

BACK FROM THISTLE CREEK.

Nugget Representative Returns From an Investigating Trip.

Work Progressing Satisfactorily and Indications Good—Enough Has Not Yet Been Done to Estimate Accurately the Value.

The condition of things at Thistle creek is the source of more inquiry than almost any other one thing that interests the miners of this district. The reasons for this are various; but the contradictory reports that have been returned have stimulated this inquiry about as much as any. The Nugget therefore determined to send a special representative to investigate the matter fully and without bias. The following is the result:

Arriving at the townsite at the mouth of the creek, or rather about one and a half miles this side of the stream's mouth the newspaper man found a collection of cabins, tents and stores of country character. The number of people already there is probably about 100. The landing for the steamers is not on the main channel but it is thought to be sufficiently deep, except in low water. The population, as a whole, believe that "Thistle town" is going to be the base of supplies for not only Thistle Creek, but also for a large part of the profitable territory tributary to the Stewart river.

The way they arrive at this conclusion is simple and yet is not self-evident until the matter is investigated. It may not be out of place to explain this, as many are wondering about the advisability of making Stewart or Thistle town the place where they may start in business.

Schrooggy creek is now the most looked to of the creeks that empty into the Stewart within 10 miles of the mouth and is only a divide which is not any thing like so bad as that between Hunker and Dominion separates the two creeks for a parallel distance of two or three miles and the sagging trail up Thistle is exceptionally good, and along the Stewart exceptionally bad, if reports are to be believed, they think that a man can save time by buying in Thistle town. And this applies to most of the creeks of the south side of the Stewart, between Schrooggy and the Yukon. Beside these two important creeks there are Balfour, Tule and Kirkman, all emptying into the Yukon, but whose heads are in the same immediate vicinity, and a person in summer can go through the discovery claims of all, so the miners say, in less than eight hours.

The only objection to the townsite, so far as the scribbler could judge, was that it was but ten or twelve feet above the Yukon and probably would be overthrown in the spring freshets. The wood at the mouth of the creek affords a fine lot of cabin logs and birch firewood. The ground does not seem to be marshy, as Dawson says, although there is but little fall toward the water. The creek itself is about 10 miles long and has much more water than usually is true in so short a stream. The rim rock crops out in many places for a half mile at a time and forming with the creek's valley an angle of from 35 to 90 degrees. Then many places show, as fine a locality for benches as any one might ask for, stretching back to the base of the divide four or five hundred feet away. These benches are not yet all located, though many of them are. The creek and valley are both comparatively free from abrupt turns and all the outward signs seem to indicate a fair chance for the prospector. The width of the valley is about 100 to 800 feet.

The discovery was first recorded on the 21 day of October. But claims were staked as late as December 19th. So this creek is staked under the law that reserves every other block of ten claims to the crown and may be considered from the standpoint whether this law is good or bad.

As the Nugget man wended his way up the creek he was much pleased by the natural beauties surrounding him and was wonderfully impressed with the activity on a creek so recently located. In every block of 10, from the 50's below to away beyond 100 above, except those blocks reserved to the crown, some claim was being prospected or worked. Cabins to the number of 50 are already built or under process of construction. And a fair estimate of the number of men at work on the creek would be approximately 300. But those other blocks of 10 that are reserved are a blot. No one is developing them and they constitute in each of the other blocks an extra amount of work to locate the pay streak. And what good do they do? No one is authorized to work them or put men to work on them for the crown. If the creek is good or bad they are alike useless.

Work on the tributaries progresses with equally praiseworthy zeal. Scotch, Green, Lulu, Weber, Narrow and Blueberry are all the proud possessors of cabins, either under way or finished. Each has from two to 20 men, prospecting or getting out dumps. This is the evidence that many overlook and yet to our mind is in itself of great value in arriving at a conclusion whether the creek is good or bad. One thing the Nugget congratulates the people of Thistle creek on is that if work is continued with anything like the present energy the creek will never get an undeserved "black eye" as doubtless many good creeks have because no one would develop them. This fact makes Thistle plainly more valuable than most undeveloped property.

What progress has been made? What is being taken out? These questions are answered in some instances but in others they will not say. On 11 Scotch they are down to bedrock and are drifting. The pay seems to be shallow

about 18 feet below the surface and in extent about 12 inches above bedrock and about 18 inches in the bedrock; the width is as yet unknown and the amount, as near as the scribbler could learn, was from 25 cents to 88 cents per pan.

In no instance on the creek has enough work been done on any one claim to show how wide the pay is and for this reason the best pay may or may not have been located.

The discovery hole has been drilled in but fifty feet only up and down the creek. The other holes on discovery claims are also, where down to bedrock in a line following the bed of the stream. This is criticised very severely by the opponents of the creek but is due in a degree to the difficulty of sinking because of water coming in. This crosscutting of the valley is being most thoroughly done by the boys on No. 15 below, though they have no holes down to the pay yet which seems to be but a short distance above bedrock and about 18 inches in the bedrock.

On 72 below the panning shows about 37 cents per pan but they believe there is better pay towards the center of the valley and are now sinking toward that point.

On discovery Mr. May would not let the Nugget's representative pan at all because he said that the gold being so coarse and unlike Eldorado, no very fine particles that if a particularly good pan was secured a very unjust boom would be started and if the reverse as unjust set back would be given. Nor would he say what he had got in panning. He claimed he was not panning at all but each day picked up small pieces of gold and nuggets. These he brought out for inspection when urged to do so. He had probably \$120 worth. Among the gold was a \$10 and a \$5 nugget and several between \$2 and \$1.

The gold corresponded with that found on other claims of the creek and was distinctly different from any gold found around the district tributary to Dawson. The color was a rich "old gold." Generally the smallest pieces found on the creek so far range from half a cent to 10 cents. This as all know is very coarse for the small or fine gold. The general shape of the pieces is also peculiar in that they are oval, pointed pieces rather than showing round edges caused by washing. As far as the progress of the work will permit one to see there are both stumper and winter diggings on Thistle. On discovery with the bedrock only 10 to 12 feet down and a nice flow of water nothing better for ground sluicing could be desired. In places the bedrock is reached only after a depth of 22 feet.

The benches are not far enough along to warrant any reference to what they show but more than one will be known about before long for several are being prospected.

There have been a number of lays let on a 50 percent basis and not all of them to inexperienced men either. In fact those who have had lays on Eldorado are in some instances trying to get granted to them a piece of ground to work out.

Blueberry boasts of the highest pan nuggets excluded. The report is that \$6.50 has been panned off of No. 27 Blueberry. But almost all are averse to boasting of big pans and generally it has seemed to be underestimated rather than the opposite. In fact one is favorably impressed with the personnel of the claim owners now on their claims.

In conclusion Thistle, both above and below shows up well for the amount of time it has been known. It will probably prove to be a good creek but no one can positively say how good at this time. The chances are it will be better than the average paying creek but few expect it to prove to be anything like an "Eldorado."

Resolutions of Respect.

Know all men by these presents, that WHEREAS J. C. Bryant was not only compelled to lay down his life in his search for riches in this far off country but was unfortunately unable to suffer for several long months, and

WHEREAS His partner Mr. George E. Lucas refused to permit his being forced into the crowded wards of the hospital, preferring to remain with him and personally attend him through his long illness; now before us is presented that we, the undersigned, having constantly viewed with pleasure and surprise the unusual consideration and kindness with which George Lucas treated his partner during his prolonged sickness, and the indefatigable energy with which he supplied his every want, desire to express our appreciation of his actions and note with pleasure the entire absence of selfishness in his nature; that we believe him to be a most exceptional one in one thousand and have no hesitancy in saying that he deserves the sincere congratulations and respect of all who admire and love that which is truly great in the universal brotherhood of man. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be published in the Dawson City papers and that copies of same be sent to the relatives of both families.

The resolutions are signed by 26 residents of West Dawson.

Two Creek Fishaps.

James C. Nixon, employed on three above upper Dominion, froze his right hand quite badly last Thursday. He was setting up a windlass frame and felt his nose being nipped. He removed his mitten to rub snow on his nose and before he was aware of it, the hand was frozen hard. It was thawed out as quickly as possible and the injured member was doing well although it will be some time before he can use it.

Raymond Carlo, formerly of Nebraska, is just recovering from typhoid fever. He had been ill for over three weeks and is being cared for at Morrison's food house, 25 below upper on Dominion.

Contribution Box Stolen.

With the party or parties who stole the Salvation Army contribution box from the Dominion saloon please return it, and the Army will give them a real good dinner for their trouble.

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