

CLAIM RIGHTS

At Cape Nome Are Still Subject to Much Discussion in Congress.

VARIOUS BILLS ARE NOW PENDING.

The Committee Is Striving to Obtain Information.

NO AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

War and Interior Departments Not in Conflict—Adequate Laws To Be Enacted.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)
Washington, Feb. 18.—No foundation exists for the report that the war and interior departments have locked horns over Cape Nome beach rights. Both departments are keeping hands off entirely, in the expectation of legislation during the present session of congress. Under other circumstances the war department might be willing to issue permits for dredging, but just now a large number of applications to carry on such work along the Alaskan coast are held up by the secretary on the ground that there is no telling what action congress may take, and he does not wish to do anything that might have to be done differently within two or three months.

The interior department takes the same view of the case, although Commissioner Hermann, of the general land office, has unofficially given an opinion that 20 acre claims for mining purposes could not, under existing law, be held to apply to tide lands or the sixty foot reserve. Good lawyers from Alaska, now here, claim that the law in question, establishing a sixty foot reserve, does not apply to land containing gold, or where land adjacent to the beach has not been taken up as homesteads.

Since the interior department holds to the contrary unless congress by new legislation specifically overrules it, the matter will be taken up in the courts. It is not possible at this time to say what legislation will be enacted relative to the situation at Cape Nome.

Bills are pending before the public land committee of the house giving the interior department full authority, and other bills are before the military committee of both houses to give authority over beach lands to the war department. In no sense, however, can this be construed as a controversy between the two departments.

None of the bills are prepared by the departments themselves. Their author is being men who are interested in beach mining, by dredging or otherwise, and who have drawn up bills to suit their individual purposes. Members of these committees have reached no agreement.

Nothing has been done further than to give hearings to representatives of various interests now here.

W. J. Milroy of Cape Nome, has given the committee a full understanding of the situation, but says it is impossible to forecast what will be done. He has pointed out what he deems bad features of the various measures, and is confident none of the bills now before congress will pass just as they have been introduced, and thinks the outlook fairly good for some definite enactment. Representative Jones, member of the public lands committee, says no discussions of mining bills for Alaska have been had by his committee as a body. Speaking of hearings by the committee, he said today:

"Some of the Alaskans now here argue that no legislation is needed; that all can be left to the miners themselves. Others say that congress should fix the size of claims that can be taken up, but all unite in agreeing that powers of attorney in locating should be abolished. There is a strong sentiment in the committee in favor of no legislation regarding the tide lands below ordinary high water mark, and fixing the maximum size of the claims on the beach above high water line, leaving the rest to miners' meetings. Claims 100 feet wide on the beach and no one man to be permitted to take up

more than one claim within a distance of several miles are propositions that seem to meet with favor in the committee."

It is openly charged by representatives of Alaskan interests now in this city that the bill of Senator Nelson bearing the title of a "bill to preserve rivers and harbors and other purposes," inaugurates the leasing system for all tide lands and beach lands in the district of Alaska through the war department, and that this bill, if enacted into law, will permit a monopoly of beach mining in that district. It is also charged that its attempt to have these lands leased and controlled by the war department is backed by wealthy capitalists, who are endeavoring to obtain control of the best gold producing sections throughout Alaska.

It is claimed that this system would produce results now governing the Canadian placer fields, and would work the utter destruction of rights of individual miners.

Atlin Hopeful.

A. H. Preston who was engaged in the milk business in Dawson last fall, and who left for the outside early in December, has just returned, the greater portion of his time while away having been passed at Atlin, where he has interests.

Mr. Preston reports Atlin as being the winter home of fully 2200, who are quietly loafing the winter away and all anxious for the advent of the time when they can again go to work, although he says there is considerable "dead" work being done in that district this winter.

Four large hydraulic plants are being prepared for, the machinery for which is being shipped by rail to Bennett and sledged from there to Atlin over the ice. These big plants are being taken as one result of a trip to England taken by "Sailor Bill" Partridge some time less than a year ago. "Sailor Bill" and his mining partner, Mrs. Hitchcock, are both well known in Dawson, the latter having some pretensions to literary attainment and fame. She and Partridge acquired large hydraulic as well as quartz interests in the Atlin district early last year in which the "sailor" was successful in interesting an English syndicate. Two quartz mills will also be in operation in that district by the opening of the mining season.

Mr. Preston says the people there still have faith in the country, and believe that, with the immediate repeal of the alien exclusion act, it is destined to fulfill the predictions made of it in August of 1898, when it was heralded to the world that Atlin was as rich a mining district as the Klondike.

POLICE COURT.

But little business was transacted in the police court this morning. Two or three men were there for the purpose of instituting suit for wages alleged to be due for labor performed, and which they are not able to collect; hence their object in invoking the aid of the law.

With a full sense and conviction of the solemnity of the occasion John Zetler plead guilty to violating the Yukon health ordinance for which he was fined \$1 and costs, or seven days labor. John lost no time in drawing from the interior realms of his pants a well filled gold sack; but as only the "dollars of our daddies" is accepted in payment of fines, he went out and secured the currency.

E. B. Kenner who conducts a grocery store not far from the postoffice has a neighbor, J. G. McLaughlin, who is a butcher and meat dealer and whose place of business is indicated by a "piggy" suspended by the hind legs thereof from a hook in front of the door. Being a man who takes thought for the morrow, Mr. McLaughlin keeps on hands fuel wherewith to counteract the chilling blasts of Boreas as they "sash" up and down the snow covered, rockribbed vale of the Yukon. While Mr. McLaughlin would scorn the accusation of his not being a liberal minded citizen, yet he has concluded that there is a limit to liberality. Having arrived at that conclusion, he had his neighbor, E. B. Kenner, the dealer in groceries, canned goods, "et cetera," arrested last night on the charge of stealing wood to the value of 70 cents—three quarters less one nickel. When the case was called this morning, Mr. Kenner stood up as did likewise Mr. Leroy Tozier. The latter asked in behalf of the accused that the case be continued until this afternoon in order that his attorneys, Messrs. Clark & Wilson, could be present. The request was granted by the court and the accused was allowed to go on bond until 2 p. m.

Warrants were issued this morning for four men who, having no visible means of subsistence, are charged with supporting themselves in the main part by gambling. These four are the latter end of a list of upwards of 60 gamblers who within the past week have been arraigned and fined the usual monthly quota, \$50 and costs of \$5, in all \$55.

Must Respond if Called.

From an outside exchange we note the following special telegram from Ottawa, and which appeared in the Seattle P. I. of the 19th ult.:

"Ottawa, Feb. 18.—The men of Canada, as a rule, erroneously consider that they are free from any obligatory military service, yet the ballot act has full force in all parts of the Dominion, and

can be put in force at the option of the governor general. The Canadian militia act provides for a house to house inquiry as to the suitability of all the male population for service in time of war, and a choice by ballot of as many men as necessary, at any time, may be made. These must serve, whether they wish to or not. Such is the way the law stands in the Dominion of Canada today, although occasion has never arisen to put it into actual operation.

The classes to which militiamen are to be drawn in the event of compulsory service is as follows:

1. Eighteen to thirty years, unmarried or widowers without children.
2. Thirty to forty-five years, unmarried or widowers without children.
3. Eighteen to forty-five years, married or widowers with children.
4. Forty-five to sixty years, married or widowers with children.

The above is the order in which the male population of Canada will be called on to serve, if necessary, in time of great danger. The exemptions are: Judges, clergy, college professors and teachers in religious orders, revenue officers and employees, wardens, guards, etc., of penitentiaries and public lunatic asylums, those physically incapable and the only son of a widow, he being his only support. All males coming within the above classes, and not exempt, are liable to be enrolled, and if so enrolled, are subject to be chosen by ballot.

To provide for the defense of the Dominion, the militia was organized. The full strength of the active militia is limited by law to 45,000, rank and file. Its present establishment, including the permanent force of about 2000 consists of about 36,000 men of all ranks, but exclusive of the Northwest Mounted Police. This, of course, is Canada's first line of defense in case of attack, and is the force used to quell internal disturbances. Up to the present time the force has always proved quite sufficient for Canada's needs, and has been called on for service on 24 different occasions since confederation.

But the time may come when either this force should fall away below strength in time of peace, or not be large enough in time of war to cope with Canada's enemies. In either case volunteers would then be called for, and, if a sufficient number of these were not forthcoming, the ballot would have to be resorted to. The method of procedure in the enrollment of the men, and the ballot, is thus laid down in the militia act: "The enrollment of the militia shall be made in each company division by the captain thereof, with the assistance of the officers and non-commissioned officers of the company division; and the captain, and under his orders, the other officers and non-commissioned officers of the company division shall, by actual inquiry at each house therein, and by every other means in their power, make and complete, from time to time, and at such times as are fixed by the governor in council, a corrected roll, in duplicate, of the names of all the men in the different classes resident in the company division. The enrollment shall be held to be an embodiment of all the militiamen enrolled, and shall render them liable to serve under this act, unless exempt by law." All the arrangements for enrollment and balloting are left in the hands of the governor in council; any man chosen by ballot can become exempt from service, for the time, by providing an acceptable substitute.

The rates of the daily pay of the militia are as follows: Lieutenant colonel, \$4.87; major, \$3.90; paymaster, \$3.05; adjutant, with rank of lieutenant, \$2.44; adjutant, with rank of second lieutenant, \$2.13; surgeon, \$3.65; assistant surgeon, \$2.43; quartermaster, \$1.94; captain, \$2.82; lieutenant, \$1.58; second lieutenant, \$1.28; sergeant major, \$1; quartermaster sergeant, paymaster's clerk, orderly room clerk, hospital sergeant, 90 cents each; pay sergeant, 80 cents; sergeant, 75 cents; corporal, 60 cents; bugler, 50 cents, private, 50 cents.

He Stayed Away.

"Ah, colonel, I thought you were running a newspaper down home?"

"I was, sah, until a tramp printer struck the town, sah, and took a vile revenge on me for giving him half his pay in coldwood, sah."

"Hm. What did he do?"

"Well, sah, I was up in Looeyville, sah, playin' a little pokan, and lettin' this reprobate run the papah, sah, which I received every week at my hotel. One morning I was shocked to find he had referred to Kunnei Gattlin as a 'Jacksonian Democrat.' I saw in the Coyah-Junnel that the kunnel and his friends had burned the office and lynched the nigger that used to sweep out, sah, so I thought it would be as well to stay away a while."—Exchange.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
ALLEN BROS., Publishers.

A NEW ONE.

Some peculiar laws and rulings have come down to Dawson from Ottawa at various times during the last two years, but the promulgation of yesterday, covering the entry of claims for a period of five years upon the payment of \$75, must be conceded the palm.

The essential features of the new ruling are as follows:

1. "That the following be submitted for section 33 of the regulations: Any free miner having duly located a claim may obtain an entry therefor for one year by paying to the mining recorder in advance a fee of \$15 for one year or \$75 for five years."
2. "Any free miner having duly located and recorded a claim shall be entitled to hold it for the period for which he received an entry."

Nothing is said about performance of representation work. It simply says that by the payment of \$75 entry for a claim may be secured for five years, and that the free miner may hold his claim "for the period for which he has received an entry."

If, as held by Gold Commissioner Senkler, failure to renew a license or to comply with the provision of the representation regulation will still work a forfeiture of his ground, we fail to see any advantage which may accrue to the miner from the "seventy-five dollar" law.

READY MONEY WANTED.

Evidently the Dominion government's coffers are badly in need of ready money. The government has contracted some pretty heavy obligations since it came into power, none the least of which is the bill which will come in to defray the expense of the two contingents sent to South Africa. It becomes necessary for the government to find this money, and the recent rulings regarding the sale of reserved ground and the option of obtaining entry upon a claim for a period of five years upon the payment of \$75, rather lends color to the belief that Ottawa is looking around for available assets upon which to realize.

Naturally enough, the Klondike comes in for a good share of attention at this juncture, for, to descend to the use of the vernacular, the Klondike has proven a "good thing" for the federal coffers ever since it first became known that there is gold here.

But revenues from this particular section of the Dominion have been dropping off very considerably of late, owing to the various reservation and other restrictive laws, and at the same time unlooked for expenditures have become necessary. The number of miners' licenses issued has dwindled away till it does not approach the figures of last year, and the same thing is equally true of the claim renewals; hence, these extraordinary rulings which have been coming in during the past few weeks. Sifton evidently intends making a showing so far as finances are concerned, no matter what else may happen.

NO ROOM FOR CORNERS.

We doubt very much if any attempts at cornering the local supply of any staple commodities will prove successful. There are fewer consumers in the country this year than last, and a larger supply of nearly all lines of merchandise. Meanwhile the trail between Dawson and Bennett is black with outfits intended for this market, and from this time on they will be arriving daily. Within less than three months boat loads of commodities will be arriving from Bennett, and there

will be hundreds of tons of this season's supplies left in the warehouses unconsumed. Heavy holders of commodities would do better to unload at a reasonable profit rather than attempt to force prices up. The latter policy means a material curtailment of consumption, which is not sufficiently heavy as matters are, to use up supplies now on hand before navigation opens.

GROWING.

With this issue of the Nugget a substantial increase is made in the size of the paper. An additional column has been placed upon each page, and the length of the columns has been materially increased. Growing demands upon advertising space, making it necessary of late to leave out of the paper much valuable news matter, has led to the present increase. With the enlargement made in the paper today we shall be able to accommodate all demands from advertising patrons and at the same time do ample justice to the reader.

The Nugget as a daily paper has been in the field a little more than 60 days, but in that time the support accorded it has been so cordial as to lead us to the belief that the present increase is justified, though done at no inconsiderable additional expense.

The Nugget believes thoroughly in the future of Dawson. We believe it is a town which for years to come will be the center of a busy and thriving population. We have faith in the country and its permanence as one of the world's great gold producing regions. That faith we are demonstrating today in the most practical manner possible.

As predicted in the Nugget some time ago, Judge Humes has been re-elected mayor of Seattle. Humes' first term in office as mayor of the bustling sound metropolis has been eminently satisfactory to his constituents, and they have shown their appreciation of his capacity as an executive by electing him to serve for another term. Judge Humes has proven an exception to the rule which has usually governed the holder of mayoralty honors in Seattle. Ordinarily that position has proven the stepping stone to the political graveyard of the incumbent, but Humes has shown that he, at least, has been able to successfully combat this long established precedent. He often refused to be guided by precedent when he was serving on the bench, and he displays an equal contempt therefor when it comes to contesting for political honors.

Affairs in British Columbia are apparently in a condition bordering upon chaos. What they require down there is a man vested with the combined powers of the czar and sultan, such as were exercised by Major Walsh when he came into the Yukon. The most awe-inspiring sight we remember ever having witnessed was the gallant major's daily progress to and from the barracks, during the summer he was in Dawson. A similar pageant through the streets of Victoria would doubtless strike immediate terror to the spirit of anarchy which appears to prevail there at the present time.

Direct From London.

Mr. Wm. Matthew, a representative of the Trading & Exploring Co., is a recent arrival over the ice. He left London three months ago and has enjoyed a pleasant trip into the Klondike. Mr. Matthew will be associated with Capt. J. B. Wood in handling the extensive interests which the company has in Dawson.

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