

THE DAILY KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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THE MASS MEETING

Held By British Subjects Declares Strongly for Representative Government.

PROTEST AGAINST TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.

The Secret Sessions of the Yukon Council Condemned as a Menace to Good Government.

Every Inch of Available Space in the Building Was Occupied—The Assembly of Citizens Transacted Most Important Business—A Resolution to Refer to Joseph Chamberlain a Statement of Facts Respecting Conditions Here Was Laid on the Table for One Month.

In response to the call of Col. MacGregor, of the citizens' committee, a mass meeting of British subjects was held at the Palace Grand theater last evening. This building, the largest in Dawson, was too small to accommodate all those who desired admission. The first floor was reserved for persons who acknowledge allegiance to the empire, and at least 600 British residents of Dawson assembled in this portion of the house; every inch of its available space was occupied. Hundreds of persons were required to stand throughout the entire meeting. The members of the citizens committee, namely, Col. Donald G. MacGregor, Messrs J. A. Clarke, Alex. McDonald, C. M. Woodworth, A. D. Williams, Thomas McMullen and James Sturgeon, retained seats upon the stage. The officers for the evening were Mr. Milne, chairman and Dr. G. H. Duncan, secretary.

The assembly manifested in the most unmistakable manner its determination to obtain representation in the Yukon council. The report of the citizens' committee and all the resolutions which it submitted were passed unanimously, and without the utterance of a single objection. The sentiments of the people were so strongly expressed that henceforth, there cannot be any question concerning the wishes and desires of British subjects on the Yukon. The action of a majority of the council, in delaying to recommend local representation until a census of the territory shall be taken, is stigmatized as a mere subterfuge to which the officials have resorted in order to defeat the plain purpose of the people. The secret sessions of the Yukon council were unqualifiedly condemned as a menace to good government and an outrage to loyal subjects. An indignant protest was made against the flagrant violation of that inalienable right of a free people, which renders illegal taxation without representation.

No dissension was occasioned until, Mr. Barney Sugrue secured the platform and offered to submit a resolution. Before he had an opportunity to express himself, the speaker was interrupted by Chairman Milne, who tendered his resignation, as a mark of disapproval of Mr. Sugrue's intended motion. The audience were anxious to hear the contents of the resolution, and Mr. Milne was induced to retain the chair. The resolution, which had occasioned this slight interruption in the proceedings, declared that the administration instituted by Mr. Sifton and Hon. James M. Walsh was corrupt and vicious; the consequences of bad laws, excessive taxation, and gross mismanagement were reviewed; and the citizens' committee was asked to submit the condition of

local affairs to the colonial secretary, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, and to the press and public of Canada. Mr. Sugrue moved the adoption of his resolution, and he was seconded by Mr. J. A. Clarke. It was at this juncture of the meeting that the proceedings became most interesting. Mr. Noel obtained the floor and delivered a masterly speech, in which he advocated that the resolution be tabled for one month, and he proposed such an amendment, which was duly seconded. Mr. Sugrue agreed that the committee should hold the resolution for one month, but he insisted that the measure should be put to the house for adoption or rejection. Col. MacGregor, Mr. Woodworth, Mr. Sturgeon and Mr. Williams favored the amendment, while Mr. Clarke spoke for immediate action. In response to repeated calls from the audience Mr. Wade appeared on the stage. Mr. Wade defended the government's position and stated that such wrongs as exist will be righted. He asserted that the meetings of the Yukon council will be thrown open to the public press in the very near future. He referred to the number of Conservatives on the citizens' committee and hinted that political considerations were back of the movement. He urged strongly that Mr. Sugrue's resolution be voted down. He created considerable diversion by relating several laughable anecdotes. Mr. Sugrue created much amusement by deftly turning the point of several of Mr. Wade's stories. When the question was put on the amendment, the meeting approved of the position assumed by Mr. Noel, and the motion was laid on the table for one month.

Immediately after assuming the chair in the early part of the evening, Mr. Milne called for the report of the citizens' committee. This document consists of nine pages of typewritten matter. It sets forth in full the petitions for representation on the Yukon council, which were submitted to that body, and which were also dispatched to the governor general of the Dominion of Canada. It also contains a copy of the petition recently forwarded to Ottawa, asking for representation in the Dominion house of parliament. The report states that:

"The delay of the Yukon council in the matter has been conspicuous. The need of a census has been more colorable than real, as a complete census estimate of the population of the territory was taken under the direction of Lieut. Col. Steele, in the autumn of 1899, and as stated by Mr. Justice Dugas in our presence, it makes no difference to our rights whether there are 100 or 5000 British subjects in the Yukon territory, and the delay in obtaining authority from Ottawa to take the census is now as painful, as anticipated delays after the census will be taken are likely to be.

"According to the census of parts of the Yukon territory, and the estimate of the population of the other parts made by Lieut. Col. Steele in the autumn of 1899, the Yukon territory contains a population of upwards of 22,000.

"In meetings of the Yukon council one of the most conspicuous features has been the lack of a quorum, and we

believe that the addition of two members to that body would be of great service in helping them discharge their duties. No noticeably large amount of legislation has appeared to engross the attention of that honorable body, but as their sessions are secret it is impossible to fairly and rightly estimate their work.

"The commissioner of the Yukon council was understood by the committee at one time to say he was favorable to their request, his words being as follows: 'I would have no hesitation in endorsing your memorial,' and your committee have searched in vain in every act and report of that honorable gentleman for an endorsement of the petition.

"Mr. Justice Dugas seemed to hold out the strongest hopes that he would champion our case before the council. His resolution, however, is hidden and unknown.

"Your committee have learned from the commissioner and members of the Yukon council that a resolution was introduced into the Yukon council by Mr. Justice Dugas, endorsing the committee's petition, but was voted down, and the resolution authorizing the census carried. The full text of this resolution has been refused to this committee.

"Mr. Clement has seemed distinctly unfavorable and stands sponsor for the census, and doubts that there would be nearly so many as 5000 British subjects in the Yukon territory, and deprecates the large expense the government would be put to in ordering the election for so limited a constituency.

"Your committee also wish to make gratefully acknowledgement for the support of the press of Dawson, especially for the news items and strong editorials and reports in the Daily News and Daily Klondike Nugget, and we express the conviction that the movement has been greatly assisted and benefitted their judicious support.

"In conclusion, your committee wish to state that since our arrival on the theater this evening, a telegram has been received by Mr. Thomas McMullen from the private secretary of the governor general of Canada. The text of the message is as follows: 'Telegram signed by yourself and six others received, and has been referred to the privy council.'

The reading of the report was greatly applauded. At its conclusion, Messrs. Woodworth, Noel, McMullen and Sturgeon spoke in favor of its adoption. No opposing speeches were made, and the report was unanimously carried as expressing the sense of the meeting, and approving the acts of the committee. Pursuant to a suggestion which was contained in the report two French-Canadian gentlemen were elected as additional members on the citizens' committee. The meeting selected Messrs. Noel and Proudhon.

After the disposition of the committee's report, Mr. A. D. Williams offered the following resolution:

Whereas, Since the first institution of parliament in the British empire, these legislative bodies have been open to the public and responsible to the people, and

Whereas, The publicity given to the proceedings of the legislative bodies has always been regarded as one of the greatest bulwarks of British liberty, and

Whereas, The freedom given the press to publish the proceedings of legislative bodies has been upheld in all parts of the British empire for many centuries, and

Whereas, The meetings of the present Yukon council are in the nature of either legislative, or quasi legislative assemblies, and no part of their meetings are in the nature of cabinet council, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this meeting of British subjects views with alarm the fact that the Yukon council holds its sessions in secret, and that a report of its proceedings are denied the press, and be it further

Resolved, That the continuance of its secret sessions is a menace to good government in the Yukon territory, and an outrage to the rights of a free people, and that we hereby express our desire that the public should be admitted to the sessions of the said council, and that special provision be made for the accommodations of the representatives of the press so as to give the widest publicity to the proceedings of the legislative actions of the said council.

Mr. Noel, in seconding the motion asserted that "if the sessions had been public in the past, we would not be in our present unenviable position." Without the slightest objection, the resolution of Mr. Williams was unanimously carried.

Mr. Woodworth then submitted the following resolution respecting the matter of taxation:

That, whereas, It has been the invariable practice in the British empire, since the time of Edward III, that measures of taxation should originate in legislative bodies elected by the people who are to be taxed in contradistinction to life members or appointed bodies, and

Whereas, It has long been viewed as dangerous for measures of taxation to be introduced in nonrepresentative bodies, and

Whereas, An attempt to do away with the principle of no taxation without representation was the cause of the greatest rupture that has ever occurred in the British empire, and

Whereas, This principle, under the name and form of responsible government, has been an established principle of government in all parts of Canada for the past 60 years, and

Whereas, A denial of the principle that no people should be taxed except by representatives elected by themselves was the cause of the rebellion in Quebec and Ontario in the years 1837-38, and of the prolonged agitation in the maritime provinces from 1834 to 1848, and

Whereas, The people of the Yukon territory have the right to be governed by a legislative body elected by themselves, and

Whereas, A partial representation has been granted by an act of parliament, and the citizens, through a duly appointed committee, are now pressing the government to secure the same, and

Whereas, It has been urged that without this representation on the Yukon council no system of direct taxation would be instituted by the government or the said Yukon council, and

Whereas, It is beyond all question that the present system of taxation is both enormous and burdensome, and a hardship upon the taxpayers of this territory, and

Whereas, The present amount collected as taxes from the Yukon territory is more than sufficient to pay all legitimate expenditures in connection with the administration of said territory; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we protest against any further taxation being instituted by the Yukon council, while no representative of the taxpayers is elected thereto, and that it is with surprise and indignation that we find a bill brought to its third reading at this council, while said council has failed to endorse or take any action tending to assist the granting of the citizens' petition for representation thereon; and that the Yukon council be requested to take no further steps on this bill or the enforcement of the same until representation is granted to the people of the Yukon territory on said council, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Yukon council.

Mr. Woodworth spoke at length upon his resolution. He asserted that the present instance of attempted taxation without representation was unconstitutional and illegal, and that the present council must have forgotten the history of the empire and of Canada. Mr. McMullen seconded the resolution, and it was passed without dissent.

The motion of Col. MacGregor, expressing loyalty to the queen and the empire, which was seconded by Mr. Sturgeon, was cordially received. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That British subjects of the Yukon territory in mass meeting assembled hereby express their loyalty to their sovereign lady, the queen, and also desire to hereby express their admiration of the gallant and heroic deeds of her majesty's troops now in active service in South Africa, especially that of the Royal Canadian regiment, in its most dashing advance at Paardeberg, which pressed the surrender of Cronje. Furthermore they sincerely hope and trust for an early termination of the war in a manner sustaining the honor and prestige of their beloved nation.

The resolution was adopted by the audience rising and singing "God Save the Queen."

At this moment, Mr. Sugrue advanced to the platform and gained the recognition of the chair. Mr. McMullen attempted to put a motion to adjourn, but his action was declared out of order.

Mr. Milne resigned his position as chairman, but was readily induced to continue in charge of the meeting. After some further interruption, Mr. Sugrue submitted the following resolution:

That this mass meeting of British subjects of the Yukon territory instruct the citizens' committee through their secretary to forward to the colonial

PRETORIA IS NEXT

Roberts Prepares to Advance Against the Boer Capital.

COLLECTING STORES AND AMMUNITION

Orange River Forces Will Be Brought Up to Assist.

AMERICAN OFFICIAL TALKS.

Is Just From Pretoria, and Says That the Boers Are Discouraged and Want Peace.

London, March 19, via Skagway, March 23.—Lord Roberts is engaged in moving the stores for the sustenance of the army to Bloemfontein, which point is now regarded as headquarters. The recent British victories have in no degree lessened the activities of the war office and immense quantities of supplies and ammunition are constantly arriving. These are being stored at Bloemfontein as rapidly as possible.

Roberts has directed the forces now operating along the Orange river to join him at Bloemfontein and immediately upon a junction of the forces being made an early move in the direction of Pretoria is anticipated. Two or three weeks are expected to elapse before arrangements for the advance movements are actually completed. Lord Roberts realizes that serious obstacles are yet to be overcome before Pretoria is attacked and no movement will be made until preparations are all completed.

Desire Peace.

New York, March 19, via Skagway, March 24.—Webster Davis, assistant secretary of the United States interior department recently left Pretoria to which place he was sent some time ago in connection with business of the government. Davis is now at Naples en route to Washington. In an interview given at the latter city he states that when he left Pretoria a majority of the Boers were clamoring for peace. The war party represented by President Kruger and Gen. Joubert, are using the most strenuous efforts to stem the tide but the sentiment in favor of peace is rapidly growing. Davis does not believe that the Boers will resist much longer and thinks the end of the war is in sight.

"Jimmie" Clancy Dead.

Skagway, March 24.—James Clancy, who went from here to Seattle a short time ago, died at that place on the 18th of an attack of pneumonia. He had not been well for some time before leaving Skagway.

"Jimmie" Clancy, or "Big Chief," as many of his friends called him, was

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