

## KLONDIKE OUTPUT.

An Estimate of This Year's Output Based on the Inspection of the Mines.

Interesting Facts About the Creeks That Are Expected to Yield so Much Wealth.

The total estimated output for this year of the Klondike and Indian river divisions of the Yukon mining districts, based on a personal inspection of every workable mine in those districts by Sam W. Wall, formerly of Tacoma, is \$27,640,000:

Bonanza Creek.....	\$12,485,000
El Dorado Creek.....	10,727,000
Big and Little Salmon Gulches.....	2,138,000
Including the bench claims.....	1,600,000
Smelter Creek.....	500,000
Bear Creek.....	500,000
Domination Creek.....	500,000
Sulphur Creek.....	500,000
Gay Gulch.....	300,000
Last Chance.....	100,000
Gold Bottom Creek.....	90,000
All others creeks in the two divisions.....	50,000

Immediately preceding my coming away from Dawson—starting "out"—I made a tour of all the gold-bearing creeks in the Klondike district, and in all the creeks where something more than prospecting was being done, says Mr. Wall in the San Francisco all. My purpose was to gain in advance of the clean-up the best information possible as to the probable yield of gold. I visited every considerable dump on Eldorado, Bonanza, Bear, Hunter, Domination and Sulphur creeks, talked to the owners of the claims when they were to be found, and to the foremen, laymen and miners on every such claim.

From the ml got the results of their daily panning, from which they computed the average value of the dirt. This information was sometimes freely given and sometimes reluctantly, and sometimes sought by the owners to be entirely withheld.

The mine or claim owners are not as a rule boastful of their possessions now, since the Canadian government seeks to take from them 20 per cent. of their output.

In nearly every case, however, I ultimately secured a careful and conservative estimate from some one connected with each mine, and can with them all sum up the probable output of the Klondike and Indian River districts based upon something more than a guess. Guesses have been made in print ranging from five to forty millions.

The thick run of yellow metal to be met with in Bonanza and Eldorado creeks or the light tripping of the tongue over large figures that is a familiar part of every man's conversation in that big country makes it easy to run to exaggeration. The great part of the product of this year, as did last, will come out of eleven miles of frozen ground on Bonanza and four and a half miles more on Eldorado, and when that is considered the figures that I have to present as being the reasonably certain output of the mines will have their true value in the forming of an estimate of the country, its probabilities and possibilities.

The output of last year—that which roused the whole world to a stampede—the like of which the world had never seen—was over one million tons. Some few say it was two million tons. Creeks that at that time were jokingly referred to as frog ponds were not known at all this year. The output of Eldorado and Bonanza and the other creeks in the Klondike district, exclusive of the Indian River district, will rise above \$27,000,000.

The country is a wonderland of gold. And if I did not know it I would not say it, for I have seen the nothing but the frightful results of the rush of unprepared and unprepared people into that frost-bitten land. I have seen gold thawed out of the ice in such quantities as to amaze the miner.

I did not see Alex. McDonald take \$11,000 from four buckets of dirt, then dredge from the bedrock of No. 2, Eldorado, but I have it on so much authority that I may say I know he did so.

I did see single pans of dirt yield as much as \$50 as frequently that it ceased to be a matter worth noting. I saw a little girl stand on a big pile of dirt, mission pick up all the nuggets she could find before the next bucket came up from the shaft. A few minutes later the results of her big industry were weighed in a neighboring cabin and developed a value of \$35. They keep a watchman on the dump at 89 Bonanza in order that no thief may steal the dirt at night.

But the most important thing that I have to say here is that this very rich ground is not a matter of mere chance. Two creeks—Bonanza and Eldorado. That is a question constantly being asked, and I am able to answer it. June 5 of last year the first strike was driven on Domination Creek. That was a little more than ten months ago. On the 12th there was the second stamped, that follows the first reports of a new discovery, and a number of claims were staked. Then came the customary reaction. Many of who who joined in the trying summer journey over the divides from Dawson, about twenty-five miles, refused to record their claims, believing them to be of no value. The stampede became a joke. Along the trail as I came over about March 1 last I found remembrances of the spirit of the thing that it had developed. Posted upon trees and upon boards that then scarcely protruded above the snow were such notices as: "I claim ten tons of this creek to be used as a frog pond."

"I claim the sky above for the purpose of raising angels." Very many of those who took the trouble to make the trip thought so little of what they secured by it that they refused to pay the \$15 it cost to record it and so made it their own. The "che-chakos," or newcomers, knew so little about mining in Alaska, or the North West Territory, and what constituted reasonably good-looking ground that some of them built cabins and began prospecting. It was only during the latter part of the winter that there was a trail from Dawson to either Domination or Sulphur Creek that could be followed with any kind of certainty.

Now both these creeks are staked from the hilltop to the mouth and claims are quoted above a thousand. And the change is not a matter of mere boom, but is the legitimate result of what the men who dug in the ground found there. Out of the prospect holes dirt has been taken that showed two ounces of coarse gold to the pan. Domination and Sulphur creeks are branches of the great artery of gold coming into Indian river, and the story of one is the story of both. The owners of the claims are jubilant, and expect to see their properties placed in the class with those of the Bonanza and Eldorado.

This expectation has such reasonable

basis that Joe Barrett, who owns some of the best properties on both Bonanza and Eldorado, told me that \$50,000 taken out of Domination creek this summer, in view of the slight development work that has been done there this winter, he would put all the money that he takes out of his first-mentioned properties into the purchase of claims in the newer field. This is what many of the so-called bonanza kings will do and are doing. Alex. McDonald, who is the king of these kings, in that he owns more rich claims than any other, is doing so. He is buying claims not only on Domination and Sulphur, but on many other creeks about which even less is known. He owns a dozen claims on both the creeks named. He is building a large storehouse on Domination creek about midway between the two "discoveries" to cache supplies for their development.

This summer a permanent trail will be built, leading over the divide from Domination creek to Cormack's down into Sulphur and Domination. Pack trains will be dispatched and make regular weekly trips from Grand Forks, the town at the mouth of Eldorado. Next winter will therefore witness such scenes of extensive development on Hunter, Domination Sulphur and Quartz creeks as we now find on Bonanza and Eldorado in this upper country.

A company has been formed and steps taken for the building of a telephone line connecting all these creeks, and it is probable that the work will be completed before the return of the winter. The result of the winter's prospecting has produced such results that a claim upon any creek within the district is held to a certain relationship to the discoveries, is held to have some speculative value. For that reason the whole winter has been a time of succession of stampedes, and creek after creek, gulch after gulch, has been staked off and recorded.

The prospecting office is a small single room, rough-board affair, and his corps of assistants through a great part of the winter. There were two men here. He had several others in the early fall, but for lack of provisions was compelled to send them to Fort Yukon. Information was sometimes freely given and sometimes reluctantly, and sometimes sought by the owners to be entirely withheld.

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## NEWS OF VANCOUVER.

Volunteers Are Jubilant Over the Results of Recent Annual Inspection.

Ald. McQueen Declines the Honor of Contesting Richmond-Stikine Rates Take a Tumble.

Vancouver, May 21.—(Special.)—The steamer Quail arrived to-day with latest advices from Wrangel. The only news of importance was that the impossible rate of \$500 per ton for freight from Wrangel to Telegraph Creek had taken the enormous drop to 20 cents per hundred pounds, and that thousands of people said to be detained by the high rates can now get through with ease if they desire.

There is now the best of reason to show that the reported drowning of J. Morgan and J. Egerston is a cruel joke. One of the two post-cards that have been received is signed Johnson, the other Fergus, while the writing is identical. Egerston wrote on May 3 from Skagway.

There was quite a scene at the meeting of the board of works committee of the city council yesterday. Alderman McHadden leaving the room in hot indignation, because in the making of appropriations, his ward, the smallest and poorest in the city, was granted a less vote than that allotted to every large outlying district, hitherto somewhat neglected as regards improvement.

Miss Peters, the well known pianist and also recording secretary of the Vancouver Women's Council, is suffering from a cold, resulting in a badly dislocated ankle, which will confine her to the house for several weeks.

Fosses, Teas & Co., of this city are prosecuting a man named Metcalfe on a charge of obtaining from them a considerable sum, by means of a story that he would make a large profit by placing ground near Teas Lake. He stated that he had there got out as much as \$112 in a few hours. His story is said by the prosecutors to have proved foundationless, hence the prosecution.

The Bennett Lake and Klondike Navigation Co., Limited, have begun work here, looking passengers and freight, and shipping to Dawson, via Lake Bennett after the opening of navigation, on the 6th proximo or thereabouts.

The Vancouver artillery corps is naturally most enthusiastic over the results of the recent inspection by Lieut.-Col. D.O.C. Number six company comes out just ahead by one point—number five, with the splendid aggregate of 214 points scored, out of a maximum of 228. Number six company obtained the full marks (10) for clothing and accoutrements and the maximum of 20 points for manual firing exercise. For company drill, 19 of 20 marks were earned; for gun drill 67 out of 80; and for internal economy the full score of ten marks.

In reply to questions, the officers replied that the full 40 marks, and those of the non-commissioned officers the full 48 marks, making a score of 88 in all. Number five company did almost equally well, the contest between it and number six being literally neck and neck. Number five earned the full mark for clothing and accoutrements, 19 out of 20 marks for manual firing; 18 out of 20 for company drill; 14 out of 20 for gun drill and the full ten marks for internal economy. The officers also gained the full forty points for questions answered and the non-commissioned officers 42 of 48 marks for their answers, making a score of 213 in all. This places each of the Vancouver companies considerably ahead of the best Victoria company record which is that of number three company, standing at 194 points.

Lieut.-Col. Worsnop and the officers and men of his companies are to be handsomely congratulated on the brilliant success thus obtained, which will as they believe afford them an excellent chance of winning the prize for the best drilled company in the province in addition to securing provincial "pride of the place."

The Boston & Alaska Transportation Company has followed up its successful bargain with the Dominion government by securing a very profitable contract from the British American Corporation, through Mr. H. B. Macgowan, who here acts for the transportation company. The Alaska company agrees to convey the corporation's Yukon river steamers with 500 tons of freight to Dawson, via the St. Michael's route. The voyage will be made on or about the first week in June, after which date the Alaska company will charter the steamer on a regular line of service to the St. Michael's route, each calling at Dawson and the Yukon River. Connected with this ocean service, will be a river fleet of seven stern wheel steamers, specially built for service on the inland waterways of Alaska and the Yukon. The Alaska company thus anticipates a short, but busy summer season of Vancouver-Yukon freight and passenger traffic.

General regret is felt here in regard to the death in St. Paul's Hospital early yesterday morning of Mr. Edward McFeely, a senior member of the well known wholesale hardware firm of McLennan & McFeely, Limited.

Miss Macneil, the well known Australian temperance and gospel missionary, is now holding a series of young people's and general meetings on the temperance question. The Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches of the city are actively aiding the endeavor.

New Westminster, May 21.—The Board of Trade held its regular meeting on Wednesday and received the secretary's report for the quarter, which was, as regards finance, very satisfactory. The members are 14 in number, and as nearly half of them are stated to be merely nominal an effort is necessary to induce a more active membership. A communication was read from Mr. Alan Morrison, M.P., stating that he was endeavoring to obtain a grant from the Dominion government of \$100,000 towards river improvements. The Board of Trade was shown by the treasurer's report to have now accumulated assets in cash and investments representing not less than \$1,743.

Mayor Owens has, it is stated, been progressing satisfactorily towards complete recovery after his recent operation, to the general satisfaction of his fellow citizens. Mr. Bruce, another well known local invalid, is also doing well.

There was a big fire in the west end of New Westminster early yesterday morning. The large but unoccupied building of the International Hotel was totally destroyed. It was a highly combustible frame structure, which once belonged to Mr. T. Levi, formerly city alderman. The hotel was built in boom times and proved a total failure. Unoccupied.

Hammond, Ind., May 21.—Three thousand pounds of powder at the plant of the economical powder company, about four and a half miles from here, blew up this afternoon, killing one man, injuring three others and demolishing the building in which was located the mixing room. The explosion occurred about one o'clock. The plant had been running only three days and was about to begin work on a government order for 35,000,000 cartridges. The officers of the company have been unable to discover the cause of the explosion.

Rain is reported from many North Western points. It will be welcomed by the farmers as the wheat is badly in need of moisture.

The Skagway News says that "Mr. Goddard," the Canadian collector of customs, some time from Bennett on the 6th with a son, and the latter is on her way to her home in Victoria, and after a couple of months' rest will return to English with her children.

## CANADA TO NEGOTIATE.

Sir Louis Davies' Visit to Arrange Preliminaries for an International Convention.

Sealing Rearrangement Being Now Due Will Be the Subject First Discussed.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, May 23.—Sir Louis Davies and Mr. Venning, chief clerk of the fisheries branch, left for Washington this afternoon. The Minister expects to be away ten days. It need not surprise anyone if as a result of Sir Louis' present visit to Washington an understanding is reached in connection with the Behring sea question. It may seem odd that the United States should at this time be able to discuss the sealing question with Canada, but there is a definite object in broaching the matter now, when sealers are getting ready for their season's work in Behring sea. The United States is anxious to secure total suspension of pelagic sealing for one or more years, and if any agreement is to be reached in this direction for the current season the question must be settled before the sealers get away from Victoria, and indeed before they incur any expense in their preparations. Thus, while Sir Louis Davies' present trip is to arrange for an Ottawa conference to settle all questions connected with the two countries, a decision of the sealing question is most likely.

Mr. Hall and other representatives of the sealing owners at Victoria arrived here in the nick of time. They had a long conference with Sir Louis Davies at which they argued the case for not consenting to the revision of the Paris regulations of 1893 to any further restriction on the sealing industry. However, an agreement was reached, and sealing was agreed upon if the sealers be compensated for their prospective business large at present.

Washington, May 22.—Negotiations will begin this week between the officials of the state department, the British ambassador, Sir Julian Pauncefote, and the Canadian minister of marine, Sir Louis Davies, as a preliminary step toward a convention of treaty between the United States and Great Britain, clearing up numerous long pending controversies between this country and Canada. The work is now taken up again under more favorable circumstances than in the past, but have failed to reach a satisfactory conclusion. The work is now taken up again under more favorable circumstances than in the past, but have failed to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

The meeting this week will be rather general in character, and will be of a nature of a discussion of what is more than any arrangement of an act terms of a convention. The meeting, however, is to arrive at an agreement which can be submitted to both governments as well as to the Canadian ministry, and then after the government will appoint commissioners to frame a settlement in accordance with this understanding.

Sir Louis Davies will arrive on day and will be the guest of the British ambassador. Being a diplomat, the ambassador will represent England and Canada, but his acquaintance which Sir Louis D. has with the needs of Canada will be of great assistance to the ambassador. Sir Louis' first duty, however, is to take part in the revision of the Paris regulations of 1893, which will be of great assistance to the ambassador.

It is expected that this step, toward friendly settlement of all controversies at issue between the United States and Great Britain will be regarded in great quarters as significant and a step toward the friendly settlement of the controversy which has been recently exhibited between Great Britain and America. At the same time the fact that the state department is now as well as the British government, not give to the coming meeting a fence beyond what it plainly bears, is a sign, namely a desire to reach friendly adjustment of the long pending border controversies between the United States and Canada.

Sir Julian Pauncefote conferred with Secretary Day on Saturday and arranged the preliminaries of the coming meeting. Later Judge Day had a long talk with ex-Secretary John W. Foster, who has heretofore had charge of the Canadian negotiations and who may be connected with those about to begin. It is not known who will be appointed on the British side. Sir Julian will, of course, be one of the Canadian warships and a British ship, possibly Sir Richard Cartwright and Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself may be able to get all one of the Canadian gunboats as his presence on the tribunal could not fail to have a good effect. The commission may meet in Ottawa.

Believed to be the Oregon and Consort Not So Near Home as Thought at Washington.

London, May 23.—Lloyd's agent at Para, Brazil, under to-day's date, cable that three men-of-war arrived there a week ago, and that they were on their way from Rio Janeiro to the Oregon, Mariette and Nicherby. The Oregon was last reported officially by Lloyd's at Bahia, Brazil, on May 9, and she is believed to have left that midnight the same day. The distance from Bahia to Para is about 160 miles, port is a rough sailing, and if Lloyd's reports have been steaming very slowly. Other reports have placed the Oregon at Barbados and even nearer still to the United States.

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