

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

DAWSON, Y. T., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1898. PRICE 50 CENTS

HOW THE WATER FRONT WAS LEASED.

Crown Attorney Wade Gives His Side of the Story.

He Relates in Detail How It Was Done and the Reason of It—The Prices Offered and who Made the Tender.

A gentleman remarked at one of our meetings that "while there are no open charges being made against anyone in particular still certainly a decidedly unsavoury smell is in the air." The Nugget has framed a series of questions crystallizing the uncertain rumors and in questionings and the Nugget man presented himself in answer to the gentleman most interested to give him an opportunity of answering them.

"Shortly afterwards there commenced to arise exaggerated reports of vast numbers of steamboats which would arrive up the river as soon as the river was open. We commenced to think we might have been hasty in leasing the water front and had not kept enough ground for steamboat landings. May 1st we obtained a surrender of the present open ground from Messrs. Morrison and McDonald for the amount of one dollar, the rent remaining the same. That is all there is to the lease of the much talked of water front."

"I came here for one year and that year will be up in a few weeks—by the time I can reach the East I have not a dollar to my name here under any circumstances. The prices reports that I have been appointed a member of the new council of the Yukon district make it difficult for me to go out at the present moment."

"Mr. Wade, have you seen any of those interviews in outside papers in which some of the officials at Dawson are accused of 'shady' actions?"

"I notice that some of the outside papers are making attacks on the actions of the officials here. They are basing those attacks on myself on irresponsible statements of people who have not made it their business to inquire into any of the questions to which they refer, or who are actuated by a pure malignity because they have been refused privileges which could not properly be granted. From internal evidence of these interviews I have no doubt as to the persons who are responsible for them and am aware of the motives which have actuated them, and their motives are anything but creditable to themselves. The persons referred to have been particularly active in making underhand and anonymous attacks on me sought to gain privileges from the government by improper methods, and one of them has since complained—and with good cause—that he received rough treatment at my hands. Those persons who gave these interviews, contained therein referring from giving them while here; preferring the cowardly course of attacking, at a distance of thousands of miles, men who were not present to defend themselves and expose the reasons for, and emptiness of the attack."

"The Nugget explained that the object of the interview was to question that anyone accused should simply be given a chance to be heard. The rumors had been in the air and it was not at all improper that they should be put to the persons interested. The talk had been that there had been no consideration of bids in awarding the water front. It had even been stated in a number of papers that higher bids had been made than by the person getting the lease. As will be seen Mr. Wade entered fully into the matter. After some further conversation on promiscuous matters the Nugget man departed."

of the proposed reserve of 100 feet for the government offices, as this reserve is to be made from time to time we may be required to clear off any portion of the front at any moment. This might damage us greatly at any time. We are willing to accept however your suggestion that instead of making this reserve, we should increase the width of the front already reserved in your letter. You will of course see that the front is cleared off and that we are given possession as soon as possible.

It is understood that you are not to be held personally responsible in case for any reason this agreement cannot be carried out on your part.

MESSRS. MORRISON & McDONALD, Gentlemen:—We are in receipt of your letter of this date and hereby agree to accept your proposition to lease with the modifications proposed by you in said letter. We are Yours truly,

THOMAS FAWCETT, Gold Commissioner. F. C. WADE, Agent Dominion Lands.

The foregoing is all the lease there is to the water front. The police were not immediately notified to clear the strip. Mr. Wade continued: "Shortly afterwards there commenced to arise exaggerated reports of vast numbers of steamboats which would arrive up the river as soon as the river was open. We commenced to think we might have been hasty in leasing the water front and had not kept enough ground for steamboat landings. May 1st we obtained a surrender of the present open ground from Messrs. Morrison and McDonald for the amount of one dollar, the rent remaining the same. That is all there is to the lease of the much talked of water front."

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Mr. Wade replied that the fact of such promises having been made had not been communicated to him.

Mr. Fawcett was a member of the committee which approved of the price of lots, as finally adopted, both in the government addition and in Klondike City, and made no mention of any such promises.

Personally, Mr. Wade considered that the cost of administering a country, situated as the Yukon is, so far from the central government, justified the making of a charge for government lots.

Mr. Fawcett has since been asked by Mr. Wade if any such assurances were extended by him and, in positive reply, he said: "No."

The Miners Committee desires to state that, in case Messrs. Harper and Ladue take steps to evict anyone residing on the ground claimed by them, the committee will employ counsel to defend the first case, in order to test the legality of such eviction.

GEORGE T. C. ARMSTRONG, Chairman. PERRY McDONALD, Hon. Secretary.

"Ran Into the Wall." The steamer Josie Clissett met with disaster descending Miles canyon, August 2. Captain E. W. Smith was in charge of the ill-fated boat and when she commenced to leave the high comb in the center she struck first on one wall and then on the other he kept his head remarkably well and steered her ashore immediately below the rapids just in time to find shallow water for her to sink in. The steamer will be raised and repaired. Her 20 tons of freight and passengers came down on the Ona.

THE A. C. CO. DOES ITSELF PROUD IN ITS NEW STEAMBOATS BUILT ON THE MISSISSIPPI PLAN.

Steamworks built on a single piece of machinery. Thousands of outfits have been sold on the streets in the past two or three weeks, and Dawson put down her prices to bedrock. Eight days ago several steamers arrived nearly together, and Dawson said we are to be inundated with provisions. The river has remained exceptionally high for this time of year, and Dawson rejoiced for the steamboat sales. Two days and no steamboats—three days and no steamboats—four, five, and Dawson's face commenced to lengthen and Dawson commenced to size up her grub pile. Six, seven, eight days, and none of the scores of steamboats arriving which were supposed to be on the way. The season of an open river was rapidly drawing to a close and Dawson commenced to ask herself if this winter was to be a repetition of last, when the police could not arrest and jail a man unless he was the fortunate owner of a outfit. Nine days and Dawson said the boats which stuck in the river. Ten days and Dawson commenced counting the number of small boats along the waterfront to see if the population could be accommodated in a gigantic exodus to down river points where the boats were supposed to be. But about midnight on Monday, word ran from mouth to mouth that a steamer was in the river. In three shakes of a lamb's tail Dawson was at the landing taking in the sights; and indeed the steamer Susie, a palatial new boat of the A. C. Co., would be a pretty sight even with the river filled with steamboats. As she rounded the bend her electric searchlight lit up the water for miles, illuminated the banks, flashed in the eyes of the thousands of people on the landing and changed night to brilliant day wherever it happened to fall.

The Susie is a handsome four decker and her three tiers of internal and external glow lamps were all aflame and passengers thronging the bulwarks.

The Susie was built at Unalaska and is by far the handsomest boat which has yet plied the Yukon. She is 215 feet long and broad in proportion. Her engines are the best that could be procured. She has two tiers of cabins, is equipped throughout on the model of a Mississippi steamer and painted inside and out, a pure white.

Capt. Dalsion brought her from St. Michaels in 17 days and five hours without a mishap of any kind. The Susie is one of three sister boats which will all be here shortly. She brought up some 55 passengers and 500 tons of provisions. There is one thing about the A. C. Co. boats, which is doing much every day on the river, which them the most popular line on the river. From the captain down to the night watchman all are courteous as gentlemen can be.

W. A. Hudson is purser and J. W. Worsley steward, and we prophesy a "fair house" for them on their trip down.

Slew Him With an Axe. What appeared to be a mad dog was killed on the water-front, on Friday night. He was large, curly and black, and was found to be snapping and biting at everyone he met. He finally descended the river bank and endeavored to climb aboard the nearest boat. The proprietor of the boat, Frank Babcock, objected to the visit without an invitation. He met him with an axe and the result was very quickly a good, quiet dog, which will never bother you more.

Promoted to Be Lieutenant-Colonel. Major A. P. Steele, who has been in charge of N. W. M. P. affairs from Ft. Selkirk northwards, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-colonel. His headquarters will now be in Dawson and besides being in full charge of the police will be chairman of the new council created to act with Mr. Ogilvie, the new Yukon Commissioner. Mr. Steele is very highly spoken of by all who know him and his advent in Dawson is looked forward to as an important event.

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT CO. STEAMERS ANGLIAN, COLUMBIAN, AND CANADIAN FOR White Horse Rapids and Lake Bennett. STR. ANGLIAN. Thursday, August 11th, at 4 p. m. Sateeroms and Meals on Board. APPLY TO F. W. TROUNCE, AGENT, Office with Barclay Brothers, Packers.

LEAVING COPPER RIVER FOR DAWSON

Discouraged Prospectors Coming Over by Way of Forty Mile.

A Good Trail From Tanana to Franklin Gulch—Many Will Come That Way as Soon as Winter Sets In—Forty Mile Showing Up Well.

Copper River has proven a dismal failure. There is just as great a rush now to get away from it as there was early in the spring to get in. Hardships and dangers that defy description have been undergone by the men who crossed the Valdes glacier led by the glowing reports that came out during last fall and winter.

As is generally known Copper River heads up in the neighborhood of Forty Mile. An Indian trail runs over the divide between the two streams and hence the trip across is not an exceedingly difficult one.

Many of the Copper River people will come out over this trail and down Forty Mile during the coming winter. Some few have come already, among them being Mr. S. M. Taylor, of Idaho. Mr. Taylor left Valdes on the 10th of February and went up the Copper River nearly to its headwaters. It required fully five months of sledging, packing and boating to reach his destination and then nothing but disappointment awaited him. Traces of gold were discovered in many places just as they can be found along the Yukon all the way from Dawson to the Pelly, but no ground sufficiently rich to justify working had been discovered up to Mr. Taylor's departure and at that time most people were on a stampede to get out of the country.

The greatest difficulty in getting into the Copper River country was experienced in crossing the glacier. Mr. Taylor and his party spent 30 days in making a distance of 17 miles and even then were making progress above the average. Very few animals were worked, as nearly every man sledged or packed his own outfit. In fact the character of the country is such that the use of animals is almost prohibited.

In regard to the rumored loss of life on Copper River, Mr. Taylor is of the opinion that very few met death though a great many lost all or part of their outfits.

Probably in the neighborhood of 7000 people landed at Valdes en route up the Copper River, of this number less than 1000 succeeded in getting any distance up the stream.

MESSRS. FAWCETT AND WADE, Gentlemen:—We are in receipt of your letter of the 9th inst., with reference to lease of Dawson City water front. In reply we beg to say that we are willing to accept the lease and all the terms set out in the letter with the exception

of the proposed reserve of 100 feet for the government offices, as this reserve is to be made from time to time we may be required to clear off any portion of the front at any moment. This might damage us greatly at any time. We are willing to accept however your suggestion that instead of making this reserve, we should increase the width of the front already reserved in your letter. You will of course see that the front is cleared off and that we are given possession as soon as possible.

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