

entire tract has been solidly built up, being occupied by restaurants, small stores, laundries, etc., and yields to the lessees a gross income of about \$10,000 per month.

The Alaska Commercial Company and the North American Transportation and Trading Company, working in harmony, on June 1 adopted a new scale of prices for Dawson. The price of flour was advanced from \$12 to \$16 per hundred pounds; bacon, from 40 to 50 cents per pound; ham, from 45 to 60 cents; coffee, from 50 to 75 cents; canned corned beef, tongue, etc., from 50 to 75 cents per can; canned sausage, from 75 cents to \$1, and other food supplies in like proportion. The price of shovels and axes was increased from \$3 to \$4; nails, from 20 to 25 cents per pound; coal oil, from \$6 to \$8 per 5-gallon can; candles, from \$6 to \$8 per box; gum boots, from \$12 to \$20 per pair; whisky, from \$17 to \$25 per gallon. The average increase on staples is 33½ per cent, and on luxuries, 50 per cent. With but slight modifications, these prices have been adopted by both companies at all points on the river. The representative of the Alaska Commercial Company at Dawson states that the advance in prices will not seriously affect the working miner, as he will be given the advantage over the ordinary purchaser of a discount on his year's outfit which will make its cost but little more than under the old scale of prices.

Early in June the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Bank of British North America established branches in Dawson, which are now actively engaged in a general banking business. The banks are putting large amounts of bank notes in circulation through the purchase of gold dust and in the ordinary course of business. During the first eight days after it opened its doors the Canadian Bank of Commerce purchased \$1,500,000 worth of gold dust. Dust is accepted at \$14 per ounce, the depositor receiving the balance, less deductions, after assay. The charge for exchange is 1 per cent. The new system is a great relief and accommodation to the public, as the cost of exchange previous to the establishment of the banks ranged from \$75 to \$100 per \$1,000. Gold dust is still the circulating medium in general use, and there is much complaint of unfairness in weighing, many of the smaller dealers using heavy weights, which give them an advantage over the purchaser of from 10 to 20 per cent; but this condition will soon be a thing of the past.

The North American Transportation and Trading Company accepts gold for shipment to Seattle at 2½ per cent per \$1,000 for expressage and 2½ per cent per \$1,000 for insurance. The Alaska Commercial Company accepts gold for shipment only as far as St. Michaels, charging 2 per cent for expressage and insurance to that point. Since the establishment of the banks neither company issues drafts.

Complaint is heard on all sides at Dawson in regard to the mining regulations in force in the district. At different times during the past year four sets of regulations have been in force, all radically differing,