

NO CAUSE FOR DELAY NOW.

Miners Speak as One Man for a Gulch Trail.

Capt. Belcher Files His Report—Commissioner Ogilvie Interviewed—Three Distinct Trails Assured.

Captain Belcher's report to Commissioner Ogilvie on the sentiment of the miners concerning a gulch trail and their willingness to grant a right-of-way for the same on their claims, was placed in the hands of the official on Thursday afternoon. The captain did his work thoroughly, as is his wont, and the result is pleasantly surprising to the friends of the gulch trail project. He found the miners to be practically unanimous and willing to extend every aid and facility for the immediate construction of the trail.

The project is, therefore, solely in the hands of the council, and The Nugget hopes to see the gentlemen continuing the example of diligence set by the representative of the N. W. M. P. The season is fast nearing the time when trail building will be difficult, if not impossible, and the trails should be extended as far as practicable while there is time to work.

After the report had been placed in Commissioner Ogilvie's hands he was seen by a Nugget man and asked the intentions of the government in the matter. He said that he had not had time as yet to look the report through carefully, but it would be laid before the council at once, and if 90 per cent of the miners had agreed to the terms, he had no doubt the work would be ordered commenced as soon as possible on both Bonanza and Hunker.

"The council knew," he said, "that a trail in the gulch would serve more interests than one on the hill, but they did not know how far the holders of the claims would respect it, and time was an important factor. Besides that, a large number of permits for hydraulicking had been granted along Bonanza and on what is called the ancient bed of the Stewart, and it was not known to what extent these operations would interfere with a creek trail.

The council showed that they were in favor of building trails when they ordered the ridge trail, but they also showed that they were going to have the trail respected. In 1897 a trail was built over the hills to Bonanza, but it has been obliterated; in 1898 another one was built up Bonanza at a cost of \$22,000, and it is also gone. We knew it would be useless, you see, to build another trail until the miners had guaranteed that it would be respected and preserved from damage.

"We would have begun the trails before but were hampered by a lack of means; the care of the poor and sick last winter took nearly \$100,000, which was the main cause. They had to be cared for by us, because nobody else was caring for them; but if \$50,000 could have been saved from the amount it would have been put into a trail this summer."

The commissioner said further that the building of a gulch trail would not change the plan for a through trail on the ridge; that it would be built just the same.

Colonel Steele, another member of the council, also accorded the Nugget man an interview. "The report shows," said he, "that nearly all the miners seen favor the gulch trail and are agreeable to the terms. A great many were away, but I believe they would also favor it in the same ratio as the others. I believe the work will now be rushed and the trails constructed as soon as possible. There are plenty of men available and they will be put on in large numbers. The hill trail will also be constructed as originally planned, as it is needed to reach

the distant points and accommodate the new districts opening up."

The colonel vouched for Judge Dugas' position in relation to the matter, and it will thus be seen that the council—or, at least, such of the members as are in the country—are unanimous in a friendly attitude toward the project. The dispatch used in carrying out the plan will rest upon the shoulders of Commissioner Ogilvie.

Electric Railway Promised.

Important information arrived in town this week with the coming of Capt. McLean of Vancouver. It is, in brief, that a franchise has been granted for an electric railway from Dawson up the various gulches of the Klondike; that the franchise is the one reported to have been secured by Tom O'Brien, but it is the property of several other well-known gentlemen as well, among whom are Capt. McLean and D. G. Stewart. Upon arriving at Ottawa, it seems, Tom found his scheme for a franchise met by an application from other parties for the same thing. The contending factions soon saw that continued battle might result in injury to the cause of both, and they very sensibly agreed to join issues. This was done, and it was not long before the franchise was issued.

Tom is yet on the outside, and, it is understood, will look after the purchase of the rolling stock and other supplies. Mr. McLean went up the creeks on Wednesday, and he is supposed to be looking up the subject of routes. It could not be learned definitely whether the road would be put in before winter, but if it is not it is because the material cannot be secured in time. It is known, however, that the road will have its town terminal at Klondike at first.

The franchise, it is understood, also grants the privilege of selling the electric fluid to the miners along the way for illuminating, heating or industrial purposes, and that power houses for this purposes will be erected at various places in the gulches.

The gentlemen interested in the project will perfect organization as soon as a meeting can be arranged.

Notice to Mail Patrons.

Parties who have left their mail orders with the Nugget Express will please notify the messengers on the creeks of any change of location. Prompt service will be given if the proper address is given. Nugget Express office in the Aurora block.

Who Knows Ernest King?

Ernest King left Vancouver March, 1898, and has not been heard from since he arrived at Whitehorse. Relatives desire information which will gladly be received by Mr. Brown at the Aurora.

No Public Buildings This Year.

The public of the Klondike will not receive with any pleasure the information that the construction of the proposed new public buildings in Dawson has received an unexpected setback, which means that the buildings will be built not until next year. When Mr. Charlson, superintendent of the public works now in progress along the river, and his able lieutenant, Mr. Fuller, came to Dawson, it was with instructions to erect the several buildings as soon as possible and under their own supervision; plans were made to conform thereto and work was to have commenced on the foundations shortly. This week, however, Mr. Fuller was in receipt of a message from his chief notifying him that he had received orders from Ottawa to have the buildings erected by contract. This necessitates such a complete change in the plans that Mr. Fuller says, it will be impossible to put in the foundations even this fall, and the whole work will be carried over to next year.

As heretofore described, the proposed new buildings include a commodious court house, a postoffice, gold commissioner's office, building for the Yukon Council and a governor's residence. The postoffice is to be located at the corner of Third street and Third avenue and the court house will be near the site of the present one; but it is understood that no sites have yet been chosen for the other buildings.

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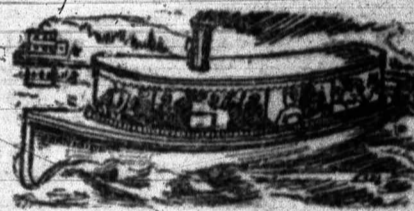
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