

Gold Commissioner's Annual Report of the Yukon Territory for the Year 1905

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As the snowmelt of spring 1905 receded, the Yukon Territory began to stir from its winter slumber. The once-frenzied goldfields, which had drawn in excess of 100,000 hopeful prospectors during the height of the Klondike Gold Rush, now stood as a testament to the ebb and flow of human endeavor. The population of the territory, estimated to be approximately 18,749, had stabilized, with the majority residing in the Native Villages, mining camps, and boomtowns.

Claim Registrations and Transfers

The year 1905 saw a marked decrease in claim registrations, a direct result of the decline in prospecting activity. Despite this, the Gold Commissioner's Office processed a total of 2,147 new claim registrations, with the majority being staked in the vicinity of Dawson City and the surrounding mining camps. The most notable development was the transfer of several prominent claims from individual prospectors to large-scale mining syndicates, a trend that would continue to shape the industry in the years to come.

Legal Disputes and Resolutions

The year 1905 was marked by a significant decrease in legal disputes related to mining claims. The Gold Commissioner's Office resolved a total of 147 cases, with the majority being resolved amicably through mediation. Notable cases included the "Case of the disputed claim on Bonanza Creek," which was resolved in favor of the claimant, and the "Dispute over the boundary of the Treadgold Concession," which was resolved through the intervention of the Commissioner.

Enforcement of Mining Regulations

The Gold Commissioner's Office continued to enforce the Dominion Mining Regulations, with a focus on ensuring that all claimants complied with the regulations regarding claim staking, representation work, and royalty payments. The office conducted a total of 245 inspections, resulting in the issuance of 127 fines and warnings. Notable cases included the "Case of the unrepresented claim on Eldorado Creek," which resulted in a fine of \$200, and the "Case of the non-payment of royalties on the Treadgold Concession," which resulted in a fine of \$500.

Population Counts and Demographics

The population of the Yukon Territory, estimated to be approximately 18,749, was comprised of a diverse range of individuals, including prospectors, miners, merchants, and members of the Native

Villages. The most notable demographic trend was the increase in the number of women residing in the territory, with estimates suggesting that approximately 10% of the population was female. The majority of women resided in the Native Villages, where they played a vital role in maintaining the cultural and social fabric of the communities.

Revenue Collection

The Gold Commissioner's Office collected a total of \$253,471 in fees and royalties during the year 1905, a decrease of 15% from the previous year. The majority of revenue was generated from the collection of royalty payments on the Treadgold Concession and the Big Alex McDonald's holdings.

Infrastructure Developments

The year 1905 saw significant developments in the infrastructure of the Yukon Territory, including the completion of the White Pass & Yukon Route Railway, which connected the territory to the Outside world. The railway was instrumental in facilitating the transportation of goods and people, and played a crucial role in the development of the territory. Additionally, the Gold Commissioner's Office invested in the construction of a new telegraph line, which connected the territory to the Outside world and facilitated communication.

Economic and Social Conditions

The year 1905 was marked by a period of relative stability in the economy of the Yukon Territory. The decline in prospecting activity and the decrease in claim registrations resulted in a decrease in the number of individuals employed in the mining industry. However, the increase in the number of women residing in the territory and the development of new industries, such as the forestry and fur trades, helped to mitigate the impact of the decline. The social conditions of the territory remained challenging, with many individuals struggling to access basic necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the year 1905 was marked by a period of relative stability in the economy and society of the Yukon Territory. The decline in prospecting activity and the decrease in claim registrations resulted in a decrease in the number of individuals employed in the mining industry. However, the development of new industries and the increase in the number of women residing in the territory helped to mitigate the impact of the decline. The Gold Commissioner's Office continued to play a vital role in ensuring the administration and development of the goldfields and settlements, and will continue to do so in the years to come.

Appendix

A comprehensive list of the claims registered and transferred during the year 1905, as well as a list of the legal disputes and their resolutions, is provided in the appendix to this report.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this report, I recommend the following:

1. That the Gold Commissioner's Office continue to monitor the economic and social conditions of the territory and provide recommendations to the Department of the Interior as necessary.
2. That the Commissioner's Office invest in the development of new industries and infrastructure, including the expansion of the railway and the construction of new telegraph lines.
3. That the Commissioner's Office continue to enforce the Dominion Mining Regulations and ensure that all claimants comply with the regulations regarding claim staking, representation work, and royalty payments.

Signing off

I, William Ogilvie, Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, hereby certify that the information contained in this report is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature

William Ogilvie

Commissioner of the Yukon Territory