

# Newspapers and Magazines 1900s

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WITH RICHES (?) COME PROBLEMS | EDITOR WON'T STOOP FOR GOLD

If any walnut-sized gold nuggets are found on Sheridan Hill near the Pitt River, scene of a small gold stampede Sunday, it will not be The Columbia's city editor who picks them up.

Editor Elmer McLellan planted mineral claim stakes on the side of the hill, Saturday afternoon, in the hope he might find a long lost source of gold nuggets held secret by its original discoverer in 1899 [sic].

At four a.m. Sunday, two more prospectors, the first of hundreds to climb over the hill that day, looked, liked what they saw, and set up stakes claiming the whole hill as a placer mine.

The normal gold claim, registered by McLellan Monday morning, gives him the right to excavate for mineral under the rock in the area.

The placer claim, registered at the same time by John Tancowny, of 4239 Cambridge, Burnaby, gives Tancowny and his partner the right to pick up any free gold in a half by quarter mile strip.

If both claims are considered valid by New Westminster gold commissioner Fraser McDonald, the claimant will probably come to a mutual arrangement to work side by side.

Tancowny's large placer claim blankets McLelland's small one.

One consideration will have to be taken into account by Mr. McDonald before he decides to allow either mining claim.

The whole of the Sheridan Hill property is privately owned, split among several private owners, and the large communal-farming Pitt Polder Ltd.

This could mean that no one would be allowed to dig into the hill if Mr. McDonald finds it would disturb the peaceful use of the property by its owners.

Claim stakers and curiosity seekers were inadvertently trespassing Saturday and Sunday, lulled by the wild appearance of the hill into believing it was not privately owned.

Any gold-seeking operation, whether by search for free nuggets, or by tunnelling into the rock of the hill, would have to be with the consent of several owners.

The Salish Indian Slumach, had no such legal worries when he carried pocketfuls of nuggets into New Westminster and used them as money during 1889 and 1890.

**With riches (?) come problems | Editor won't stoop for gold**

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He was hanged in 1891 for murder without revealing the source of his nuggets, and 23 men later lost their lives while searching for his mine.

It was in the hope that it might be found on the readily accessible Sheridan Hill that McLellan took a small staking party out Saturday.