

## YUKON COUNCIL DISSOLVES

It Gets Down to Two Members and Decides to Quit.

Clement Will Be Back With New Members Presently—A Let-Up in Law Making.

The Yukon council held two sessions this week. On Tuesday License Inspector McGregor, in a communication, set forth the unfairness of collecting a double liquor license, as was done from those who formerly held wholesale licenses, and then were compelled to take out shop licenses. The council referred the matter to the legal adviser.

Inspector McGregor was granted a four months leave of absence during which period Capt. H. A. Bliss will assume his duties.

A communication from Col. Steele called attention to Mrs. Hetherington and her two children, who required assistance to leave the country. It will be remembered that the husband and father was a typhoid victim last winter.

Mathias Lind also asked for assistance out of the country. Refused.

It was decided to forward the four insane prisoners now at the barracks to New Westminster. At the Wednesday session the council adjourned sine die. Col. Steele's departure would leave but two members—Mr. Ogilvie and Judge Dugas. As parliament has expressed itself as rather opposed to the idea of a judge sitting in legislative council who may afterwards be called upon to decide the constitutionality of his own enactments, the judge withdrew and there will be no council until after the arrival of the new members.

At its last meeting the council, by resolution, decided that Mrs. Maria L. Ferguson should be protected in her labor of compiling a public directory or register on the creeks and in Dawson. She is also given the exclusive privilege of numbering houses and erecting corner posts bearing the names of streets.

### Twelve Millions in Gold.

Since July 1, 2,370 persons have made deposits averaging in value \$2,330 each at the Seattle mint, and the assayers have made 2,500 melts, an average of forty-six a day. Assays by experts number 5,750.

From July 1, 1898, to Jan. 1, 1899. \$ 5,669,157 92  
From Jan. 1, 1899, to Sept. 5, 1899. 6,389,150 08

Grand total receipts to and including Sept. 5. \$12,058,308 00

The above figures represent the fractional-year gold receipts of the Seattle assay office since the establishment of the institution, July 15, 1898, to the close of business hours Tuesday. They are reliable, having been obtained from the records of the office. In its published statements the government deals with this and all other similar institutions by the fiscal year, from July 1 to June 30, but the assayer in charge, Wing, gave the necessary data to show not only the business of the assay-mint for the fractional year of 1898, but also figures for the volume of business transacted from January 1 to September 5, of the present year.

He further supplied figures showing what was done from July 1, of the current fiscal year to the close of business hours September 5. These are particularly interesting, in that they not only give total gold receipts for the period in question, but show the number of deposits and the number of melts, assays, etc.

The table follows:

Gold receipts from July 1 to Sept 5.	\$5,507,616
Number of deposits received.	2,367
Average value of deposits.	\$2,327
Number of melts.	2,522
Average daily melts.	46
Number of assays.	5,750
Average daily assays.	104

The business was done in fifty-five working days. The melts consisted of regular deposits, special bullion deposits, for assay, consolidation "mass melts" sweeps and clip bar melts.

In 55 days the department made the 5750 assays in the regular course, in addition to assays for base in all regular mass shipping bars.

### Creek Notes.

To the ordinary traveler musing up Hunker the bench ground is in evidence only in a few cases, but nevertheless there are scores of first-class benches and hillsides that are turning out gold in abundance, not propositions that would make a man leave an Eldorado claim, but good wage-paying ground.

The left limit hillsides on the reserve, which includes that portion of the creek from 80 below to the mouth, are being

tunnelled into and the pay is run into the sluice boxes and some very fine pay unearthed. On the upper tier benches, the merry swish of the rocker is heard from morning until night, and there are a great many claims that employ gangs of men rocking and several have tapped the head of neighboring pups and brought a sluice head on their ground.

The best of these benches are found just above and below Gold Bottom, on the left limit, Nos. 24, 23 and 32, 33 and 34 being especially well opened up, the former running their dirt to Hunker on a gravity tram. From six to twelve below the right limit has been extensively worked this summer, and the ground is the richest, with the exception of the 35 benches, found on the right limit.

A great many prospectors have been at work all summer prospecting the flat country and ridges between Hunker and Bonanza, and the lost channel idea is not a new one by any means, as it was in search of this that the discoverers of the Last Chance bench ground were engaged when they struck pay, and as a result, some 20 benches on the left limit of Last Chance about two to three miles above the mouth, are yielding up the precious metal. There is not a hillside between Hunker and Bonanza that is not covered, at least in spots, with wash gravel, and colors can be found any place, but this only makes it the harder to locate good pay. A trip over the ridge from Dominion will convince a careful observer that this whole ridge was once under water, and a fine wash is easily discerned. Future prospecting will undoubtedly show other spots, and with a reduced royalty, many low grade "grub stake" claims will be profitably worked.

### Chute vs. Casey et al.

On Tuesday morning, Judge Dugas, of the territorial court, listened to the arguments of counsel on a motion in the above entitled cause, which raised a most important point affecting the rights of joint owners of mining claims. Chute, the plaintiff, prays the court to continue the injunction against Casey et al., the defendants, to restrain them, who are owners of an undivided one-half interest in claim No. 18, Gold Run, from letting any "lays" on the property, without the consent of Chute, the plaintiff, who is the owner of the other undivided one-half interest. The contention of the defendants as argued by their attorney, is that a joint owner can execute an agreement for a "lay" without the consent and even against the wishes of the other joint owner or owners; that it is not necessary that all of the owners should sign the agreement; that the laymen, taking possession of ground under such an agreement, cannot be dispossessed until the expiration of his term; that an agreement for a "lay" is not a lease, but a contract, or agreement of service, which differ from ordinary contracts of service by reason of the fact that the master cannot discharge the servant at pleasure; and, finally, that the discontented joint owner has a remedy at law against the co-owner for damages; but that he has no recourse against the laymen. Mr. C. M. Woodworth, attorney for the plaintiff, contends that an agreement for a "lay" is a lease, and, like all other leases affecting real estate, it must be signed and given by each individual owner of the property, which it purports to lease. If the defendants' position is sustained by the court, one partner in a mining claim can let "lays" on the whole property, irrespective of the wishes of the other partner. Judge Dugas took the motion under advisement, and his decision will be anxiously awaited.

### A Fabulous Corn Crop.

The Chicago Tribune is authority for the statement that only an accident can prevent the breaking of all previous records by the corn crop production of the United States this year. A canvass of the eight states which raise the bulk of the corn of this country warrants an estimate above that of 1896, which heretofore has been the record, and there is much in the advices received to justify a prediction that the crop will approximate 2,500,000,000 bushels.

### Lost People.

Inquiries are out for the following persons: John J. Smith, of Galt, Ontario; W. J. Burnett, Denver, Colo.; John Edward Norris, Seattle; Robt. K. Hoyer, Fredonia; Wm. Huttier, Chicago; Chas. W. Wood, Longmont, Colo.; Wm. H. Ginty, Portland, Or.; D. D. McLennan, Gem, Idaho; J. F. Brage, St. Louis. Report to N. W. M. P.

The result of Saturday's slaying on No. 1 Adams gulch was stolen during the night by parties unknown. The owners are Al McGam and Jack Crew. The boxes were being left uncleaned until next morning, when they proved to have been cleaned during the night.

### SENKLER AGAIN REVERSED.

Famous Ashby-Leake-Keyes Case Decided.

The gold commissioner has again been reversed by the minister of the interior at Ottawa. The new decision just received has a most important bearing upon all creeks, which have been surveyed, as tending to show that when once surveyed there is no appeal for the miner who believes his ground to have been partitioned off for the benefit of others. The case in hand is that of the celebrated Ashby and Leake vs. Keyes case. It will be remembered that Ashby and Leake are the original owners of 31 Eldorado. The ground was taken up before anyone knew aught of benches or hill claims. The law then defining side boundaries of creek claims was "from base to base of hill or bench." Mr. Ogilvie came along with his instruments, and, besides measuring the length of claims for the miners, he put in some side stakes which no one disputed, because no one was claiming the hills or the sides. A year and a half ago gold was beginning to be found on the benches and Keyes staked off from the Ashby-Leake claim, using Mr. Ogilvie's side lines of the creek claim as his lower boundary. Now, it so happened that the lower end of this ground is remarkably rich and the creek men claimed it as within the lines which the old regulation of "base to base" would give them. Surveys were taken proving this fact, and Mr. Senkler decided that a surveyor (as Mr. Ogilvie) could not take away from the creek man what the law distinctly gave him. The reversal of the gold commissioner establishes the Ogilvie side lines as official, from which there is no appeal.

Much controversy may arise from this decision, since several creeks, notably lower Dominion, have been officially surveyed as to side lines in such a manner that bench claims are often wholly down upon the flat of the creek valley, and in many cases the pay streak meanders across such ground, leaving the present creek claims entirely.

### Copper at Whitehorse.

James Hall was one of the passengers on the ill-fated Gold Star, and was transferred at Five Fingers to the Bonanza King. He has been at Whitehorse for some time past. Respecting the copper property in the vicinity of Whitehorse, Mr. Hall said that there is no doubt that copper ledges in that locality have been found; that no one knows as to the extent of the mineral bearing country—it may be confined and it may be large; that the ore, which has been uncovered and sampled is unquestionably rich enough to work. "From my own observation," Mr. Hall continued, "and from what I could learn by talking with those who have been prospecting I am convinced that the locality around Whitehorse will be a copper producing district within a year or so, being a hard rock proposition, it will naturally take longer to develop the country than it would a placer district. The people at Whitehorse are confident of a prosperous future; they are laying out a townsite, and look upon their town as a permanent business and mining point. I made no investments, but will probably take another trip to the district in the spring. I lost some time at Whitehorse endeavoring to get my mining machinery down the river. I was unable to bring it with me but have made arrangements which will insure its arrival here within the next week or ten days."

### More Lights For Alaska.

The workers to secure more aids for mariners on the inland passage to Alaska will have an ardent coadjutor in United States Senator George C. Perkins, of California. He has taken up the matter personally with H. S. Pritchett, superintendent of the United States coast and geodetic survey, and will also have the San Francisco chamber of commerce adopt a memorial to the lighthouse board similar to that adopted by the Seattle body. The lighthouse board will recommend to congress that an appropriation be made for this purpose.

Prof. H. S. Pritchett, superintendent of the coast and geodetic survey, and a member of the lighthouse board, is now on this coast, and has been talked with upon the subject matter. He has promised that the board will recommend the establishment of six or eight lights and fog horns, and it is hoped that at the coming session of congress an appropriate

ation for their construction may be obtained.

Congressman W. L. Jones writes as follows:

"I had already decided that something of the kind was necessary. On my late trip to Alaska I saw the great need of more lighthouses, etc., along that coast, and you may rest assured that I will give my best efforts toward satisfying these needs."

A letter from Congressman Cushman expressing his earnest efforts to improve the inland passage has already been published.

### Stuck Together With Paste.

A Moosehide Indian was watching the preparation of the mortar the other day where Dawson's first brick building is going up. "Ugh!" he remarked, after a while, "white man use heap plenty flour;" and he went away satisfied that the lime was flour, and the building was being stuck together with paste.

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