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DAWSON, Y. T., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1902.

PRICE 35 CENTS

GOVERNOR INTERVIEWED

Talks to Nugget Man of His Trip

Detail of His Labors for the Yukon While at the Dominion Capital.

Governor Ross was at his desk at the administration building promptly at ten o'clock this morning, and throughout the departments there was nothing to indicate his long absence and his return. Everything went on just as usual. There was no crowd of people waiting for a chance to push matters in which they were interested and which may have been awaiting his return, nor a large number who simply desired to pay their respects. A hint had been given that the governor would have his time fully taken up for two or three days catching up with the work of the various departments that has been done during his absence, and Dawson people are well known for their readiness to catch a common-sense suggestion and to act upon it. There were, in consequence, few callers beyond the heads of departments and those having urgent official business.

In a general talk about his trip, which he said he had enjoyed and his healthy appearance corroborated, the conversation started with the Treadgold concession, in regard to which the governor said:

"You read the order in council and therefore know the exact status of the matter. Well, the main point that I had to contend with in regard to the concession was that it was

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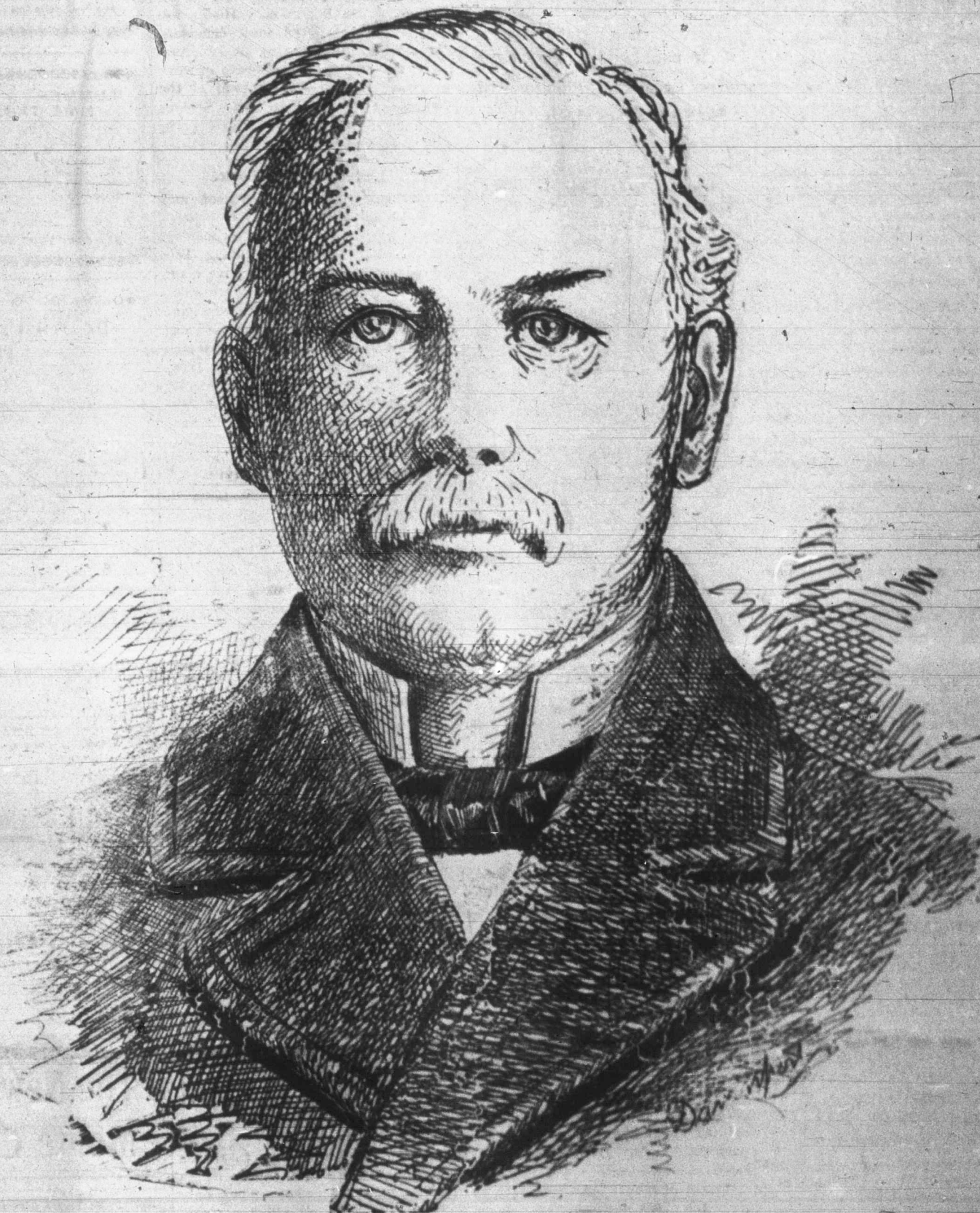
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HON. JAMES HAMILTON ROSS, YUKON COMMISSIONER.

actually a bargain entered into by the Dominion government with the Treadgold syndicate, and it could only be rescinded by negotiation. It was not for the government to rescind it, because it was a bargain. All that I could do, therefore, was to attempt to eliminate its very objectionable features, the principal of these being the sole right to take water from the Klondike river and

the closing of the ground and the re-verting of all abandoned claims to the syndicate. As the concession now stands these features have been eliminated."

"Do you think the syndicate will now carry out its plans?"
"If Mr. Treadgold should see fit to go on with the enterprise, when his scheme is completed and he is prepared to show the mining engineer that he can place water on any land which is at that time abandoned, he will be allowed to enter for the same but he has no more rights to entry than any free miner. I cannot say what Mr. Treadgold may or may not do."

"The grant of water on Rock creek was made for the purpose of preserving the rights of parties already having ground on the creek, and a provision was also made that any free miner has the right to such water as he required for mining purposes. I was anxious to have the matter settled at an early date so that the abandoned land should be thrown open at once, and was successful in getting the minister of the interior, prior to the amended order in council being issued, to wire to Dawson and have the land thrown open so that there would be no stagnation in the camp at the early spring opening."

"I would like to say in regard to the agitation of this Treadgold subject that the Nugget and the other daily papers of Dawson have been very generous in their treatment of me since I came to the Yukon, and I therefore felt hurt that on the strength of an interview with the Nugget's correspondent at Vancouver they should have concluded that I was about to throw the people down as to the Treadgold concession. The

reporter came up to me in Vancouver and said that in the Post-Intelligencer it was stated that dogs were at a premium in Dawson, that the people were getting out of the town as fast as they could, and that the camp was thoroughly demoralized by the Treadgold concession. I told him I had not seen the new order in council, and could therefore give no opinion upon it. As to the rest I said the people of the Yukon were not so easily stampeded and that that kind of stuff was simply hot air. I said that the only thing that could stampede them would be the discovery of a better camp than Dawson, and that I was not much afraid of that happening for some time. The reporter twisted the thing and seems to have made me say that the Treadgold agitation you had here was hot air. I had fought the Treadgold concession before, and my position was well known here on the subject. With this exception the newspapers of Dawson have treated me more than fair."

"As to the Milne concession I notice there is some question. There need be no question at all. The Milne concession is cancelled, and all those who have taken up claims and have legal entry need have no fear. It was cancelled for good cause, which was because work had not been done upon it, and as an evidence that the government wished to protect the people who had claims on the concession they extended the time for doing representation work to those whose claims were in dispute until next November."

"In regard to concessions generally I am not opposed in any way to hydraulic mining on a large scale; I will do everything I can to foster it. This year I had an order in council passed providing for the grouping of claims that can be worked hydraulically, as to the way the representation work may be done, and in my opinion this is one of the best ways to develop hydraulic mining. But I

do object to grounds, small or large, being tied up and those holding them not carrying out their agreements as provided by law. So far as I am concerned my every endeavor will be to make those holding ground in the country do their work or lose their ground."

"What is the total appropriation for the Yukon this year, governor, and how will it be expended?"
"The total amount appropriated for all services, police, judiciary and so on, is \$2,054,000. Of this for local government purposes there is \$131,000, which with the local revenues it is estimated will be sufficient to provide schools, pay for road improvements (not new roads), hospitals and certain back and disputed accounts. \$48,491 is put down to the refund of moneys which were expended on the Ogilvie bridge, the accounts for which were not sent in in time last year, and for money advanced by local people for the com-

pletion of the Hunker road last fall. \$19,800 is appropriated to settle the claim of Sotton for building the road between Williams' roadhouse and Gold Run; \$178,500 for new roads; \$149,500 for the maintenance and furnishing of public buildings. Part of this is to pay accounts contracted during the present year. \$56,000 is for new buildings and improvement to government property. It is the intention to provide recording offices at Bonanza and Stewart, and possibly one at Hunker. \$50,000 are available for river improvements, \$300,000 for police, \$350,000 for the civil government of the Yukon, and the balance is made up of appropriations for telegraphs, Indians, customs service and so on."

"When do you begin the road to Whitehorse, Mr. Ross, and what other new roads are projected?"

"It is my intention to proceed with the Whitehorse road at an early date. We will build a road to lower Dominion and the mouth of Gold Run; an extension of the road on Dominion below Caribou; a road to Eureka from Quartz; a road to Last Chance; a road to Gold Bottom and possibly a road to Bear creek; a road from Whitehorse to the copper mines there, and a road from Big Salmon to Livingston creek."

"Do you expect any members of the government will visit the Yukon this summer?"

"I have every hope that some members of the government will do so, but the coronation ceremonies have interfered with intending visits to any portion of the Dominion."

"I think that in the better knowledge the people of the east are gaining with regard to the Yukon there is sound evidence that moneyed men will examine more closely this year our mineral resources. I have very little hope for British capital coming in and, so far as I am personally concerned, I would not be disappointed if it did not come in. My opinion is that for anything that is good in this country there is plenty of money in the Dominion to develop it, and you may be sure that if it is developed by the people of this country and those of our neighbor it will be done in an intelligent way, and that their efforts will be successful. The expending of a large amount of outside money is to my mind seldom of permanent benefit to the mining camp; it is only a temporary advantage at any time."

"Now as to the many rumors, Mr. Ross, that you are going into the cabinet, or that you will be a candidate for parliamentary honors?"

"Well, there is a feeling that the western part of Canada is not sufficiently represented in the cabinet and that the minister of the interior has a larger number of subjects to deal with than can be dealt with by any man with satisfaction to himself and satisfaction to the people. They are very desirous that he should have assistance, and my name has been freely mentioned in the east as one to take a portfolio and to divide the work. This is purely speculative and rumor; the government has not asked me to enter the cabinet, and I have no idea that it will. I am not anxious for any change. I am perfectly willing to stay here for a short time, and do what little I can to assist in developing the interests of the Yukon. I am fond of the work and think there is possibly as much scope here as there might be in a wider field. As to being the candidate for member of parliament from the Yukon, I have no ambition."

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