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LET DOWN EASILY

Proposition to Ask for Government Assay Office Gingerly Handled

BY BOARD OF TRADE LAST NIGHT

Was Not Upheld by Previous Staunch Advocates.

NO ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS

An Inoffensive and Unmeaning Resolution Passed — Gold Dust Question Tackled Next.

The amount of talking done at the Board of Trade meeting last night as compared with the actual business transacted was in the ratio of plus 100 to minus 1.

The wind has shifted and now blows from another quarter.

Resolved, That the Board of Trade favors an assay office in Dawson, providing all persons shall have the right to dispose of their gold to the assay office or any other persons if they shall so desire.

The above compromise resolution was passed, being substituted for a precedent.

ing one introduced by Falcon Joslin which was as follows:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Board of Trade that it would be desirable to have an assay office established at Dawson as a substitute for the present system of royalty collection.

Resolved further, That the establishment of an assay office at Dawson solely for the purpose of assay and purchase of gold by the government would be of little if any, benefit to the community.

Two hours devoted to the hearing of "general expression" preliminary to the introduction of the two resolutions and the passing of the former which was presented by Thos. McGowan.

Besides a full meeting of the board, many others interested in the welfare of the country were present. Commissioner Ogilvie and Judge Dugas occupied seats on the platform with President Mizner. It being understood that the question of the desirability or undesirability of the establishing of an assay office in Dawson by the Dominion government was the main topic for discussion at the meeting, the officials as well as those having large business interests in the community were invited to be present and participate in it.

Mr. Ogilvie, being first called upon, said that last June the council, being convinced that the royalty was too high, had memorialized Ottawa to reduce it or, in lieu of making the desired reduction, to establish an assay office here and compel all gold mined in the district to be deposited there in exchange for government certificates negotiable in any part of Canada at their face value. He did not believe, however, as there is no mint in Canada, that it would be the proper thing now, in view of the reduction in royalty and other concessions made to the miner, for the government to go into the gold buying business as he did not think it would be a self-sustaining proposition.

Judge Dugas said that in conversation with Ottawa officials last summer they expressed themselves as favorable to the establishing of an assay office here, but legislation was first needed in order that parliament might act in the matter. The judge said it was but natural that the banks would oppose such a move, but it rested with the government to act in the matter.

In reply to a question propounded by Mr. Joslin as to whether there is now any authority for the establishing of a Dominion assay office, Mr. Dugas said he thought there was not.

Mr. Te Roller asked if the Dominion operates any assay offices and Mr. Ogilvie replied in the negative. However, he province of British Columbia maintains an assay office of its own.

R. P. McLennan was of the opinion that the establishing of an assay office in Dawson would greatly assist the government in collecting royalty which he declared is not now paid on more than one-third of the gold mined. But of itself, unless authorized to buy gold, he said an assay office would be of no benefit. If the government handled gold it would put dust out of circulation as a medium of exchange and that is what is most needed today.

Mr. Fulda sounded the keynote to the situation in the following:

"What we want is the retirement of the gold dust," he said. "It is in the province of the council to accomplish this, because it is illegal to pass gold dust. Of course custom makes the law, and under it we have considered gold as a medium of exchange, but to be compelled to accept \$14 gold at a valuation of \$16, or to pass out \$17 gold at \$16, works a very great wrong to many people. I think the retirement of the gold dust the key to the situation."

Let it be supplanted with currency."

It being evident that the matter of retiring gold dust as a medium of exchange was of much more moment than the real question of an assay office, there was considerable unanimity of expression on that subject, and until President Mizner called attention to the subject before the meeting.

Mr. H. T. Wills made a lengthy and concise talk on the proposition from a banker's standpoint in which he showed by figures that the total cost of conducting an assay office without a mint, of which there are none in the Dominion, would cost more than the miners are now paying to have their gold assayed or turned into money.

Among many points made by Mr. Wills the following statement was submitted: "No corporation anywhere will ever pay any more than the gold is worth, no matter how much black sand it may have or how pure it may be. As we have no mint an assay office for the purchase of gold is not necessary—it is simply going into trade, for the government will have to sell it in Seattle or San Francisco—and I want to tell you that gold in San Francisco is worth 1-8 of 1 per cent more than at Seattle. At neither place, however, is gold as valuable to Canada as it is in New York, because all large financial transactions are based on New York rates. While in the east I never heard a demand for a mint. Our Canadian banking and financial system has stood the test like a solid rock when banks all over the continent were failing. I say that if we start gold coinage in Canada it will interfere with our present financial system. Our gold will go to New York and be remitted there the same as sovereigns are now."

Further remarks were made by Messrs. Joslin, McGowan, Te Roller, McLennan, Macaulay, Timmins, Fulda, Condon and others.

The resolution above printed, was introduced by Mr. Joslin to be substituted by that of Mr. McGowan which passed in an apathetic way which plainly said: "We, the Board of Trade, don't care a continental about a local assay office."

On motion of Mr. Macaulay, a special meeting of the full board will be held Saturday night at 8 o'clock for the purpose of discussing ways and means for retiring gold dust as a medium of local exchange.

New members were last night elected as follows: Geo. M. Allen, J. H. Rogers, T. W. O'Brien, Daniel Rose, S. H. Weisberg and C. M. Woodworth.

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SHE HOLDS THE FORT

Mrs. McConnell Declines to Go to Barracks Today

NOTWITHSTANDING PRESSURE OF POLICE SQUAD

Which Retires for Council of War After Short but Interesting Skirmish.

Three Doctors and Police Matron on the Scene — Stage Was in Readiness but Not Needed—Large Crowd of Curious Spectators—Mrs. McConnell Under Arrest at Her Room in Charge of Matron — Further Developments Expected.

"The king of France with forty thousand men marched up the hill and then marched down again."

A squad of police marched down Second avenue this morning and then marched up again.

Mrs. Luella Day McConnell holds the fort and in the language of old John Falstaff can say without successful contradiction, "I will take mine ease in mine inn."

As was stated in the Daily Nugget yesterday a warrant was issued from police court for the arrest of Mrs. McConnell to compel her appearance in person or by counsel at that court to answer the charge of criminal libel preferred against her by four members of the Yukon council, Messrs. Senkler, Dugas, Ogilvie and Wood.

An attempt was made by Corporal P. F. McPhail who is in charge of the town police station, to serve the warrant at about 9:30 o'clock this morning and, owing to defendant's reported indisposition, a covered stage in which were numerous robes, was provided and on hand in front of defendant's home, the Melbourne hotel, to convey her to the barracks. The police matron, a kindly appearing woman, and police surgeon Dr. Hurdman, were passengers in the stage coach to render any attention that might be required in the short but eventful journey back to the barracks.

On first applying for admission to Mrs. McConnell's presence it was denied the corporal on the grounds, as stated, that she was sick, confined to her bed and unable to receive him. The corporal retired and telephoned an account of the situation to the commanding officer, Superintendent Primrose, at the barracks, who at once dispatched a squad of police under Capt. Scarth to the front. In the meantime Corporal McPhail had returned to the Melbourne, been admitted to Mrs. McConnell's presence and had executed the warrant which placed her under arrest. Shortly thereafter the detachment from the barracks arrived, and, being informed of the progress made, the police matron who had been sitting out in the stage, was called and requested to assist the defendant to dress. But the defendant not only declined the proffered assistance but also declined to make a movement towards dressing herself. On the contrary, she became hysterical, cried, laughed and shrieked alternately, and, like Rachel of old, refused to be comforted. Her physician, Dr. Catto, was present and strongly protested against the treatment being accorded his patient. Dr. Richardson was also present by request.

While the above scene was being enacted upstairs the street on two sides of the Melbourne was packed with people. From blocks away people could see the crowd and, thinking a fire was in progress, rushed to join the throng. Mary

crowded into the building and upstairs from whence they were summarily ordered down and out by Edward McConnell.

In the meantime the police were insisting that their charge get in readiness to proceed to the barracks, and she as persistently refused to do so. At length the three physicians, Drs. Hurdman, Richardson and Catto, having conferred together, talked quietly with Capt. Scarth who ordered his men to withdraw which order was at once obeyed although Mrs. McConnell is now in their charge, the police matron remaining with her.

When the police came down stairs and slowly retired as if for a council of war, and the driver of the stage coach, without sounding his horn, mounted his seat and drove away, the hundreds of curious people who lined the street dispersed with the knowledge that Mrs. McConnell, instead of recapitulating, still held the fort and that the end of the beginning of the libel suits had not yet come.

This afternoon at 2 o'clock Dr. Richardson appeared before Magistrate Starnes in the police court and made a statement as to the physical condition of Mrs. McConnell, and on his sworn statement the case was continued until such time as he (the physician) thinks the defendant able to appear. The police matron will remain with Mrs. McConnell until the case comes on for hearing.

Cold April Weather.

Sergeant Major Tucker's official thermometer showed the minimum temperature for the 24 hours previous to 9 o'clock this morning to have been 10 degrees below zero, the coldest weather since the 17th of last month.

Last year after March 13th the mercury never passed the zero mark on the downward direction except on the morning of April 7th when it showed half a degree below. Ten degrees below zero in April is said to be unprecedented in the history of the country.

Territorial Court.

The argument in the case of Belcher vs. McDonald, which was to have occurred this morning was postponed until Tuesday morning.

The morning sessions of the territorial courts will begin hereafter at 10 o'clock instead of 10:30.

Tomorrow being Good Friday and Monday being Easter Monday both of which are legal holidays, there will be no sittings of the courts.

A Texas Steer.

In response to a request made by a number of theater goers the Standard Stock Co. will next week present Hoyt's "A Texas Steer."

The show at the Savoy this week is unexcelled.

Fresh oysters. Selman & Myers.

THE LATEST

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"The Corner Store"

Hotel McDonald

THE ONLY FIRST-CLASS HOTEL IN DAWSON.
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D. W. McREA RETURNS.

Inspected Timber Tract on Way Down River.

Mr. D. W. McRae, crown timber inspector, returned Saturday from a several months' trip to the outside.

He made the trip from Whitehorse to Dawson with a dog team inspecting the timber along the river.

"Dry wood," he says, "is getting very scarce and this winter there is cut and piled along the river between Dawson and Whitehorse 15,000 cords of green wood.

"There is a large number of men employed cutting wood but there is as yet no indication of there being an oversupply cut and the prices will in all probability be about the same as last year.

"Sawlog timber is getting very scarce along the Yukon, and they now have to go back into the smaller streams to get it. There are a number of the smaller streams where good timber is being found which was thought by everybody to be very unlikely places for finding it."

Mr. McRae brings the report of a new coal discovery at Montague, where Porter & Co., and L. W. Hall have several locations. They have found a four-foot vein and claim a better grade of coal than any yet located.

A fire was discovered in the roof of the Comet barber shop about 2:30 this afternoon. An alarm was turned in which was quickly responded to by the department, but before they arrived the fire had been extinguished by means of a few buckets of water.

For choice meats go to the Denver Market.

"A Texas Steer."

Wholesale - A. M. CO. - Retail

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