

BOARD OF TRADE COUNCIL

Held a Regular Weekly Meeting Last Night.

Needs of Local Assay Office Set Forth by President Mizner—Affairs of Old Board to be Closed.

From Thursday and Friday's Daily. The council of the Board of Trade met in regular weekly session last night in their new rooms in the A. C. block, with the following members present:

President E. A. Miner, Secretary F. W. Clayton, Thos. A. McGowan, J. L. Timmins, H. T. Wills, Falcon Joslin, E. B. Condon and H. C. Macaulay.

A reply was received from the Seattle Board of Trade to the communication relative to the mysterious disappearance of McDonald and Lancaster sent by the Dawson board requesting it to take some action towards finding the missing parties, was read by the secretary. The reply stated that in the matter of such disappearance the proper authorities to consult would be the police and detective-bureaus and not the board of trade.

Bids were received for printing of the by-laws and awarded to the Yukon Sun their bid being the lowest.

The secretary was instructed to make a report of the financial standing of the old board to the finance committee so that the affairs of the old board might be wound up.

The question of the establishment of a government assay office was introduced by President Mizner and a general discussion on the question occurred. On motion it was decided to call a meeting of the whole board for next Wednesday night and also to ask other men interested in the subject but not members of the board to meet with them to discuss the question. The secretary was instructed to gather all the data possible relative to the subject and present at the meeting.

A committee consisting of E. B. Condon, W. D. Bruce, D. Doig, H. T. Wills and H. C. Macaulay was appointed to make preparations for a reception to the new commissioner on his arrival. Just what form the reception is to take was left to the committee which was given full power to act. The discussion of putting a license tax on transient traders was also brought up and on motion a committee of two was appointed to see the members of the Yukon council and see if any provision has been made for such taxation and if not to request that something be done. The committee appointed was J. L. Timmins and H. C. Macaulay. The meeting then adjourned.

Women as Lawyers.

Since charming Sally Brass directed her brother's flourishing attorney's business in Hevis Marks, city, women lawyers have played but a small part in British fiction, and have played no part at all in real life. But, apparently, that is to be changed at last. The novels of the present century should portray many a feminine lawyer, and there will be no anomaly about it, for up in the north a courageous Scottish lady seems to be on the point of forcing the closed door and thus opening up a new profession for her sex.

This year, indeed, may witness the triumph of Miss Margaret Howie, of Strang Hall, Kirn. Her petition for admittance to the law agents' examination has been filed and the Incorporated Society do not feel called upon to oppose her prayer; in fact, they "do not conceive it to be their interest or duty to maintain that women ought not to be enrolled." Miss Howie's fate is, therefore, now in the hands of the judiciary, who will soon decide whether she shall be the first woman ever admitted to practice in Scotland, England, or Ireland. If the decision is favorable, Miss Howie as a law agent would be eligible for the offices of sheriff substitute, notary public and clerk in the court of sessions and bill chamber.

Though England, Scotland, and Ireland have so far been without women lawyers, the Incorporated Society of Law Agents point out that so far as they are aware permission to practice has never been sought. On the other hand it has been successfully sought in the United States and France. Women lawyers are becoming as popular and as numerous in the States as women physicians, and they appear to play the role of Portia with great success.

In France the admission of women to the bar required the passing of a special enactment, and it was only on December 4th, after a strenuous struggle, that the bill became the law of the

land. Next day the first woman barrister was formally admitted in the person of Mme. Petit, who, robed in cap and gown, was duly sworn in before crowds of legal sightseers, among whom was numbered her husband, who is also a doctor of law.

Mme. Petit is already so full of work that a sharp-witted criminal whose victims were anxious to bring him to an early trial, which he was equally anxious to avoid, is said to have used her position for the purpose of temporarily defeating justice. He appeared before the court undefended, and when asked to name his advocate, named Mme. Petit, whose assistance was practically impossible for a long time to come. As his right to name his own lawyer appears to be undoubted, the man for the moment escapes trial.

Fifteen days after Mme. Petit's triumph, an unmarried lady, Mlle. Chauvin, was admitted. For three years she had unceasingly battled for the right to earn her living as an advocate, taking no fewer than five degrees in twelve years. Her example will doubtless inspire Miss Howie, of Kirn.—London Daily Mail.

First Page for Speeches.

The effort that is constantly being made to secure the printing of speeches on the front page of the Congressional Record is not generally understood. Senators and representatives naturally desire to have their deliverances in congress receive as much attention as possible, and there is also a publication in which they can monopolize the front page in a display of their speeches. That one publication is the Record.

Of course speeches that are printed in regular order in the debate, appearing on the day after they are delivered, are to be found only in their regular place in the Record. But in the cases of speeches withheld for revision there is an opportunity to have them displayed on the first page of the official report of the proceedings. This is merely done by an arrangement between the senate and house by which this privilege is about equally divided. Senators and representatives who withhold their remarks for revision frequently inquire when they can have the first page of the Record, which is generally reserved for at least a week ahead.

The general rule is, "First come, first served." In this way those who want to make their speeches influential will at times arrange to have them on the first page of the Record on the morning of a day when a vote is to be taken, in order that they may be brought prominently to the attention of their fellow legislators just before they are to take action on the matters of which they treat. It is in the nature of judicious advertisement.—Washington Star.

Lincoln Couldn't Do It.

"When I was in Springfield, Abraham Lincoln and Gen. Baker, who was killed at Leesburg, Va., during the civil war, made the race for the Whig nomination for congress," said Dr. D. B. Hill. "Both were Whigs, and both were keen for the nomination. Both had a strong personal following, and if both ran the Democrat would win in the district. So a primary election was necessary to settle the contest. Baker won. Both men were at Springfield when the news came. Lincoln was depressed. The crowd to cheer him up called on him for a speech. Getting up, he said: 'Gentlemen, I'd like to comply with your request, but I can't make a speech now. I expected to receive the nomination, but I failed. If I had won, I know Baker would have got up here and so charmed you with his eloquence as to make you believe you had done him a favor by nominating me. But I can't do it.'—Argonaut.

KOYUKUK BOOMING

Interesting Down-River News Received by N. A. T. & T. Co.

Manager Delaney, of the N. A. T. & T. Co., is in receipt of an interesting letter from the agent of his company, Mr. H. R. Montefield, at Fort Yukon. He reports a scarcity of provisions at that point and states that Fort Hamlin a distance of 187 miles down the river has had to be drawn upon to supply several of the necessities of life. Mr. Montefield has received recent news from the Koyukuk which is very flattering for the possibilities of that country as it is evident that good pay has been struck there and the country is in a prosperous condition. The battles, the station at the head of navigation on the Koyukuk river it is thought will grow considerably and be the distributing point for a large district. Chander creek, a tributary of that river is thought to be a fine field for prospectors and a boom in that locality is looked for next summer.

MAJ. CROFOOT'S GREAT IDEA

To Utilize Lost Power in Operating an Engine.

It Worked on the Young Lady Cavanaugh and the Major Got a Square Meal.

Major Crofoot, grand promoter and general organizer, was just making ready to go out after a luxurious 15 cent lunch when there came a timid knock on the door. It couldn't be the agent of the building after the four months' back rent, for he would have boldly knocked the door open; his landlady, to whom he owed \$48, didn't know where his office was; the tailor had grown discouraged; the coal man always sent his bill in the forenoon, and should it be a bill from the cobbler he would dispute its correctness. In answer to the major's "Come in!" a young woman entered.

"I have called," she began, "in the interest of a new industrial home soon to be established. I am soliciting personal subscriptions."

"My dear woman, sit down—sit right down," cheerily replied the major. "We may call this a coincidence—a curious coincidence. Not half an hour ago I began drawing up plans for just such an institution. It is to be called the Crofoot Self Supporting Home."

"Then you would not want to subscribe to another, of course?"

"Perhaps so. You may give me what particulars you can."

"It is to be a home where children without parents and friendless old folks can be provided for. In return for their board and clothes they will do what work they can. I believe they will make brushes and brooms."

"Exactly; I see. A noble idea, my dear woman, a noble idea and a grand charity, and you deserve credit for interesting yourself. We cannot have too many of these institutions, and I personally feel that I cannot do too much for them. You may put me down for \$10."

"That is very nice of you," she said as she wrote his name in her book. "I have taken 200 subscriptions, and yours is the most liberal of all."

"I never do things by halves, miss. When I enter upon a charity, I do it with my whole soul. You may make my subscription \$15."

"How good of you!"

"And now about my own home, the one I have planned. You will probably be interested in it. I shall erect a building to accommodate at least 250 inmates. It will not be an industrial home in the usual use of the term. Perhaps I shall change the name to 'The Crofoot Utopian Power Company.' The first idea is the care and comfort of the unfortunate; the next to make them feel that they are not dependent upon charity."

"That is good of you," observed the caller.

"How best to do this was long a puzzle to me, but I have solved it at last. When Maj. Crofoot starts on an idea, he never lets it get away from him unsolved. There will be no manufacturing in my home. The inmates shall simply eat, sleep and walk about. Your countenance expresses surprise, but let me add that each and every one shall earn his keep."

"I—I can't see how."

"The simplest thing in the world. In the basement will be a 5000-horse power engine. Pipes will lead to it from every room. That engine will be run by what may be called lost power. For instance, you sneeze or cough. There is power there, but it is wasted. You fall off a chair; you sing or whistle; you yawn. It takes power to do it, but the power is wasted. By a system of pipes all this lost power will be conducted to the engine to run it. No coal, no gas, no wood. Engine runs right along day and night and has power enough to supply all factories within half a mile of it. What the factories pay will keep the home going. Do you understand?"

"What an idea!" gasped the woman.

"Not a bad one," smiled the major as he walked around, "and I am sole originator. All others will be imitations. All I ask of the inmates is to take comfort. As they rock to and fro in 250 rocking chairs the engine is worked up to its full capacity; as they move across the floor, eat, sleep, quarrel or make up they furnish me power. Out of 250 people 188 will snore in their sleep. These snores will give me a pressure of 50 pounds on the engine." "Wonderful! wonderful!" she whispered.

"It's just making use of natural phil-

sophy. It is not a stock company, and there will be no dividends, but I want outsiders interested. I want 100 people to take shares of \$17 each in order that they may help me run the home and receive a share of the public praise. The superintendent alone will receive a salary. May I offer you the position?"

"I don't believe I could take it. You see, I am only a volunteer canvasser."

"Exactly, but I am satisfied you would make a good superintendent and see that none of the power was wasted. I see that the salary will be at least \$5000 per year."

"It is awfully kind of you, but I fear I must decline."

"Then I will not press you. I will, however, put you down for a \$17 share, and whenever you are near the home you are entitled to drop in and stir up the inmates. The harder you stir them the more power we get. Have you \$2 handy, miss? If so, I will use it for revenue stamps."

"I don't understand," she replied as she rose up with a puzzled look.

"Plain as day, my dear young woman. I subscribed \$15 to the home you are canvassing for. I put you down for \$17 for a share in the Crofoot Utopian Power Company. The difference between \$15 and \$17 is \$2. You had best pay now and have it over with."

"But I don't see," she protested as her eyes grew big.

"Then we will go over it again. If you add 2 to 15 it makes 17, doesn't it? And you owe me just the difference. This being my busy day—"

She looked at him in a vacant way for a minute and then laid \$2 on the desk and walked out without a word. Ten minutes later he was back with the real estate man on the first floor, and the real estate man pounded on the door and called out:

"Open, you sleek, slick man, and hand over that \$2!"

"Yes, you talked me out of \$2," added the woman.

No reply.

"Open, or I'll kick the door in!"

"Yes, we'll kick the door in!"

The silence of death.

"Maj. Crofoot, you are a scoundrel!"

"Yes, a deep dyed scoundrel!"

"But the major heard the words. He had seized the money, locked up his office and gone down by the back stairs after his luncheon. He no longer figured on a 15-cent 'grab,' but his thoughts bounded forward to a 50-cent sit down with plenty of elbow room.

M. QUAD.

Divorce Court for Canada.

That Mr. B. M. Britton, the honorable member of Kingston, is about to introduce in the house of commons a resolution which is to test the opinion of the house upon the advisability of establishing a divorce court in Canada. I hope the expression of the house will be in favor of such a course, and that when the resolution has been carried it will be followed by the introduction of a bill to establish a divorce court in this country during the present session.

I believe that the country is ripe and ready for the introduction of such a measure. It is one which will contribute in no small degree to the domestic welfare and peace of many homes in this wide Dominion which at present are divided and unhappy, and must remain so until relief is given by a divorce court, where a person of ordinary means shall be able to obtain a divorce at the same outlay as in ordinary law suits.

Although this is an important measure, there is no reason why it should not be brought forward at the present session. We have a remarkable precedent for such a course. The bill establishing the divorce court in England was introduced into the commons for its second reading on the 30th of July, 1857, and became the law of the land on the 28th of August following, less than a month. The reason for that was that the country was ready and looking for it. It did not raise any party question and the issue was never doubtful. It is a question of domestic economics and good government. I believe the proceedings in committee were very spirited, and although Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Disraeli both opposed it on religious grounds, "and that the bill was being pushed forward with unprecedented levity," the bill passed. In the house of lords the Duke of Norfolk (representing the Roman Catholics) offered strong opposition, but the lords spiritual as a body (with the exception of Bishop Witherforce) were not very energetic in their criticism of a bill that proposed changes of such vast importance in the law of church and state. And so the divorce court in England was established in less than 30 days, and it must be admitted

even by opponents of the measure that it has been productive of much good, and Roman Catholics as well as Protestants avail themselves of the relief afforded by that court.

Probably our Roman Catholic and High Church friends may oppose it here, but the great body of the people desire it, and I submit that our government would not be committing any error in putting through a bill establishing a divorce court in Canada forthwith.

It has been my lot to draw a great many deeds of separation, beginning "Whereas certain unhappy differences having arisen," etc., but it has also been my lot to settle and adjust many of these marital differences by a little judicious advice, but still I know of many husbands who are bringing up their children without a mother, and I know also of wives who are now living a life of desolation and loneliness worse than widowhood, who would rejoice if it were made possible by means of a divorce court to obtain a release from their legal bondage. My experience is doubtless that of many other solicitors in active practice, who would endorse the position I am taking. As to the particular form the court should assume and the procedure which should be followed therein, that I would leave in the hands of our able and experienced minister of justice. I have some well settled ideas as to what shape such a court should take, but in a letter of this length it is impossible to say anything about them.

We already admit the principle. We do grant divorces in Canada, but in an antiquated and primitive fashion before a committee of the senate. But the cost of this procedure is so great as to be practically prohibitive to a great many. What is the result? Our people go to the States in scores and seek and obtain divorces, in the mistaken idea that they are valid here. Many remain there and others come back and take their chances. All this is productive of evil, scandal and disgrace. To a lawyer it seems only reasonable that, when we do grant divorces, we should do it by the procedure and machinery of a decorous and dignified court of justice. I would be the last person to rob the marriage relationship of any of the sanctity which now surrounds it, but is it not infinitely worse for people to continue to lead lives which are a living lie and a contradiction to every sentiment of the marriage tie? Why should there be one law for the rich and another for the poor? With judicious and wise discretion kindly exercised and with proper restrictions as to the publicity of its proceedings, a divorce court can at a small cost dispense justice by affording speedy and effective relief to many of our suffering and unfortunate people. Trusting Mr. Britton's resolution may be carried and that the requisite legislation may be introduced and completed this session, I am

T. HRIGHTON.

—Toronto Globe.

Cuban Conditions Improving.

Washington, March 22.—Conditions in Cuba are said by officials at the war department to be improving. It is asserted that the feeling of unrest which followed the adoption of the Platt Cuban resolution by congress is quieting down and gradually a peaceful condition is being brought about. Confidence is expressed that this state of affairs in Cuba will continue unless something unforeseen should develop. The latest information received by the department is said to be reassuring in its tones, and leads the officials to believe there will be no disturbances.

Sarah Grand's Discouraging Start.

Mme. Sarah Grand has a good deal to say in her autobiography of the difficulties she had in getting some of her books published. For instance:

"The Heavenly Twins' finished, I was flung back into despair again by the refusal of Bentley to publish it; he had in the meantime taken up 'Ideala.' The weary round began again; nearly every publisher was tried—certainly every large house. The book was rejected everywhere. Some of them kept it an unconscionable time—a cruel thing to do. On coming to London I had the benefit of the help of one of my stepsons, who had left the army and had settled down to a literary and artistic career, and of my son, who had gone on the stage. We decided to print the book ourselves, and we did so."

It was during the negotiations with regard to getting a publisher's name on the cover that the book went to Mr. Heinemann, and from the moment it entered his office, its author, the tide seemed to turn. He took over the whole risk and brought it out with success.

A Shrewd Amendment.

"No, he doesn't seem to have any heart in his work."

"I'm afraid he hasn't any work in his heart."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.