

WIERD STORY OF WAR.

How the Captured Boers Looked to the Canadian Soldiers.

Were Morose, Downcast and Dejected - The Glory of the Victory Was Clouded By Death.

(From Friday's Daily.)

Fourteen ancient tents, their blankets, kettles and camp utensils, tossed about in wild confusion. Three long wagons of the type in which the voortrekkers voyaged the veldt, a team of a dozen magnificent oxen, big water cart which we eyed greedily, a Kaffir wattle hut, its floor piled high with odds and ends of clothing and valuables, its doorway marked by a shell-smash; the rocky kopje side behind, a flat plain dotted with shaggy, bushy trees in front—such was the Boer laager. Prisoners came from here and there, over a score from the kopje top, more from this corner and that of the field, and were taken to the hut. Within it and around its door they squatted, a silent, downcast crew; what a mess they had made of their affairs! Perhaps they were not so despondent as we thought, for one man as he sat in the guarded group pointed out a rifle which one of the victors was carrying and claimed it as his own—a piece of cheer which staggered our men. The prisoners claimed only part of our attention; with eager curiosity the camp was ransacked. At last we had our hands upon these Boers; what manner of men were they, and how did they live? Poorly enough, I should say; the camp must have been densely crowded with the motley gathering, and we could see the odd admixture of practical barbarism with occasional contact with civilization as when good suits of clothes lay side by side with repulsive looking strips of bilting. We felt that all this was ours, ours by right of battle, ours by virtue of victory. Perhaps we were wrong, perhaps the confiscated property of rebels should fall to the Crown, but as long as men go to war so long will victors walk through the camp of the vanquished with just that feeling sweating their veins. Something else lay heavy upon us—thirst. It raged through us. The yellow pool where the veldt cut into the kopje face filled our water bottles, and we drank and drank. The foul dregs of the Boers' water cart were drained with joy. As the sun was setting our own water cart with more wholesome water drove up, and we drank and drank again. As our fires were lighted what receptacles could be found were filled and the muddy fluid boiled. Our transport wagons were miles away, and for tea or coffee we were dependent on what we found in the Boer wagons. I remember drinking a cup of hot water and finding it most refreshing. Food was foraged. One section of our men found a sheep's carcass hanging up under a tree, slaughtered by the rebels before our shell changed the tenor of their day. Some had hardtack or army rations in their haversacks. Here and there they picked up enough to make up a meal, not especially plentiful, and very scrappy, but satisfying. Indeed a most peculiar thing about the whole affair was the great amount of work we managed to do on a very small amount of food. The shadows of the evening were falling as we finished our meal, sent out the necessary pickets and prepared for rest. That was not all. Death was in our camp, was with us in the hour of our victory. The Queenlanders had left us early and had ridden to Rooi Pan, a farm house across the veldt where the rebels used to gather. Some of the New South Wales army medical corps remained with us, and in a Boer tent lay two of our wounded, Privates Maclead and Rose, and alongside them two wounded Boers. The former was hurt unto death; a shot had pierced both hips as he stood sideways to his slayer. The surgeon was suddenly called to his side, but aid was useless, and soon the breath had left the ashen lips, as the less sorely wounded man was softly conveyed from the tent of death. The regimental surgeon was the only Queenlander left when poor Maclead died, and the Canadians willingly discharged the last duties towards his body. A grave was dug, a New Testament was found, Canadians furnished the bearers who carried the stretcher and its melancholy load to the grave side, a party of our men under Sergeant Beatty formed the firing party, our bugles sounded the "last post." Major Bayly, the staff officer of the expedition, who was in command of our little force, read a few selections from that wonderful chapter of Corinthians, and then the earth was shovelled upon him. A

rough cross with his name and corps and the inscription, "Erected by his Queenland and Canadian comrades," was erected at the head of the grave. Less honored with solemn ceremony, I may add, was the grave of Private Jones of the Queenlanders, who was shot through the heart at an early stage of the attack. Two men who knew where the body lay were left behind at Rooi Pan next day, and they had to go out, dig a grave and bury their comrade by themselves.

As night fell sleep came. Great coats and blankets were with the wagons; a very few had rubber sheets. We shunned the Boer tents and slept in the open, using such of the Boer bedding as we fancied. South African nights are likely to be cold, but our rest was sound. By the prison hut two fires blazed all night, their light making it hopeless for the rebels to escape. Their numbers, in fact, were increased, for in the early hours a Kaffir runner with a letter for the rebel camp innocently walked into the guard, ignorant of the events of the day. — Frederick Hamilton, in the Toronto Globe.

A Quick Trip.

On the 20th inst., Mr. A. L. Stephens, the cashier at the A. C. Co.'s store, returned to Dawson from a visit to San Francisco and other Pacific coast cities. Mr. Stephens made the trip from Lake Bennett to Dawson in the remarkably quick time of seven days and seven and a half hours. He rode a Columbia chainless bicycle over the trail, and he has established the bicycle record for the trip over the ice. His wheel and traveling outfit weighed 76 pounds and as he weighed 229 pounds when he left Portland, it made a pretty heavy load. He lost 20 pounds coming in, but he is the picture of vigorous health and says he never felt better in his life. The cyclometer attached to the bicycle registered 450 1/2 miles. Mr. Stephens reports that the trail from Bennett to Selkirk is in poor condition, but that traveling is excellent from Selkirk to Dawson.

He says that people on the outside who have never visited the Yukon valley have vague ideas of what this country really is during the winter months, and most invariably such persons conceive it to be afflicted with all sorts of horrible conditions. Before leaving San Francisco, he expressed his intention of making the trip from Bennett to Dawson over the ice on a bicycle. Immediately he became subjected to jokes and ridicule. The San Francisco Examiner cartooned him in the most grotesque manner, and his intended effort was ludicrously criticised. Indeed, he was regarded as a prevaricator, indigent to Arctic soil. Mr. Stephens enjoyed a pleasant visit to the coast. He has resumed already his duties as cashier of the A. C. Co., with which concern he has been associated since its establishment in Dawson.

Nome Rush Off.

So far as known not a person has left Dawson for Nome since one week ago this morning, when a lone traveler with three little dogs about the size of ordinary house cats struck out down the river. The chances are ten to one that he will not get further than Fort Yukon on the ice, and possibly not so far. But he will not be alone in his failure to reach the city on the beach before the opening of navigation. It is not believed that any who left Dawson after the first of March will succeed in reaching Nome over the ice; and during the time that these people are element bound on the inhospitable shores of the lower Yukon they could, had they remained in Dawson, have made sufficient money to travel to their Mecca in first class style and still have reached in advance of the time they will now make.

Blacksmithing Stimulated.

Business in Dawson with "vulcanites" is more rushed now than at any time for several months past, and followers of the trade pursued by that historic gentleman who did business under the spreading chestnut tree are now busy all day and far into the night, the principal work being the shoeing of horses and repairing of wagons. Since the snow has mostly disappeared, the surface of the streets and roads are almost as smooth as ice before the daily thaw sets in, with the result that while a horse is "rough shod" he has no business out of the stable. Hence, the ring of the hammer on the anvil fully 16 hours in every 24.

May Reduce Royalty.

Consul McCook is coming into Dawson. The Seattle P.-I. of the 7th inst. has the following interview with McCook on the question of royalty: "Before leaving for Europe I paid a short visit to the Canadian capital at Ottawa. From conversations I had while there with Hon. Charles Tupper and others, I think it is the intention of the government to reduce the royalty on gold taken out of the Alaskan and other Canadian districts. At present

the royalty is 10 per cent of the gross output, and I believe this will shortly be reduced to 3 per cent of the gross output. The anti-administration party is in favor of this reduction, of course, and it is being used as an issue. To offset this the administration is advocating the reduction, and it looks probable that it will be made.

There is no good reason why it should not be. Expenses of the Canadian government in the Klondike have been materially reduced within the last three years. In fact, in this connection, there is no comparison between now and then. The government is, therefore, deriving an enormous revenue from that district.

As the matter is viewed in Ottawa, the high royalty is but a premium on dishonesty, and false returns of the output of the district are continually being made. With the royalty reduced to 3 per cent this would not be the case as there would be no incentive to take such chances of getting into trouble.

The political outlook in the East is very bright. I spent only a few days in Washington City, and no matters of any public importance were discussed. We anticipate no new conditions in the north, other than those spoken of.

I do not expect to return to the United States until October."

Boundary Established.

Commissioner Senkler rendered a decision this morning in the case of Sucha vs. Wils et al. This action involved a dispute respecting the boundary between lower half of creek claim No. 14 below discovery on Bonanza and the adjoining hillside on the left limit. The decision is as follows: "The plaintiff is the owner of the hillside location off the lower half, left limit, of 14 below on Bonanza. The defendants are the owners of the creek claim. The creek claim boundary was established by Mr. Ogilvie in the summer of 1897. It is admitted that his two posts are as shown upon Mr. Jephson's plan filed herein. What must now be determined is the direction the boundary lines take between the two posts. Mr. Ogilvie's posts were placed at what he considered the base of the hill. It would follow that the ground at the same elevation between these posts must be considered the base of the hill unless some intervening posts were placed by the original surveyor to show that this rule should not be followed. Any evidence brought at this stage, about two and one half years after the original survey, to show that it is incorrect, cannot be entertained. A grade line running between the original Ogilvie posts is the boundary line of the creek claim. The position of the lower posts of the Sucha claim is at Mr. Ogilvie's post. I must hold the upper post is at a point 20.5 feet up hill and 1.09 feet up stream, from Jephson's down stream Begeen stake, as shown upon his plan filed herein. A grade line running between these posts shall constitute the down hill boundary line of the Sucha hillside location."

No cases are being tried in the Gold Commissioner's court today.

Water Supply for Klondike.

Vancouver, B. C., March 8. — Joseph McGillivray, a mining engineer of the Klondike and California, arrived here on Wednesday on his way to the north. He says that he has obtained the necessary capital for the carrying out of a large water supply service in the Klondike. Mr. McGillivray says that in a couple of years at most the more thickly worked parts of the district in the north will be dried out, and water will have to be brought from a distance. His plan is to bring it in huge pipes for hydraulic and other purposes from the upper reaches of Indian river, and to sell it to the miners. It is said that, from an engineering standpoint, at least, the scheme is quite a feasible one. McGillivray is over 70 years of age, but he intends making the trip into the Klondike over the snow.

Constable Dellatarr Leaves.

Constable Dellatarr, of the N. W. M. P., left today for the outside. He will make the trip up the river and over the lakes by easy stages, calling on his fellows and friends at the various posts along the trail, and reaching Bennett before the ice goes out. On reaching Ottawa he will ask for leave of absence to visit the old country. Constable Dellatarr has been here for two years, during most of which time he has been at the town station. He is a good officer and a pleasant young man.

Wages Raised 10 Per Cent.

Pittsburg, Pa., March 7. — Four thousand employees of the National Tube Company, of McKeesport, were today notified of a 10 per cent advance in wages, to date from April 1. This is the second increase and makes the wages of common laborers higher than at any time in the history of the works. All tube workers employed by the combine in the United States will receive a similar advance. The number of men affected is over 20,000.

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MORE JUDGES.

The action of the bar association in reference to the appointment of two additional judges to assist Mr. Justice Dugas in the discharge of his onerous and constantly increasing duties, should, and probably will, receive immediate attention at Ottawa. The present status of cases in litigation is deplorable. There are twice as many cases on the docket as the court will be able to dispose of before the arrival of the long vacation, and how many more actions will be instituted in the meanwhile is a matter of conjecture.

In addition to this, the method of procedure required in taking appeals makes litigation subject to such delays, and so expensive, that the right of appeal is seldom resorted to, notwithstanding the fact that cases frequently occur where properties valued at thousands upon thousands of dollars are concerned. It is proposed by the bar association that two judges be appointed in addition to Judge Dugas, and that any two of the three shall constitute a court of appeal. Appeal from this court may then be taken, if so desired, direct to the supreme court of Canada without the interposition of the minister of the interior or any other official whose position is dependent upon success in politics.

The urgency of the case has been clearly set forth before the government at Ottawa, and it is anticipated that an immediate and affirmative response to the petition of the bar association will be received.

THE REVENUE ORDINANCE.

The Council has under consideration an ordinance, as published in last night's issue of the Nugget, providing for the taxation of real and personal property in Dawson. The object of the ordinance is the raising of revenue to defray the expenditures necessary in maintaining the public health and in making local improvements.

Leaving aside for the time being discussion of any specific features of the ordinance, a number of which are, we believe, open to criticism, a grave question arises as to the general principle involved in passing such an ordinance, in view of existing conditions.

Ordinarily speaking, a local tax to sustain local government, when properly regulated, is right and equitable.

Dawson is reaching a point in its progress toward becoming a modern city, which undoubtedly makes it necessary that money for various purposes incidental to the government of a municipality should be raised. But it is at this point where the rub comes. We have no municipality. We have no responsible government of any sort. We have a Council which looks to Ottawa, and not to Dawson, for its instructions; which holds its meetings behind closed doors and exercises a rigorous censorship over all reports of meetings given to the press for publication. We submit, therefore, that the establishment of a municipal government, chosen by the qualified freeholders of the town, should precede the passage of an ordinance such as the Council proposes.

We have no objection to the principle of local taxation for legitimate purposes of local improvements. Property owners who are benefited by the expenditure of local revenue should

expect to contribute their share, but they should also demand the right of a voice in the selection of the men who are empowered to expend the revenues. Before passing its proposed local revenue ordinance, the Council should take the necessary measures, for which provision was long ago made, for transforming Dawson into a self-governing municipality.

THE MEETING TONIGHT.

Tonight the meeting is called to hear the report of the citizens' committee, appointed some time ago, to take steps to secure local representation upon the Yukon Council, and also representation in the House of Commons at Ottawa. The committee has worked hard to bring the matter forcibly before the authorities, with results which we believe will prove successful.

The public at large, however, should manifest their interest in the movement. There must be no doubt left after this evening as to the wishes of the citizens of this territory upon the question of representation.

Some members of the Yukon Council have taken the position that the people of the territory have not displayed sufficient desire for representation to justify any action in regard thereto. We hope that the meeting tonight will be so well attended, so representative and so pronounced in expressing its wishes that no room for further doubt may be left in the minds of our worthy councillors.

Among other matters which may well come within the province of this meeting for discussion is the question of allowing the press and public to be represented at meetings of the Council. The Nugget has taken the position that all sessions of the Council at which legislative business is under discussion should be open to representatives of the press and to such representation on the part of the public as the Council chamber is able to accommodate. The matter has been discussed at length in these columns, and the leading members of the local bar have unanimously endorsed the view taken by the Nugget. Action by the meeting tonight will serve further to impress the Council with the opinion which the public generally holds in the matter.

Altogether, the meeting will be a most important affair. Our citizens are now fully alive to the fact that a united stand and hard fighting will eventually win the recognition which so long has been denied us. We urge upon citizens of all classes to attend the meeting.

From the latter part of April until along about the 10th of June the mail service is bound to be more or less uncertain. The break-up season will then be on, and in consequence the carriers will experience the utmost difficulty in transporting the mail. Parties having important matters to be taken care of through the mail should take cognizance of these facts and transact their business before the breaking up of the trails makes delays probable.

The Nugget is printing more news, both local and telegraphic, than any other newspaper in Dawson. Newspaper readers are rapidly becoming aware of this fact, and a continuous increase in daily sales is resulting. The Nugget has allowed the people of Dawson to discover for themselves the merits of the paper, and results are proving that its merits are now pretty well known and generally recognized.

Advertisement for various goods including shoes, clothing, and hardware. Includes text like 'Shoes Again and Again', 'Pinska', 'Footwear', 'Sawmill & Building Co.', 'Yukon River', 'A. E. Co.', 'Transportation', 'Tobacco and Cigars'.