

# MUCH IMPORTANT BUSINESS

## Was Transacted at Last Night's Meeting of Yukon Council—Number of Petitions Were Presented and Many New Bills Introduced.

The first meeting of the Yukon council to be held since July 7 was that of yesterday evening. All the members were present save Commissioner Ross and in his absence Acting Commissioner Major Wood occupied the chair. A very large amount of business has accumulated since the last meeting and the present session will doubtless last several days. About a dozen new bills were presented and there were petitions on hand galore. One of the most important of the new ordinances was the school bill, a gist of which together with the others will be found elsewhere in this issue. The election bill was given its first reading and several important amendments were made to the Dawson City charter. Wilson's "deception" bill came up for its second reading, but after a heated argument as to its efficacy and constitutionality in which Prudhomme, Dugas, Wilson and Newlands took part it was shelved for the time being.

About half of the dozen or more petitions that were presented were for ferry privileges incidental to the building of the new overland road to Whitehorse. The first was from one Payne who desires to operate a ferry on the Stewart river where the road crosses that stream. H. T. McKay wants to put in one on the Yukon near Mackay's Thos. Whalen has made application for a similar privilege on the Pelly river. Messrs. Lynch & Nelson would be glad to have ferry rights accorded them on the Pelly, Stewart and Indian rivers. The foregoing petitions were presented by Prudhomme. Dugas thought it unwise that the ferry privileges should be distributed so promiscuously; better have them all under the operation of one company, upon which Newlands remarked that anyone could secure a ferry license by applying to the proper magistrate and depositing the fee required.

Wilson presented the petition from the free libraries at Dawson and Whitehorse asking that financial assistance be given them. The same member also handed in the petition signed by J. T. Lithgow, F. T. Congdon, H. C. Macaulay and others asking that the incorporation of the Dawson Amateur Athletic Association, Ltd., be effected.

Newlands presented a petition from the licensed victuallers' association asking that certain amendments and refunds be made in the liquor ordinance and its operation. It was explained that prior to the passage of the bill in question several of the dealers in the city had secured new licenses under which they were compelled to pay a certain schedule of fees. By the new bill those fees have been reduced which places those who have procured licenses at a later date at an advantage. A refund is asked equal to the difference in the two scales of fees.

Dugas had three petitions to submit. The first was from John Ross, superintendent of public schools, asking that a school be established on Bear creek. There are said to be ten or more pupils on the creek. The second petition was in reference to the government assisting in the development of the quartz interests of the country by the giving of a bonus toward the erection of a stamp mill where tests may be made of new discoveries at a nominal figure.

The owners of 3a Eldorado have asked for help in the sinking of their shaft to second bedrock. They are down over 300 feet and can go no further for lack of funds. Senkler presented the petition.

Seven roads are desired built according to as many petitions handed in by Girouard. The first pertains to the widening of the road at present in existence leading from the bluff near the Klondike bridge to the Ogilvie bridge. An extension of the present road on Sulphur to its mouth is desired. One is wanted on Duncan creek and a bridge across the Mayo. Miners on Gold Bottom desire their road extended farther up the creek. A road is wanted badly from the city to Lepine creek. Also one on Henderson. One leading from the Hubrick ferry to a connection with the Glacier creek trail on the bluff above. One up Bear creek.

Prudhomme presented a copy of the proposed agreement between the government and the Dawson City Water and Power Company, relative to the assistance it is proposed the government shall donate toward the erec-

tion and maintenance of a stamp mill for testing purposes. But one committee had any report to make and that was a special committee appointed by the commissioner to look into and ascertain the amount of damage Thos. O'Brien had sustained in the closing of his tramway during the winter of '98-'99. Girouard was chairman of the committee and he it was who presented the report. It states the committee has expended a vast amount of time in the examination of all the books, vouchers and papers pertaining to the construction of the tramway, its cost, maintenance and the profits derived from its operation, and they recommend that Mr. O'Brien be indemnified for the two months and a half that his road was not in operation at the rate of \$6000 a month, \$15,000. They also recommend that he be paid an additional \$12,000 for expenses incurred in the construction of grades, bridges and culverts which the public afterward appropriated to its own use. They consider that the government really owes Mr. O'Brien \$35,000 but they only recommend the payment of \$27,000. The recommendation of the committee is not equivalent to the payment of the money, as the appropriation of money for that purpose will have to be voted before it can be paid.

Under the head of inquiries Prudhomme asked if the employees at work on the various government roads who have been receiving \$5 a day and their board are being charged for their board on Sunday. It was stated that he had received several complaints that such was being done. It was also asked if the men taken from the city to a distance were compelled to pay their own fares. In replying to the first question the commissioner asked that he be given a day or two in which to answer. As to the second question he said it was understood that road employes paid their own fare but for the time lost in traveling they were compensated at the regular rate of \$5 a day. While the question was under discussion Girouard asked if all the men on such work were paid at the same rate. Why were they paid \$5 a day and board instead of \$7.50 a day and they board themselves and was it compulsory that they board at the regular mess house? The chair replied that last year the rate was \$8 per day and \$3 was deducted for board, but this year a contract was made by which the men were boarded for \$2.50 a day and that rate was made accordingly.

Dugas gave notice that at the next meeting he intended to move the abolishment of all committees.

Wilson presented the bill providing for the incorporation of the Dawson Amateur Athletic Association, Ltd., and moved its first reading. He also presented a bill to amend ordinance No. 31 of 1901 respecting unincorporated towns. It was explained that under the provisions of the proposed amendment it was desired by the residents of Grand Forks that rather than make the assessment and the collection of taxes against real estate, personal property and incomes, it had been decided at a meeting held for that purpose that if permission were given them by the council such funds would be raised by means of licenses. The residents of the Forks have agreed upon such procedure and a slight amendment is asked to be made in order that a higher schedule of licenses can be imposed than are at present provided for. The bill was given its first reading.

Newlands presented the bill respecting the public service of the territory. First reading. He also presented the election bill which amended the ordinance of 1900 providing for the election of two representatives to the Yukon council.

An ordinance to amend the ordinance respecting masters and servants was presented by Wilson. Dugas presented the ordinance respecting the summoning of juries. Newlands one relating to the consolidation of certain ordinances already in force. Senkler one respecting the public health, and also one relating to the prevention of fires and one to amend the Dawson City charter. Newlands one respecting schools. All the foregoing were given their first reading.

Wilson moved the second reading of his "deception" bill which provoked a discussion lengthy and interesting. Before the motion could be put Prudhomme was on his feet with an

amendment which he desired to substitute for the "deception" bill. He stated that he had no objection to the Wilson bill but he feared it would not answer the purpose for which it was intended; it was not enough far-reaching in its effect. What was wanted was a law that would protect the workingman making his labor a lien upon the claim upon which the work had been performed. He moved that the legal adviser be instructed to prepare such a bill at once and an effort be made to put it through the present session of the council.

Wilson defended his bill. He is heartily in sympathy with the honorable gentleman at his left but he could see no reason why his bill should not receive its second reading. If there was any objection to the bill he had not heard it mentioned and he will support any lien ordinance that may be brought up. He had been informed by the legal adviser that a lien law such as was desired it was impossible to enact, the council had not that power; in fact, that was the rock upon which all previous attempts in that line have perished. He hoped that if such an ordinance could be introduced, it would be done at the present session and he trusted that his friend would withdraw his amendment.

Prudhomme—"I have no objection to the 'deception' bill but I don't think it is worth the paper it is written on. What we want is a lien law the same as they have in Ontario where it works satisfactorily and there is no reason that I can see why we should not have the same here. I have had the advice of eminent counsel to the effect that the council has the power to enact a law such as is desired and it is time something was being done to protect the laborer. The collection of his wages is becoming worse and worse every year and it is a positive disgrace the way such things have been running."

Wilson—"I do not expect my bill to take the place of a lien ordinance. Its intention is to get at a class of men who have made it a practice of deceiving their laborers by hiring them in the fall and in the spring when their wages become due and the cleanup is made have some mortgage or come along and take the entire proceeds of the winter's work without leaving a dollar for the men who have dug the gold-bearing gravel out of the earth. There have been instances where it has been proven that mortgages such as I speak of have turned out to be fraudulent and given for the sole purpose of beating the miners out of their wages. That is the class of men it is intended this bill shall get after."

Dugas—"There is no doubt but that the so-called lien ordinance at present in effect does not work satisfactorily. The judges of the territorial court are in a better position to know that to be a fact than anyone else and to speak of the hardship which the laborer is often compelled to suffer, I have seen hundreds of them losing their wages and there appeared to be no help for it. I am of the opinion with the legal adviser that we can not pass a law which will be a real lien law. I will vote for any measure that will afford better protection for the laboring man. They are not the only ones who are entitled to protection. The man who furnishes the wood should receive the same consideration." The speaker cited several cases which had come under his own observation where in one instance 70 men had been turned off one claim without receiving one dollar of the wages that were due them and such happens almost every day. He is unable to form an opinion of what is the best course to pursue but the entire council will agree upon any ordinance that will protect in a better way the man who works for his daily bread and a suggestion was offered that a committee consisting of Prudhomme, Wilson and the legal adviser be instructed to form a bill which would answer the requirements as near as it would be possible to make it.

Prudhomme insisted that the Wilson bill provided only a punishment for an employer to hire labor and not inform him of the existence of a mortgage or other lien on his claim when he expected to pay such laborer out of the proceeds of his own work. It afforded him no protection after the labor had been performed. Further argument was cut short by Newlands who pointed out that the bill as it stood at present was ultra vires of this council. By a recent decision it has been decided that a dump is a chattel and an ordinance can be passed as to it, but a lien can not be made on the ground. If such were done it would have the effect that no claim owner would be able to borrow money on his property, nor could he secure any provisions upon the strength of his ownership. As to the "deception" bill by providing for a punishment for the doing of certain things that was infringing on the powers of parliament. It was impossible for the Yu-

kon council to legislate upon matters pertaining to the criminal code. Dugas suggested a conference with the legal adviser and Wilson withdrew his motion for the second reading of the bill upon ascertaining that it was, ultra vires. The committee was increased by the addition of the name of Dugas making it four in number. Prudhomme desired that an attorney outside of the council be made one of the committee, a thing that the other members would not listen to for a moment. It was pointed out, however, that a barrister could be invited to confer with them which was agreed upon. The name of him whom Prudhomme had in mind was asked but he refused to give any reason to divulge his identity.

The slaughter house ordinance came up for its second reading and another warm argument was indulged in having reference to the granting of the monopoly to any one individual. The matter was finally compromised by Prudhomme moving that the committee rise and report progress on the bill and ask leave to sit upon it again. When the second reading of the bill providing for the incorporating of the Dawson City Electric Street Railway came up, Senkler presented a communication from the solicitors of the company begging that the bill be withdrawn and the fee of \$200 refunded. Agreed. An adjournment was taken until 4 o'clock this afternoon.

**Arrest Explained**  
Editor Nugget:—Sir,—In justice to Mrs. McPhee and her friends I beg for space in your paper to explain the nature of the debt for which we think she was wrongfully arrested. One Mr. Bert and Mrs. McPhee were partners in a roadhouse on Dominion creek in 1899. Mrs. McPhee in the fall of 1899 sold out her one-third interest to Mr. Bert, he to collect outstanding accounts and pay all debts. Since then Mrs. McPhee has from time to time collected money due her from Mr. Wilson for boarding his men and no mention whatever has been made of the account in question until the very moment she was leaving the country. Mr. Wilson, fully knowing that he could not otherwise collect the bill, Mrs. McPhee knowing that to remain and prove her case would probably detain her until close of navigation, promptly settled the bill. A. NERLAND.

# WE INVITE ATTENTION!

To our fine lines of 1902 Fall and Winter Productions. We are showing this season the creations of the best manufacturers of Men's Suits, Overcoats, Fur Goods, Underwear, Overshirts, Hosiery, Neckwear and Footwear.

**SEE OUR WINDOW DISPLAY. PRICES REASONABLE.**  
Our New Store is the finest and best appointed establishment in the country. We have an abundance of room and light where you can see exactly what you are buying. We refund your money if goods are not as represented.

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FIRST AVE., Directly Opp. Aurora Dock

### COUNCIL COMPLETES

**Purchase of Mrs. Ferguson's Figures**  
The city council last night voted to offer Mrs. M. L. Ferguson, \$1,000 for her stock of house numbers, sign boards upon which the names of the streets are designated, poles upon which the sign boards are nailed, maps, franchises, register and in fact her full and complete stock in trade in the Yukon territory. Mrs. Ferguson has been prominently before the people here for three or four years, in connection with the first issuance of the Yukon directory, putting sign boards on the corners of the streets at her own expense and then ordering a sufficient number of house numbers to number every house in Dawson.

### RAILROAD OFFICIALS

**Are Indicted for Alleged Crooked Work**  
Special to the Daily Nugget:—Minneapolis, Sept. 8.—W. R. B. president, and W. B. Bennett, general freight agent, of the Toledo, St. Arbor and Northern Michigan Railway, and H. F. Whitcomb, president and Burton Johnson, general freight agent, of the Wisconsin Central, have been indicted by the grand jury for manipulating rates by means of rebates to favored patrons.

### ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BE PAID FOR HER ENTIRE STOCK IN TRADE.

The subject was introduced by the mayor who said that the season was drawing to a close and that the matter should be settled so that Mrs. Ferguson might be given an opportunity of getting outside. In his estimation Mrs. Ferguson had rendered the city a valuable service in introducing such a perfect system and he thought she should receive proper remuneration. \$1,500 was not too much to pay for them.

Councilman Wilson stated that he had understood that she had offered her numbers for \$750 and did not see why \$1,500 should be paid under the circumstances. He was willing to compromise.

Councilman Macdonald replied to Mr. Wilson stating that he was pretty fully acquainted with the facts regarding the numbers and that she had never offered them for \$750. He thought the council was getting a bargain and that it would be a progressive move on the part of the city to have the houses numbered. He was in favor of making the numbering compulsory in which case the city would make something even at \$1,500. He made a motion that the numbers be purchased for 50c apiece but upon being told that would only bring the amount to about \$800 he would amend his motion so that it would bring the amount to \$1,500.

After some further discussion the matter was put to a vote with four voting for \$1,000 and two for \$1,500.

### Having a Good Time

Chicago, Aug. 30.—Theodore Roosevelt, jr., today was driven to the Owentish Club's golf links, at Lake Forest, where for a time he was an interested spectator in the Western Women's Championship tournament. Thence the party drove to Fort Sheridan, where a dress parade and cavalry maneuvers were ordered by Col. McCaskey in honor of the president's son. The Twentieth infantry and the Second cavalry participated in the review, and "Three" for "Teddy" was given as the men went to quarters. From Fort Sheridan the party came into Chicago, where young Roosevelt did his shopping previous to the hunting trip in South Dakota. He returned to lunch with Mr. H. R. McCullough, his host, at Lake Forest, whence the party will leave for the northwest at 5 o'clock this evening over the Chicago & Northwestern road. Other members of the party on the hunting and fishing trip will be Marvin Hughtit, jr., and D. W. Cox.

### Movement of Fleet

Woods Hole, Mass., Aug. 30.—Rear Admiral Higginson's fleet was still at anchor in Menemsha bight this forenoon. It was expected it would go out under cover of darkness last night. The dispatch boat, which had been making daily trips to this port for mail and supplies, did not come today, and this was taken to indicate that the departure of the vessels was imminent.

Send a copy of Goetzman's Souvenir to outside friends. A complete pictorial history of Klondike. For sale at all news stands. Price \$2.50.

The Senator—at Auditorium.

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Ask Your Dealer for It. You Will Find It Sparkles Like Wine.  
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Scotch drinkers should look after the Caledonian Special. Liqueur, it's awful smooth.

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