

EXPRESSED BY A CANADIAN.

T. D. McFarlane, of Dawson, Talks in Ottawa.

Says More Capital Is Needed Here—Thinks the Royalty Law Works Hardship.

A late issue of an Ottawa paper contains a long interview held with T. D. McFarlane of this city, who is visiting on the outside. Mr. McFarlane is a mine owner and speaks plainly of the conditions as they exist here. On speaking of Dawson's needs, the Ottawa paper reports Mr. McFarlane as saying:

"This matter of capital was one which was of the greatest importance to the Yukon. At the present time it was a peculiar but none the less well known fact that English capitalists were much more disposed to invest in British Columbia properties than they were in the Yukon. This, too, was, notwithstanding the striking contrast shown by the figures of the output from the two districts, British Columbia showing an output last year of only \$3,000,000, as against the \$10,000,000 of the Canadian Yukon.

The explanation, however, was not difficult to find. Apart from the exaggerated stories of hardships told of the latter, there had been the swindles perpetrated on English investors by a few sharp Yankee operators. These had succeeded in floating in London several worthless claims which they had staked off, and secured the right to, in districts where there had never been any gold found at all.

"These swindles had scared off the average English investor from Klondike enterprises, and he had preferred to take up the better known, if less rich offerings, in British Columbia, where, from the greater accessibility of the country, and the absence of 'boom,' he felt a security that the Klondike experiences referred to had shaken as regards the latter country.

"Speaking of the royalty of 10 per cent which the Dominion government has imposed on all the gold mined in the Canadian Yukon (with the exception of the first \$5000, which is left exempt), Mr. Macfarlane said there was no doubt in his mind that the amount of the royalty was excessive, and that a real grievance had been created by its imposition.

"He was willing to admit that the principle of a royalty on the output was beyond question. He believed that the Yukon should pay for the Yukon, and that as a great deal of the gold mined there was taken out by United States citizens, in fact, the great bulk of it was—a royalty was the more justified on this further score.

"But a 10 per cent royalty on the output was too high. It did not, in fact, represent only 10 per cent that the government was getting out of the transaction, but 400 per cent. In order to mine the gold on which the royalty was collected, the miner had to employ labor, which he paid for at very high prices. The cost of this labor entered as much into the output of the claim as did the claim itself, and in collecting a 10 per cent royalty on the output the government was virtually imposing a tax on labor, and the 10 per cent levy became a matter of something like 40 per cent. If the royalty on the other hand, were exacted only on the profits, then there could be no objection taken to it.

"Mr. Macfarlane said that the opposition to the 10 per cent royalty had been so keen and so forcibly expressed by the mining community that he considered it not improbable that the government would decide to remove the grievance by the substitution of some other method which would still give it an equitable revenue from the gold output.

"Recently the old 90-day regulation, according to which the prospector had

to settle on a claim for a term of 90 days before he could obtain his certificate, had been done away with, and in its stead a \$200 fee was charged, on payment of which the finder of the claim secured ownership of the property for one year.

"This arrangement found much more favor with mining men than the previous regulations, and a large number of \$200 payments had already been made. Mr. Macfarlane thought that when the government found that a good revenue was assured from this source they would abolish the unpopular royalty.

"Speaking of the reported recent large discoveries of gold in the Cape Nome district, Mr. Macfarlane said that he did not anticipate that they would in any way divert gold seekers from the Canadian Yukon. The only advantages which he had heard claimed for Cape Nome over the latter was in the greater freedom enjoyed by the saloon-keepers and the gambling element, and that was certainly a fragile foundation on which to build enthusiastic expectations for the wealth of the district.

"Reverting to the question of the 10 per cent royalty now exacted by the Canadian government on the output of Yukon, Mr. Macfarlane said he strongly favored the establishment of a Canadian government mint in that country. The government, he thought, ought to take over all the gold and issue scrip in its place. In this way the gold could be largely retained in the Dominion, instead of being taken out in immense quantities, as is now the case. There would, moreover, be the profit of mintage to the government, and he believed the matter was one which should be acted upon by the present ministry without delay.

"Mr. Macfarlane will return to Dawson City early in March. Before going back he may make a short business trip to England in connection with a number of hydraulic concessions which he is interested in.

"Mr. R. R. Macfarlane, a brother of Dr. Macfarlane's, who has charge of St. Mary's hospital at Dawson City, came out with Mr. Macfarlane and sailed on the Dominion line steamship Dominion for Liverpool, accompanied by Mr. Macfarlane. He will be absent most of the winter, returning to Dawson in the spring.

Record of Transfers.

E. Davis to W. G. Brien et al, two-thirds upper half 76 above, Sulphur.

W. J. Skynner to L. Netland quarter 1a above Kedford's, Quartz.

H. A. Goheen to T. J. King et al, all bench, 2d tier, left limit, 32-33 below, Bonanza.

H. A. Goheen to T. J. King, half hillside, left limit, 32-33 below, Bonanza.

R. W. Ingaerthe to J. Pearson, et al, half 16 below, Canon.

W. H. P. Clement to G. Delhi, all hill, lower half, left limit, 69 below, Bonanza.

O. Benson to V. Heywood, half bench, right limit, Indian river, 10th up stream from O'Rourke's.

O. McMahon to V. W. Heywood, half bench, right limit, Indian river, 6th up stream from O'Rourke's.

W. C. Finley to V. W. Heywood, half bench, right limit, Indian river, 9th up stream from O'Rourke's.

P. Keys to J. L. Phiscater, quarter on top at 15 below upper, Dominion.

"In Times of Peace."

A painful commentary on one of the prevailing tendencies of mankind, even in this day of peace conferences, is afforded in the fact that one of the first questions arising in connection with any new and notable invention is, what use can be made of it in war? Thus it was with wireless telegraphy and thus it is with the automobile. Plans for the use of the horseless carriage in war have taken definite shape in the construction of a "motor scout," equipped with a light rapid fire gun, and capable of making a speed of 18 miles an hour for 125 miles. Another war motor is proposed, equipped with two rapid fire guns in two revolving turrets, and a search light. All this goes to support M. von Bloch's argument that the wars of the future will have so many terrors unknown for the wars of the past that

the only thing for the race to do to save itself from self-annihilation is to vow eternal peace.—Ex.

Good Financiering.

The Dominion government has done well with its telegraph line from Bennett to Dawson. In the first place, it was economical in the construction of the line, which was completed for the 740 miles at a cost of \$137,000, or \$180 per mile, whereas the estimates if the C. P. R. Telegraph Co. for the work was \$350 and of the G. N. W. Telegraph Co. \$400 per mile respectively. The government has not only constructed the line economically, but is operating it at a profit. Thirteen thousand dollars in tolls for a single month's business is fairly good earnings for a telegraph line employing 25 operators and running through a district whose total population is approximately estimated at 15,000.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

At 1 o'clock today the barometer registered 51 degrees below zero.

Charlie Delone assumed charge of the gambling games, this morning, in the New Pavilion saloon.

A picture of the apparatus and firemen was taken by L. R. and Duclou at station No. 2 this afternoon.

A moccasin full of rocks has been hung up for a bicycle race between Humboldt Gates and Fritz Kloke.

The new Hoffman grill room has sprung high into popular favor already. The bill of fare contains everything to please the most fastidious, while popular prices are the rule.

Tom O'Brien is busily engaged in clearing his property of debris occasioned by the fire. This morning he started to lay the sills for his new building, which he expects to open within two weeks.

The big safe which was used by the Canadian Bank of Commerce in the downtown office has been moved to the brick warehouse on Third street, where it will be stored until the downtown office is reopened.

No. 1 fire hall is having a drop harness made for the two horses which draw the chemical engine. When arrangements are completed, a lever will drop the harness upon the horses and open the hall doors.

The A. C. Co.'s light plant whistle will hereafter announce the discovery of fire in its immediate vicinity in the Third ward, by blowing three long blasts three times. Should the fire assume a serious aspect this will be repeated.

A quiet little banquet was given by Luther Schooling to a few friends this morning about 3 a. m. The spread consisted of a pie taken from the mess room of the A. C. Co., which is against the rules, and we were asked not to mention it.

Beginning Saturday evening there was a steady decline in mercury. Sunday morning it was down to 48 below, and at 8 o'clock this morning the thermometer kept by Cribbs & Rogers, and reckoned to be one of the most reliable in Dawson, marked 58 below. At other points and by other instruments 62 and 63 were recorded.

It is but justice to state that Musician Bailey, of whom mention was made recently as having been interested in the late Maud Lloyd, was, with many other kindly disposed people who had known her on the outside, solicitous for her care and comfort during her illness. But further than the prompting of a kind heart, Mr. Bailey had no greater interest in her welfare.

Health officer Dr. Goode, whose office was formerly in the Board of Trade building, is now located in Mrs. West's building opposite Nigger Jim's pavilion. The doctor's services are in frequent demand these days. As in all places, so in Dawson. People will go to a free doctor for treatment of a gum-bol on a toe or any such trifling complaint, when, if they had to foot their own bills, they would never think of consulting a doctor.

Sour Dough Letter Heads for sale at the Nugget office.

Call and see our stock of playing cards, leather pocket case with each pack. Nugget office.

Just Around the Corner.

Having been driven off of First avenue by fire, Joseph Gandolfo has secured temporary quarters on Third street, next to the Bank Cafe, where he is now doing business and will be glad to serve all his old customers, and the public generally, with the finest brands of cigars and tobaccos, candies and nuts of all kinds, magazines, papers etc.

One-half, 3/4, 1, 1 1/2 and 1 3/4 inch steam hose at Snindler's, 109 Front street.

We are thankful the fire did not burn us in the least. Our prescription department is, as before, in first-class shape. Cribbs & Rogers.

Nugget Express Daily Stage

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