

til now it is certain that millions will be taken out of the district in the next few years.

On some of the claims prospected the pay dirt is of great extent and very rich. One man told me yesterday that he washed out a single pan of dirt on one of the claims on Bonanza and found \$14.25 in it. Of course that may be an exceptionally rich pan, but \$5 to \$7 per pan is the average on that claim it is reported, with five feet of pay dirt and the width yet undetermined, but it is known to be 30 feet even at that: figure the result at 9 to 10 pans to the cubic foot, and 500 feet long; nearly \$4,000,000 at \$5 per pan—one-fourth of this would be enormous.

He ends up this letter by saying:

The miners here are, I understand, getting up a petition to the Minister asking for aid in opening a way from the south and building along it shelter for winter travellers, with suitable supplies scattered along.

Here was a demand for a right of way, for access to get in and out of this country, and this was written as early as the 9th December, 1896.

As it is now a winter trip out from here is on account of the long haul and want of shelter tedious and hazardous, and their representations are worthy of consideration.

Then, writing from Cudahy under date of the 11th January, 1897, he says:

The reports from the Thron-Diuck region are still very encouraging; so much so that all the other creeks around are practically abandoned, especially those on the head of Forty Mile in American territory, and nearly one hundred men have made their way up from Circle City many of them hauling their sleds themselves. Those who cannot get claims are buying in on those already located. Men cannot be got to work for love or money, and development is consequently slow; one and a half dollar per hour is the wages paid the few men who have to work for hire, and work as many hours as they like. Some of the claims are so rich that every night a few pans of dirt suffices to pay the hired help when there is any; as high as \$204 as been reported to a single pan, but this is not generally credited. Claim owners are now very reticent about what they get, so you can hardly credit anything you hear; but one thing is certain we have one of the richest mining areas ever found, with a fair prospect that we have not yet discovered its limits.

Hon. Sir MACKENZIE BOWELL—
From where does he write?

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—Cudahy. He says that as much as \$204 was taken out in a single pan, and he speaks of Miller and Glacier Creeks as follows:

Miller and Glacier Creeks on the head of Sixty Mile River, which my survey of the 141st meridian determined to be in Canada, were thought to be very rich, but they are poor both in quality and quantity compared with Thron-Diuck.

Chicken Creek on the head of Forty Mile, in Alaska, discovered a year ago and rated very high, is to-day practically abandoned.

The last letter was dated 23rd January, 1897. My hon. friend the Secretary of State asks "but when were these letters received?" Now, he must know the date when they were received, but I do not. I think we have pretty good evidence that they were received pretty early in the spring of 1897.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—Oh, no, I assure the hon. gentleman they were not. I know there was four or five months we did not hear from Mr. Ogilvie.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—That would allow four or five months, from September when the first announcement was made. I was allowing seven or eight months.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—It was certainly long after parliament rose last summer. We did not know anything about it until after parliament rose.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—My hon. friend will have to recede from that statement in a few minutes.

Hon. Mr. SCOTT—We had general reports but no specific information.

Hon. Mr. FERGUSON—On the 21st May the government made their famous mining regulations which I hold in my hand establishing the royalty of ten per cent. Does my hon. friend tell this House that he would fix these royalties at ten per cent without the information I have read? On the 21st May the government had this information. They must have had it. Even though it would take four or five months on the way they must have had it some time before that. They were not so expeditious in moving as they would wish us to infer. The probability is they had three or four months notice and proceeded very tardily in making the mining regulations and only proceeded to make these regulations when they could not help themselves. But we know this that on the 21st May they had made these amended regulations which I have in my hand, these extraordinary regulations establishing and collecting a ten per cent royalty on these mines, and surely my hon. friend will not pretend to tell this House that they made these regulations without having the information I have read to the House, establishing the wonderful richness of the mines of that country? Now,