

# END OF THE DANCE HALLS

## Commissioner Emphatically Expresses Himself at the Meeting of Yukon Council Last Night—Liquor Bill is Passed—Sixty Days' Grace Given.

The prostitutes of West Dawson and Klondike City are princesses compared with the creatures who work in these dance halls and variety theatres and drag the hard-earned dollars from the poor devils who come in from the creeks.

The commissioner considered that the matter was one that could be looked at in two different ways. While the suggestion of the honorable gentleman was worthy of consideration yet he did not think there would be but very little liquor ordered direct by the small dealers for the reason that they could buy it here cheaper than they could import it in small quantities. He would prefer to let the matter stand as it is unless Mr. Wilson desired to press it. The latter replied that he had no amendment ready.

The clauses in the bill pertaining to interdiction came in for some discussion. Mr. Justice Dugas remarking that he had observed some people appeared to be worse after interdiction than before. No amendments, however, were offered.

That portion of the bill which provides that the improvements in licensed premises which must be made in order to conform with the ordinance shall be completed within sixty days or the license may be forfeited by the chief license inspector provoked a lengthy discussion. The commissioner stated that under the old ordinance road houses were required to have sleeping accommodations for ten men, a separate sitting room and a separate bar room. Whether or not the licenses should be cancelled if the improvements were not completed within a certain time was a matter that was open to discussion.

"I should like to inquire," said Mr. Wilson, "if we have the power to cancel the licenses if the requirements are not lived up to, or will it not be necessary for us to wait until the license expires? I am certainly in favor of allowing the road houses to fill out their licenses. Now as to the dance halls and saloons. I am not going to make any special plea for them, but there is a question involved that must be considered. Many of such places are heavily involved. I have been informed, credit having been extended upon the assurance that they would not be molested. Some consideration must be given these people and if the provisions of this bill are strictly enforced at once it may work a hardship upon a large number of persons."

Mr. Prudhomme also called the attention of the council to another matter. During the next four or six weeks a number of licenses will expire and what was to be done with them? He thought a stated time for the bill to go into effect would be better all around. It might work a hardship on some but it would be better for all concerned. Then the commissioner expressed himself and in no uncertain terms. He said: "All licenses falling due between now and sixty days should receive additional time, but others that do not fall due should receive no extension other than the sixty days notification after the passage of the bill. There is a class of road houses that is useless and which I would like to see wiped out at once. If the old license law had ever been complied with by many of them it would be different but in many instances it has not. Those who have taken out a license in good faith and have the required accommodation should not be interfered with until the expiration of their license. In regard to the dance halls, I do not for one moment think that the authorities ever considered them as being run in connection with saloons. There is a provision made for the operation of music halls but not as they are conducted here and I have observed that the tendency in the east is to take away every attraction possible from the saloon. In many places in both Canada and the United States the shaking of dice is prohibited and the treating habit is not even tolerated. A man will often walk into a saloon with no intention of getting drunk, he meets congenial friends with whom he has several drinks and before he is aware of it he is under the influence of the liquor. I understand that some of the saloons with dance halls attached have gone to considerable expense in the way of leasing premises in their places of business and these may be put to some loss if closed up at once, still I must say that in my opinion the very worst species of vice in this country today

are the dance halls. The prostitutes of West Dawson and Klondike City are princesses compared with these creatures who work in these dance halls and variety theatres and drag the hard-earned dollars from the poor devils who come in from the creeks. I have no sympathy for any man who lives upon the avails of prostitution and I have no idea of giving them any extended time to close up their business. I have some sympathy for the creditors but none whatever for those who get their living by such means. If this bill passes they certainly will receive short shrift."

To the question asked by Mr. Prudhomme as to when the board of license commissioners would be appointed, the commissioner replied that if many of the licenses are now falling due it will be necessary to appoint them at once. "It is a serious matter," said he, "and I hope to be able to appoint such men as will give the utmost satisfaction to every one. There must be no question of influence used in order to secure favors or undue advantage taken. The only consideration to be given applications must be the character of the applicant and his ability to conform with the requirements of the ordinance. These are the only things to be taken into consideration."

The committee agreed that those who have licenses and have complied with the conditions at the time of granting the license shall have until the expiration of their license. Those who have not complied with the requirements will have sixty days in which to do so. Where a license falls due within a few days of the date of the passage of the ordinance the holders thereof will have sixty days in which to comply with the regulations. The commissioner remarked incidentally that there was no necessity of saying anything about theatres or dance halls as the ordinance specifies the privileges allowed the holder of a license. There could be no possible excuse for calling a dance hall a theatre. The ordinance also contains a provision which prohibits any connection whatever between a saloon and any other building. All the doors leading from saloons into restaurants adjoining must be closed.

At the conclusion of the reading of the bill, the committee rose to report progress. The amendments were given their first and second reading, the bill as amended was read a third time and upon being put upon its passage went through without a dissenting voice.

Mr. Newlands moved the reading of the bill providing for the better regulation of traffic upon the public highways, a gist of which was published in the Nugget several days ago. Passed.

Upon motion of Mr. Prudhomme the bill to amend the charter of the city of Dawson was given its third reading and passed.

Mr. Wilson's "deception bill" was moved for its second reading but was reconsidered and laid over until the next session.

The bill confirming city bond No. 12 which legalizes the loan made by the mayor and treasurer from the Bank of Commerce for the purpose of meeting now current expenses received its third reading and was passed.

The ordinance respecting the legal profession passed its third stage but upon motion of Mr. Justice Dugas its final passage was deferred until the next meeting.

Mr. Senkler introduced a private bill entitled an ordinance to incorporate the Dawson City Street Railway Company. The bill was advanced to its first and second reading but an objection was registered to its receiving any further consideration at this time. Mr. Dugas considered the matter too important to be rushed along at such speed. The company asks for two years in which they shall begin work. Mr. Newlands stated that the representatives of the company had met the committee in session and had agreed to reduce the time of beginning the work to one year and its completion to three years. The commissioner called the members' attention to the fact that the committee on civil justice had reported on the bill, but if it was preferred it could be laid over until the next session. So decided.

Mr. Wilson stated that his attention had been called by the proprietor of the cable ferry to the fact that his rights were being infringed

upon. The same complaint had also been made to Mr. Newlands who had told the gentleman that his only recourse was in the courts. It was impossible for the council to employ force. For the benefit of Mr. Dugas who asked for information the commissioner said that the ferry licensee possessed an exclusive right for a half mile up and down the river on each side of his ferry. It was his lookout to protect his own interests and not the place of the council. Mr. Prudhomme asked if it was not the place of the council to see that every ferry had a license and the commissioner replied with a smile that he did not think it was. That being the last business to come before the council the meeting adjourned.

The question of sewers came up at the same time. It was stated that the drains were filled by the laundries on Second avenue between Duke and York street by the three laundries along that block and it was this water which had cut the drain to the extent of damaging the building where the repairs had been done. A motion passed that the city clerk inform the laundries that they would

not be permitted to let their waste run into the drains after Monday, July 14. Murphy, Vachon, Macdonald and Wilson voted for it. Alder voted nay, and Norquay did not vote. A bylaw introduced by Alder, Murphy makes it lawful to the animals to telephone, telegraph and electric light poles, the bylaw being an amendment to bylaw No. 9. The amendment passed three readings and became a law.

A bylaw providing for the control of nervous people passed as follows: "No person shall ring any bell, except church and school, blow any horn, beat any drum, shout or make any noise calculated to annoy or disturb the inhabitants or who in any manner or conduct commit any public nuisance by collecting or loitering or standing or idling on any of the streets or sidewalks, or on the approach to a house or other premises opening upon the public streets whereby the public is liable to disturbance; provided always that nothing contained in this section shall be construed to extend to any person or persons taking part in any religious procession or service not contrary to law."

But little other business was transacted and the meeting adjourned.

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FIRST AVENUE  
Opposite White Pass Dock  
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## ECONOMY THE WATCHWORD

### City Council Will Curtail Expenses

### City Engineer Will Hereafter Get Orders—No Noise Bylaw Passed.

Retrenchment is the new order of things determined upon by the city council. At the meeting last night there was all sorts of economy preached, City Engineer Rendell being put, on the rack several times and called upon to explain the why and the wherefore of many things. Work that had been performed without the consent of the council was questioned and he was directed to at once reduce his force. Only a few bills were presented, including one from the water company for \$15; Yukon Telephone Company, \$30; Branch & Tarr, \$121 and \$13; clerk of the territorial court, \$10.25; Dawson Electric Light Company, \$9. City Attorney Donaghy explained that the bill of fees from the clerk of the court was for costs incurred in the late fight between the city and Dr. Bourke over the salary bylaw. Alderman Macdonald offered a resolution placing the salary of the medical health officer at \$1000 a year. His proposal did not object particularly to the resolution but considered that more time should be taken in the passage of the various bills that were brought forward. Mr. Murphy thought that the health officer would have no difficulty in earning all the salary he would receive, providing he did his duty. He also said he had been lead to believe that

the salary of the medical health officer was to be borne partially by the territorial government. His workshop ventured the opinion that the city would not be called upon to pay more than \$300 of the health officer's stipend. One or two other members thought the matter worthy of more consideration and by consent the resolution was withdrawn for the time being.

Alderman Murphy had heard that about \$500 worth of work had been done by the city on private property, namely, repairing the foundation of the T. & E. Co.'s warehouse, and he wanted to know by what right such work had been done. He thought the time ripe for beginning the practice of economy.

City Engineer Rendell said the ground by the T. & E. Co.'s building had been thawed by hot water from the laundries and that the improvement had to be made or the building would cave in. He said the work was almost completed and would cost something like \$500.

Alderman Murphy then moved that hereafter all new work done by the city engineer be on written order of the "street committee. The motion passed.

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Day and Night Service.  
CHANGE OF TIME TABLE—On and After May 20, 1902

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Leave Dawson... 8:30 a. m. and 6 p. m. Leave Forts... 5:30 a. m. and 3 p. m.  
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