

WHAT DID THEY GET FOR THEIR MONEY?

Ten Hundred and Fifty Dollars Paid for "Legal Services."

THE STORY OF DR. MERRYMAN'S ARREST AND DISCHARGE

Mr. Sheridan's Influence With the Yukon Council Fails to Materialize.

The American Doctors Raise a Fund Which Was to Bring About Certain Results—For Some Reason These Results Did Not Result to the Advantage of the Subscribers—The Magic of an Assumed Official Title Produced the Results.

Ten hundred and fifty dollars! That is a pretty clever fee for any attorney to receive in this territory, and then the client to be arrested on a warrant sworn out before a committing magistrate, and appear charged with a misdemeanor, particularly when the givers of the retaining fee were given to understand that it was to be used in going before the Honorable Council of the Yukon Territory, and this is how it occurred:

Doctor Geo. E. Merryman, as is well known, is an American physician and a gentleman of high standing in this community. Dr. Merryman came to Alaska in 1897, via St. Michaels, and there attended the good Father Rene, remaining from his neck a carbuncle which was causing him intense pain; restoring him to his wonted good health, and seeing him away on the steamer Excelsior, bound for San Francisco, en route to Rome. Before departing, however, Father Rene gave to the doctor a letter to Father Judge, of St. Mary's hospital that the doctor be given charge of the surgery and medicine of the hospital. The doctor came on up to Circle City, and in the winter of 1897-98, with two sled loads of medicines and surgical instruments proceeded on his journey to Dawson, which was assuming large proportions as a mining camp. Previous to coming to the Yukon, Dr. Merryman, anxious to comply with every requisite law and regulation of the Dominion of Canada, as a good and law-abiding citizen, forwarded to Prof. James H. Ehrbridge, secretary of the faculty of the famous Rush College of Chicago, which institution has turned out more real and genuine doctors than probably any medical college on the American continent, with the request that he forward the numerous diplomas to the proper officials at Ottawa, in case a license to practice in the Northwest Territory should be necessary—there being then no Yukon Territory, nor even any government of any form, save the able North West Mounted Police. Coming away hastily, Dr. Merryman requested Mrs. Merryman on receipt of reply to his request to bring in his diplomas and forward the Canadian officials' reply. Before leaving the States to join her husband, Mrs. Merryman, called on Prof. Ehrbridge, who read to her the reply received from Ottawa, to the effect, "that as no government existed in Dawson, no papers were necessary to practice medicine." The day following the doctor's arrival here, however, to be perfectly sure in his position he called upon Captain Constantine, then in charge of this station, and stating his case, was assured that no objection could or would be made to his practicing his profession and especially as but few physicians were then here his services in the field of sickness would be more than desirable. Dr. Merryman gave to Doctors Chambers and LeBlanc, then in charge of the hospital, a full supply of medicines, with one cent to them, medical supplies being very short in those days.

Remember this was months before any civil officials came in to Dawson at all. Such was the doctor's skill in surgery and medicine, that a lucrative practice was soon built up and the doctor upon his time were almost constant. Dawson began to boom, and in came Maj. Walsh, and the organization of the Yukon Council and the creation of the Yukon Territory. A physician's registration ordinance was passed and a board of registration and examiners organized, and all American physicians were compelled to desist from the practice of their profession until appearing before this board and their examination set upon. Dr. Merryman refused, for reasons known to the reader, to submit to this examination, and, of course, was compelled to give up his practice.

Hundreds of people, however, who had been, and at the time, were still in his hands, refused to call any other, and the doctor was twice arrested for violation of the medical ordinance. Of course this was not only annoying but humiliating. About this time, or to be ex-

actly accurate, Mr. Philip Sheridan arrived in Dawson on the steamer Yukoner, August 22, 1898, and appeared in the public prints as the crown prosecutor and successor to Fred C. Wade.

Naturally enough this gave the impression that influences could be brought to bear, to have matters changed in favor of the American physicians, and, were naturally still, Dr. Merryman and others desired to practice their chosen profession. Being introduced to the doctor upon a certain evening, Mr. Sheridan approached him upon the subject, and suggested that matters could be fixed, so that the annoyance of arrest, etc., would be stopped; that he could arrange things and present an ordinance to the Yukon Council, repealing that in effect, and it could be done quickly and without the slightest trouble, narrating his intimacy with the several members thereof, that of course, it would take some money to do it, stipulating the price at \$1,000 for his services, at the same time reminding the doctor that under similar circumstances in his own country it would cost \$5,000, probably, to do this.

Now it will be noted that the Nugget does not say that Mr. Sheridan was authorized to do this by either the Council or any member thereof, it is simply stating what Mr. Sheridan stated he could do, and the doctor anxious as he had been his lot, and to practice unmolested agreed to raise if possible the amount necessary to lobby the ordinance through. Dr. Merryman therefore on his own account and in behalf of his fellow practicing physicians from the States paid in cash to Mr. Sheridan the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) as per receipt herewith appended.

(COPY). Philip Sheridan, B. A., B. C. L., Attorney, Barrister and Solicitor, Notary Public, Court Commissioner.

DAWSON, Nov. 8, 1898. Received of Dr. Merryman the sum of two hundred dollars. Legal services. PHILIP SHERIDAN, Per. M. The doctor acting upon the suggestion of Mr. Sheridan and his assurances at once called upon the American doctors and here is the way they subscribed:

Dr. W. H. Lehman	(note)	\$100 00
Dr. Rheinacker	"	100 00
Dr. Bowers	"	70 00
Dr. Cooke	"	30 00
Dr. Lucille McDowell-nee Day	"	50 00
Dr. Benson	"	100 00
Dr. Chase	"	100 00
Dr. H. E. Merryman	(cash)	200 00
Dr. O. S. Weddel	"	100 00
Dr. W. H. Bluet	"	100 00
Dr. Cooke	"	30 00
Dr. Bowers	"	70 00
Total		\$1050 00

It will be noticed that the notes given by Doctors Cooke and Bowers were subsequently paid, leaving a net amount of \$850.

In the meantime a petition to the Honorable Council had been circulated requesting that as Dr. Merryman had been practicing long before any civil government had been organized that such exception or other arrangement be made, as to entitle Dr. Merryman to continue the practice of medicine upon paying the usual registration fee, etc., and this was signed by such prominent citizens as H. F. Wills, Judge Merford, W. M. Rank, Falcon Joslin, Ely E. Weare, L. R. Fuida, W. H. Bard, James Daugherty and some 25 others. This petition was to be presented to the Council, along with the amended ordinance. It will be observed that \$500 of the subscription to Mr. Sheridan's lobby fund was in cash, the remainder being in provisional notes.

Nothing being developed in favor of the petitioners, the \$1050, contributors naturally became anxious as to the result, and were assured by Mr. Sheridan that certain members of the Council were "all right" and the matter would be "fixed," but as a matter of fact the petition was never presented, for when Mr. Sheridan was taken to task about the dragging delay and subsequently Dr. Merryman desired the

return of his diplomas from Mr. Sheridan, this petition was found among these diplomas and is now in possession of the Nugget. Again was Dr. Merryman, who appeared to be the subject for remorseless hounding, arrested and arraigned before His Worship, Magistrate Harper on a misdemeanor charge, but Dr. Edwards, the prosecuting witness, failing to appear at the adjourned trial Dr. Merryman was discharged. It will be acknowledged that it is pretty poor consolation for a man to be molested and arrested when a man assuming an official position with supposed influence with the Council was supposed to be "fixing" things.

It is not believed that Mr. Sheridan had any such influence with the members of the Yukon Council, certainly if he did, they did not grant this particular ordinance amendment. As a matter of fact Mr. Philip Sheridan never was the Crown Prosecuting Attorney for even a minute. That he may have prosecuted cases in court for the Crown is not denied, in fact we believe he did do so in some eighteen particular cases without winning one. But assuming to be the Crown Prosecuting Attorney and leading the public to believe that through his influence with the Council, matters could be arranged which could not be done otherwise is an improper reflection upon the honorable members of that body, and that they could be delivered on this or other propositions is not to be believed.

But where do Dr. Merryman and his confederates get off at? Do they get their money back? Or must they forever give up their profession? For the benefit of any American doctors, however, and to save them consulting attorney fees, it may be added that the medical ordinance as passed by the Yukon Council is defective in that it conflicts with the general laws of the Dominion, and under it no conviction could follow. And the Nugget is sustained. And still there is more to come.

NEW GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

Messrs. Gosselin and Clement Arrive in Dawson—Official Superseded Without Notice.

Mr. F. X. Gosselin, the new timber and crown's lands agent, and Mr. W. H. P. Clement arrived in Dawson Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Clement is a member of the Yukon Council and legal adviser to that body and to the governor. The pair came from Hootalinqua with the Fleming brothers and Mr. Conley, having decided that the police teams were too well occupied by their mail work, etc., to forward them with dispatch.

Both gentlemen were immediately seen by a Nugget representative and talked readily of themselves and their trip. Space compels that the matter be laid over until the next issue. Of Mr. Gosselin it is interesting to note that he brought his commission in with him, Mr. Wilson, the deposed crown's land and timber agent and the balance of the Yukon government not having received any other notification of the sudden and unexpected removal of this the last official who held office under the old regime. Of the causes, which led up to the removal we will have more to say hereafter.

Time to Go to Ottawa.

(Continued from first page) over the world have promised their influence and support. Prominent legislators are assured as also of their offices. Emissaries duly accredited by this paper have quickly but effectively kept this office in touch with the Dominion capital. To go there and to do the work properly requires a large expenditure of money. There is not a miner or business man that is not personally interested in this. Will they help the Nugget complete the work? A little help from every one will accomplish much. Whether such assistance is given or not the Nugget will do it anyhow, but feels that all are interested in the work. It is bound to come gentlemen on the creeks. Your appeals shall be listened to. One visit such as this to Ottawa is worth more than a thousand petitions, each a thousand miles long.

Hurdman Extends Another Insult.

As an evidence that the Nugget representatives are not the only persons who must be subjected to the official insolence of the bench claim "clerk" of the gold commissioner's office, A. F. Hurdman, here is another case. On Tuesday a gentleman known to this paper appeared at the window and desired to record a claim on Little Gem Creek which empties into Hunker. "Where does Little Gem come into Hunker?" asked the bench claim "clerk." As nearly as possible the would-be recorder tried to explain, not knowing exactly the number. Behind him stood Mr. C. C. Osborne of Bonanza creek, a perfect gentleman in every sense of the word, who in the most polite manner suggested that he could furnish the information. "Never mind; you attend to your own business and wait your turn," gruffly exclaimed the bench claim on his high chair. Why should this man continue to hold his position in an office of public importance and hand out insults to innocent inquirers? Would a private business dare employ such an one? His proper place is outside of where he is, and the sooner the better. He should be dismissed and not allowed to resign.

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