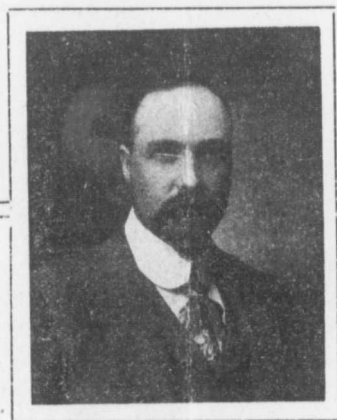


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THE YUKON ADMINISTRATION...

By....
WILLIAM CATTO,
M. A., M. B., C. M., Editor.

“ 'Tis you that say it, not I; you do the deeds,
And your unworthy deeds find me the words.”

KING ST. JOB OFFICE, OPP. P.O.



DAWSON, Y. T., 1902.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

DAWSON, YUKON TERRITORY, CANADA, }
March 31st, 1900. }

TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA:—

The following is a true account of Yukon affairs as they appear to every man in the Yukon Territory:

There is no difference of opinion, though a few interested people may give a different account. The statements speak for themselves. The inferences are those of the public, the only possible inferences.

Politics and journalism are alike contrary to my nature. But it is impossible for any British subject to stand by, idly indifferent and see the Dominion of Canada exploited, its people wronged and driven out of their country, and the British throne insulted by a number of lawyers and journalists who call themselves a Government.

The Department of the Interior is in a state of trepidation. The Minister of the Interior has gone so far astray that he is afraid to do what he knows to be right as well as expedient. He is afraid to throw the Yukon district open to prospectors and miners, though he knows that by doing so the treasury would derive more revenue from recording fees alone than from the sale of the so-called Crown Reserve.*

The Minister of the Interior has already disposed of the valuable parts of the Reserve in accordance with clause 16, "in such manner as may be decided by the Minister of the Interior." He is afraid to reverse his policy of closure because of the accusations that would follow. He would be accused of putting a temporary closure on the country to enable him to dispose of the valuable parts secretly. He would be accused of doing exactly what he has done. The sale of Crown Reserve is intended to make the people of Canada believe that he disposes of their country publicly. Well, he will be taught in time what a despicable, pitiful, ridiculous figure he presents when, on hearing from Mr. Clement that this account of his administration is going to Ottawa, he sends a hasty telegram to Dawson to say that the Crown Reserve is to be sold here at public auction on the first day of June. The "sale" will be a large business. He might have stated whether it will be in the forenoon or in the afternoon that he is to sell his half of the Yukon district. Why this telegraphic haste? Does it indicate a panic in the Department of the Interior? Why should the sale be held in Dawson? Why, if not because the property is valueless? Why not dispose of it secretly to reliable back-door friends in Ottawa?

There is a rumor that the latest arrangement is to sell the Reserve in

* Everyone who remembers the sale of the notorious Crown Reserve by Sheriff Eitbeck will say this was a true prophecy.

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the months of July and August, not on the first day of June. If that sale ever takes place it will be an extraordinary revelation and an extraordinary disappointment to the people of Canada.

There is something strange in the governmental atmosphere of Canada when the Minister of the Interior, after betraying the trust of the people, has the audacity to stand up in Parliament and ridicule criticism of his administration.

* One of the legal fraternity in Dawson who asked me to give him what I had written about the Yukon administration as an electioneering pamphlet, advised me to strike out the reference to the Alaskan boundary, as it might offend some of the people of Canada. From what I have seen I have more confidence in the people of Canada than in their lawyers and politicians. It is not the people of Canada that are afraid to contemplate the truth.

It is a sad spectacle to see a brave and loyal people maintaining the balance of their country's credit in a foreign land with their lives, while a number of lawyers and scheming politicians are destroying that balance of credit at home by their governmental trickery.

The Yukon administration is such a hideous and such a tedious affair that I have refrained from wasting time by an exposi'ion of the constitution and procedure of the Yukon Council. But the members of the Council, whatever their individual responsibility may be in a legal sense, are each and all morally responsible in so far as they have not raised a finger in our defence, but have enleagued themselves with an administration to which any loyal British subject could conscientiously offer armed resistance in the name of the British Crown.

WILLIAM CATTO.

* C. M. Woodworth.

YUKON ADMINISTRATION—I.

THE CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.

The conflict between the press of Dawson and the Yukon Administration, uninteresting in itself, gives rise to many considerations of momentous interest to the people of Canada.

Who is responsible for this conflict, which has culminated in proceedings for contempt of court against the editor of the "Gleaner?" The answer is undoubtedly that this conflict, culminating in what, under some circumstances might become a convenient refuge of official injustice, is the outcome of a chaotic administration of affairs in the Yukon which has continually provoked the just censures of the people and the press. Here it may be observed that in the case out of which those contempt proceedings have immediately arisen, namely, the prosecution of a gambler for cheating a policeman, we have the startling spectacle of an administration punishing a man that a moralist might describe as a supposed criminal of its own manufacture. The law is sometimes law; but reason is always reason, and men should remember that they present a ridiculous appearance when they try to take personal shelter and shoot at the light of open day from behind the stakes of a few legal formulae, if the whole stockade has been battered down and trampled beneath their own feet.

Who is responsible for this administration?

It is a mistake to lay the blame on everybody. It is equally a mistake to make allowance for everybody. It is bad for men to have allowance made for them. It takes away their sense of responsibility, an important guide in conduct, a specially important guide in the Yukon District where men in power appear to have lost both reason and conscience. In us who are unable to watch with the large eyes of God, allowance-making is a mere patting on of presumption. We may forgive, but we must not make allowance. We shall, however, be leniently just, and shall consider only a few broad facts, as they are known and felt by all of us. It would take an extended treatise to elaborate our argument, or even to compile a full statement of our case. In this abbreviated statement we endeavour to speak truly with the voice of the people of the Yukon District, knowing that a consensus of public opinion is more powerful for good than a royal commission or a court of justice.

On whom then rests the responsibility of this chaotic administration of affairs on the Yukon? It rests on the Government and its Agents. Overcome by a sense of official importance, and drunk with unmerited power, they have been capricious, unjust, tyrannical and foolish. Stirred only by motives that are despicable, they have carved their

country with a pitiless hand. In doing so they have cut the conduits of all precious currents, moral, political and economic, that are the life-blood of a community—currents that, allowed to run in their proper channels, would have been, in this case, a source of rejuvenation to Canada. They have killed the Yukon District. From the scene of slaughter the world at large will turn away its face. And now the question is, what hounds are going to lap the blood and devour the valuable carcass?*

Any one living for some time in Dawson finds that he is not living in a social community. There is no classification of the present inhabitants of the Yukon District. They have, however, been forcibly and roughly cut into two divisions—the Government with its various rings; and the people: the armed; and the defenseless: the oppressors; and the oppressed: the gatherers of fines and taxes; and their victims: the private dealers in monopolies and permits; and the unwilling purchasers of monopolised goods: on the one side those who sell, barter and give away not only the land, but the liberties of the Canadian people in such a manner as to raise a continual suspicion that they participate privately in the benefits they bestow; on the other side a people compelled to pay from their own hard-laboured hands the price for which their land and their liberties are bought and sold.

When we arrived here we were met with an open policy of betrayal and with capricious acts of tyranny that were an insult to humanity. The energies of the people were paralysed, partly by the natural hardships of the country, but chiefly by the defiant attitude of the Government, and by want of confidence in its agents in their administration and interpretation of law. The climate was cold. Food was dear. Many of the people were hungry and houseless. Their only convenient supply of building-logs and fuel was given away in a "concession." From exposure, fatigue, fever and want of care young men died in numbers that will never be told. They begged for justice. They were confronted with law. There was the penal wood-pile, the uniforms, the maxim guns and the bayonets. A government that had led us to expect a welcome, and from which we were entitled to receive a welcome, combined with the arctic winter to establish a reign of terror.† It recalled the old scene of the farmer's cur barking at the beggar, wherein we behold the great image of authority—a dog obeyed in office. Such was the treatment dealt us by an administration that had renounced the commercial and industrial regulations of the country, that ignored the mining laws and the criminal code of Canada, and was already discredited by a grand series of wholesale scandals in connection with the Crown Reserve, the Town-site, the Waterfront, the Toll Bridge, Dominion Creek, Dominion Benches, and by a host of individual affairs whose name is legion. If the people of the Yukon district had been the fated agents of an avenging

* How true was this again, as witness the Treadgold Octopus.

† The Yukon Field Force was here then.

Providence they would have called this Administration to a terrible reckoning.

Time went on and the Dominion Government ratified the lawless acts of its Yukon agents. It never can justify them. It cannot legalize them, except in the sense that everything supported for a time by sufficient power is legal. The Dominion Government has said to the people of the Yukon District; "We assume all responsibility for the acts of our Yukon agents. We have the maxim guns and the bayonets. You must eat the leek." That is a piece of clever, courageous and commendable policy, worthy of a government that shelters in the lee of the British flag. That is the kind of work we get from bipeds that strut in the feathers of statesmen, and cackle gaily about war with the American Republic over the Alaskan boundary at a time that would be full of imperial anxiety if that great republic were not co-operating with us to maintain a delicate balance of power with its oscillating centre of international stress moving through the Asian Hemisphere from the Pacific to the Mediterranean sea, not yet circling round the western village of Skagway.*

The feeling on the Yukon against the administration has been so strong that sober-minded men have said from time to time that it was a wonder that none of the Yukon officials had been shot. But consider the circumstances. Men become inured to all kinds of work. They have tried to obtain redress by legitimate means. And now their way of getting amends is to spy for an opportunity each to get what he calls his "graft." This means that each intends to plant himself where he may feed and grow on the sap of manipulated laws that appear to have been studiously framed for the manufacture of a corrupt Yukon officialdom to complete the main governmental ring by joining hands with the source of those laws in Ottawa. The people are not bound together by natural ties and national sentiment, the growth of time. They are a heterogeneous mob with no body of organized public opinion. And so they are at the beck of every motive, and at the mercy of every trickster. It has been argued that a sacrifice of life would bring the government to terms and secure a "square deal" between it and the people. But no sane man would take the penalty of such desperate work, merely to secure a "square deal" for the people of the Yukon district; and Canada is not the kind of country in which a crime like that would ever be regarded as one of those deeds of terrible uprightness that have been sanctified by their motives, love of country, love of liberty and justice. It is painful to have to speak of such things. But it is always better to contemplate the true position of affairs than to be lulled asleep in a dangerous oblivion.

Perhaps we appear to animadvert too strongly on the local Yukon administration. For everybody knows that, although many nefarious deals and handlings of the law have originated in Dawson, the responsi-

* Within six months of this writing the Boxer uprising occurred in China.

bility of them now rests on the Dominion Government, and more especially on the Department of the Interior, together with the far greater responsibility of the enactment of a series of iniquitous regulations, that have paralysed the development of the mining industry, and whose whole tendency suggests and clears the way to malfeasance, or to what is commonly known as "graft" and "boodle" from the Minister of the Interior all the way down to every clerk in the Gold Commissioner's office. Observe how matters stand in consequence of the various changes in the mining regulations. All fractional claims, all groups of ten alternate claims, all claims that have not been prospected and represented now fall into what is emphatically called Crown Reserve, but more appropriately known as Sifton's Reserve, since the Minister of the Interior disposes of it privately as he privately determines. Has he always been careful to dispose of this valuable reserve belonging to the people of Canada to absolutely reliable friends, deservers of their country's love? Much of this so-called Crown Reserve has already proved valuable. As time goes on the miners working on adjacent ground will give a prospective value to more and more of it. In the meantime it remains idle, costing the Minister of the Interior nothing. Thousands of men in the Yukon are unable to find employment or ground to prospect. But they dare not touch this precious reserve, which already amounts to more than nine-tenths of the gold-bearing area of the Yukon District—a territory larger than Great Britain. What do the people of Canada think of all this being in the hands of the Minister of the Interior and his estimable friends? Think of it—all this disposed of in accordance with Clause 16 of the Mining Regulations "in such manner as may be decided by the Minister of the Interior." **What common juggler ever conceived a confidence game like that?**

A variety of methods has been practised in the disposal of reserve ground known to be valuable.

METHOD NO. 1. Engineering a survey to make a full claim out of a fraction. The man who is to record the claim extends the location line into the adjoining claim to get the necessary length of 250 feet. This is done by arranging with the owner of the adjoining claim. Of course the surveyor is not supposed to know anything about it. He makes a mistake by failing to see the stakes of the adjoining claim, though one would think he would be very careful knowing that the ground had been refused record and had been reserved as a fraction. We can point to a line that was stretched from about 80 to 250 feet when a long and strong pull was put upon it. So the applicant goes to the Gold Commissioner's office with the surveyor's proof of a full claim in what had formerly been reserved as a fraction. Curiously enough this survey is received in the office without comment, and the ground is recorded for this particular applicant without further investigation. It is only respectable people that can accomplish this. On ordinary, sinful people whose faults as we shall see, are forcibly brought home to them on the

Yukon, it would sit as a burden to their conscience. The great objection to this method is that the false survey may yet bring guilt home to somebody, probably to the unfortunate man who records the ground. The false survey is an admission of weakness. So we believe this method has been given up for other methods more consistent with modern Napoleonic diplomacy.

METHOD NO. 2. Compensation to a man with an alleged grievance. The man states his grievance and gets his choice of a claim in the Crown Reserve. Of course he chooses a very valuable one, and the affair is very satisfactory to everybody concerned in the transaction. The law that safe-guards a man against official errors is more than complied with. It would be cheaper for the government, but perhaps not so satisfactory to the Minister of the Interior and his friends, to give the man a straight compensation in currency on valuation of his "grievance."

METHOD NO. 3. Hydraulic concession including what is known to be a spot of rich placer ground. Without referring to the question of Yukon hydraulic concessions in general, we may state that a concession has recently been granted to include a spot that we are told prospects about \$5.00 to the pan, being the continuation of the paystreak withdrawn from the owners of the adjoining claim by a capricious and irrational survey. Of course as in the case of other "hydraulic concessions" we expect to see that rich spot worked out as ordinary placer ground, and the concession sold to company promoters or allowed to lapse. If the owner of the concession does not know that rich spot we shall be very pleased to show it to him for a half interest in 200 feet. That would be a trifle in a concession of ten square miles, since the same man owns a valuable timber concession covering that ground. But it may be that he cannot afford to lose an inch of his ground, as he may feel obliged to entertain the Minister of the Interior in a princely manner when he visits Ottawa.

METHOD NO. 4. Letting a "lay" on a rich fraction by a "man in town." The claim is staked and surveyed and a name put on the stakes. This is a sufficient blind to the general public, who do not recognize the claim as belonging to the Sifton Reserve, and who consequently look upon it as an ordinary claim. Ask the man who is working the ground how he happens to be working a rich fraction belonging to the Crown Reserve. At first he will try to pass it off as an ordinary claim, saying that the owner's name is on the stakes. Tell him that you do not understand how anybody can be the owner of Crown Reserve land; and when he sees that you know the particularities of that piece of ground, he will say that he is working a "lay" let by a "man in town," but will decline to give the man's name, as it would be a "breach of confidence." It may be said that the man working the ground is a daring trespasser, and that all this is done without the knowledge of the Minister of the Interior and his agents. To everybody who knows the coun-

try it must be evident that all this can be done only with the knowledge, the sanction and the connivance of the agents of the Minister of the Interior, who must have given instructions to the police in charge of that locality that the claim has been disposed of "in such manner as may be decided by the Minister of the Interior."

METHOD NO. 5. Private sale in Ottawa. We have very little knowledge as to how this method is manipulated. In some cases the "purchaser" sends in his application through the Dawson branch of the Department of the Interior. In any case it is a matter of private arrangement as to who is to get the ground, and at what price, and on what conditions. In those cases in which the "purchaser" goes to Ottawa we should imagine that the Minister of the Interior would direct him to his private secretary, since he naturally would not wish his hand to appear directly in such delicate work. In whatever manner it is manipulated, a private sale cannot be honest. Whether the salesman gets a commission or a secret interest in the ground, or the familiar lawyer's fee for technical work, or nothing at all, a private sale cannot be honest to the mining public, nor to the Canadian people, nor to the Dominion Treasury.

METHOD NO. 6. Public sale in Ottawa. Of all the methods adopted for the disposal of reserve ground this method alone bears any semblance or pretension to public honesty. The people of Canada have been made to believe that their reserve ground is disposed of only in a public and straightforward manner. But it is not so. It is a matter of public notoriety in the Yukon District that most of the spots in the Sifton Reserve, actually known to be rich have been worked or are being worked now, or have been mysteriously disposed of "in such manner as may be decided by the Minister of the Interior." The whole affair of the Reserve being a mystery in which the hand of the Minister of the Interior is foolishly supposed to move unseen and indisputable, there is no end to the ways in which he and his agents dispose of it. The ways are made to suit the means and the circumstances attendant on each case. The only example of the public disposal of reserve ground has been the sale of the Dominion Creek Reserve. Since many of the original locators of that creek are still in the Yukon District, it was not possible to dispose of it privately. One would have thought that this public sale, intended to give a clean color to the whole business of the Sifton Reserve, would have been kept above all suspicion of corruption. But inclinations, long and rankly fed, have outgrown judgment. So this public sale, intended for a plant of young diplomacy, rots in a field of weeds. The claims in that Dominion Creek reserve were in the first instance illegally withheld from their locators by Walsh, who had no more power to close Dominion Creek than he had to close the Yukon District, but nevertheless ratified Fawcett's closure with his fine monarchical sweep as if he had been autocrat of Canada. The Minister of the Interior advertised those claims for sale, with the usual governmental proviso that the highest or any offer would not necessarily be accepted. This proviso, which works no injustice when we are dealing with an administration that acts in good faith, reduced

the sale to such an open farce that honest business men and miners who were not in the ring, and who knew the bold proclivities of the Department of the Interior, were well aware that it would be useless for them to make an offer. Notwithstanding this the Dawson offers were much higher than those of Ottawa. But the claims were sold to a ring in Ottawa for the price of a solitary third-rate placer claim. Will the Minister of the Interior explain to the people of Canada why he accepted those Ottawa offers and sold their ground for less than one-twentieth part of its value? As to the proviso which guards his office, will he explain why he used it in favor of a ring at Ottawa in a financial deal that would bring discredit on the name of an outside stockbroker? If his character has been formed in such a sinister mould that he could not help making use of that proviso, would it not have appeared more graceful to use it, not to the detriment, but in favor of the Yukon miners, and especially in favor of the original locators of the claims who were here on the ground to work it, and who have done and who are doing something for a country called Canada, a country to which men like the Minister of the Interior and his gang are nothing but a hindrance and a burden. Of course he did nothing wrong. He broke no laws. He broke no promises. He merely juggled with laws and regulations made by himself. He merely disposed of that reserve "in such manner as may be decided by the Minister of the Interior." He merely played a small part of his confidence game. Three hundred years ago something was said about—

"Juggling tends to be no more believed;
That palter with us in a double sense;
They keep the word of promise to our ear
And break it to our hope."

That was a prophetic reference to men who betray the trust of a people.

Although the Minister of the Interior is absolutely defenceless, he is full of excuses. He knows that on the Yukon it is a floating population, and that it may be difficult to get proof of the Dawson offers for all of those claims. He may therefore tell the people of Canada that it was necessary to refuse certain offers from Dawson to enable him to sell the claims at a higher average figure to purchasers in Ottawa, who would not buy single claims. Apart from the question of equity that excuse, offered to us by one of his leading agents in Dawson, is not the truth. To this vast Dominion of Canada it is an ornament of brilliant gems that Ottawa ring of princely financiers who scorn to traffic in single claims, with a united capital of \$18,000, the price of a solitary third-rate claim to purchase that Dominion Creek Reserve! The Minister of the Interior may tell the people of Eastern Canada that the confidence of the people here has been so destroyed by "chronic kickers" and agitators against the Government, that the sum of the Dawson offers was a mere bagatelle, less perhaps than the lordly \$18,000 of the Ottawa ring. We have heard of such an excuse. But it is not the truth, although the confidence of the people certainly has been destroyed. For the agents of the Minister of the Interior to talk about destruction of confidence is the essence of irony

on the Department of the Interior, whose Yukon administration has destroyed the whole world's confidence in the Dominion Government and in the common honesty of Canadian politicians. If the Sifton reserve is intended to fill the Dominion Treasury, the Minister of the Interior as a discredited salesman, ought to be cashiered. If it is a charity reserve to be given to Ottawa paupers, let the Minister of the Interior show us wherein those paupers have deserved their country's love, and we shall be delighted to let them have it without money or price; but let us have no more ministerial "sales" to mock the people and the treasury.

In the popular mind of the Yukon District the Minister of the Interior is already judged and justly condemned. Will the people of Canada not demand of the Department of the Interior a complete account of its Yukon Administration through a commission of independent judges? Will they not put a stop to this confidence game, by cancelling what is virtually their power of attorney over the Yukon District, vested for the present in a Minister of the Interior who is not fit to hold office under any government in Christendom? Murder is scarcely looked upon as a crime in some parts of China. It is difficult to say what is to be construed as malfeasance in Canada. But we have seen enough to justify a motion of impeachment, it such is the process in the Dominion Parliament.

The Yukon policy of the Minister of the Interior is very simple. It is simply a policy of private aggrandisement at the expense of Canada. His plan of campaign is equally simple. It consists in a temporary suspension of law to suit his convenience and the convenience of his friends. It is a plan of campaign applicable to the appropriation of every square inch of the surface and every cubic inch of the contents of a new unappropriated country. It is applicable with equal effect to the timber of Manitoba, and to the gold and timber of the Yukon. All that he has to do is to suspend the law for a short time so as to declare a closure on the country. This has the remarkable effect of converting the country into "Crown Reserve" to be disposed of "in such manner as may be decided by the Minister of the Interior." He thereupon proceeds with the disposal of it in a variety of dark ways. This Minister of the Interior reminds us of the quack doctor who used to give his patients a nostrum to induce fits, saying that although he could not cure their ordinary diseases he was "hell" on fits, and would submit them to a successful treatment by curing the fits. So it is with the Minister of the Interior. He is useless in the ordinary affairs of the country. But he converts the country into a state of Crown Reserve and he is "hell" on Crown Reserve.*

He must be a gentleman of extraordinary modesty, this Minister of the interior. He seems to suit some of the Canadian people. One would think that in these puffy times the ambitious toe of the peasant would be too near the politician's heel to let such modesty pass without a kick. But it is not so in Canada. The people there are modest too. They don't

* This was read in Parliament on the 28th and 29th of June, Twenty-six days after that is, on the 25th of July, 1900, the Crown Reserve was abolished by an Order-in-Council rescinding clause 16 of the old Mining Regulations.

kick. They prefer a suspension of law and a mysterious ministerial disposal of their country. Modest people; modest minister; pastoral simplicity; good and beautiful country. We are tired of listening to rebellious tongues talking forever about malfeasance. If we were autocrat of Canada, the idle talk of those rebellious tongues would be silenced, and this modest minister provided with his modest daily rations in a residence for life, secure and modest, with a modest six-inch window-slit, steel-barred, and a modest, solemn warder at the gate. Perhaps with the new century the moon will come a little nearer to the earth, and help this country, Canada, to pay the heavy debt of gratitude she owes to her busy politicians for their work in sending her troublesome children over the line to seek their bread and a new allegiance as fast as they are born.

In the Yukon tactics of the Minister of the Interior we see the foreshadowing of a prepared defense. When he goes before the people he will say as little as possible about the Yukon Administration. And when he is driven to speak of Yukon affairs he will make no reference to the question of malfeasance as affecting the Department of the Interior. He will probably try to withdraw attention from the Department of the Interior by talking about irregularities and mistakes in the Gold Commissioner's office in Dawson. Like one of his agents in Dawson he may even admit that it is possible that "understrappers" in the office are guilty. There are in the Gold Commissioner's office some of the finest young men to be found in any country. They are victims of a criminal administrative department, to which it would be a consolation to find associates in the Gold Commissioner's office to bear or share its burden. But no man would give evidence to put any of those young men to undergo what would be an unjust vicarious punishment to save the arch-criminal, in the Department of the Interior. Let the Dominion Government issue a pardon and secure employment to all employees in receipt of its monthly pittance. Then let the royal investigations begin; and let them begin with the Department of the Interior before an independent commission.

Politicians are sometimes cowardly creatures when they go before the people. Observe how the Minister of the Interior will try to outface his cowardice. He has the reputation of being a great "bluffer," a word which, applied to a man in a position of political trust, means that he is a great hypocrite. Putting on it may be the semblance of a confident smile, as in Winnipeg, he may pretend that he has summarized the whole position by saying that "people naturally object to pay for their government." How the people of Manitoba take remarks like that from a cabinet minister we do not know; but we, as patriotic Britons, take them as a childish insult. If he cannot sail on that tack he may put on the semblance of a noble anger and a manly vehemence to ape the tone and the language of an immaculate imperial financier. He will say that he has farmed the wealth of the Yukon District for the general weal of Can-

ada. To conceal his scandalous work he and his supporters will have a three-fold excuse, summarised in three words,—ignorance, revenue, aliénus.*

Let us examine these words and see what they mean with reference to this Yukon Administration.

"Ignorance" will be mainly the plea of his supporters. They know that his work has been criminal. But they will give him the benefit of a doubt. They will say that he was ignorant of the conditions on the Yukon, and erred in ignorance. If he was ignorant of Yukon conditions, he has made himself offensively busy with Yukon affairs. As a matter of fact, he has been kept in close touch with the Yukon through his agents. That his work is not considered by his agents to be the work of ignorance is proved by the ridiculous nickname whereby they seriously designate their proud chief. They call this despicable wretch the Napoleon of the Northwest. What has led the Canadian people to allow this ape to dress himself in the mantle of their power, to munch and caper, to stain and rend it, and hold it up to the mockery of the world?

"Revenue" will be the grand plea of this ape Napoleon. Enough revenue had to be raised from the Yukon District to pay the expenses of administration with a surplus to silence comment so as to give him a free hand in his policy of private aggrandisement. The administration of a Napoleonic policy of public robbery is always an expensive affair. Here on the Yukon the people have been kept in a state of penury and starvation by a government that has publicly and secretly stolen more than half the resources of the country and has collected from the remainder more than three times the revenue necessary for the equitable administration of a reasonable policy. Under an honest government the surplus of revenue could have been far greater than it is without inflicting any injustice on the people of the Yukon District. It is ridiculous to hear the Minister of the Interior boasting of a paltry surplus of \$600,000. Where is the rest of it?

Consider the sources of revenue. Consider the means adopted to raise revenue; and it will be seen that over and above customs and shipping dues, every industry, every commercial pursuit, every aspect, good and bad alike, of human existence, has been subjected to an exorbitant tax or fine to soothe Eastern Canada, after paying for an administration that has been nothing but a burden and a nightmare on the people.

For every miner's license there is a fee of \$10. Every man before he can work as a common labourer on another man's claim is compelled to buy that license. The number of the writer's license, issued on the 9th of November, 1899, is 68,060. Say that 70,000 licenses have been sold at \$10 each, and we have a revenue from miners' licenses of \$700,000.

For every claim recorded there is a fee of \$15. For every application for a claim there is a fee of \$15, not returnable. For every renewal of the annual grant there is a fee of \$15. The number of records, applications

* The whole defense to this day is still the same three words.

and renewals cannot be less than 80,000. At \$15 each they would give a revenue of \$1,200,000.

For every contest before the Gold Commissioner there is an initial fee of \$20.00. Is it any wonder that litigation is made inevitable? The contestant fondly dreams that this initial fee will settle the business. But it hardly begins the legal process, which generally ends by giving a half interest in the claim to a lawyer. Information fees from secret records that can be dated to prove anything, and records of bills of sale are another source of revenue. Put a small estimate on litigation, information fees, and recording of bills of sale, and the revenue from these sources cannot have been less than \$150,000.

There is a royalty of ten per cent. on the gross output of every claim above \$5,000, formerly above \$2,500. A reasonable amount of royalty collected on a reasonable basis is a legitimate source of revenue, about which no man in the Yukon District would complain. But it does not pay to work a claim with a less output than \$5,000. The result is that nearly the total output of the country is assessable in royalty. The owner of a claim pays royalty not only on his profits, but also on the wages of his men who have each paid their \$10 license to allow them to work. This royalty is collected in instances where the output of the claim is not enough to pay the wages of the men. Last year's total output was over \$15,000,000. Say that the output of the previous year was \$10,000,000 and we may safely put it that, \$1,500,000 has been, or ought to have been, collected in royalty. *

Every saloon pays a license of \$2,500. There are ten large saloons in Dawson City. Every roadhouse pays a license of \$500. Say there are fifty such roadhouses in the Yukon District. That would give \$100,000 in two years from saloons and roadhouses. Prior to the imposition of those licenses a large number of business houses of different descriptions were selling liquor. In the fall of 1898 they were fined \$200 each near the time when the government came down with its most rapacious swoop of all to fill its local treasury with a universal fine on the prostitutes and gamblers of \$50 each and "costs."

Every gambler pays \$56 per month; \$672 per annum. There are not less than one hundred professional gamblers. That gives \$134,000 in two years from gambling.

Every prostitute pays \$56 as a commencement of the business; thereafter \$10, per month; \$176 per annum. Say there are a hundred and fifty prostitutes, again a low estimate, and we have a revenue of \$26,400 from prostitution.

The customs collected at the port of Dawson last year was roughly \$400,000, one month showing \$68,000. Put the customs at the same figure for 1898 when the great stampede was on. Then add the amount collected up the river for three years and at Dawson for 1897, and we

* The collection of the royalty was left to the sweet, unsupervised discretion of Mr. Sifton's campaign hectors. So it is impossible to tell how much was actually collected in those days, or how much went to swell the Brandon campaign fund.

shall have an amount that must be over \$1,250,000. Add to that the customs collected at ports of lading and we may safely say that the Yukon District has given \$1,500,000 in customs and shipping to the Dominion Treasury.

In this context we may state that a man pays \$25 per head on horses that cost \$13.50 per head in the United States. Mr. Williams who brought in some horses for the French Exploration Company protested against the exorbitant tax. But it was hopeless. The collector of customs valued the horses at Yukon prices with the eye of an expert in horse flesh. We do not care to comment on the economics of this method of appraising dues, whereby the agent of a government, without taking any of the risks, pockets the profit of the trader's judgment and enterprise. To reason with agents of this government leads only to degeneration of brain.

Now summarise and we shall get as close an estimate of Yukon revenue as is likely to be got by any collation of official records. It certainly will not err on the side of excess.

Mining Licences 70,000 at \$10 each	\$ 700,000
Records, applications and renewals—80,000 at \$15 each	1,200,000
Litigation, information fees, etc.	150,000
Royalty	1,500,000
Customs and shipping	1,500,000
Saloons and roadhouses for two years	100,000
Gambling for two years	134,000
Prostitution for one year	26,400
Other crimes and misdemeanors	100,000

Total

\$5,410,400

There are other sources of revenue difficult to estimate. There was the great swoop of 1898. There are monopolies and permits, stumpage on wood, fishing licenses of \$50 and peddlers' licenses of \$50. A man who pays \$50 for a fishing license is arrested for selling the fish without a peddler's license. A boy was arrested recently for selling sweets without a peddler's license. A sick man unfit for hard work, was arrested recently for selling sausages without a peddler's license. Mr. Chisholm of the Aurora saloon, who had given the man the tray of sausages, has kept him since in charity. Truly the rigour of the law capriciously administered is the height of injustice. The agents of this government are zealous patriots in the matter of gathering fines and taxes. They have no idea what a blessing it would be to the Yukon District and to Canada if their zeal should happen to float down with the ice to the Behring Sea.

To the local revenue fund and the Dominion Treasury the Yukon District has contributed not less than \$6,000,000.* We think therefore that it is time for us to get a short turn of just laws administered by clean hands. We cannot help Napoleon's trifling surplus. We do not know his secrets. And we are not responsible for his parade of maxim guns and bayonets.† But we should like to ask what government on the face

* This was at the end of the year 1899. † The Yukon Field Force.

of God's earth would dare to turn those maxim guns upon us, even if we should happen to fall out with Napoleon's policy. Some of Napoleon's agents have a keen appreciation of humor. One of them says it was good exercise for the soldiers to haul the guns over the Teslin trail.

Remember that this revenue of \$6,000,000, has been wrung from a people that have had the greater part of the Yukon district closed against them in a manner that is positively impudent in its boldness. Now let the ape Napoleon give an account of his half of the Yukon District. What have his reserves and all his dark schemes contributed to the general wealth of Canada, or to the Dominion Treasury? To the Treasury something like the price of one third-rate placer claim; to the general wealth of Canada a loss that her whole breed of politicians cannot count. So much for Napoleonic finance. What do the people think of it?

Now to the last word in the Napoleonic electioneering vocabulary. One would have thought that Napoleon would have had the good taste to avoid using that word himself. We expected Napoleon to get the benefit of that word by circulating it among his supporters in a kind of confidential manner. But he talks glibly about "aliens" as the real excuse for his work. In our opinion aliens are entitled to justice in the Yukon District as well as in the Transvaal Republic. The position of aliens here is bad enough, but it is preferable to the position of Canadians. Aliens are prized here for the trade in monopolies, permits and franchises. They are prized as co-operators in various circumventions of the law. They are considered safer than Canadian subjects except in cases where an intimate acquaintance establishes a strong presumption against "breach of confidence." The electioneering use of the word "aliens" is merely an attempt to make the national prejudice of some of the Canadian people subservient to the ends of a scheming politician. If a certain class of politicians would shut their mouths it would be seen that men agree nearly as well as dogs when their masters do not tarr them on. The word "alien" will certainly shut the mouth of every British subject that has lived for two years in the Yukon District under this administration. A census was taken in Dawson to prove that about ninety per cent. of the people in the Yukon District are aliens. The inference drawn from that census is false and was intentionally falsified. The people in Dawson City are largely composed of alien proteges of the Government, namely, "sporting" men and women, operators of franchises, and privileged dealers in monopolized goods. The population was made out to be 4,480. It takes more than 4,480 people to give a revenue of \$2,000,000 per annum, even with Napoleonic methods of raising revenue. So that census gives absolutely no idea of the proportion of aliens in the real industrial population of the District, which was estimated by Col. Steele to be 20,000 with 25 per cent. Canadians. Let any conscientious statesman visit the Yukon District and he will learn the false deductions from the census. He will read like an open book the tactics of a band of schemers who are persecuting a helpless section of the Canadian people for lust of

gold, under the guise of a pretended animosity against aliens. The census was a sorry affair. We knew what it meant. There are strong indications that the Canadian people have judged Napoleon and his noble army. So it is probably not necessary to say another word about Napoleon's electioneering. But it is very interesting to hear Napoleon talking to a few simple people in Winnipeg about aliens, as if that word would justify the most scandalous administration in Christendom at a time when our Empire, spread out beneath the journey of the sun, is driving red lines from every quarter of the compass to converge on the Transvaal Republic, to fulfill the Imperial purpose of that power which works for good through evil motives and by evil means, with one of those converging lines drawn from the brave and loyal sons of Canada whose personal motive is doubtless to assert the rights of an alien population.

Dr. Rezin of Toronto, once objected to our saying that it looked as if there was not one clean-handed politician in Canada.

We made our position clear by explaining to him that we did not expect to induce a Cabinet Minister to betray his country for a five-dollar bill, without being able to give him an absolute guarantee that the "deal" would never be a future inconvenience to him. Dr. Rezin by and by told his own experience. We repeat it as an average Yukon experience. He said he had been prospecting for two years up and down the Yukon and at last with some others struck good pay on a tributary of the MacMillan River. We remarked: "Of course you and your friends recorded your claims and will work them this winter?" With a dejected look he said: "No. We intended doing so; but two men that we told of our good prospect went to Fort Selkirk some weeks before us; and when we arrived at Fort Selkirk we were told that the creek prospected by us had just been granted as a hydraulic concession by 'Special Order in council.' This was accomplished through the influence of Sir Louis Davies." We asked if it had been prospected, staked and surveyed as a hydraulic concession. He said, "No. We were the first and only party that prospected there." We replied that the "Special Order" was a very wonderful expedient for granting hydraulic concessions contrary to the mining Regulations, and asked what he was going to do about it. He said he and his friends could undoubtedly get judgment against the Dominion Government, if they only had permission to sue the Government, and the means to institute proceedings and to pursue the case. We advised him to get some lawyer in Dawson to take the case on a contingent interest, as is commonly done here. He said he had taken advice in the matter and was assured that they could win their case, but only by taking it before the Privy Council in England. We were surprised at this coup de grace. Although Dr. Rezin had previously objected to our condemnation of Canadian politicians and had said that there were not more than one or two scoundrels in the cabinet, he and his lawyer had no working belief in the general honesty of the Dominion Government. They had no hope of obtaining justice without taking their case to

London. The inference is that in Ottawa scoundrels are in the majority. It may not be so bad as that. But to Dr. Rezin and his lawyer it must appear so. They have been two years on the Yukon. So the creek prospectad by Dr. Rezin and his friends, useless for hydraulic work, but containing it may be, a hundred valuable placer claims, is doubtless now an epicycle to the governmental ring. We saw Dr. Rezin again a few days ago. He assured us that the rim rock prospects were very good indeed.

Think of such men as Dr. Rezin and his friends, men who are the making and the mainstay of a country, the men to whom this country belongs, think of them struggling hard for two years against the difficulties of this freezing climate to be struck down at last by the "Special Order" of whatever creature happens to be in office. It recalls again the old scene of the farmer's cur barking at the beggar, wherein we again behold the great image of authority—a dog obeyed in office. Dr. Rezin said; "I have been two years on the Yukon and shall now have to leave, although I hate the idea of being driven out by Sifton." Dr. Rezin says he remembers the elderly gentleman, a party follower in politics, who had just arrived in Dawson, saying that the Department of the Interior was not to be judged by its Yukon Administration. He thought the Minister of the Interior had been misguided and foolish, but was a good man because he remembered him saying that if it should ever be his fortune to represent them in parliament he hoped that he would "always feel that he could take his Bible to the House with him." We decline to submit words like that to a logical analysis. On Canadian politicians, and on the Minister of the Interior himself, they reflect a sarcasm too bitterly scandalous to repeat. There was something pleasing in the serious simplicity of that elderly gentleman. After six months' residence in Dawson is he still of the same opinion? Hypocrisy has been called the unpardonable sin. Hypocrisy is not a sin or crime; it is an attribute of life itself, which, damned already, cannot pray for pardon. It is the devil's signature and seal; it stamps a life as part of the Satanic spirit, which strikes mankind with an invisible hand, and grins defiance in the all-seeing face of heaven.

Let the people of Canada stay for a moment, and they will see a strange spectacular historical drama, or what might be called a confidence play, enacted before them on the grand stage of their own country. As the scene moves now, the leading character, disposing of the Yukon District as he decides, will soon be in a position to play the part of royal benefactor to his friends on a scale that will rival the ripest autumn of Mark Antony's gala time with Cleopatra, when kingdoms, crowns and crownets, like permits, concessions, and fractions, were dropped like plates from a pocket perennially replenished by the invincible Roman sword. This is an excellent play to commemorate the end of the nineteenth Christian century in Canada. The scene changes, and the tragedy of life is deepened and set off by a certain comical pathos. It recalls now

the case of an unfortunate inmate of the Elmhill lunatic asylum. His mind was a smoking furnace of lurid majestic dreams. He imagined himself to be sometimes the Emperor Napoleon, sometimes the Roman Antony. Day after day this puppet Antony, this dreaming lunatic, assuming a posture of ridiculous dignity, twisting with his fingers the hair of his overhanging eyebrows, would repeat his monotonous litany; "I am Marco Antonio, son of Beelzebub. I will marry Queen Victoria, and reign forty-four thousand years; and there shall be no night. All the men of war shall be put to death by the edge of the sword; but the men of peace shall die a natural death." Then would follow a monotonous prayer to Beelzebub, which was simply an adaptation of the Lord's prayer, hardly distinguishable from the genuine article. He used to go through the whole performance with the utmost gravity. To the other lunatics it was a serious affair. Among them he had a retinue of satraps and councillors, and lord-high-executioners. Such is life—a mixture of the deepest tragedy and pathos. In his lurid dreams no doubt this lunatic struck richer thrones than Antony, and lit lamps royal-shaded, and of purer fire than burned on Cleopatra's golden barge. But he never actually reigned forty-four thousand years. An accidental knock on the head, which he failed to avoid through his infirmity of deafness, restored him to a lucid state of mind. As a secondary result of this blow, he soon afterwards died.

When Mr. Morrison, M. P. for New Westminster was here last winter on a two-months' visit, he walked in a cloud of grief and indignation. He promised great things to be said and done by him in Ottawa in the way of censure and reform. Even he, so weak a man, threw off his weakness for a time. He saw while here that the state of affairs in the Yukon was too serious to be dragged into the game of party politics. He saw that it was a case for justice. He even went so far as to say that any lawyer could hold a magnificent brief against the government on its Yukon Administration. He returned to Ottawa where his weakness had gone before him. Touched by the electric influence of the Department of the Interior, the smoke of his indignation was consumed. Naked in his native weakness Mr. Morrison was himself again. When reports came back to the Yukon his most loyal friends hung their heads in shame.

So the government has gone on and still goes on with its work, and has always been the butt of public censure. The press has attacked it boldly on its general policy of betrayal, and has exposed many individual instances of wrong.

Of course the government set up a defence. There was a governmental whitewashing called a royal commission, consisting of Mr. William Ogilvie, Land Surveyor. An investigation was made into certain affairs involving specially the names of Walsh, Wade and Fawcett. They were not found guilty of malfeasance in office. If these men had been found to be presbyterian saints or Franciscan Friars it would make no difference to our attitude towards this government. If Sir Charles

Hibbert Tupper should yet prove malfeasance through an independent commission as he has said, and as we have no doubt, he can, we should not hold the government responsible for the conduct of all its creatures, unless it should be proved that a majority in the cabinet had been implicated in their guilt. Every man in the Yukon District knows that the question of malfeasance is largely a matter that awaits construction, though there is still room for much investigation.

The royal commission served its purpose admirably. It diverted the attention of the people away from public wrongs, and kept them busy trying to get an administration to condemn itself through its own agents. It was sad to see the people getting out of bed of a cold winter morning to attend a sederunt of the royal commission, to babble about certain lawyer's fees and gratuities to the men at the ten-dollar door of the Gold Commissioner's Office. The people and the press of Dawson have lost a certain amount of reputation and influence by dealing too much in affairs that, although they reflect a scandal on public men, are of a more or less private character. They have thereby to some extent played into the hand of the Government whose tactics is to divert attention from a policy for which there is no moral, political or economic defense. The discussion of Walsh, Wade, Fawcett and the door-keeper, was parrying a feint to receive a blow. You failed to prove malfeasance, as you might have expected to fail. On the other hand a lad in the Gold Commissioner's Office gets a man convicted of attempted bribery. The man is severely punished. The honour of the office is redeemed.

Meantime the people are being openly and secretly robbed of the ground, the gold, the timber, and most of the privileges promised them in the Mining Regulations, and by the agents of the Government when they were booming the country to attract an army of victims from the ends of the earth to come and develop it for them.

They may tell us that we came here subject to a change of Laws and Regulations. We did so indeed. But we expected reasonableness and good faith. The world, and Great Britain especially, expects a certain amount of stability in a government, and a certain amount of justice. The stability we find here is a change of regulations every few weeks, and every change a new form of robbery.* As for justice, do we find it here? We do indeed, and too much of it. We are drowned in justice. But it is not the kind of justice that we expected. When we speak of justice we mean plain ordinary everyday justice. We are a simple people and we want simple things. We don't want a pagan goddess in a "sacred temple." We want simple justice. What is the justice we find? It is too complex for us. It is reservation of alternate claims; reservation of fractions; reservation of unrepresented claims; secret appropriation of rich fractions; so called "sale" of reserve ground to a ring of friends in Ottawa; closure of valuable creeks and miles of rivers; so called hydraulic concessions of valuable placer ground; secret

* The only remedy is a Mining Code. See platform and address.

records that can be dated to prove anything; concessions of timber that compel the poor to go twenty miles in search of fuel or cut wood in jail; private sale of monopolies and permits; heavy taxes on what few natural products of the country are left for the prospector and miner; it is everything suspicious and suggestive of malfeasance; it is a politician's feast. It is laws that are a puzzle; litigation made compulsory; capricious interpretations; disputed surveys; records that are worthless; insecurity of title; insecurity of everything; it is paralysis and general dissolution of the insane; it is the corpse of justice alive with maggots; it is a lawyers' carnival.

Such is the justice we find in the Yukon District. And when we say that we do not want it, what is the defense, the real defense of this government? Is it the royal investigation of gratuities received by the Gold Commissioner's door-keeper at the ten-dollar door? Is it the integrity, royally discovered and governmentally asserted, of Walsh, Wade and Fawcett, and other creatures of the government? Is it the episode of the honest lad in the Gold Commissioner's Office? Not at all. It is the maxim guns and the bayonets. The whole shooting-match is law—perfect law! It is the will of the Canadian people. They have given their country, their army, and their police, into the hands of men that show what a barbaric remnant of paganism this thing called government can sometimes be. Such is parliamentary government at the end of the nineteenth Christian century in Canada. We live in a district without votes, producing a material that is useful in the purchase of votes and political support, and other necessities of life; and so the soldier, maintained to defend us against foreign levy, has his bayonet set in defiant ostentation against our interest, and against the interest of his country.* We look for a government of human stability and human feature; and we are confronted with an apparition more spectral and mysterious than the northern lights. We look for justice; and are confronted with the gloom of Demogorgon, the armed ghost of Canada, treading a masque of anarchy and terror, beneath the arctic stars.

* We still remember the Yukon Field Force, which was more like an Afghan Expedition than anything else.

YUKON ADMINISTRATION—II.

SOME ASPECTS OF THE CRIMINAL ADMINISTRATION.

"'Tis you that say it, not I; you do the deeds;
And your unworthy deeds find me the words."

So much for the present in regard to the robbery and betrayal of the industrial part of the people. Now turn and see the countenance of this Government in another aspect, namely the administration of criminal law; in which it will be seen that the ribaldry of the old reprobate Falstaff, who swore he would turn diseases to commodity and laugh at anything, is nothing to the solemn knavery of this administration.

Public gambling is a crime in Canada. Dawson City contains at least ten large gambling saloons in which the police are to be seen daily. But no attempt has been made to suppress gambling. On the contrary it has been in a manner legalized by the sanction and connivance of the police and the magistrates, who collect a monthly revenue from the tables in the shape of what they call a fine. They may call it what they please. The plain English of it is that the government runs the gambling on something better than a percentage basis, because it collects the revenue whether the house has lost or won during the month. A man from each house goes to the "sacred temple of justice," and pleads guilty for the gambling fraternity of the house, and pays \$56 per month for each of the gamblers in the house. We have heard of one house paying \$830 per month, and Mr. Marjoribanks informs us that his monthly contribution for gambling in the Horse Shoe was \$728. They wanted him to pay \$500 extra because there were girls in the house. The direct revenues for gambling in Dawson City cannot be less than we formerly stated, namely \$67,200 per annum. To meet this levy of blackmail the percentage in favor of the games has to be larger than elsewhere. So it simply comes to this, that on returning from his hard and desolate work to this atmosphere of vice, which never appears dark and vicious since the government is its brilliant photosphere, the miner is victimised to pay for the music. On the part of the government this is a first-rate arrangement for getting the money when the miners come to town. We approve of raising money on the vices of humanity. They are more abundant and more fruitful than its virtues. Like the laws of Canada, however, we do not approve of the governmental encouragement of vice.

This is not all. In each saloon there are arrangements, from which the government draws \$2,500 per annum in addition to the secret monopoly, for restoring the victimised miner to a state of physical and mental comfort, provided he has enough money left to pay for them. There is monopolised fire-water made in Dawson City and called whisky at the

rate of 50 cents and \$1 per glass. There is an invitation to an exhilarating dance; and then to the private boxes with the smile and comforting touch of perfumed ladies dressed for their work, who order monopolised effervescing drinks called champagne, for which the miner has to pay at the rate of \$30 per bottle. Complete intoxication follows, and the miner is arrested on the charge of drunkenness. The Yukon Administration, which has been robbing him indirectly throughout the whole performance, now comes forward courageously and empties his gold-sack by a fine of \$30 and costs. And this is called Government. And thus hundreds of young men who never saw the inside of a court room till they came here are decoyed to slaughter in the Dawson "temple of justice."

From time to time reports are circulated that gambling is to be suppressed. That is to remind the gamblers that they are here "on sufferance," and had better pay up and look pleasant. Of course there is a chance that this administration may put a stop to gambling so as to diminish secret sources of revenue to their successors. They are capable of any degree of cruelty. Is it possible that they will turn the gamblers adrift penniless? That would be a stroke of policy worthy of the agents of a representative government. We hear that this is to be done in the month of May. But will they not return a single tithe of the blackmail to their old friends and benefactors?

Prostitution is a crime in Canada. Dawson City contains several rows of women, perhaps a hundred and fifty, set apart by the government, publicly engaged in that trade. The police magistrates collect a revenue from the women in the shape of what they call a fine. The plain English of it is that the government runs the public women of Dawson, as a source of revenue, just as it runs the gambling. Their "medical officer of health," a Dr. Good, in the shadow of whose acquaintance Mr. Sifton stands and talks cheaply to the simple people of Winnipeg as if he had a parental interest in the public health of the Yukon District, goes round and collects a monthly fee of \$10 from each woman, and certifies that they are "healthy." They may be fairly "healthy" without being free from gonorrhoeal, chancroid and syphilitic infection. "Healthy" is a splendid word. In addition to the air of governmental recommendation and security, it carries with it a peculiar, open-arm, old-fashioned familiar whiff. It is a super-added pleasure. The "medical officer" is a genius at the work. The "legal adviser" to the Yukon council recently assured us that it is not in his capacity of "medical officer of health" that the Doctor visits those women. This from Mr. Clement is only an indication that the Yukon Administration is losing courage, and is beginning to suffer from that condition of nervous prostration most vividly described as "Katzenjammer," in consequence of its long debauch. We cannot say that it is beginning to feel ashamed of its debauch; shame is a thing unknown to this administration. We said it was a strange thing that the doctor, who had his baggage packed to leave the Yukon District when he got his appointment by letter from Mr. Clement, began to visit those

women immediately thereafter, if it is not in his capacity of "medical officer of health" that he visits them. We asked how the certificates of "healthy" come to be signed "M. H. O." after the doctor's name, and why a policeman sometimes accompanied the doctor. Mr. Clement said he did not understand it. We remarked that the women could refuse the doctor's visits, and might lodge a charge of indecent assault against him. "Well," replied Mr. Clement, "it must be remembered that those women are liable to imprisonment at any time." So it simply comes to the old story of the government manufacturing criminals, and blackmailing those unfortunate women to the tune of something like \$25,000 per annum. Is this what is meant by that far-seeing doctrine of political philosophy, "Canada for the Canadians," or rather for the agents of the Canadian Government? Can Mr. Clement, or the Comptroller, or any other agent of the Government tell us where all this money goes to? We suspect that a considerable percentage goes for expenses in some way or other. It is an expensive thing to obtain and to hold an appointment like that from the agents of a government like this.

If this traffic with the public women is not the governmental duty of the "Medical Officer," will the Yukon council tell us what other work he has done. We have a criminal water-carriage system, the result of a franchise to an American "colonel." * How did that escape the "medical officer's veto? We have had several deadly epidemics of typhoid fever. What has the "medical officer" done to ascertain the source of infection? We had an outbreak in one of the hospitals this winter. But it does not seem to be the duty of the "medical officer" to look for a local contamination of that criminal water carriage system. An electioneering census was taken. But where are the "medical officer's" vital statistics?

Perhaps we expect too much from the Yukon Council and its officers. The monthly salary for such work as we have mentioned comes whether the work is done or not; and we can hardly expect the "medical officer" to do such work as we have mentioned, since he is kept busy collecting the more substantial governmental blackmail.

The agents of the government have a peculiar panic dread of venereal disease. We have never been threatened with an epidemic of that kind. But there is no accounting for these panic fears. They come like an invisible wind that shakes the bushes. Typhoid fever is with us always. Some thousand people have been killed with it. But the Yukon council and their "medical officer" do not seem to mind that. Their minds are filled with this fantastical dread of venereal disease. Their attitude to the question of public health reminds of what Macbeth said when the idea of murder first entered his mind:—

"Present ills
Are less than horrible imaginings;
My thought, whose murder yet is but fantastical,
Shakes so my single state of man that function
Is smothered in surmise, and nothing is
But what is not."

* Col. Word's original water-carriage system, not Dan Matheson's.

We would reassure the Yukon Council and their "medical officer" that they need no longer let their manhood be shaken by the fear of this venereal visitation. Of course we do not expect them to get altogether rid of this profitable fear which brings them something like \$25,000 per annum. But without conscientious assurance of safety, we hope that function will not remain so completely "smothered in surmise" as to render them quite incapable of a useful activity in the midst of the "present ills." The "medical officer" once assured us that in his opinion the water-carriage system was all right as the pressure of water inside the leaking wooden boxes that serve as pipes would wash out any microbes that might attempt an entrance from the filth in which the boxes are laid. He is a man of unique ideas, the "medical officer of health." Would it not be a useful scheme to turn the maxim guns and the bayonets on those audacious microbes that kill men by the thousand.

The law of Canada says you must not gamble in public. The administration says you may gamble in public, but you must not cheat a policeman; and if you are a gambler by profession you must pay \$56 per month, whether you cheat or not, whether you win or lose. The law of Canada says a woman shall not engage in prostitution. The administration says she may trade in that way; and if she does, she must contribute a share of her earnings and receive the visits of the "medical officer of health" at his own terms.

All this takes place in what is supposed to be a part of Christendom—the kingdom of Christ. It is done in the name of Victoria by the Grace of God Empress, Defender of the Faith. And they call it government. Empress Defender of the Faith. Yes. But we want to know if this means Empress Defender of the Yukon Administration from 1897 to 1900?

What should we think of a press that refrained from attacking an administration like this? Is it any special wonder that the press of Dawson has suffered in character when called upon by the people to formulate their indignation against a band of anarchy? It is impossible to attack this administration and retain an academic tone. And yet Judge Dugas, in pronouncing sentence on the Editor of the Gleaner for a trifling affair connected with gambling, that was summarily adjudged to be contempt of court, goes out of his way to deliver an intimidating warning to the Press. He speaks of the Press "attacking at random whomsoever it considers to be in its way, however respectable they may be." "Respectable" is a word that derives its meaning from public opinion. The Press, being the voice of public opinion and a caterer to the public, cannot profitably attack a respectable man. The Press has attacked men from time to time and will do so again. But the Dawson Press has never attacked anything that pretends to stand on a respectable basis. One would have thought that if it was necessary for the judge to deviate, he would have taken the right-hand path to show some consideration for a sick people.

"Respectable" is an adjective that may with equal propriety be applied to the man or to the office that he holds, or to an organization of men. Now it is our unfortunate experience that many men borrow from their office a respectability which they soon lose and are never able to repay. In these cases it is the duty of the Press to save the honor of the office by discriminating between it and the borrower of its respectability. The Dawson Press has never erred in that respect, although sometimes its tone, and sometimes its timidity in the face of the threatened woodpile, has made it a bad advocate for the people. When we speak of the Dawson Press we do not include the "official organ," the Yukon Sun, whose simple hired bounden duty is to whisper "this is good" to all that appertains to this anarchy of armed malfesance, and which in its capacity of arbiter elegantiarum sees nothing to condemn in Dawson City but the pernicious habit of smoking in a Klondike restaurant, and fills its pages with official deliverances on the Transvaal war, which having all the advantage of the military editor's hidden valour joined with his technical knowledge of campaigning and international politics, demonstrate beyond a doubt that the Morning Post, London's constant patriotic adviser to increased armament, in considering the war a serious matter for England, is "making an ass of itself."

We do not admire the material nor the tone of the Dawson Press. The Yukon Administration has been so openly defiant that the Press has been driven to use weapons that should be used only in the extremity of self-defense. It is difficult to launch with success a dignified general attack on an anarchy that stands behind the governmental guns and bayonets and laughs at a few down-trodden miners wite their brothers put to sleep beneath the snow, because they cannot compel it to put its agents in jail for embezzlement and malfesance.

The Press of Dawson has therefore attacked individuals, and individual instances of wrong. If it had been guilty of criminal libel; if it had not been impenetrably clad with truth, it would have been silenced long ago by a court that takes its earliest opportunity to sentence an editor to a fine of \$1000 and costs or three months in jail, for a somewhat hasty and inept performance of a public duty in exposing some facts connected with the administration of justice in the matter of gambling.

The Press of Dawson has been indiscreet. Our cause has suffered by its indiscretions. But the indiscretions of the Press are harmless accidents compared with an administration that hangs in the air like an infectious pestilence, to industry a paralysing poison; to crime, on which it feeds, a nourishing breath.

We have said that it is the duty of the Press to discriminate between the office and the official who borrows the respectability of his office for private use. To demonstrate what is meant by this discrimination let us take a few examples.

The British Monarchy is an office of imperial respectability. But there have been monarchs that were not as monarchs respectable. One

was beheaded and his dynasty dethroned by the conquering spirit of the British people. The Constitution of Canada is highly respectable. But a particular Government or a department of a Government might be a banded cut-purse of the people and the Dominion whose work is an insult to the British Throne.

The office of Yukon Administrator was a respectable office. But a particular administrator might be a half military man of a gay disposition who might regard his administratorship as a kind of jovial dictatorship, an interlude of money-making revelry in his general career of mock-heroic soldiership.

In the office of the Crown Prosecutor there is more than gold. There is a little measure of a peculiar kind of respectability, which specially appeals to criminals and social outcasts. But a particular Crown Prosecutor might borrow this dread respectability for private ends, to silence hostile tongues; to clothe his nakedness in the Law's terror; to charm a clientele of doubtful suits; to intimidate the opposition; to overbear a weak opposing counsel; to lead a facile and a friendly court, and so divert a golden stream of justice into his pocket.

The office of Gold Commissioner is quite respectable. But a particular gold commissioner might have his moral vision warped and obscured by psalm-singing, which he might mistake for the love of God, that sweet and powerful music which arises with a brave andante from the harp of life, when the co-ordinated cords of motion, of sense, of mind, and of soul, are attuned and interwoven to a fourfold harmonious symphony. As a public servant, a weak, discordant, self-deluded man is worse than a conscious scoundrel. He is almost sure to commit malfeasance. He is liable to put his own deluded fancy above that embodiment of popular wisdom called the law. He is liable to consider a rich mining claim a suitable reward for regular attendance in the church choir. Such a man although he cannot be made to know it, is a mocker of God. He ignores a fundamental doctrine of the learned Apostle: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." God does not distribute capricious rewards for the service of every mouth and knee. He sends a natural harvest. Since the days of Job, when God spake from the storm, it has been definitely known that gold and other material things are not a natural harvest to expect from that spiritual sowing which grows to a promised everlasting flower and fruit.

The office of Minister of the Interior is respectable. But a particular Minister of the Interior, as a leader in crime, might show, as this particular minister shows indeed, a sustained criminality of character worse than a common murderer, dealing secret blows of long reach and large disaster, from a position of trust and vantage, like the notorious Jabez Balfour, M. P., the meek, church-going professional philanthropist of Liberator fame, who was dragged home to England in his fugitive disguise from Buenos Ayres by the arm of British justice; or like the little military tax-gathering Verres, who stole house, furniture, spoons and

plates, and even the images of household gods, and was burned in the public forum by the eloquent flame of Cicero's lofty impeachment, till nothing of him remained but the skelton of a name, to stand as a monument of all that is petty and mean in public robbery, and all that is cowardly cruel in official corruption.



YUKON ADMINISTRATION—III.

A TYPICAL CASE.

And now we have to do a painful duty. We have to say something about the case of Regina versus Semple for contempt of Court. If there are any who think we should leave that case alone, because of bad associations, they do not know the facts and circumstances of the case. The agents of the Government have used every means and every opportunity to throw discredit on the cause of the people. They will use the case of Semple for that purpose too. They will point to him as a type of the Government's opponents. That is the way they use their own former banqueting friends. We have no desire to defend their old friend. But the Dawson 'temple of justice,' its high priests, choristers, and janitors, play such an important part in Yukon affairs and carry on such a lively stock-exchange business, that we shall ask the reader to dwell with us for a little time in the temple so as to place Yukon affairs before his mind in their proper proportions.

We cannot defend Mr. Semple. We have no desire to defend him. But we shall always defend our threatened liberties. Semple was probably a venal journalist. If he was purchasable his price was probably not very high, probably not higher than the price of the 'official organ.' He certainly committed public offences. It is not long since he wrote an article flattering the Crown Prosecutor, Mr. Wade, and recommending him as a suitable man to fill the chair of Yukon Commissioner. That article was an insult to the people. Fortune is ironical. Her laugh is cruel, and she always laughs last. Will Semple tell us who dictated that article, and what induced him to publish it?

In considering a case like this it should be remembered that we are neither lawyers, nor magistrates, nor senators, nor judges, nor captains, nor colonels, nor anything of that kind. We are only plain people. Our

familiar friends never call us "Sir." We are weak in argument. In fact we don't know how to unlimber a field-piece, or fix a bayonet.

Though we do not approve of Semple's style in commenting on the case of the gambler arrested for cheating a policeman, we must admit that the contempt case could never have come before the Court if the magistrate, and the police had been as punctilious in the administration of law in other directions as they seem to be in cases of Contempt of Court. This makes it appear that the case of Regina versus Semple was brought up more for the purpose of putting a silence on hostile criticism of the government than for the purpose of maintaining the authority and dignity of British Law. If the case was brought up for that purpose we have a Court enleagued against us, distributing the penalties of its anger in the name of justice, and acting with a caprice that would make it offensive wherever our flag floats, a court that here on the Yukon, enleagued with this Yukon Administration, would be an intolerable obnoxious burden. The idea that this case of contempt was indeed brought up and pursued for the purpose of putting a silence on hostile criticism is borne out by certain utterances from the Bench, that indicate an attitude of unseasonable animosity against the press, which, with all its faults, has been a champion of our rights and liberties in the face of armed robbery and governmental trickery unparalleled for meanness in the history of the British Empire.

There is something to be said for Semple, the Crown Prosecutor's former friend and flatterer. The policeman has admitted in Court that he was in the habit of gambling at the public tables, and got his money returned on a previous occasion because he said the cards were marked. Now we have not heard of anything being done on the score of the policeman failing to report the cheating on that previous occasion. There are other evil-minded people in the Yukon Territory besides the Crown Prosecutor's quondam flatterer and friend. Some of them may also express the opinion that the policeman came dangerously near blackmailing. And where the contempt of court would come in we do not know. But Judge Dugas says: "What that article says against Booth and Cunningham may be false or may be true, but it is not for the Gleaner nor its editor to inquire into the facts and comment thereon before the world." To inquire into facts, to assert them, and to comment on them "before the world," even if the facts should have an ugly official appearance, is not now-a-days regarded on British soil as a great sin, although in the Yukon District it may be "found" to be a deep-dyed crime. The judge goes further with his intimidating warning: "It should be understood that the persistent intrusion of individuals who have sprung up in our midst, armed with the dangerous and sometimes treacherous weapons of the columns of a newspaper will make them amenable to the law when they abuse the liberty given to them and that such persons will not be permitted to arrogate to themselves the right to censure all and everything, and to import ideas that are not in accord with our customs and views."

We leave to the reader to judge of the purport of these words. We cannot criticise them and keep decorum. But a court that sees all the faults of the Dawson Press and is blind to the faults of the Yukon Administration is capable of "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel." The following is another English sentence from the Bench: "Every British subject has always felt himself protected by the independence of the courts of justice, and any undue interference with their administration has always been considered as an attempt to sap one of its most sacred institutions." That ought to be sufficient. For our still greater comfort we might add "securus judicat orbis terrarum." How easy it is to say the right thing. Unfortunately on the Yukon there is not a British subject that feels that he is living under a British Administration.

As the affair stands at present the Court holds \$4,000 bail from the gambler arrested for cheating and \$1,000 with costs from Mr. Semple. That the Crown Prosecutor should take a fee of \$160 from a criminal, even if the criminal has ceased to flatter, seems strange to us. But we are not lawyers. It seems that cheating at cards is almost as lucrative for the government as plain gambling. Will the government fix a monthly fine for cheating? Why not, if not for shame?

If lawyers are amenable to the Logic of Definition, the expression Contempt of Court should be a formula to indicate a definite crime, and in that formula the word "Contempt" should have a much more restricted meaning than in ordinary parlance. Now there is a serious danger to the public that covertly, or unwittingly, or by mere force or verbal association, or in any or all of these ways, combined with a natural tendency to assert his own dignity in the midst of circumstances that are not always dignified, the magistrate may construe the expression "Contempt of Court" to mean, not a definite crime, but a general want of respect for the magistrate and officers of the court. If that construction were put, and if every case of alleged contempt of court were to be regarded as a matter of internal evidence to be decided by the judge we might as well go to jail at once and have done with it if we happen to say anything that may not be pleasing to him. Fortunately that is not consistent with British usage, nor with British law, nor with the spirit of the British people, who happen after all to be their own lawmakers.

In addition to the argument of Logical Definition, there is an argument in the law itself that leads us, who are not lawyers, to believe that Contempt of Court is to be regarded as a very definite crime, namely that it is generally a matter submitted for summary judgment.

Judge Dugas seems to think that contempt of court is a something that is always self-evident to the magistrate. It is so in some cases, but it is by no means always so. If a man in court tells a judge that he does not care two straws for the law, he is guilty of Contempt of court. He has openly declared himself an enemy of the law, and it remains with the judge to sentence him to a penalty proportioned to the magnitude of the crime implied in that declaration, the magnitude of crime

and penalty being determined by circumstances. Defiant conduct and the use of such expressions as we have mentioned carry the evidence of their guilt within themselves. But some legal authorities would hold that the Crown Prosecutor's former friend should have been allowed a trial to prove that his publications did not interfere with, and were not calculated to interfere with the administration of justice. Some would even go so far as to throw the burden of proof on the accuser. Judge Dugas thinks otherwise. He reads the article and "finds" contempt. The Judge says: "He boldly affirms that he will make his investigations, assert the facts, and that 'regardless of consequences,' so that as far as intention is concerned, ignorance or good faith cannot even be pleaded." The Judge seems to think that "regardless of consequences" means in defiance of the law. From the context we are disposed to think that it was intended to mean regardless of who it might implicate, namely the policeman. It is an unfortunate expression. It is too general. It can be construed or "found" to mean in defiance of the law or in defiance of hell itself for that matter.

With regard to the penalty inflicted on the Crown Prosecutor's friend who had ceased to flatter, we have to say that in our opinion a quiet reprimand would have come with much more grace and dignity, and with much greater salutary effect than the sermon and the heavy sentence of \$1,000 and costs or three months in jail, without breathing-time allowed to get the money. At that rate a case of serious contempt would probably mean a thousand years in jail on the Yukon.

The judge says; "I find in cases of a very much less serious nature penalties ranging from £100 to £500 have often been imposed in England. Personally we have not heard of any such thing. But our experience is limited, and is confined to the last quadrant of the nineteenth Christian century. In legal precedents the date is important as well as the locality. It is always well to state whether a particular procedure was in vogue before or after the date of the Magna Charta. We can hardly see how any case could be of a less serious nature than this. But we are not lawyers. We are only plain people undergoing strange experiences.

The judge speaks severely on the importation of 'ideas that are not in accord with our customs and views.' Yukon customs and views are of less account than our old clothes. They were not cut to our measure, and they are not made in our style. They might fit a Chinaman. But we scorn to wear them, we who have been swaggering in trousers for the last 700 years.

Strange to say, in the matter of punishment the judge imports an old idea with a new label all the way from England, where the administration maintains the authority and the dignity of the law in a manner so totally at variance with Yukon customs and views that such a case as this never could have arisen there. The magnitude of a crime, especially a crime like this which is not of an elemental nature, like

murder or theft, depends largely on time, place and circumstance. Although we happen to be living under the British flag the Yukon District is not England when it comes down to a matter of particularities; and a punishment is not a marketable commodity that can be imported from a country like England and sold on the Yukon in a certain ratio of value.

The judge gives utterance to what we sometimes suspect to be a piece of delicate irony. He says: "This freedom from prosecution which the Press enjoys where private individuals are concerned incites it to attack at random whomsoever it considers to be in its way, however respectable they may be; and in the same way I suppose it is brought to believe that it can even intrude with impunity in the sacred temple of justice." We have never heard of the Press considering "respectable" people to be "in its way." The Press of Dawson has attacked certain agents of this government. If they are the "respectable" people alluded to, we assert that it seems curious that the Judge should take advantage of this case of contempt of Court, where no defense is allowed, to make a general attack on the Press and an implied general defense of those "respectable" people connected with the government, who are afraid to resort to the law of libel. Recall here the little that we have stated about this Siftonian Anarchy of armed malfesance and it will be understood what was meant when we said that men present a ridiculous appearance when they try to take personal shelter and shoot at the light of open day from behind the stakes of a few legal formulae if the whole stockade has been battered down and trampled beneath their own feet.

We are not sure as to the words "sacred temple of justice." We shall therefore play the part of the official organ and say that they are good. "Sacred temple of justice" is good. Words like that although they have no very definite enunciatory significance, carry within themselves a decided value. They are poetry. Each word is so full of beautiful associations that a true occult Buddhist, by intently contemplating any one of them, could let his mind expand into a consonance with the Universe approaching to that beatific trance of soul called Nirvana. This Nirvana, so far above our mundane struggles, is an ideal condition which certainly reconciles all differences in a higher unity. But it is a condition that does not suit us on the Yukon, because it implies what they call a "suspension of the Transformations of the Thinking Principle." Here on the Yukon we sorely need those transformations. Let a few transformations take place and see where we are. "Sacred" means holy. "Temple" is a house associated with worship. "Justice" is sometimes a heathen goddess, sometimes one of the mediæval cardinal virtues, sometimes a kind of tame revenge, sometimes, as we have seen, an abstract noun of very indefinite meaning. Is it possible that these words were meant to signify a kind of unassailable majesty that encircles and overcanopies the agents of this governmentally weaponed anarchy, called the Yukon administration? The fact of the matter is we have lived so long under this extraordinary administration that we have almost forgotten

the meaning of words and hardly know right from wrong. We are, however, led to understand that we may dance and play and beguile the time, "for a time and times and half a time;" but the Yukon Administration has reserved for us in the "sacred temple of justice" a swift mysterious destiny which may breathe on us at any time, and put a sudden halt to our dancing, and our playing, and our other sundry activities. But the day and hour of the coming of this Chimera's breath no man knoweth. We do not believe all this. And we think the good people who rely altogether on the mystery of the "sacred temple of justice" are living in a limbo of delusions from which it is our duty to deliver them by telling them that they have over-awed themselves, that each overaws himself, that they all overaw each other, that each thinks the other knows something about that pagan myth, while in reality they don't know anything about it, though it is just possible that some of them may have heard something about the more modern and humane Bluebeard and his den.



YUKON ADMINISTRATION—IV.

EPILOGUE.

We shall now endeavor to restore the reader's mind to rest in a state of health by telling a really instructive and true legend of somnambulism. If it should fall into the hands of any young Canadian who loves his country, let him commit it to memory. It contains some gentle truths of wondrous power. If he thinks of his country as the possible home of a great people, happy, enlightened and prosperous, and wonders what is the explanation of its present condition, let him observe the occupations of its members of parliament and cabinet ministers, and he will understand it all.

XANUDA.

A LEGEND OF SOMNAMBULISM.

In a Territory of the ancient Kingdom of Xanuda in the reign of Khubla Khan there was a Court where all the lawyers and magistrates were somnambulists. One of them called the Crown Prosecutor also tried to be a hypnotist. He got out of bed one morning walking in his sleep, and went all the way to the Temple of Justice with nothing on but his night gown. Some of the people were sorry to see him so thinly clad, as it was in the winter time, and they were afraid he might catch cold. Some of them laughed a little, as his manner was quite natural and serious, his face as solemn as an Indian totem-pole, and his voice quite deep and impressive. He went with his case just as if he had been awake and properly clothed. The magistrates and the other lawyers did not like to waken him. Being somnambulists themselves, they knew that it was very awkward for a somnambulist to be wakened suddenly, and that he was much happier in his sleep.

All at once a bad man in the temple, taking advantage of his condition, called him by name, and tried to interfere with the case, saying that somnambulists were not to be relied on in the administration of justice. Upon this the somnambulist suddenly awoke and saw that he had nothing on but his night-gown. At first he was ashamed. Then he grew angry, and asked the magistrate to punish the bad man for interfering with their business. The magistrate, calling the man both bad and bold, punished him very severely, and with astonishing alacrity. Then the people staggered in surprise. They saw that somnambulism might be a burden to them.

Thereupon the man in the night-gown called the crown prosecutor, tried to hypnotise the people. He looked hard at them and told them that he had never been a somnambulist, but was in reality a hypnotist. He said they had been hypnotised and had merely imagined all they had seen. Now he thought he has really a great hypnotist, and that the people by this time had been really hypnotised, and would believe him when he said: "Now, people, you can see that I am awake and properly clothed, as a lawyer should be, with a gown of legal dignity, and a hood of moral grace, and a cap in my right hand to show that I belong to the Court of Wisdom."

But the hypnotic influence did not touch the people. It only reached those that were near him, namely the other lawyers and magistrates and some of the nutes in uniform. The people were not so easy to hypnotise as he imagined. They only laughed at him. He was an object of interest and pity when he was asleep. But now that he was awake it would have made anybody laugh to see him in his night-gown making solemn faces, saying solemn words, using solemn gestures and

passes, trying to hypnotize the people. But the people merely laughed at him all the more. They called him a solemn fool; and told him to go to the great King's physician to be cured of somnambulism, and not to appear before them again without a proper gown and hood and cap.

In that very hour the great King, Khubla Kahn, returned from war with the Persians, and saw what had taken place in his absence. On going to the temple of justice he saw the end of the extraordinary scene which has just been described.

Then the King went to the Royal Palace and called his physician, and said: "Thou art a young man, Athanatos; but we have chosen thee to be our physician knowing thee to be of our own race and tribe. Thou art the son of Urania, radiant like thy mother with truth and wisdom and strength. We know thee to be our friend, and a friend to our dear people. We have been to the temple of justice where we found the lawyers and magistrates, and some of the mutes in uniform, hypnotised, and one of the lawyers, evidently a poor foolish lunatic, solemnly gesticulating before the people, with nothing on but his nightgown. Now a condition of affairs like this is calculated to interfere seriously with the administration of justice. Athanatos, canst thou cure lunacy, hypnotism, and somnambulism?"

Then said Athanatos to the great King Khubla Khan: "Surely thou knowest, O King, that I have many remedies for lunacy, hypnotism and somnambulism. These diseases are all a kind of falsehood, which can be readily eradicated from the minds of ordinary men. But the men thou speakest of have been taught from their mothers' wombs that there are three kinds of truth, mathematical, mystical and moral. Thou knowest, O King, that truth is one, and that there is but one kind of truth. But these men have been from their mothers' wombs dared into the belief that three times one is mathematically three, and mystically one; that the shortest distance between two points is mathematically a straight line, and morally a crooked line. So it comes, O King that they are somnambulists, and do not know truth when they see it. And if I were to take from their minds all that is mystically and morally false and leave only what is mathematically true, they would be worse than newborn babes. Thy servants would have to feed them like sucking doves. Therefore my advice, O King, is to remove them from the temple of justice, and put them to some calling wherein they may usefully serve the people. And if there is no calling wherein they can usefully serve the people, put them in the place called Bedlam to enjoy each other's company. In thy kingdom are many wise men. There are a few wise lawyers and magistrates and mutes. Put them in the temple of justice to maintain thy will, which is always the people's will, with dignity and power, in the loving hearts of thy people."

Then the great king arose, and took Athanatos by the hand, and said: "O wise young man, well named Athanatos! We see that thy advice is good, and just. We had thought of punishment, but thou art right. The men we speak of doubtless are the victims, not the originators of their faults, which, being diseases, mere defects of will, we shall not treat as willful faults. Fare-well."

So Athanatos departed from the presence of Khubla Khan. And the great King did as he advised.

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APPENDIX.

(From the Montreal Daily Star, October 6th, 1900.

DR. CATTO MAKES ANSWER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE STAR:

SIR—In the interest of public justice I hope you will allow me to answer some of the statements regarding me in the Dominion Parliament on the 28th of June.

First let me deal briefly with Mr. D. C. Frazer, member for Guysborough. He made a specific statement. He said: "Now, I know something about Dr. Catto. I know, for example, that he had to be protected at a public meeting, and was ejected as a man not fit even to be there. I know more than that. I know that he made statements about certain officials at Dawson, particularly Dr. Browne, and when a writ was issued for his arrest for slander, he crawled before the commissioner and begged him not to arrest him, confessing that he had lied." I do not care to be dragged into an interchange of personal recrimination with a man like Mr. D. C. Frazer, but in the public interest I hereby state publicly that he is a liar. Dr. Browne and I have always been the best of friends, and nobody was more surprised than Dr. Browne to hear of Mr. Frazer's statement. If a warrant was ever issued for my arrest I never heard of it, although I have been living within fifty yards of Commissioner Ogilvie's door for the last two years. I certainly never begged Commissioner Ogilvie or anybody else not to have me arrested. If Commissioner Ogilvie, as the context would suggest, was Mr. Frazer's informant, much as I dislike the degradation of this governmental controversy, I must, in self-defense, and in the public interest, repeat that both he and Mr. Frazer tell something else than the truth.

Now to the general tenor of the debate on the 28th of June on the maladministration in the Yukon territory. That debate proves how accurately I had gauged the temper and the character of the Dominion Government.

Mr. Sutherland, acting Minister of the Interior; Sir. Louis Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries; Mr. Patterson, Minister of Customs; Mr. Belcourt, of the law firm of Belcourt, McDougall & Smith, who advertise in Dawson that "departmental work in Ottawa is a specialty" in their practice; Mr. D. C. Frazer, whose Yukon work is too clumsy to add to his reputation—these and other pillars of the "Grand Old Dominion of

Canada," arose one by one to attack my character under the protection of a "parliamentary privilege," thinking by that means to hoodwink the people of Canada, and so to get another innings in the parliamentary game of public robbery. In the pages of Hansard I find myself described by these gentlemen in the following terms:—discreditable, disreputable, lunatic, vicious, immoral, scurrilous, infamous, vile, foul, dirty, indelicate, violent, obscene, scoundrel, scalliwag. In these fifteen parliamentary words lies the whole moral defense of those gentlemen, and of the government of Canada.

Mr. Belcourt gives a curious excuse for his conduct in the case of the Anderson concession. After reading Mr. Belcourt's remarks and knowing the country so intimately as I do, I feel sorry for the shareholders of the Anderson company. No wonder they have got no return for their money. The ground which Mr. Belcourt says required extensive machinery, and for the working of which a company was formed in London with a capital of £350,000 has been worked for two years, and is being worked now as ordinary placer ground. As placer ground it pays remarkably well, the paystreak being essentially a placer paystreak, rich, but too shallow to pay for the enormous expenditure that would be necessary to work it by hydraulic power. What is the use of talking about hydraulic "propositions" with two feet of pay beneath twenty-five feet of frozen moss and loam. Such ground is suitable only for drifting underground. Mr. Belcourt says the company has already expended \$150,000 on it. The fact remains that the ground is being worked as any individual miner would have worked it with the ordinary thawing apparatus, only not so extensively as if individual miners had been allowed to stake it. It would be interesting to know how much of the \$150,000 has gone to the firm of Belcourt, McDougall & Smith for "departmental work in Ottawa a specialty." After hearing what Mr. Belcourt had to say, anyone living in this neighborhood may readily form a correct estimate of the Anderson "deal." When Mr. Belcourt was making his excuse to parliament, he did not mention the "special order in council" that was necessary to enable the Anderson company to hold the ground by a circumvention of law; and he did not mention the nature of the departmental pilotage whereby the Anderson ground was brought before the Government by Mr. Belcourt himself as a suitable proposition to receive the stamp of the "special order." Mr. Belcourt is probably one of the many who think a government cannot commit a crime. Nevertheless in the Anderson concession, Mr. Belcourt as departmental pilot manipulated a scheme that makes the Dominion Government either a dupe or a swindler.

Departmental pilots of multitudinous craft with black flags—these are the men and the kind of men who are brave enough to attack my character in the shelter of "parliamentary privilege." What a revelation there is in the so-called speeches of such men. Mr. Belcourt as a man is too harmless to be worth a moment's consideration. It is his position as

a member of Parliament that puts him in touch with a criminal government and makes him a dangerous character.

Sir Louis Davies is quite indignant because I never preferred any charges before the tribunals established by the Government in the Yukon Territory—their law courts and their royal commissions. If Sir Louis only knew the meaning of contempt, if he knew the meaning of consistency, he would understand my position. I would as soon ask Sir Louis to lift himself in a tub, I would as soon ask a murderer to build his own scaffold and hang himself, as I would ask a government whose various departments are banded together in crime, to put its agents in jail for the crime that constitute their bond of union. Of "this man Catto," Sir Louis says, "he skulked behind the doors of his office, instead of putting charges before the royal commission." Does he mean the royal Ogilvie, or the royal Dugas commission? Sir Louis has outlived his day and generation. He is dreaming of the old game of "drawing the badger." Sir Louis may receive a shock of surprise. The badger species is almost extinct. Sir Louis is mistaken in thinking it was want of courage in the face of governmental intimidation that prevented me putting charges before their tribunals. It was nothing of the sort. It was contempt well deserved, and a well-grounded want of confidence in their tribunals and in their partisan judges. Let those honorable gentlemen, notably Mr. D. C. Frazer, come out of their kennel and repeat their statements. Then, with no desire to offend such honourable gentlemen, but merely labouring a little in the cause of truth, I shall prove them to be common liars.

Mr. Sutherland and Sir Louis Davies indulged in a good deal of mock indignation and in the cheapest kind of talk about my communication destroying the credit, and slandering the name and fair fame of the Grand Old Dominion of Canada. Sir Louis said: "Sir, I wonder if that letter went through the postoffice if it could be stopped by the Postmaster General as an obscene and scurrilous communication. The document consists of sixty type-written pages, four of which deal with the question of the disreputable people run by the government as a source of revenue in Dawson City. From the governmental point of view these four pages are harmless compared with the other fifty-six. But it would be convenient for the government to seize the document "as an obscene and scurrilous communication." That would be a simple method of preventing an exposure of the government and its pranks. Unfortunately Sir Louis and the others are implicated in the obscene and scurrilous work. Sir Louis' position is that the government of the "Grand Old Dominion of Canada" may license vice and subject it to a levy of blackmail to make it a source of revenue, but "this man Catto" must not mention it, and if he should mention it, the members of the Government, those imposing figures that sit in the cabinet with solemn faces, looking as if they could not tell a lie; if this man Catto should merely mention it, those solemn cabinet figures will howl themselves horse in a monotonous

onous chorus, uttering all sorts of lies about his character. On the score of obscenity to Sir Louis and the others my answer is. "Tis you that say it, not I; you do the deeds, and your unworthy deeds find me the words." And their deeds found me words for which I actually apologised in the original communication in the following sentences: "Is it any special wonder that the press of Dawson has suffered in character when called upon by the people to formulate their indignation against a banded anarchy? It is impossible to attack this administration and retain an academic tone." And again: "It is difficult to launch with success a dignified general attack on an anarchy that stands behind the governmental guns and bayonets and laughs at a few down-trodden miners with their brothers put to sleep beneath the snow because they cannot compel it to put its agents in jail for embezzlement and malfeasance."

Now to the question of my "destroying the credit and slandering the name and fair fame of the Grand Old Dominion of Canada." That kind of language is cheap in Ottawa. But it is hard to believe that a mere lunatic could accomplish such a mighty destruction.

Those honourable gentlemen have made a mistake. They imagine that "they" are the Grand Old Dominion of Canada. They have yet to learn that the Dominion of Canada will survive their work of suicide to which I have not even had the honor of instigating them. The document said many good things about the Dominion of Canada and its people. It attacked a government that has criminally betrayed the trust of the people. It said; "There is something strange in the governmental atmosphere of Canada, when the Minister of the Interior, after betraying the trust of the people, has the audacity to stand up in parliament and ridicule criticism of his administration. And again it said: "It is a sad spectacle to see a brave and loyal people maintaining the balance of their country's credit in a foreign land with their lives, while a number of lawyers and scheming politicians are destroying that balance of credit at home by their governmental trickery."

Sir Louis and the rest are loud in their condemnation of one who is a total stranger to them. That is because they are under the restraint of a "parliamentary privilege." It is when chained and kennelled that dogs yell loudest and are least to be regarded. Loose their chains and set them free and it will be seen how harmless they are in reality, how tame, how ready to crawl and fawn to have us flatteringly pat their empty canine heads.

The display of parliamentary eloquence in Ottawa on the 28th of June was remarkable. When honorable gentlemen boom forth such reverberating words as, "This House;" "This Parliament;" "The records of this House;" "Most scurrilous document that ever was penned," or a dramatic, "Sir, I protest;" no matter how harmless, except in the breakage of governmental machinery, and how empty headed they may know themselves to be at bottom, they must feel that to their equally harmless colleagues they present a figure of portentous significance.

WILLIAM CATTO.

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Letter showing the position taken by Dr. Catto during the Treadgold agitation. It will be observed that the resolution at the end of this letter is now a plank in his platform. His position is always logical and consistent.

GRAHAM CAMPBELL, EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE YUKON SUN:

SIR—Knowing that you publish your paper for public instruction, I hope you will allow me some space to say a few things that are of utmost importance in regard to the agitation against the Treadgold concession, and particularly in regard to the opportunity thereby presented to us to diminish the power of the Ottawa government over the Yukon Territory, and proportionately to increase the power of the local Yukon Council.

Nothing of importance in matters of government has ever been, or can be, accomplished by the short-lived flame of a candle that "melts in its own fire." We have had our agitation. The flame is extinguished. The candle is consumed. The smoke, in the shape of delegates, is vanishing beyond the horizon. When it reaches Ottawa, it may obscure, and may actually smother some clauses in the Treadgold grant. If it should accomplish this, or if it should completely obliterate the Treadgold concession, what after all has it accomplished? We are still at the mercy of Ottawa orders-in-council. We do not know how many other Yukon concessions are at this moment passing smoothly through the Ottawa government under the guidance of those skilled pilots whose business is "departmental work in Ottawa a specialty." An attempt has been made to show that there is little to fear from the Treadgold concession because certain clauses can be shown to be invalid by some sort of legal process. But when the lawyer who assails the validity of a clause grounds his argument on what he says he "does not believe was the intention with which the order was passed," he knows that his plea is futile, because he knows that every court of justice in the Dominion of Canada is bound to read the order as it was intended to be read by the Government that issued the order.

An attempt has also been made to show that the Treadgold orders-in-council can be annulled on the ground that they were issued in consequence of false and fraudulent representations. It is easy to think this; easy to say it; but hard to do it. To accomplish this it is necessary to convince the Government against its will—a rock on which the legal craft will generally split. The Anderson concession on Hunker was obtained by false and fraudulent representations. But the Anderson concession is there yet. And so it is with most of the concessions in the Yukon Territory. And supposing the Treadgold title is defective, the Ottawa Government can pass a "special order-in-council," as it did in the case of the Anderson concession, to mitigate the rigor of the bargain and make the title good. What remedy have we against this state of affairs? Let me show how the present opportunity could be used to furnish a useful remedy. A mass meeting properly called is a recognized part of our governmental machine. At the meeting in the A. B. Hall, on Monday night, I expected certain motions to deal specifically with the Treadgold grant, one to ask for an abrogation of the grant, and another to propose a substitute. But I expected much more than that. I expected the business to proceed to a logical conclusion without which we are always in the same ridiculous position of "locking the stable door after the horse has been stolen." It was for the purpose of getting out of this ridiculous position that I introduced the following resolution which ought not to be submerged, since it was passed and properly launched from a mass meeting and is on its way to Ottawa through the proper channel:

"Whereas, Many concessions and monopolies of various kinds,

detrimental to the Yukon Territory and to the Dominion of Canada, have been granted within this territory by the Dominion Government; and

"Whereas, Public works on a large scale for the carrying of water, and for the generating and distribution of motor and other energies, will be necessary for the full development and efficient working of large tracts of mining land in the Klondike and Indian River districts; and

"Whereas, The recent Treadgold orders-in-council, which strike a disastrous blow to the Yukon Territory and injure the whole Dominion of Canada, are of greater import than any other matter of government within this Territory; and

"Whereas, Those Treadgold orders-in-council were issued without the knowledge and independent of the advice of the Yukon Council, notwithstanding that the Yukon council is an advisory council to the Dominion government;

"Therefore in the interest of the peace, contentment, good government, and public wealth of the Dominion of Canada, be it resolved by the people of the Yukon Territory, in mass meeting assembled, that all questions of public works, franchises, concessions, special grants, and monopolies, be submitted to the open meetings of the Yukon Council, and receive the recommendation of said council before they are acted upon by the Dominion Government; and be it further

"Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Dominion Government through the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory."

Yours, Etc.,

FEBRUARY, 1902.

WILLIAM CATTO.

READ CAREFULLY.

ORDERS-IN-COUNCIL RELATING TO THE YUKON FOR THE YEAR 1900.

1. March 27th, 1900.—An order-in-council to establish an Indian Reserve of 160 acres at Moosehide.

2. April 3rd, 1900.—An order-in-council establishing Quartz Regulations to apply to Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, Ungava, Keewatin, Mackenzie and Franklin.

3. An order-in-council reserving water rights for the Crown.

The above three orders-in-council are all that were issued relating to this territory until after the Yukon question was brought before Parliament in Dr. Catto's communication. Observe the sudden change in the character of the orders-in-council after the Yukon debate brought on by Dr. Catto on the 28th and 29th of June, 1900.

4. July 24th, 1900.—Order-in-council to ratify the disposal of the Dominion Creek Reserve, and giving 250 feet to applicants who staked prior to November 15th, 1897.

July 16th, 1900.—His Excellency by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada is pleased to order that clause 16 of the Regulations governing placer mining in the Yukon Territory established by order-in-council dated 18th January, 1898, which provides that every alternate ten claims shall be reserved for the government, shall be, and the same is hereby rescinded.

6. August 25th, 1900.—Whereas applications have been made to the Department of the Interior for leases for hydraulic mining of tracts of land including claims which have been staked out by placer miners, and while the Gold Commissioner had reason to believe that the unoccupied portion of the tracts applied for was not suitable to be worked under the regulations governing placer mining, the fact of profitable claims being discovered in the immediate vicinity would indicate that there was a

reasonable probability of discovering gold in paying quantities on other portions of the tract applied for.

Therefore, His Excellency is pleased by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada to amend the order-in-council of March 2nd, 1900 (think of it, amended after being in existence only five months), so as to provide that no application for hydraulic mining purposes shall be entertained for any tract which includes within its boundaries any placer, quartz, or other mining claim, or in the immediate vicinity of which placer, quartz, or other mining claims have been discovered and are being profitably operated, and the Gold Commissioner shall be required to furnish a certificate that the location applied for does not contain any such placer, quartz, or other mining claim.

And whereas, Section 2 of the Hydraulic Mining Regulations established by order-in-council of 3rd of December, 1898, provides that each alternate claim shall be reserved until otherwise decided by the Minister of the Interior, and this provision has not proved to be satisfactory, and is to some extent an injustice to the legitimate prospector (strange language for an order-in-council: something like Joe Clarke's convention platform), therefore His Excellency is pleased to order that Section 2 shall be, and the same is hereby rescinded.

7. Order instructing the Gold Commissioner to post in a conspicuous place in his office all amendments or new regulations within twenty-four hours after receiving the same with a certificate setting out the date upon which they will have force and effect in the Territory.

8. September 4th, 1900.—Whereas, paragraph 6, of an Order in Council of October 7th, 1899, provides that no mining claim forfeited for whatever cause, shall be relocated, but every such claim shall revert to the crown to be disposed of as the Minister of the Interior may direct, and whereas it appears that this provision has not proved the effectual protection to the bona fide miner that it was intended to secure, (strange language for an order in council. Again like Joe Clarke's convention platform. It adds insult to injury) and that the reversion to the Crown of mining claims forfeited for any cause is not likely to promote the future development of the Territory.

Therefore his Excellency, by and with the advice of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada is pleased to order that the order in council of 7th October, 1899, above referred to shall be, and the same is hereby rescinded.

9. September 4th, 1900.—On memorandum from the Minister of the Interior the order in council of September 5th, 1899 reserving hill and bench claims on Bonanza and Eldorado was dealt with as follows: "The Minister is of the opinion that the time has now come (Indeed! what made the time come?) for throwing open to entry the claims to which reference is made in the above mentioned order in council. The Minister therefore recommends that the order in council of September 5th, 1899, above referred to, be not acted upon hereafter."

The above six orders in council all issued within about two months after the Yukon debate precipitated by Dr. Catto, are the only substantial reforms that have yet come to the Yukon Territory. They came in double quick time. And yet they will say an opponent of the Government cannot secure reforms.

GRAHAM CAMPBELL, EDITOR.

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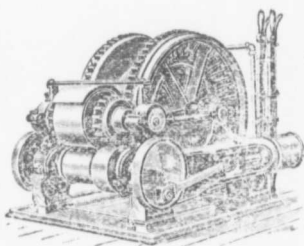
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