

MASS MEETING LAST NIGHT

The great mass meeting held in the Standard theatre last night to ratify the action of the committee of twenty appointed to consider the best methods for making a strenuous opposition to the Treadwell grant, ended in what may be termed an unexpected manner. Our report of yesterday afternoon left the committee in session at the rooms of the Board of Trade, discussing a petition upon the question to be signed by as many as possible and then sent to Ottawa. This had been introduced by Col. McGregor. It was briefly discussed and finally adopted.

Then came up the question of the selection of delegates, a remnant of the snarl the committee got into in the early hours of Sunday. It was first moved to rescind the balloting altogether, and the next proposition was that the resignation of Mr. Williams, twice tendered at that meeting, be accepted. Neither of these propositions were acted upon, but on the motion of Arthur Palmer, seconded by John R. Grey, a resolution was passed that the chairman appoint a committee of five to take the four candidates already elected and choose three from them. Of these four candidates Arthur Wilson had not been voted upon but had been elected by special resolution. Sugrue and Williams had won their election by ballot, and Congdon had subsequently been elected by a unanimous vote.

Chairman Macaulay, selected as this committee Arthur Palmer, D. Matheson, P. H. Hebb, Alderman Murphy and Councilman Prudhomme. Then Mr. Williams left the room. As the committee was leaving for deliberation, Mr. Congdon asked that his name be not considered by the committee. The committee returned and reported the names of Wilson, Congdon and Sugrue. That was how affairs stood at the opening of the meeting in the evening.

Col. McGregor called the meeting to order and J. H. Davison was elected to preside. The lengthy reports of the committees were then read, including the several special reports and the substitute for the Treadgold concession drawn up by Mr. Williams, and the report of the afternoon meeting. There had been added to the report a unanimous resolution that the Yukon council be requested to at once call a meeting to protest against the Treadgold grant, and that a similar request be made to the city council. Later on in the meeting in regard to the question of bringing the matter before the Yukon council, Councilor Prudhomme told how he had already taken measures to that end. He had written Acting-Commissioner Newlands on the subject and under date of Feb. 17th had received the following reply:

"In reply to your letter of the 17th I beg to inform you that I have no power to call a meeting of the Yukon council to deal with a matter which is entirely within the jurisdiction of the Dominion government, and for which the council has no authority whatever."

To this Mr. Prudhomme has replied: "I have your reply to my letter of the 17th. It was never suggested that the Yukon council had jurisdiction or authority to deal with the Treadgold concession. The legislative powers of the Yukon council are defined by section 8 of the Yukon territories act, but elective members of the council deem themselves to a certain extent advisers of the government at Ottawa upon Yukon questions. We wish the appointive members to join with us in advising the Dominion government as to the facts of the Treadgold concession, and that this should be done by resolution of the council. For this purpose a meeting should be held."

So, as Mr. Prudhomme remarked, it is now up to the appointive members of the council to state their positions in the matter.

After a motion had been made and seconded that the report of the committee be adopted, there were several amendments and nearly the whole of the evening was spent in inconsequential discussion upon details of the report and in personal explanations. The first of these amendments was by Dr. Catto. It read as follows:

"Resolved, that this meeting select three delegates to proceed to Ottawa and lay before the proper authorities the enormity of the wrong now fastened upon the people of the Yukon by the Treadgold concession, and exhaust every available means to the end that said concession be annulled and that no water rights be granted to any individual or corporation except under the mining regulations without submission first to the commissioner of the Yukon Territory in council."

This had already been adopted by the committee as far as the word

"annulled," and the futility of such a request as that contained in the remainder, the suggestion that the government refer such matters to its own appointive body, had been thoroughly thrashed to the apparent satisfaction of everyone with the exception of Dr. Catto, who was not a member of the committee.

Mr. Woodworth again explained that it was not desired that the Yukon council should pass upon any rights to be granted as long as a large majority of its members were the appointees of the minister of the interior. The concession which had raised this popular indignation was said to have been granted upon the advice of one member of the Yukon council, the gold commissioner, and others. (A voice: Who?) Mr. Woodworth said that was what we all wanted to know, and also what they had reported. It was claimed to have been granted upon the advice of the people appointed by Mr. Sifton, and not on that of the people of the Yukon territory. Then why refer these questions to Mr. Sifton's appointees?

Mr. A. D. Williams was the next speaker, neither to the amendment nor to the motion, but, as it turned out, on a purely personal question. He first declared that he was proud to have a boost from anyone but had certain objections to being stabbed in the back. It was wonderful how this remark enlivened the audience.

They at once placed themselves in an attitude of attentive expectancy. Mr. Williams kept it up: "You may think I am sore," he said. "Probably I am. The only thing I ask is a square deal," and from this he went on to explain his action in the late contest for the mayoralty and told all about the balloting for delegates for Ottawa. He told how he had twice offered to resign, after his election, in favor of Mr. Congdon, but "instead of accepting my resignation they turned me down, and in a cold, raw manner at that—well, I ask if the people of the territory are going to stand tactics such as that?" (Cheers) "So of course I am sore."

Mr. Congdon regretted that Mr. Williams felt as he did, because in all the meetings of the committee no member had given more attention and had furnished more useful information than had Mr. Williams. (Applause.) and it had never occurred to him (Mr. Congdon) until that moment that Mr. Williams felt in the least bit hurt. He then made his explanation of the balloting, and of the fact that when the nominating committee was appointed he had particularly requested that his name be not considered. He concluded by saying, "If it will offer the least solution of the matter I will at once retire, and permit the name of Mr. Williams to be used in place of my own."

Without any reference whatever to the motions before the meeting the other gentlemen mentioned for delegates were called upon to speak. Councilor Wilson came first, and was followed by Sugrue, who was evidently very popular, and who deplored the fact that the unity of all cliques brought about by the Treadgold inquiry should threaten to be broken at this meeting.

William Thornburn proposed an amendment that the report be adopted except that part referring to the afternoon meeting, and after him A. Macfarlane put in a timely point of order, but by this time the whole business of the meeting was tangled up and speakers continued to talk upon which they could find anything to say, and in the end all the amendments were adopted, no matter how contradictory, and the original motion to accept the report of the committee was also adopted.

Also, on the top of the committee reports that three delegates should be sent to Ottawa, and Dr. Catto's amendment that three delegates should be the number, the meeting with immense enthusiasm vindicated Mr. Williams and insisted that he should be a delegate. So that the real result was the selection of Wilson, Congdon, Sugrue and Williams as the delegation.

Judgment Given.

William Patrick sued the late candidate for alderman, Mr. Seabrooke, before Judge Macaulay this morning, for \$75 for wages. Mr. Seabrooke did not dispute the claim altogether but said the only point in dispute was as to the number of hours worked. The plaintiff, when on the witness stand, said that Mr. Seabrooke had said when the controversy occurred, "There is a court to settle such matters," and plaintiff had accordingly brought his action. Mr. Seabrooke had no competent evidence to support his side of the argument, which was a matter of a few hours anyway, and the judge said he had no recourse but to give a verdict for the plaintiff with costs.

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LATE NEWS OF CREEKS

Events on Bonanza and Eldorado.

Now the Most Busy Period of Entire Year—Many Social Happenings.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomson of No. 43 above Bonanza attended the A. B. circus last Friday night and report a very enjoyable time.

Mrs. Warren of No. 6 Victoria pup has been in town the last week visiting her brother.

Mrs. Keys of Monte Cristo Gulch was brought to town last week and taken to the Good Samaritan hospital for treatment. It is expected that she will be able to return home in a few days.

Miss Leda Martin of Dawson has been visiting Mrs. Kinsey at Grand Forks and Gold Hill the last couple of weeks.

The ten-round go between Max Nelson from St. John, N.B., and Swanson from Nanaimo, B.C., last Saturday night at the Dewey, Grand Forks, drew a large crowd to witness the fight. The hall was packed to its utmost capacity. Time was called a few minutes after nine and both gentlemen stepped to the middle of the ring and shook hands. Nelson wore a look of confidence and determination, while Swanson's expression seemed to indicate that he had entered the ring for sport. Swanson is the larger of the two. However, he got none the best of Nelson, who was very wary and ever on the watch for an opening. Honors seemed equally divided. Both did very well until the sixth round, when it was plain to be seen that unless a foul occurred the fight must be declared a draw, for both combatants would rather clinch than fight. Up to the sixth round both received considerable punishment. The seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth rounds were practically all clinching. Nelson seemed to be in better trim for the contest than his opponent. In the first round Nelson's seconds claimed the fight on a foul, but the referee, while he admitted the foul, said he did not want to stop the fight and cautioned the combatants on fouls. (Both gentlemen acted manly throughout and several times Swanson entered the ring with a smile on his face. The fight was declared a draw. Immediately after the tenth round Mr. Swanson stepped to the center of the ring and in a remarkably calm voice said it was the first time he had ever entered the ring to fight and that he wanted no more of it. He said he was a wrestler and would wrestle any man in the community not weighing more than 135 or 140 pounds, but that he was tired of fighting and would fight no more.

Washington's Birthday was celebrated at the Forks in a manner that would do justice to any American city. The Literary Society kindly tendered their regular meeting night at the church over to the Americans for the occasion. Committees on finance, program, and refreshments were appointed and then the work began to give in honor of George Washington the grandest entertainment yet held at the Forks. The church was beautifully decorated with flags, bunting and garlands of red, white and blue. In the center of the platform on a blackboard, Mr. Asa T. Heydon had drawn a most excellent bust picture of Washington; on either

side of him were gracefully depicted with colored chalk the American and British flags, making a very pretty and appropriate effect. Washington having served under both flags. Long before the entertainment began the church was packed to the doors and as a consequence many who had come from a distance were unable to procure seats. The program was the best yet given at Grand Forks judging from the hearty applause given each number. Mr. Black acted as chairman and Miss Bense as pianist for the evening. The program was opened by the chairman, who in a few well-chosen remarks stated what the meeting was for. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was then ably led by Miss Bense singing the verses as a solo, the audience joining in the chorus with a will and heartiness that fairly made the church ring with patriotism. This was followed by an address of welcome by Mr. Hart, who spoke upon the friendliness existing between the two nations and the progress made from Washington's time to the present. Mr. Mahoney then favored the audience with a solo, which was generously applauded. Master Wallie Harris gave a recitation on the cherry tree incident. Mr. Heydon spoke on the life of Washington, paying many glowing tributes and touching upon all the crowning events that marked his brilliant and illustrious career from the cradle to the grave. Mr. Bense followed with a solo, "I Loved You Better Than You Knew," receiving hearty applause. Little Miss Mildred Stahl gave a recitation which captured the hearts of the audience. Mr. Gladwin sang a patriotic solo, "The Stars and Stripes Forever," which was well received. Miss Bense then sang with much feeling a very pretty solo entitled "A Blind Girl to Her Harp," winning enthusiastic applause. Mr. McKay in a few brief remarks dealt with the historic events that marked Washington's life as a soldier. The national song, "America," was then sung by the audience. Miss Marynie McDevitt charmed the audience with a very pretty piano solo, showing a touch and technique which bespeaks a brilliant future for her as a pianist. The star number on the program was the recitation by Mr. Longton of Henry Ward Beecher's "Tribute to the American Flag." Mr. Longton delivered it with great force and effect, bringing out each stirring passage in such a manner that every American present could not but feel proud of the Stars and Stripes. Miss Martin

of Dawson sang "My Old New Hampshire Home," at the conclusion of which the audience fairly raised the roof with applause, calling again and again until the young lady responded with an encore. Mr. Anderson sang "He is Sleeping in the Klondike Vale Tonight," and for an encore, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep." Miss Davis recited "Barbara Fretchie." Mrs. Patterson gave a very comical darky recitation and encore which kept the audience convulsed with laughter. Mr. Vincent rendered "Sing Me a Song of the Sunny South," which was heartily applauded. An intermission for luncheon was then held during which Mr. Benjamin gave some choice selections from the phonograph. The lunch, which was prepared by Mrs. McDevitt, Mrs. Hart and Mrs. Black, was a revelation; sandwiches, excellent coffee, fruit and plenty for all. Toasts were to be responded to at the conclusion of luncheon but owing to the impatience of the younger people to get over to the social hall and trip the light fantastic the program was brought to a close by all singing "God Save the King," after which all who indulged in the terpsichorean art hied themselves to the social hall and danced into the "wee sma' hours." The committee wishes to tender a vote of thanks to Miss Bense for her kindness in loaning her piano for the occasion, also the business houses and citizens who so liberally and willingly helped to make the event the grand success it was. Long may the memory of the father of his country live in the hearts of all.

The Grand Forks Social Club will hold another one of its popular hops next Friday, Feb. 28th, at the social hall.

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TO FORM NEW PARTY

No Party Politics But a United All Parties in Interest of Territory.

It was said at the meeting last night and, in short, in an unambiguous fact, that the discussion upon the Treadgold concession united all cliques and parties in the Yukon territory. To perpetuate a state of unity and maintain it as long and as far as possible, it was proposed to form an entirely new political party, to be called "The Yukon Party."

To this end a call was issued last afternoon for a meeting this evening at the Hotel Metropole. Several places for this first meeting were suggested, but the desire was as far as possible away from the stamping ground of the factions in last elections and in other movements, including that in regard to the Treadgold concession.

The call is sent out in the name of Councilmen Prudhomme and Wood and Mr. Woodworth and others who also signed the original call. As a political party and to be known as a political party, the line is drawn at party politics. Both Liberals and Conservatives are invited to join, and every faction is invited to sink their present differences and to work in an amicable and devoted manner to the best interests of the Yukon territory.

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