

THE DAILY KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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DAWSON, Y. T., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1900.

PRICE 25 CENTS

HEAD

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FEET

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LAST NIGHT'S MEETING

Of the Four Candidates for Election to Seats on the Board of Yukon Council

WAS LARGELY ATTENDED AND A HUMMER FROM BEGINNING TO END.

Nearly an Hour Spent in Circus Discounting Performance in Securing a Chairman.

Various Candidates for Support Express Their Views Regarding Vital Issues—Wilson a General Favorite—Prudhomme Magnetic and Pugnacious—Noel Does Considerable Explaining—Says 50 Cents Is Too Much for Whisky—O'Brien Believes in Education—Is Fernist Taxation.

Perhaps never in the history of Canadian politics or politics of any civilized or christianized people was an attempt made to hold a meeting in a more cheerless, comfortless, cold, damp, dusty, dirty, musty, murky, ill-smelling, foul-aired, conglomeration of filth than last night when the union meeting of the four candidates for election to seats on the Yukon council was held in the Orpheum theatre, the building being occupied just as it had been left by the variety people a month or more

ago, since which time it had lost no time accumulating dust, dampness and very foul odor. Beer bottles, remnants of old hats and other defunct-stage property were on every hand and the only wonder was that any enthusiasm whatever was or could be manifested amid such surroundings.

It was 8:45 o'clock before any of the candidates appeared on the stage and fully 15 minutes later when Barney Sugrue called the meeting to order and moved that Jefferson Davidson be elected chairman of the meeting. The motion was seconded, put and carried when F. C. Wade, doubtless thinking it would require two chairmen to preserve order, moved that H. T. Wills be elected to the chair. The motion likewise received a second, was put and carried. Then began a pandemonium which the infernal regions in all their satanic revelry have never excelled. As there were two factions on the stage, so were there two factions in the audience and for the next 40 or 50 minutes every man who attempted to speak was howled down by the opposing faction. Sugrue, Wade, Davidson, Wills, Joe Clark, Noel, O'Brien and others went down like nine pins. After a long time things quieted down sufficiently to permit of each speaker uttering from four to half a dozen words before the howling would begin. Both Davidson and Wills declined the chairmanship. Candidate O'Brien suggested that Sheriff Elbeck take charge of the meeting, but later suggested that a chairman be "chosen" from the audience.

Woodworth said, "We didn't come here to howl," and Dr. Catto told the audience they had no sense.

Joe Clarke finally came to the rescue and brought order out of chaos by moving that Louie Coste be elected to the chair. The motion prevailed and the audience gracefully accepted Mr. Coste as its chairman and the union meeting was declared duly open for the purposes for which it was called.

Mr. Arthur Wilson, one of the nominees of the citizens' convention, was the first speaker. Mr. Wilson is not an orator but he is a plain, logical and effective talker; he is, he said, a miner and was there to talk to his fellows; he took up the platform on which he was nominated, and explained his position as to each of its planks. He made a strong argument in favor of a miners' lien law and clinched it with a pathetic story that came under his observation a few days ago, a case in which a young man after working several weeks on a claim is discharged and told to whistle for his money. He strongly favors public schools and the granting of them at every point where ten children can be convened. As to royalty, if such must exist, he thinks 2 1/2 per cent sufficiently high. He favors the construction of roads and bridges wherever needed not only on the Klondike creeks but all over the district where the country is being settled. Mr. Wilson is flat-footed in his opposition to the nefarious law which compels a laborer to take out a miner's license before he can secure a

day's work in a mine. He denominated this as "fining a man" for the privilege of working. He deplored that the prime minister of the Dominion of Canada had stood upon the floor of parliament and made the humiliating confession that he had no information regarding the Yukon. If elected Mr. Wilson pledged himself to see that the official at Ottawa do not longer remain in such pitiable ignorance of Yukon affairs. He favors competent inspection of mines and mining machinery in protection of human life; and lastly, he favors the incorporation of the city of Dawson as the thing commensurate to her prospects. Having spoken the full 45 minutes which was allotted to himself and his colleague, Mr. Prudhomme, Mr. Wilson gracefully yielded the floor.

Mr. Auguste Noel, one of the two independent candidates, was the next speaker. Mr. Noel is something of an orator and many of his gestures are plainly Delsarte. He opened by saying that Wilson and Prudhomme had forgotten the interests of the miner in their platform. (Malamute howls and cries of "No, no"). The chairman requested the audience to accord to Mr. Noel respectful hearing and the speaker proceeded. He favors entire abolishment of the royalty and the establishment of an export tax, but is opposed to a retroactive concession law for the reason that much money has been spent on some concessions and it would be wrong to forfeit their titles. He believes in free schools and lots of them, and is opposed to the scheme of the council to collect taxes before the people have representation. He strongly denounced the law that provides for a public administrator and gives him a monopoly of dead men's estates to settle and report on at pleasure. He thinks 50 cents per drink too much for whisky and the \$2 per gallon tax an outrage. Mr. Noel spoke 30 minutes and, like Mr. Wilson was very frequently cheered.

Mr. Thomas O'Brien, the other independent candidate, followed. He was confident of election and glad he had only ten minutes in which to speak. He has spent 14 years in the country and favors turning everything over to the miner free of cost. (Voice from the audience, "Don't advertise your saloon.") "As for taxation," said Mr. O'Brien, "I never was in favor of it; it is a bad thing, especially where there is no representation. The public administrator system is wrong and should be abolished. Royalty should be abolished and an export tax imposed; for by the time the mind is ready to go out he never has much money, anyhow. Public schools are a good thing and ought to be established wherever needed." Mr. O'Brien declined to discuss the Yukon liquor system further than to say he advocates free whisky. He closed by congratulating himself that in his little speech he had not hurt anybody's feelings. He retired amid cheers.

The fourth speaker was the other nominee of the citizens' convention, Mr. Alex. J. Prudhomme, who opened by expressing his confidence in the election of himself and his colleague, Mr. Wilson, and paid a glowing tribute to the latter as a miner and the possessor of mining experience. Mr. Prudhomme is a fiery talker of considerable magnetism. As Mr. Wilson had fully disposed of the platform, the speaker, after heartily indorsing what his colleague had said, devoted a few minutes to the personnel of Mr. Noel who he said had but recently refused to stand on the platform on which he is going before the people as a candidate; further, that only last spring Noel had opposed agitation of the royalty question. He agreed with Noel that a great deal of money is invested in concessions, but the money was invested in schemes to acquire title and not in the development of the property. (Deafening cheers.) The public administrator

system came in for a scoring, and the speaker strongly condemned the fact that the mining laws of the Yukon are made at Ottawa on representations made by local officials, members of the present council. He charged that O'Brien has made money and lots of it out of liquor permits granted him by the very men he now pretends to oppose. With the loudest applause of the evening up to that time, Prudhomme retired, according to Barney Sugrue the remainder of his time for that round.

That Sugrue was a favorite with the audience goes without saying. He said the preparation of the platform adopted by the citizens' convention had required several months, while the copying of the other platform had required but a few minutes. "Why is it," he said, "that all the government officials and government boosters are supporting Noel and O'Brien? Why had Noel cut his lucky and left the citizens' committee if he was serious in his desire for reform? Mr. Noel is known to be hand and glove with two of the present councilmen, Girouard and Dugas, and do the miners of the Yukon want any more councilmen who pay their men 10 cents on the dollar? Ask the miners on Dominion if this is the kind of councilmen they want. Mr. Noel has been in the country but a short time and is too new." As to O'Brien the speaker admitted that he has been in the Yukon for 14 years, but he further stated that last night was the first time in the 14 years that O'Brien had ever appeared on a public platform and raised his voice for reform.

Mr. Noel replied to Sugrue and explained that he left the citizens' committee when it decided to present the famous petition to the governor general, and that he had left for purely constitutional reasons. (Groans and canine howls.) The speaker attempted to illustrate a point by telling a story of a wolf and lamb drinking from the same pool when some one in the audience gave vent to a regular cotswool bleat and so far as further enlightenment was given, the wolf and lamb are still drinking at the pool. Mr. Noel stated that he believed he knew fully as much about mining as Mr. Wilson, but that assertion was not a winner with his hearers. When Mr. Noel had finished his first address of the evening he left a good impression on the audience, but his most ardent supporters agreed last night that his second address was injurious to his interests and aspirations. He closed his last speech in the French language, he having asked that privilege of the chair, which request was insisted on in Mr. Noel's behalf by Candidate Wilson. In his own language, Noel is a neat, fluent and graceful speaker.

Mr. Wilson again spoke and reiterated his desire for representation of the Yukon in the Dominion parliament.

When Wilson finished it was apparent, as it had been all the evening, that of the quartette of candidates, he was pre-eminently the favorite with the audience.

Mr. Prudhomme made a short address in the French language, but closed in English. During his closing address he fully sustained himself in the high position in which his first speech placed him in the opinion of the audience, which was probably the largest ever assembled in the Orpheum.

Chairman Coste, at the conclusion of Mr. Prudhomme's talk, declared the meeting closed; but the audience, although the midnight hour had been laid away on the shelf of eternity, called lustily for Barney Sugrue who stepped forward and started the national anthem, "God Save the Queen."

Thus passed into history the first meeting in the life of the Yukon at which candidates for the suffrage of the citizens have appeared on a public platform.

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