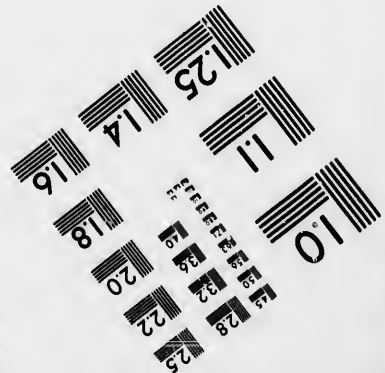
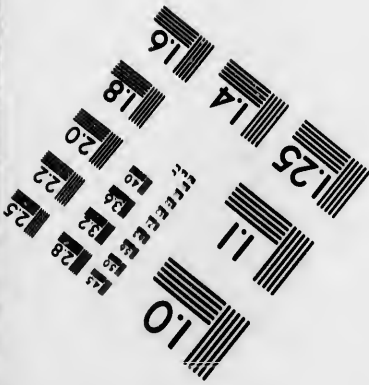
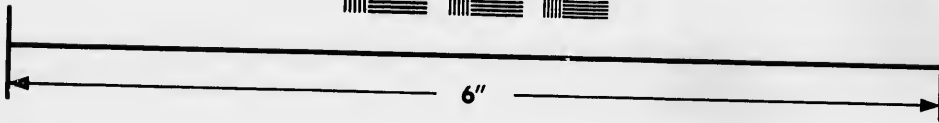
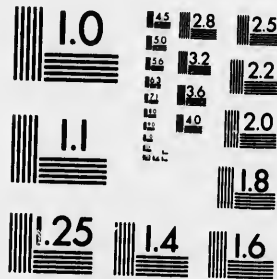


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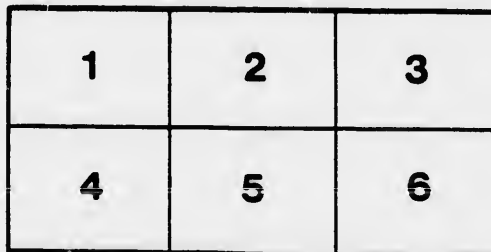
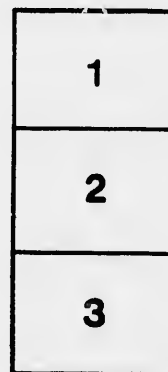
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

REPORT

RESPECTING THE

YUKON DISTRICT

BY

MAJOR J. M. WALSH

COMMISSIONER



OTTAWA  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING BUREAU  
1898

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## REPORT

To the Hon. CLIFFORD SIFTON,  
Minister of the Interior,  
Ottawa.

SIR,—When the Canadian Yukon Administration party first camped at the Big and Little Salmon Rivers, it was with the expectation of proceeding by dog teams, as soon as they arrived, to Selkirk and Dawson City. On the arrival of the dog teams, which owing to the condition of the rivers and lakes has been considerably delayed, I decided, as I realized the importance of the influence of the law being put in motion in the Dawson District, and the necessity of the Justice and the Crown Attorney of the District reaching Dawson City as early as possible, to send Justice McGuire, Crown Attorney Wade, Accountant Bliss and Inspector of Mines McGregor to that place, hoping that I would myself be able to follow with the next complement of dog teams, which I understood would arrive in a few days and in which event I would overtake the advance party. With my secretary, dog drivers and dog teams I left the Big Salmon River on February 10th, and on the 14th we were within two days' march of the advance party when we were overtaken by a special courier bringing word that a United States relief expedition was to pass through our territory. On receipt of this information I felt it my duty to return to the coast.

### INSTRUCTIONS TO INSPECTOR WOOD.

Previous to my departure from the Big Salmon River I had sent full instructions to Inspector Wood, in command of the N. W. M. Police, from Selkirk to the International Boundary line on the south. A copy of such instructions is attached to this report, marked (a).

At the same time I forwarded to you a copy of my instructions to Inspector Wood, and also wrote to you pointing out the most important matters with which they dealt.

I might here state that before starting for Big Salmon River from Dawson City, information was received by me which made it appear to me that my presence was more necessary at the coast than at Dawson City. Subsequent events amply demonstrated the correctness of this information. First, there was the freighting of supplies at the foot of Lake Lebarge and the construction of boats there to carry the supplies down to Dawson City by the first open water. Then there was the construction of boats at Bennett and the shipping of further supplies from that point on the first opening of navigation, the locating and finding accommodation for and the supplying of the reinforcements coming into the district in the spring, the establishment of posts on the Dalton Trail, the river and Teslin Lake posts, and handling of the large influx of people in the spring.

On the other hand, we had learned that the people of Dawson District were safe in their food supply until the 1st of June. My presence there could not help the food situation, and I could do a great deal in that direction by going to the coast. I had also written Crown Attorney Wade to secure a court room, and, if necessary, put the law in operation immediately, and had instructed Superintendent Constantine of the N. W. M. Police to bring his prisoners before the Judge. Gold Commissioner Fawcett had reported that little royalty could be collected

this year owing to the best paying claims being renewed under the old regulations, and that the mines which were being worked under the new regulations would be unable to pay royalty, as their expenses would be greater than their output this year. Under these circumstances it appeared to me that my place was at the coast, where so many matters had to be attended to.

Regarding the United States relief expedition, I wrote you as follows:—"It a foreign expedition is to pass over this district, I consider it my duty to go and see what it is, the number of troops the party consists of, what part of the territory it is to pass over, its authority for doing so, the length of time it is to be in the district, from what point it will depart, and what stores it is carrying. There is not the slightest necessity for an expedition of this kind. If the Government of the United States has a desire to assist any of its citizens in our country along the Yukon River or in their own country on the Lower Yukon, it will only be necessary for them to contract with some parties to put forty or sixty tons of provisions over the passes to Lake Bennett and the foot of Lake Lebarge and at these places to construct boats and ship supplies down the lakes and rivers by the first opening of navigation. This quantity would remove any possible chance of a shortage that may take place between the 1st of June—the date when the shortage would begin to be felt—and the time the first steamers arrive from St. Michaels. I feel quite positive that there is really no danger this year. It is next winter that I fear the population will have to be assured against shortage, if anything like the number of people come into the district that we are informed will do so. If the United States Government would give its attention to this question for next year and put in a large depot of supplies this summer by way of St. Michaels and the Yukon River as far as Circle City, they would be doing something that might prove of great value, but this present undertaking, to people who understand the situation, is inexplicable. If the expedition is only for the purpose of putting supplies at the water and shipping them down by the first opening of navigation, it is all right, but if it is proposed to take the trail to Dawson City it will meet with dismal failure, for neither horse teams, dog teams nor reindeer teams will make the trip to Dawson City at this season of the year. The rivers would not only be open before they could make half the distance, but the expedition would consume all it started with."

I further stated that I would return to the coast, meet the officers in charge of the expedition, confer with them, give them all the information I possessed and assist them in every possible way to make their undertaking a success. At the same time I pointed out that if their plan was to attempt the passage by trail I would show them the folly of such an undertaking. Shortly after my arrival at Bennett I learned of the abandonment of the expedition.

#### RETURN TRIP TO THE COAST.

The morning of the 14th of February we began our return journey to the coast, stopping at the different police posts along the line to inspect the work thereon. At the White Horse Rapids we met Captain Norwood, Inspector of Mines, en route with dog teams to Dawson City and carrying mail and instructions from the Department for the Gold Commissioner. With Captain Norwood I sent further instructions to our officials in Dawson. Subsequently we learned that the advance party reached Dawson City on the 26th of February, and Captain Norwood arrived on 26th March after encountering severe weather and heavy trails. My party arrived at Bennett on 4th March, after having encountered severe weather. During the month of February the thermometer had registered

from 40 to 60 degrees below zero, night and morning, with a slight rise at midday, and travelling was anything but comfortable.

#### AFFAIRS AT BENNETT.

Shortly after our arrival at Bennett it soon became apparent that the activity which we had learned was going on at the coast even exceeded our expectations. The town of Bennett which, six months previously, contained one frame building and one or two tents, now contained twenty frame buildings and hundreds of tents. Thousands of tons of provisions had arrived at that point, some to be carried down the lake over the ice and some to remain in store or cache until the opening of navigation. The two trails—the White and Chilkoot Passes—were blocked with men, animals and supplies, and the collection of duty at the summits was being carried on almost night and day. Along any of the trails, so far as the eye could reach, could be seen one long stretch of men dragging their loaded sleds or urging their jaded animals forward. Sometimes passage would be blocked for an hour at a time.

Wherever timber could be procured boats were under construction, and if many of these boats are primitive in model and outline, their building has at least contributed to demonstrate what the best model of boat is for use in these waters. We found also that several steamers were being put over the passes in sections, and one or two were already being put together again. We also learned that travel on the passes was becoming dangerous. On the 3rd of April a snow slide occurred in the Chilkoot Pass just below the "Scales," in which it is thought some seventy-five people lost their lives. I visited the scene of the accident along with my secretary, but could not ascertain that any of the victims were British subjects.

#### THE FOOD QUESTION.

In my report of 31st January, I pointed out that the food question was the most important with which we had to deal. To take such steps as would best assure the people of Dawson District against distress from shortage of food or the more direful possibility of starvation, was my most imperative duty. On my return to Bennett, I immediately gave orders that the work of freighting supplies to the foot of Lake Lebarge, which had been stopped, should be pushed forward with all possible speed. To further protect the people of Dawson District against shortage of food, I sent the following instructions to Inspector Wood as early as 4th January:—

"You will inform the people who are crossing the trails from Skagway and Dyea with the intention of making their way into the Yukon District, that they will not be permitted to cross the line unless they have with them three pounds per day of provisions each for one year. The shortage of provisions at Dawson makes it very important that this order be strictly enforced, and you will make the necessary arrangements to carry it out. I have instructed Inspector Strickland not to permit any person to pass his post unless he has with him this supply."

The salutary effect of this order is now patent to everyone. In the first place, it prevented a great many people from going into Dawson City over the ice with only sufficient provisions to carry them to that point, and from throwing themselves upon the population there for provisions until the arrival of the spring boats with supplies. It was impossible for them to carry in on the ice any such quantity

as one thousand pounds. In the second place, it has been the means of bringing hundreds of tons of supplies over the passes which would never have been brought over had the order not been issued. Men with a few hundred pounds went back to Skagway or Dyea and bought more to make up the full complement of one thousand pounds.

Another effect of the order is that the country will be prospected thoroughly and in a way hitherto impossible, owing to the shortage of food. Men will go up the creeks assured of their food supply and confident that on their return starvation will not be staring them in the face, with the alternative of a tramp of over 600 miles of ice.

The order, I am glad to say, met with universal approval, but particularly from the old residents of the district who understand the situation in the interior and who more fully appreciate the necessity of provision being made for adequately supplying the district with food.

It was with great pleasure that I met Capt. Ray, U.S.A., commanding the District of Alaska, early in April. I had an opportunity of getting a full report from him as to the food situation on the Lower Yukon, and it was on account of the favourable nature of that report and information received from Superintendent Constantine at Dawson City that all danger of shortage of food in that direction before the arrival of the spring fleets from up the river was over that I sent the following communication to Major Steele to be forwarded by him to Inspector Strickland at Fort Sifton:—

"The purpose of the order requiring every person entering the Yukon District to carry with him one thousand pounds of provisions was owing to the shortage of food in that district, and was intended to keep people from going there this winter without carrying sufficient quantity of provisions to keep them until the boats would arrive in the spring.

"Feeling now quite assured of having 50,000 pounds of provisions for shipment from the foot of Lake Lebarge, the Hootalinqua Post, Freeman's Point and the Little Salmon River, to Dawson City, at the opening of navigation, and the time being near at hand when the ice of the trails can no longer be used to permit people to reach Dawson before the spring fleets from the upper lakes freight large quantities of supplies will arrive, I consider the danger-point passed of any shortage of food taking place before relief can reach it by water. I have, therefore, decided to reduce the quantity of provisions which each person should have with him to 600 pounds, and as soon as the rivers break up and passage to Dawson City by ice is positively at an end I shall withdraw this order entirely."

I may say here that the "Year's Supply" order was the means of having large quantities of supplies shipped into Dawson by the very first opening of navigation, upon which the population of Dawson City lived for three weeks before the arrival of the first steamer from down the river. The first shipment of Government supplies which reached Dawson City, on 17th May, arrived just in time to save the police force from being out of supplies, only two days' rations being left.

I do not know that I can add anything to my report of 31st January on the food question outside of what I have said, except to emphasize its importance. To permit of this district being thoroughly prospected and developed, the population must be assured of its food supply beyond peradventure, and at reasonable prices, and the only way in which such a supply can be thus secured is by providing transportation facilities. I strongly called the attention of the Department to my previous report in this connection and to the necessity of providing telegraphic communication. With improved transportation facilities and telegraph communication the cost of living and the price of labour will be so reduced, as will also the price of articles and materials required for mining purposes, that thousands of

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acres of land which cannot now be worked profitably may be worked with satisfactory returns.

#### FROM BENNETT TO DAWSON.

On the 3rd of May, having arrangements quite complete for the proper carrying out of the many matters which required attention at the coast, I again set out for Dawson City, taking with me three Peterborough canoes, it being my intention to proceed to the foot of Lake Lebarge over the ice and from thence to Dawson by water. On 9th May we arrived at the Lewes Post (foot of Lake Lebarge), having encountered very little difficulty. Captain Starnes, of the North-West Mounted Police, left the Lewes Post immediately after my arrival there, with twenty-three men and nine boats, carrying something over 50,000 pounds of provisions. We left the Lewes Post on the 11th and arrived at Selkirk on the 14th. Captain Starnes arrived with his fleet on the 15th and left the same day for Dawson City, which point he reached on the 17th. We remained at Selkirk for three days and tried to get up the Pelly a short distance, but could not do so, owing to the current being too strong at that season of the year. We examined the country in the vicinity of Selkirk thoroughly, and I have no hesitation in saying that it is the finest location between Dawson and the coast, by the Bennett route, that can be found for a town site.

On 19th May we arrived at the Stewart River, made an inspection of that locality and proceeded on the way to Dawson where we arrived on the 21st.

#### ROYALTY.

On arrival at Dawson I found a great many questions awaiting solution which could only be disposed of by the authority of the Commissioner. For instance, the question of royalty, over which there had been considerable discussion, appeared to be somewhat mixed. I immediately announced that royalty would be collected on all claims the leases of which were renewed subsequent to the date when the law came into force. Nearly all the leaseholders of the larger prospected claims showed a disposition to respect the collection of royalty. Others, however, were not so tractable, their principal objection being that their leases were granted for one year and that once being granted subsequent restrictions could not be placed upon them.

I pointed out to the leaseholders that collection of royalty was necessary for the maintenance of courts of justice, for police protection, mail communication, and for public services. While acknowledging the force of these reasons they submitted that a more thorough examination of the real cost of outputting the gold would convince the Government that the royalty is a severe tax and expressed a hope that next year would see it removed. Royalty was not collected from any claims which had not got into good working order or which could not show a profit after paying royalty, and this would represent a large sum. Again, more than half the leases were exempted from royalty on account of having been renewed previous to the date of the law requiring the payment of royalty coming into force. The collection of royalty will amount to about half a million dollars.

#### APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENT OF TRAIL.

Immediately after announcing that royalty would be collected, I appropriated \$4,000.00 for the improvement of the trail between Dawson City and the Eldorado and Bonanza Creeks, and this appeared to give much satisfaction.

## DOMINION CREEK.

The speculations as to action which would be taken regarding Dominion Creek were scarcely less than those I have referred to as to royalty. By some means the staking of this creek had become very complicated, numerous disputes had arisen and the Gold Commissioner in consequence had closed the creek pending a survey when matters could be properly adjusted. The claims on this creek had been staked after the new regulations were in force, and should have been 250 feet in length, whereas they were staked 500 feet. After careful examination we decided to confirm the rightful staker in his claim of 500 feet. The settling up of the claims in this way gave great satisfaction. All the remaining creek claims on Dominion and all fractions of claims were reserved to the Government.

Many other disputes regarding claims were constantly presenting themselves, but in due course were satisfactorily disposed of.

## GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

I found on arrival at Dawson that the Gold Commissioner had contracted for a new building on the Government reserve for an office, the old office being altogether too small. Subsequently I found that the new building was also too small, and I, therefore, authorized the erection of an addition to it for the accommodation of the Mining Inspectors and Government Surveyors who had hitherto been without offices. Work on this addition was not begun when I left Dawson City.

The Gold Commissioner's house was also too small for his own and his staff's accommodation, and I authorized an addition to be made to it which will make it comfortable quarters.

It was also found necessary to provide accommodation for other Government officials in the district, and with this object in view tenders were called for, for the erection of a building on the Government reserve. This building is a commodious and substantial structure, having seven good bed rooms.

The storeroom at the barracks was entirely too small for the post, not having a capacity for more than three or four months' supplies. It was, therefore, found necessary to provide further accommodation for storage purposes, and I accordingly authorized the construction of a new storehouse.

As the guard room at the barracks was entirely inadequate, I authorized the construction of a new building for that purpose and for an office for the officer in command.

The mail service had increased to such proportions at Dawson City that it was impossible to find sufficient room for its distribution in the barracks, where it had hitherto been done, and in consequence a building had to be procured in the town. As the owners of this building wished to use it for other purposes it was necessary to provide some other place where the mail service could be properly attended to. In accordance therewith a new building suitable for the service to be efficiently performed was contracted for, and is probably now completed.

All these buildings have been constructed on the Government reserve close to the barracks and should any changes, such as the construction of a new post office, be deemed advisable at any time, they can always be made use of with advantage.

## MAIL SERVICE.

In my opinion the Post Office Department should take over the mail service of this district—certainly the Dawson part of it. The service is growing very

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large and requires the full attention of a postmaster with a few clerks thoroughly educated in the service. It is impossible for the police to handle it satisfactorily. From five to thirteen men were constantly employed to carry out this work at Dawson, reducing the number available for other duty below what it should be.

I think it would be advisable to establish a branch post office at the Forks of the Eldorado and Bonanza Creeks where people up the gulches may get their mail.

#### SALE OF GOVERNMENT LOTS.

Previous to my arrival at Dawson, Mr. Wade, Registrar of Lands, had had a survey made of lots in the Government addition of the town of Dawson. All these lands had been applied for. I gave instructions to have them properly valued and public notices posted so that the lots might be sold in accordance therewith. Subsequently a survey was made of the town of Klondike, and the lots according to that survey will be disposed of in a similar manner.

#### LEASE OF WATER FRONT, DAWSON.

I also found on my arrival at Dawson, that Mr. Wade and Mr. Fawcett, as the representatives of the Dominion Government, had leased to Messrs. R. Morrison and A. McDonald, for \$30,000.00 per annum, part of the water front of Dawson. Before the terms of the lease were settled with Messrs. Morrison and McDonald, tenders for the water front had been made to Messrs. Wade and Fawcett. Mr. W. Bourke had offered to pay quarterly a rent of \$3,000.00 per annum; Mr. M. L. D. Keizer had offered an annual rental of \$7,500.00 for the whole front, or one of \$120.00 for each lot of 25 feet; Messrs. Dunsmore, Spencer and McPhee had offered an annual rental of \$25,000.00 payable monthly in advance; Mr. John Cameron had offered a monthly rental of \$2,050.00; and Messrs. Morrison and McDonald had offered one of \$2,500.00 per month, or \$30,000.00 per annum. A part of the tract, about 100 feet frontage which it was proposed to reserve as a site for Government offices, and all of the front which extends from a point 50 feet to the north of Third Street to the Smith addition to Dawson, being all that afforded sufficient water for steamboat landing purposes, were excepted from the land covered by the lease. It was granted for but one year, and even this short term may be terminated by one month's notice from the Government.

The transaction being one which I considered to be most satisfactory from every standpoint, I at once gave it my approval.

#### LIQUOR.

On my arrival at Dawson I found that Mr. Bulyea, representing the North-west Territorial Government, had collected \$2,000.00 license fee from each of some sixteen saloon-keepers, and had issued licenses to them accordingly. I had written you previously that I could not recognize the authority of the Territorial Government in this district, and advised the saloon-keepers that I would not recognize Mr. Bulyea's action. The saloons were, in consequence, run as before Mr. Bulyea's arrival at Dawson, under regulations defined by Superintendent Constantine, of the North-west Mounted Police, with some few amendments, such as the closing up of the bars on the Sabbath. Such liquor as was brought into the district was passed through under permit from the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Territories previous to my appointment as Chief Executive



Officer of the Government of Canada in the Yukon District, except in two instances of permits issued on my own authority. In two or three cases liquor was allowed to pass into the district at Dawson City by the North-west Mounted Police at Tagish, under permit issued by the Territorial Government, subsequent to my appointment as aforesaid, but why those permits were recognized I have been unable to ascertain, as it was directly contrary to instructions in this regard, which I had explicitly given and which I thought were as explicitly understood. Immediately upon the arrival of this liquor at Dawson I ordered it to be put in bond until such time as instructions could be received from Ottawa. At the same time I forwarded instructions to the Officer commanding the North-west Mounted Police in the Southern District to rigidly adhere to my previous instructions, and I concurrently sent him a copy of the list of permits which had been issued for the importation of liquor into the Yukon District, which were to be honoured by him, instructing him that these were the only permits which he could honour. This was in accordance with your communication to me from the Deputy Minister of your Department, with which was inclosed a list of all permits issued for the importation of liquor into the Yukon District up to that time. I forwarded a copy of this list to the Officer commanding the North-west Mounted Police in the Southern Division. At that time I wrote to you that I would do all in my power to curtail the liquor traffic and strongly advised that until I had seen you and given you all the details of which I had become cognizant, liquor be prohibited from the district. Subsequently, I received a further list of permits from Colonel Steele, which had been issued by the Government of the North-west Territories and which, having been held by the Minister of Justice to be legal, had to be recognized, and I gave orders accordingly.

#### POLICE POSTS.

The following police posts are now established in the Yukon District:—  
 Fort Cudahy, Dawson City, Stewart River, McQuesten River, Fort Selkirk, Five Finger Rapids, Little Salmon River, Big Salmon River, Hootalinqua River, Lewes Post (foot of Lake Lebarge), Lebarge Post (head of lake), White Horse Rapids, Fort Sifton (Tagish), Dalton International Line Post and Dalton's House. There is also a detachment at Bennett, one at Linderman, one at the summit of the White Pass, one at the summit of the Chilkoot Pass, and one at the Stikine River.

#### LAW, ORDER AND SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

It has been a matter of gratification to me to note the law-abiding and orderly character of the permanent and transient residents of Dawson and the district generally. All have evinced an earnest desire to obey and uphold the law. I found, however, on the first Sunday after my arrival at Dawson that while order was preserved as usual, the general week-day business was continued. I deemed it highly improper that the Sabbath should be desecrated, and at once gave orders for its due observance in accordance with the statutes in that behalf, and since that time the Sabbath has been quite as well observed as it is in the older towns east. In confirmation of the above I may copy the following from a Dawson City paper that has been usually hostile to Canadian administration:—

"No one here but admits that never before have we been personally present where so astonishing a state of order and safety to life and property has been

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maintained. It is something to be remembered and spoken of the longest day we live."

A prominent American resident in Dawson, writing to the press said, upon the same subject:

"I wish to say in regard to the Mounted Police who govern the North-west Territory under the management of Major Walsh, that a more orderly and quiet mining camp does not exist on the face of the globe. They have complete control, and the people are high in their praise. Your property and person are safe all the time. You need have no fear day or night."

#### COURTS ESTABLISHED AND THE LAW AT WORK.

I found, on arrival at Dawson, that law courts had been established, several criminal cases had been disposed of, and two sentences of five years' imprisonment had been imposed. The moral effect of this is patent. People feel that although they are residents of an outlying district, justice is administered as it is administered wherever the British flag flies. Shortly before my departure from Dawson, four young Indians were brought to trial for the murder of one William Meeham on the McClintock River, and were found guilty and sentenced to be hanged on 1st November next.

#### ASSISTANCE TO HOSPITALS.

Some time after my arrival at Dawson the Rev. Father Judge, priest of this district, informed me that the St. Mary's Hospital under his charge had reached a state of financial embarrassment, and that if no assistance were forthcoming he should have to discontinue receiving patients. He also informed me that some provision would have to be made for the patients already in the hospital. This institution has been one of great mercy to the district, and up to last year had received sufficient support from the mining population to meet all its expenses, but the scarcity of food last fall and the large number of persons who were left in the district without money or labour to provide it, threw upon the hospital a great number of sick who were unable to pay for attendance. The liability incurred by the hospital for provisions and for other articles required for the sick, amounted to \$25,000.00. In addition to this amount a large sum of church money had been taken and used for hospital purposes. Owing to the condition of affairs here, institutions of this kind are far more required than in any other district I have ever known, and it was quite apparent that we would have to come to the assistance of St. Mary's Hospital; otherwise, should it be forced to close, the care of the sick would surely fall upon the Government. This would entail an expenditure of not less than forty or fifty thousand dollars. Under these circumstances, I sanctioned a grant of \$5,000 to aid in the liquidation of the debt of St. Mary's Hospital, which grant was cordially approved by the clergymen of other churches resident in the city. Messrs. Wade and Davis collected a similar amount by private subscription, and a committee was formed for the purpose of raising the balance necessary to clear the hospital of debt.

#### GENERAL HOSPITAL.

A general hospital was also under construction by the Presbyterians and Episcopalians, and I authorized a grant to them of \$2,500 to enable them to open the hospital as soon as possible. These institutions are absolutely essential to

Dawson. A large population of men living alone in cabins or tents, with nobody to assist them in case of illness, have but one place to go to and that is the hospital, and I therefore recommend that the matter of future assistance for such institutions be given consideration.

#### THE CHURCHES AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS.

On my arrival in Dawson I found that the Episcopalian body had already built a church and residence upon the police reserve, and I granted permission to the Presbyterian, Methodist and Greek bodies, and Salvation Army, respectively, to erect churches; also for a general hospital. I also granted permission to the Masons, Oddfellows and Foresters conjointly to erect a building on the reserve, and I acceded to the request of the Presbyterian Church and the Roman Catholic Church to build upon the reserve at Selkirk near where the English Church Mission had already built.

#### BANKS.

The opening by the Canadian Bank of Commerce and Bank of British North America of offices in Dawson City has been a great boon to the population. The people have now a safe place to deposit their gold dust and are able to purchase drafts for the shipment of money to the outside without risk. The currency is also of great convenience.

#### DAWSON.

The town of Dawson has shown remarkable growth during the past summer. From a population of from five to seven thousand in May it increased to from sixteen to seventeen thousand in July. Most of the people were living in tents. The saw-mills were running day and night, and preparations were being made by a great many for winter quarters.

I understand that under the new Act for the Government of the Yukon District provision has been made for the immediate incorporation of Dawson and other places. This will be a great benefit. Dawson should be incorporated with as little delay as possible so that the responsibilities of municipal government may be placed upon the inhabitants at an early date.

#### RIVER NAVIGATION.

The navigation of the Upper Yukon River between Dawson City and Bennett and Teslin Lake has become an accomplished fact, and the practicability of these routes for steamers of paying capacity has been demonstrated to a certainty, and in the future the passenger and the freight traffic as well will be by these two routes and not by St. Michaels and the Lower Yukon. A suggestive commentary upon the St. Michaels route is that the first steamer this season did not arrive in Dawson from down the river until the 11th of June, and this steamer had wintered at Fort Yukon and arrived with only a small quantity of provisions. The first boat from St. Michaels did not arrive at Dawson until the latter part of July, and as no boat has ever left Dawson City later than the first week it shows the navigation of the American Yukon River to be of not more than six weeks duration, while by the British Yukon there is safe navigation from Bennett or Teslin Lake from the 1st of June up to the middle of September, and in some seasons up to

the 1st October. Again, steamers can make the trip from Dawson to Bennett which in six days brings them within two days of the coast, while it takes from eight to ten days for the best boats to make the trip from Dawson to St. Michaels. Steamers will make the trip from Bennett to Dawson in three days, while it takes a steamer from St. Michaels to Dawson from sixteen to twenty days to make the trip. Then it is 1,000 miles further from St. Michaels to Vancouver than from Skagway to Vancouver, and Skagway is only 48 miles from Bennett. Another point is that supplies going into the district by the American Yukon are carried against the current, while by the British Yukon they are carried with the current, all of which proves the advantage of the Canadian route over the American route, and wit' our own coast port the advantage which the Canadian merchant would have over the American merchant in supplying the district with what it requires is evident.

This winter the channel of the Thirty-Mile River could be greatly improved by the removal of the dangerous rocks in its course. It would require very little expense to put this river in safe condition for navigation. I would recommend that attention be given to this matter at once. Last winter when I was going up the river over the trail I noticed that the dangerous rocks were all exposed. A charge of dynamite could very easily remove them. Some dredging at the foot of Lake Lebarge and at Cariboo Crossing would also improve navigation by this route. In a former report I stated that the Lewes River was not navigable, and intimated that it could not be made navigable. I have since found that the waters of this river are very much deeper at the points referred to in my report than I was then aware, and by removing a few rocks at different places a good channel for navigation can be secured.

#### RESERVATION OF LAND FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

I reserved for the Government all land outside of the Harper, Smith and Day additions to the town of Dawson, and also all the suitable land on the west side of the river opposite to Dawson. I would strongly recommend that if patents have not yet been issued to Harper, Smith, or Day, and if the Government is not bound to issue such patents, that patents to these parties for their respective additions to Dawson be refused.

I also reserved for the Government the most suitable town site property at the Forks of the Eldorado and Bonanza Creeks, at the mouth of the Stewart River, at the junction of the Stewart and McQuesten Rivers and at Selkirk.

#### MINING REGULATIONS.

For the purpose of providing a suitable tribunal for the hearing and decision of disputes with regard to title in placer mining property, I deemed it advisable to amend the regulations governing placer mining in the Yukon District. A copy of my amendments is attached hereto, marked (b.) To facilitate convenience of management and to afford description of mining properties, I divided the Yukon District into four mining divisions, according to the memorandum or regulation, of which a copy is hereto attached, marked (c).

#### PRESENTATION OF PETITION.

A committee representing the mining interests of the district called upon me and presented me with a petition requesting that I would lay it before the Govern-

ment. This petition, which deals with several matters regarding the mining regulations, accompanies this report.

#### TIMBER.

Regarding the timber of the district, a policy of extreme caution should be adopted. Without timber there can be absolutely no development in this district, and the regulations should be such as will best ensure its preservation while affording the population all that its members require for legitimate use. Timber leases should be issued from the district, and not from Ottawa.

#### GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS.

While Selkirk may perhaps in a few years become the proper place for the Government headquarters of the district, it is not so at present, nor can anything be done to make it the centre while the Klondike and Indian River districts turn out the gold they are now doing. Dawson City, in the meantime, must be the seat of Government for the Yukon District.

#### THE BATTALION.

On my arrival at Selkirk on my trip up the river I found Col. Evans camped there with sixty men. The balance of his command had not yet arrived. Good progress had been made in getting out logs for the various buildings to be constructed. I informed Col. Evans that it was more than likely that at least 100 of his command would have to winter at Dawson. Subsequently Col. Steele advised me that the police force at Dawson was to be increased to 70 men, and I wrote to Col. Evans stating that perhaps this number would be sufficient to perform the work there this winter.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

An officer to attend to this duty should be sent in at once. A great deal of business is done with gold dust, and it is very important that the gold scales at business places should be well looked after. I was informed by a weigh man in one of the establishments that a gold sack with \$100 in it will in small purchases run short about \$25, or in other words, the weigh man takes 25 per cent. There should also be a fishery inspector. The Weights and Measures Inspector could attend to both these duties.

#### ASSISTANT JUDGE.

I would recommend that an Assistant Judge for the Dawson District be appointed, and that one of his duties be the deciding of mining disputes. I do not think anyone but a lawyer is qualified to try these cases.

If the present Gold Commissioner had such qualifications, I am inclined to think that complaints against his administration would have been few—if indeed any would have been made.

## STEAMBOAT INSPECTOR.

A steamboat inspector should also be sent here to examine and make inspection of the steamboats operating on the lakes and rivers of this district. A large number of people are and will be travelling by steamboat, and I am quite sure that these vessels are not sailing under regulation.

## MR. TYRRELL'S SERVICES IN THE KLONDIKE DISTRICT.

I would recommend that Mr. Tyrrell, at the end of his season's work, which I understand terminates about the end of September, should be sent to the Klondike District to make a thorough examination of the work going on there during the fall and winter. No expense should be attached to this action other than the payment of Mr. Tyrrell's services and his expenses. The information he would be able to gather could be used to great advantage in other districts, and I think this excellent opportunity should not be lost.

## INCOMING POPULATION.

It is hardly possible to estimate the number of people who will have passed into the Yukon District before the closing of navigation this fall, but whatever the number may be it is certain that a great deal of new ground will have to be opened up in order to retain all the people now in the district. There can be no doubt that a great many will become disheartened and discouraged at what may seem to them ill-success, due in reality to their own unfitness for combating the circumstances surrounding them. There will, however, be a great many who are fully alive to the situation and who will assist in opening up the new territory. That there will be an exodus of the disappointed ones next fall and winter may be anticipated. Their departure will in no way be detrimental to the mining interests of the district. Quite the contrary, as only men of energy and perseverance can be of benefit to the district.

## OUTPUT OF GOLD AND GENERAL PROSPECTS.

The output of gold this year from the Yukon District will be in the neighbourhood of ten million dollars. When I left Dawson on 4th August, the spring and summer's output amounted to about eight and one-half million dollars, and we estimated that there was about two million dollars of gold still on the dump, most of which could not be washed up for want of water, but depending entirely upon rain this could be cleared up before the close of the season. Three million dollars was carried over from last autumn, which was shipped out this summer. This amount cannot be counted in this year's output. It will require this year about three and one-half million dollars to do the business of the district.

When the difficulties of operation, the scarcity of supplies and the lack of proper facilities for mining and the small territory worked are considered and understood, an output of ten million dollars is a remarkable showing and justifies great expectations for the future. Practically, Eldorado and Bonanza are the only two creeks upon which any considerable work has been done. They, therefore, represent the output this year. Next year with Dominion, Hunker, Sulphur, and several other creeks, as well as a great many hill and bench claims will be added to the list of producers and it is impossible to make any estimate now of what

the product of gold will be. Some less expensive way of thawing out the ground will doubtless be found and a better process of mining can then be adopted. There is a great field for hydraulic operations, and this system will no doubt be introduced before long. Work can then be done on a large scale. The output of gold should continue to increase from year to year until it reaches a sum which will class the district among the greatest mining camps in the world.

The Klondike District will be a mining camp for the next twenty-five years, affording rich returns. It will be a large consumer, and we must secure the trade consequent upon the consumption, at least 75 per cent of which should be ours. We can get this trade if we so desire and take the necessary steps, that is, not only the trade of the British Yukon, but the trade of the Lower Yukon as far down as Fort Yukon.

During this summer perhaps from three to five thousand people went up the Stewart River, some of whom went up only a few miles and some above McQuesten River. Very little intelligent work appears to have been done, but good prospects were found in one or two instances. It is confidently believed that the region of the McQuesten River is very rich, and to encourage prospecting in that locality a detachment of police was sent to the junction of the McQuesten and Stewart rivers, and a Mining Recorder was appointed for that division.

A great many people also went up the Pelly, Little Salmon and Big Salmon rivers, but no reliable reports have yet been received as to what prospects have been found in these localities. Mining operations in the Yukon have really only begun and with improved facilities for operating, and the introduction of the hydraulic system of mining, it is impossible to foretell what the future will yield.

Before leaving this subject, I feel that it is my duty to state that the trade of the Yukon District is certainly going to be lost to Canada if something is not done to correct the mistake made last session in the defeat of the Teslin Lake Railway Bill. Immediately after this Bill was defeated the Skagway railway was pushed forward with all the energy possible.

This matter of trade is, in my opinion, a question of the greatest importance to Canada and one which should claim the close attention of the Government. To-day it is worth eight million dollars. Ten years from to-day it will be worth thirty millions. At least 90 per cent of this enormous trade should come to the provinces of Canada, which produce nearly everything that is required for the district.

It is to me a matter of surprise that the business men of Canada have not taken greater interest in this question. In fact, it appears to me that our people generally have given little, if any, attention to the district. It may surprise you, but it is nevertheless a fact that until the arrival of Col. McGregor in July there was not a properly accredited representative of the Canadian press in the district. No one commissioned by any of our leading newspapers to examine into the conditions of the country as they existed, or its wants, and to report the result of his investigation to the Canadian people, has visited the territory. By that means the people of Canada could have obtained reliable and worthy information regarding the country and its means. All the information sent out from the country was left to the representatives of English and foreign newspapers to supply. Last spring and summer there were in the Yukon in the neighbourhood of two hundred representatives of newspapers, sent there for the express purpose of examining into the resources and wants of the district. Of these about thirty-five represented English papers, about ten represented papers published in Paris, ten papers published in Germany, and about one hundred and forty represented newspapers of the United States. From time to time occasional letters from the Yukon appeared in Canadian papers, but these were only from casual correspondents, and were

general in the character of their contents. They were not written by men who made it a business to investigate and obtain information such as was needed to bring the people of Canada thoroughly in touch with the needs of the country in a commercial way. There is, however, this to be said—that while the American papers have heaped upon us a great deal of abuse, our thanks are certainly due to them for advertising our country, as without the assistance of their press and population, comparatively little would be yet known of the British Yukon.

#### NEWSPAPER REPORTS.

I wish to call your attention to the reports which have been published in certain newspapers accusing officials of the Yukon District of corruption. These reports are absolutely false. I have inquired into the matters which have come to my notice through the press, and found no foundation for them. During my stay in Dawson City I several times requested the public to send in any charges which they had against any of the officials in the employ of the Government in the Yukon District, and I also had the request made from the platform at a mass meeting, that if persons who were accusing the officials and employees of the Government with corruption would make their charges to me they would be thoroughly investigated; but not one single charge was presented.

The abusive crusade or agitation against Dominion officers in the Yukon was, I am informed, first started by a Mr. Pery at Skagway. It was carried over the passes from there by the people going into Dawson, and was circulated among the disappointed new-comers.

It was then taken up by the coast papers and by them sent broadcast over the land. As soon as I heard of it I took prompt action to ascertain what truth there was in the reports that were being circulated. With that object in view I sent out requests everywhere asking people, if they had any charges against officials, to hand them in to me and they would be thoroughly investigated and, as I have before stated, I even went so far as to have the matter referred to at a public meeting. The only responses to my requests were charges which were made against some of the police for offences of a minor nature. These charges had nothing to do with the administration of the post office, the land or mining laws, but were for such offences as using abusive language, &c. They were carefully inquired into. Not one charge, however, was made against any official of the Government.

Officials of any Government entering into a new and isolated district where the people are not closely restricted by law and are free from taxation have almost invariably met with just such an experience as we have had. The introduction and enforcement of law and taxation naturally made us unpopular with the older residents, who were unaccustomed to that sort of thing. Added to this, some twenty thousand people of all nationalities had flocked into the district in a few weeks. They did not find things as they were in their own country and, as might be expected, in a few weeks everyone was dissatisfied with everything around him. The Englishman from South Africa wanted things carried on as he had been accustomed to have them carried on there; the New Zealander, as they had been carried on in New Zealand; the German and Swede as in their motherlands. Those who came from the United States wanted the mining laws and regulations adopted which are in force in that country, and the British Columbian called out for the regulations of his province, with this exception, that in his case he preferred the 500-foot claim of the Yukon to the 100-foot claim of British Columbia. When regulations could not be made to suit all these varied elements of population, the officials and the law had to be abused and, therefore, the crusade that was started against both.



## ALIENS.

The results of my experience and the knowledge I have gained during the past year will not admit of my agreeing with those who think that it would be proper for the Dominion Government to pass a law prohibiting aliens from taking up mining claims in the British Yukon. The gold-bearing territory of the district is of such vast extent that to do it justice and to develop its resources properly a large population will be required, very much greater than our own country can, or will, provide. In July last there was in the district a population of about 30,000, of which 25 per cent were British subjects, and of these only about one-half, or less than 4,000 were Canadians.

The cold and inhospitable climate, combined with the expensive and hard labour attendant upon mining in that country, will always make it an unpopular and unfavourable "mining camp," and for this reason the mining laws and regulations must be liberal so as to attract and encourage the population and capital of the world. Good facilities for communication and transportation must be provided in the district. A telegraph line is an immediate necessity, and the construction of a railway from the coast to the headwaters of the river and steamboat transportation on the river, are matters of the greatest importance. With these things in operation, food and other supplies will be made cheap. The price of labour will be so reduced that wages can be made on ground that will pay the miner from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per day, and when this is done the Yukon District ought to give to the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion a trade that in a few years will exceed that of any foreign nation.

## OWNERSHIP OF CLAIMS BY OFFICIALS.

With regard to the question which has arisen as to the propriety of an official taking up a claim in the Yukon District, I fail to see any reason for not permitting him to do so, nor any way in which the public or the public service can be thereby injured. The people east have a very mistaken idea on this question. They seem to think that with the staking of a claim a fortune is assured. This is a delusion, the best evidence of which is the fact that 50 per cent of the claims which have been staked in the Yukon District have either been abandoned or not entered for. I know many men who came into the district at great expense of labour and money who have withdrawn from it without even locating a claim, and I know of hundreds who have staked claims who only did so with the hope of being able to sell them on the outside to people unacquainted with their value. After a claim has been staked there is a great deal to be done before its actual value—if it has any—can be determined. The cost of prospecting a claim may be anyway from \$500 to \$2,000, and even five times as much as the latter amount has been expended in prospecting claims which are now abandoned. Perhaps with cheaper labour they may be worked at some future time.

To prove that the simple staking of a claim in the Klondike does not mean that something valuable has certainly been secured, is established by the fact that claims can be bought at auction sales which take place three or four times a week at the mining exchanges for prices which range from \$10 upwards, and that there are many who prefer taking chances with a claim thus purchased, to undertaking the labour of prospecting for one.

I do not think that either the service or the public has suffered by those of the officials who were located in the Yukon District previous to 1897 and who took up claims, and I feel confident that no injury or injustice has been done to

any person by the few officials who have staked claims since that time. I hope the Government will not refuse the privilege of staking a claim to any man in the service. At the same time I would not permit any public official to speculate in such claims. Did I wish to procure a claim in the Klondike myself I would buy it or an interest in it after it had been prospected, and I am sure I would acquire it at less expense than if I had prospected and staked it myself.

#### PROPOSED GOVERNMENT.

For the government of the Yukon District I would recommend the appointment of a council to consist of the Commissioner and of four appointed and four elected members, the appointed members to be selected from the population of the district, and the elected members to be returned from the four districts of Dawson, Stewart River, Pelly River and Hootalinqua River—that is, each of these districts to be entitled to elect one of such representatives.

I would also recommend that a census or registration be taken of all British subjects in the district, and that they only be eligible to vote for the four representatives above referred to.

The Federal Government should also convey to the Yukon council such powers as will enable the council to grant incorporation to towns and municipalities, if the Act passed last Session with regard to the district does not contain the necessary provisions. I understand this has now been done.

A government made up in this way, giving the population an elective representative from each of the four mining divisions (and such a representation is certainly all that should be granted at present) will, I am assured, give satisfaction to the population and remove a great deal of the present grumbling.

In concluding this Report and at the same time bringing to a close my term of office as Commissioner of the Yukon District, I may be permitted to summarize briefly some results of the year's work. Although the expedition under my command undertook a great task and at an unfavourable season of the year, it nevertheless accomplished all it went into the district to do and succeeded in surmounting the many obstacles which confronted it. Police posts were established wherever necessary to form a complete chain of communication from one end of the territory to the other, and for the enforcement of law and the preservation of order, and by the location of these posts it is now possible to travel from the northern to the southern boundary of the district without being exposed to the danger of perishing either from want of food or lack of shelter; courts of justice were opened; the mining regulations were enforced and in some respects amended; the Yukon District was divided into four mining divisions for the greater convenience of identifying mining locations; buildings were erected for the accommodation of the several public offices; needed assistance was granted in aid of hospitals; sites were granted to various denominations for the erection of churches; trails were improved; town sites at the most important points in the district were reserved for the Government; a thorough examination of the several routes by land, lake and river and of the passes was made, also of the timber resources of the district; relief and shelter were given to travellers over the ice last winter from Dawson to the coast, and the most complete law and order has been established throughout the district.

In a word, the Yukon has, during the past year, become a live, populous and promising outlying Canadian possession, and only awaits railway, steamboat, tele-

graph, postal and transportation facilities generally, together with liberal mining regulations and a firm administration of the law, to make it a rich and profitable field for Canadian enterprise.

Your obedient servant,

J. M. WALSH,

*Commissioner, Yukon District.*

YUKON PROVISIONAL DISTRICT,

15th August, 1898.

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## SCHEDULE A.

## COPY OF INSTRUCTIONS TO INSPECTOR WOOD.

The following posts will be put out early in the spring:—

## ON DALTON TRAIL.

Between the International boundary line and the Five Finger Rapids a mounted detachment of one officer and fifteen men, sixteen saddle horses and ten pack horses, to be distributed as follows:—

An officer and ten men, eleven saddle horses and ten pack horses at the International Line Post.

A non-commissioned officer and four constables and five horses at the Five Finger Rapids, the terminus of the Five Finger branch of the Dalton Trail.

The men and horses for the Five Finger Rapids Post should reach there as early in June as possible.

Good hay and grass can be found convenient to the International line and good grass at the Five Finger Rapids.

Provisions, stores and grain will be packed to the Line Post by post pack horses, and will be freighted to the Five Finger Rapids Post by boats from Bennett.

The detachment at the International line and at Five Finger Rapids should be well informed in customs work and tariff. Information received makes it very important that this trail be well looked after during the coming early spring and summer, as it is altogether likely large quantities of merchandise and liquor will pass over it in the hope of escaping the customs.

The post at the Five Finger Rapids will be in a position to intercept any parties who escape the Line Post. The supplies for this post will be freighted down from Bennett, three of the men for the post to freight them to the Five Finger Rapids and the other two men of the post to take the horses there by trail. The men going down by boat should start as early as possible and have the post established when the other two arrive with the horses. This post will require a good boat. This detachment will occupy tents during the summer. It is likely they will be called in in the autumn.

The detachment at the Line Post will, in the absence of a customs official, examine all goods coming in, ask to see invoices, ascertain if duty has been paid and if not collect it.

If duty is refused, they will make a seizure and report to you.

They will also keep a close watch for liquor, and if any is found, demand a permit to cover it. If a permit is not forthcoming, they will seize the liquor and report to you.

The detachment at the Five Finger Rapids Post will make a similar examination and report to the officer in command of the Line Post, who will report to you.

## TELEGRAPH CREEK AND TESLIN LAKE DETACHMENT.

One non-commissioned officer and six men and seven horses.

A non-commissioned officer and three men and four horses at Telegraph Creek.

Three constables and three horses at the head of Teslin Lake.

I am informed grass and hay can be had at these places.

The men of these posts, like the men on the Dalton Trail, should be well informed in customs work and tariff, the detachment at the head of the lake to have a good boat. It may be possible that you will find it difficult to direct the movements of these detachments owing to the irregular mail service. You had better ask Comptroller White to give them their instructions direct.

## RIVER POSTS.

Posts from Tagish to be maintained as follows:—

White Horse Rapids, three constables.

Foot of Lake Lebarge, three constables.

Junction at Hootalinqua and Lewes rivers, three constables.

Little Salmon River, three constables.

Posts to be established as early in the spring as possible:—

Foot of Marsh Lake near the McClintock River to keep up communication with the post on the Hootalinqua, 25 miles east, three constables.

Posts to be established during the summer:—

Head of Lake Lebarge, three constables.

Big Salmon River, three constables.

The swift waters of these rivers makes communication between posts very difficult, hence the necessity of having them not more than forty miles apart and not less than three men at each post, and to be used in winter as mail stations and a place of shelter for people moving between Dawson City and the coast.

## BOATS.

You will find sufficient boats at the Hootalinqua, Freeman's Point and the Little Salmon River to carry all the provisions and stores at these places to Dawson City; but pitch and oakum will have to be sent down to the foot of Lake Lebarge by horse or dog train, and from there to the Hootalinqua, Freeman's Point and the Little Salmon River by dog teams, to repair the boats and put them in order for taking the water in the spring.

Boats of not more than four tons capacity should be constructed at the foot of Lake Lebarge to carry from there not less than twenty-five or thirty thousand pounds of provisions, and be in readiness to sail at the earliest possible date to Dawson City. An effort should be made to reach there not later than the 20th of May. By this date all the provisions at Dawson City will have been consumed and the lives of the population in that district will be depending upon the early departure and safe arrival of these boats, and the boats which, I understand, are coming in with provisions on the first opening of navigation, on speculation.

The Lewes River is very low and dangerous in the spring, and men who have passed down it before should be selected to pilot the boats. There are a number at Tagish. Captain Starnes can give you their names, and he himself should be sent down in command. The same caution should be exercised in the manning

of the early spring boats from Bennett, which should leave that point immediately the lake is clear of ice, and reach Dawson within fifteen days after the arrival of the Lebarge fleet. This fleet should have not less than twenty-five or thirty thousand pounds of provisions with it. These two fleets should be in readiness not later than the 1st of May. The Lewes River was open at this point last year (Big Salmon River) on the 3rd of May. Some fifty boats reached Dawson last year on the 17th of May. We will expect your first boats not later than the 20th of May.

#### PROVISIONS.

The quantity of provisions required for the Government force in the Yukon District, estimating that it will not exceed 100 men between Bennett and Dawson from 15th July, 1898, to 15th July, 1899, will be 110,000 pounds. You will require to make requisition for this, and for 1,100 pounds for each additional man over that number.

#### LIQUOR.

I have received from the coast, from a number of people, applications for permits to import liquor into this district, some of the applications being from Canadians. They do not seem to understand that the tax must be paid on receipt of the permit, and have not inclosed funds to do this. As I shall be leaving for Dawson City in a very short time, I consider it better to depute to you the power to issue permits, and inclose herewith your authority to do so. A tax of \$2 per gallon will be paid when the permit is signed and handed over to the applicant. Please instruct your posts to notify people who are asking for permits to apply to you.

I am informed that there is a quantity of liquor at Tagish Post. Please advise me on whose permit it has been imported, the date of the permit and by whom granted. I am also informed that great quantities of liquor passed Tagish Post last summer and fall without permit. Give instructions for closer examination to be made of boats coming in this year, both at Tagish Post, White Horse Rapids and at the Hootalinqua.

#### DOGS.

You will have to arrange for a supply of dog feed next winter at safe places between Bennett and Selkirk, where fish are plentiful. I think fish can be obtained at Selkirk, Little Salmon River, Big Salmon River, foot of Lake Lebarge and Marsh Lake.

The dogs will have to summer some place outside, where food is cheap. Near the mouth of the McClintock River, on Marsh Lake, there is an island that might make a good runway for the dogs during the summer and where they could be fed very cheaply on fish.

We should not have to import or freight a pound of dog feed next winter.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

I am sending by Captain Starnes a report and marked maps of the Dalton Trail, received by me from Mr. McArthur. From this you can ascertain about where the Dalton Line Post should be placed.

Advise me when the detachment is put out on the Dalton Trail.

Please instruct that all police boats en route to Dawson City will call at the Five Finger Rapids and Stewart River posts, and ask if any mail or orders have been left for them.

Please send any mail arriving for me and your communications by dog train up to as late date as possible; after that by any possible opportunity you can, and then by the boats coming down in the spring.

Arrange to send Captain Norwood down by first mail train. I cannot await his arrival here.

The detachment at Selkirk will examine all goods coming in over the Selkirk branch of the Dalton Trail, ask to see invoices, ascertain if duty has been paid, and if not, collect it. If duty is refused they will make a seizure and report to the non-commissioned officer in charge at the Five Finger Rapids Post, who will report to the officer in command at the Line Post on the Dalton Trail, who will report to you. They will also keep a close watch for liquor, and if any is found, demand a permit to cover it. If a permit is not forthcoming, they will seize the liquor and report as aforesaid.

## SCHEDULE B.

### YUKON PROVISIONAL DISTRICT OF CANADA.

Under the powers vested in me by my commission as Chief Executive Officer of the Government of Canada in the Yukon District, North-west Territories, approved by His Excellency the Governor General on the 17th August, 1897.

For the purpose of providing a suitable Tribunal for the hearing and decision of disputes with regard to title in placer mining properties;

I hereby amend the "Regulations Governing Placer Mining in the Provisional District of the Yukon, North-west Territories (approved by Order in Council of 18th January, 1898)" by adding thereto the following sections:—

41. The Gold Commissioner and the Mining Inspectors for the District of the Yukon shall each have power to hear and determine all disputes with regard to mining property arising within the Yukon District subject to appeal by either of the parties, as follows:—

(a.) In case the appeal shall be from a decision of either of the Mining Inspectors it shall be heard by the Gold Commissioner of the Yukon District.

(b.) In case of an appeal from the decision of the Gold Commissioner it shall be heard by the Minister of the Interior of Canada.

(c.) There shall be an appeal to the Minister of the Interior not only from decisions by the Gold Commissioner on cases originally tried by him, but also on cases decided by him on appeal from decisions of either of the Mining Inspectors.

42. No particular forms of procedure shall be necessary, but the matter complained of must be properly expressed in writing and a copy of the complaint served on the opposite party not less than seven days before the hearing of the matters contained in said complaint.

43. The complaint may by leave of the Gold Commissioner, or either of the said Mining Inspectors, be amended at any time before or during proceedings in connection with the trial thereof.

44. The complainant shall at the time of filing his complaint deposit therewith a bond-fee of twenty dollars, which shall be returned to him when the complaint proves to have been well founded, but not otherwise, except for special cause and then only by direction of the Gold Commissioner or either of said Inspectors.

45. In all cases of appeal the appellant shall at the time of lodging his appeal deposit at the office of the Gold Commissioner a bond-fee of twenty dollars, which shall be returned to the said appellant if his appeal proves to have been well founded, and not otherwise, except for special cause, and then only by direction of the person hearing said appeal and rendering decision thereon.

46. The appeal must be in writing and must be filed at the office of the Gold Commissioner not more than twenty days after the decision appealed from has been communicated in writing to all the parties interested, and must state the ground upon which said decision is appealed from. Time shall not run against said appeal and the lodging thereof until said decision has been communicated in writing to all the parties interested, as aforesaid.

47. If the Gold Commissioner or either of said Inspectors decides that it is necessary to a proper decision of the matters in issue to have an investigation on the ground, or in cases of disputed boundaries or measurements to employ a Dominion surveyor to measure or survey the land in question, the expense of the inspection or re-measurement or re-survey, as the case may be, shall be borne by the litigants who shall pay into the hands of the person hearing said dispute in equal parts such sum as he may think sufficient for the case before it takes place; otherwise it shall not proceed, and the party who refuses to pay such sum shall be adjudged in default. The person hearing and deciding each such dispute shall subsequently determine in what proportion the said expense shall be borne by the parties respectively, and the surplusage, if any, shall then be returned to the parties, as he may order.

48. All bond-fees adjudged as forfeited and all payments retained under the last preceding section shall as soon as decision has been rendered, and all entry and other fees or moneys shall, as soon as they have been received under any of the foregoing sections, be paid by the recipient to the credit of the Receiver General in the same manner as other moneys received by him on account of Dominion lands.

49. For the purpose of enabling said Gold Commissioner and Mining Inspectors to properly dispose of every case brought before them under these regulations and compelling the attendance of witnesses where necessary, I hereby confer upon said Gold Commissioner and said Inspectors all the powers of a Justice of the Peace with reference to the issue of summonses requiring the attendance of witnesses, and also with reference to the issue of such warrants as may be necessary to compel the attendance of witnesses who disobey any such summonses.

Given under my hand and seal of office this 2nd day of July, 1898.

(Seal.)

(Signed) J. M. WALSH,

*Commissioner, Yukon District.*

I hereby further amend the regulations governing Placer Mining in the Provisional District of Yukon, North-west Territories (approved by Order in Council of 18th January, 1898), by adding thereto the following:—

41a. The Mining Recorder shall have power to hear and determine all disputes in regard to mining property arising within his district subject to appeal by either of the parties, to the same tribunals and in the same manner as in the case of an appeal from either of the Mining Inspectors.

(Signed) J. M. WALSH,

*Commissioner, Yukon District.*

Dated at Dawson in the Yukon District,  
13th July, 1898.



## SCHEDULE C.

### COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

Owing to the hardships incidental to the prospecting of distant streams such as the upper portion of the Stewart River and its tributaries, the Commissioner of the Yukon District has decided that the limit of four claims to each individual now in force in the Dawson District shall not apply in the Stewart River District, but that any free miner who shall stake, and do legitimate prospecting on any large tributary of the Stewart or McQuesten Rivers shall be entitled to entry for one claim on such tributary in addition to a claim on the main river.

It has been further decided by him that the Stewart River and its tributaries, together with the White River and other streams flowing into the Yukon River for a distance of sixty miles up stream from the mouth of the Stewart and down stream to the mouth of the Henderson Creek, comprise the Stewart River District.

That the Dawson District extend from the International Boundary on the north to the Henderson Creek on the south, including the Henderson and its tributaries.

That the Pelly River District extend from the Stewart River District to the Little Salmon River, including the Little Salmon and its tributaries.

That the Hootalinqua River District extend from the Little Salmon River to the northerly boundary of British Columbia.

(Signed) J. M. WALSH,  
*Commissioner, Yukon District.*

YUKON PROVISIONAL DISTRICT,  
19th July, 1898.

### COPY OF MINERS' PETITION IN COMMISSIONER WALSH'S REPORT.

Whereas, it is evident that the memorial presented by the deputation sent out last winter by the miners of the Yukon District failed to impress upon the Government the necessity of amending the regulations governing the mining industry;

And whereas, it cannot be disputed that the application of the present laws has had the effect of almost paralyzing the industry, and that a continuance of the present regulations will result in the most disastrous effect next winter,—proven by the fact that a large majority of the best claims in the district were either worked at very small profit, in many cases at a loss, and that after that experience most of the miners have decided to suspend all operations on their claims other than those necessary to hold them;

And whereas, the sentiment of the public is unanimous that an immediate change in the regulations is necessary:

It has been deemed expedient to present the following resolutions before a mass meeting of the public in the Yukon, and that their voice on the subject shall be embodied in the memorial to the Government, signed by every one interested.

1. That no timber limit be issued to any individual or company on a creek where the timber may be necessary for the use and development of mines.

2. That should a free miner lose his certificate he should be able to substitute the same at any office that may hereafter be established in the Yukon.

3. That placer creek claims be enlarged in length to 500 feet as heretofore, and that the limitation of breadth be that of a line run along the rim rock parallel to the general course of the stream and which at every point is four feet above high water mark of the stream.

4. That to Clause 15 of the Mining Law be added the words "and number of certificate."

5. That Clauses 16 and 17, referring to the alternate claims, be absolutely struck out.

6. That a discoverer or discoverers be allowed one claim as a bonus and the right of each man besides of pre-empting one full claim as heretofore.

7. That Clause 25 be modified owing to its impracticability under some circumstances and the possibility of its affording the Miners' Recorder an opportunity of defrauding original stakers.

8. That the Clauses 30 and 31, referring to royalty, be absolutely abolished on the grounds of its injustice and paralyzing effect on the industries of the country.

9. That their attention be called to the too great extent of some of the districts, notably the Stewart and White rivers.

10. That the words in Clause 37, "upon which, however, the royalty prescribed by these regulations shall be payable," be eradicated.

11. That Clause 39 be strictly enforced, preserving the rights of prospectors to enter on any claims vacant through non-representation, and that clause be inserted that a miner be permitted to abandon his claim and re-stake in same district upon giving satisfactory proof to the Gold Commissioner or Recorder that his claim is worked out or cannot be worked at a profit.

12. That a company or miner owning two or more adjacent claims be allowed to consolidate their labour on one claim for the representation of each claim required by the regulations.

13. That a memorial, embodying these resolutions, be drafted for signature by all interested, and a copy of the same be presented by deputation to Major Walsh, and another transmitted to the leader of the Opposition in Ottawa.

(Signed) JOHN F. SUGRUE,

*Chairman.*

And about 1,500 others.

"INDIAN CLIFF,"

BROCKVILLE, 20th September, 1898.

SIR,—In my report which I recently handed to you, you will notice that I call attention to the necessity of a telegraph line being constructed between Dawson City and the coast. I do not know of anything that is of more importance to the district than an improvement in the means of communication with the outside. A telegraph wire connecting Dawson City with the coast would mean that the district would be safe, to a great degree, from shortage of any articles required for the maintenance of life, or for the operation of the mines. The trouble now is that the people on the outside cannot be quickly informed of what the people on the inside require. Mail communication is so uncertain that no dependence can be placed upon orders sent by mail being promptly filled. Not only would a telegraph line serve the country in this way, but it would serve in many other ways

which would benefit the mining interests. There will always be a great many transactions involving large sums of money, and to have telegraphic communication to the coast from whence it can be carried in three or four days by steamer to Vancouver, and there wired to any part of the world, would afford a great boon to the mining interests of the district.

Again, it would be of great service to the Government. A connection of the posts from the coasts to Dawson City by wire would permit of the present police force being reduced by 100 men, and—what would be of still greater importance—the Department could be kept thoroughly and promptly informed upon all matters occurring in the district.

There is no doubt in my mind that such a telegraph line would pay good interest on capital invested, from its opening.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) J. M. WALSH.

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