

STAMP OF POLITICS

Borne by Preamble Introduced by Mr. Wilson Through Justice Dugas

WHO SAID IT CONTAINED A SLUR.

The Mail Service Is to be Investigated by Council

IF REPORTS PROVE TRUE

The Contractors Will be Complained of to the Postmaster General by the Commissioner

From Thursday and Friday's Daily. The meeting held by the Yukon council last evening was one of the most interesting and animated in the history of that body, although it was late before business commenced owing to the late arrival of Councilman Prudhomme.

As usual the undertone was fully as interesting, more so from a political standpoint, than what appeared upon the surface of things, although matters of the most vital public concern were discussed freely.

The fact which stares the council in the face the most brazenly of any, and will not be downed by any intimation of displeasure, and is fearless so far as the woodpile is concerned, is that of financial distress. The council is up against the real thing, to use a slang expression, and in consequence of this state of affairs the people who live in Dawson and have taxable property, were last evening served with a notice that they have one month in which to search the inwardness of their minds as to whether they will incorporate and pay taxes to themselves as a city, or whether they will pay taxes to the territorial government and have their expenses paid.

Justice Dugas and Gold Commissioner Senkler were in favor of allowing even a shorter time than this for the crystallization of public thought, but in view of the near approach of the holidays, the time was, as stated, placed at a month.

Demands for money are coming upon the council from all sides, and it is apparent that the finance committee is being pressed to meet these demands, and unless money comes from some source very soon the exchequer will be depleted.

An instance of this may be cited in the demands of the recently established public hospital at Whitehorse, which was promised by the council some time since, that upon the fact of its being a public hospital being demonstrated to the council, the latter would give \$500 towards its support. Last night the documentary evidence of the fact was laid before the council in a letter from the secretary of the hospital trustees, Mary E. Burde, and of course the money had to be sent, but when it came to the request of the same institution that \$1000 per month be voted by the council towards the support of the hospital, it was thought that the ordinance providing for government aid to such institutions covered only the two local hospitals, and there would have to be delay before this could be done.

The feature of the evening came when Councilman Wilson got up and said he had a notice of motion which he wanted to present. He did so in a long preamble of which a synopsis is given because of its somewhat peculiar wording, that is, peculiar in view of recent developments, and the remarks it caused at the time:

The preamble dealt largely with a recent speech or speeches of Sir Wilfrid Laurier in which he was quoted many times on the subject of lack of adequate information from the Yukon territory, and in which frequent reference was made to the fact that an election was about to be held for the purpose of selecting two more members to represent the public on the Yukon council, and that after their entrance upon the business of that body more definite information could be expected concerning the needs as well as the desires of the

people with regard to parliamentary representation, etc., etc., etc.

Both the party platforms were given at length, and altogether the notice of motion with all its whereases and explanations was a very long document, the following of which, owing to its statecraft and diplomatic clothing, required close attention.

When Mr. Wilson closed the reading of the matter, and the long type-written document had gone to the secretary, Justice Dugas said:

"I will not accept that preamble. It contains some slurs, and shows the work of a politician."

Mr. Wilson: "I am not here to try to run the council, and if the council does not like my words all they have to do is to throw them out. So far as the views expressed are concerned they are my own."

Justice Dugas: "We are not here to discuss political platforms. That preamble was drawn by a politician and contains a slur. It is not that I object to the bringing up of the matter in question, but I object to the wording of the preamble."

Mr. Senkler also objected, and Mr. Wilson wanted to know if he was to understand that his motion had been defeated.

Mr. Ogilvie voted against it, which left it defeated. The commissioner then poured oil upon the troubled waters by suggesting that the objectionable motion be withdrawn and replaced by one in which a committee would attend to the matter in question, and to this Mr. Wilson agreed, whereupon peace, the beautiful white winged dove which had so shortly before been threatened with annihilation, by the hawk-beaked bird of war, once more presided over an harmonious meeting.

Considerable discussion was heard concerning the manner in which the mails are being handled.

Justice Dugas had been informed by gentlemen whose names he was not at liberty to disclose that the C. D. Co. was neglecting its mail contract for the purpose of carrying freight at the rate of \$2 per pound. It had been stated that there was some 47 sacks of mail at Whitehorse which had lain there during the past six weeks because of this abuse. He did not for a moment desire to be understood as condemning the company on these grounds, but, inasmuch as the mails were delayed more this year than last, and that such reports were common, he thought the matter one for investigation.

Councilmen Wilson and Prudhomme together with the Commissioner were made a committee to confer with the transportation companies with a view to securing better freight rates, and in the matter of the mails, it was decided that Commissioner Ogilvie as mail inspector should confer with Postmaster Hartman and others and communicate with the postmaster general, if investigation showed the matter well founded.

The question of street obstructions and street lotteries was discussed and referred to the proper committee.

The Salvation Army sent in a communication asking for aid for the shelter, and Justice Dugas and Mr. Senkler were chosen a committee to visit the shelter and look into the merits of the request.

Mr. Wilson wanted to know something about a report which he said had been published to the effect that Mr. Matheson had received \$100,000 from the council for work for which there had been no call for bids on.

No one else had seen the publication and on its being stated that the council had not had that much money to spend, the question drifted away into the realm of things forgotten.

In the matter of the privileges asked for by the A. E. Co. in operating a street car system, it was decided to ask Mr. Fulda to a conference for the purpose of discussing the matter. Mr. Prudhomme declared himself opposed to permitting the company to use the new bridge.

The council adjourned at 11 o'clock, and will not meet again till after the holidays.

Almost Rain.

For fully an hour this forenoon the atmosphere was heavy with a mist which was almost rain, but thus far the day has passed without a shower. Mercury has been raising all day and since yesterday afternoon, and a shower within the coming 24 hours is not an improbability.

Up the Line.

Reports from all points between Dawson and Bennett is that the warm wave continues. No steamer from below had arrived at Skagway during the 24 hours previous to noon today, therefore no telegraphic news has been received in Dawson today from the outside world.

Furs for Christmas.

We will undersell any other firm in Dawson in the fur line during the balance of 1900. A. H. LOUGHEED, The Furrier, Second ave., next to S. Y. T.

Malcolm Scarth

Malcolm B. Scarth, brother to Capt. W. H. Scarth, of the police, recorder for the Clear Creek country, left this morning for that place after a three days business visit to the city. He will make a hurried run to Barlow and back, expecting to return in time to spend Christmas with his brother and friends in Dawson.

Recorder Scarth was seen at the officers' mess at the barracks this morning just as he was ready to start out, but in time to acquire from him considerable information regarding the Clear creek country. He states that about 30 men are working on that creek this winter; that bedrock on the creek bottom has not yet been reached at any point, but that the men are satisfied with the pay they are taking out even by the primitive process of thawing the ground. Mr. Scarth says fire will be kept in a shaft for four or five days continuously and at the end of that time from four to six inches of thawed dirt will be put out on the dump. Even by this slow process, good wages are being made and this speaks volumes for the wealth and future of the creek.

Business required that Mr. Scarth return today by way of the Yukon and Stewart rivers, but he says the route by way of Dominion is much more preferable. He came by way of Dominion coming out, traveling alone and without dogs, making the trip from Barlow to Cariboo, a distance of 54 miles between 9 o'clock in the morning and 11 the same night. He says the T. & E. Co. is taking its freight, provisions and whisky in by the Stewart and that they are having a very hard time; that one of their horses fell through the ice into a hole and that the driver skipped off to Stewart, but that later others came along, cut the harness from the horse and extricated him from the icy water.

Mr. Scarth advises all persons going from Dawson to that country to go by way of Dominion to avoid the hardships incident to a hard and difficult trail.

SOWN BY GUNPOWDER.

A Curious Way of Covering a Rocky Crag With Plant Life.

In the grounds of the Duke of Athol and near Blair castle, England, stands a high, rocky crag named Craigebaris. It looked grim and bare in the midst of beauty, and its owner thought how much prettier it would look if only trees, shrubs, etc., could be planted in its nooks and crannies. It was considered impossible for any one to scale its steep and dangerous acclivities, and no other way was thought of to get seed sown.

One day Alexander Nasmyth, father of the celebrated engineer, paid a visit to the duke's grounds. The crag was pointed out to him, and he was told of the desire of the duke regarding it. After some thought he conceived how it could be accomplished. In passing the castle he noticed two old cannons. He got a few small tin canisters made to fit the bore of the cannon and filled them with a variety of tree, shrub and grass seeds. The cannon was loaded in the usual way and fired at the rock from all sides.

The little canisters on striking the rock burst, scattering the seeds in all directions. Many seeds were lost, but many more fell into the ledges or cracks where there was a little moss or earth. These soon showed signs of life, and in a few years graceful trees and pretty climbing plants all sown by gunpowder were growing and flourishing in nearly every recess of the formerly bare, gray crag, clothing it with verdant beauty.

COMING AND GOING.

A special member of the fire department is to be appointed to inspect stoves.

The council has received a communication from Fred Blundell, an indigent who wants to be assisted financially in reaching the outside, because he has been looking for work here for the past three years without having found it. Whether it is his success or the lack of it, which is the most surprising is a question in the minds of many.

Residents of South Dawson want a street lamp placed near the Eldorado bottling works.

The scheme of Grand Forks citizens for fire protection by means of a 50,000 gallon water tank on the hill back of town, has been rejected by the council.

Sam Bonfield is making preparations to do the grand with a number of his intimates on Christmas day.

The Yukon council committees have been re-organized so as to place the two new members on them.

Mr. Cameron who applied for the privilege of erecting a slaughter-house on the ridge above town some time

since has had his petition denied, unless he puts it in different form and locates the building farther away.

The Salvation Army bases its plea to the Yukon council for financial aid for the "shelter" on the ground that if it did not feed those destitute who daily apply for meals, that the government would have to.

The law library here is to be increased by the "Reports of Ontario." The books are to be purchased in part from Justice Craig and from Attorney Ridley, at catalogue prices. The books will cost upwards of \$1000.

Silk in Lyons.

The manufacture of silk has for several centuries been the chief business of Lyons, France. The Romans established works there in the third century A. D. for the manufacture of cloth of gold and silver, but every vestige of these was swept away by northern invasions. The present silk industry was taken there from Italy and Spain and the Levant about the year 1466 under the fostering care of Louis XI. He imported machinery and weavers with the expressed purpose of diminishing the stream of gold then flowing into foreign countries. It is recorded that five aunes of silk at that time cost from 300 to 400 francs, or from 48 to 60 francs (\$9.26 to \$11.58) a yard, money then being worth about four times its present value.

An Impudent Question.

The Home Magazine recalls a good story which Dr. Newman Hall used to tell on the lecture platform. An illiterate negro preacher said to his congregation:

"My brethren, when de fust man Adam was made he was made ob wet clay and set up ag'in de palings to dry."

"Do you say," said one of the congregation, "dat Adam was made ob wet clay an set up ag'in de palings to dry?"

"Yes, sar; I do."

"Who made de palings?"

"Sit down, sar," said the preacher sternly; "such questions as dat would upset any system ob theology."

Majuba Hill.

Here's the story of Majuba Hill in a nutshell: Sir George Colley had between 600 and 700 men; the Boers numbered about 150 men, under General Smits. The British camped in a natural bowl at the top of the hill, and set no sentries; the Boers clambered up the hill by night and attacked in the early morning, taking the British completely by surprise.

SHE LOOKED, THEN LEAPED.

Bright eyed Mary had a lover, Handsome, kind and true.

"But," she said, "I must discover What is best to do."

So she went for sound advice To aunts and cousins married twice.

"Don't," said Aunt Martha Teeters;

"Men are full of flaws;

Scolding round—the hateful creature— At the slightest cause.

Take your aunts' counsel, Mary;

Men are always 'con-ter-ary.'"

Then she went to those still older,

Cousins Jane and Ruth;

Both agreed that aunts told her

Plain, unvarnished truth.

"Married women sigh and moan, dear;

You just let the men alone, dear."

Pretty Mary stood and wondered

How these matrons nice,

Thinking thus, should all have blundered

Into marrying twice.

Then said she, "They've grieved and bear 'em,

I'll take one myself and abare 'em."

—What to Eat.

The Name Sioux.

The Indian name Sioux, as it appears in such town names as Sioux Falls, Sioux City and Sioux Rapids, is usually pronounced "Soo," but sometimes, in the east chiefly, that simple pronunciation is not known. A committee man not long ago visited a school in New England, where he heard the pupils say "Si-ox" with complete assurance. At a favorable opportunity he quietly spoke to the teacher of the error, saying, "You know, it is 'Soo,'" whereupon she asked the attention of the school and solemnly announced: "You have all been pronouncing this word wrong. It is not 'Si-ox,' but 'Soo ox.'" The committee man lacked the courage to pursue the subject further.

A Measure of Success.

Friend—Oh, by the way, I have been curious to know whether you were successful with that strange patient you were treating last winter.

Doctor—I was, partially. He has paid almost half of his bill.—Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times.

Calves are never killed in Morocco because of a popular notion that if deprived of them the cows would cease to give milk.

If Justice ruled, what a shifting of jobs there would be.—Milwaukee Journal.

A wedding ring should fit the finger. If it is too large, it is a sign of shallowness of purpose; if too tight, it suggests that the union pinches somehow. A perfect fitting ring is symbolic of a perfect, harmonious union.

Notice.

Miss B. V. Robson can learn something to her advantage by calling at the Nugget office.

Sour Dough Letter Heads for sale at the Nugget office.

WHERE DIVORCE COMES EASY

In New York There Is a Regular Divorce Mill.

One of the Greatest Swindling Schemes of Modern Times—Witness to Order.

It is a very, very cold day when some novel swindling scheme is not brought to light in New York city. The latest is a bogus divorce mill through which absolute divorces have been granted on the testimony of hired co-respondents, who knew nothing of the principals in the proceedings. The chief schemer of the gang of divorce swindlers is a lawyer named W. Waldo Maison. The grand jury has ordered indictments against him, his partner, Henry Zeimer, and Frank Wilson, a professional witness. Maison has not been found, but Zeimer and Wilson are in custody. The women who acted as professional co-respondents have not been indicted and it is probable will not be arrested, although they are guilty of the foulest kind of perjury. Their testimony has been willingly given and will be used to convict the chief conspirators.

The methods of the gang, while novel, were simple. Through advertisements and solicitations people who wished to become loosened from the bonds of wedlock went to their office and stated their cases. The conspirators were shrewd enough, usually, to judge whether or not the suits of their clients would be contested. If they thought not, they were anxious to take the cases and guarantee divorces providing the requisite fees were in sight. If contests seemed probable they would not guarantee divorces, but would take the cases on the same conditions as any legitimate lawyers would. In the former cases they would present their petitions to a judge and request that referees be appointed to hear the testimony so as to avoid publicity and embarrassment to the parties interested. Then before the referees the bogus, or professional, witnesses would appear and swear to whatever their employers wished them. The reports of the referees would go before judges, who, finding everything regular, would sign the decrees of absolute divorce. It is not known how long this business has been carried on, or how long it would have continued had not a stenographer recognized a co-respondent in a recent case as the same woman who appeared in a case a short time before. His suspicions were aroused and he communicated them to the district attorney's office. An investigation revealed the whole scheme. An examination of the offices of the conspirators revealed documents which show that thousands of cases have been handled during the past three years and that money had poured into them in a steady stream. As high as \$250 has been paid for a decree in some cases.

The interesting question now arises if there are not a number of innocent victims of the bogus divorce mill who may have married again and are therefore guilty of bigamy. It is also believed that the schemers are guilty of forgery as well as of conspiracy and perjury. This belief grows out of the fact that in a number of instances referees have refused to make reports, either because their fees were not paid or because they were not satisfied with the evidence. The parties in these cases seem, it is stated, to have received decrees. Further investigation will no doubt bring out many interesting features and it is believed that many more indictments will be ordered. It is also intimated that other lawyers in the city have been guilty of similar practices.—Ex.

POLICE COURT NEWS.

In Magistrate McDonell's court yesterday afternoon further evidence was heard in the case in which B. F. Germain was charged with having misappropriated \$50 entrusted to him by Chas. A. Wickerdahl, with the result that Germain was held over to the territorial court, his bondsmen being himself in the sum of \$1000, and Messrs. Te Roller and McDougal in the sum of \$500 each.

This morning Night Watchman W. J. Graham swore out warrants for the arrest of Albert Booth and Freeman Anderson on the charge of assault. As Graham says the two men have threatened to "fix" him they will likely be required to give peace bonds.

Amie St. Germain who formerly conducted a cigar store near the Klondike bridge, but who lately moved to Third street south, will be up this afternoon on a charge of conducting a house of prostitution, the charge being preferred by her new neighbors.

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