

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

DAWSON, Y. T., SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1899

PRICE 25 CENTS

VOL. 2 No 4

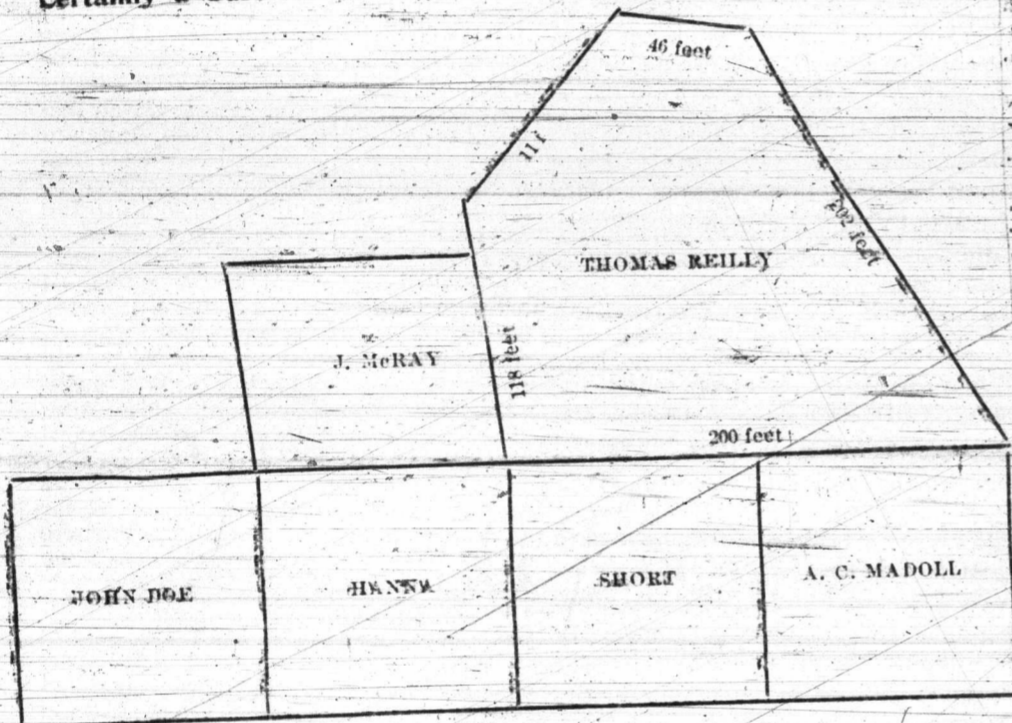
A CELEBRATED CASE

Mr. Reilly's "Fraction" Becomes More Interesting.

SHOWS HOW CAREFULLY THE NUGGET GATHERS INFORMATION

Who Stood in With the Matter in the Gold Commissioner's Office.

Mr. Reilly Needn't Feel Aggrieved at the Publication Even if he Loses his Claim—For Some One Must Have "Stood in" on the Proposition—Certainly a Case for Hon. Ogilvie's Inquisition.



The diagram above is an interesting story. The disclosures of the Nugget, in its regular issue of Wednesday and Extra Edition of Thursday last were simply startling in their effect upon the public. Mr. Reilly's case, became, as in the dramatized "Clemeneau Case," celebrated. The facts given shows how carefully the Nugget gathers its information, and, having once satisfied itself that what it has set out is incontrovertible facts, it has nothing to retract, consequently the word "allege" is blotted from its vocabulary.

The following letter upon the subject of Mr. Reilly, a government employe, recording a "fraction" is a mighty interesting reading, and although the writer states he "writes this not for publication," nevertheless it is a matter of most important public moment, and the Nugget feels it violates no professional courtesy in using it.

SPRINKER HILL, JANUARY 11, 1899.
ALLEN BROS., PROPRIETORS KLONDIKE NUGGET.
Gentlemen:—I see in your paper, just at hand, of this date, an account of one Thomas Reilly, recording a fraction on Gold Hill. This piece of ground, I had reason to believe, was vacant, and had an acquaintance of mine in October, and, who was on very friendly terms with Mr. Reilly, had access to the "side door" and the records, as well, call on Mr. Fawcett, and see if the ground was vacant. Mr. Fawcett looked the matter up personally and informed my agent that the ground had long since been recorded by one Bush and it was so reported to me. Nor believing one word so reported, I came to watch the ground and a well developed man, and my partner or myself, saw the ground from once to twice each day, expecting some one from the "inside" to stake the ground, and thereby prove that it was not recorded, and as soon as it was taken by a "ring" man we intended to stake and attempt to record, and we hoped, in face of the two applications that we had, to be acted on until the new commissioner would be installed and then we hoped for an open chance. My partner was on the ground when a surveyor and another man came and surveyed the ground, and as soon as the surveyor was gone he found that Thomas Reilly had located, writing his notices on some old stakes that were on the ground. I located the next morning and sent a friend to the recorder's office to see if Reilly had recorded, and if not to see if we could get a hearing before he was allowed to record. We were told that Reilly had not recorded, that no vacant ground was to be found at this or any other place on Gold Hill. We insisted that this was vacant, and were finally told that if the ground was there to find it and we could record it, that they could not tell anything about it from their books. We hired a man and put him at work and had him for several days, and I got a plat of the ground, and several adjoining claims with number of record and number of license. While we were working on the matter, the claim was recorded for Reilly. We suspect

ed that all was not right and I got another man to go and ask if the ground was recorded and answered him at once that the ground had been recorded for a clerk in some of the departments, his name being Reilly. I send you a plat of the ground. There have been other fractions recorded on Gold Hill about the same time. I think one by T. J. Hardy. I am not sure of the name but can get it for you, if you desire. I write this not for publication but these may be facts that you did not know of. (Signed) W. K. HEISKELL.

P.S.—The claim marked John Doe was vacant and was staked by my partner but we could get no information on the subject, only that it was recorded, but was recorded for some one about the time of the Reilly record.

The above letter is simply confirmatory of the Nugget's story of Reilly's recording this "fraction" and a pretty good sized "fraction" it is. It will be noted too that the dimensions given in the plat above are somewhat larger than the plat on file in "Clark" Hurdman's bench claim window, and through which agency, public window as it is, in a public office, the Nugget was unable to obtain anything save insolence from a grouchy, ill-natured, ill-mannered misfit "clerk". The tip given this paper that Hurdman is to be given "leave" of absence indefinitely, should be granted at once. But we may not be through with our genial friend Hurdman yet, as he may ultimately discover.

When Mr. Ogilvie arrived to assume the duties of Yukon commissioner, this paper believing that so dirty a house as that into which he was moving could not be cleaned up in a moment, and that he should have fair trial and treatment, sat silent but watchful of events. The records of the gold commissioner's office were to be open to the public January 1, but Mr. Ogilvie will see that the rotten condition of affairs in that abused office require the most drastic remedies.

And still there is more to come. The letter above shows also that gradually the quaking fear of officials and power is wearing off in the people's minds. Slowly but surely they are daring to peep out and ask questions, and tell what they know. Single handed and alone this paper has made the fight fearlessly against just

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such cases as the above, and "give us something specific" has been the cry, which issue after issue has been a succession of specific matters. What is the matter with the Reilly case in regard to "specific"? And how about the Hardy case? And by the way who is Hardy? There is more to come let the people not forget. And now the Nugget respectfully addresses itself to Hon. William Ogilvie, Yukon commissioner:

AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. OGILVIE.
HONORABLE WILLIAM OGILVIE,
Yukon Commissioner.

Honorable Sir: We understand that you have been empowered to thoroughly investigate any charges of crookedness and corruption in any of the offices, or upon the part of any employe of the government, and that, to more thoroughly ascertain the true condition of affairs in any particular case brought to your attention for a hearing, you have been vested with extraordinary powers, in that, no witness appearing before you and giving testimony, is to be held liable, even should the testimony given by such witness incriminate himself. The Nugget has furnished you with the case of Thomas Reilly, a clerk in the office of the Inspector of Mines William Madden and located at Grand Forks, and the Gold Commissioner's office for recording on December 10, 1898, in violation of instructions from the Minister of the Interior received by you on July 22, 1898, a fractional claim on Gold Hill in the Klondike Division of the Yukon Territory. We submit to you also a list of witnesses who should be called before you, honorable sir, and be examined as to what they know concerning it. Hon. Thomas Fawcett, William Madden, E. D. Bolton, W. H. Heiskell, Mr. Hanna, A. C. Madoll, Thomas Reilly, A. F. Hurdman, D. W. Semple, Geo. L. Barwell, Mr. Short, J. McRay, the neighbors to this property on Gold Hill, and particularly the parties alluded to in Mr. Heiskell's letter, his partner and especially the "friend" spoken of as Mr. Fawcett's friend. Those having unclean skirts in this affair need have nothing to fear any more than those who are clean and above reproach and we believe, honorable sir, that you will go to the bottom of it for the true facts. Then there is the case of T. W. Hardy, published in the last issue of this paper—the extra of Thursday—and the investigation of these two changes along these lines will reveal to you much more of knowledge already in possession of this journal, as will be noted in the next issue. You, honorable sir, in such investigation and every honorable endeavor to clean up the dark atmosphere of such ways shall have the heartiest support of this journal, that the rightful owners of ground shall no longer be defrauded of their rights, and rich territory held in abeyance until friends may be advised of it from the "inside."

LOCAL BREVITIES.

There are seven Americans employed in the government offices in Dawson and five of them are ladies.

The Red Men, a purely American order, will meet at Fraternity hall, for the purpose of organizing. The meeting will take place Sunday evening at 7:30.

The Salvation Army is doing some very good and unostentatious work with their sister. Some seventy meals were served last week and the work is growing by reason of the accepting of convalescent surgery patients recommended by the relief committee.

The gross receipts given by the minstrels for the benefit of St. Mary's hospital were about \$100. The expenses were \$50, leaving a net balance in favor of the hospital of close to \$50. These figures are approximate but show as a few remaining small accounts and receipts remain unsettled.

The Fleming brothers, came in last summer with cattle and have just arrived in Dawson. They came over the Reilly route with their stock and had boated down as far as Hootalluta when the freeze-up occurred and blocked the river. The beaves were slaughtered and frozen and there the beef is yet, perfectly safe until the thaw.

There will be a general mail leave here for the outside on Sunday morning and the relay system it is expected the good time will be made to the south by the continued cold of the last few weeks is likely to have frozen up the lakes and upper rivers to the point of easy passage, while the absence of severe cold will make continuous travelling an easy possibility.

A large number of applications are being made at the office of the Yukon commissioner for concessions of various kinds which applications are accompanied in numerous instances by expensive maps. By a curious delicacy all have refrained from marking the maps with their names or a description of the property they are applying for. As they are unattached they easily mix-up with the other hundred and one applications. Put your names on your bed-rock flume maps, gentlemen.

The population of Dawson today would make a hard guess to those who know that by actual count last summer we had 16,000 people here. The police estimate the present population at between 5,000 and 6,000 people, a falling off of nearly two-thirds. However, while the city has suffered by the exodus, the creeks are teeming with people, counted and estimated also by the police to the extent of about 15,000 souls. The conclusion of the spring wash-up will again depopulate the creeks and populate the city and once more our narrow sidewalks will prove inadequate to our numbers.

The last social session of the Dawson club was well attended and a most interesting program furnished by the amateurs: A very popular number was the performance on the ordinary "mouth organ" or harmonica by Mr. H. S. Stewart. His imitation of the bag pipes called out loud and well deserved applause. Pat Rooney and J. K. Smith boxed three interesting rounds and then Dr. McBoogal and J. K. Smith took the floor for three friendly rounds. By one of those unforseeable yet unavoidable mishaps in athletics, a chance blow at an inopportune moment landed on the doctor's jaw and caused a fracture which necessitates the use of soft foods for a few days.

TO GO BEFORE PARLIAMENT.

With a Personal Presentation of the Demands of the Miners.

Necessity of a Personal Appeal Most Apparent—The Extra Edition of the "Nugget" Indicates the Way Things Are Being Run.

It does not require a man with the strongest of eyes to see the manner in which things are being done in this territory, of how favorites and employes of the government are enabled to procure claims and advantages not accorded to others. The Nugget has shown, in its last two issues just a few of the instances and knowledge of such affairs it has in its possession sufficient to carry consternation into the ranks of efficiency, and wonder where the lightning will strike next. But the serious points in public affairs, the moment of importance to every miner in the Yukon Territory is at hand, and earnest, hard and energetic work must now be done, and carried out undiminishedly. All the petitions in the world at so great a distance from governmental headquarters accomplish but little. The disclosures of the Nugget have attracted the eyes of the whole world toward the Klondike and its misrule, misfit laws and misfit administration. Therefore, to Ottawa direct is the only method of reaching a solution properly of the question. The Nugget will send a representative equipped with all the power it has been quietly but most effectively gathering on the outside, through Canadian officials and lawmakers and the potent influences of the most influential journals, from the Pacific to the Atlantic. With most formidable evidence obtained here supplementing the above, it is not doubted that the desires of the people of this community will not only receive a respectful hearing but that the end will wholly if not in its entirety be granted.

It is almost unnecessary to explain to the men of business and upon the creeks that such an expedition requires the expenditure of a large sum of money at the legislative doors. Every business man and miner is interested in it personally. The demands to be presented have been fully set forth in these columns. Will the miners now help the Nugget to help them? It will not require much from each, but a little from all will create a great deal, and the work will be more effectively done. Already strong encouragement is being given and ready support coming into this office, showing that the men upon the creeks and business men fully appreciate the work of the Nugget in its efforts on their behalf. It has had a single-handed fight to carry on, meeting with opposition every where, but without a faltering step, despite influences and threats of punishment, the exposures of rottenness and mismanagement have come fearlessly, relentlessly and mercilessly. Now is the time to do the work.

The New Officials.

Mr. F. K. Gosselin, the newly arrived crown's timber and land's agent, was for fourteen years a notary in Quebec. The legal position of a notary, as existing in France and the French portions of Canada need an extended definition to the American mind. A notary, as understood in Quebec, is very like our solicitors, as he takes all cases for the surrogate court and before being admitted to practice undergoes an examination as to his knowledge of law. Mr. Gosselin is of French extraction and is well acquainted with many of the French Canadians now in Dawson.

Mr. W. H. P. Clement, who came in with Mr. Gosselin, is a member of the Yukon Council and legal adviser to that body and to the governor. He is a lawyer of 19 years' practice in Toronto and is peculiarly fitted for his position of adviser to the Council and governor from having made a particular study of constitutional law, as is evidenced by a work on that subject which bears his name on the title page and which is being largely used in Canadian law schools as a text-book.

Mr. Clement is an interesting and a fluent speaker. He assumes his new duties at once and will open up a law office in the very near future. The two gentlemen travelled with the gold commissioner's party to the foot of Lebarge when the freeze-up commenced to make further progress more dangerous than was expected of them to chance. After 14 days the journey was continued in perfect safety and by easy stages to Dawson. The two gentlemen are temporarily putting up at the Fairview hotel.

POLICE COURT ITEMS.

H. Williamson contributed \$50 and costs which it is believed will create an inordinate desire for manual labor.

W. J. Burnett took a little for his stomach's sake; took more to keep it company; took more on his own account and dug up \$20 and costs.

J. McCrac was partial to "Scotch." wrestled with the enemy and was vanquished. \$20 and costs is expected to even up the match in future conflicts.

M. G. Harris is like the lily: he toiled not, neither did he spin, yet Solomon in all his glory didn't wear tailor-made clothes, \$50 and costs was believed to be the correct thing.

William Roy was possessed of a burning desire to enjoy the fruits of labor in the possession of more industrious citizens. After 10 days on that cold, cold wood pile his desire will probably be much lessened.

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The Klondike Nugget

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ISSUED SEMI-WEEKLY
On Wednesday and Saturday

E. C. ALLEN, Manager
Geo. M. ALLEN, Editor
A. F. GEORGE, City Editor

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1899

NOTICE.

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

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

HOI FOR OTTAWA.

The Nugget emissary to Ottawa will work for:

1. The abolition of the royalty.
2. No reservation of alternate blocks of 10 claims.
3. No government employe, attache or official to be permitted to take up, buy or own mines or mining ground.
4. Definite surface boundaries with each claim, marked by at least four corner stakes.
5. Uniform size of claims.
6. The substitution of a set of regulations for those at present in force, the new laws to be clear-cut and not capable of half a dozen varying interpretations as in the past.
7. The restoration of mining rights to any free miner who shall demonstrate his abandonment of his last ground taken up.
8. Government trails.
9. No monopolies of any kind.
10. Security of possession without recording for any length of time to any miner who is actually upon and prospecting a piece of ground.

The foregoing are some of the many proposed regulations which have been endorsed by the miners on the creeks and which are the outcome of the actual necessities of the district.

Our neatly, type-written petitions, humbly worded, and praying to this, that or the other gracious personage to drop us a few crumbs of legislative relief have reached an ignominious fate in the waste paper basket. Only a live and determined man, present in person and with the prestige of the support of the district can enforce a consideration of our wants. With all due modesty we would like to suggest that for six months past the Nugget has occupied a very considerable share of the space of the press of Canada. Without such design upon our part this paper has furnished the opposition with the greater part of its material with which to fight the government. From scouting us, the government has now directed us to put them upon our subscription list at the regular rates; they evidently desire to be in possession of our facts at first hand. We mention these things, not in a spirit of braggadocio, but simply to lend force to our assertion that the Nugget will receive a hearing in Ottawa and will penetrate readily to the mighty presence of the very men from whom must emanate any and all relief wanted on the Klondike. Klondike mismanagement is the weakest spot in the armor of the Liberal party of Canada, and who is more capable of penetrating that unprotected and vital point than this paper which for seven months has collected and filed away what would amount to volumes if written out in detail. All this merely in the way of demonstrating what the Nugget feels absolutely positive—that the representative or representatives of this paper at Ottawa will be the right men at the right place at exactly the right time. Now then, gentlemen of the Klondike, it is optional with you whether or not you aid us in the task we have set our-

selves. You can help bring about the great reforms mentioned above and which will immediately accrue to the benefit of this entire section. Without these reforms this section is destined to languish and drag. Personally we have no more interest in the financial results of these reform measures than any one of you. It is simply in line with the policy we have mapped out for ourselves from the first, and you are invited, each and every one, to lend a helping hand that our work will be the more effective. To sum up in a very few words: Without personal representation at Ottawa you will get nothing; there is no one so well fitted to enforce a hearing and secure the necessary legislative concessions as this paper; you are simply asked to help yourselves by aiding our representative to properly represent the Klondike at Ottawa; whether you contribute or not we shall do what we can.

LET THE SOLDIERS CARRY MAIL.

The eyes of the thousands of men now in Dawson and on the creeks have been turned for months toward the postoffice in the vain hope that the long expected mail sacks would arrive. It is little less than cruelty that we should thus be shut off from all communication with the outside. What this means, only the man or woman who has been waiting in anxious solicitude for news from loved ones separated by hundreds of miles of an icy barrier can appreciate.

In addition to this unpleasant feature of the situation, great pecuniary loss has resulted to many people by reason of the non-arrival of expected remittances. Undoubtedly both the United States and Canadian governments must share in the responsibility. The fact that contracts for carrying the mail were let to parties who proved themselves irresponsible and unable to carry out their agreements does not in any degree lessen that responsibility.

But moralizing upon the failures of governments to fulfill their obligations to the people will not help the situation in the least. The question now at issue is simply this, are we going to have any mail this winter and if so, when and through what means?

The Nugget is informed that the N. W. M. P. are under instructions to forward mail whenever the opportunity for doing so presents itself, but if any systematic arrangements for giving a mail service in any degree commensurate with the requirements of the people are contemplated or in effect we have thus far no knowledge thereof.

It occurs to us that here is a splendid opportunity for the military now stationed in this territory to be employed in a most useful capacity. In as much as there have been no riots to quell nor Indian outbreaks to subdue, the activities of our soldiery have thus far been confined largely to garrison duty. Why not employ the soldiers in bringing in mail? Without doubt there are tons of mail at Skaguay and Iyca laden with messages of hope and good cheer to the inhabitants of the Klondike and only waiting transportation through to Dawson to gladden the hearts of thousands. An emergency case now confronts us and heroic measures only will bring relief. That this country should be so long cut off from mail communication with the outside world is nothing short of criminal. The soldiers are here, unnecessarily so we believe, but if anything could possibly justify their presence, it would be the fact that they were employed for the purpose we suggest.

THOSE FRACTIONS.

Mr. Ogilvie has within the past week or ten days received a special commission to investigate the alleged crookedness in public places at Dawson. It does not speak much for energetic investigation when the NUGGET's account of Mr. Reilly's acquirement of a fractional claim was the first intimation Mr. Ogilvie had that fractions were being recorded by favorites. Probably it would have been regarded as more courteous on our part had we simply taken affidavits, avoided publicity, and allowed corrupt officials to take an ex-

tended leave of absence without pay. To this we reply that we believe our own way to be much more effective. Instead of secret affidavits taken in hushed tones in secret places, and securely sealed from prying eyes in government envelopes, we publish our facts under staring headlines and defy a denial of the truth of everything therein contained. Reilly is a young gentleman whom the governor approached once upon a time on the impropriety of an official taking up ground. Reilly then and there became an ardent convert to the governor's theory of official cleanliness and agreed thenceforth to be the shining light which was not under a bushel. Since then the governor has occasionally referred to the said Reilly as "There's a man I am proud of." We all admire a man whose good judgment makes him a convert to our own pet theories. It is unfortunate that men will backslide so severely.

A question which will occur to every inquiring mind is "Was there any consideration passed to the bench claim recorder which enabled him to overlook the fact that he was recording a fraction, and to fail to note the omission of any dimensions or sizes in the application, and to enter it so that abstracts should speak of it simply as a claim bounded by so and so and so and so?"

We believe that when the governor said "No!" to the question in the interview published in our local columns he really believed what he said and that no fractions had been recorded since July 22nd. We have already published two cases wherein he was clearly deceived, and more are to follow. It is a snap at the gold commissioner's office to be able to keep the crowds of miners off multitudinous pieces of ground until some of them prove valuable, and then to run in their friends and record the very best pieces for them.

We beg to assure Mr. Ogilvie that his presence in Dawson has not acted as the official cleaner and purifier which he hoped to be. Having failed to apply drastic remedies when crookedness has been uncovered, his subordinates have forgotten their fear of him. It requires qualities of unyielding, brusque and stern discipline to hold subordinates in the path of rectitude when ground worth \$100,000 is waiting to be stolen by the simple dash of a pen. Even supposing the governor should now strongly resolve that all wrong doing in high places should cease; would this restore to the many defrauded miners what has been stolen from them? By virtue of his new authority as commissioner of investigation, Mr. Ogilvie can easily uncover the records of Messrs. Hardy and Reilly, and many others of their ilk, and our governor can always depend upon this paper for its approval, encouragement and support should he resolve upon a firm, unyielding course towards wrong doers.

WHY THEY ARE NOT WORKED.

If the royalty tax were not in existence the output of gold for the season of 1898-9 would undoubtedly be at least one-third greater than it will be under present circumstances. Claim owners, who are in a position to do so, are not developing their claims to the fullest capacity but are contenting themselves with taking out a comparatively small dump in hopes that by next year the royalty will have been removed. For instance, we know of one case where 30 men were laid off from working on a claim for the reason that the owners decided they had taken out all the dirt that was advisable for the present season. In other words, having secured enough for present needs, they preferred to allow the gold to remain under the ground rather than take it out in order to declare a dividend for the benefit of the government which has never expended a cent in the construction of a trail to enable the miner to bring his royalty to Dawson with some degree of comfort and safety.

The royalty regulation is a standing inducement for every man who comes under its provisions to make false returns upon the output of his claim. Rightly or wrongly many men will be

able to justify a false return for the simple reason that they regard the tax as altogether unjust and out of proportion. Such being the case, men who otherwise would hesitate in such a matter find it easy to satisfy their consciences in understating the value of the product of their claims.

With the development of the country's one resource so hampered it cannot be expected that capital will come in to aid in getting out of the ground the wealth with which it is known to be stored.

Light may, however, dawn upon our Ottawa legislators before another year and if such proves to be the case the royal load stone will be removed along with other burdens.

OUTSIDE OPINION.

Flora Shaw in the London Times. Apart from the graver charges, there is much dissatisfaction with imperfections of organization, which are ascribed to inexperience and inattention to business on the part of the responsible officers. That there are, as yet, no roads, no trust-worthy mail arrangements, no sanitary organization of any kind, and no clear distribution of streets and town lots in a town of nearly 20,000 inhabitants are conditions which are held to be wholly unnecessary in view of the amount of revenue derived from the mines and the fact that the town is now two years old.

The insanitary condition of Dawson, situated as the town is upon a swamp and devoid of the most elementary provisions for cleanliness and health, is a standing menace to the community. Typhoid is permanently in the town; the death rate is abnormally high; and there are as yet no signs of any measures to be taken to avert the danger of a serious outbreak of epidemic. That mining districts cannot be surveyed, that claims in many instances cannot be recorded, that necessary information with regard to districts already staked is not open to the public are facts which have come to be regarded by the public as so many purposely designed channels for individual bribery. A half or a quarter interest is frequently quoted as the price at which good claims can be recorded, and scarcely a day passes in which some fresh story does not become current of the number of dollars which it has cost to obtain letters from a nominally unsorted mail or to make good an entrance on business into one of the public offices. In so far as the evil may be attributed to these causes, the remedy will no doubt be found in the removal of guilty individuals and the opening of communication with the world. These two laws, the timber concessions which have closed the woods near Dawson for felling purposes, thus raising the price of timber to an extravagant figure and threatening a belated famine for the winter; the latitude allowed for local rulings in other matters of material interest, and the abuses prevalent under the whole system suffice to produce a condition of affairs in which the Yukon district feels itself to be corruptly administered and badly governed.

To pass in silence over this element in the situation would be a neglect of duty on the part of any one professing to give a general report of the conditions of the country.

FEARLESS RELIABLE

INDEPENDENT

The "Nugget"

DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER

The best and most accurate history of the Klondike country that ever will be written will be found in the files of the NUGGET. Every miner should have the NUGGET in his cabin. Delivered regularly by carrier on all creeks.

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Arriving at the creek, or rather at... side of the stream... found a collection... country charact... ready there is pr... ing for the steam... but it is thoug... kept in low wat... believe that "the... base of supplies f... also for a large p... tributary to the... The way they... simple and yet... matter is invest... place to explain... about the advi... this town the p... business.

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As the Neger... creek he wa... beauties surrou... ly impressed w... recently locate... the 90's below... cept those bloc... claim was help... to the number... process of cons... the number of... be approximat... of 30 that are... developing t... each of the ot... work to locate... do they do?... them or put... crown. If the... alike useless... Work on th... equally pra... Lula, Wieber... proud possess... or finished. E... secting or get... dence that ma... in itself of... elusion which... thing the N... Thistle creek... with anything... creek will n... eye" as doub... makes no one... causes Thist... most undevel... What progr... ing taken out... in some insta... 50%. On it s... and are diffi...

BACK FROM THISTLE CREEK.

Nugget Representative Returns From an Investigating Trip.

Work Finds Progressing Satisfactorily and Indications Good—Enough Has Not Yet Been Done to Estimate Accurately the Value.

The condition of things at Thistle creek is the source of more inquiry than almost any other one thing that interests the miners of this district. The reasons for this are various; but the contradictory reports that have been returned have stimulated this inquiry about as much as any. The Nugget therefore determined to send a special representative to investigate the matter fully and without bias. The following is the result:

Arriving at the townsite at the mouth of the creek, or rather about one and a half miles this side of the stream's mouth the newspaper man found a collection of cabins, tents and stores of country character. The number of people already there is probably about 100. The landing for the steamers is not on the main channel but it is thought to be sufficiently deep, except in low water. The population, as a whole, believe that "Thistle town" is going to be the base of supplies for not only Thistle Creek, but also for a large part of the profitable territory tributary to the Stewart river.

The way they arrive at this conclusion is simple and yet is not self-evident until the matter is investigated. It may not be out of place to explain this, as many are wondering about the advisability of making Stewart or Thistle town the place where they may start in business.

Schrogy creek is now the most looked to of the creeks that empty into the Stewart within 20 miles of the mouth and is only a divide which is not any thing like so bad as that between Hunker and Dominion separates the two creeks for a parallel distance of two or three miles and the sagging trail up Thistle is exceptionally good, and along the Stewart exceptionally bad, if reports are to be believed, they think that a man can save time by buying in Thistle town. And this applies to most of the creeks of the south side of the Stewart, between Schrogy and the Yukon. Beside these two important creeks there are Balfour, Tule and Kirkman, all emptying into the Yukon, but whose heads are in the same immediate vicinity, and a person in summer can go through the discovery claims of all, so the miners say, in less than eight hours.

The only objection to the townsite, so far as the scribe could judge, was that it was but ten or twelve feet above the Yukon and probably would be overthrown in the spring freshets. The wood at the mouth of the creek affords a fine lot of cabin logs and birch firewood. The ground does not seem to be marshy, as Dawson says, although there is but little fall toward the water. The creek itself is about 19 miles long and has much more water than usually is true in so short a stream. The rim rock crops out in many places for a half mile at a time and forming with the creek's valley an angle of from 35 to 90 degrees. Then many places show, as fine a locality for benches as any one might ask for, stretching back to the base of the divide four or five hundred feet away. These benches are not yet all located, though many of them are. The creek and valley are both comparatively free from abrupt turns and all the outward signs seem to indicate a fair chance for the prospector. The width of the valley is about 100 to 800 feet.

The discovery was first recorded on the 21 day of October. But claims were staked as late as December 19th. So this creek is staked under the law that reserves every other block of ten claims to the crown and may be considered from the standpoint whether this law is good or bad.

As the Nugget man wended his way up the creek he was much pleased by the natural beauties surrounding him and was wonderfully impressed with the activity on a creek so recently located. In every block of 10, from the 50's below to away beyond 100 above except those blocks reserved to the crown, some claim was being prospected or worked. Cabins to the number of 50 are already built or under process of construction. And a fair estimate of the number of men at work on the creek would be approximately 300. But those other blocks of 10 that are reserved are a blot. No one is developing them and they constitute in each of the other blocks an extra amount of work to locate the pay streak. And what good do they do? No one is authorized to work them or put men to work on them for the crown. If the creek is good or bad they are alike useless.

Work on the tributaries progresses with equally praiseworthy zeal. Scotch, Green, Lula, Weber, Narrow and Blueberry are all the proud possessors of cabins, either under way or finished. Each has from two to 20 men, prospecting or getting out dumps. This is the evidence that many overlook and yet to our mind is in itself of great value in arriving at a conclusion whether the creek is good or bad. One thing the Nugget congratulates the people of Thistle creek on is that if work is continued with anything like the present energy the creek will never get an undeserved "black eye" as doubtless many good creeks have because no one would develop them. This fact makes Thistle plainly more valuable than most undeveloped property.

What progress has been made? What is being taken out? These questions are answered in some instances but in others they will not say. On 11 Scotch they are down to bedrock and are drifting. The pay seems to be shallow

about 18 feet below the surface and in extent about 12 inches above bedrock and about 18 inches in the bedrock; the width is as yet unknown and the amount, as near as the scribe could learn, was from 25 cents to 88 cents per pan.

In no instance on the creek has enough work been done on any one claim to show how wide the pay is and for this reason the best pay may or may not have been located.

The discovery hole has been drilled in but fifty curiously only up and down the creek. The other holes on discovery claims are also, where down to bedrock in a line following the bed of the stream. This is criticised very severely by the opponents of the creek but is due in a degree to the difficulty of sinking because of water coming in. This crosscutting of the valley is being most thoroughly done by the boys on No. 15 below, though they have no holes down to the pay yet which seems to be but a short distance above bedrock and about 18 inches in the bedrock.

On 72 below the panning shows about 37 cents per pan but there is better there is better pay towards the center of the valley and are now sinking toward that point.

On discovery Mr. May would not let the Nugget's representative pan at all because he said that the gold being so coarse and unlike Eldorado, no very fine particles that if a particularly good pan was secured a very unjust boom would be started and if the reverse as unjust set back would be given. Nor would he say what he had got in panning. He claimed he was not panning at all but each day picked up small pieces of gold and nuggets. These he brought out for inspection when urged to do so. He had probably \$120 worth. Among the gold was a \$10 and a \$5 nugget and several between \$2 and \$1.

The gold corresponded with that found on other claims of the creek and was distinctly different from any gold found around the district tributary to Dawson. The color was a rich "old gold." Generally the smallest pieces found on the creek so far range from half a cent to 10 cents. This as all know is very coarse for the small or fine gold. The general shape of the pieces is also peculiar in that they are oval, pointed pieces rather than showing round edges caused by washing. As far as the progress of the work will permit one to see there are both stumper and winter diggings on Thistle. On discovery with the bedrock only 10 to 12 feet down and a nice flow of water nothing better for ground sluicing could be desired. In places the bedrock is reached only after a depth of 22 feet.

The benches are not far enough along to warrant any references to what they show but more than one will be known about before long for several are being prospected.

There have been a number of lays let on a 50 percent basis and not all of them to inexperienced men either. In fact those who have had lays on Eldorado are in some instances trying to get granted to them a piece of ground to work out.

Blueberry boasts of the highest pan nuggets excluded. The report is that \$6.50 has been panned off of No. 27 Blueberry. But almost all are averse to boasting of big pans and generally it has seemed to be underestimated rather than the opposite. In fact one is favorably impressed with the personnel of the claim owners now on their claims.

In conclusion Thistle, both above and below shows up well for the amount of time it has been known. It will probably prove to be a good creek but no one can positively say how good at this time. The chances are it will be better than the average paying creek but few expect it to prove to be anything like an "Eldorado."

Resolutions of Respect.

Know all men by these presents, that WHEREAS J. C. Bryant was not only compelled to lay down his life in his search for riches in this far off country but was unfortunately unable to suffer for several long months.

WHEREAS, His partner Mr. George F. Lucas refused to permit his being forced into the crowded wards of the hospital, preferring to remain with him and personally attend him through his long illness; now before us is presented that we, the undersigned, having constantly viewed with pleasure and surprise the unusual consideration and kindness with which George Lucas treated his partner during his prolonged sickness, and the indefatigable energy with which he supplied his every want, desire to express our appreciation of his actions and note with pleasure the entire absence of selfishness in his nature; that we believe him to be a most exceptional one in one thousand and have no hesitancy in saying that he deserves the sincere congratulations and respect of all who admire and love that which is truly great in the universal brotherhood of man. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be published in the Dawson City papers and that copies of same be sent to the relatives of both families.

The resolutions are signed by 26 residents of West Dawson.

Two Creek Fishaps.

James C. Nixon, employed on three above upper Dominion, froze his right hand quite badly last Thursday. He was setting up a window frame and felt his nose being nipped. He removed his mitten to rub snow on his nose and before he was aware of it, the hand was frozen hard. It was thawed out as quickly as possible and the injured member was doing well although it will be some time before he can use it.

Raymond Carlo, formerly of Nebraska, is just recovering from typhoid fever. He had been ill for over three weeks and is being cared for at Morrison's food house, 25 below upper on Dominion.

Contribution Box Stolen.

With the party or parties who stole the Salvation Army contribution box from the Dominion saloon please return it, and the Army will give them a real good dinner for their trouble.

THE PULLMAN BAR AND CAFE

J. R. ARMSTRONG, Propr., D. K. HOWARD, Manager.
282 1st Ave., opp. Oatley Sisters.

THE "TIVOLI"

FRED N. TRACY, Mgr.

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MOVING PICTURES.

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STAPLE AND FANCY PROVISIONS, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

For rates, prices and other information call on H. TEROLLER, AGENT, S.-Y. T. Building, Water Front, West of A. C. Store.

A Pleasant Occasion.
On Friday evening, January 6th, the Masonic Aid Association assembled a select party of friends at Paternity hall and passed the night merrily away with music, dancing and refreshments. A most enjoyable time was had and the following program presented: Overture by Scarella and Barker; mandolin and guitar, Casley and Burkhardt; songs, Mulligan and Linton; recitations, Mrs. Emerson; band solos and songs, Mr. George; songs, the Rudolphs; recitations, Mr. Creighton; songs, Mr. Robertson.

St. Mary's.
The report for the week ending Jan. 11, 1899, shows that two new patients were entered and four were discharged. There are at present 66 occupied beds. The only death was Frank Sweeney, age 59 years, of Mt. Pleasant, Mich., Jan. 6, 1899.

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

YUKON SAW MILL CO.

MANUFACTURERS OF

First Quality Matched, Dressed Rustic, Roofing and Rough Lumber

House Logs Furnished, Cordwood &c.

Orders filled promptly.

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Connecting with Palatial Ocean Steamers At St. Michael, Direct for San Francisco, Cal. We are in the field for business. Our stores and warehouses are now in course of construction at Dawson and other points along the Yukon river.

L. R. FULDA, Agent.

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KLONDIKE CITY

Finest Brands of Wines, Liquors and Cigars

THE PIONEER

DINAMORE, SPENCER & MCPHIE, Proprietors

BEST GRADES OF SCOTCH and CANADIAN WHISKIES

And the Old Favorite Brand of JACK McQUESTIAN CIGARS

THE AURORA

TOM CHISHOLM, Prop't.

COR. FRONT AND SECOND STREET

Headquarters for

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Most Elegant Gentlemen's Resort in Dawson.

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Choicest Wines, Liquors and Cigars

Expert Mixologists

MINING HEADQUARTERS

FRONT STREET DAWSON

The "Monte Carlo"

FINEST BAR IN DAWSON

EQUALITY OF WINES AND LIQUORS THE HIGHEST

Mixed Drinks a Specialty

HIGHEST GRADES OF CIGARS

THE OPERA HOUSE

BAKKE, WILSON & PETERSON Proprietors

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BOUGHT THE ROAD HOUSE AND GRUB.

The Stampede Down the River Now an Endurance Program.

There are not Enough Claims for Everybody and the Inside Stampede are Bound to Tire the Others Out—One on Charley Meadows.

Last Tuesday night was the occasion of much excitement in Dawson. In every saloon and on every street corner excited knots of men could be seen discussing in subdued whispers some subject of seeming great importance. Up and down through the city could be found numerous dog teams with sleds loaded for what was evidently expected to be a considerable trip. Men were skrimishing all over town in search of any kind of an animal that could be pressed into service for a hurried trip. In short every body was on the qui vive of expectancy and evidently some matter of considerable importance was on the taple.

A typical Klondike stampede was in active progress and the "push" was getting ready to set out.

The only men who were supposed to have absolutely accurate information as to the destination of the stampede were "Nigger" Jim, Sam Staley and Billy Chappel. Friends of these old timers and hard musers were present in sufficient numbers to stake the length of the entire creek, but in addition were several hundred more anxious and expectant ch-chee-ahs who banked on getting a claim simply by following in the wake of the push.

All night long an unceasing procession of men, some with dog teams and some without, some pulling their own sleds and others with a little grub on their backs, some provided with stoves, tents and robes, others with none of these requisits to Klondike travel, helter, skelter, pell, mell, anything to be on hand to stake, this nondescript caravan set out down the river.

Besides those already mentioned, the following were included among the stampedeers: George Noble, Henry Berry, Gus Seiffert, Tom Cannon, Falcon Joslyn, Charley Hiltz, Dougal McMurry, Senator Hill, Gus Backe, Sam Yeade and a host of others.

Various surmises as to the destination of the stampede were made, some locating the discovery on Carlisle creek in the Forty-mile district and others stating that the objective point was a tributary of the Klondike which leads in toward the Yukon in the direction of Forty-mile. Affidavits of the richness of discovery claim were said to be on file and various amounts were stated to have been taken out to the pan, ranging from 80 cents to several dollars.

When the van guard of the stampede reached the Eighteen-mile road house a halt was called and possession of the establishment and all the eatables contained therein was immediately taken. Twenty men managed to crowd into the fur bunks with which the house is supplied and 75 more hungry and weary "musers" crowded themselves into the small cabin and called for coffee or anything else that would assist in warming them up. Two other cabins located near by were soon filled to overflowing and those who could not get inside were forced to camp as best they could.

Now reports from those who have since returned state that the stampede are still located on the same spot. It appears the crowd followed in their wake that there would not be claims enough to go round decided to camp where they were and tire out the remainder of the stampede when the journey would be continued. To put their plan into more effective operation it is said that "Nigger" Jim proceeded to buy the road house together with the grub cache and he and his friends are now in possession and the stampede has now resolved itself into a test of endurance.

If the whiskey and grub in the road house hold out sufficiently long, the scheme will undoubtedly work to perfection. Nevertheless a number of those who are not in with the "push" have sent back to Dawson for more supplies. At all events the outcome will prove exceedingly interesting.

On the quiet, a little story is being told on "Arizona Charley" who has long had his eye on what he is positive is the long looked for mother lode. Charley got a hunch that "Nigger" Jim and the rest of the boys were after that mother lode and he immediately started out to head them off. Unable to secure a dog team for the reason that the stampede had gobbled them all up, Charley, the boys say, managed after a lengthy search to secure an ox noted for speed on the trail. Thus equipped he started in post haste up the Klondike. After traveling a matter of twelve miles he became convinced that the stampede were not going his way and so he put off at a convenient stopping place and sent back to Charley Cole for some cigarettes and a solo deck. As far as is known Charley is still with the ox and probably will remain there until the cigarettes are exhausted.

A Mandamus of no Effect. So many unanswered questionings are floating around in the air, questionings which Governor Ogilvie alone could set at rest—that a

CORDWOOD. \$18 PER CORD. Orders taken for Flume and Sluce Lumber. Order at office, upper Klondike ferry, or from Sluaf & Zilly, agents, A. C. Office Building BOYLE & SLAVIN.

NUGGET representative was dispatched to his office and on Monday the following important interview was courteously granted by the commissioner of the Yukon:

Mr. Ogilvie, will you tell the readers of the Nugget the status of the mail-carrying problem at the present moment?

"Well, as you know, P. C. Richardson secured the United States mail contract from the United States government, which contract was assigned to the Arctic Express company. This company then secured a contract with the Canadian government for bringing in Canadian mails; thus you see they had a direct contract with one government and a sub-contract with the other. However, they evidently considered the terms of the direct contract too severe and attempted to secure better ones. I surmise that the mails have been deliberately delayed by the company in order to force the government to make better terms. There is now a certain amount of mail matter in their hands, and, as you know, possession is nine points of the law, and whether or not we can legally secure possession of that mail matter or not is a question which the postmaster general or a suit at law alone can determine, and we have not yet had time to apprise him of the condition of affairs. The police at both ends of the territory have made arrangements to bring in and take out the mail; but the plans have not yet had time to fructify. Meanwhile, the Arctic Express company is working its way in with more or less mail. We are starting out a general mail through the police every two weeks; also an official mail every two weeks. The official mail will leave on alternate weeks with the general mail, so there will be a mail leaving here every week."

"Did the Arctic Express Company give bonds for the faithful performance of its contract?" "I suppose so. But even if they should forfeit their bonds it would not be any satisfaction that I can see to the men who want their mail."

"Is it true that your powers of commissioner have been extended by official communications in this last batch of official mail?"

"The governor explained at length that he was now duly authorized under the great seal of Canada to thoroughly investigate any charges made against administrative officials. He produced the law under an investigating commissioner acts and read its pages aloud. By virtue of his authority he can now summon anyone he chooses and compel them to answer even though the evidence should be of the most self incriminating character; but a proviso reads that such evidence cannot and shall not be used against the witness giving it; thus granting an immunity without which an investigation would be simply a farce."

"Have you taken any steps yet in the way of an investigation?" "I shall take active steps just as soon as possible and then the makers of charges will be invited to come forward and we will see how much they know."

"Mr. Ogilvie is it within the power of the territorial court to order the gold commissioner to record fractions?"

"No, it is not. The Dominion lands act and Mining acts provide that for public use or other purposes the Minister of the Interior may withdraw from location or entry such of the domain as he may see fit."

"Did the Minister of the Interior so order the withdrawal of fractions?"

"Yes. His order to reserve fractions to the crown arrived here July 22, 1898."

"Have no fractions been recorded since then?"

"No."

"The incorporation of the city of Dawson was next touched upon. The ordinance is partly completed and the governor explained that he had been in no hurry as it was desirable that everyone should have ample time to think it over and also that Ottawa might be heard from on the subject. The government had expressed itself now and there was no objection at Ottawa to incorporation."

"When the ordinance has been approved by the Yukon council, will it be submitted to the public for discussion?"

"On this point our worthy governor was disposed to be somewhat equivocal. He thought it would be sufficient if the citizens who brought the ordinance to the council were invited to look over its provisions. Again he pointed out that it was not at all obligatory upon the council to submit its ordinances for ratification by the people before their passage. It was explained to him that the gentlemen who had brought the ordinance to him were not present at the mass meetings which had brought forth the ordinance and had never even signified to the public their approval of its parts. The provisions most desired by the public might have been omitted by the council and the omission be agreed to by the citizens' committee" and yet that omission be far from meeting the approval of Dawson."

"Can an objectionable incorporation ordinance be passed by this council and we be compelled to accept it?"

"Well, I guess if the people didn't like the ordinance they could refuse to work under it—could refuse to vote, and so on."

Other unimportant matters were touched upon and then the scribe thanked our chief executive for the courtesy of the interview and departed.

Graded Toll Rates. An amusing attempt has been made to equalize the injustice being perpetrated upon the miners by the toll-trail exactions by a letter from our chief executive directing the toll-trail company to moderate their charges. In accordance with this order the tramroad company, which does not own a single team, has established the following scale of prices: All freight hauled and sledged by yourselves will pay a quarter of a cent a pound as far as claim No. 90 below on Bonanza; a half cent to No. 60; three-quarters of a cent to No. 30 and one cent per pound from there to the Forks. This desirable grading down of rates, which has no right to extort anything at all, was brought about by the vigorous "kicks" of Mr. C. C. Osborne, who was not content with registering

his earnest protest with the tramroad people but who carried the matter and laid it before our chief executive. Unfortunately the numbers of Mr. Osborne's claims are 26 and 57, so that he gets no benefit from the reduction in rates he himself has brought about.

A number of sledders are avoiding the unjust toll by simply refusing to pay anything when it is demanded of them, and we have yet to hear of any such resolute people being turned back. An organized resistance would soon put a stop to the entire farce.

MAIL FOR THE OUTSIDE.

To Be Taken by the "Klondike Nugget" Representative Direct.

The Nugget representative, Mr. D. W. Semple, will leave in a few days for Seattle and the Eastern states via Nugget Express team and will make all connections being favorable—a very fast trip to the coast. He will carry nothing with him save blankets and robe necessary on the trip, and will take any mail or small light packages to be forwarded. It was expected to get away Sunday but matters of importance here the past few days have delayed the departure. Mail of packages may be left at the Nugget Express office in the Phoenix or at the Klondike Nugget office, or sent in by Nugget Express teams on Bonanza, Eldorado, Hanker, Dominion and Sulphur creeks.

What We Would Do.

The royalty tax we'd soon pay as we would dig up for toll and to kick will not stop. We'll pay for our wood and for moss in the deal. We'll pay the whole bill and never will quarrel. We'll buy any old thing they've got here for sale if only just once they will give us some mail.

Mr. Senkler on Fractions.

Immediately after the publication of the Reilly episode Mr. Senkler, the gold commissioner, was seen on the matter but did not care to express himself at length for publication.

"Mr. Senkler, do you care to state for publication what you propose to do in the matter of officials taking up fractional claims which the general public is not allowed to record?" "I have received of the alleged wrong."

The Nugget man continued: "We have understood that you will at once dispossess Mr. Reilly of his fractional claim. Will you make a statement regarding it?" "Really this is early in the matter to make any positive statement. However, I shall do what is right. I simply invite you to watch me and see what I shall do."

Another matter touched upon was the giving out to exclusive circles of friends by the clerks in the gold commissioner's office of information regarding new discoveries. Mr. Senkler stated that he was going to look into the matter with a view to making discoveries public as soon as reported at the office. Such information will probably be given to the public prints and in this way will do much to prevent stampedes as it is not the knowledge of new discoveries as the lack of fuller information, the secret will prevent the starting of interest or the info. about the new discoveries causing these unreasoning rushes to Bonanza, Swede, Mousehide and a thousand other streams.

On Sunday night at the Monte Carlo the Wondroscope Company will present four new specialties beside new films on the Wondroscope. There will also be new illustrated songs, the most popular number now in Dawson.

Badly Frozen.

Mr. W. H. Miller, a wholesale liquor man, arrives from Eagle City with the intelligence that, as he left, David William Jones had just been brought into that bar, with both hands and one foot frozen. The foot was almost a hopeless loss and it was expected that it would have to be removed.

Go to the Monte Carlo on Sunday night, and witness the charge of Roosevelt's Rough Riders as shown by the Wondroscope. See Lee Richardson in his inimitable performance on the wheel. A complete program presented.

Postponed Again.

The Nugget's tramway case has again been postponed until after the hearing of jury cases. Perhaps the settling of the case by the judge for Friday the 13th may have proven unlucky.

An Explanation.

Owing to the license matters coming up, and our decision not to take out a license, left us with a considerable stock of liquors on hand. When advertising to give away what whiskey we had on hand in the Pullman Cafe it had not occurred to us that such would conflict with our good friends in the business. We have withdrawn the advertisement and the offer and regret the fact had not occurred to us earlier. J. R. ARMSTRONG, Proprietor.

Grand Family Entertainment.

On Sunday evening next the Wondroscope Company will present a change of program, and among the startling moving pictures will be the bombardment of Matanzas, showing the 12-inch gun in operation from the Puritan; also the great effect of the dynamite shells from the Vesuvius, each shell containing 200 pounds of gun cotton and the pictures showing the actual damage done the embankment. Don't forget, the Monte Carlo Theatre on Sunday night.

The New Tivoli.

The Tivoli has been fitted up with plentiful electric lights and was reopened on Thursday night under the management of Fred N. Tracy. The performance opens with a clean, wholesome border drama, and after a variety of single numbers and some new faces, concludes with a selection of moving pictures on the vitascope. A concert will be given on Sunday night with new numbers and new faces.

Mr. Tracy has made himself exceedingly popular among the men who patronize the local theatres by his rendition of songs which are peculiarly adopted to the circumstances. He throws a depth of feeling into his work

which is not often seen. The packed houses which have greeted the performers since the reopening is a guarantee that the Tivoli will continue to do a splendid business.

Pan Roast of fine Eastern Oysters at the Arctic Oyster House.

The Dining Room service of the Regina Club Hotel is such as to invite you back again.

Hershberg, the Seattle clothier, will sell you clothing at exceedingly low prices.

The best meals served in the city are at the Regina Club Hotel.

Dawson's Dog Doctor is Shoff, the chemist of the Pioneer Drug Store

Money to Loan Apply at the Nugget Express office, Front st. Special Rates for room and board by the month at the Regina Club Hotel.

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