

# THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

VOL. 2, No 42

DAWSON, Y. T., SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1899

PRICE 25 CENTS

## BACK FROM OTTAWA

### What the Nugget Representatives Accomplished at the Canadian Capital

## THE YUKON THE ISSUE BEFORE PARLIAMENT

### Opposition Members Come to the Rescue of the Klondike.

#### Sir Chas. Hibbert Tupper's Masterly Speech—Minister Sifton Stands by the Royalty, but a Parliamentary Commission Will Probably Be Appointed Before the Session Closes—All Canada Stirred Up.

The Nugget has fulfilled its promise to the miners of the Klondike. Its representatives who left Dawson on the 29th of January last have been to Ottawa, and have presented the cause of the Klondike to the government with all the care and ability in their power.

The fight which this paper has persistently, insistently and consistently waged in this country for better laws and purer administration culminated last January. During the preceding months scarcely an issue of the paper had appeared wherein some evidence was not shown of wrongs being worked upon the men who were spending their efforts in developing the resources of the Yukon country. The measures which were urged upon the government were not the result of a moment's thought, nor were they the ideas of men without practical knowledge of mining or without actual experience in the development of similar diggings. On the contrary, no effort was spared to secure the opinions of men of ability and men whose experience in placer mining and mining law.

Despite the fact that mails were infrequent and communication with the outside aggravatingly slow, it was not long before mention of these facts began appearing in the outside Canadian papers. In particular the opposition papers were quick to seize upon any information reflecting discredit upon the government, but even warm supporters of the government, including the great liberal organ, the Toronto Globe, demanded from the government that it should justify its administration of the Klondike or make such changes as the situation might require. As a result of this continued agitation Mr. Ogilvie was commissioned to investigate any charges which might be brought against officials employed by the government. The circumstances and conditions under which this investigation was to be held, and the manner in which it was to be conducted, were in common with the great majority of miners in the country, to the conclusion that the alleged investigation was but little less than a premeditated endeavor to whitewash the men against whom charges were made. Among other things it was a well known fact that Mr. Ogilvie is a relative and associate of Mr. Sifton, the minister of the interior, whose department the administration of the government by the liberal party had been so unsatisfactory to the great majority of Canadian citizens, that it appeared quite plain to the most casual observer of Canadian politics that the establishment, by a competent court of inquiry, of the truth of the charges made against the Yukon officials would ring the death knell of the liberal party in Canada. Hence it can readily be seen why the investigation was deferred so long, and why under its terms the commissioner was limited in dealing with matters which occurred more than six months before the investigation began. In the language of Mr. Borden, one of the ablest of the conservative debaters in the house, "Any investigation into the doings or misdoings of Yukon officials by Mr. Ogilvie, would be very similar to an investigation of the minister of the interior by the honorable member from Brandon," which, as is well known, no less a personage than Mr. Sifton himself. Matters having reached this stage, and numerous specific instances of official crookedness having been published in this paper without action on the part of Mr. Ogilvie, it seemed advisable to transfer the scene of the fight from Dawson to Ottawa, where alone must come redress if it were to come at all.

When the question of sending a representative of the Nugget to Ottawa was first broached in these columns such substantial assistance was voluntarily offered by residents of Dawson and the miners on the creeks, that it was determined to alter the original plan and send two representatives to Ottawa instead of one.

In pursuance of this plan Mr. Geo. M. Allen, the editor of the Nugget, and Mr. D. W. Semple, who has been associated with the publication from the first month of its publication, left Dawson on January 29 en route for Ottawa. Letters to the cabinet officers and to the leading members of parliament and to the principal newspapers of Canada were carried by the Nugget men assuring them at least of a respectful hearing.

Mr. Allen, as stated in the last issue, returned to Dawson on the steamer Flora and although a great deal of the data of what transpired at Ottawa during their stay he was forced to leave with his baggage at Bennett, it enabled to report to the miners of the Yukon substantially what was accomplished and what may be expected at the hands of parliament during the session.

Messrs. Allen and Semple arrived in Ottawa just at the moment when the Yukon question was uppermost in the minds of the members of parliament and the people of Canada at large.

So great a hold had the mal-administration of the Yukon taken upon the country that the opposition determined to make it the leading feature of the fight they were preparing to make upon the government. The Nugget men were eagerly welcomed by Sir Chas. Tupper, the leader of the opposition and others of the leading conservative members and requests were immediately made that such information as was in their possession should be furnished for use in the parliamentary debate.

The Nugget men, however, were in Ottawa for the purpose of securing needed legislation for the Klondike and had no interest in the conservative party except as that party could be induced to give its assistance in behalf of this country. Their first efforts were bent therefore upon gaining from the government such concessions as the miners themselves through representative committees had decided was required for the successful development of the Yukon Territory.

Four things especially were asked from the government along with others considered of minor importance. First and foremost was the abolition or at least a substantial reduction of the royalty tax. Second, that all reserved ground whether full claims or fractions should be thrown open for location to prospectors. Third, a measure prohibiting officers of the government from staking, recording, buying or selling mining property, and fourth, the appointment of a parliamentary commission to investigate fully into the administration of the country and its requirements from a legislative standpoint. It did not, however, require the expenditure of a great deal of time or labor to ascertain the fact that these concessions could not be secured from the government by a presentation of the real situation alone. Mr. Sifton stood already committed to the royalty policy and the majority in parliament for the most part stood ready to support him in the stand he had taken. For this fact a number of



SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER WHILE SPEAKING.

reasons can be assigned. First was the influence of the party whip. Second the almost complete ignorance of many members as to what constitutes laws suitable for a country such as the Yukon Territory. Third, the colored reports of Yukon officials and parties who had visited Ottawa for the purpose of securing concessions of various kinds from the government. Fourth, the feeling that the government was entitled to a very large revenue from the Yukon country and the fear that the abolition or reduction of the royalty would entail the loss of a great portion of the revenue. Fifth, and by no means the least important, was the feeling of prejudice against American citizens who in Ottawa are popularly supposed to be the only men owning claims of any value in the Klondike.

To overturn these difficulties was no easy matter but the Nugget's representatives, by the time in setting to work, had the purpose of securing concessions of various kinds from the government. Fourth, the feeling that the government was entitled to a very large revenue from the Yukon country and the fear that the abolition or reduction of the royalty would entail the loss of a great portion of the revenue. Fifth, and by no means the least important, was the feeling of prejudice against American citizens who in Ottawa are popularly supposed to be the only men owning claims of any value in the Klondike.

The individual members of the majority were sought and wherever they could be found in the hotel lobbies, at their residences and in the corridors of the parliamentary buildings they were informed of the facts which the Nugget had been publishing for eight months in well known papers in the Yukon territory as well as here. The Hon. Auldy Morrison of Westminister who, it will be remembered, spent a considerable portion of last summer in and around Dawson is probably the best informed man in parliament as to the Yukon territory. He is using his information in the best possible manner.

Despite, however, what Mr. Morrison and other gentlemen of similar opinions in the liberal ranks could accomplish, it soon became evident that no substantial recognition of the territory's wants would be voluntarily given by the government. It therefore seemed advisable to secure the assistance of the minority in an endeavor to force upon the attention of the party in power the questions which are uppermost in the minds of our citizens and which the liberal leaders seemed determined to avoid.

This was not a difficult matter to attain inasmuch as the conservative leaders were, as stated above, anxious for reliable information as to the conditions existing in this country and its necessities. In a conference of some hours duration with Sir Chas. Tupper, the leader of the opposition, together with his principal colleagues, the Nugget men described in detail the situation in the Yukon territory and laid before the gentlemen their suggestions as to needed legislation. Special stress was laid upon the proposition to secure a parliamentary commission of investigation.

Copies of the Nugget containing specific charges of irregularities on the part of Yukon officials were furnished the opposition leaders and from these liberal quotations were made in subsequent debates which occurred. Personal statements from the Nugget men were also furnished the speakers for the conservative side and these as well were incorporated in the debate.

On the 31st day of March, Sir Chas. Hibbert Tupper delivered the opening speech, attack-

ing the government's administration of the Yukon Territory. The entire speech lasted nearly seven hours, four of which were devoted exclusively to an exposition of Yukon affairs. The entire country was in an attitude of expectancy awaiting the speech, and its delivery created a most profound impression. In newspapers of both political parties the speech was commented upon as a history-making effort, and days later its delivery it was the sole topic of conversation in the hotels, clubs and other places of public assembly. A few extracts only can be given in this place, but sufficient to show its general tenor. Commenting upon the regulations Sir Hibbert said:

"There have been notoriously bad regulations; there have been impost, taxes and royalties, which would make such a personage as Oom Paul blush. Notoriously there have been under this administration underpaid, inefficient and corrupt officials, described by Australians and by Englishmen as a pack of license thieves. There has been favoritism in the issue of liquor permits, a system so extraordinary that, to my own knowledge fees have been obtained by liberal solicitors—or solicitors of liberal political persuasion—to the extent of \$50, for merely obtaining from the interior department for clients, a permit to sell liquor in the territories. There has been favoritism in the grants of the lands; there has been favoritism in the contracts let by this government; there have been notorious blunders in the management of the transportation of government supplies from any part of Canada up to that territory. There has been beyond and above and surrounding all the troubles and irregularities that have occurred, this extraordinary feature which to my mind had a most painful effect, namely, the secrecy of official records. This secrecy of official records has tended not only to create throughout this country, but throughout the centres of intelligence in the empire, perhaps more than a suspicion that the whole thing was conceived in iniquity. Trace the history of the mining legislation and the legislative records in regard to the development of the mineral resources of British Columbia, from its inception to the present day, whether it was under the supervision of the British authority or, as afterwards, under the supervision of the local authority, and you will find that both the British and the local authorities seemed to pride themselves in having all the official records accessible to the public without fee or charge. That has been the great vindication of the system of gold mining or of mining generally, in the province of British Columbia. But in the Yukon territory, the very fact that these official records were secret, that you could not during official hours, by payment of fee or otherwise, obtain any knowledge of how the record stood, seems to me to be at the foundation of not merely the impression that had been formed in regard to the bad administration of the country, but it afforded an excuse and an opportunity for all the villainy that has occurred, because advantage was taken of it time and again."

"NO RETURN FOR ROYALTIES.

"There had been, after all was said and done above and over the necessity and desires of individual speculators of men who endeavored to enrich themselves out of the resources of the country, that crying shame and that crying neglect perpetuated in regard to that portion of the British Empire and of Canada; and it was this, that was a huge royalty—royalties so large that all the history of Spain, all the history of Australia, all the history of British Africa government, afforded not the slightest justification for the huge exactions that had been imposed upon the development of the mineral wealth of the Yukon, and yet, withal, there had been an unparalleled and disgraceful neglect of local necessities and local improvements. [Hear, hear.]

"They had never raged to an extraordinary extent in the country; they had corresponded to the highest possible standard going into the district of Dawson, for instance, whence the present government had derived an enormous revenue and they had them all coming out with the statement that the government had not raised its little finger to promote the improvement of local conditions, or to prevent contagion of the most dire and disastrous character."

"There had been mining districts developed long before the time of confederation in the Province of British Columbia, and yet they heard of no scandal and no condition of things like that which exists in the Yukon territory. [Hear, hear.]

"So far as the Yukon is concerned, they had the advantage of the history of the world; they had the dire consequences of ill-considered legislation in Australia to warn them; but on the other hand, they had the successful legislation of the Imperial government in the Province of British Columbia, not so far removed from the Yukon territory, where they had been able to open up and administer the rich mineral wealth of that province without scandal or suspicion of any kind whatever."

(This report will be concluded in the next issue of the NUGGET.)

## PERSONAL MENTION.

Colonel Evans arrived down from Selkirk Tuesday on his regular visit of inspection.

Mrs. McCormick, wife of the proprietor of the Portland restaurant, and her two daughters, arrived in by barge on Wednesday from Portland, Oregon.

Dr. H. W. Yemans, one of the local agents of the Empire line, arrived in by boat on Wednesday night, after a pleasant tour of the States and Western Europe.

J. M. Hall, J. Arthur Hall and J. G. Hunter, three well known Klondikers of other days, arrived in on a barge Wednesday, after a thrilling ride through fields of ice.

Frank Phisator, one of the best known and luckiest of early Klondikers, was a passenger on the Flora. He was accompanied by his wife, and both left the boat at Klondike City.

Constable M. W. Fife will act as escort for the first consignment of police mail sent out by boat, and while on the outside will enjoy a respite from duty for the benefit of his health.

Harry Elster and Mose Rosenthal returned to Dawson Wednesday from the outside. The first named was accompanied by his brother, Barney Elster, who comes from Matebeland, South Africa, where he was a miner and merchant.

Sunday's chief feature at the Cafe Royal will be a Calves Head dinner.

## ARCTIC SAW MILL

UPPER KLONDIKE FERRY.

Slice and Flume Lumber a Specialty.

ALL KINDS OF DIMENSION LUMBER.

LOWEST PRICES IN THE KLONDIKE.

City Agents: Saus & Zilly. Office at Mill BOYLE & SLAVIN Pro.

## QUEEN'S SUBJECTS DEFEY THE RAIN.

### Wednesday's Program Puled Off in an Atmosphere of Wetness.

#### Vast Crowds of People in Attendance—"Uncle Andy" Young in the Role of Orator—Record of the Awards.

Dawson's patriotic citizens observed the queen's birthday in a manner creditable to the Dominion and gratifying to the participants. An annoying rain storm, commencing at noon and continuing for several hours, threatened the success of the program for a time; but the people turned out bravely and the events were pulled off with no other hitch than a delay of an hour or so. Hundreds of miners from the creeks swelled the ranks of the townspeople, and the showy uniforms of police and soldiers were everywhere visible. Business houses were profusely decorated with evergreens and bunting, while British, Irish and American flags floated proudly from the breeze on every hand, making a pretty sight. Added to all this were the brass bands and the bagpipers in Highland costume, and one may see that all the essential features for a successful occasion were there.

The main events were pulled off on the water front between Second and Third streets, and there the largest crowd was gathered. Hundreds occupied the benches which had been erected, while hundreds more stood about the enclosed space, many on boxes, while others hung to telegraph poles or occupied positions on adjoining house tops. The pipes occupied a platform devoted to them and alternated with the musicians in entertaining the audience. "Uncle Andy" Young, the popular salesman of the Nugget, also addressed the throng from the platform in response to calls from a hundred throats and was listened to in a silence that, like the silence which followed was a compliment to the popular old outlander. "Uncle Andy" also acted as drum major for the bagpipe band and was useful in a dozen ways during the day.

The appearance of the Yukon field force under the command of Col. Evans was the first event of importance for the day. After firing a salute, the loyal boys gave three rousing cheers for their queen. After that there was plenty to see until late into the night.

The tug-of-war was won with ease by the A. C. team against a team of Californians and a team from the Yukon field force. The other events were decided as follows:

Bagpipe competition—First prize, Edward Ross; second, Donald Gordon; third, C. Grant; fourth, Edward Ross; fifth, Edward Ross; sixth, Donald Gordon.

Highland Kings—Edward Ross and Arlin Appleton.

Scotch reel—"Uncle Andy" Young for special prize; Messrs. Appleton and Ross.

Sledge throwing—Geo. MacLeod, 779 feet; Hector Stewart, 715; T. Eaton, 694.

Sack race—Bert Ford, first; H. Wakefield, second.

Obstacle race—James Duncan, first; H. Wakefield, second; Bert Ford, third.

Boys' shoe race—Elliott first, Kerry second.

Foot race, 100 yards—First heat: Hinton first, Ford second; time 11 1/2. Second heat: Lyon first, Dunes second; time 11 3/4. Third heat: Flewelling first, time 12. Final: Hinton first, time 12.30. Final: Flewelling first, time 12.30. Final: Flewelling first, time 12.30.

Race, 50 yards—First heat: Yates first, Ford second; time 6.30. Second heat: Martin first, Webber second. Final: Martin first, Ford second, Yates third; time 6.30.

Race for amateurs, 100 yards—First heat: Murray first, Cobb second; time 12. Second heat: Flewelling first, Sloss second; time 12.30. Final: McMurray first, Flewelling second; time 12.30.

Boys' race, 100 yards—Rowland Bassett, first; Fred C. Gardner, second.

Hop, step and jump—H. Wakefield, 30.10 feet; J. W. Farrell, 34.84; J. W. Atwood, 34.14.

Fremen's special, 100 yards—W. H. B. Lyon, first; J. W. Farrell, second; D. S. Sault, third; time 13 1/2.

Novelty horse race—Captain Farrell's team won; time, 34.25 seconds.

Wet nose race—Captain Kellor's team won; time, 34.45 seconds.

Hook and ladder contest—Captain Farrell's team won; time, 19.25 seconds.

Hose coupling contest—Captain McCarthy's team won; time, 9.15 seconds.

Canoes races—Single paddle, Annance, first; Albert, second; double paddle, Annance brothers, first; Elwell and Coffey, second; double paddle, Annance brothers, H. Madden and L. Croft won.

Vaulting—Wakefield 96 feet, Cuban 7.10. Standing broad jump—Martin, 9.1; Hinton, 8.1; Wakefield, 7.1.

Running broad jump—Wakefield, 13.4; Martin, 14.8; Farrell 14.6.

Running high jump—Atwood, 4.10; Cuban, 4.8.

Miners' pack race, carrying 100 pounds—Leopold, first; Boyd, second; carrying 50 pounds, Collins, first; Leopold, second.

Putting shot—MacLeod, 89.7; Stewart, 81.2. Tossing caber—MacLeod, 47; Eaton, 36.1.

Tom Chisholm was unable to compete in these sports owing to an injury to the wrist. No one succeeded in reaching the top of the greased pole and there were no cutles for the chopping contest.

The fremen's teams were composed as follows: Capt. Farrell, Sinton, Kissel, Sloss, Fletcher, Alexander, Sioppe, Hatch, M. Carthy, Cochran, Langill, Agnew, Jacobson, Matcatt, Williamson.

Capt. Kellor, W. B. Lyon, Stamer, Snowdon, Buckley, McNelly, Suel, Tamm, Casey Moran, Berlund, Hastings, Nat. Lyon, Jake Kline, Johnson, Boyd.

A final meeting in connection with the late celebration takes place Tuesday evening next, 8:30 p. m., at the Criterion to wind up all business matters.

## Another New Face.

Wilson Misner is a new face at the Monte Carlo this week, and his baritone voice won him a nightly ovation that must be very gratifying to the young man. His first appearance there in a number of prominent roles, while the old favorites, Carl Wilson, Arthur, Myrtle, Myrtle, Drummond, Alice de Lamoignon, Myrtle, Maud Raymond, Nellie Lamoignon, Annie Merrill, Maud Raymond, Nellie Lamoignon, go to make up the jolliest sort of a company. Good crowds promise to be the order of the week.