

GOV. ROSS INTERVIEWED

States His Views As to Needs of the Yukon to Victoria Times—Opposed to Present Royalty System—Believes Dawson the Proper Place for Assay Office.

If the views of Governor J. H. Ross, of the Yukon Territory, are to prevail at Ottawa, the present season will be the last upon which the royalty upon gold will be collected in the Klondike. In the opinion of the chief executive officer of the best of Canada's placer gold producing fields, the imposition of an export duty on the precious metal which is extracted from the creek beds and the hillsides of the Klondike would be far more effective, and an altogether more national system of revenue than the present one. A recommendation to that effect has already gone forward from the governor to the government at Ottawa, and although it is unlikely that any change will be made in the methods of raising revenue in the month this year, his advice will certainly have great weight with the administration in formulating their policy with regard to the Yukon next season. The advantages of this system were explained by Governor Ross this morning in conversation with a representative of the Times. Under the royalty there is a great leakage of revenue, due to the natural desire of the miner to avoid the payment of tax which is always more or less irksome. Under an export duty little loss need result, for the royalty for confiscation would probably be attached to the finding of gold crossing the boundary line upon which the export tax had not been paid, and no company or individual miner would risk the loss of the entire purse for the sake of the trifle in the way of duty. The new system would apply to corporations and banks as well as miners. The customs officers at the boundary line would weigh the gold there and exact the necessary duty before allowing the gold to proceed. This would apply to all gold going out of the territory and would thus apply to Canadian miners from other provinces as well as to those from south of the 49th parallel. Discrimination might be shown, however, by pro-

viding for a rebate on gold sold in Canadian cities, just as a rebate on the royalty is now given in the cities of Victoria and Vancouver. The governor, who as mentioned yesterday intends to remain in Victoria until the 4th, and then return to his labors on the steamer Hasting, expresses himself as highly pleased with the conditions obtaining in Dawson and the general character of the camp and the outlook for its future. "It is one of the most law-abiding places on the face of the earth," he said this morning, "and will compare favorably with any city in Canada or the United States in that respect." The exodus to Nome, upon which so much has been said, was only of minimum importance in his opinion. It did not deplete the camp of its better citizens, but it drew to the mouth of the river the more undesirable class represented in the gamblers, sure-thing men, and similar characters, whose presence, while swelling the population, was of doubtful benefit to the camp. Regarding the permanence of the district as a gold producer he has no misgivings or doubts. Only the fringe of the gold belt he believes has been touched, and he thinks that thousands of acres of gold-bearing territory remains still to be exploited by the adventurous argonaut. "Of course, old methods are becoming obsolete," he remarked, "and the mining of the future will be on a scale considerably in advance of that represented in the pick and shovel era. But, on the other hand, the business of gold mining is now on a strictly commercial basis, and the investor can now go into the camp, plot out his ground and make a reasonably accurate estimate of the amount of gold which he can take from it. The element of chance has been eliminated from the calculation." The question of fuel is, of course, one which just now is a most serious prob-

lem for the miner. The problem has not yet reached the acute stage, for there is still sufficient wood in the country to meet all demands made upon it, and the situation will be further relieved by the removal of the reserve, which the governor intends to make upon his return, from several thousand acres on the Klondike river. This belt of timber land was reserved originally for mining purposes, and the time seems ripe for throwing it open. It extends for eight or ten miles along the banks of the Klondike river, and the belt probably averages about a mile in width. Some of it will be suitable for milling purposes, and the remainder will be available for the miner. It is only a question of time when the lumber necessary for the Klondike will have to be brought in from the coast. The coast lumber is infinitely superior to the local product, but the freight rates are an obstacle which at present prevents the advent of the output of the coast mills. The introduction of oil as fuel for the locomotives and steamers of the White Pass & Yukon Railway company, Governor Ross thinks, may presage the ultimate adoption of that fuel for use on the machinery of the creeks. It is estimated that one ton of oil is equal to four cords of wood, and with proper tanks on the cars and steamers the handling of the commodity would be much handier than coal. Its comparative cheapness would be another element in its favor. At present electricity is being employed by many of the companies which are close enough to the city of Dawson to utilize that source of power. Electric shovels and ploughs are operated on the hillsides, where miners now turn over nearly all the earth on their claims, stripping the paystreak and then taking it out ahead of them. The gopher workings are becoming a thing of the past. However, as he came up on the river he saw immense piles of cordwood along the banks which indicated that the miners of the Yukon need not worry over the sources of their fuel supply. There is a more immediate problem before the miner, and that is the failure of the water supply. When the country was wooded, and its surface clothed in moss, the latter sucked up the moisture and retained it like a sponge, from which the water passed away gradually keeping the creeks at a normal stage all of the time. The depletion of the woods, and the fires which have burned the moss off the surface of the rocks permitted an unobstructed flow of water, flooded creeks, and ultimately dry creek beds. The result is seen this summer, when many of the best properties have been obliged to shut down owing to the drought. It is intended to overcome this, the governor states, by building reservoirs, into which the water used in sluicing will run, and from which it will be pumped back to be re-used when the flow in the stream falls away. Regarding his work in the North, Mr. Ross states that he found that the preparatory course which he underwent as a member of the executive in the Northwest territories was of the greatest use to him and that the conditions and problems with which he was surrounded and confronted were very similar to those which he had to meet when connected with the Regina administration. Everything has moved along smoothly, and his reception and treatment by the people of Dawson has been of the kindest character. He does not disguise his opinion that Dawson City is the proper place for an assay office, and expressed his gratification at the stand taken by the newspapers of Victoria in favor of the same place. The views of the first government officer in the Klondike on the whole subject of the handling, assaying and sale of gold, from a departmental standpoint, have doubtless been already communicated to the Dominion government. The governor's work in Dawson is being carried on as far as possible by his deputies, but there are many matters which necessitate his personal presence, and it is for this reason that he is endeavoring to adjust his private business in order to get back to his post early next month.—Victoria Times, Aug. 30.

GOLD RUN HOTEL

A Surprise to Flushers on Dominion—The World Do Move.

C. D. Fowle, who formerly was one of the officers in the A. C. Co.'s store in Dawson is now located out at the mouth of Caribou on Dominion. He has thrown down his pen and assumed the control of the Gold Run hotel, which popular hostelry has taken the shine out of all competitors on the creek. The house is built with separate rooms for guests and there the weary traveler can revel in unexpected luxury for the table is excellent and the rooms fitted with spring mattresses and other chechako frills and furnishings. A first-class bar is an adjunct to the house and its extensive patronage denotes the excellence of the viands dispensed.

BACK FROM KOYUKUK

Dan Anderson Returns After a Short Visit.

Mr. Dan Anderson, a well known Dawsonite, returned yesterday on the steamer May West from the Koyukuk where he has spent the largest part of the summer. The former reports which have been brought to Dawson concerning that country are fully substantiated by Mr. Anderson, who has personally investigated the creeks and from the prospects found and the general formation of the country he considers it to be of great mineral resources. He left two men to go on a prospecting trip for him up to the head of the John river, which he considers as a likely place for a good strike, as the country is of the same formation as Slate creek where the pay has thus far been discovered. Mr. Anderson brought with him several nuggets as samples of the products of the country. The gold is very fine and assays over \$19 to the ounce and passes in exchange at the stores at \$17. Mr. Anderson intends returning as soon as he can complete his business affairs in Dawson. Territorial Court. Several cases were disposed of yesterday in the territorial court. Mr. Justice Dugas rendered his decision in the case of Wingstad vs. Quartz Creek Concession. The motion of the plaintiff for an interim injunction was dismissed with costs, the court finding the claim in question to be the property of the defendant company. In Wilcoxon vs. McDonald the case was dismissed with costs. In the case of Miller vs. Trabold et al., the action arising over the disputed ownership of the Duer claim, a well known property lying on Monte Cristo hill, the evidence as to the slope of the hill, watersheds, etc., was so largely a matter of expert testimony that his lordship decided to view the ground personally. In the afternoon a special stage conveyed the litigants, the court, clerk of the court, stenographer, four barristers and four Dominion land surveyors to the claim where an exhaustive examination was made of its topography and other questions at issue. Send a copy of Goetzman's Souvenir to your outside friends. A complete pictorial history of the Klondike. For sale at all news stands. Price \$2.50. Kodaks \$4.50; fresh films 50c. Goetzman.

AFTER LONG AND HARD TRIP

H. W. Bracken Returns From Unprospected Country

Fully 1000 Miles North From Dawson—A Herd of Mountain Sheep Frozen in Glacier.

H. W. Bracken has just closed one of the greatest prospecting tours ever recorded in Alaska. As soon as the river opened and let the first scows down the river last spring he took with him six men and sixteen horses with a season's stock of provisions and started with his scow down the river to a point near Ft. Yukon where he cut a trail of hundreds of miles, the horses packing all the necessities of a camping or prospecting trip for the men. A vast virgin country unknown to white men heretofore was traversed. Mr. Bracken is a scientific mining man who has followed that calling over 25 years—one whose several mining inventions has made him famous all over the mining world. This practical experience in all grades of rock and mineral bearing gravel enables him to invariably tell the approximate value of all grades of mineral on sight. In this trip they traveled over many creeks, flats, rivers and mountains and halted only after crossing miles of glaciers in the river bed and ascended through the gorge of the Romanoff mountains. They had got out of the timber belt and had packed wood three days on the horses for fuel; and as no more grass could be found for the horses they were obliged to retreat. Mr. Bracken ascended a mountain of glacier, about five miles to the summit, but was met with the severest snow storm he experienced in three years in Alaska. He was above the clouds and on an altitude of about 13,000 feet above sea level, and about 70 deg. latitude north. The next morning Mr. Bracken with his trail man ascended the glaciers. They found it clear and the sun shining. No timber or cooking nor grass for horses could be found. All rivers ran north to the Arctic ocean. They found on their return down the mountain glacier where great herds of mountain sheep, which went in drives of probably hundreds or thousands, frozen in the ice. It was thought some extreme mid-winter blizzard had caught them while stampeding over the dome, when they huddled together and froze up; then water flowed in and all froze up solid. Whatever portion of their bodies were thawed or above the ice were devoured by arctic bears and wolves. Feet, heads and horns and bleached bones stuck out of the great glacier like a field of stubs, the arctic beasts not caring to eat any more than that exposed above the ice. Men and horses could not survive without food to cook and grass for horses. This unexpected condition of impossibilities to surmount blighted Mr. Bracken's expectations and they were forced to "about face" and save all supplies to get back as they were at this point about 1000 miles from Dawson. A heavy fall of snow, lasting three days, and covering the ground six inches deep on the last of July caused much hardship on the start home. Some of the party went to Rampart, some to Circle City and Mr. Bracken and his two cooks returned to Dawson. The three argonauts feel their disappointment keenly, but are magnanimous enough not to complain. It is only a repetition of thousands of cases not only in the Klondike, but the world over; where men went fishing and got no fish, hunting and got no game, prospecting and got no gold or valuable minerals; and if they have added one more disappointment to the great majority of ventures in life, they have displayed an energetic spirit which may yet win. Mr. Bracken has gathered some remarkable specimens of rock, some of which no mining eyes or mineralogist ever saw before. One sample looks as if a piece of corduroy cloth had congealed into hard quartz. Several samples, he says, is unknown to any mining bureau. Mr. Schrader of the U. S. government geological survey, last spring interviewed and noted Mr. Bracken's explorations three years ago on the Koyukuk river, which was about 1000 miles from its headwaters to its outlet. This year he was on its eastern side. Mr. Schrader's route was from the Allenkattet to the Kowack river. No mercantile or shipping company nor government backed up Mr. Bracken he bought all supplies and paid for the same and has doubtless gathered as much valuable information in his extensive exploration for Uncle Sam as if in his employment. They had all the fresh meat desired; caribou, moose, mountain sheep, fish and fowl in abundance. Caribou crossed their trail in droves of thousands. They never met a white man on the trail, but met Indians near Fort Yukon. Send a copy of Goetzman's Souvenir to your outside friends. A complete pictorial history of the Klondike. For sale at all news stands. Price \$2.50.

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Restaurant Cook Will Not Stand for "Con" Talk.

Tom Shaughnessy and Billy Shay are two good men as ever swung a pick, but they were up against it Thursday and narrowly escaped being cut up into hamburger steak by the infuriated German who presides over the destinies of the Gilt Edge Kitchen. Tom and Billy had just arrived from Gold Run and having brought their appetite with them found themselves about 7 in the evening empty as gourds. They wandered into the Gilt Edge for a feed, when to their astonishment both learned their combined assets were insufficient to buy a stack of hot. The aforesaid Teuton was appealed to to save their lives until the morrow, but strange to relate he was from Missouri and had to be shown two samolons before he would give ear to their entreaties. Ex-

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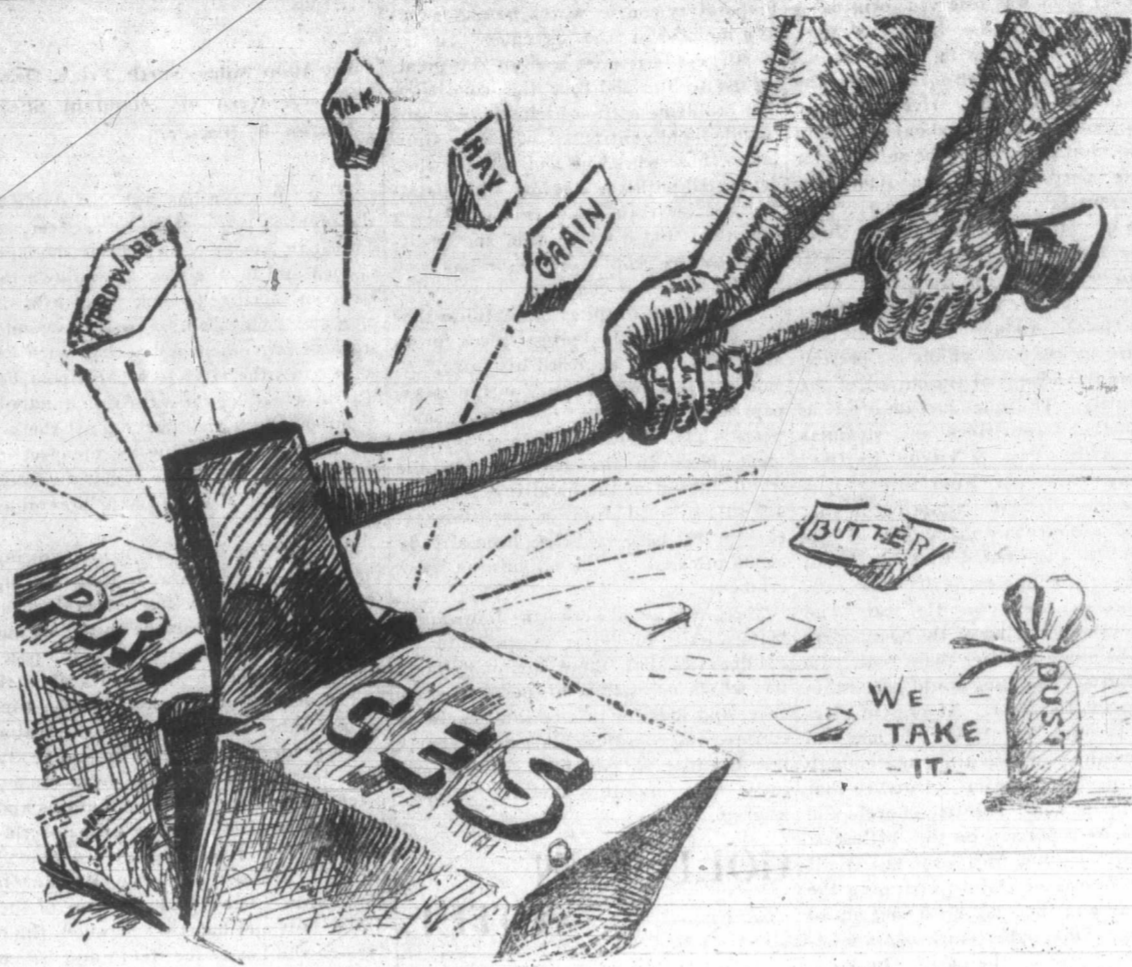
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HE VISITED THE KUSKOKWIM

Captain Sanford of Str. May West There Last Winter.

Thinks It is a Poor Country for the Miner—Pitiful Story of Exposure and Starvation.

Capt. James S. Sanford, master of the steamer May West which arrived yesterday morning, was one of the very few stamperers to the supposedly rich diggings of the Kuskokwim who succeeded in reaching their destination last winter. When the news of the strike reached St. Michael and Nome early in the winter everyone who could muster up a team of dogs and an outfit joined in the rush, none apparently knowing the exact location of the discovery except that it was somewhere on the right fork of the Kuskokwim. Captain Sanford and Dr. Pratt were among the first to get away, leaving St. Michael with a team of seven dogs November 6. They proceeded up the Yukon to a point 27 miles below the Russian mission where a portage of 65 miles was made, striking the Kuskokwim 20 miles above Bethel, the Moravian mission, and 80 miles from the mouth of the river. From thence the main river was followed to Trail creek in the Summit district at the head of the south fork, arriving there January 28 after 83 days of continuous traveling. The trail practically the entire distance had to be broken and the trip was extremely laborious on both men and dogs, eight of the latter dying from the hardships and exposure, a number having been purchased of the Indians in addition to the original team they had started with from St. Michael. On their arrival at Trail creek but little time could be spent there as their grub was exhausted and there was no more to be had for love or money.

"The distance Trail creek is from the mouth of the river," said Captain Sanford, "would be hard to state, but I imagine it is in the neighborhood of 400 miles. I find that everyone has a tendency to overestimate distances on a new trail and particularly where it is a hard one. Why, some of the days we would not make 10 miles, but we would feel at night as though we had traveled 100. I have heard people say it is 350 miles up the river to Kozmekofski, the last station on the Russian river and 12 miles above the Russian

mission, whereas it is but little over half that distance. Of all the outfits which left St. Michael for the Kuskokwim last winter, but five consisting all told of 13 men reached Trail creek. There were a few there ahead of us, but they like ourselves were short of grub and had been unable to do much prospecting. A peculiarity of the district is that the ground below a foot or two from the surface is not frozen and the water prevented a single hole being put down to bedrock. The deepest hole sunk was only 10 1/2 feet deep and that was not to bedrock. It was on 2 below discovery and the owners of the claim stated they had had some good prospects, but they had nothing to show for it. There were several other holes started on Trail creek and some also on Summit creek, but they never attained any depth on account of the water. I think but very little of that section; it does not look good and I shall be very much surprised if pay is ever found there which amounts to anything. There is an Indian village 65 miles below Trail creek which is called Katchoon. A short distance above Bethel there are a couple rivers, one of which, the Kwitshok, we explored for a short distance. The indications there I consider much better than on Trail or Summit creeks. The formations are more favorable and we saw numerous bars that looked as though they might be gold bearing. I am satisfied in my own mind that none of those who made the trip in last winter found anything worth recording, and I don't believe it is there. Still, I see quite a number who are going in this summer, piling boats up the river and taking in enough grub to carry them through till spring."

Captain Sanford tells a pitiful story of hardship encountered by one outfit which came under his observation. During the winter a party of 11 left Nome for the new strike. When they reached the lower river three of the number backed out and returned. The other eight pushed on. Shortly afterward a fearful blizzard overtook them and in some manner the party became separated. Three succeeded in reaching Amuk, an Indian village, so badly frozen their lives were despaired of. The Indians made the trip to St. Michael notifying General Randall that three white men were at their village and he immediately dispatched dog teams for the purpose of bringing them to the St. Michael hospital. Upon their arrival it was found necessary to amputate all the fingers and thumbs on both hands of two of the men, the third one suffering the loss of both feet. They all recovered, but the first named are helpless as babes and have to be fed

PEOPLE WE MEET.



F. X. GOSSELIN, CROWN TIMBER AND LAND AGENT.

by an attendant. The other five of the party were never heard from until this summer and then their bodies were found frozen stiff in death.

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Worthless Horses.

There is was in fire hall No. 2, and all on account of injudicious investments in horse flesh. Tom Hatch, driver of the hook and ladder truck, has long had to contend with the perversities of a balky horse. A few days ago the beast was sold and another purchased and now it is found that the successor is even worse than his predecessor. While out for exercise yesterday something less than two hours was

required to make the circuit of two blocks. By that time the driver had exhausted his stock of profanity and he arrived at the fire hall minus his power of speech.

A Painful Wound.

A Frenchman, whose name was not learned, almost severed one of his knee caps from the limb by a miss-stroke of the ax while he was engaged in cutting wood Wednesday on the ridge near the

U. S. tent roadhouse. He was pulled up by the stage from Caribou to Marsh—and there he suffered so intensely that it was necessary to leave him at McCormack's until he could have medical attention. A doctor was sent for from Bethel and if able, the unfortunate will be brought to a Dawson hospital by the stage today.

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