

Still, it is certain that the expenses are nearly prohibitive; it is, no doubt, well known to you that wages of at least \$5 a day, and \$2.50 for board, are universally demanded and paid for unskilled labour, and that an eight-dollar wage has been stereotyped by its adoption as the scale of pay offered by the government for road construction, &c.

The miner's license of \$10 has, of course, to be paid for every one employed in mining, i.e., for every member of the camp except the cook; interest appears to be commonly charged at the rate of 5 per cent per month; the necessities of life are very expensive; the rent of a log cabin in Dawson is \$50 a month; and meat is still 50 to 75 cents a pound.

Some of the conditions tell more against the large operator than the small one; the 5 per cent royalty, for example, on an output above \$5,000; or again, the fact that the owner of thirty claims must so far subdivide his labour as to put in the necessary representative work upon each group of ten claims, instead of being allowed to concentrate his labour on one; also, the absence of any provision assisting an owner to acquire intermediate claims which intervene between isolated claims or groups of claims which he may hold.

Everything, however, is clearly tending in the direction of large operations, and towards the extinction of the small operator; the concessions which have been granted mark, no doubt, the opening page of a new chapter in the history of Klondike mining.

And yet, it cannot be said that the concessions have, as yet, been productive of the work which was expected of them.

When one takes into account the enormous wealth of the district, and the fact that, as I have endeavoured to show, it is losing the precarious character of a new placer camp, and is approximating to the conditions of ordinary mining, in spite of the absence of quartz; that, in fact, it is ceasing to be a poor man's camp, and requires extensive capital and labour for its develop-