

MINING TIT-BITS

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KLONDIKE.

"Phrygian Kings." Not one "Midas," but many.

Mr. A. H. Halder, Reuter's representative on mining matters here, and who has recently returned from the Yukon, where he has been in his capacity of mining expert, gave us his impressions, present and future, with regard to these Northern British Gold-fields.

Impressions and opinions which emanate from a gentleman of Mr. Halder's experience and reputation, are convincing evidences of the wealth of the Canadian Yukon, tangible proof of which met his gaze on every one of the principal creeks. Mr. Halder went into the Klondike inclined to scepticism, he returned (as he puts it) satisfied of its Pactolian character, which will benefit our grandsons as largely as ourselves. The gold is distributed over an extremely large area and so rich is the ground that the poorest diggings are 250 per cent. superior to the best in the Veldt.

Mr. Halder in conjunction with other African experts tested the gravel to the utmost; hence the results as above.

Klondike, he says emphatically, is a permanent camp, which is marked in unmistakable characters right across it. The number of hundreds of square miles of gold bearing country to our north is yet unknown. The known area is, however, continually on the increase, but there is no part of the South African field that carries so much gold as does the Klondike, taking it all good and bad together. The output of gold, too, can only be estimated, the real figures being thousands of ounces more than those returned.

Commissioner Senkler, a very clever fellow and a most obliging and efficient official, according to Reuter's man, is said to estimate the output paying royalty at about 60 per cent. of the whole. It is generally thought that a reduction in the royalty would carry with it a higher revenue for the Government.

There are great disadvantages to be labored under at present, both natural and legislative. Both, however, can be overcome, and diggers and capitalists alike are convinced that the Government is doing its best in this on all sides confessedly difficult subject. The two most noted mines at present belonging to English companies are the "McDonald Bonanza," under the management of Major Laing, and the "Hunker Concessions," originally owned by R. Anderson, and who is now managing Bonanza an extensive hydraulic plant, the largest and most complete in the district. It is working most satisfactory, and the gold washed out is certain to return all expenditure within a short time, and to pay fabulous profits for years. Similar results will be the case also with the Hunker Concessions. English capitalists have also acquired large areas of hydraulic ground on the Stewart and Indian rivers, where the best leases will average one dollar per cubic yard. Amongst who leases is the one purchased by Claud Marks, who represented the London Financial News.

It is surprising to see the hustle and rush for business in Dawson at present. It is the busiest city in Canada by all odds and probably unequalled in this respect by any on the continent. Anything you wish for can be had. You have only to pay. The hotels, considering the age of the town, are excellent. Only the best goes, whether it be the products of Havana or of the South of France. In this regard it rivals Johannesburg in its palmiest days.

Another point of interest is the influx of the Jew, the financier, the capitalist, the investor such as made the Veldt, such as ex-Mayor Sutro, of San Francisco, or others of more local note, men whose presence was indicative of money to be spent and dividends to be paid. These are now coming to Dawson, chiefly from Germany and England. "Avoid a mining camp," is Mr. Halder's sage advice, "that is not affected by the Nation." Even a Russian syndicate is buying up claims.

Dawson itself is making rapid advances along the path of municipal improvements. It is law-abiding and safe, safer than Piccadilly itself, the thanks being due to Col. Steele and his troopers. These form a splendid force, met with everywhere, gentlemanly, useful and absolutely trustworthy.

Mr. Halder goes to England to advise investors of the situation and carries with him the utmost confidence in the field. He expects to return next season and to bring back the means of purchasing several properties. The field is expanding, and in dredging, hydraulic and quartz mining enormous work will be done. Rich copper has been found on the Yukon itself and in its rock work fortunes will eventually be made.

Transportation has so far been the greatest difficulty and this is a most serious one, oftentimes, indeed, fatal to mining enterprises. Unless cheap rates can be obtained the progress of the country cannot but be retarded. The Canadian Development Co. have, however, some palatial steamers on the river between Bennett and Dawson. A sail on one of these in that delightful summer climate through scenes of inordinate beauty is almost equal, to compare it with one from Mr. Halder's native land, to a trip up the Rhine. While he seldom makes mention of such people yet his happy references to Mr. Kersey and his staff could not be overlooked. Competent and obliging to a degree they make the trip one of the pleasantest and there is little doubt but that the waters of the upper Yukon will soon take rank amongst the pleasure resorts, and excursions from all parts be run to Dawson. One thing, however, is urgently needed, that is, through bills of lading in from Skagway. People do not know what they have to pay and freight often costs three times the estimated sum by the time it reaches Dawson. This results in the utmost dissatisfaction and means, too, that more freight goes by St. Michael. The best, the quickest and the cheapest is the service now required by Klondike.

Amongst the latest developments of the north is its successful flotation of companies and these, too, within itself. This movement, which so marked the operations of the Veldt, is just in its incipency. Amongst