

THE SITUATION.

ABLY REVIEWED BY SENATOR FERGUSON.

Overwhelming Arrangement of the Government

(Continued from Hansard.)

I have taken up so much of the time of this House in discussing the preferential clause of the tariff and the larger questions to which I have been referring, that I will have to restrict the remarks that I otherwise would feel inclined to make on a subject that is engaging the attention of the people of Canada just now to a greater degree than any other question—I refer to the Yukon Railway contract which is on the table of the House, and a bill for which is now being considered in another place. My hon. friend, the Secretary of State, in defending the government with reference to this matter, put up a very alarming and erroneous emergency plea for them. He said in extenuation of the extraordinary dearth of information in the mind of the Minister of Railways when he introduced the bill, and for the extraordinary lack of argument of his colleagues, and for the weakness of the bargain which was apparent to almost everybody, that they were in the presence of a great emergency. When parliament rose last year nobody, said the hon. gentleman, had any conception of such a great development as has occurred in that extreme northern part of our country. No one anticipated such a rush of people to the Klondike, and therefore we have been all taken by surprise, and it was necessary to do something to meet the emergency. We had to do the best we could. That is the substance of my hon. friend's plea, if I must give the hon. gentleman credit by trying it was the very best plea he could put before the House for this contract. But if we only look a little into the matter we will find that this plea was not as good as the hon. gentleman appeared to think it was. I have in my hand reports of Mr. Ogilvie, the government surveyor, who had been in that country for so long a time. I have those reports and I will read some extracts from them which have been in the possession of the government for a long time.

Hon. Mr. Scott—How long?
 Hon. Mr. Ferguson—I submit that however much hon. gentlemen in this House who were not in the secrets of the government may have been taken by surprise, and many of them may have had substantial reasons for not knowing that a great development was taking place there—the government could not put up that claim. They, at least, knew the extraordinary circumstances developing there. On the 6th of December, 1896, Mr. Ogilvie made his first report to the government with regard to the discoveries of gold in the Klondike. That is more than a year and a-half ago.

Hon. Mr. Scott—When was it received?
 Hon. Mr. Ferguson—The hon. gentleman can tell that; I cannot.

Hon. Mr. Scott—I don't think it was received for nearly a year afterwards.
 Hon. Mr. Ferguson—It was certainly not received in the course of the week or the month in which it was written.

Hon. Mr. Scott—It would take six months.
 Hon. Mr. Ferguson—Making all reasonable allowances for the time that it would take that report to reach Ottawa, I think the hon. gentlemen will have to acknowledge that there was full and ample information in the hands of the government early enough for action to be taken, and not this precipitate action as late as about the beginning of this year. Mr. Ogilvie reports:

The Kidneys

are the seat or the starting point of many maladies, all of them serious, all more or less painful, and all of them tending, unless cured, to a fatal end. No organs of the body are more delicate or more sensitive than the kidneys. When symptoms of disease appear in them not a moment is to be lost if health is to be restored. The best way to treat the kidneys is through the blood, cleansing it from the poisonous matter which is usually at the bottom of kidney complaints. For this purpose there is no remedy equal to

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

"For many years I have been a constant sufferer from kidney trouble, and have tried a number of largely advertised kidney cures without benefit. At last a friend advised me to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla. The use of eight bottles of this remedy entirely cured my malady."—MARY MILLER, 1238 Hancock Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

I am very much pleased to be able to inform you that a most important discovery of gold has been made on a creek called Bonanza Creek, an affluent of the river known here as the Klondike.* It is marked on the maps extant as Deer River and joins the Yukon a few miles above the site of Fort Reliance.

"The discovery was made by G. W. Cormack, who worked with me in 1887 on the coast range. The indications are that it is very rich, indeed the richest yet found, and as far as work has been carried on it realizes expectations. It is only two weeks since it was known, and already about 200 claims have been staked on it and the creek is not yet exhausted; it and its branches are considered good for 300 or 400 claims. Besides there are two other creeks above it which it is confidently expected will yield good pay, and if they do so we have from 800 to 1,000 claims on this river which will require over 2,000 men for their proper working. Between Thron-Diuck River and Stewart River a large creek called Indian Creek flows into the Yukon and rich prospects have been found on it, and no doubt it is in the gold bearing country between Thron-Diuck and Stewart Rivers, which is considered by all the old miners the best and most extensive gold country yet found. Scores of them would prospect it but for the fact that they cannot get provisions up there and it is too far to boat them up from here in small boats.

"This new find will necessitate an upward step on the Yukon, and help the Stewart River region.

"News has just arrived Bonanza Creek that three men worked \$75 in four hours the other day, and a \$12 nugget has been found, which assures the character of the ground, namely, coarse gold and plenty of it, as three times this can be done with sluice boxes. You can fancy the excitement here. It is claimed that from \$100 to \$500 per day can be made off the ground that has been prospected so far. As we have about 100 claims on Glacier and Miller Creeks, with three or four hundred in this vicinity, next year it is imperative that a man be sent in here to look after these claims and all land matters, and it is almost imperative that the agent be a surveyor. Already on Bonanza Creek they are disputing about the size of claims.

"I would have gone up and laid out the claims properly, but it would take me ten or twelve days to do so, and meantime my presence might be more urgently required elsewhere.

From the formation I have mentioned it will be seen that this corner of the Northwest is not going to be the least important part of it, more especially when we consider the fact that gold bearing quartz has been found in it at numerous places, and much will no doubt be worked. It is apparent that the revenue and business of the country will more than offset the expense of administration.

This letter was written on the 6th September, 1897. On the 6th of November it was supplemented by another letter from Mr. Ogilvie. This was in 1896, and after giving very full descriptions he says:—

"From all this we may infer that we have here a district which will give 1,000 claims of 500 feet in length each. Now, 1,000 such claims will require at least 3,000 men to work them properly, and as wages for working in the mines are from eight to ten dollars per day without board we have every reason to assume that this part of our territory will in a year or two contain 10,000 souls at least."

"They were without information were they?"

"For the news has gone out to the coast and an unprecedented influx is expected next spring. And this is not all, for a large creek, called Indian Creek, joins the Yukon about midway between Thron-Diuck and Stewart Rivers, and all along this creek good pay has been found. All that has stood in the way of working it heretofore has been the scarcity of provisions and the difficulty of getting them up there even when here. Indian Creek is quite a large stream and it is probable it will yield five or six hundred claims. Further south yet lies the head of several branches of Stewart River on which some prospecting has been done this summer and good indications found, but the want of provisions prevented development. Now gold has been found in several of the streams joining Pelly River, and also all along the Hootalingua. In the line of these finds farther south is the Casiar gold field in British Columbia; so the presumption is that we have in our territory along the easterly water shed of the Yukon a gold bearing belt of indefinite width, and upwards of 300 miles long, exclusive of the British Columbia part of it. On the westerly side of the Yukon prospecting has been done on a creek a short distance above Selkirk with a fair amount of success, and on a large creek some 30 or 40 miles below Selkirk fair prospects have been found; but, as before remarked, the difficulty of getting supplies here prevents any extensive or extended prospecting."

That letter was written on the 6th November, 1896. It closes by saying:—

"Before closing I may say that every report that comes in from Bonanza Creek is more encouraging than the last. Prospecting has only begun, and up to date of mailing, November 22nd, very rich prospects have been found on the few claims prospected on: from one dollar to the pan of dirt up to twelve dollars are reported and no bed rock found yet. This means from \$1,000 to \$12,000 per day per man sluicing.

"The excitement is intense, but at this season of the year it is very naturally very local."

Then on the 9th December, he wrote again:—

Since my last the prospects on Bonanza Creek and tributaries are increasing in richness and extent, until now it is certain that millions will be taken out of the district in the next few years.

"On some of the claims prospected the

pay dirt is of great extent and rich. One man told me yesterday that he washed out a single pan of dirt on one of the claims on Bonanza and found \$14.25 in it. Of course that may be an exceptionally rich pan, but \$5 to \$7 per pan is the average on the claim it is reported, with five feet of pay dirt and the width yet undetermined, but it is known to be 30 feet; even at that figure the result at 9 to 10 pans to the cubic foot, and 500 feet long: nearly \$4,000,000 at \$5 per pan—one-fourth of this would be enormous."

He ends up this letter by saying: "The miners here are, I understand, getting up a petition to the Minister asking for aid, in opening a way from the south and building along it shelter for winter travellers, with suitable supplies scattered along."

Here was a demand for a right of way, for access to get in and out of this country and this was written as early as the 9th December, 1896.

"As it is now, a winter trip out from here is on account of the long haul and want of shelter tedious and hazardous, and their representations are worthy of consideration. Then, writing from Cudahy under date of the 11th January, 1897, he says:

"The reports from the Thron-Diuck region are still very encouraging; so much so that all the other creeks around are practically abandoned, especially those on the head of Forty Mile in American territory; and nearly one hundred men made their way up from Circle City many of them hauling their sleds themselves. Those who cannot get claims are buying in on those already located. Men cannot be got to work for love or money, and development is consequently slow; one and a half dollar per hour is the wages paid the few men who have to work for hire, and work as many hours as they like. Some of the claims are so rich that every night a few pans of dirt suffices to pay the hired help when there is any; as high as \$204 has been reported in a single pan, but this is not generally credited. Claim owners are now very reticent about what they get, so you can hardly credit anything you hear; but one thing is certain we have one of the richest mining areas ever found, with a fair prospect that we have not yet discovered its limits."

Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell—From where did he write?

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—Cudahy. He says that as much as \$204 was taken out in a single pan, and he speaks of Miller and Glacier Creeks as follows:

"Miller and Glacier Creeks on the head of Sixty Mile River, which my survey of the 14th meridian determined to be in Canada, were thought to be very rich, but they are poor both in quality and quantity compared with Thron-Diuck.

Chicken Creek on the head of Forty Mile, in Alaska, discovered a year ago and rated very high, is today practically abandoned."

The last letter was dated 23rd January, 1897. My hon. friend the Secretary of State asks "but when were these letters received?" Now, he must know the date when they were received, but I do not. I think we have pretty good evidence that they were received pretty early in the spring of 1897.

Hon. Mr. Scott—Oh, no, I assure, the hon. gentlemen they were not. I know there were four or five months we did not hear from Mr. Ogilvie.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—That would allow four or five months from September when the first announcement was made. I was allowed seven or eight months.

Hon. Mr. Scott—It was certainly long after parliament rose last summer. We did not know anything about it until after parliament rose.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—My hon. friend will have to recede from that statement in a few minutes.

Hon. Mr. Scott—We had general reports but no specific information.

Hon. Mr. Ferguson—On the 21st May the government made their famous mining regulations which I hold in my hand establishing the royalty of ten per cent. Does my hon. friend tell his House that he would fix these royalties at ten per cent without the information I have read? On the 21st May the government had this information. They must have had it. Even though it would take four or five months on the way they must have had it some time before that. They were not so expeditious in moving as they would wish us to infer. The probability is they had three or four months notice and proceeded very tardily in making the mining regulations and only proceeded to make these regulations when they could not help themselves. But we know this that on the 21st May they had made these amended regulations which I have in my hand, these extraordinary regulations establishing and collecting a ten per cent royalty on these mines, and surely my hon. friend will not attempt to tell this House that they made these regulations without having the information I have read to the House establishing the wonderful richness of the mines of that country? Now the emergency plea which my hon. friend the Secretary of State offered this House the other day for this extraordinary contract will not hold water at all. There is no foundation for it. They had all this information long before parliament rose last year, and what did they do? They passed these mining regulations which have been condemned and condemned very properly all over the country—regulations that they have been patching and changing from time to time ever since. They passed these regulations, and that is absolutely about all they did until within a very recent period. The whole

Hood's Pills
 Stimulate the stomach, rouse the liver, cure biliousness, headache, dizziness, sour stomach, constipation, etc. Price 25 cents. Sold by all druggists. The only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

world was talking Klondike long before the House rose in June or July last, and people were moving from almost every part of the habitable world in that direction, and yet the government were oblivious of all this, and, instead of attending to their duty they went up and down in the country and out of the country junketing east and west, revelling, and having a good time, and did not awake to the importance of this great question until a few weeks ago, and then they spring this extravagant, extraordinary bargain which they propose to make with Mackenzie and Mann, and they come to the House in the person of my hon. friend, the Secretary of State, and say it is a great emergency.

"We found ourselves confronted with a great emergency and we have to do the very best we can." In discussing this question in the House hon. gentlemen appear to have placed particular stress, particular reliance, upon what we would call whispered arguments. They could not give us just such information as would settle everything in our minds at once; they had some valuable information in their minds and possession that they could scarcely whisper themselves, but if we only knew what they knew, the diplomatic reasons and the diplomatic forces that were at work, we would be willing to swallow the contract as they have swallowed it. That is the burden of the statement made by the two members of the government in this House. I have looked over the question as carefully as I am able to do, and I must say that I entirely concur with the observations of my hon. friend from Brandon, in reply to my hon. friend the leader of the House, when he said he could see nothing substantial in these whispered arguments which the members of the government had been giving in the House, with regard to diplomatic difficulties that surround this question. I cannot imagine that there are any diplomatic troubles in the matter, but which are on the face of it, which we all can see, and which the people of the United States and Canada are studying just as well as the gentlemen in the government are studying them at the present moment. It is possible there are some, but the man who is looking on can see as far into a millstone as the man who is picking it. We have all the advantages possessed by the hon. gentlemen opposite, or nearly all. They may get sometimes a day or two ahead of us, but such is the rapidity with which news is carried that the public will soon overtake them on any such question as this. The Hon. Secretary of State spoke of the difficulty on account of this strip of United States territory at the head of Lynn Canal which interposes between the open waters of the Lynn Canal and British territory, and I asked the hon. gentleman if he had applied for permission to go over that strip with a railway, and he said, No, we have not. The telegrams from Washington last Saturday say that the United States government have applied for permission to build railways into our territory and that it has been refused. This is the statement which comes from Washington. I can therefore very well understand that if the government have refused the Americans permission to locate railways in our part of that northern country, the Americans would naturally refuse to give us similar facilities. I can very well understand that the members of the government having refused such permission would not be very likely to go and ask the United States for permission in the same direction.

Hon. Mr. Boulton—That only brings into prominence the fact that it is not a Canadian route—not an all-Canadian route.

(To be continued.)

WOOD'S PHOSPHODINE
 The Great Emphatic.
 Six Packages Guaranteed to promptly and permanently cure all forms of Nervous Weakness, Emotions, Spasmodic, Epilepsy, and all effects of Abuse or Excesses, Mental Worry, excessive use of Tobacco, Opium or Stimulants, which soon lead to Insanity, Consumption and an early grave. Has been prescribed over 35 years in thousands of cases; is the only Reliable and Honest Medicine known. Ask druggist for Wood's Phosphodine; if he offers some worthless medicine in place of this, enclose price in letter, and we will send by return mail. Price, one package, \$1; six, \$5. One will cure. Pamphlets free to any address. The Wood Company, Windsor, Ont., Canada.

Sold in Charlottetown by George E. Hughes, Druggist.

GIVE THE BABY a Chance that will build up a weak constitution gradually but surely is **Martin's Cardinal Food**

a simple, scientific and highly nutritive preparation for infants, delicate children and invalids.

KERRY WATSON & CO., PROPRIETORS, MONTREAL.

TO BE LET
 Brick dwelling house with 17 rooms, hot water heating system. Pleasantly situated on Poplar Terrace, Kent Street East. Large stable and coach house. Also plenty yard room and a good garden. Apply on premises or at F. W. L. Moore's office.

GEO. S. MOORE, STEWART C. MOORE, FRED W. L. MOORE, Trustees Est. late F. W. Moore.

MACHINISTS AND MILLMEN

Know that a good file Like a Pretty Girl

Should have good teeth, and an even temper. The Arcade File . . .

has both. **FENNEL & CHANDLER**

Agent for P. E. Island.

Did It Ever Occur to You

That the Sewing Machine in your own house would live several years longer, make less noise and do much better work, if it was thoroughly cleaned and adjusted. We have a first class repair shop in our new premises, Connolly Building, Queen Street, and an expert man who thoroughly understands his business. All work fully warranted, or no pay.

MILLER BROS.

THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MUSIC STORE
 Connolly Building, Queen Street

SKATE HOCKEY and GENUINE ACME CLUB

at 20 per cent. off. Hockey Sticks at same discount.

SIMON W. CRABBE

Walker's Corner STOVES & HARDWARE

WE HAVE THE GOODS NOW

we are right out of black and blue Worsteds. W opening to-day one thousand dollars' worth black and blue worsteds. These goods have been entered under the new tariff, and are better value than anything we have ever placed before the public inspection solicited.

JOHN MACLEOD & CO. MERCHANT TAILORS.

Clear Them Out

BUT—and a great big BUT, it must be for cash.

What!

Our Hay Bale Ties, the best in the market, 10½ feet, gauge 14, at cost for spot cash, at the **CITY - HARDWARE - STORE**

R. B. NORTON & CO., LTD