

## The Klondike Nugget

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### THOSE YUKON CHARGES.

The question of mal-administration in the Yukon has again come prominently before parliament. Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper delivered on June 28 one of the most lengthy and highly sensational speeches ever recorded in Canadian history.

Sir Hibbert brought forward a list of charges, every one of which was thoroughly specific in his nature. They covered the ground since Sifton first dispatched his "batch of grit officials" to run things in the Yukon, and demonstrated just as the NUGGET did months ago that if the real condition of affairs is ever to be ascertained it must be done through a commission wholly unbiased, and independent of all departmental strings.

Sir Hibbert is by no means sparing in his language. He denounces the Ogilvie investigation and supports the view of this paper that the so-called investigation was nothing more nor less than a premeditated whitewash.

In scathing language he denounces the methods by which the investigation was delayed for so long a time. The interference of Mr. Clement, who was not named on the commission, comes in for very strong censure, while Ogilvie and his methods in dealing with witnesses brought before the commission were likened to Jeffreys and the famous, or rather infamous, part he played in English history.

Major Walsh does not escape the lash, nor do Messrs. Wade, Willison, McGregor, Norwood and others who were in the government service last summer.

In concluding his address, Sir Hibbert stated that unless he should be able to prove before a royal commission the truth of the charges he had made he would forfeit his seat in parliament and never again ask for political emolument or preferment at the hands of the people of Canada.

It is scarcely to be anticipated, however, that Sifton will permit the appointment of a commission such as Sir Hibbert demands. Every day of delay that is secured adds so much more to the difficulty that would be met with in securing proof to substantiate the charges, many of which are now a year old.

In this country where everything is more or less transient, where men are continually coming and going, changing their residences upon a moment's notice, it is out of the question to expect that witnesses can readily be secured to prove misdoings from six to twelve months old. Sifton's game has been a play for time since the first demands for an investigation were sent in. He may succeed in avoiding the issue, but he cannot escape the fact that his name will be associated for all time with the history of governmental extortions and abuse of official power in the Yukon.

### ALASKAN POSSIBILITIES.

The NUGGET is credibly informed that the United States government intends pushing the construction of a railroad across Alaska to the Yukon. It will be remembered that a surveying party was sent out more than a year ago to lay out a mail route through American territory from the coast to Circle City. The general course of the proposed route is up the Copper river to the headwaters of the Tanana and down the latter stream to the Yukon.

Whether there is, in fact, any foundation to this rumor or not, it is apparent that the United States government is at length awakening to a realization of the wonderful resources awaiting development in Alaska.

There is every reason to believe that

during the next few years a large and continually increasing stream of immigration will flow into Alaskan territory. Travelers through the Copper and Tanana valleys are unanimous in agreeing that the possibilities of Alaska, from an agricultural and grazing standpoint, can scarcely be overestimated. The valley of the Tanana is described as being a veritable pasture land, the finest kind of grass standing waist high for miles and miles, while the presence of countless thousands of caribou and moose attests its nutritive qualities. With such a country as this there is no reason whatsoever for any lack of mutton and beef raised right in the heart of Alaska.

There is a restless element in the states composed of people who are always upon the lookout for some new place to locate. Alaska is about the only remaining portion of United States territory now remaining open to these people. As soon as the inducements held out for actual permanent residents become generally known it is almost positive that there will be a rush of settlers toward the great northern territory. The construction of a railroad by the United States government would simply be an act of recognition of the just claims of the country. Although Alaska in point of development is still an infant, she has developed already a trade that in a few years will become enormous. It will be an act of wisdom on the part of Uncle Sam to anticipate this growth by affording the country rapid and easy communication with the outside.

### POLITICAL EGGS.

Under the above caption the Montreal Star of June 28 discusses the Yukon situation as follows:

"Then there is the contribution of the Yukon nest. This is quite new, though that fact might not be inferred from the condition of the eggs; for, at this point, will the boldest hold his nose for a while. Here the country will find that the government turned the newly discovered gold fields over to its political friends, who may not have been specially well equipped for the management of an Eldorado, but who were fixed up with a permission to pitch in and help themselves. The ministers have allowed nothing but a 'departmental inquiry' into the charges against their officials up there; but we have some material for forming an opinion in the overwhelming testimony of independent observers, the recall by the government itself of several of its representatives, and the straight reversal of its astounding policy of letting the official umpires in any mining disputes 'join in the game.'"

"One choice specimen in this lot that has gone very bad is the Yukon railway scheme. Last year the Dominion was likely to go to the dogs if it was not rushed through regardless of expense. We were to have starvation and rebellion in the Klondike, stagnant trade in Canada, and all sorts of horrors, if that little link of railway were not built from the rushing Stikkeen to the head of a long line of lakes and rivers leading eventually to Dawson City; but this year the government has decided that there is no need even to grant a charter to a company which wants to build an all-rail route from the seaboard into the gold country. The reason given is, that the terminus of any Lynn canal road may turn out to be in American territory; the Teslin lake route, which was pressed so fiercely last year, required trans-shipment at Fort Wrangle, which is indisputably American."

The rank and file of the old fire brigade are entitled to commendation and thanks from business men and other citizens of Dawson. The NUGGET in previous issues has pointed out the fact that the men had voluntarily given their services to the department, often at considerable personal expense, and for this but little recognition has been paid them. In all sorts and conditions of weather the boys were right on hand to do duty arduous and not infrequently perilous. Their action in disbanding was not surprising under the circumstances. The wonder is that it did not come sooner than it did.

The NUGGET's advice to intending Cape Nome stampedeers seems to have been very timely. Indications are now that the reported strike is a rather windy affair. It is not difficult to find men who have heard of other men who shovelled in \$10,000 and other amounts

in an exceedingly short space of time, but when it comes to locating the fellow who has seen the money then the hard work begins. Latest reports are to the effect that most of those who have gone down the river since the Nome excitement first came to public notice are continuing on their way to Seattle or San Francisco.

The continuance of dry weather has been the occasion of much disappointment on the creeks. There is scarcely enough water at times on Bonanza creek for a sluice head, and work has practically been at a standstill on Eldorado for some time past. The recent showers have tended to relieve the situation somewhat, but sufficient water has not fallen as yet to materially affect the situation.

### An Ode to Canada.

O Canada! Where is your pride  
In laws that are upright and just?  
They must have flown  
Into realms unknown  
At the sight of a little gold dust.

Oh, why stop us from staking here?  
Oh, why stop us from brewing beer?  
Then grant a permit  
And so "graft" us with it—  
It's pure cussedness, Canada, dear.

We miners, we don't ask for much—  
Charge us royalty, sure, if you must;  
But don't grind us to bits  
With grants and permits—  
The curse of all that is just.

A BONANZA PUT

See the Yukon Outfitting & Express Co. before their buyer leaves for the outside, for your winter's outfit. They will sell you goods at greatly reduced figures and supply you with fresh goods. Office, Room 9, Bodega building.

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