

# THE DESERET WEEKLY.

Truth and Liberty.

No. 13.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SEPTEMBER 11, 1897.

VOL. LV.

## AT CANADA'S CAPITAL.

Ottawa, Canada, Sept. 1, 1897. I write this letter in the capital of British America. From this point almost one-third of the North American continent is governed. Queen Victoria has about as much land on this side of the Atlantic as we have. If you should take California away from the United States, the two countries would be of just about the same size, and in this I include Alaska in our territory. The British part of the North American continent is a very valuable piece of property. There are millions of acres of wheat land which have not been opened up, and there is a large agricultural region which has not yet been penetrated by railroads. The Canadian cannot understand why it is that the immigrants pass their country by and go to the United States. They have lots of land open to settlement, and they offer, in addition to 160 acres, a premium of about \$4 an immigrant, to induce them to settle north of our boundary. Notwithstanding this, Uncle Sam gets the bulk of the foreigners, and Canada, after all these years, has now only about one-fifteenth as many people as we have. She has, all told, only about five million, by the census of 1891, and her population is creeping upward slower than the pace of a tortoise up a mountain road. I have met a dozen different Canadians who have said to me that their day had come, now that the United States was filled up. If so, its sun is not bright enough yet to show the world the fact. Times are as hard here as in the United States, money is tight and wages are lower.

The Canadians do not like the new tariff. I have not heard one friendly word in favor of the McKinley government since I came here. I called on a high official this afternoon and asked him for some facts about Canadian trade, saying that this letter would be read in every part of the United States. He replied:

"I don't care a blank for the United States. I don't want to spread news concerning Canada in the United States. The two countries should have less to do with each other than ever since the passage of the tariff act. We are going to discriminate in favor of Great Britain, and we will make a market there for our products instead of sending them to you. We are already doing this. I have an apple orchard and ship several thousand barrels every year. I used to send them to New York. I now export to London and get better prices than I did when I sold to you Yankees."

The lumber men are especially angry at the tariff. Canada is a big lumber market. Her forest productions are estimated to be worth about eighty million dollars a year, and almost half of this is exported. She has the bulk of the wood left on this continent, and a big part of her income has been from the logs and lumber shipped across to the United States. The new tariff practically kills this industry,

as it does also that of the wood pulp mills, which, I am told, have been furnishing a large part of the printing paper used by our newspapers. These things make the people very bitter, and it is largely due to them that the rigid regulations in regard to mining on the Klondike are being adopted.

Speaking of the Klondike, Canada proposes to hold every inch of gold territory she can for her own uses. There is no sympathy here whatever with American miners, and the regulations will be further restricted if the gold output proves to be as large as it has been represented. The size of the claims will be reduced and additional percentages may be demanded. As it is now, according to a paper which I got at the Interior department this afternoon, the entry fee for each claim will be \$15, and for every year after the first year the government will demand a rental of \$100 apiece for the claims. This is without regard to the amount which the claims produce. Then there is the royalty of 10 per cent on all gold mined and of 20 per cent for all claims which run over \$500 per week. This means that in case of any big strike the Canadian government is bound to get one-fifth of it, and that without doing any work except collecting the amount due them. The provision that the claims be worked continuously is a very hard one. If a claim is left idle for more than three days it is considered abandoned and may be jumped, and there are other regulations as to fees by which Canada will squeeze money out of the miners in different ways. I do not say that these provisions are made as retaliation to the tariff, but it is fair to presume that they have been somewhat effected by it.

I called at the museum of the Canadian geological survey this afternoon to gather what information I could about the Klondike. Canada has a well-equipped geological survey, and she always keeps a number of exploring parties in the field. One of the chief surveyors as regards the Klondike is Mr. William Ogilvie, who is now at work in the Yukon territory, and another is Dr. George M. Dawson, the head of the survey. Dr. Dawson and Prof. Ogilvie traveled together through a part of the Yukon a few years ago. Dr. Dawson tells me that there is no doubt the country contains a vast deal of gold, and says that he found miners prospecting through all parts of the Yukon country ten years ago, but none as yet had made any large finds. He predicts that there will be many disappointed men among the thousands who are now there, says there is absolutely nothing in the country in the way of food, and thinks that there must be great suffering during the coming winter. With Dr. Dawson I looked over a large number of photographs covering parts of the Yukon and Klondike. The doctor thinks that the White pass will be the favorite pass, rather than the Chilkoot pass. He says that a good road could be constructed along it and that it is com-

paratively easy of ascent. In the meantime there is a strong possibility of a railroad being built north from the Canadian Pacific into the Yukon country. A branch already runs to Edmonton, and from here it is said that a road could be built which would make the Klondike of comparatively easy access.

I chatted last night with a man who for years had traveled through British America as an employee of the Hudson Bay company. He told me that one could easily get through to the Yukon from this side of the mountains. He said he would go first to Edmonton by rail, then go to Lake Athabaska by wagon, and thence on to the Lesser Slave lake from where he would pack his goods by trail to the Nelson river, and on to the Dease river, and thence right on to the Pelly river and down to the Klondike. He says there are along nearly the whole of his route used for years by the Hudson Bay company, miners and traders. The landing to the Pelly could be made with pack horses, and a wagon road could be made without much cost. The trip to Pelly from Athabaska landing would be only about 900 miles, and thence you could easily float down the 200 miles remaining to the gold regions. There is no doubt but that there will be a number of men who will make this trip in the spring. I meet everywhere people who are going to the Klondike as soon as the winter is over. All sorts of companies are being formed in Canada, the shares in which range from 24 cents to one or more dollars. I have before me the prospectus of a company with a capital (authorized) of \$1,200,000 in five million shares, the par value of which is 24 cents, or one shilling. One of the heads of the company is the mayor of Montreal, and there quite a number of distinguished men on the directors' list. The advertisement of this company states that subscription lists are now open and that shares may be secured upon application by paying 6 cents a share.

This town of Ottawa is a beautiful one. It is about one-sixth the size of Washington. It has wide and well paved streets, good public buildings and, if I am correctly informed, a magnificent public debt. Its situation is on a series of bluffs at the point where the Ottawa and the Rideau rivers join. These rivers dash over a great fall at this point, and the Rideau canal has been built through the city in order to connect Lower Canada with Lake Ontario, and thus prevent the necessity of vessels going up the St. Lawrence river under the enemy's fire. This canal cost about two and a half millions of dollars, and it is said to be worth it. Ottawa, like Washington, was cut out of the woods. It had 10,000 inhabitants in 1854, and it was four years later that Queen Victoria chose it as the capital of her American dominions. Today the chief businesses of the city are lumbering, lob-