

# VERY LIVELY MEETING

## Held By British Subjects Last Night.

### OTTAWA PETITIONED FOR BETTER LAWS

#### Representative Government Urged for the Yukon.

#### The Federal Officials Subjected to Severe Criticism—Captain Woodside Calls Doctor Catto a Boer—Quiet Restored—The Resolutions.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]  
The meeting of British subjects, which was called some few days ago by attorney C. M. Woodworth for the purpose of formulating plans to secure representation on the Yukon council and in the federal parliament at Ottawa, was held at the McDonald hall last night. A large crowd attended, and most every prominent British subject in Dawson, with the exception of the officials, was present. Only one man voted against the adoption of the resolution which provided for representation in the Yukon council; but though unanimity prevailed as to the remedy required, there were many disagreements as to the manner in which such representation should be obtained. In the beginning the speeches were moderate; but eventually invidious comparisons were drawn, and in several instances interruptions occurred which threatened to turn the meeting into a common brawl. At one time Doc Catto, in referring to local conditions, likened them to those of the Uitlanders in South Africa. Captain Woodside grasped the opportunity to display his journalistic and martial talents. "You're a Boer, you're a Boer!" the gallant man who might have been a major cried.

This stereotyped appellation, used so indiscriminately by the captain, convulsed with laughter several persons present, while others evidenced their disgust by yelling, "throw him out," "run him out," etc. The face of the journalistic dragon flushed with anger. "I'm a Britisher," he declared, "and a soldier. You cannot make me run." He was quieted, however, and the business of the evening proceeded.

Attorney Woodworth called the meeting to order. Col. Donald G. MacGregor was elected chairman, and Mr. Clark, of the firm of Ackerman and Clark, was appointed secretary.

After the election of officers, Mr. Woodworth stated the purpose of the meeting. He said: "We are entitled to two representatives in the Yukon council. There are about six or seven thousand people in Dawson, 25 per cent of whom are British subjects and voters. Thus we have a greater voting population than a town of similar size on the outside. On the creeks, there are more Britishers than aliens. The population of this territory and our millions in wealth entitle us to local self-government and to a representative at Ottawa. We have not the rights of a British coast colony in Africa. A member of the council recently told me that the council desired to ascertain if the people wanted representation in that body. Let our recommendations for representation be so plain and certain that respecting our views on this question, there can never again be doubts or misgivings. Now the council meets behind closed doors. Two members, elected by the people, would immediately render public the deliberations of this board. We are entitled, as a free people, representative government, to legislate respecting our local affairs, and to have a voice in the hall of parliament." At the conclusion of the short address,

Mr. Woodworth was loudly applauded. Mr. Noel was the next speaker. He concurred with Mr. Woodworth. He found no fault with the present councillors, but contended that they were the servants of the minister of the interior and not the representatives of the resident people. Continuing, he declared: "Two members, elected by the people, would open the chamber of this august body to the taxpayers of the territory. We must continue to urge and agitate for this representation until we secure it. If we expedite matters, we can obtain relief during the next 30 days. Our population and wealth entitle us to municipal control and to a representative in the house of parliament."

Mr. Port made a lengthy speech the purport of which was that if an election was called now, but very few British subjects would be entitled to the franchise for the reason that the great majority had not been in the territory for a period of one year.

Mr. James Sturgeon was the next speaker. He bitterly criticised the administration of the Yukon territory. He said, "I have served 22 years, 8 months and 10 days in the British army. I have seen service in many parts of the great empire; but I was never in any country where a man's inalienable rights are so contemptuously disregarded by the governing power as they are in this portion of the Dominion of Canada. Here a miner is compelled to pay \$10 for a license, and then the government closes all the mineral bearing ground. The country is at a standstill, owing to pernicious legislations. If the laws now operative continue for two years more, all of us had better go to Nome, Siberia, or somewhere else. We are not rebels, but I insist that we have the right to rule. The present policy is nothing more nor less than ruin."

Mr. Sturgeon was frequently interrupted by Attorney Herbert Wilson; but the former continued his address, despite interference, and at its conclusion he was loudly applauded.

Doctor Catto asserted that the Yukon territory paid in taxes to the federal government at least \$4,000,000 annually. He reproached the officials at Ottawa for their mismanagement of Yukon affairs, "that their confidence game, as applied to this country, he stopped." In speaking of the crown reserves, royalty and certain forms of taxation, he made comparisons between conditions here and in the Transvaal. Captain Woodside called him a Boer several times, and then ensued a most disorderly scene.

Mr. Woodworth declared that he would call for the police if the meeting did not quiet itself. Doctor Catto endeavored to continue his address, but was prevailed upon to yield the floor to Mr. Seagrew, who succeeded in restoring order.

Finally, Mr. A. J. MacFarlane, seconded by Mr. F. L. Graham, moved the adoption of the following resolution:

"Whereas, By the act of parliament of Canada, it has been provided that the electors of the Yukon territory have the right to elect two members of the Yukon council, and,

"Whereas, In the opinion of this public meeting, of the electors of the Yukon territory the delay in bringing on the said election is an injustice to us electors, and,

"Whereas, for some reason unknown to the meeting the said election has been unnecessarily delayed, and,

Whereas, In our opinion, steps should be taken to ensure the said election being held as soon as possible; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That this public meeting of the Yukon territory place itself on record as being in favor of the said election being held at once, and that a committee of seven to consist of the chairman and secretary and five others be chosen to wait upon the Yukon council and negotiate with the government at Ottawa, in order that the said election may be held at once, or we may be informed of what is necessary to be done in order to obtain our right to elect the said members."

When the question was put on the adoption of the resolution, Mr. Port was the only one present who voted against it.

The meeting elected Messrs. Alex McDonald, C. M. Woodworth, A. D. Williams, James Sturgeon and T. McMullen, as members of the committee to serve with Col. Donald G. MacGregor and Mr. J. A. Clark.

Mr. Hamilton Douglas, seconded by Mr. A. Noel, moved the following resolution:

"We hereby declare that this meeting places itself on record as being in

(Continued on Page 6.)

# The Klondike Nugget

(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)  
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.  
ALLEN BROS. Publishers

## A SUGGESTION.

The editorial genius of the Sun who by a mere accident of fate escaped the title of major, and who in consequence has allowed himself to become addicted to the habit of "beastly writing," was quite in evidence at the meeting at McDonald's hall last night.

Capt. Woodside must be given credit for one thing. He never fails to amuse and entertain. He did not, however, take any extensive part in last night's deliberations and the remarks which he made sounded very much like a clipping from the Sun's editorial page. Aside from assuring one gentleman that he (the gentleman, not the captain) was a Boer, and that he (the captain, not the gentleman), was a soldier, his contribution to the deliberations of the assembly cannot be said to have aided very materially in the solution of the problems under discussion. The reception which greeted his remarks would not, under ordinary circumstances, be considered as a mildly enthusiastic endorsement, but that of course is neither here nor there.

Captain Woodside has two special hobbies. One of these is to assure all people who fail to see matters in the same light with himself that they are Boers. The other, and it invariably comes, is to follow up the first assurance with the announcement that he himself is a soldier and a gentleman. Now, Captain Woodside has, to our way of thinking, overlooked a most important weakness in human nature. Human nature, which at best is but poor, weak, frail stuff, and almost always works by contraries, is prone to suspect the man who is continually asserting his own innocence; likewise the man who takes occasion whenever opportunity offers to assure the public that he is a gentleman, soldier or what not. We are actuated by the kindest of motives when we say that the belief will begin to take root in the public mind ere long that the gallant almost was—major in so often assuring the public concerning his soldierly and gentlemanly qualities is endeavoring to smother a doubt in his own mind in regard thereto. The best suggestion we are able to offer him is a reminder that there are still a few Boers left unkilld in the Transvaal.

## A RIGHT MOVE.

The meeting held in McDonald hall last night should be productive of beneficial results to Dawson and the Yukon Territory at large. Men who in the past have been disposed to look askance at anything in the nature of agitation for improvements in the methods which obtain for the government of this law-ridden country are now coming to realize how grossly the Yukon has been abused and to what extent the sacred doctrines of British right and justice have been violated.

We are glad to notice the fact that the gentlemen who are interesting themselves in this movement are without exception Canadian citizens. We are glad to note that there are men here sufficiently broad-minded and unprejudiced in their views to combat the evils and iniquities from which the country is suffering, notwithstanding the fact that 75 per cent of the people affected by these laws are aliens. We rejoice in the fact that the Canadian citizens of

Dawson as a whole disown and repudiate the narrow minded and prejudiced views represented in the self-styled government organ and its editor.

We congratulate them upon rising above his bigoted and petty spitefulness. They have taken a position that must command the respect of many men without reference to political creed or nationality. The battle has begun along right lines, and we urge that it be continued without flinching until success is achieved.

Representation in the local council is a matter of most importance. The present star chamber methods which the local legislative body pursues are altogether wrong and are incapable of satisfactory defense or explanation. We want men from our own midst sitting in the deliberations of that council. We want men who know and feel that when they act they are responsible to the citizens of this district for those acts. We want ere long a man to go down to Ottawa accredited by the suffrages of the people of this territory to speak for the just claims to which we believe ourselves entitled. In short, we want to live as law-abiding civilized men are accustomed to live, and be governed as they are accustomed to be governed in this closing year of the 19th century.

We say God speed, therefore to the work inaugurated last night.

## WILL HARDLY MAKE IT.

It is extremely doubtful if parties leaving for Nome over the ice from this time on will be able to reach their destination before the opening of navigation. The two men who came up from Nome recently, according to their own statements, were 57 days on the road. Both were old time travelers, and doubtless made a record which few if any who are now starting down the river will be able to equal. It can be seen, therefore, that parties starting for Nome at the present time cannot expect to arrive before the middle of April. It must be borne in mind, however, that the river in many places will be open before that time, and will be practically impassable for dog teams. Last spring on the upper river the ice, excepting along the shore, was not safe after the 5th of April, and numerous places occurred where travelers were compelled to leave the river and take to the shores as early as the first of April. On April 10 there was ten inches of water on Lake Bennett, and Fifty-mile river from the foot of Marsh lake to Whitehorse was almost entirely free of ice. While the upper branches of the Yukon system naturally begins breaking earlier than the lower river, it is safe to say that after April 1st our Nomeward bound mushers will find ice travel impracticable.

With all the applications now pending for water privileges, Dawson ought to have a system during the summer that will rank well with anything of the kind in cities of similar size on the outside. It must not be forgotten that several weeks will occur before the opening of summer, when the Yukon river water will not be suitable for use. Pending the completion of the systems contemplated, something should be done to tide over during this period.

Winter refuses to depart from the Klondike without leaving us a few reminders at least that he has been here. The beauty of the sunlight, however, fully compensates for the somewhat unexpected renewal of cold weather.

take part in a meet-  
ed over by a nager."  
afterwards broke a  
referring to his mixed  
er saw anything in  
r than the meeting  
at fellow Slahside,  
l him, told Dr. Cato  
at incident in con-  
al others made it a  
eting to me. If a  
uple dozen of those  
e would make a for-  
m outside; advertise  
awson mass meeting  
ght stands. Buffalo  
w would take a back  
though, the majority  
part in the meeting  
knew what they were  
ld choose the 'curi-  
w.'

house in town, the  
agement.  
ines Cribbs & Rogers,  
orks  
e at the Regina.  
ochester bar tonight.  
please call at this  
t fixed at the Pioneer  
s and cigars. The

**Co.**  
**ash**  
Freshest  
**ods**  
**ay**  
to Give Us a Call.  
p. S.Y.T. Dock.  
& Fifth Avenue.

**Tukey**  
FREIGHTERS  
e Every Week for  
nd, Selwyn  
mediate Points,  
tracted for Both  
Corral, 2nd & 5th Ave. S.  
**Michael Dawson**  
**nsportation Co.**  
**ire Line**  
ATION & STORAGE  
isholm.....  
...Dawson Agents.  
ce, 607 First Ave.  
**ey Hotel**  
Brands of  
s, Liquors & Cigars  
Music  
Laugh & Sullivan, Props.