

# THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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DAWSON, Y. T., SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1899

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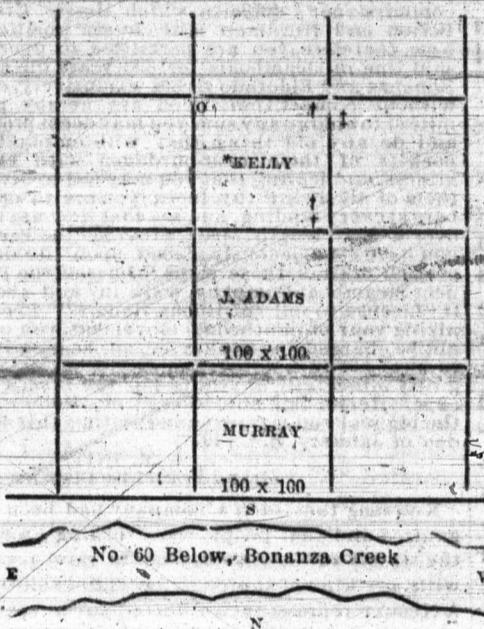
## "CLARK" HURDMAN

### Refuses to Record a Bench Claim for Want of Survey.

### BUT SUBSEQUENTLY DOES SO FOR ANOTHER PERSON

### Who Never Did Stake the Claim and Probably Was Never On It.

### And a Poor Honest Woman is Defrauded of Her Claim—Complied With Every Regulation But Has to Make a Contest—Another Case for the Honorable Yukon Commissioner.



When the important and mighty Mr. A. F. Hurdman, perched upon his high stool, sat in his Bench Claim window in the gold commissioner's office, a little over a week ago, and in a snarling, contemptuous and contemptible manner, answered a polite and gentlemanly question to him put upon a matter of public importance, by a Nugget representative, who had never, to his knowledge, offended him; nor even spoken to him, little did he know that in this paper's possession was evidence, stacked upon stack of his connection with many matters in the Territory, which this paper had not the slightest intention of using here, but retained with almost limitless amounts of his own and others' work in government positions which it shall, at time and place selected by it, have investigated to the very bottom. He immediately presumed that turning his nose heavenward, and with lofty sweep of the hand, and gruff, curt tones he could eradicate the inquirer at the public window. This has worked so long and well in treatment of the poor fellows approaching his window, that the most subject, fear has been instilled into the hearts of the prospector and miners of this territory. But the pitcher went to the well just once too often. The Nugget knows nothing about Mr. Hurdman, personally, and he may feel assured cares less. It is only with his official acts this paper, as a consistent journal, subserving the public interests has to deal, and upon this line only has the Nugget constantly operated. The day of fear and trembling at official power has gone forever. This paper has endeavored to lead the public from this moral cowardice, and has repeatedly called attention to the fact that no law-abiding citizen, need for one moment fear councils, soldiers, officials of any office or commission.

MRS. DUBOISE LOCATES A BENCH CLAIM.

Mrs. Lena M. Duboise, a widow, and a dress-maker by occupation, was a passenger on Dawson on the first trip of the Columbia Navigation company's steamer Sorceress during last season.

Although well-supplied with the necessities

Claim staked by Duboise was originally staked by Kelly, but never recorded and was afterwards recorded by Murdock, without him ever staking it. Mrs. Duboise staked a ground properly and Mr. Haskins made a survey of it and you should have his report and diagrams. The above is copy of diagram and notation signed by W. H. Bard and offered for file in the gold commissioner's office.—Ed.

• Kelly's original stake.  
• Stakes driven by Mrs. L. M. Duboise.  
• Cabin of John Mogan and Fred Stedny

of this world, business-woman-like, she recognized the fact that Dawson was overdone in the numerous population suddenly landed here, and that it was only a question of time until an exodus would occur and her occupation rendered precluded. A favorable opportunity presented itself to accept a position of housekeeper at a fair compensation, and she did so accept, her employer being Mr. William H. Bard of No. 60 on Bonanza, below, and which position, in the Tacoma hotel on that claim she still occupies.

About the place doing work assigned to him was a Mr. Hanna, who, in return for lessons given in cooking, breadmaking, etc., offered to show her a piece of unlocated and unstaked ground, which, should she desire, she might acquire. The claim was a "bench" 100 x 100 feet, located opposite No. 60 on Bonanza, below.

On September 27th, Mrs. Duboise, glad to become at last a claim-owner, went to the above-referred to ground, and quite adjacent, and staked off the ground; her staking being witnessed by Robert Logan, Z. E. Boyajian, H. Rayisish, T. Moosi, H. Ganndjian, S. Kochakian (the latter five being Armenians and known to be on rich ground). On September 28th, of the day following, Mrs. Duboise presented herself at the gold commissioner's office and to the Bench Claim window to record, but was told by the clerk-in-charge, Mr. Hurdman, that it could not be recorded until surveyed. She immediately returned to No. 60, her home, and consulted her friends, and steps were taken to have the claim surveyed. A most singular circumstance occurred at this juncture. A Mrs. Crane suddenly appeared at the house of Mr. Bard, and an entertaining conversation was entered into by the lady mentioned and Mrs. Duboise and she asked her if she (Mrs. Duboise) had yet acquired any claims, and the little woman conscientiously answered her in the negative, but naturally expressed the earnest wish that she could, and related her experience with the bench claim she was then endeavoring to hold. Mrs. Crane sympathized with her in her poverty of ground, informed her that she was only interested in eighteen claims, an evidence certainly, at least, of enterprise on Mrs. Crane's part. Within a very few days again Mrs. Crane was a visitor to Mrs. Duboise and again departed. On October 11, 1898, this claim was recorded by one Fred Murdock, who has offered the property for \$15,000, showing it to be valuable ground, as it is, for adjoining it they are already taking out rich pay in eight feet of gravel and not yet through bed-rock.

Working a lay on the adjoining claim, and with the stakes to Mrs. Duboise's ground close to their cabin are John Mogan and Fred Stedny who will substantiate the fact that Murdock never did stake the ground claimed by Mrs. Duboise, and both Murdock and Mrs. Crane have told Mrs. Duboise and J. S. McKay and Robert Gordon that they had a "friend" in the recorder's office who would record anything for them. It was only a short time after October 11th, that two men appeared at the cabin of Mr. Bard and inquired of Mrs. Duboise and others where the Murdock claim was located. Never having heard of the Murdock claim in that vicinity they were, of course, unable to tell them and the matter passed from mind. In the meantime a survey had been made and Mrs. Duboise again presented herself at the

DR. LAVILLE'S  
SCURVY PREVENTIVE  
AND CURE.

KELLY & CO.  
First Avenue

Bench Claim window to record and, showing the plat given in the head of this article, was told that it was not properly made and that CLAIM HAD BEEN RECORDED.

Imagine the poor woman's feelings on receiving this information. Her hopes blasted in a moment. Whether the claim contains riches or not can only be surmised, but the indications point to the pay streak running through it. But whether it is rich, is such damnable work to be allowed to go on unpunished? A poor woman defrauded of her rights at the option of a hired "clerk!" In no other country under the sun of heaven could such work be done. The perpetrator couldn't last as long as a man with tallow legs in hades.

COPY OF MRS. DUBOISE'S COMPLAINT.

Lena M. Duboise, plaintiff and J. F. Murdock, defendant.

Know all Men by these Presents: That I, L. M. Duboise, do hereby certify that on September 27th, 1898, I regularly staked a certain bench claim as follows: One hundred feet in the third tier on the left side of sixty (60) known as the Kelly location, opposite the left limit of sixty (60) below, on Bonanza creek, and further more, on the day following, I proceeded to the gold commissioner's office for the purpose of recording same, but was not allowed to do so until after there had been a survey made of the said property. Furthermore I am ready to prove that I immediately used every effort possible to procure a survey for the purpose of having said claim surveyed and that I did have the said claim surveyed on the day of November 1, 1898, and after having paid the expense of the survey and presenting myself to record the property, I found that one J. F. Murdock had recorded said claim on the 11th day of October, 1898, and also that said Murdock had made a plat to the effect that he had properly staked this said claim previous to this record. I furthermore stand ready to prove to your honor that the claim was never regularly staked by said Murdock, and that his name does not now appear on any stake on said claim, nor ever has. And I therefore pray, etc. Sworn to before me this 14th day of November, A. D. 1898, at Dawson, in the Yukon Territory.

[Signed] LENA M. DUBOISE.

And a hearing has been set for January 21, at 10 a. m., by Mr. Pawcett. Think of it! This poor woman compelled to buy herself a lawsuit to obtain her rights! Is such a case not enough to make the blood of every British subject and American citizen tingle with shame at such flagrant outrages of right and justice? But there is a vast deal more behind all this. A Nugget representative visited this claim personally, and there is the stake bearing the name of Murdock upon it. Then again, why did J. J. Rutledge go to Mrs. Duboise and say he could fix it and have her claim returned to her? What interest did he have in it? Will J. F. Murdock swear that he holds all and every interest in that claim? If he does not, who in the gold commissioner's office does hold a part? And who besides himself on the outside? Will it be necessary for this paper to enlighten the public? And now Honorable William Ogilvie, commissioner of the Yukon territory, to you we respectfully address another open letter.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. OGILVIE.

HON. WILLIAM OGILVIE, Yukon Commissioner.

Honorable Sir: The Nugget presents to your consideration an account of inquiry, vested with extraordinary powers, the case of Lena M. Duboise above noted. It must be evident to you, honorable sir, that in just such instances as these, which have to a very large degree, estranged a peaceable, law-abiding people from the administration of affairs in the Yukon Territory. The Nugget submits to you in this particular case the following list of witnesses to appear before you, honorable sir, and that they be examined as to what they know concerning this case, and why Mrs. Duboise's claim is now in the hands of others: Mrs. L. M. Duboise, J. F. Murdock, Mrs. Crane, W. H. Bard, J. J. Rutledge, A. F. Hurdman, Robert Logan, Z. E. Boyajian, H. Rayisish, T. Moosi, H. Ganndjian, S. Kochakian, John Mogan, Fred Stedny, S. S. McKay, Robert Gordon and Mr. Haskins, surveyor.

The Third Term.

Friday morning the third team for the outside sent by the Nugget Express this winter started out on its long journey. The outfit was in charge of an employee, H. C. Copeland, who will return over the ice, starting from Seattle on February 5th. Messrs. James Anderson and James Rosenberg went along as passengers. The company sent out several hundred pounds of mail and express matter, much of it altogether too important to be trusted by the ordinary channels, and requiring receipts from persons to whom delivered. The large and growing patronage of the express company is most gratifying to the promoters and demonstrates the fact that it has filled a great public want for a responsible and reliable express firm which goes about its business methodically and safely without desiring or waiting for government concessions, subsidies etc. The company commenced by putting a regular service on the creeks. The patronage was good from the start. Then Forty-Mile was taken in. The clamor for a responsible service to the coast decided the company, and the third outfit has gone and another leaves Dawson next week. Personal delivery of important packages is made either to the individuals in the coast cities or to responsible express companies on the coast.

St. Mary's.

During the week ending January 18th there were seven new patients admitted and eight convalescents discharged. At present there are 45 occupied beds.

The one death for the week was Thomas Brennan, of Hastings, Minn., aged 32 years. The death occurred on January 14th.

Y. O. O. P.  
All members of Y. O. O. P. are requested to attend the regular meeting to be held February 2, 1899, as business of importance is to be transacted.  
E. J. JENSEN, Sec'y.

## WOULD NOT ACCEPT A BRIDE.

### Information Clerk Martin Declines to Accept a Tempting Proposition.

### There Is at Least One Government Employee Who Believes that a Public Office Is Not a Private Snag.

The purchase of information from some of the clerks of the gold commissioner's office has been so notoriously common that the action of Mr. H. M. Martin on Wednesday last came as a distinct shock to the "grifters" and "ringsters" attached to that office. M. M. Reeves is a Dawson merchant and is now under bonds for attempted bribery. H. M. Martin is the affable clerk employed at the window over which is posted the legend "Bureau of Information." Now it apparently occurred to the aforementioned Reeves that when so many of his fellow citizens were acquiring numerous and large interests through collusion, it was high time for him also to get in the swim. The complaint against him is that he approached the said H. M. Martin and asked for an appointment on business which would prove valuable to himself. He gave the interview and old story was unfolded. Reeves would give him a quarter interest in all claims secured through information furnished from the office by H. M. Martin. Martin apparently consented to the by no means original plan but requested that the agreement be put in writing. This was done and the pair went their several ways. While Reeves was patting himself on the back over a good stroke of business performed Martin wended his way to the barracks and swore out the charge against him. A policeman readily found Reeves and his case will be set for investigation in the near future.

### Bogus Gold Dust.

Joe Schwartz had a preliminary hearing before Magistrate Harper on Wednesday and Thursday evenings charged with attempting by false pretenses to induce the execution of a valuable security. Stripped of illegal phraseology it was shown that brass filings and clippings were present in bogus gold paid out by the said Schwartz. Expert testimony was introduced to show that the brass was present in the gold. It was first detected at the Canadian Bank of Commerce when being passed in. Assistant Manager McMullen enclosed a little of the dust in an envelope and sent a messenger hastily to Louis Seckles, the assayer. A little acid and the imitation gold dust boiled away.

To show the fraud in Schwartz the prosecution brought in a similar case wherein the defendant attempted to pass off some of the same bogus dust on the Northwest Trading company in payment of a bill for tobacco. In that case the bogus dust was exchanged for good dust so quickly by the defendant that he avoided prosecution thereby.

His honor took the case for consideration until 2:30 on Friday. At that time he still further continued it until 3 o'clock Saturday.

### Weather Bureau.

The official temperatures for the week commencing Thursday, January 12th, and ending Wednesday the 18th is as follows:

	Lowest	Highest	Wind, Miles per hour.
Thursday	-33.8	-21.0	0.5
Friday	-21.9	-21.5	4.1
Saturday	-27.7	-16.0	0.0
Sunday	-18.7	-27.0	0.8
Monday	-25.0	-22.0	0.8
Tuesday	-24.9	-22.7	3.1
Wednesday	-30.2	-22.6	1.2

It will be seen that there were days when there was not a whole degree difference in the temperature during the entire 24 hours. The maximum variation in the entire week was but 17 degrees and the coldest weather was only 33 below. The weekly publication of this official weather record must result eventually in disabusing men's minds of the belief in extremely cold temperatures for this section. The old system of setting out four bottles, one of coal oil, one of mercury, one of whiskey and one of paintkicker, and attempting to tell the temperature by the freezing or liquefaction of those materials was, to say the least, extremely unreliable. Coal oil was supposed to freeze at about 35 below but the agent of the Standard Oil company at this place, Mr. Rainbow, says there is oil here which begins to freeze at 15 below. And so with the various grades of whiskey and even adulterated paintkicker.

### Stole His Cache.

C. M. Roberts, living at West Dawson, returned from a trip up the creeks on Tuesday and discovered that his cache had been robbed of most of its contents. The roves had generously left a hundred pounds of flour and a few small items of food and Mr. Roberts desires the Nugget to advise them on the evaporated brand of potatoes they took. He says to be sure and soak the spuds for at least 24 hours before cooking or Mr. Rascal may find himself in the doctor's hands forthwith. The onions will be found indigestible unless cooked to a spish. The candles are not to be eaten and the one box left behind can be secured by playing a return date.

Elegantly furnished rooms, comfortably heated, at the Regina Club Hotel.

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