

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

VOL. 2 No 8

DAWSON, Y. T., SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1899

PRICE 25 CENTS

HURDMAN'S THIRD

Couldn't Record for a Lady but Does so for a "Ringster"

AND TAKES OFF HIS TITHE OF A THIRD INTEREST

A Damning Case of Official Depravity and how the Strings are Pulled.

The Gold Commissioner Makes an Unwilling witness Talk—The Witness Forever Damns Self and Hurdman—Mrs. Crane Tells What she Knows—Her "Own Skirts Clean" Though She Winked at the Duplicity of Others—Attempt to Defraud a Poor and Honest Woman.

Never was an official change so rapidly productive of startling results as the recent change of gold commissioners in Dawson; and never was more damning evidence against official corruption so unexpected and disastrous as that which cropped out on Thursday at the trial of the Duboise-Murdoch claim case in the gold commissioner's office. The case is the one which the Nugget related in its issue of the 21st, in which Hurdman, the bench claim recorder, "stood off" the public on a piece of valuable Banana ground while the "ring" got in its work and recorded it. In the first case the trial came up on a protest filed by Mrs. Lena M. Duboise against the recording of a third tier claim opposite No. 60 below on Bonanza by one Fred. Murdoch. There was no intention of implicating officials in a system of "spoils," only to decide priority and ownership. But when a witness admitted that Hurdman, the recorder, held a third interest in the claim, the new gold commissioner proved himself every inch a man, and insisted upon the witness answering the questions to the bitter end. The astounding result of this impartial fairness on the part of Mr. Senkler was the swearing of two witnesses that Mr. Hurdman, the haughty bench claim recorder, had been given a third interest in this valuable claim because, as one witness expressed it, "I heard people did business in the office that way." The other witnesses reasons were still more terse: "I thought it a good plan, because I thought we (Hurdman and I) were to do business together in future."

What admissions from witnesses on top of the Hurdman exposures of the past month! But listen to the evidence, and judge for yourself whether or not the Nugget has been "sensational" in its accusations of duplicity against this same Hurdman and others.

Mrs. Lena M. Duboise was sworn, and said that she had staked the claim in dispute on September 27th at five p. m. Upon application to Hurdman, the bench claim recorder, she had been assured that the claim could not be recorded until surveyed, but that he would hold the ground for her until such survey was made. She said further she lived in a cabin where she could see the claim, and could have seen Murdoch if he came there, but she had never seen him in her life. There were men in cabins all about the claim who would look out for her if a stranger appeared to stake the ground over her. Some time ago two men stopped where she was and asked where the claim was. They looked for the stakes but could not find them.

John Hanna testified that he went round the claim with Mrs. Dubois on the 27th of September and saw her stake it. Did not put his name on the stakes as a witness.

Robert Logan lives on No. 60 below, abreast of the claim in question; knew the claim well, but had never seen Murdoch's name on any stakes there.

Z. E. Boyaj said he lived on No. 60 below, and on September 27th had been shooting at the hill. Saw Mrs. Duboise staking the claim in question, so turned his gun and fired the other way. Had seen the claim twice a day since then, yet had never seen Murdoch's name on any stakes.

Thos. Moosh lived close by the claim and saw the stakes every day. Had never seen any names on them but Dubois.

John Morgan had frequently seen Mrs. Dubois's name on the stakes, as he lived in a cabin seven feet away from one of them. Never saw Murdoch on the claim, though he would undoubtedly have seen and heard him had been there as he claimed. Would have surely heard him driving his stakes had any been driven, night or day.

Mrs. Alice Rollins Crane proved the stakewit-

ness of the occasion. To skillful questions by Mr. W. H. Bard, who was handling the case so cleverly for Mrs. Dubois, she answered as follows: She owned a third interest in the claim as it stood at present in the name of Fred. Murdoch. She had a bill of sale for that third, given her for having furnished the information to Fred. Murdoch. The way she happened to know about it, she had been stopping at Mr. Bard's place, and Mrs. Duboise had spoken to her about the claim, and said she was expecting to get it. Mrs. Crane then went home to Dawson and told Fred. Murdoch about it. By cross-examination by Allan R. Joy, who handled the case for Murdoch, it developed that she had no interest in the case with Mr. Bard. Attorney Joy recalled Mrs. Duboise for some details of the location, etc., of the claim. She made a rough sketch of it, which was afterwards used in the case.

J. F. Murdoch was sworn and said he staked the said claim on October 8th, and recorded it on the 11th at five p. m. He put in four stakes, and they had not been seen by him since. He had no witnesses to the operation of staking. Mrs. Duboise's stakes were not there. It was about five p. m. in the evening when he staked, and he used regulation sized stakes picked up about claim No. 70 below on Bonanza. Mr. Bard drew out of the unwilling witness that he had an understanding with Mrs. Crane that she was to get a half interest for the information she gave him of the claim. He gave her a third interest. It was at this point that the good work of Mr. Bard showed itself and Mr. Senkler, as an honest man, insisted on the questions being answered.

"What became of the other two-thirds?"

"I control them," Murdoch answered.

"Have you got that two-thirds yet?"

The witness did not want to answer, and replied that he had sold another third.

"Who to?" asked the inexorable Bard.

The witness again did not want to answer, and Joy, his attorney, tried to shield him from the damning admissions he must make. Again, he was compelled to answer with downcast face, "Hurdman."

"What was the consideration?" asked the unrelenting Bard.

Murdoch hesitated and replied, "I don't think I have to answer that."

"No, you don't," interjected his attorney, appealing to the gold commissioner. But he had to answer nevertheless—

"I sold it to him for twenty-five dollars."

"So you sold him a third interest in a valuable claim for twenty-five dollars?" repeated Bard.

No answer.

"Did you get the money?"

Joy broke in again with "I don't think the witness should be made to answer this. This is not an investigation into the acts of officials." Again the witness was forced to reply.

"No, I did not receive any money from Hurdman, and haven't yet." The witness here shamefacedly admitted he had given a third to Hurdman some ten days after recording, but knew of no reason why he should. He admitted he would rather have retained the third, in fact would like to have retained the whole claim. Had had no understanding with Hurdman about giving him a third. Considered his right, which he had used up, as worth \$1,000. Did not answer at first as to why he gave away

\$500, or one-third of his right. Afterwards the witness admitted, "I thought it a good plan to do so, because I thought we were to do business together again in future."

Mrs. Crane was recalled and questioned at length about the third of the claim given to Hurdman. She admitted suggesting to Murdoch that they give a third to Hurdman, the bench claim clerk who recorded the claim. Her only reason for doing so was, "I had heard that the people did business in the office that way—giving information of vacant claims and for the information to get an interest from the person that gets the information." Several days after she had told Murdoch of the ground he had handed her some papers for Hurdman and remarked, "The bill of sale is there." Did not know what was in the papers but thought there was a bill of sale among them. Had put them through the window to Hurdman with the remark "The boy has sent you these." Hurdman was busy so she came away from his window. Hurdman had never given the papers back nor had she seen him since. Murdoch recorded on the 11th and it was on the evening of the 10th, she had told him about the claim. It was after 8 o'clock in the evening and she was to see him at the office in the morning. She met him there and he recorded the claim. To the Nugget man, after the trial, the witness said Murdoch had apologized in the morning for having overstepped and being a trifle late, showing conclusively that he had not been up the creek in the night. She is sure she told him of the claim only the night before the morning he recorded, as her diary bears her out in the statement. Of course, she knew he had never been up the creek to stake; but that was not her affair and her own skirts were perfectly clean of anything crooked. She had the bill of sale with her for her third and held it in her hand.

W. H. Bard, after bringing out such a hurricane of testimony, went on the stand himself. "I was in Dawson when Mrs. Duboise staked the claim, but went back and looked it over. Found the stakes in place and everything according to law. October 8th I was on No. 60 below, between 4 and 6 in the afternoon, and could see the claim, but I never saw Murdoch. I swear positively I never saw Murdoch's name on any stake on that claim. On October 7th I called on Hurdman and asked him about the claim. He told me he had explicit instructions from Hurdman not to record the claim until it was surveyed, as the claims were all mixed up in that vicinity, and they could not tell where they were. I notified Hurdman that I would see to it that Mrs. Duboise secured a surveyor and surveyed the claim at once."

The opposing council summed up the case and then Mr. Senkler took the awarding of the claim under advisement for an indefinite period. He explained the holding of the ground for a survey, as a protective measure of the government to secure the fractions which were its share of the ground. He could not for a moment understand an official employe refusing one person one day to record until a survey was made while next day the claim was recorded for someone else without a survey.

Hurdman Suspended.

The Nugget's first attack on Clerk Hurdman, something like a month ago, so startled that gentleman that he had to retire to his room for several hours on the morning the paper appeared upon the scene. It was simply the beginning of the end. Friday morning he was indefinitely suspended from service until his case can be investigated. The charge, of course, is the receiving of a third interest in a claim for recording it over another applicant and against the orders of the gold commissioner. Naturally the gentleman is in great distress of mind, and was closeted with Mr. Ogilvie and Mr. Senkler much of Friday. What the outcome will be is hard to tell.

CLAIM EVOLUTION.

(Continued from page six.)

ing this fraction, and you may be prepared to answer yes or no. Retaining the above bill of sale, Mrs. Butler now quietly bided her time until November 10th, or just fourteen days from the date of application to record her claim. When she again appeared at Mr. Craig's window, and obtained a certificate of record of the original Mensing claim, which she still holds. Now, then, it is not unnatural to ask: "1. Why did Mr. Soggs give a bill of sale for a two-thirds interest in a claim which contained one-half of the Mensing claim and his fraction, purchased by him, and contained within the three stakes alluded to above? 2. What conditions were the books of the recorder's office in that gave to Mr. Soggs certain property, to issue a bill of sale upon, when the same identical piece of ground offered for record could not be recorded for fourteen days for another? 3. When Mrs. Butler received her certificate of record, signed by Craig, how were the books fixed that showed Soggs' recording?"

The most important feature in all this disorder and irregularity in the gold commissioner's office is this fact, that capital the most needed and necessary thing to this country at the present time, will not seek investment in any place where titles are clouded, subject to dispute and law-suits. Without capital labor comes to a standstill. Without labor population comes either to a stop or decreases. Let us therefore have a cleansing up of the Yukon house and invite capital and people to come into a country rich in prospects, wealthy in natural resources and promises glorious for the future.

MR. OGILVIE TO INVESTIGATE.

The Public Soon to Be Invited to Make Charges.

The "Nugget" Secures the First Day in Court—Promised an Opportunity of Having Charges Against Corrupt Officials Investigated.

As the Nugget loses two of its staff on Sunday morning by dispatching them to Ottawa, it was deemed wise to first interview Mr. Ogilvie, and learn what course he proposed to pursue in regard to the exposures which have been made of the corruption in the gold commissioner's office. An appointment was made for Thursday afternoon, and was kept. Messrs. Allen (E. C.), George and Scamper met the governor in the presence of the governor's private secretary. Dr. Brown took the conversation down in shorthand for the governor, a curious proceeding, which, by the way, we have neither seen nor heard of being done before. The object of the interview was explained to the Yukon commissioner by Mr. George, who informed him of the approaching departure of two of the Nugget's staff for the outside. The air and papers had been full of corruption talk for months, and the governor had lately been empowered to investigate. There was now a rumor that that gentleman was about to take positive action. Unfortunately the gentlemen going out would not be here, and unless the governor spoke of his plans now they would arrive at Ottawa in total ignorance of any attempt he might be making at reform. Information might be sent after them and follow them to Ottawa, but they would not know for some time, and the fact would remain that the Nugget representatives would be in the unfortunate position of knowing nothing, and being able to say nothing that the governor had done in the way of abating the evils in the office, punishing wrong, or in remedying the things complained of.

Mr. Ogilvie objected to the introduction and declared he cared nothing for what was or would be said of him here or at Ottawa. Time was his friend and right would work out. Said he had nothing to say. He appeared determined, but in conversation outlined his plans as follows: He is preparing, or having prepared, a lot of posters setting forth to the people of the district his powers of investigation and setting a time and place where they could make their charges. The defendants would, of course, be given time to prepare a defense to the charges made. The posters would be ready for distribution in a very few days and it would be seen to that the Nugget would be invited to take the stand and tell what it knew to make good its charges. This latter was said with so much evident gusto that Mr. E. C. Allen declared emphatically that if there was going to be an opportunity for the Nugget to be heard he would not start for the coast on Sunday as contemplated, but would stay right here and use his best endeavors to assist in the settling in one way or another the charges of corrupt on among government employes. He asked:

"Will you, Mr. Ogilvie, give us the very earliest day in court?"

"Yes, you can be heard as soon as I'm ready."

"I assure you, Mr. Ogilvie, I shall feel myself under a personal obligation if you will bear our charges at your earliest opportunity and will give us a chance to substantiate them," Mr. Allen continued. "What figure does politics cut in this investigation?"

"Absolutely none at all. I know nothing of politics. I propose to go through with this thing if it costs me my position."

The governor's resolution was approved by those present and he went on further to explain his position in the past. He had when he first arrived dealt shortly with some of the accused. The result was that they had left the country. If they were here now it might be hard with them. He knew his crown powers of investigation were coming to him, but expected them sooner. Meanwhile he had not been idle as would soon be seen. But he had been confronted with difficulties at every turn. Men would make charges and would fall down when it came to proof, and in one case in particular the man, preferring the charges narrowly escaped prosecution for perjury. As an illustration of what he had had to contend with the governor related the case of Murdoch, who just a few hours previously had sworn to Mr. Senkler that he had decided a third of his claim to Clerk Hurdman. Just six weeks before he had had Murdoch before him and the young man had there and then denied the very things he had sworn today. With much in the same line the long interview was brought to a close with thanks expressed by the Nugget for the promise of an early opportunity to make and prove charges of corruption.

Everyone should attend the big benefit for the indigent sick in hospitals at the Monte Carlo to-morrow (Sunday) evening.

"Wow! You've got mange?" "Yer! I had; but I'm cured now. I'm feelin' fine, too! Just tread on my tail and see the Dawson Dog Doctor at the Pioneer Drug Store. Fixed me in a hurry."

With Slav in as the feature, and the barbersque between Ramps Peterson and Iver Broen, the Monte Carlo will be crowded Sunday night.

If you cannot attend the benefit at the Monte Carlo Sunday night, buy a ticket anyhow.

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The Klondike Nugget

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ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY
 On Wednesday and Saturday
 E. C. ALLEN, Manager
 Geo. M. ALLEN, Editor
 A. F. GEORGE, City Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Yearly in advance	\$24 00
Six months	12 00
Three months	6 00
Per month by carrier in city (in advance)	2 00
Single copies	25

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1899.

NOTICE.

When a newspaper offers its advertising space at a nominal figure, it is a practical admission of "no circulation." THE KLONDIKE NUGGET asks a good figure for its space and in justification thereof guarantees to its advertisers a paid circulation five times that of any other paper published between Juneau and the North Pole.

The NUGGET has a regular carrier and express service covering Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunzler, Sulphur and Dominion creeks and tributaries. Mail orders taken and prompt delivery guaranteed on all the above. Orders for delivery of papers, mail or express may be left at the Nugget Express office or given to creek agents.

WHY IS THIS SO?

On Tuesday of this week a representative of the NUGGET applied at the bureau of public information in the gold commissioner's office, for an abstract of title to a certain claim on gold hill. For this information the sum required by law, \$2.50, was deposited. The representative was told to leave his application, and that the abstracts would be forthcoming the next day.

Within one hour after the application had been made two emissaries from the party who recorded the claim in question appeared at the NUGGET office, and proceeded to set forth all manner of reasons why no publicity should be given to the name of the party concerned, and further, the NUGGET was assured that everything connected with the claim was all right.

Now, as a matter of fact, no charge or insinuation of any wrong-doing in that particular case had, up to that time, been made. The NUGGET had merely applied at a public office for certain information, but immediately, and doubtless in consequence of that application, "friends" began heading for the NUGGET office.

We have no objection whatever to raise to the fact that these parties came to this office. Anyone having business to transact, of whatever nature, is always welcome. The point, however, which we do desire to raise is simply this: Through what means or agency was the information circulated that application for the abstract had been made by the NUGGET at the gold commissioner's office?

Our own idea of a public office is that such information belongs to the office, and to no outside parties whatsoever. We have no absolute knowledge that the owner of the claim in question was communicated with immediately upon the presentation of an application for the abstract. It must be admitted, however, that the circumstances strongly point that way. At least we consider ourselves justified in holding to that belief, for unless such was the case we fail to see how the news could have spread so quickly. We call the attention of the gold commissioner to these facts in an entirely friendly spirit. We believe that Mr. Senkler's ideas of official ethics are so high that he will strongly discountenance anything of the sort the moment it is brought to his notice. There may, perhaps, be nothing criminal in giving out information in the manner stated, but it must be agreed that it is contrary to all right and proper ideas of public policy.

GOVERNMENT FOR REVENUE ONLY.

We have heard of and lived under the operation of tariffs for revenue only but it has remained for the great country of Canada to give to the world an example of a government operated exclusively for that purpose. "Squeeze every cent that the country will stand and give the minimum in return," seems to be the motto which the Canadian federal authorities have assumed toward the Yukon territory.

We have had the argument advanced that the fact that the government was in practical ignorance as to the conditions and requirements of this country furnishes a sufficient reason if not justification for its attitude toward it. To some extent that might be reasonably urged but ignorance certainly cannot be advanced in justification, for instance, of failure to provide adequate mail communication.

The government could not have been in ignorance of the fact that thousands and thousands of men were en route to the Klondike last fall and winter and that each of those men would expect to receive mail from the outside.

With this knowledge it clearly became the duty of the government to provide some method for bringing the mail in. Late arrivals from the coast state that mail is stacked up by the ton at Skaguay, Dyea and Tagish and it must be seen at a glance that the N. W. M. P., efficient as the force is known to be, cannot handle the great quantities of mail which should be brought in.

Here then is the picture of 20,000 men and women buried for eight months of the year in a desolate, ice covered country, looking and longing, and waiting in vain for the letters they had every right to demand the government should forward to them and that government with its coffers bulging from Klondike royalty, bulging from Klondike timber fees, bulging from Klondike customs duties sits supinely by and does practically nothing to relieve the situation. Government for revenue only! Truly it is a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

ATLIN ALSO HAS A MUDDLE.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found a statement to the effect that the Atlin Lake country is suffering from the same malady that has afflicted the Klondike for the past year, viz., endless confusion in the recorder's office. It appears that a doubt existed as to whether the Atlin district is located in the Northwest territory or in British Columbia. In consequence of this feeling of uncertainty claims were staked and recorded under the laws of both, and hence confusion confused has resulted.

The Klondike district will be able to sympathize heartily with the unfortunate people of Atlin.

Our advice is that prospecting has been discontinued in the entire district until next June. Of course that means, if true, that the development of that country will be set back a matter of a year just as has happened in different sections of this region for similar reasons.

But that is not the gravest evil that must result from such a state of affairs.

The Atlin lake country will require outside capital before it can be successfully developed just as the Klondike requires capital today. But it must not be forgotten that nothing on earth is so timid as capital. When the shadow of a doubt rests upon the validity of a title to ground it is almost impossible to interest moneyed men to the extent of investing in it. There are plenty of opportunities of placing capital without subjecting it to the risk of total loss.

If the Atlin lake district is in the condition as stated in our news columns, it will require more than a year to restore confidence in it even if the reports as to its richness are true. Bungling officials have indeed placed a damper upon the development of more than one of Canada's richest holdings.

WHAT HAS DONE IT.

The policy which the Nugget has pursued unswervingly since the day of its first issue has resulted in bringing to this paper a patronage as far reaching as the limits of the Yukon territory. With the original plant was brought paper stock estimated to be sufficient to last for a period of one year, but within three months from the date when publication was begun it was found necessary to send out for another large shipment. But with the winter months the demand for the paper has exceeded all expectations and our somewhat limited facilities are being taxed to the utmost to satisfy our

constantly increasing list of patrons. Twenty-two hundred and fifty copies each week, sent only to actual subscribers and purchasers; and that list being added to at the rate of more than 100 per week. The NUGGET is proud and justly so of the number of genuine friends it has made. It must be remembered that in a country such as this there are at least six readers for every paper which means that something over 13,000 people are numbered among our readers in this city and on the creeks.

The confidence which the men of the territory have shown in this paper is heartily appreciated. It has been won by a straight forward, clean cut policy, unhampered by strings or "pulls" of any description, and the public may rest assured that no deviation from this policy will be made.

REPUBLICAN VICTORIES.

The returns from the elections in the states prove conclusively that the country at large is perfectly satisfied with the McKinley administration in its method of handling the war. In some states the Democrats fought the Republican idea of territorial expansion with resultant disaster to themselves. In other states the battle was waged along the lines of the Chicago platform of '96, but the general prosperity which now seems to be prevailing in Uncle Sam's domain prevented any considerable enthusiasm being shown in favor of free silver and other issues which were prominent in the last presidential campaign.

From this distance and considering also the meagre details at hand, it is difficult to judge the situation with any degree of accuracy. It appears to us, however, that the Republican party, nationally, has again entrenched itself in power for years, perhaps, to come.

The Pacific coast states have wheeled solidly into the Republican column, and even James Hamilton Lewis, the darling of everything anti-Republican in the state of Washington, could not weather the storm.

It appears therefore that the war was a popular move on the part of the administration. The people are satisfied with the means employed to bring it to a successful conclusion and are enthusiastically supporting President McKinley in his policy of territorial expansion.

To the Pacific coast states, especially this means a great deal. It will not be a great while, before the Philippines will begin to grow and develop under the influence of American laws and business energy and a great commerce will undoubtedly spring up from which the coast cities will receive great and lasting benefit. Under these circumstances it will prove exceedingly difficult to turn the coast states from allegiance to the party which has made it possible for them to reap so rich a harvest.

Some attaches of the Yukon government are inclined to take issue with this paper for its articles on discrimination against Americans. In one instance it was pointed out to us in reiteration that eight employes of the government in Dawson were Americans and six of them ladies. It is unfortunate for the strength of the argument that the ladies in question have since been all notified to quit. Again it was represented to us that we were unjust in claiming that the abortions of laws which govern this territory were the result of Canadian anti-American feeling. It is again unfortunate that Mr. Sifton talks so much and in a recent Winnipeg interview pointed out that Americans preponderated here as justification of his favorite royalty and reservation measures. We must add further that in arguing for those two obnoxious measures not a newspaper in all Canada failed to urge their lawmakers upon the grounds that only in this way could Canada get what she considered a rightful "divy" of the spoils.

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The "Nugget"

DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER

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THE "NUGGET"

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TWENTY-FOUR

Lieut. Cassler Completed

His Instructions American Details of a

Lieutenant Cassler, Infantry, stationed at the mouth of the Copper River, arrived in the morning of which time he was informed by his government that the United States steamer before the boats to the outside, had explored the Copper River down that stream. Cassler and another expedition last year on the coast of Alaska, if possible, to the interior. Mr. Loewen was on the steamer carrying a party of men, and was found to end of the river. At his expedition to the interior, the latter river and one of the second of the Matanuska miles a 90-mile trip was held here. enough food for Lieutenant obtain with two men, the balance coast.

It was now the nest. It is proved that trip must be very fortunate and mighty Alaska headed for it. It miles from end to distance of each flowing into the Alaska and one into the valley the stout-hearted provisions down to miles from an un they had but one been killed and party to cross over to Bl. After a week of passage was found party started down was wrecked and axes, rifles and the board. A few these a pole raft was again went. For berries and rose a stumbled across the most hospitably been without show were very lame from canvas tied on which they had but one party, knowing full been heard from their companions southern coast of A.

The trip was a success of course, the interior and maps were aneroid barometer of the passes and. Though wasted to see, the party were are quickly recover obtained of the most valuable to the country. The lieutenant feasible route for a coast to a point on and says, further, the provisions which packing it out. of the country was copper and coal are places.

The Ins and Outs It was an excited nie's saloon at Klondike when the news first

TWENTY-FOUR HUNDRED MILES ON FOOT

Lieut. Cassler, of the U. S. Army, Completes a Remarkable Trip.

His Instructions Were to Discover an All-American Overland Route to the Yukon - Details of an Adventurous Journey.

Lieutenant Cassler, of the 4th United States Infantry, stationed at Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, arrived in Dawson on Monday after a trip on foot of over 2,400 miles, and during most of which time he has been utterly unheard of by his government or his people. It will be remembered that Lieutenant Low, also of the United States Army, passed through Dawson before the boats stopped running, on his way to the outside, having, with a party of soldiers, explored the country from Valdes glacier up the Copper river to the head of Forty-mile and down that stream to the Yukon. Low and Cassler and another lieutenant headed three expeditions last May, starting from the southern coast of Alaska and commissioned to explore, if possible, an all-American route to the interior. Mr. Low had the easier trip and is now safely at home, his report in the hands of his government and his work done.

Lieutenant Cassler had by far the harder trip. It was the intention at first to start in over the Valdes glacier, but that was given up in favor of a more western route. Each succeeding arm of the sea was visited by the little steamer carrying the party and each, in turn, was found to end in a gigantic glacier in place of a river. At last Cook's Inlet was reached and expeditions Nos. 2 and 3 found two large rivers penetrating into the interior, the Matanuska and the Sushitna. One party took the latter river and our informant was the lieutenant of the second going up the unknown waters of the Matanuska. With 12 men and 5 pack mules a 90-mile trail was cut. A consultation was held here. It was impossible to carry enough food for 23 men with but 5 mules. The lieutenant obtained permission to go ahead with two men, taking the mules and provisions; the balance of the party returned to the coast.

It was now the trip commenced in real earnest. The provisions were to last out the trip that trip must be made in mighty quick time. Very fortunately a pass was seen in the rugged and mighty Alaskan range, and the party headed for it. It proved to be passable and 70 miles from end to end gave rise within a short distance of each other to three streams, one flowing into the Tanana, one into the Matanuska and one into the Copper rivers. The descent to the valley of the Tanana was steep but the stout-hearted three pushed on and on with provisions down to half-rations. While yet 20 miles from an unknown part of the Tanana, they had but one mule left - the other four had been killed and eaten. Crossing the Tanana on a raft the party pushed up one of the valleys to cross over to Birch and thence to Circle City. After a week of stupendous difficulties the passage was found to be impossible and our party started down on a raft again. The raft was wrecked under a jam of driftwood and axes, rifles and the last of the supplies went to the board. A few ropes only were saved. With these a pole raft was constructed and away they went. For six days the party lived on berries and rose apples. On the seventh they stumbled across the Tanana Indians and were most hospitably received. For weeks they had been without shoes or even moccasins and were very lame from wearing just a piece of canvas tied on with strips. The Indians advised them that though the river was apparently deserted by white prospectors and miners who went up the stream last summer, there was a party of whites still up the Voltmar, a stream entering the Tanana 250 miles from its mouth. The Indians took our travelers in canoes a hundred miles up that stream and a little steamer was discovered in winter quarters. Provisions and shoes were purchased and then a boat carried the party to Ware, at the mouth of the Tanana, on the Yukon. All was plain sailing now. The ice stopped running and Rampart was reached over the trail. The two privates were left there with Lieutenant Bell, who, with a detachment was stationed there. With Mr. W. J. Cram, of Rampart, Lieutenant Cassler pushed on for Dawson and the outside to report the safety of himself and party, knowing full well that not a word had been heard from them since they parted from their companions some 90 miles from the southern coast of Alaska last May.

The trip was a stupendous undertaking for, of course, the interior is absolutely unknown and all maps were found to be incorrect. The aneroid barometer failed to work, so the height of the passes and mountains is not known. Though wasted to skin and bone by their journey, the party suffered no serious accident and are quickly recovering flesh. The information obtained of the interior of Alaska will prove most valuable to the government in framing its plans for the future development of the country. The lieutenant says there is both a feasible route for a trail or a railway from the coast to a point on the Yukon, below Circle, and says, further, that it was only the lack of provisions which prevented him following it and mapping it out. No great amount of prospecting was done, but the geological formation of the country was noted down and gold, silver, copper and coal are evidently present in many places.

The Ins and Outs of the Ice Monopoly.

It was an excited crowd in "Dud" McKennie's saloon at Klondike City, last Wednesday when the news first arrived of the granting of the ice monopoly to the Brown company. It really looked for a while as if there would be trouble and Heidrick Brown, Esq., he made to sit upon a cask of his own ice until he disgorged his ill-gotten concession. It was about one o'clock in the afternoon when Heidrick returned from the metropolis in a state of excited joy and burst in upon the throng of lawmakers discussing the weal and woe (chiefly woe) of the Klondike country, around McKennie's stove. Heidrick was triumphant and ordered a round of drinks. He felt himself a millionaire and duplicated the order. The mystified crowd gathered closer and begged to be let onto the cause of such joy unconfined and extravagant. It was then Brown's tongue loosened and he informed them with much gusto of his great good fortune. At last he had succeeded. He had made his fortune at one full swoop. He had been granted the exclusive privilege of cutting ice on the Yukon and its tributaries for 25 miles up and down from the mouth of the Klondike; also upon the Klondike and its tributaries for 52 miles.

A murmur of dissatisfaction went up and someone respectfully suggested to the soon-to-be millionaire that there were not enough police to guard his concession. Brown pointed out that it was not necessary; anyone found with ice in his possession without a receipt from the Heidrick, Brown Ice Co., would, upon such prima facie evidence be at once convicted of theft and his ice confiscated. Brown's figures on the profit to the company at 10 cents per square for retailing the privilege of cutting were something like \$10,000,000 in three years, though he admitted he would probably sell for less. "Dud" McKennie, with his usual keen scent for such things, made an offer of \$20,000 on the spot and Brown said he would consult his partners. "Ikey" Goldstein had been listening very attentively throughout and now advanced hesitatingly and proffered \$1.50 for four feet square wherever he chose to cut it. Though this was the short of the stipulated price it was accepted and he was asked what he proposed to do with four feet square of ice. Having obtained the free key was smiling broadly and readily unfolded his plan. He was going to construct ice depots and warehouses immediately and would then cut his four foot block and store it. Next day the hole would be frozen up and he would cut another block and store that also. A loud laugh at Brown's expense resulted from the unfolding of "Ikey's" scheme, but "Ikey" was crestfallen when Brown entered into the details of his franchise secured from Mr. I. M. Init, the franchise dispenser. The second and succeeding crops of ice had already been disposed of to the gentlemen who had pushed the thing through. G. Raball got the second crop; and so on to the sixth crop which was supposed to exhaust the ground.

There has been much murmuring about the granting of the monopoly and the worst of the entire story is that not a man hears of the grant but believes it off-hand showing their utter distrust of their own governors.

Farewell Dinner to Nigger Jim.

Thursday morning Mr. James Daugherty, known to the entire Yukon Territory as "Nigger Jim," left for Victoria in the interests of his company, the Yukon Gold Fields Mining Co. On Monday evening a farewell dinner was tendered to him at the residence of Mr. Henry Berry on No. 6 Eldorado, which partook of the character of a banquet and to which some 30 or more guests were invited and participated in a dinner that would be even a surprise to a party assembled in the most metropolitan city. The genial host had placed the preparation of the elaborate menu in the hands of Mrs. Lewis who displayed her ability in the handling of such affairs as being in the most competent of hands. Dr. W. Semple was invited to preside at the banquet table and the company will long remember the hospitality of Mr. Berry, and the lavish extension of geniality upon the host's part. Among those present were Jim Daugherty, George G. Hard, Wm. Shuler, Bert Shuler, Geo. Brown, Max Engleman, F. Wilson, Skiff Mitchell, Samuel Stanley, John Stanley, Wm. Fairbanks, Charlie Deering, Joseph Irvine, D. W. Semple and others. Elegant music was furnished by an orchestra of five pieces led by Mr. Sam Stanley and the Burkhardt brothers, the festivities being maintained until a late hour, all joining in a hearty bon voyage to the departing Yukoner.

The Lower Country.

George Howard arrived in Dawson on Friday last from Munook on the road to the outside. He states that outside of Dawson he considers Munook the liveliest place on the river. The water frontage of the town is pretty well covered with buildings. There are ten stores and three saw mills. A brewery and electric light plant are also in active operation beside the usual quota of saloons. There seems to be a good deal of money in circulation and a fair amount of business is being done. John H. McGraw and Gen. Carr are still at Munook and Howard thinks bid fair to take out a stake. Little Munook is turning out to meet all expectations. There are about a dozen other creeks in the vicinity, all of which are being prospected with the outlook on some of them for a good yield. There are probably 2000 men in and around Munook, all of whom seem to be employed in one way or another either on the creeks or in the town. A form of local government was organized last summer but at the present time a detachment of U. S. Troops are stationed in the town under the command of Lieut. Bell and the town is now under the immediate supervision of the military. Mr. Howard is en route to the outside over the ice. He expects to make a flying trip, re-

turning to Dawson at the earliest possible moment before the breaking up of the ice in the spring. Howard is an old timer on the river and like all old timers is full of interesting stories of the early days. He was down at Fort Adams some six years ago when the first newspaper plant ever brought into the Yukon country was set up. The Rev. J. L. Provost, missionary for the Episcopal church at Fort Adams, had the plant sent in with the original idea of printing tracts for use among the Indians. The press was a rather cumbersome affair but did good work. The supply of type was decidedly limited but there was enough to enable the energetic missionary to carry out his idea.

Not being himself a printer, he called in the assistance of Howard and Gordon Bittles, an old time Chicago typo, and these two men set up the plant. The name of the paper was the Northern Light. It has appeared each year with one exception since its first publication was begun. Mr. Provost is now located at Circle City where he proposes issuing the paper as often as once a month.

Money to Loan

A Good Map for 50 Cents.

The Mine Exchange Map of the Klondike Gold Fields should be in the hands of every miner. For sale at the Nugget office. Price 50 cts.

Claims Bought and Sold

By Louis Couture, North West House, two miles above mouth of Hunker.

John McDonald, MERCHANT TAILOR.

Fine Line of Gentlemen's Suitings, Just Arrived.

Water Front, bet. 1st and 2nd Sts.

YUKON SAW MILL CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF

First Quality Matched, Dressed Rustic, Roofing, and Rough Lumber

House Logs Furnished, Cordwood &c. Orders filled promptly.

LOUIS SECKELS

ASSAYER AND ANALYTICAL CHEMIST

Gold Melted into Bars. All Work Guaranteed

14th St., adjoining new Regina Club Hotel.

THE PULLMAN BAR AND CAFE. J. R. ARMSTRONG, Propr. D. K. HOWARD, Manager. 202 1st Ave., opp. Oatley Sisters.

THE "TIVOLI" FRED N. TRACY, Mgr. The Rudolphes, Sam Jones, Nellie Green, Charles T. Sairs, George Krapp, Willie and Georgie Newman, Margie Newman, Alex Schwartz, Nellie Lewis, Billy Birch, Vera Gray, Mollie Thompson, Little Nugget, Emma Forrest. MOVING PICTURES.

North American Transportation & Trading Co. MERCHANTS AND CARRIERS. Miners' Supplies a Specialty. Jobbing Trade Solicited. ALL OUR GOODS GUARANTEED.

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ROCHESTER SALOON. Two Doors from Bank of B. N. A., 2nd St. Wilson's Rye Whiskies \$4.50 Scotch Whiskies \$7.00 Walker's Club " 5.00 Hennessy & Martell Brandys 8.00 Burk's Irish " 7.00 Gin 7.00 W. A. ROBERTSON, Mgr.

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The Fairview DAWSON'S FINEST HOTEL. MISS B. A. MULRONEY, Prop'r. AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN PLAN. STRICTLY FIRST CLASS. All Modern Improvements.

ELDORADO SALOON. HALL, MCKINNEY & YOUNG, Proprietors. KLONDIKE CITY. Finest Brands of Wines, Liquors and Cigars.

THE PIONEER. DINSMORE, SPENCER & McPHEE, Proprietors. BEST GRADES OF SCOTCH and CANADIAN WHISKIES. And the Old Favorite Brand of JACK McQUESTIAN CIGARS.

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J. D. JOURDAN & CO. THE BODEGA. 223 First Avenue. Most Elegant Gentlemen's Resort in Dawson.

THE OPERA HOUSE. BAKER, WILSON & PETERSON Proprietors. DAWSON. Headquarters for Best of Wines, Liquors and Cigars. Mixed Drinks a Specialty.

The "Monte Carlo" FINEST BAR IN DAWSON. QUALITY OF WINES AND LIQUORS THE HIGHEST. Mixed Drinks a Specialty. HIGHEST GRADES OF CIGARS.

Alaska Exploration Co. Operating the elegant river steamers LEON, LINDA AND ARNOLD. Connecting with Palatial Ocean Steamers At St. Michael, Direct for San Francisco, Cal. We are in the field for business. Our stores and warehouses are now in course of construction at Dawson and other points along the Yukon river. L. R. FULDA, Agent.

BALDWIN HOTEL DESTROYED BY FIRE.

San Francisco's Famous Hostelry Goes Down in Ashes.

An Unknown Number of People Perished in the Ruins—Charred and Mangled Remains of Some Recovered.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 23, 1899.—The Baldwin hotel, the famous San Francisco hostelry, was wiped out of existence by fire this morning, and it is feared, has been attended by great loss of life.

At a quarter past three o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the Baldwin hotel, at the corner of Powell and Market streets. To all appearances the blaze started near the roof and was well under way before the alarm of fire was turned in.

At the hour of going to press it looked as though the building would burn to the ground. It is feared many lives have been lost in the conflagration.

Just what the origin of the fire was no one seems to know, but in all probability it was caused by a defective flue.

The fire was not discovered until great tongues of flames shot skyward from the roof of the hotel, at 3:15.

In an instant the heavens were ablaze. Great showers of sparks were shot heavenward. It was plainly evident that the upper portion of the building would be gutted before help could possibly arrive.

The roof burned like tinder. If it had been saturated with oil it could not have gone up in smoke any more quickly. The flames rapidly worked their way to the Annex, which has been used as a transient lodging house.

It was the clang of the on-rushing steamers and hose carts of the fire department, the hoarse shouting of the crowd that had gathered and the roaring of the flames that awakened the guests, and, terror-stricken, they ran from their rooms to the hallways, pell-mell and scantily clad, the men shouting and women screaming, while many ran frantically to the windows, calling for help. The shrieks of the unfortunates were awful. Death stared them in the face and hope seemed beyond their reach.

The crowds had increased, powerless to aid, and gazed horror-stricken at the frantic guests in the windows.

A few of the more daring spirits, driven to despair, attempted to slide down the water pipes along the outer walls of the building. One of them reached the ground in safety.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 25, 1899.—With the passing of the stories and excitement of the first day following the burning of the Baldwin hotel, the real horrors of the situation begin to manifest themselves.

The tearing away of the debris and the removal of the bodies of unfortunate victims has begun, and it is believed that there will be many charred remains uncovered before the work is completed.

The first morning after the fire the list of dead contained the names of but two—Johnathan L. White and Lewis Meyers.

The second day there were four in the list of dead. The body of Judge John G. Pryor was taken out so mutilated, charred and torn to pieces that the only means of identification were the teeth and the nature of the fillings. The body of Judge Carter is still uncovered, but each day adds to the certainty that he is lost.

This morning the third list is published, and in it are the names of five victims. Purser J. M. Leithhead has been transferred from the list of missing to that of the dead.

Charles McCartney, a traveler for an Eastern whiskey firm, may also have perished in the fire. He went to the hotel Tuesday night and has not been seen since by his friends.

"When we consider the nature of the building," said Manager Lake, "the rapidity with which it burned and the means of escape provided, and then reflect for a moment on the headway which the flames had made before there was any alarm, I am more surprised every

time I put these facts together and know that anybody escaped. I will be most thankful, and at the same time most surprised, if many are not found to have been burned to death.

This feeling of Manager Lake is shared by the firemen and others who have been engaged about the wreck of the hotel since Wednesday morning.

The body of Purser J. M. Leithhead of the steamer City of Sydney, was discovered in his apartments yesterday morning. He was sitting in a chair in his bathroom, his legs crossed, his arms folded and his head dropped forward as though he were sleeping. The discovery was made by Manager Lake and the firemen. The body was badly charred.

Blanco Departs from Havana.

HAVANA, Nov. 30.—The Spanish steamer Villaverde, with Marshal Blanco, former captain general of Cuba, and suite, on board, left this port at one a. m. The departure of Blanco was not accompanied by the pomp and ceremony marking similar events in previous years. Personal friends and a few officers accompanied Blanco, and none of the crowds usual on such occasions were waiting to see him for the last time. A body of troops, however, to do the military honors, was present. As soon as Blanco arrived on board the Villaverde the vessel weighed anchor, sailing with Blanco and Generals Bernal and Tjeda, and several other officers of lesser rank belonging to his personal staff.

Gen. Jose Gomez at New York.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—Gen. Jose Gomez has called on Stephen E. Barton, at the Red Cross headquarters in this city, to ask his aid in sending relief to the sick and starving women and children at Las Villas, Sancti Spiritus and Trinidad, in Santa Clara province. The general stated that the suffering was more intense there than in any other part of the island, and if the relief did not reach them soon it would be too late. Gen. Gomez said that the millions that were to be sent by the government were going to the north coast and would not reach the districts where they were most needed. He did not make his appeal in behalf of his own forces, which are on the south coast of Sancti Spiritus and Tunas de Sala, but stated that he had given food intended for them to the starving women and children of that vicinity. He said that his troops were in a most pitiful condition, now that the fighting is over. They cannot help themselves. Gen. Gomez said that he would lay this matter before the president if he is received.

Mr. Barton assured the Cuban leader that he would do what he could, but that the supplies which he would send would only be a temporary relief. He thought the people should be put in a position to help themselves permanently, and that agricultural implements, seeds, etc., should be sent. He said the funds of the Red Cross at the present time are not sufficient to meet the requirements of permanent relief. The Red Cross committee has already asked the department of state as to its desires and will act accordingly.

Will Resist Us.

MADRID, Dec. 1.—Advices from the Philippines say the insurgents have decided not to recognize the cession of the islands to the United States. It will require 70,000 troops to put down the rebellion. It is alleged the insurgents hold 10,000 Spanish prisoners whom they will force to serve against the Americans.

China Wants an Extradition Treaty.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 1.—China, through its minister, has broached its willingness to negotiate an extradition treaty, applicable to all criminals, but intended in particular to reach highbinders. It was represented to the officials here that the highbinders have proved such a difficult class for the local police authorities in this country to deal with, that China would assume the burden of the detection and punishment, if an extradition treaty could be negotiated. By doing this China felt she would rid this country of those responsible for much of the ill feeling against the Chinese as a race.

While willing to get rid of the highbinders and all other Chinese criminals the authorities foresaw serious legal objections to such a treaty chiefly because the methods of trial and punishment in China are very summary. Moreover, it is believed the senate would not act favorably upon such a treaty and that it would stir up animosities and agitations on the Chinese question in general, rather than accomplish any special good in the direction desired.

The Hanscom Court Martial.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Nov. 30.—The court martial to investigate the charges against Naval Constructor John F. Hanscom, the League Island navy yard officer accused of having allowed workmen too much pay for overtime, met today. Hanscom pleaded not guilty to all four charges.

Volunteers May be Mustered Out.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—If congress early in the session should make provision for an increase of the regular army, it is quite probable that none of the volunteer regiments now in the service will be sent to do garrison duty in Cuba. The troops first to be sent to Cuba will be composed largely of regulars, so far as they are available. Plans are maturing for the muster out of as many volunteers now in the service as possible. The demand of the enlisted men to go home and leave the service is grow-

ing greater and greater every day. This is true in nearly every garrison, and the arrival of senators and representatives with requests for the muster out of regiments has largely increased during the past three days. It is well known that the volunteers at Manila desire to go home, and the war department is considering the question of sending regular regiments to replace these volunteers as soon as the arrangements can be made. The regulars available for this service comprise those regiments on the western coast which saw service at Santiago, and there is a disposition to have them recuperated and recruited to their full strength before sending them to Manila.

Health of the Army Improved.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—A great improvement in the health of the army has taken place in the last two months, as shown by the last reports to the surgeon general from the field and the general hospitals. The hospitals at Chickamauga Park have been emptied and abandoned. The same is true of the division hospitals at Camp Hamilton, Lexington, Ky., and Jacksonville, Fla. The hospital train which has carried nearly 4,000 sick men from various camps to the general hospitals, is now lying idle at Washington. The general hospital at Fort McPherson, Ga., has only 200 patients remaining and reports 423 vacant beds. The Josiah Simpson hospital at Fort Monroe has 400 vacant beds. The general hospital at Fort Mier, Va., has 350 vacant beds and only 162 patients remain. The hospital at Fort Thomas, Ky., which recently received the sick from Camp Hamilton, reports 371 in hospital and 103 vacant beds.

Ask the Queen to Intercede.

LONDON, Dec. 1.—A Madrid special says a delegation from the Spanish chambers of commerce has had an audience with the queen and presented a petition in favor of reforms and asked the queen to intercede for the release of Spanish prisoners in the Philippines and the Philippines transported to Spain.

King Alfonso Wins a Suit.

MADRID, Dec. 1.—The supreme judicial tribunal of Spain has decided in favor of King Alfonso of the suit brought by the family of one Soler, seeking to annul that person's will, by which he left 3,000,000 pesetas to the young king. Soler was the natural son of Ferdinand VII., and therefore the granduncle of the king.

Want Big Pay for the Friars.

MADRID, Dec. 1.—The Philippine insurgents demand 7,000,000 pesetas for the release of the 40 friars imprisoned since the commencement of the war.

Montana Indians Sullen.

ST. PAUL, Nov. 28.—Reports from more than a dozen sources, some semi-official, say that Indians in northern Montana, in the Blackfoot, Assinibore and Belknap agencies, are on the verge of an outbreak. They are aware of the fact that all of the regulars and all of the State troops have been sent out of the State and there is no one left to guard the country.

Medicine men have been active in stirring up the young braves, and their words received more attention than ever because of the departure of the troops, and part of the Tenth Cavalry, from Fort Assinibore. The Indians have become sullen, have held councils, and couriers have been passing all along the line.

Many of the white men who have business on these reservations have sent their wives and children away, or are preparing to do so, as they believe an outbreak may occur at any minute.

Grief Drove Him to Death.

NEWARK, N. J., Nov. 28.—While funeral ceremonies were being performed this afternoon over the dead body of his wife, at his home, No. 361 South Eighteenth street, John Schrade stole upstairs to a bedroom. The mourners, supposing that he desired to be alone with his grief, left him undisturbed until after the funeral. Then a relative went to console him, and knocked repeatedly at the door of the room to which he had retired. There was no response, and the door, which was locked, was burst in.

Schrade lay on the bed unconscious. Beside him was a glass which had contained spirits green mixed with water. A doctor was summoned, but when he arrived the man was dead. Meantime the funeral procession had left the house, and the body of Mrs. Schrade had been consigned to its last resting place. When the mourners returned they were horrified to learn of the suicide. Preparations for another funeral are in progress. The same hearse which conveyed the wife to the grave will carry the body of the husband.

Trouble With Negroes.

MERIDIAN, Miss., Nov. 27.—Reports have reached here that three negroes were lynched last night, about four miles west of Meridian. Farmers are said to be on the trail of others implicated in an assault on a white man. The young man came to Meridian on Friday from Chunkey, to sell cotton and purchase supplies. After disposing of his products and buying what he needed he left for home and camped near Okathee river, about four miles west of the city. About the time he was breaking camp yesterday a hog came and got into his provisions, and he drove it off with a kick.

A negro came up and told the white man the hog belonged to him and abused the white man. The Newton county farmer hitched up his team and started toward home, and did his best to avoid trouble, but the negro was bent on a row and was shortly joined by four others. They chased the white man across Okathee river, shooting at him. One bullet lodged in one of the man's arms, producing a painful wound. After crossing the river the blacks gave up the chase and the white man went on to his home and notified his friends and neigh-

bors. Last night a dozen or more white men boarded the east-bound Alabama and Vicksburg train at Chunkey and got off at Lost Gap, six miles west of Meridian, with the avowed purpose of killing every negro implicated in the assault. The man who was assaulted recognized the blacks, and the white men started at once to hunt them down.

Sheriff Reed and posse have just returned from the scene of trouble, bringing with them three negro prisoners. Early in the day a frightened negro reported to the sheriff that a mob of white men were shooting in negro houses and threatening to kill every negro in the community. He said they had fired over a hundred shots into the house of the ringleader of Saturday's trouble.

The sheriff organized a posse and started for the scene, but on arrival could find no trace of the white men nor any dangling corpses. However, the three negroes concerned in yesterday's outrage had disappeared, and it is said the Newton county mob had them in charge. If so they have been lynched. The three negroes arrested were relatives of the rioters, and the sheriff took them in for safekeeping until the trouble subsided.

Seventy Lives Lost.

NEW YORK, Nov. 29th.—Dispatches last night from the New England coast brought definite information that over 70 lives had been lost in the wrecks of tugs, schooners and coal barges, and if the steamer Portland, from Boston to Portland, had also gone down, as seems possible, the work of the storm will carry the casualties up to 100, with more than 100 vessels of all descriptions ashore, two score of them total wrecks, and an unknown number probably beneath the waves of Massachusetts Bay.

There is scarcely a bay, harbor, or inlet from Penobscot to New London that has not on its shores the bones of some staunch craft, while along Massachusetts bay, and especially Boston harbor, the beaches are piled high with the wrecks of schooners and coal barges.

Cape Cod is still to be heard from. The islands of Boston harbor are, without exception, strewn with wrecks and wreckage. No less than 23 vessels are ashore at Gloucester. Over 20 in the supposed safe harbor of Vineyard Haven parted their anchor chains yesterday and are high and dry on the beach. Nantasket Beach saw two schooners and a coal barge dashed to pieces on its sands; the rocks of Cohasset claimed a staunch fisherman. Scituate, a well-known pilot-boat, Manchester a down-east lumberman, and one tug and three barges known to have been between Cape Cod and Boston are unaccounted for and probably lost.

Every life-saving crew performed deeds of heroism in rescuing frozen seamen from the stranded vessels, while tugboat captains risked life and property in their endeavor to save life.

The following wrecks along the New England shore are reported:

About 30 lives lost in and around Boston harbor, 35 vessels sunk or ashore in and around Boston harbor, including one steamship; the passenger steamship Portland, on the way from Boston to Portland missing; 28 vessels wrecked in and around the harbor at Vineyard Haven; 12 vessels wrecked at Rockport; about 60 vessels ashore and wrecked about Cape Ann (including 2 large ones ashore); 30 vessels reported wrecked from other points along the eastern coast; 70 known loss of life on the New England coast, as reported from Boston. Also, 25 vessels ashore at Northport, L. I., and 10 vessels ashore in the Sound.

Frank Phiscator Weds.

ST. JOSEPH, Mich., Nov. 27.—Frank Phiscator, who within the last two years is credited with having made over \$200,000 in the Klondike, was married to Nellie Boyd at the Hotel Whitcomb at 10 o'clock last night by Rev. James Hamilton. The marriage was a great surprise to his friends.

Mr. Phiscator and his bride, accompanied by the sister of the bride and three friends, drove from Marquette, the home of the bride, to St. Joseph, arriving here about 8 o'clock. He made his mission known to Mr. Vincent, the hotel proprietor, who dispatched a messenger for the county clerk and the pastor. The clerk issued the license and at 9 o'clock the marriage took place.

The ceremony over, the party repaired to the dining room, where the hotel force had been hurriedly preparing a champagne supper for the bridal party. The merry pop of corks was heard until 11 o'clock, when the party started on the return trip to Baroda to break the news to the parents of the bride, who had not been made aware of the proposed marriage. At Baroda they took the morning train south on a bridal tour.

Germany Not Complaining.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 28.—Baron Speck von Steenberg, Charge d'Affaires of Germany, called at the State Department today and had a conference with Secretary Hay on current topics, particularly those growing out of the war, in the course of which Baron von Speck took occasion to express the most friendly sentiments on the part of Germany concerning the present condition of affairs.

The call was chiefly significant as an evidence that German officials desire to counteract reports that Germany is about to assume an attitude of protest and to claim the Subarctic archipelago, which is included in the peace negotiations at Paris. Nothing has developed in official quarters up to the present time to show that there is any purpose on the part of the German government to notice belligerent suggestions of any of the German newspapers.

50c. Best meal in Dawson. Rainier House. 50c.

The best meal in Dawson for 50c. at the Rainier House, Water Front, opposite A. C. Co.

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NOW MR. SHERIDAN

The Denial in the "Organ" was not Enough Apparently

SO ANOTHER WAS DEEMED MORE FORMIDABLE.

But the "Nugget" is Usually Fortified with Facts in its Statements.

As Witness the Declaration of Dr. George E. Merryman in This Article— There is Never Anything Personal in This Paper's Methods—Simply, It is Believed That the American Doctors Have Something Coming.

We have waited patiently for a "denial" from Mr. Philip Sheridan, late acting crown prosecutor to come around to the Nugget office, as the gentleman may feel assured that the columns of this paper were freely open to him for any explanation he might desire to make, and he would then also have the knowledge that his "denials" if appearing in the Nugget would at least have assured him of some extended publicity. First, he denies in the government organ, the *Yukon Sun*, probably to reach the few officials who probably do not take much pleasure in reading pages of their own work in ordinances, etc., and then in the *Miner*, the workingman's friend, both papers owned by the same people. By two denials he must intend to convey the idea that it requires two from him to convince himself that he has made an affirmative.

The Nugget is usually pretty sure of its facts before proceeding to statements, and as a general rule is well fortified in any position it assumes or undertakes. Nor did this paper purpose to discuss further the case of Dr. Merryman and colleagues, but Mr. Sheridan's "denials" render it necessary that we protect this journal from any accusations of making false statements, and probably we can do that more clearly on this particular occasion.

In the extra edition of January 12th, which caused such wide comment, was related the circumstances of Doctor Merryman's constant persecution, prosecution and hounding by arrest, and the humiliation of being compelled to stand up in a police court and there plead guilty or not guilty to a charge of misdemeanor, simply because his skill and ability had earned for him a wide reputation long before any of the chasing for registration people had ever arrived in Dawson. If further we want to state that Mr. Sheridan, acting Crown Prosecutor, had been "paid in cash and notes some \$1,000 or more for "legal services," and to lobby an amendment to the medical ordinance of the Yukon Territory, through the Yukon Council, and gave the list of American physicians subscribing to the above fund, among whom was Dr. Merryman, who paid in good hard cash the sum of \$200. It also continued to relate how, with Mr. Sheridan as acting Crown Prosecutor, and having Hon. J. E. Girouard, registrar of the Territory and member of the Council as a partner in his law firm, that "influence" could be wielded, not obtainable through any other source. The article in question occupied considerable space, it is admitted; but not more than the occasion demanded. Mr. Sheridan before the public did not occupy the same position in an official capacity, as a member of the bar in private practice. There was nothing personal in the matter, nothing that savored of malice. It became the duty of this paper, seeing members of an honorable and useful profession hounded and persecuted under a defective ordinance at that time, particularly when the "needful" had been put up under assurances of remedy, and no results forthcoming as to what they were to receive in return for their money. Mr. Sheridan denies all this. Well, let us look the matter up for a moment, and see how much Mr. Sheridan's denial deserves:

Shortly after his arrival in Dawson, in the public prints, and to the knowledge of many hundreds of people, Mr. Sheridan posed and was looked upon as the legitimate heir to the shoes of Fred C. Wade. Hon. J. E. Girouard, registrar, was announced as his partner in the law firm of Girouard & Sheridan, and later was mentioned for the admission of Ferdinand de Journal. The mere fact that Mr. Girouard's name was associated, and he a member of the Council, with Sheridan's name as crown prosecutor, naturally added great weight as to what Mr. Sheridan might be able to do. Very well, then Mr. Sheridan denies that he solicited the clients of Dr. Merryman in the matter of having his American diplomas recognized.

Let us see what Dr. Merryman has to say on this point, and it probably counts for more than denials in the journals of scant circulation and news. The following is a copy of one declaration held by the Nugget, duly acknowl-

edged before a notary public, and which will, so far as it goes, speak for itself:

(COPY.)
IN THE MATTER OF AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE KLONDIKE NUGGET, A PAPER PUBLISHED IN DAWSON CITY, YUKON TERRITORY, WITH THE FOLLOWING HEAD, IN SAID PAPER'S ISSUE OF JANUARY 12, 1899: "WHAT DID THEY GET FOR THEIR MONEY?"

I, GEORGE E. MERRYMAN, of the City of Dawson, of the Yukon Territory, do solemnly declare that the recital of occurrences in the said article are practically true in every particular so far as relates to my connection with Sheridan, and further, that said statement of facts do not go sufficiently far in that, not only did I not solicit the said Philip Sheridan's legal services, but that he, the said Sheridan, was introduced to me in the month of March, 1898, and that he, the said Sheridan, did say: "I have heard considerable concerning you, doctor, and your fight for recognition and practice in this Territory, and I do not think you have had a square or fair deal, and believe I am in a position as Crown Prosecutor to help you out."

Further, that said Philip Sheridan did say at subsequent and divers times, that "the Hon. C. A. Dugas, Hon. J. E. Girouard, and Col. S. E. Steele, members of the Yukon Council, were in favor of the passage of said amendment to the medical ordinance, and were prepared to pass the same, so soon as I get it prepared, and you draw up what you want and I will put it through," and which I subsequently did and gave it to the said Philip Sheridan.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously, believing it to be true, and knowing that it is of the same force and effect as if made under oath and by virtue of "The Canadian Evidence Act, 1893."

DECLARED BEFORE ME AT DAWSON CITY, IN THE YUKON TERRITORY, THIS FIFTH DAY OF JANUARY, A. D. 1899.

This declaration was made before a notary public in and for the Yukon Territory.

Of course Mr. Sheridan will readily see from the above that his denial in a hydra-headed newspaper will simply obliterate Doctor Merryman's solemn declaration. Again, there is surely one gentleman in Dawson who believed the Nugget's narration, for immediately after the issue of January 12th (the firm of Girouard, Sheridan and De Journal, was dissolved.) Was this action deemed as an expedient proposition? Does Mr. Sheridan still desire to hear more concerning the Merryman and American Physician matter? If so, the accommodation will be immediately and most effectively granted. It is to be regretted that the learned gentleman should so feebly take to heart the mentioning of his appointment as Crown Prosecutor. Notwithstanding a letter from some one in the Minister of Justice's office requesting him to take care of any litigation in which the crown was participant, this certainly was not a commission as crown prosecutor.

There can be no doubt of the widespread belief that certain privileges and advantages were to be gained from the Yukon Council by Mr. Sheridan's supposed influence therewith. Mr. Sheridan has been, to the Nugget's personal knowledge, identified with many promoting schemes as legal adviser, counsellor and attorney, for instance the "Pioneer Tramway Company," which has proved such a beneficent institution to the miners on the creeks; the "Eagle City Land and Improvement Company," a company which opened here a sale of lots on the American side at auction, and wanted to pay the man carrying the banner on the street the enormous stipend of \$3 per day and sell him a lot, deducting the amount to be paid him from the price of the lot.

Finally the Nugget desires most emphatically to state that it is always open to clean, honest conviction, but weighing carefully its evidence, investigating carefully its leads, and desiring to do no man an injustice it never has anything to retract. When it believes an injustice is being done to any individual, be he the highest official or most menial servant, it will state so in the most distinct language in its vocabulary.

That Doctor Merryman had no desire to evade any laws of this country, or any other American physician, or to fully comply with any regulations reasonable and effective will be believed, but that money should be paid, to the amount of \$200, as paid by Dr. Merryman to Mr. Sheridan, according to Sheridan's

own statement, for the passage of an amendment to the medical ordinance upon his assurance that the council would immediately pass it, and then have him arrested as a common law breaker, his family humiliated, his livelihood wrested from him, and then be almost unable to procure the services of an attorney admitted to practice at the territorial bar, because he is an American, then we say it is wrong, and regardless of who may be hurt or whether the Nugget rises or falls, it will be found always fearlessly, reliably and independently fighting the people's wrongs, come what may.

An Active Volcano.
TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 2.—Further information of the active volcano discovered in the Atlin gold district is to the effect that the volcano furnishes the miners enough light to work their claims at night. The glare from the spouting lava, reflected back against the sky, gives an almost continuous twilight.

All the passengers of the steamer Cottage City, arriving from Alaska, have stories to tell of the volcano, but from Dr. W. B. Kinslowe and T. H. James, mining men of Denver, who have been making an examination of the Atlin country, comes apparently the best description.

"The mountain in eruption," said D. Kinslowe, "is the second in the range of four towering peaks lying about 50 miles due south of Lake Gladwin, and a shorter distance from Atlin City. Those mountains are all of at least 14,000 feet altitude, the crater resting a trifle below its three brother peaks. It was in the early part of October that the smoke was first seen issuing from the mountain. With the thought of a volcano furtherest from their minds the miners attributed these first signs of eruption to clouds hanging about the peaks."

"So constant, however, was the cloud that it became an object of daily observation from Atlin City. Then, on November 8, the mountain burst forth in flames. Through the smoke cloud there shot a stream of molten lava, boulders and ashes that brightened the sky for a radius of nearly 40 miles, and sent its reflected light through the darkness down upon the men working on Birch, Discovery, McKee, Pine and other creeks, the sides of whose banks face toward the volcano."

"A panic ensued among the miners when the ashes began falling down upon them. The ashes fell to a depth of several inches, and the stream down the mountain side increased in magnitude. The fall of ashes later stopped, and the men returned to work. When we left the miners were working nights, gladly profiting by the mellow twilight caused by the volcano's glare, which turned night into day. No name has yet been given the mountain, but when we left the Canadian officials at Atlin were preparing for an expedition to the volcano, and will undoubtedly name it."

A SEATTLE FIRE.
Post-Intelligencer Building Narrowly Escapes Burning.

The P. I. building in Seattle narrowly escaped burning Thanksgiving day. The fire broke out in the rear of Jos. Mayer & Bros. salesroom at 116 Cherry street, and spread through the store with great rapidity. Practically nothing could be done to save the stock of jewelry, and the estimated loss is \$20,000. Rapid work on the part of the fire department saved the building, and the efficient work of employes saved the stock, machinery and apparatus of the Post-Intelligencer newspaper.

Nearly a Wreck.
The steamer *Utopia*, on the night of November 24th, broke her propeller and narrowly escaped the rocks in Gastineaux channel. She was rescued by the *Farallon*. On her trip north, fire started aboard ship, and a passenger named J. W. Hicks lost his life in attempting to board a life raft which was being lowered.

Boiler Explodes.
The boilers of the California Navigation & Improvement Co.'s steamer T. C. Walker were blown out November 27th, near Stockton, Cal., and six people were killed and thirty wounded. The names of those killed were John Tulah, captain; Watson Henry, engineer; Mrs. Watson Henry, W. A. Blunt, Jerry Daily and Ferdinand Law.

"Deep Creek" Ousted.
Governor Rogers of Washington, has decapitated "Deep Creek" Jones. S. Haskell, of Marshall, is now deputy grain inspector.

Of Interest to Seattleites.
The following is the list of officers elected in King county, Washington, at the November election:

- Senators—John Wooding, rep; Andrew Henrich, rep.; Harold Preston, rep.; W. W. Wilshire, rep.; L. B. Andrews, Rep.; Paul Land, rep.
- Representatives—J. J. Smith, rep.; W. H. Clark, rep.; G. W. Someripdyke, rep.; J. M. Conway, rep.; John W. Pratt, rep.; E. B. Palmer, rep.; E. H. Gule, rep.; R. M. Eames, rep.; C. E. Gleason, rep.; L. W. Carpenter, rep.; L. C. Olson, rep.; C. E. Boyce, rep.; F. A. McDonald, rep.
- Sheriff, A. T. Van de Vanter, rep.; County Clerk, George M. Holloway, rep.; County Auditor, E. H. Evenson, rep.; County Treasurer, C. F. Whittlesey, rep.; Prosecuting Attorney, James F. McElroy, rep.; Assessor, W. A. Bailey, rep.; School Superintendent, W. J. Merdith, rep.; Surveyor, Clarence L. White, rep.; Coroner, D. F. W. Sparling, rep.
- County Commissioners, first district—George N. Gilson, rep.; second district, L. C. Smith, rep.
- Wreckmaster, H. F. Griffith, rep.; Justice, Thos. H. McCann, rep.; Constable, L. Matthews, rep.
- G. J. Smith, general manager of the old Oregon Improvement Co., Seattle, has resigned.

A GRAND WINTER EXCURSION.

A Delightful Trip Over the Only Yukon Territory Railway.

The Road-bed in Excellent Condition—Rolling Stock Unequaled—Block System to Avoid Accidents—Stations and Right-of-Way Fenced.

Noticing the advertisement announcing an excursion over the Yukon Territory's only railway, and feeling the necessity for a much-needed rest after the tiresome squelching administered by the Bench Claim "clerk" in the gold commissioner's office, the reporter of the Nugget who was so considerably treated in asking for public information of the aforesaid Ward McAllister "clerk," decided to take a little recreation on a jaunt on the above "trunk line," familiarly known as "The Pioneer Tramway company."

For some reason or other this extensive system of railway has not yet been able to extend its line into the metropolis of Dawson direct, but passengers, excursionists and shippers have only a short distance to walk of about three-and-a-half miles before entering the Grand Central Station. This insignificant distance is easily overcome, however, by calling a "hansom" or "gurney," and the cabman will soon land you at the terminus of the company located one-fourth of the way toward Eldorado City. As hansoms and gurneys are only intended for common people the luxuriously inclined scribe rung the A. D. T. Co. box for a "victoria," and consulting the Pioneer Tramway Co.'s time-table, after a drive of some 45 minutes, was landed at the platform of the convenient and elegantly constructed station, before which he paused to admire.

A large and picturesquely constructed fence from the output of some sawmill surrounded the handsome grounds on which is the imposing structure containing the general offices and waiting-rooms of the company. The building is constructed of Philadelphia pressed brick with brown-stone trimmings, surmounted with a magnificent cupola, in which is an immense dial-face clock. Its style of architecture is of the Gothic-Renaissance-Corinthian-Louis XIV.-Presbyterian-Episcopalian-Romish design, the architect having been "specially designed" for this work and, dying immediately upon its completion, its duplicate can never be accomplished.

Large and commodious waiting-rooms for ladies and gentlemen, with toilets, lavatories and every modern convenience are there for the travelers benefit. The ticket offices are neat, commodious and arranged for rapid work by the gentlemanly ticket agents. Porters, baggage-men, checkmen, weighers and necessary adjuncts to every important railway station are on hand, and everything moves with a system far surpassing any other "trunk line" in the world. The room up-stairs is apportioned and handsomely furnished for the general offices, divided into the rooms for the use of the president, vice president, board of directors, general manager, general traffic agent, general superintendent, division superintendents, superintendent of motive power, general freight agent, general passenger agent, auditor, treasurer, telegraph offices, roadmaster, etc. Stepping to the window of the ticket office, a first-class limited ticket was purchased to Grand Forks. The decorations on the building are very attractive—such as signs on cloth and board, reading "Drinks, 50 cents," "Pay toll here; walk in," and so forth, evidently placed there by a despoiler and defacer of property, although the main entrance has inscribed upon it, "Licensed to sell spirituous liquors."

On the various side tracks are arranged the different trains, consisting of magnificent coaches, combination cars and "Pullmans" built and designed exclusively for the "Grand Pioneer Trunk Line," the only line of railway in the Yukon Territory, except Captain Hansen's A. G. Co.'s cars, which are really, after all, only cars—but they run. The engines are models of their kind, noted for their speed, strength and mechanical beauty. The air-and-theater-pleasure of it on this line—equips the entire system. This mammoth system of railway is in the neighborhood of 12 miles long, and all under the control of one management, a feat which, to the ordinary mind must seem like a dream, but seeing it in the Nugget, the readers hereof must necessarily know it to be true.

By the payment of a slight extra fare, the passenger of the "only scenic line of railway" in the Yukon Territory, may be permitted to ride in the magnificent parlor and sleeping-cars of the company, provided the aforesaid passengers may pass examination and inspection of the "guards," shortly after leaving the metropolis, three-and-a-half miles, the aforesaid guards being handsomely uniformed in a badge, made of brown cotton, bearing the insignia "Pioneer Tramway Co." That the "guard" may not be seriously discomposd, the train is stopped at his station, and passing his shrewd and critical eye over the train and passengers the conductor is permitted to proceed.

The block signal system is in effect on this "Trunk line" while interlocking switches are in use over the entire line. We could possibly suggest no improvement in the operations and management, unless it should be that some day, some careless guard will leave the gates open at station 79 or the Grand Central Station when the train is approaching and it may forget to stop—and that would be bad. The entire line is laid with 90-pound steel, the heaviest and best of Carnegie's Steel Co.'s output, the road-bed stone ballasted, and smooth and easy-running as a bird skims the air. Dining-cars luxuriously equipped are attached at convenient stations, and menu-served that would pale Delmonico. The scenery is beyond description along the route; but all that is forgotten as the passenger sits in his seat, surrounded with the luxury of travel afforded by the "Trunk Line" on Bonanza creek.

The morning was beautiful, and the excursionists were simply enthusiastic over their jaunt. Patrons of the line need never ask any questions either, so complete are all the details of the traffic department, as every passenger will find in his postcard for their instruction and edification. Not the reporter awoke and found he had only been dreaming.

CLAIM EVOLUTION

An Industry Confined Exclusively to the Yukon Territory.

THE RECORDER'S OFFICE IS THE HATCHERY.

A Lesson in Scientific Surveying on the Yukon Plan

Diagrams Showing How Claims Are Eaten up—More Interesting Features of Very Peculiar Transactions—Whole Claims can Be Carved up Into Fractions if You Know How to Run the Lines.

When the history of the Yukon Territory has all been written and the historian lays down his pen at the word "finis," no part thereof will occupy so prominent a portion of the reader's attention as the volumes covering the corruption, extortion, bribery, injustice and dishonesty exhibited in the handling of governmental affairs in a country more famous in a shorter space of time, than any other part of the world. When a little over a year ago, the eyes of almost every nation on earth were turned towards the Arctic sun, their attention was attracted thither by the accounts of the almost fabulous wealth said to be contained in the glacial formations and volcanic blow-outs in the never ending mountainous surface of the great Northwestern Territory, reaching away into the eternal frozen barriers and peaks of the north. Each private letter and avenue of information, seldom though they reached the outside from the hardy prospector, or sturdy adventurer, blinted at and told of the liberal supply of the precious yellow mineral, which came nature in her evolutions had so liberally sprinkled and spread in the beds of the creeks which flow directly or indirectly into the wonderful Yukon river. Suddenly like the flash of a brilliant Northern light there flashed forth upon the world the magic name of "Bonanza," and instantly eyes were strained, hopes entertained, ambitions advanced to reach the famous creek which set all the world afire with quickening animation. Upon this followed Bonanza's most productive feeder, and "Eldorado" became to the world, a formidable rival of the rich Bonanza.

Immediately the whole civilized world was awake and intoxicated with excitement, men of every tongue save probably the Chinaman, were engaged in outfitting. Homes, farms, workshops, commercial enterprises of various kinds were sold, mortgaged or turned over to supposed competent hands, that fathers, brothers, husbands, lovers, might be enabled to go forth, and tickling the fair Goddess of Fortune invite her smiles, and if possible woo from the sickle empress of men's ambitions her smiles in wealth that glitters. The year of 1898 saw steamships leaving their home ports crowded to suffocation. Old hulks that had lain moored in the "boneyards" were drafted into service and if the keen eye of the inspector could fail to note any objections, were sent on their mission of carrying would-be prospectors to the now famous gold fields. Railroad trains were operated in sections, utilizing all available rolling stock to accommodate the throngs of eager men who were journeying to the new Eldorado.

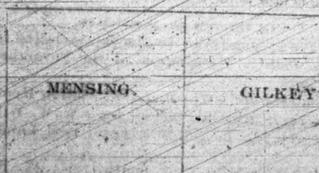
Never again probably in all the history of this world, will such energy, perseverance and persistence be exhibited as at the meeting of Alaskan waters with the magnificent mountain sentinels standing at the White and Chilkoot passes, men struggled with enormous loads of precious necessities and finally landed all at the placid lakes which mark the journey down the famous waters leading to the Yukon valley. The risks taken to life and property are familiar to every one upon the "inside" and by description to an almost limitless population upon the "outside." Such scenes certainly in the present generation will never be seen again.

Arriving in Dawson, the metropolis of the Yukon Territory at the time spoken of (the spring of '98), men stepped with alert and active tread, that at last the goal had been practically reached. But little did they suspect that just ahead of them had arrived officialdom in all of its majestic pomposity. Titles had been given, and men installed in office, establishing a civic government for the regulation of affairs in the then suddenly inflated population of Dawson. The very word government would seem to indicate to every lay mind, a body with powers of governing. Em-

anating from so liberal a home government as either the Dominion or Imperial, it was natural to presume at least that justice would prevail, equity be distributed, and fairness honestly administered. There was then no ever-watchful eyes of an honest press to counsel in legislation, to criticize the errors liable to be made. None knew what powers any official possessed, what authority they exercised under their commissions. Far away from the seat of parental authority, a series of regulations, acts and edicts were promulgated which soon began to be felt as a yoke upon the neck, like the story of the straw-gatherers for the brick making of ancient history.

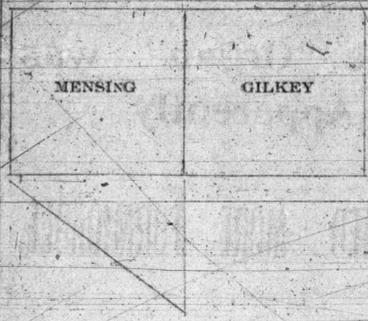
Without at present going into any other department of the Territorial government, we will confine ourselves to one which has caused more trouble to the miners of this section than any other, that of the gold commissioner. For months, in fact, from almost the very first issue of the NUGGET, it having been quietly at work in its investigation of the many and innumerable tales of wrongs and impositions poured into its ears by the men who had braved the passes, the hardships of the trails, the perils of the rivers, only to arrive here and encounter the more brutal, diabolical wrongs perpetrated upon them by those occupying places of official trust and dealings with the public. Gradually, but surely, the curtain was being torn aside by the NUGGET, which, single-hand and alone dared to enter the sanctity of the self-enveloped officials and hirelings, and despite the snarling of the little insignificant sycophants, the threats made, the inducements thrown, the attempts at purchase of silence, and plodding but persistently delved away at its work, until now, are breaking away the dark clouds of wrong doing never equaled in all Christendom. With never-ceasing persistence the muck and mud and dirt of the gang of hirelings who have, with a shamefacedness, before which His Satanic Majesty would humbly lift his chapeau, made the business end of the Queen's territory here the sinner and contempt of the meanest subject, or temporary resident under the Union Jack. The revelations which the NUGGET has been making in its latest issues simply startle the people as they read of the accused double dealings committed in the office of the gold commissioner, and the "pals" on the outside of those within. The Duboise case first brought to light in the columns of this paper and its astounding revelations, as detailed in other columns of today's issue, caused a tremor of excitement to run through the hearts and minds of everyone. It now devolves upon this paper to show to the public the "Evolution" of a claim, and in doing so uses another case of how claims can be eaten up.

DIAGRAM NO. 1.—"PRISTINE PURITY"



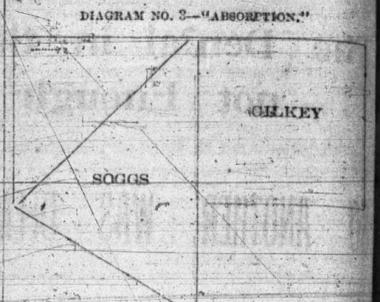
The above diagram No 1 shows two claims on Gold Hill, located on Bonanza and Skookum. They are 100 x 100 feet square, and were located by Messrs. Gilkey and Mensing, and duly and properly recorded January 26, 1898. As time wore round Mr. Mensing leaves the country disgusted with its management. Little, if anything was known at that time, as to the value of ground on Gold Hill. Consequently, on October 26, 1898, Mr. Mensing not having represented his claim, the ground became vacant, and this was generally looked after by several people, who with longing eyes looked toward the hour of 12 o'clock at night on this date. Among these were Mrs. Addie Butler and Nelson A. Soggs and at midnight, or 12.01 a. m. October 27, 1898, Mrs. Butler, accompanied by Dr. Hatton, Harry Wallace and Willie Lear, acting as witnesses, ascended Gold Hill, each carrying a stake, and at the hour noted staked off Mensing's claim which had then become vacant, Mensing probably never intending to return to the country. While there,

Mr. Nelson A. Soggs approached and was also a witness to Mrs. Butler's staking. DIAGRAM NO. 2—"EVOLUTION"



This diagram shows No. 1 still intact with a fraction added, on which had been placed the three corner stakes, and for these stakes Nelson A. Soggs paid \$100 to the staker. The staking now being completed Mrs. Butler happy to think she had at least gotten so far as to have staked a claim, at 1 a. m., left Grand Forks and hastened to Dawson both she and Mr. Soggs appearing at the gold commissioner's office at 9 o'clock. Mr. Soggs going to Mr. E. D. Bolton's window, and Mrs. Butler upstairs to Mr. Craig's department. Mrs. Butler offered her claim for record, but was told by Mr. Craig that she could not get her certificate of record until two weeks had elapsed. This was all right to her, but coming down stairs she saw Mr. Bolton hand Soggs a paper, and both left the office together. "What's that paper?" said Mrs. Butler to Soggs. "Oh! that's a bill of sale" replied Soggs. Shrewd little business woman that she is, and like so many others naturally looked upon anything emanating from the gold commissioner's office with suspicion, snatched the paper

from Soggs's hands, when lo! and behold it was a mining certificate issued by Bolton and this is how the Mensing claim was to be disintegrated. DIAGRAM NO. 3—"ABSORPTION"



This diagram includes No. 2—the dark line through the Mensing claim gone, showing the first bite out of the Mensing claim, and a pretty good chunk it was. This, it will be seen, would give Mr. Soggs already a large owner of mining claims and rights in this territory, a pretty nice claim. But why could Soggs record this claim, fractionizing a whole claim, while another claimant to re-location of an already duly recorded claim must come back in two weeks? Is there any wonder the people hate the very name of gold commissioner's office? Is there any wonder that not occasionally but absolutely universally over the creeks the names of Bolton, Craig and Hurdman are not only treated with contempt and derision but profanity? And this is the office remember, concerning which the NUGGET pounded away with vigor all last summer and fall. What think you now good people after the revelations of the past few days and the case in point? But, let us go on. It's interesting to go through this.

DIAGRAM NO. 4—"DISINTEGRATION"

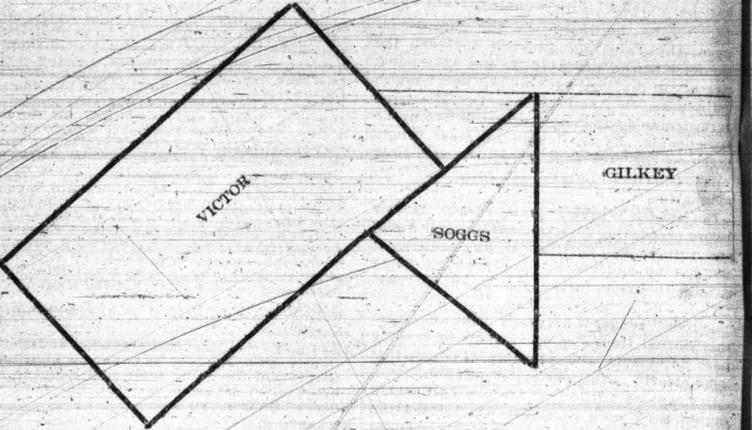


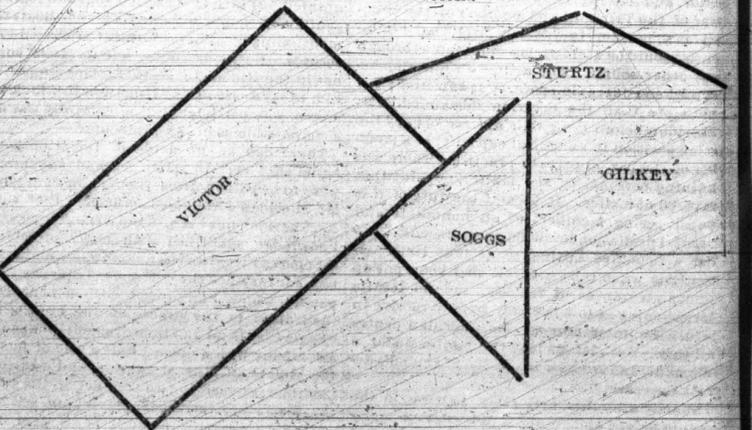
Diagram No. 4 shows the next bite out of this pie, by Mr. Victor, a gentleman of Gold Hill, whose claim ran to the Mensing claim, and as he didn't have a very large piece of ground—only about twice as much as the usual sized claims—thought he might as well put his hand in the pudding and the dark line surrounding his name shows what he was to grab.

Now, Mr. Victor was also very thoughtful of Mrs. Butler's interests, and knowing that she was to relocate this claim, on the day previous he called at the cabin of the lady and told her "she could go on down to Dawson and record all right, as he would stake the claim for her and save her the trouble of going away up on the hill." Certainly! but Mrs. Butler didn't

take any chances. There wouldn't a thing have happened to her claim had she done so, we don't think. Again, and later, finding she had staked the claim, he called upon her and told her "he had pulled up two of her stakes." And Mrs. Butler found two of Mensing's stakes at the lower shaft on Victor's claim, but her own two were gone.

Now, then, in Mr. Soggs's employ was a gentleman named Sturtz, and Mr. Sturtz saw a plum in the pie, and having a piece of ground staked off, looking to a man with one eye very much like a fraction, so he swipes the remainder of poor Mensing's claim, as shown in the following diagram.

DIAGRAM NO. 5—"DISSOLUTION"



It will thus be seen that poor Mensing is wiped off the face of the earth, in so far as the parties above mentioned are concerned, but not so with plucky and shrewd little Mrs. Butler. The record paper held by Mr. Soggs naturally made the little lady hostile, and she sailed into Mr. Soggs in true blue style, and that gentleman must have had conviction carried strongly to his mind when, on that same day and date, he made the following bill of sale, which speaks for itself:

Original recorded October 27th, 1898. Bill of Sale. DAWSON, N. W. T., Oct. 27th, 1898. Know all men by these presents that I, Nelson A. Soggs, of Dawson, for and in consideration of one dollar (\$1.00) and other valuable consideration to me in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do sell, assign, transfer and set over unto Addie Butler an undivided two-thirds (2/3) interest in and to bench claim on Gold Hill, opposite No. 3 on Bonanza Creek

above discovery, bounded by Wallace, Condon, Victor and Gilkey, as shown on plans by Bolton. [Signed] NELSON A. SOGGS.

Witness: E. J. Ogburn, S. C. Kirk. Well! Well!! A two-thirds interest in a claim showing these lines: Dimensions, 150 feet on one side, 100 feet on the other, 110 feet on the lower fractional line, and 90 feet on the other, disposed of for the consideration of one dollar! And that on Gold Hill, opposite Bonanza! Mr. Soggs, the opportunity may be afforded you to tell under oath before the Royal Commission held by Commissioner Ogilvie, whether or not any valuable consideration was paid by you to old gentleman Bolton, the father of E. D. Bolton, the mining recorder, who surveyed up the fractionizing of Mensing's claim, or to E. D. Bolton, mining recorder, or to both, for record. (Concluded on page one.)

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\$18 PER CORD.
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