has not been the only one. The river boats that plied the Yukon are also an integral part of the history of this country and are being preserved by the National Historic Sites Division of the Department. One of the stern-wheelers, the S.S. "Keno", was brought down the river from Whitehorse and installed at Dawson, where it is now serving both as a museum-piece of river navigation and as accommodation for summer visitors....

"The significance of the Dawson Festival to the international theatrical world is underlined by the presence of Lady Peel here tonight. Lady Peel, better known in the stage world as Beatrice Lillie, has travelled all the way from her home in England to preside at the world premiere of the new musical that will get under way in the Palace Grand Theatre here tomorrow evening....

LIVING MUSEUMS

"The Gold Rush Festival, the restored Palace Grand, the preservation of the S.S. 'Keno', will make Dawson City a major addition to the growing body of historic *Canadiana*. Eventually Canada will have a chain of animated historic museums stretching from Citadel Hill in Newfoundland to Dawson City in the Yukon. These will stand as living museums recording our pathway to mature nationhood for the edification of Canadians as well as the thousands of tourists coming from the United States - and in this jet age, all parts of the world - to discover Canada, the wonderful world at their doorstep.

"Although gold was the lure that first opened up the Yukon, the passing years have proved that a variety of other valuable minerals lie beneath the mountains and valleys of this region. Today we know that Yukoners have within their borders the largest silver-producing mine in Canada, which last year produced over \$6.5-million worth of metal. We now know that there are rich deposits of lead, zinc, copper, tungsten, and all minerals in abundance. Already the value of mineral production has reached over \$13 million a year. Some 2,462 new

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