

Beaton papers

Copy of letter from Johnny Beaton re gold Dredge on which he worked as winter watchman:

Fort St Johns BC
August 4th 1920

Bloodgood Kemper & Bloodgood
Milwaukee

Dear sir

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 12 ~~xxxx~~ which I have just received regarding Peace River Gold Dredging Co Ltd

I was the caretaker of the dredge all winter and I looked after it to the best of my ability I lived on the dredge as long as I could but it got so cold that I could not sleep on it but I slept about 400 yards from it and I was on it every day and when the Ice got to thick I chopped it open. before the Ice broke ~~it~~ up in the River I had an open Chanell cut around the dredge but the front end of dredge was froze to the bottom and as the side anchors had been put down by Steam in the fall these anchors was also froze to the bottom and before the Ice broke up in the spring the River rose a few feet but the side anchors being froze to the bottom it held the dredge from Rising. Next day the River broke open and the Ice ~~chained~~ chained below the dredge that is about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile below the River on account of the Cham the Ice backed up with the rise of water, and the front end of the dredge being froze to the bottom and also held by the side anchors the Ice went over the after part of dredge and broke the stern anchor and Cabbin the Machinery was not damaged

When I hired with Mr Kelly last fall the arangment was that he and his men would be up here in the month of March I engaged to look after the dredge until that time but they did not get here until the end of May . if the men had been here before the break up of the River with some dinemite they could have saved the dredge but being alone here I could do nothing. I wired Mr Kelly & Co in Winnipeg in the Month of March and I told them then that the dredge was in danger. I have coppies of my wires I sent them. With regard to my Father promising to Mr Kelly that he would see that I looked after the dredge I know nothing of that. My Father often came and gave me a hand in cutting the Ice around the dredge during the winter.

I have not been payed as yet I was promised \$30⁰⁰ per Month the time I looket after the dredge was 7 Months. there is 4 men here who was working on the dredge that has not been paid. and they also have some store bills here not paid

Copy of letter from Johnny Beaton to Bloodgood Kemper and
Bloodgood Milwaukee conti.

the dredge has been underwater for some time but they can get
it up the water is going down in the River there is good
prospects of Gold in this River there is every chance of the
dredge paying if it is properly handled. the Machinery is in
good shape very little damage having been done to it.

Hoping to see you when you come up here

Your Obedient Servant

John Beaton