

CRITICISES THE REPORT.

Dominion Land Surveyor Objects to Several Clauses.

Does Not Like the Feature Providing for a Fixed Payment for Representation—Other Suggestions.

Editor Klondike Nugget—Dear Sir: Having seen in your paper the report of the committee commissioned by the trustees of the Board of trade to report on mining regulations, I imagine that it would not be out of place if the recommendations embodied in that report were subject to discussion by others than members of the Board of Trade.

In criticising the report, one might divide the points to which one takes exceptions into two classes, viz: errors of commission and of omission. The latter I believe are to be attributed more to the board of trustees than any one, who I understand only deputed the committee on mines to report on certain stated subjects.

To begin with the recommendations in the report, the worst feature appears to be the representation clause. Placer mining regulations all over the world have tended always to make possession by occupation the best title to placer ground, and without doubt the regulations now in force were framed with that idea in view. But although the regulations provide for the continuous occupation of a mine during the working season, Mr. Fawcett's license has cut down the working season to any three months in a year, the miner may elect. The board of Trade propose to go still further and allow the claim owner to pay a fixed fee to the government instead of developing his property and hold or sell it at its speculative value. The result, of course, will be the workingman will be deprived of a certain amount of work that he might very justly expect, and the government's revenue for a short time will be very materially increased. New districts instead of being worked and prospected, will be covered up by speculators, and the genuine miner will get a poor show for his money and work. Too little honest representation or development is now done in the country, and to increase the latitude already given to the claim owner is to set the country's development back indefinitely. The whole difficulty appears to lie in the fact that mining regulations framed for small holdings like those of British Columbia and Australia are being made to apply to large claims, which may be worth half a million dollars apiece. This argument applies also to the proposed increase of claims to 500 feet square, an amount that is more than the average miner could work out in a life time. Abolishing the creek claim and giving it a definite size, would avoid one class of dispute, and induce another. I mean the difficulty with regard to water right.

The claim on a creek flat that includes the paystreak, as likely as not would not include the water and its value would thus be materially reduced. The clause aiming for security of title is all that could be desired, while the royalty clause might be improved. The system obtaining in Siberia would be a good substitute for the present one. Prohibit absolutely the use or export of gold dust. Establish a government assay office where the miner can hand in his dust and get in return a draft on any chartered bank for its value, less a certain percentage for assay charges and royalty. Such a system would be a convenience not only to the miners and traders, but also to the government, and the cost of collection of royalty would be practically abolished. With regard to errors of omission, the following points at once suggest themselves.

1. The security and permanency of claim boundaries.
2. A better system of descriptions in the gold commissioner's office.
3. The insistence on a strict adherence to the regulations governing staking.

4. The appointment of mining recorders on every creek and at every important mining center, with power to hear and adjudge all boundary disputes subject to appeal to the gold commissioner.

5. Better regulations governing the issue of grants for hydraulic concessions.

The first three points are all dependent on each other.

Descriptions of bench claims should not refer to creek claims, but be de-

scribed as adjoining certain other bench claims. To describe a bench as being in the sixth tier opposite a certain claim is the height of absurdity when one considers that the creek claim would be half a mile away, and leads to endless confusion. Hill-sides should be described as not only opposite a creek claim but as adjoining adjacent hill-sides, and a staker should be compelled to look up the stakes of adjoining claims and describe his claim by them. With regard to legal staking, in the practice of my profession, I may say, without exaggeration, that I do not remember having ever come across more than half a dozen legally staked claims, and when one considers that staking is the foundation of title to a placer claim it seems beyond belief that staking should be so disgracefully bad.

No. 4 is provided for in the regulations, and is most necessary, not only to the better dispatch of a miner's business on the creeks, but also to a more intelligent decision of the many boundary disputes, more intelligent only from the fact that the power of decision would rest with a man who could personally inspect the disputed ground.

Finally, as to hydraulic concessions. The present rush for concessions seems to be a repetition of the stampedes of the winter of '97-'98, only on a larger scale. The necessary affidavits seem to be easily obtained and the sole object of the hydraulic fend (usually a man absolutely ignorant of hydraulics or hydraulic mining) appears to be the monopoly of as large a tract of genuine placer ground as follows. The concessions are loosely applied for and loosely granted, and in nearly all cases where they are of any value, they derive that value solely from the fact that surrounding ground has been prospected and found fit for the ordinary methods of placer mining. The only hydraulic concession now being worked is the Anderson concession at the mouth of Hunker, which has proved itself fit for ordinary placer mining, and is being worked on that basis by the owners without even the pretense of hydraulic mining.

The remedy would be only to grant for hydraulic purposes in the vicinity of prospected ground—abandoned claims—and a rigid government inspection should be ordered before a grant is issued on any unprospected ground, and that for a certain period after a concession is applied for, anyone should be allowed to prospect, locate on finding genuine pay, subject always to a rigid government inspection. Apologizing for taking up your space, I am yours, etc.

CHAS. S. W. BARWELL, D. L. S.

Duty Will Not Be Returned.

Mr. Davis, collector of royal customs, is authority for the statement that those persons, who were so unfortunate as to lose goods in the wrecks of the Irving and Stratton will not be able to recover from the government the money paid as duty on such goods at the head of the lakes. In order to secure the return of duty money, it would be necessary to obtain the passage of a special law by parliament, and such proceeding is improbable. No duty can be collected on goods which had been bonded, and which were lost in transit to Dawson.

Economy.

"Well, how do you like living in the suburbs?"
"Fine. It's going to be a good thing for me financially. Our girl has decided to leave and the lady who lives next door says we'll never be able to get another to go out there to work. I shall have \$5 a week more to spend for cigars and things now."—New York Journal.

Not Painters' Colic.

Mrs. Jones—Your son Thomas sick! I'm sorry to hear that.
Mrs. Greene—Yes; the poor fellow was out painting the town, as I have since been informed by young Slater, who lives next door, and I'm afraid the smell of the paint was too much for him. His stomach is not very strong.—Boston Transcript.

A Little Run Out West.

"I am going to take a little run out west," said the Kansas man to an acquaintance.
"Colorado or California?" said the acquaintance.
"Neither, scornfully replied the Kansas man; 'Manila.'"

Those Hints.

Mr. Lingerer—(as the clock strikes 11)—Our cycle company has at last achieved, in our new inventions, the assurance of business success; there is no such tire as ours in the world.
Miss Vicktim—Oh, I don't know! There are others.—Richmond Dispatch.

An Outsider's Opinion.

"What is his business?"
"He hasn't any? He paints pictures."—Chicago Times-Herald.

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Winter.

The summer time had flown, while glowing rare
Autumnal tints enrich'd the mountain heights
As magic sunsets charm'd the ev'ning air,
And fading, chang'd as grew the frosty nights.
While colder yet the northern wind arose
And sighing, blew across the shadow'd land,
As all the earth repos'd beneath the snow
Whose whiteness rob'd the mountains looming grand.
And slumbers deep had hush'd the glacial rill,
As lacing crystals knit in sheeted floe.
That mov'd a spot of glassy calm until
The ice enclosing seal'd the river's flow.
The rising mists above the freezing lakes,
In gloom obscur'd the rays of waning light,
And like a foliage, frost, in plumey flakes
Adorning, clung in shades of polar night.
And then, with glowing crown of northern light,
With ropes enrich'd by halos' rainbow gleam,
And thron'd upon the storm's relentless might,
In majesty the winter rul'd supreme.
—Asa Thurston Heydon.

The Inevitable.

The kicker kicks when he is warm,
He kicks when he is cold,
He kicks when skies are dark with storm
And when a drought takes hold.
And if kind nature changed her laws
To suit him through and through
You'd doubtless hear him kick because
His topics were so few.
—Washington Star.

After Visiting the Circus.

Mrs. Kiddlet—Why, children, what's all this noise about?
Little Jamie—We've had gran'pa and Uncle Henry locked in the cupboard for an hour, and when they get a little angrier I'm going to play "going into the lion's cage." Tit-Bits.

A Gentle Impression.

"Do you understand the use of a flag of truce," inquired the man who was studying the Filipinos.
"Certainly," was the answer. "It's very valuable in getting the enemy to come near enough to be shot at."—Washington Star.

From Different Points of View.

Inventor—What is your candid opinion of my device?
Friend—It is practically worthless.
Inventor—Yes, I suspected as much, but even a worthless opinion is sometimes better than none.—Chicago Daily News.

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ALMOST

An Old Lady Her Niece

Mrs. Driscoll Some uncharitable as to say that much mind he been living to he died and le handsome propo pose her will.

She adopted loved her as we one but herself.

The niece gr and had lovers, Luckily her c well, and the d riage with H opposition, the that they shou coll's home afte

"Well, Kate, the day before thing is ready never saw prepa not even for you man! I always handsome marr your hat. We'l

What girl wo circumstances?

Th carriage w soon stopped be

Except the in the buildi one of Kate's was getting a cashed.

Mrs. Driscoll opportunity to worthy husban to say.

Drawing her ly wrote a check ed it to the cash

"Payable to portion, I presu of you! Mis you," said the the new book in

"She wants yet," retorted "When I give want good, soli

—bright, yellow "But why— from a neighb think of the ter tatingly.

"Did I ask Mrs. Driscoll. of my own' pro break the bank

"Certainly, is clear if you murdered tom bank can pay sight, madam, to which Mrs. silence.

The cashier v ing the door be George Trav money received without a glan

"There! No to realize wh Mrs. Driscoll. Kate blushed

"But, aunt, wouldn't it book with the Harry will not and—and think unsafe."

"How long told my duty b ed Mrs. Drisco toward you are money, say s here it is. I your tongue it until I can Winship's kee

Further con by the cashier He carried a "Count it!"

coll. —One by one counted under

"There, tha a wedding g satisfied tone.

"Better let it and put it suggested the

"Put it int sharp order to The man ob puzzled face t

"She beats "I don't w Meanwhile

home well sat herself in par She had her

"I shall r my pillow as