The Klondike Nugget

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(DAWSON'S PIONEER PAPER)
ISSUED DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.
GEORGE M. ALLEN .....Publisher

From Saturday's to Monday's Daily.

A POINT CLEARED UP.

A misunderstanding has arisen in the minds of some voters as to the exact nature of the issue which is to be decided upon the 9th of January.

The question of incorporation is not involved. Dawson is now, by virtue of the passage of the ordinance and the proclamation issued by the Commissioner, practically an incorporated town. The only point at issue is the form of government to be adopted. The incorporation ordinance will come into effect at the appointed time, no matter whether the voters decide in favor of an elected mayor and council or for an appointed commission.

If the voters decide that they are in favor of a mayor and council, then an election for the purpose of choosing those officers will be called. If on the other hand a commission is determined upon by the voters, then Governor Ross will immediately appoint three men in whom will be vested all the powers which the mayor and council would otherwise enjoy.

The first few clauses in the proclamation which has been issued by the Governor explain the matter clearly. The following is an extract from the proclamation which covers the point under discussion:

"Whereas, It is provided by the Dawson City Charter that DURING THE COMMISSIONER OF THE YUKON TERRITORY SHALL PROCLAIM THE CITY OF DAWSON TO BE INCORPORATED under the provisions of the said Charter, he shall submit the following questions to the electors:

"'Shall Dawson be governed by an elective Mayor and Council?' or

"'Shall Dawson be governed by a Commission to be appointed by the Commissioner-in-Council?'"

It will be readily seen from the foregoing that the incorporation proclamation itself will be issued just as soon as the voters determine which form of government they favor. If a mayor and council are decided upon the incorporation proclamation will be issued in accordance with that decision. If the people declare in favor of a commission, the incorporation proclamation will be issued just the same, the only difference being that the governor will name the commissioners instead of calling for an election. We take particular pains to clear the matter up today for the reason that an effort is being made to spread the idea that in order to secure incorporation the town must elect its own officers. That is entirely a mistake. Dawson to all intents and purposes is an incorporated city today. It only remains to be determined whether the voters prefer to entrust the powers given under the ordinance to a commission appointed by the governor or to an elected mayor and council.

In the opinion of the Nugget they will decide overwhelmingly in favor of a commission.

PECULIAR CANADIANISM

Our good neighbor the Sun is exceedingly wroth. It's angry with itself, with the Nugget and with the world generally—just because the Nugget has taken occasion to explain to the public the exact status of the government printing patronage.

In an outburst of indignation, terrible indeed to contemplate, the Sun denounces the Nugget as everything that it should not be, and incidentally takes occasion to remark that it, the Sun, is the only paper in town which is everything it should be.

In this connection the Sun with no forethought or reason and without a single fact or statement to support its assertion, attempts to create feeling against this paper by saying that the Nugget "as an anti-Canadian sheet has endeavored to make its greatest hit in this camp."

In almost the same breath, our contemporary, which makes such tremendous claims for its own dyed-in-the-wool Canadianism, pays its respects to the equipment of the Nugget's mechanical department in the following characteristic language:

"It is probably of little moment to our patrons, or to the Government, whether we have our type set by the Mergenthaler that belongs to the News, or by the two cheap tin typesetting machines that aid in disfiguring the Nugget."

Now we should just like to remind our all-Canadian contemporary of the fact that the two type-setting machines to which it refers in such extraordinarily complimentary language are Canadian machines, manufactured only in Canada, and not to be purchased in the United States. The Monoline composing machine, which is supplanting the American Mergenthaler wherever it can be sold in competition, is one of the most marvelous mechanical triumphs of the day. It has accomplished more in the direction of bringing Canada to the attention of the world as a manufacturer of intricate and complicated machinery than any other single influence which might be mentioned. The owners of the Mergenthaler patents have offered the Monoline manufacturers the sum of $10,000,000 if they will keep the latter machine off the American market when patent infringements expire, and that offer has been refused. The Nugget purchased the two Monolines used in this office only after careful comparison of the merits of the different machines, and in evidence of their superiority we need only to point to the amount of reading matter published in this paper each day. The Nugget is prepared to go on record before the whole world with the statement that the Canadian Monoline is the king of all typesetting machines.

Nevertheless the Sun, which swears by its own "Canadianism," in the absence of other assets, expresses its opinion of one of the greatest achievements of Canadian manufacturing enterprise in the language above quoted.

The Nugget is the only newspaper in Dawson making practical use of Canadian machines and employing Canadian operators, which facts are commended to the "organ" for careful consideration. Meanwhile, so far as the silly talk of "anti-Canadianism" is concerned, we have merely to say that the Nugget stands squarely on its record of nearly four years. If the Sun had exhibited one-half the loyalty toward the community that has been shown by this paper, it would not be given over in its declining days to the tender mercies of its traditional enemy.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED.

It is to be hoped that the taxpayers and voters of Dawson will not permit themselves to be led astray from the main issue before them by smoothly turned platitudes and rhetorical flourishes such as were so lavishly uttered at the meeting on Saturday night. It is an easy matter to deal in glittering generalities, and specious sophistries are too often adduced to take the place of argument. An instance of this nature may be cited in the attempt of those who favor an elected council to bring the question of federal representation into the municipal election. The theory is advanced by these would-be saviours of the community, that a decision in favor of an appointed commission for the government of Dawson will be accepted at Ottawa as proof that the Yukon territory does not want and is not prepared for representation in parliament.

How men in the possession of their normal senses could advance such a ridiculous idea and ask that it be given respectful and intelligent consideration is a matter of difficulty to understand. The determination as to the form of government for this city which will be reached at the election on the 9th of January will have no more bearing upon the question of federal representation than it will have upon the settlement of the Alaskan boundary. The two questions are entirely independent of each other and neither has the slightest influence upon the other.

The town of Dawson is a very small portion of the Yukon territory and no matter for what form of government Dawson decides, the desirability of federal representation for the territory or the prospects of its being granted, will not be affected in any particular. If the voters of Dawson decide in favor of an appointed commission, they will place this city on a footing with Glasgow and Washington, D. C.—admittedly the two best governed municipalities in the world. No stronger evidence of the high standard of intelligence which prevails in this community could be suggested than a decision on the part of the voters to entrust the affairs of the town to three men for whose actions the governor of the territory may be held responsible. It would merely be accepted as a determination on the part of the citizens of Dawson to do what right-minded men in every large municipality are seeking to accomplish, viz, take municipal affairs entirely out of politics.

Such action on the part of Dawson would if anything hasten the matter of representation in parliament, for it would compel recognition of the fact that this community is composed in the main of sober-minded, intelligent men who are capable of viewing a public question dispassionately, and of reaching a conclusion based entirely upon the merits of the situation.

The cry that an appointed commission will delay federal representation is the rankest kind of nonsense, calculated only to bring ridicule upon the heads of those who advance it.

LET THE WORK GO ON.

The somewhat dramatic entrance of Mr. Chas. MacDonald into the arena of local politics may be accepted as an indication that Commissioner Ross is watching developments very closely. Mr. Ross has given the public to understand that he will not place any stumbling blocks in the way of the promoters of an elective municipal regime—but at the same time it may be readily imagined that he does not propose to turn the town over to the tender mercies of his political opponents. Mr. McDonald's advent in the field may be accepted, therefore, as what may be termed a "safety play" on the part of the commissioner. That is to say, with the former gentleman as the directing spirit of the elective movement, Mr. Ross will practically be in control of the situation which ever way the cat jumps. If Mr. MacDonald is able to take hold of and successfully handle the heterogenous mass of conflicting elements among which he has so suddenly landed he will accomplish something which will certainly be worth the doing.

In the meanwhile, however, there is no occasion for letting up in the fight which is being made for an appointed commission. Let the good work continue.

Out of every dollar of patronage which the government organ receives, the lion's share goes into the coffers of the News. In other words the government is furnishing the News with the sinews of war which that paper is using for the purpose of throwing every possible stumbling block in the government's way. If any one can point to another case where the Liberal party has been so successfully "worked for a good thing"—to use a somewhat vulgar expression—there are a great many supporters of that party who would be glad to hear about it. So far as our information goes the case is without parallel.

President Roosevelt says that he has received more advice in the past few months than in the whole of his previous career, and incidentally he mentions that most of it is bad. A man who is able to look a contributor of voluntary advice in the face and tell him his advice is bad can hope to reach most any height worth attaining.

Comparisons are said to be odious but nevertheless we urge every taxpayer to look over the list of men who are working for an elective mayor and council and then glance over the names of those who favor an appointed commission. It ought to be difficult to decide where the interests of the community will be best protected.

A vote for an appointed commission means a vote for protection to the merchant, the property owner, the wage earner and in brief, to all taxpayers generally. A vote for an elective council means the possibility of a reign of Tammanyism for Dawson. Voters, which do you prefer?

There ought not to be any complaint over the present cold snap. The long continued pleasant weather makes it quite evident that something is due to arrive. If January does not produce something extraordinary in the way of coolness, the Nugget will go on record as a bad guesser.

Christmas was observed on the creeks as generally as it was in Dawson. The Christmas trees and entertainments given at various centres of population in the mining districts indicate very plainly that Dawson is not the only up-to-date community in the country.

Several years spent in the Yukon country makes one yearn for the great "outside." But it usually requires only a few weeks of "outside" experiences to make the yearning lean this way. Verily this is a marvelous country.

The tax payers favor an appointed commission. The agitators and chronic office seekers are working with might and main for an elective council. It is a case of the payers against would-be spenders.

Every man who owns property in Dawson, no matter if he is a voter or not, should use his influence in behalf of an appointed commission.

EARLY DAYS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Dutch Were Very Cruel to Natives and Slaves

Burning Them Alive, Breaking Them on the Wheel and a Great Many Other Atrocities.

The marvellous successes of the Portuguese covered the coasts of Africa, Arabia, and India with the forts which guarded the sea-washed territories their sailors had discovered and their merchants had settled. It was at the Cape that they suffered one of their most serious checks. The Hottentots attacked their soldiers, and although the seamen of the fleet were landed in support, the Portuguese were driven to their ships with the loss of seventy-five men. Their revenge was to pretend friendship with the natives and present them with a cannon as a gift. This they showed to the savages, attaching cords to the front part of the gun so that the blacks should draw it away, their men being in the line of the muzzle. A simple arrangement connecting the ropes with a port-fire at the breech discharged the gun when the line of natives was hauling at the ropes, and most of them were killed by the discharge. This was almost a century before the Dutch began, as the Portuguese before them, to touch at the Cape in their way to India.

For all the conquerors of the east the Cape has been a half way house to India. But for a long time the Hollanders only touched at the harbor, making no living settlement. It was only due to the shift of all the continent south of the equator that also this one colonization was begun. Thus in 1648 Van Riebeeck, sent by the service of the East India company, seeing how good a land South Africa is, returned to Holland and made formal proposal to the directors of the company, and Van Riebeeck was made admiral of a small fleet carrying artisans and emigrants, and brandy and tobacco to please the formidable Hottentots. He has left it said to have got on well with them, with charming manners that not even a Hottentot could resist, his insinuating advances. So under the device of the company, which was a little A between the letters of its name, under the Dutch flag the country was founded.

Each man was to have 20 acres of land. But each man wanted a wife. Now we come to the secret of all the Dutch settlement, which was to be a sweep of slaves of domestic animals and of great wealth. The Hottentots were only Dutch slaves. In the commencement of the 17th century, we must remember, it was not of the seventeenth.

The Hottentot women were not to their taste. The Governor wrote to Amsterdam [illegible] our wives. The directors addressed themselves to the philanthropical—that is to the commercial—side of the Dutch nature, and the emigrants were allowed to carry [illegible] girls who were [illegible] from [illegible] to their [illegible]. In a few years the settlement grew [illegible] that the settlers began to push the boundaries. Farmers wanted to extend their labor [illegible] the face of [illegible]. The settlers [illegible] and a [illegible] of [illegible] extensive [illegible] trader [illegible] Hottentots [illegible] the Dutch [illegible] treaty. How far [illegible] could go [illegible] treaties [illegible] directly [illegible] slaves [illegible] and [illegible] the Dutch [illegible] the Hottentots [illegible] the Dutch [illegible] the Boers