

THE SEMI-WEEKLY NUGGET.

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BRITAIN READY

To Engage France in Warfare That Will Cause the Earth To Tremble

PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE

By Both Nations to Meet in Conflict Very Soon.

PERHAPS IN THREE MONTHS.

France Looks to Russia for Aid, Which Will Doubtless Be Supplied—England Fully Awake.

From Saturday's Daily.

London, March 10, via Skagway, March 16.—A European war of great magnitude is now one of the probabilities of the near future. The South African campaign has assumed a secondary place in the affairs of England, and the British government is utilizing all its resources to meet the graver dangers which threaten it at home. Great preparations of defence are being hurriedly made, and the only interpretation of such measures is that the cabinet officers of England are fearful of the interference of continental powers.

The war party in France is in the ascendant, and is too strong for the ministry to control. The republic is strengthening her positions at home and abroad. The French newspapers have assumed a very bellicose tone towards England; and the latter country is charged with having adopted an aggressive attitude in Egyptian matters. France claims that she has the full support of Russia and Germany against England. War is considered inevitable by the people of France and even the plans of operation have been published by the Parisian press.

High British officials say that they fully expect war with France, and that Britain is straining every nerve to meet the emergency. Before the expiration of three months, England and the French Republic may be hostile powers.

Pacific Coast Bills.

Washington, Feb. 22.—Representative Jones has secured a majority of the committee on merchant marine and fisheries to stand with him in opposition to the pending ship subsidy bill, unless it is amended to give some benefits to Pacific coast vessels. The committee meets tomorrow, and a warm fight is expected. An adverse report is probable. In the senate a favorable report is looked for.

A bill was introduced in the senate today by Senator Foster, providing for the construction of a government cable line from the United States to the Philippines. A distinguishing feature of the bill is that it requires the cable to be laid from some point on the coast of Washington, and that it shall run via Alaska and north of the Aleutian islands, to the island of Attu, and

ARCTIC SAWMILL

Removed to Mouth of Hunker Creek, on Klondike River.

Sluice, Flume & Mining Lumber

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.....J. W. BOYLE

thence to the boundary between Russia and Japan; thence, with several stops to the Philippines. An independent cable, from San Francisco to Hawaii, is provided for.

Government ownership and operation is the key of Senator Foster's bill. It provides for a grand system of Pacific cables, and primarily gives telegraphic facilities to the territory of Alaska. The cost of the entire system is limited to \$8,000,000, a half million to be immediately available.

The lighthouse bill which passed the senate today is Foster's. Representative Jones introduced a bill to repair the steamer Thetis at a cost of \$50,000, for use as a revenue cutter.

Gale and Flood.

Boston, Feb. 24.—The gales of the equinox have scarcely ever exceeded in force the storm which swept over New England, leaving in its wake damage by flood that is almost incalculable.

For 24 hours a heavy rain, after wiping away what few traces there were of snow and ice, brought to a climax the most unseasonable winter New England has known for a great many years. Tributary bodies of water which a few weeks ago were so low that the almost unheard of condition of drought in midwinter was threatened, have been changed into torrents of more threatening volume than in the usual spring freshets. From drought to flood, with all the damage done at both extremes to the manufacturing, logging and ice harvesting interests, is now added the cost of replacing bridges swept away and of repairing railway and highway beds torn up.

The most extensive damage reported is along the Merrimac and Connecticut rivers. The blow was fierce along the coast, but shipping, usually less in volume at this season, had ample warning of the storm.

At Manchester, N. H., Almer H. Jackson, a mill hand, attempted to jump over a rivulet, but fell into the water, and was washed away and drowned.

Washouts stopped traffic on the Boston & Maine line at Nashua and on other smaller lines.

Dispatches from various sections of Vermont and Maine place the rainfall at over three inches. The Connecticut river at Bellows Falls rose nearly five feet during the day, and as most of the smaller streams are running wild, a further rise of six or eight feet is looked for.

Engineer on Trial.

San Francisco, Feb. 22.—The trial of Chief Engineer McDonald, of the transport Monauense, charged with neglect and incompetency, commenced before the British consular court today. The inquiry was ordered by the English consul at McDonald is a British subject. The examination will be a searching one and will occupy some days.

Capt. Barneson, commander of the vessel, told of her voyage from this city to Manila and return. He stated that the engines broke down, that the electric plant became useless, necessitating the use of lamps; that water flooded the engine room; that the engine could not be used for pumping and many other things which have given foundation to the stories of the terrible voyage of the transport which have appeared in the papers of the country.

A Jolly Time.

St. Patrick's day was pleasantly celebrated last night by about 50 people in the roadhouse of Mr. and Mrs. John Manning, situated at No. 60 below on Bonanza. Quite a number of prominent residents of Dawson attended. An enjoyable dance was given, together with an excellent lunch. Frank Kelly, the comedian, entertained the guests with rag time songs and dances. Among those present from the city were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Chisholm, Mrs. O'Donne, Mrs. Wilson, J. F. Macdonald and Colin Macdonald.

Arrival of Mail.

Early this morning 22 sacks of mail arrived at the Dawson postoffice. The consignment left Bennett last Sunday. Today, Postmaster Hartman and his assistants are engaged in sorting the letters, and the office will be open for distribution to the public on Monday morning.

Weather Report.

The minimum temperature last night was 10 degrees above zero.

At 9 o'clock this morning the official instrument recorded 10 degrees above.

At noon, the thermometer registered 56 degrees above.

Mrs. Fancher's ladies' spring goods have arrived. Call and inspect.

COUNCIL SESSIONS

The Scene of Much Discord, of Which the Public Is Kept in Blissful Ignorance.

THE WIDENING BREACH INCREASES.

"Get the Minutes and Publish Them," Says Judge Dugas.

"GIVE PEOPLE ALL THEY ASK"

Citizens' Petition Is the Bone of Contention in the Local Branch of the Dominion Government.

There is a breach in the Yukon council which is widening with each succeeding day, and which, if the council was of local origin, would threaten that body with dissolution.

The council is a peculiar creation in that it is both a legislative and executive body and is entirely subservient to the government at Ottawa without regard to wishes and opinions, likes and dislikes of the local constituency of both the Yukon and Dominion governments, as the former is but as a child of the latter.

It is this utter disregard of the desires and interests of the British subjects now in the Yukon, and for which disregard the local branch of the government is not wholly responsible by any manner of means, that is now causing a clash in the Yukon council, for the reason that several members of that body coincide with the nine tenths of the Canadian and British subjects here in believing and asserting that with decided action on the part of the council the desired betterment of conditions may and will be brought about, and that by them the interests of not only the British subjects but of all residents of the Yukon will be best served.

Within the past few weeks a mighty effort on the part of Canadian citizens has been and is still being made to enable them to have declared operative an act passed nearly two years ago by the Dominion parliament, authorizing local representation of two members on the board of the Yukon council, which representation would be selected by popular election by the legal voters of the Yukon district. As the readers of the Nugget well know, efforts are being made with the above mentioned representation on the council in view, but these efforts are not being met with that degree of success which the activity with which they are pushed would warrant; and it is this apparent apathy on the part of certain of the present members of the board which is causing this variation of feeling concerning this and other questions of very great importance to the people of the district.

The reading public of Dawson doubtless wonder why it is that they frequently hear rumors of happenings at the meetings of the Yukon council, and yet are never informed by the local press as to whether these rumors are true or otherwise. For this apparent neglect on the part of the press to print the detailed accounts of the council's deliberations it is subjected to severe and frequently harsh censure at the hands of those readers who are not conversant with the manner in which the press of Dawson receives its accounts of the doings of the council for publication. Representatives of the press are not permitted to be present at that body's deliberations, and the clerk of that body is not permitted to give out for publication one jot or tittle of what takes place until his minutes are first written up and submitted to the rigid inspection of the president of the council, who is Governor Ogilvie. That official reads the minutes with care and deliberation, blue penciling any and all items which to him may appear best suppressed from

publication and consequently from the local constituency of the government to which the local branch is subservient and a part.

The governor having exercised this press censorship, the minutes, or what are left of them, are again put in shape by the clerk with all blue pencillings omitted, and a copy of them is given to each of the local papers for publication.

This, therefore, is the reason why the newspapers are seldom ever prepared with the information which would enable them to confirm or deny the reports which are frequently current regarding what may transpire in the privacy of the board's meetings.

But, as "people will talk," it is almost impossible to keep closed all avenues through which matters of public importance is apt to escape, and it was through one of these unguarded apertures that the Nugget first obtained a hint to the effect that at a late meeting of the honorable body the question of local representation on the council had been made the subject of most animated and heated discussion, the interests of the people—the Canadian subjects in the Yukon district—being ably and persistently championed by Mr. Justice Dugas, while the proposition was as strenuously opposed by the presiding officer, Governor Ogilvie. With rumored information as to the events of the meeting referred to, the Nugget started a little investigation with the result that the following interesting information was obtained for its readers:

When Justice Dugas was asked as to whether or not questions arising from the citizens' petition had caused discussion in the meeting of the council, that gentleman replied:

"There was some discussion on an amendment made by myself to a motion concerning the granting of local representation on the board. But get the minutes of that meeting and publish the whole thing. Those minutes should be given to the press and published for the benefit of the people who are interested."

"But, judge, those minutes were not given out by the clerk for publication."

"Well, they should be. I never do or say anything at council meetings that I wish to conceal from the people. I say what I mean, and stand by what I say. Go and get those minutes and publish them."

When asked "Do you favor local representation on the board the distinguished jurist replied:

"Certainly, certainly. Give the people what they want and all they want. But get those minutes and publish them."

Commissioner Ogilvie was interviewed by a representative of the Daily Nugget this morning.

"Is it true that the clerk's minutes of the proceedings of the council are submitted to you for examination before they are given to newspapers for publication?" inquired the reporter.

"Yes," replied the commissioner.

"And it is a fact that you often expunge portions of these minutes?"

"Yes; such is a fact," answered Governor Ogilvie.

"What is the object of keeping from the people certain business transacted by the council?"

"Well, our duties are of a dual nature; they are administrative and executive. Frequently we act as a sort of privy council. The clerk is not permitted to disclose anything which transpires at our meetings, unless it is sanctioned by me; and I act according to the opinion of a majority of the council. We are responsible only to the government at Ottawa for our official acts, and not to the people here."

"Would you favor a resolution admitting newspaper reporters to the meetings of the council?" was the next question.

"Not at the present time. Our room is not sufficiently large to accommodate

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PUBLIC MEETING

Number Two Is Called By the Citizens' Committee for Next Friday Night

FOR FULL AND FREE DISCUSSION

Of Matters of Vital Import to the Yukon Territory.

EVERYBODY WILL BE THERE.

Admission Will Be Charged for Box and Balcony Seats—Down Stairs Free.

If there is one thing more than another for which the people of Dawson are noted, it is for the tenacity of purpose with which they take hold on a proposition and hang like the grim death to a pole horse. It was some time before our citizens finally worked themselves up to the point of calling the first public meeting at which steps were taken leading to a redress of grievances, and that meeting when held, indicated that its participants had enlisted for the full term and would never ask for quarter until the desired objects were attained. The ice having been broken, it is easy to break any thin covering that may again form on the surface of the former aperture.

As the objects for which the former meeting was held have not been satisfactorily attained, and as the public mind has been pretty thoroughly educated in the meantime, it has been decided to hold another public meeting of which the following notice has been furnished the Nugget:

The citizens' committee appointed on the 12th of February, 1900, for the purpose of taking steps to secure representation for the electors of the Yukon Territory on the Yukon council, and in the house of commons have decided to call and do by this notice call a public mass meeting to be held at the Palace Grand opera house, in Dawson, Y. T., on Friday the 23rd day of March, next, at the hour of 7:30 p. m., to receive the report of the committee regarding representation on the Yukon council, and in the house of commons at Ottawa, and to take action in connection with the said report, and receive further instructions from the citizens, and the discussion of such other matters in connection with the administration of the Yukon territory, as the meeting may deem advisable.

The committee will take measures to secure perfect order throughout the meeting.

The down stairs portion of the Palace Grand opera house will be open to general admission without charge, for those interested in the object of the meeting. For admission to the upstairs and balcony the management of the Opera house will as usual charge.

The committee will give the full text of the reply of the government to their petition for representation.

For Sale at a Bargain.

Complete steam thawing plant. Four horsepower boiler in splendid condition. Apply Nugget office.

Shoff, the Dawson Dog Doctor, Pioneer Drug Store.

Boys on the Creeks

This Is for You...

Hurry Up to Lay in Your Spring Supplies. Some Things Are Getting Scarce and Are Going Up. Special Prices to Our Regular Customers Who Outfitted at Our Store, and Liberal Treatment to Everybody.

The Ames Mercantile Co. F. Jansen, Res. Manager