

## **Gold Commissioner's Annual Report**

**Document Date:** 2023-09-23

**Geographic Location:** Chilkoot Pass

**Event Year:** 1896

**Settlement Type:** Supply Post

### **To the Honorable Members of the Parliament**

I, William Ogilvie, Gold Commissioner of the Yukon Territory, submit this annual report as a comprehensive overview of the administration and development of the goldfields and settlements within our jurisdiction. This year marks the 27th anniversary of the discovery of gold in the Klondike, and I am pleased to report that the region continues to experience unprecedented growth and prosperity.

#### **Population Estimate:**

At the close of 1896, the estimated population of the Yukon Territory stands at 34,940. This figure represents a significant increase from the previous year, as thousands of prospectors and settlers continue to flock to the region in search of fortune. The population is predominantly concentrated in Dawson City, with estimates suggesting that the city's population has grown to over 30,000 residents. Skagway and Dyea, the two major gateway towns, have also experienced significant growth, with populations estimated at 10,000 and 5,000, respectively.

#### **Main Occupations:**

Saloon owners, such as myself, have played a crucial role in catering to the needs of the miners and settlers. Our establishments have become hubs of activity, providing entertainment, food, and lodging to those seeking refuge from the harsh wilderness. As the Commissioner, I have worked closely with saloon owners to ensure that their businesses operate within the bounds of the law and provide a safe and welcoming environment for all patrons.

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

During the year, a total of 5,000 new claims were registered, with an additional 2,000 claims transferred from one party to another. The most significant transfer occurred when Big Alex McDonald sold his vast holdings to a consortium of investors for a staggering \$100,000. This transaction marked a significant shift in the ownership structure of the goldfields, as large corporate interests began to exert their influence over the region.

#### **Summaries of Legal Disputes and Their Resolutions:**

The year saw a significant increase in the number of legal disputes, as miners and settlers clashed over issues such as claim boundaries, water rights, and access to the goldfields. The Commissioner's Office worked tirelessly to resolve these disputes, often through mediation and arbitration. In one notable case, a group of miners successfully petitioned the Commissioner to reopen a previously abandoned claim, resulting in a significant find and the recapture of the claim by its original owner.

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

The Commissioner's Office has continued to enforce the Dominion Mining Regulations, ensuring that all miners and settlers comply with the requirements for claim staking, representation work, and royalty payments. The Office has also worked closely with the North-West Mounted Police to maintain law and order in the region, particularly in regards to issues such as claim jumping and access to the goldfields.

### **Revenue Collected:**

During the year, the Commissioner's Office collected a total of \$250,000 in fees and royalties from the goldfields. This revenue is used to support the administration of the region, including the payment of salaries, maintenance of infrastructure, and provision of services to the miners and settlers.

### **Infrastructure Developments:**

The year saw significant improvements to the infrastructure of the region, including the completion of the White Pass & Yukon Route Railway and the expansion of the telegraph network. These developments have greatly facilitated the transportation of goods and people to and from the goldfields, and have played a crucial role in the growth and prosperity of the region.

### **Economic and Social Conditions:**

The economic and social conditions of the region remain strong, with a thriving mining industry and a growing population of settlers. The Commissioner's Office has worked to address issues such as housing shortages, food shortages, and access to education and healthcare. The Office has also established a number of programs to support the development of the region, including the provision of loans to miners and settlers, and the establishment of a regional credit union.

### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, the 1896 annual report demonstrates the continued growth and prosperity of the Yukon Territory. The Commissioner's Office has worked tirelessly to support the administration and development of the goldfields and settlements, and has made significant strides in addressing issues such as claim disputes, access to the goldfields, and infrastructure development. As the

Commissioner, I am committed to continuing this work, and to ensuring that the Yukon Territory remains a thriving and prosperous region for generations to come.

### **Recommendations:**

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

1. Increased funding for the Commissioner's Office to support the administration and development of the region.
2. Establishment of a regional hospital to provide improved access to healthcare for miners and settlers.
3. Expansion of the telegraph network to improve communication with the Outside.
4. Development of a regional credit union to provide loans to miners and settlers.

By implementing these recommendations, the Parliament can further support the growth and prosperity of the Yukon Territory, and ensure that the region continues to thrive for generations to come.

### **Appendix:**

The following appendix provides detailed statistical tables and narrative sections on various topics, including claim registrations and transfers, summaries of legal disputes and their resolutions, enforcement of mining regulations, revenue collected, infrastructure developments, economic and social conditions, and recommendations.

### **Statistical Tables:**

Table 1: Claim Registrations and Transfers

Year	New Claims Registered	Claims Transferred
1895	3,000	1,000
1896	5,000	2,000

Table 2: Revenue Collected

Year	Fees and Royalties
1895	\$150,000

Year	Fees and Royalties
1896	\$250,000

## Narrative Sections:

### Section 1: Claim Registrations and Transfers

The Commissioner's Office has continued to register and transfer claims throughout the year, with a total of 5,000 new claims registered and 2,000 claims transferred from one party to another. The most significant transfer occurred when Big Alex McDonald sold his vast holdings to a consortium of investors for a staggering \$100,000.

### Section 2: Summaries of Legal Disputes and Their Resolutions

The year saw a significant increase in the number of legal disputes, as miners and settlers clashed over issues such as claim boundaries, water rights, and access to the goldfields. The Commissioner's Office worked tirelessly to resolve these disputes, often through mediation and arbitration.

### Section 3: Enforcement of Mining Regulations

The Commissioner's Office has continued to enforce the Dominion Mining Regulations, ensuring that all miners and settlers comply with the requirements for claim staking, representation work, and royalty payments.

### Section 4: Revenue Collected

During the year, the Commissioner's Office collected a total of \$250,000 in fees and royalties from the goldfields. This revenue is used to support the administration of the region, including the payment of salaries, maintenance of infrastructure, and provision of services to the miners and settlers.

### Section 5: Infrastructure Developments

The year saw significant improvements to the infrastructure of the region, including the completion of the White Pass & Yukon Route Railway and the expansion of the telegraph network. These developments have greatly facilitated the transportation of goods and people to and from the goldfields, and have played a crucial role in the growth and prosperity of the region.

### Section 6: Economic and Social Conditions

The economic and social conditions of the region remain strong, with a thriving mining industry and a growing population of settlers. The Commissioner's Office has worked to address issues such as housing shortages, food shortages, and access to education and healthcare.

#### Section 7: Recommendations

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

1. Increased funding for the Commissioner's Office to support the administration and development of the region.
2. Establishment of a regional hospital to provide improved access to healthcare for miners and settlers.
3. Expansion of the telegraph network to improve communication with the Outside.
4. Development of a regional credit union to provide loans to miners and settlers.