

Says It's Exaggerated

A Dawson Miner Gives Some Personal Observations on Indian River Strike.

A Breezy Letter from the North-Something About the Royalty.

A few weeks ago the Times published an interview with Capt. Woodside in reference to the conglomerate find on Indian river in the Klondike.

"I have just finished reading your article of the 10th inst. in the Victoria Times in reference to the interview with H. J. Woodside, formerly editor of the Yukon Sun (now an ex-editor), who has given you the news of a wonderful quartz strike in the Indian River district of the Klondike, called conglomerate ore, like that of the famous mines of the Rand Company of South Africa (which averages \$100 per ton).

"The best assays I can learn of from the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and other sources here is \$5 per ton (furnace test) and from several other tests from \$1.50 to \$2 per ton by grinding, panning and furnace tests. I know Donald McKinnon and John Bourke personally, and could have been the third man to stake on the Indian river conglomerate reef. I saw them starting out to stake, and met them at Grand Forks, at Eldorado creek and Bonanza on their return. I saw the samples they brought back with them, and saw an assay certificate by one Everette, showing \$2 from one sample and \$5 per ton from another sample (in gold), and was invited to go to Indian river and stake claims, but I refused because it did not interest me sufficiently to tramp 40 miles or more into the wilderness and back again, while I had much better prospects close to Dawson.

"Your paper states that the assay values already given 'average' \$200, which would be nearly correct if you put between the figure 2 and the next cipher a period, making it \$2 instead of \$200 per ton.

"Capt. H. J. Woodside, no doubt, has been misinformed by the excited quartz enthusiasts who staked on this conglomerate reef, and are ready to believe that it will assay anywhere from \$5 per ton to a fabulous value sufficient to buy a castle in 'Paradise'.

"It is now 90 days since the strike was made, and there is no shaft being sunk, not \$100 worth of work done on this reef, even to serve as assessment work. I will send you a sample of the conglomerate ore herewith, which was given to me last night by Mr. Burke, and you can assay it for your own satisfaction.

"John Bourke and Donald McKinnon are both estimable, sober, honest and sincere miners and prospectors, and I like them both, but they have been horribly misrepresented and their statements distorted. I hope this conglomerate find will some day prove by mill tests to run \$5 per ton, and also hope that Donald McKinnon and his associates will find coal near by of sufficient worth to mine the reef at a profit.

"Mr McKinnon and another man are now prospecting for coal a few miles from the reef, hoping to secure fuel to crush or smelt their conglomerate ore. It would be criminal to allow exaggerated reports of untold wealth in quartz finds to go abroad, and to be misled by a bogus or wild statement of thousands of 'Cheechakos' or 'tender-foot' to the Klondike. We have as many people here now as we need until more work has been done to develop this country, with the exception of a 'handful' of capitalists with enough grit and speculative blood in their veins to develop splendid quartz prospects which are now going for a bargain for the want of faith and nerve enough to let go of money in hand for an uncertainty.

"I am called the most enthusiastic quartz 'crank' in Dawson, own and control 26 quartz claims and placers in a radius of 20 miles, including Bonanza creek and Eldorado creek districts; carry around a pocket full of gold nuggets, have at least 500 pounds of samples in my shop, all of which I have 'mashed' to town on my back from 10 to 12 miles; can show quartz nuggets weighing from \$60 to \$187.50; own in fact the finest mineral collection in the Klondike; can show samples of quartz carrying gold, silver, copper, lead, tin and platinum that will assay from \$15 to \$150, \$250 up to and including \$84,252 per ton—sixty-four thousand two hundred and fifty-two dollars per ton—and yet, in spite of this fact, I doubt very much if I could sell an interest or even a whole claim 150x20 1500 feet square—50 acres, on Bonanza or Eldorado creek for \$500, after nearly two years' hard work. I have 100-foot veins, 10-foot veins, and all sorts of veins in sight and in place, but the 'Placer' man has the 'Dust'.

"Thinks the 'quartz' man will 'bust'." Tells the capitalist "don't trust." Fills the quartz man with disgust.

"Thinks the veins will 'pinch out.'" Tells the quartz man that are now going to blow your money "up the spout."

"This is not a poor man's country. In fact the poor man has no country. As soon as a poor man strikes it rich he either goes insane, drinks himself, and dissipates himself into an untimely grave, or becomes just as arrogant, greedy and insulting as his wealthy brothers in other camps, and tries to swallow up the whole creek, paystreak and all. This is not a personal remark, and there are few exceptions to this rule.

"There are at least 1,000 prospectors for quartz in the Klondike. Among this number is one company which deserves more credit (in my estimation) than all

other companies combined, and that company is the Alaska Exploration Company, who have already spent \$100,000 cash in quartz prospecting, and are still at it with energy and vim that deserves the applause of every miner and prospector in the Queen's realm.

"The Klondike is destined to be the richest quartz mining camp, or at least one of the richest in the 'civilized' world, as soon as it becomes 'civilized,' and as soon as the kicking, croaking, disgruntled placer miner receives his bottle of mitis and stops his squalling, sweet peace will dwell in the land.

"The Dominion government enact a law forbidding the placer mine owner from receiving more than 10 per cent. royalty from his lay men, and throw off the 10 per cent. royalty now charged up to the mine owner, and this will force the mine owner to remain in the Klondike and work his own ground, or give his hard working lay men 90 per cent. of the product of his mine for doing the work and paying all expenses. The claim owner will not wax fat on his 10 per cent. royalty from his laymen.

"This liberal and just dose from the Dominion government would increase the population of the Yukon Territory by 100,000 people in 12 months, would enrich the treasury, win the applause of all nations and bring about a primary millennium to all classes of people in the Klondike, excepting the greedy, grasping placer mine owner, who wants to rob his laymen of 50 per cent. royalty, and kicks and snarls at the Canadian government for taxing him 10 per cent. royalty.

"If these men were forced to work the mine themselves, or lease the ground at 10 per cent. royalty to industrial miners, they would be the most disconsolate and unconsolable set of people here, having received a dose of their own medicine from the parent government which they had not expected.

"I am a placer and quartz miner, and an American citizen, and would be glad to receive 10 per cent. royalty from every claim in the Klondike that I possess.

"Sincerely yours, WILSON FOSTER."

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Permanent Sidewalks

Probability That They Will Be Built in Connection With Street Paving.

Short and Business Like Meeting of the City Council Last Evening.

Judging by the informal motion of Ald. Brydon and the favorable comments passed upon it at the regular meeting of the City Council last evening, there is reason to believe that the laying of the permanent sidewalks along Broad and Yates streets will yet go on simultaneously with the street paving now commenced, and in accordance with the generally expressed desire of many of the property holders along those thoroughfares.

On suggestion of Mayor Hayward, Ald. Brydon will give formal notice of his motion and will bring the matter up before the next meeting of the City Council. Ald. Hall was prepared to support the motion if it had been put, while others also appeared ready to express their approval, although favoring the formal course suggested.

The meeting of the council was remarkably short, the business being disposed of by 10 o'clock, except a few by-laws which have stood over for weeks.

Before the regular proceedings, Ald. Stewart drew attention to the non-attendance of the Queen's birthday celebration business, and he asked what steps were being taken to wind up the accounts. The mayor was glad that the attention of the board had been directed to the matter, and explained that the delay complained of was, he understood, due to a number of the subscribers not fulfilling their obligations. In a week or two, however, he hoped the whole business would be closed.

From C. J. Jones, the Governor-General's private secretary, and from Miss S. F. Wilson, corresponding secretary of the National Council of Women, communications were then read, the former expressing her thanks for the message of sympathy sent by the city on the occasion of the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. The latter also expressed thanks to the city for the courtesies extended to the National Council while here, and enclosed a copy of a resolution to the same effect passed by the Branch council on behalf of the National Council.

Dr. Fred. S. Reid, of San Francisco, wrote recommending his life-saving apparatus for use in the city, and enclosed a page of the Examiner explaining its usefulness and method of working. The letter was read and filed, and will be acknowledged.

J. W. Williams made application for admittance into the Old Men's Home. Received and referred to committee.

A. W. Moore & Co. gave notice that the insurance policies on a number of corporations, buildings and houses, run out. Referred to finance committee for report.

Thos. Hooper, on behalf of his client, Gim Fook Yuen, asked for the privilege of laying a sidewalk on Government street in front of the latter's new building. Referred to city engineer for report.

City Engineer Topp recommended that a drain be built on Ontario and St. Lawrence streets at a cost of \$50, but the council, on the other hand, referred the matter to the bridges and streets committee, which will report on the subject in favor of supporting the engineer.

Regarding the permanent sidewalk opposite the Humphrey building on Yates street, the city engineer reported that in giving the grades they were made as low as possible, which would result in the building not existing. The damage to the building, if any, could not possibly exceed \$3 or \$4, which simply meant putting on a new floor at the foot of the stairway. The engineer was authorized to proceed with the work.

Robert Mason submitted a proposition for the cutting of the hay on Beach Hill park, offering on conditions that he get a five-year agreement, with the council to remove all the stones and fill in all the holes where the hay grows and to pay the council \$6 per ton for the hay. Received to site committee and city engineer for report.

A lengthy communication from the Sir William Wallace Society was next read respecting the Burn's memorial. On this subject the park committee reported approving of the site previously selected at the corner of the triangular piece of ground to the east of the deer enclosure in the park, and the work of erection to be done under the city's supervision. The cost of the water supply would be in the neighborhood of \$600.

On motion of Ald. Hall the report was adopted.

M. Burns & Co. made a bid up to \$200 for the old iron of the Point Ellice bridge. Received and laid on the table.

W. W. Northcott, city building inspector, reported that certain improvements required being done, the cost of which would be about \$175. Received and tabled and instructions given for the work to be carried out.

J. Mesher asked that a sidewalk be laid at the corner of Pandora and Cook streets. Referred to the city engineer for report.

The park committee reported approving of the band concert appropriation being divided with the Victoria City band in accordance with a petition signed by some 150 people. Carried.

The finance committee recommended the building of a stable for the sanitary officer's horse at the rear of the market. Carried.

The standing committee on finance recommended the payment of accounts amounting to \$1,149.80, which were passed.

Ald. Brydon moved that the water commissioner be instructed to have the water turned on again at the Douglas street fountain. Since the water had been turned off he had been informed that keeping the fountain running made no material difference on the general pressure. The motion carried.

The motion carried. Next was submitted a joint report

from the building inspector and sanitary officer and medical health officer, denouncing the premises at No. 14 Broad street as a menace to public health. There is, the report stated, 6 inches of semi-fluid putrid matter under the building.

Considerable discussion took place on the subject, and it was finally decided to have the matter over for a week. In the meanwhile formal notice of a resolution to have the nuisance removed will be posted.

A FATAL ACCIDENT. Young Man Killed on E. & N. Railway Near Shawnigan Lake.

A ghastly discovery was made on the E. & N. railway by John Welsh, section man on section No. 4, about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. As he was going his rounds he found the body of a man lying dead about a mile and a half north of Shawnigan Lake. The top of his head was cut off and was lying inside the track, having evidently been run over by the train. The feet were lying from the track. Mr. Welsh at once sent for Cobble Hill for the corner, and to-day the latter is holding an inquest into the cause of the accident. Deceased was a young man of about 22 or 23 years of age, and of medium size. A number of passengers who arrived on the noon train from Nanaimo to-day viewed the remains, and one or two thought they identified in the deceased a young man who had worked some time ago in the Mount Sicker mines, but on this point they are not very sure.

At first it was supposed the case was one of suicide, but the engineer in charge of No. 6 freight train which passed the spot at about 2 o'clock, at about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and which evidently was the train which caused the death, says that it was impossible for the man to be on the track ahead of the locomotive without having been seen.

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THE LATE BARON RUSSELL. (Associated Press.) London, Aug. 14.—The funeral services of the late Baron Russell, of Killowen, Lord Chief Justice of England, took place at Brompton Oratory this morning in presence of a large congregation. Father Matthew Russell, a brother of the deceased, officiated, and a resolution to have the nuns removed will be posted.

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LICENSE AUTHORIZING AN EXTRA-PROVINCIAL COMPANY TO CARRY ON BUSINESS. "COMPANIES ACT, 1887." Canada: Province of British Columbia. No. 184.

This is to certify that "The Victoria Mining Syndicate," a company authorized and licensed to carry on business within the Province of British Columbia, and to carry out or effect any of the objects hereinafter set forth, which the legislative authority of the Province of British Columbia has conferred upon the Company in England.

The amount of the capital of the Company is \$12,000, divided into 240 shares of 50 each.

The head office of the Company is in the City of Victoria, British Columbia, and Israel Wood Powell, Doctor