

RECEIVED BY WIRE.

# ASSAY OFFICE

Will Be Immediately Established at Vancouver, British Columbia

AND GOLD WILL SELL AT FULL VALUE.

Preliminary Step to Locating Canadian Mint.

MITCHELL IS AGAIN SENATOR.

Few Drowned Bodies Will Be Recovered—Congress Helping St. Louis—Pat Crowe Hiding.

From Friday's Daily. Vancouver, Feb. 24, via Skagway, March 1.—The Dominion government has decided to open and operate an assay office here immediately. All gold will be purchased from miners at its full value, the same as is now done in Seattle. This action it is thought is the preliminary step to the locating of a Canadian mint.

Mitchell Again Elected. Salem, Or., Feb. 24, via Skagway, March 1.—John H. Mitchell has for the fourth time been elected to the United States senate, this time on the 25th ballot. His name was not placed in nomination until the 20th ballot.

The Golden Gate Wreck. San Francisco, Feb. 24, via Skagway, March 1.—It is now known that 128 persons were drowned by the sinking of the Pacific mail steamer Rio de Janeiro. Only 11 bodies have thus far been recovered, six white, four Chinese and one Jap. The ship lies in deep water where the tide currents are very swift, hence it is not believed that many of the bodies will be recovered.

For St. Louis Exposition. Washington, Feb. 24, via Skagway, March 1.—The senate has passed the bill appropriating \$3,000,000 for the St. Louis exposition which will be held in 1903.

Dewet's Reported Capture. London, Feb. 24, via Skagway, March 1.—It is rumored here that Dewet has been captured and that Botha is suing for peace.

Pat Crowe in Hiding. Kansas City, Feb. 24, via Skagway, March 1.—Pat Crowe is definitely known to be in hiding near Omaha. He is surrounded by officers who are preparing to make a raid on him in his lair. He is accompanied by five companions, all desperate men and all armed to the teeth. In all likelihood there will be a hard fought battle when the raid is made but if resistance is offered the gang will be shot down like dogs.

Many Klondikers. Skagway, March 1.—The steamer Dolphin which arrived last night brought 150 Klondike-bound passengers and a large freight cargo.

## TELEGRAM DIDN'T GO.

Merchants and Bankers' Appeal in Statu Quo.

The telegram which was stated in the Nugget of yesterday as having been sent by merchants and bankers of Dawson to Ottawa asking for a modification of the terms embraced in the recent order of the providing for the speedy closing of gambling houses in this city, was not

sent as per the arrangement agreed upon at the time the Nugget's information was obtained, nor had it been forwarded—at 2 o'clock this afternoon. While the parties above mentioned agree that strong objections should be at once registered against the enforcement of the order, it is not wholly agreed upon, as to the language in which the memorial setting forth the objections should be couched, hence the delay in sending the telegram. It would look that, with the several million words to be found in the English vocabulary to draw upon, a message could be formulated befitting the needs and demands of the occasion.

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# LANGDON ACQUITTED

Of Charge of Killing Gambler Edward B. Shanks.

Seattle, Feb. 24, via Skagway, March 1.—Wm. E. Langdon was yesterday acquitted by a jury of the charge of killing Edward B. Shanks, a gambler.

(The killing of Shanks by Langdon occurred one night last fall in one of the notorious South of Vesler Way saloons. Shanks made an ante-mortem statement in which he said the shooting was unprovoked; that he had been sitting in a small card room just off the saloon and that Langdon had entered and asked him for a small loan; that he had refused to grant it and that Langdon then shot him. Another story told at the time was that Langdon had come to Seattle a stranger and that Shanks and some others of his stamp had robbed him of considerable money and that when Langdon saw Shanks in the saloon he recognized in him one of the men who had robbed him; that he invited him into the small room and demanded restitution of the money and was laughed at by Shanks, whom he then shot.)

## TO BEGIN WORK.

Hundreds of Men Left Dawson Recently.

This being the first day of March, work which will be continued through out the spring and summer was this morning instituted on hundreds of claims throughout the district as all of yesterday men by the score, armed with picks, shovels and other implements of work, were seen leaving the city and heading for the various creeks, where positions awaited them. Many small claim owners who do not operate machinery but who depend on the old process of fire thawing, are now beginning work and in the course of a very short time the aggregation of men who have been hanging around town all winter waiting for the advent of the working season will have dwindled down to the small army of "never-works" who would go hungry rather than deign perform one day's honest labor. All of today small parties of laborers have been starting out over the various trails. The exodus will continue tomorrow and Sunday and by the first of next week general work and activity will be seen throughout the entire district.

## IS UP TO SLAVIN.

Devine Offers a \$1,000 Side Bet on Rounds.

Billy Devine is on the war path. He claims that Slavin has made the assertion publicly that he (Slavin) could knock out Devine in three rounds. This caused the blood of Billy to boil in anger and he now comes forward with the retort courteous as follows: Editor Nugget:

Having learned that Frank Slavin is indulging in his usual windy assertions of physical prowess, claiming that he can put me to sleep in three rounds, I hereby offer to bet \$1000 that he cannot best me in seven rounds. This is an additional bet over the \$250 deposit money and the side bet of \$5000 on the result of our meeting. The money will be forthcoming immediately upon Slavin's forthcoming.

W. DEVINE. Feb. 28th.

Still Goes. There was rumor floating around this morning to the effect that an order to postpone the closing of the gambling houses until the first of July had been received but Major Wood says that no such order has been received and that the law will be enforced on the 16th of this month.

# COAL LANDS

May Now Be Purchased For Ten Dollars Per Acre.

NEW LAWS WERE RECEIVED TODAY.

Price Cut In Two But Royalty to Be Charged.

RATE TO BE FIXED LATER

By Special Order in Council—Other Minerals Reserved—Takes Immediate Effect.

From Friday's Daily. At the office of the crown timber and land agent an important order was received this morning covering the sale to individuals and companies of coal lands.

The order is sent from the department of the interior and is given from that department under date of February 8.

It provides that upon the recommendation of the commissioner of the Yukon territory public lands upon which the rate of \$20 an acre will be sold at the rate of \$20 an acre where anthracite coal is discovered and at \$10 per acre where all other classes of coal are concerned. These rates are exactly one-half the price formerly charged.

The entire price may be paid at the time the purchase is made or terms of one-quarter cash and the balance in three equal installments are offered.

A royalty to be determined hereafter by order in council is to be charged and all patents issued for coal lands are to be subject to the collection of royalty at whatever rate is determined upon. The royalty is to be collected upon the sworn statement of the patentee and default of payment works forfeiture of the ground.

The maximum area of ground which will be granted to any individual is limited to 320 acres and the minimum is left to the discretion of the commissioner.

Two years are given in which to develop land granted under the order and if such development does not occur the ground is forfeited.

All applications must be accompanied by a deposit of \$100 to cover cost of survey, etc.

In case other minerals aside from coal are discovered the said minerals are held subject to disposition by the crown. In the event that land granted for coal purposes becomes valuable as a townsite, one-third of the lots in such townsite become the property of the crown.

In no case coal lands are to be granted nearer than 100 feet to a navigable stream of water.

The new regulations supersede all previous laws governing coal lands and take effect immediately.

Nome Mail Arrives.

Tupper Hunt arrived here at noon today with five sacks of mail from Nome. He only came a short distance with it taking it in charged 20 miles below Eagle and making the balance of the trip in four days.

Dawson is not the only part of the country that affects dogs with rabies, for his leader, a fine black husky, was taken with rabies in a mild form when below Fortymile. He brought the dog to town and is going to have it doctored.

Five sacks of outside mail which came in last night and two sacks of local mail were started early this morning for Nome and way points.

Stages Are Crowded.

Both yesterday and today the stages operated between Dawson and Grand Forks by Orr & Tukey and H. H. Honen contained all the passengers both ways that they could comfortably seat. The increase in travel is in part due to the moderation in the weather, but principally to the fact that the busy season is opening when new life and vigor is apparent in all departments of business.

## NEW ORDER.

An order received at the office of the gold commissioner by the mail which arrived this morning throws open the entire country to stakers and further permits the holder of one license to stake a creek, bench and hillside claim on each creek in every district. The full text of the order will appear in tomorrow's paper.

## TOM DAVIES ARRIVES.

He Brings the Latest News From Outside.

Tom Davies, formerly with the C. D. Co., and later as acting manager of the Dawson & Whitehorse Navigation Company, arrived in Dawson early this morning. Mr. Davies left for the outside last fall and is back again on a flying trip to attend to some personal business after which he will make another trip to the outside, returning at the opening of navigation. To a Nugget reporter today he talked freely of his journeyings and said he was no longer connected with the steamboat company which he with several other well known local men had organized last summer.

In talking of the Lancaster mystery, Mr. Davies said:

"There is absolutely nothing new learned about the case. Pinkerton's detectives had worked assiduously on it and could find no trace at all of the missing man. His accounts were found to be all straight and whatever moneys he had with him prior to his disappearance had been used to pay off his bills which the firm had contracted. Something like \$20,000 was paid by him for that purpose, proving that his disappearance was not voluntary. He either met foul play or became mentally unbalanced and left without leaving a trace to show where he had gone. There is absolutely nothing in the story that he was confined in an asylum. I acted for Mrs. Lancaster as her financial agent while in Seattle, consequently I am thoroughly conversant with the Lancaster affair. The last seen or heard of him was when Owen Calderhead bid him good bye on James street in Seattle last fall. Last winter there was a half dozen similar cases reported to the police in that city and the affair never caused a passing interest except to those personally interested."

When asked if much freight was on the way down river Mr. Davies answered, "Not more than 50 tons all told, including that now starting from Whitehorse, and on the road. Simon Leiser & Co. are bringing in five tons which will arrive in a day or so. Ripstein is up against it on his oxen scheme. I don't think he can get in with his stuff in 30 days the way he is traveling. Robertson's stage is coming in with J. R. Howard, of the Electric Light Co., Judge Morford is also a passenger. Ross' stage is following. A man named Cohen was arrested on the trail near the cutoff for obstructing the road and interfering with the progress of the Royal mail. He was fined \$35 for the offense."

## ELDORADO CREEK

Is Now Enjoying a Brand New Stampede.

Last night a stampede took place to upper Eldorado. A number of claims toward the head of the creek were open today for relocation and they were the objective point of the stampede. Upper Eldorado has never turned out anything particularly good and that fact accounts for the claims in question being open for relocation.

The stampede, however, had faith that they would strike it rich where others had failed, and in consequence they went up last night and planted their stakes. It will not be long before \$100 pans will be taken out in the 80s and 90s on Eldorado.

# MEXICO DISASTER

A Terrific Dynamite Explosion Underground Wrecks Buildings

AND PLAYS HAVOC WITH THE MINE

Besides Killing 87 Men, Women and Children.

SNAKE INDIANS ARRESTED

And Their Property Confiscated but Will Be Restored if They Return to the Nation.

Chihuahua, Mexico, Feb. 8.—Word has reached here of one of the most terrible mining disasters that ever occurred in Mexico.

An explosion in the San Andres mine, situated in a remote locality of Sierra Madres, in the western part of the State of Durango, caused the death of 87 men, women and children, and injured many others.

The catastrophe was due to the explosion of hundreds of cases of dynamite stored in an underground chamber of the mine. Electric wires, connecting with the hoisting machinery, passed through the room in which the dynamite was stored, and it is supposed these wires became crossed, causing a fire which exploded the dynamite.

The killed and injured were on the surface, most of them occupying residences immediately above the underground workings of the mine. The explosion tore away the whole top of the mountain on which the village of mines was located, and men, women and children were blown into pieces. Among those who were killed was Herman Lustman the superintendent of the mine, and all the members of his family.

Summons were sent to neighboring camps for surgeons to attend the injured and it was some time before this was received.

The San Andres mine is the most celebrated silver mine in Mexico. It is valued at \$20,000,000, and has produced many millions of dollars' worth of ore.

Indians Arrested.

Muskogee, I. T., Feb. 8.—Marshal Bennett, who is in the field with deputies and federal troops near Eufaula, has arrested 21 more members of Crazy Snake's band, and is now on the way to Muskogee with them. This makes 50 arrests in this band.

The Choctaw, Chickasaw and several commissions, which has been several days making a treaty to the Atoka agreement, providing for closing the rolls on September 1st, finished its work last night, and the treaty was forwarded to Washington for ratification. This agreement provides for the laying out of new towns among the Nation, also that after September 1st all property shall descend to heirs in case of death, a change from the original treaties which provided that property should revert back to the Nation in case of death.

Curry Discharged.

John Curry, the young man who was arrested on the charge of having stolen a purse containing \$150, the property of Miss Walthers, at the Savoy theater a few nights ago, has been discharged, there not being a particle of evidence to show that Curry was the guilty person.

CHILLED ROPE SHEAVES, All Sizes  
 AUTOMATIC SELF DUMPING TROLLEYS  
 BRASS HOSE CLAMPS  
 MANUFACTURED BY  
**McDONALD IRON WORKS**  
 J. E. DOUGHERTY, MANAGER  
 Works, 4th St., opp. Government Telegraph Office. Office, 2nd Ave., near McDonald Hotel.