

## **GOLD COMMISSIONER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1902**

**Document Date:** June 5, 2023

**Geographic Location:** Skagway, Yukon Territory

**Event Year:** 1902

**Settlement Type:** Supply Post

**Population Estimate:** 34,441

### **Executive Summary:**

The 1902 annual report for the Skagway district of the Yukon Territory highlights a year marked by stabilization and growth. Despite the decline in the number of new claims staked, the existing claims continue to yield significant quantities of gold, contributing to a thriving economy. This report provides an overview of the administration and development of the goldfields and settlements within the Skagway district, as mandated by the Department of the Interior.

### **Claim Registrations and Transfers:**

In 1902, a total of 2,421 new claims were registered in the Skagway district, a decrease of 13.5% compared to the previous year (Table 1). However, the number of claims transferred increased by 15.9%, with 3,201 claims changing hands (Table 2). The average value of claims transferred was \$15,421, with the highest value claimed by the Treadgold Concession at \$50,000 (Appendix A).

### **Legal Disputes and Resolutions:**

The Skagway district experienced 217 legal disputes in 1902, a decrease of 12.1% compared to the previous year (Table 3). Of these disputes, 143 were resolved through arbitration, while 74 were resolved through court judgments (Table 4). The most common disputes involved claim boundaries and title disputes (Appendix B).

### **Enforcement of Mining Regulations:**

The Gold Commissioner's Office enforced mining regulations with diligence, issuing 456 fines and warnings to individuals and companies violating regulations (Table 5). The most common offenses were failure to post claim boundaries and failure to maintain claim records (Appendix C).

### **Population and Demographics:**

The population of the Skagway district increased by 5.5% in 1902, reaching a total of 34,441 residents (Table 6). The breakdown by occupation is as follows: miners (23.1%), merchants (14.5%), gamblers (6.3%), and laborers (55.1%) (Appendix D).

### **Revenue Collection:**

The Gold Commissioner's Office collected a total of \$1,234,219 in fees and royalties in 1902, a decrease of 8.5% compared to the previous year (Table 7). The breakdown by category is as follows: claim registration fees (\$143,219), royalty payments (\$943,219), and other revenue sources (\$48,781) (Appendix E).

**Infrastructure Developments:**

The Skagway district experienced significant infrastructure development in 1902, with the completion of the White Pass & Yukon Route Railway and the expansion of the Skagway harbor (Table 8). The total value of infrastructure projects completed in 1902 was \$1,234,219 (Appendix F).

**Conclusion:**

The 1902 annual report for the Skagway district of the Yukon Territory highlights a year marked by stabilization and growth. Despite the decline in the number of new claims staked, the existing claims continue to yield significant quantities of gold, contributing to a thriving economy. The Gold Commissioner's Office has worked diligently to enforce mining regulations and collect revenue, while infrastructure development has continued to improve the quality of life for residents.

**Recommendations:**

Based on the data and analysis presented in this report, the following recommendations are made:

1. Increase funding for the Gold Commissioner's Office to improve enforcement of mining regulations and collection of revenue.
2. Continue to support infrastructure development, particularly in the areas of transportation and communication.
3. Encourage the establishment of new businesses and industries to diversify the economy and reduce dependence on the mining sector.

**Appendix A: Claim Transfers by Value**

Rank	Claim Value	Claim Name	Company
1	\$50,000	Treadgold Concession	Treadgold Mining Co.
2	\$30,000	Big Alex McDonald's Holdings	Big Alex McDonald
3	\$25,000	Eldorado Creek Claims	Eldorado Creek Mining Co.

**Appendix B: Legal Disputes by Category**

Rank	Dispute Category	Number of Disputes
1	Claim Boundaries	74
2	Title Disputes	56
3	Environmental Disputes	27

**Appendix C: Fines and Warnings Issued**

Rank	Offense	Number of Fines/Warnings
1	Failure to post claim boundaries	123
2	Failure to maintain claim records	93
3	Violation of environmental regulations	56

**Appendix D: Population by Occupation**

Occupation	Number of Residents
Miners	7,941
Merchants	4,963
Gamblers	2,167
Laborers	19,370

**Appendix E: Revenue Collection by Category**

Category	Revenue Collection
Claim registration fees	\$143,219
Royalty payments	\$943,219
Other revenue sources	\$48,781

**Appendix F: Infrastructure Development by Category**

Category	Total Value
Transportation	\$643,219
Communication	\$243,219
Other infrastructure	\$348,781