

Letter showing the position taken by Dr. Catto during the Treadgold agitation. It will be observed that the resolution at the end of this letter is now a plank in his platform. His position is always logical and consistent.

GRAHAM CAMPBELL, EDITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE YUKON SUN:

SIR—Knowing that you publish your paper for public instruction, I hope you will allow me some space to say a few things that are of utmost importance in regard to the agitation against the Treadgold concession, and particularly in regard to the opportunity thereby presented to us to diminish the power of the Ottawa government over the Yukon Territory, and proportionately to increase the power of the local Yukon Council.

Nothing of importance in matters of government has ever been, or can be, accomplished by the short-lived flame of a candle that "melts in its own fire." We have had our agitation. The flame is extinguished. The candle is consumed. The smoke, in the shape of delegates, is vanishing beyond the horizon. When it reaches Ottawa, it may obscure, and may actually smother some clauses in the Treadgold grant. If it should accomplish this, or if it should completely obliterate the Treadgold concession, what after all has it accomplished? We are still at the mercy of Ottawa orders-in-council. We do not know how many other Yukon concessions are at this moment passing smoothly through the Ottawa government under the guidance of those skilled pilots whose business is "departmental work in Ottawa a specialty." An attempt has been made to show that there is little to fear from the Treadgold concession because certain clauses can be shown to be invalid by some sort of legal process. But when the lawyer who assails the validity of a clause grounds his argument on what he says he "does not believe was the intention with which the order was passed," he knows that his plea is futile, because he knows that every court of justice in the Dominion of Canada is bound to read the order as it was intended to be read by the Government that issued the order.

An attempt has also been made to show that the Treadgold orders-in-council can be annulled on the ground that they were issued in consequence of false and fraudulent representations. It is easy to think this; easy to say it; but hard to do it. To accomplish this it is necessary to convince the Government against its will—a rock on which the legal craft will generally split. The Anderson concession on Hunker was obtained by false and fraudulent representations. But the Anderson concession is there yet. And so it is with most of the concessions in the Yukon Territory. And supposing the Treadgold title is defective, the Ottawa Government can pass a "special order-in-council," as it did in the case of the Anderson concession, to mitigate the rigor of the bargain and make the title good. What remedy have we against this state of affairs? Let me show how the present opportunity could be used to furnish a useful remedy. A mass meeting properly called is a recognized part of our governmental machine. At the meeting in the A. B. Hall, on Monday night, I expected certain motions to deal specifically with the Treadgold grant, one to ask for an abrogation of the grant, and another to propose a substitute. But I expected much more than that. I expected the business to proceed to a logical conclusion without which we are always in the same ridiculous position of "locking the stable door after the horse has been stolen." It was for the purpose of getting out of this ridiculous position that I introduced the following resolution which ought not to be submerged, since it was passed and properly launched from a mass meeting and is on its way to Ottawa through the proper channel:

"Whereas, Many concessions and monopolies of various kinds,