

COMMISSIONER J. H. ROSS

Duly Inducted Into Official Position at High Noon Today.

RETIRING COMMISSIONER WAS MASTER OF CEREMONIES.

Oath of Office and Allegiance Administered by Justice Dugas.

Members of Yukon Council, Territorial Officials and Newspaper Men Present—Ceremony Was Simple and Brief—Engrossed Compliments of Council Presented—Sensible Response of Mr. Ross—Heartily Congratulated—One Good Man Replaced by Another in Whom Every Confidence is Reposed.

From Friday's Daily.

James Hamilton Ross is now commissioner in and for the Yukon territory, succeeding William Ogilvie in that position at 12 o'clock today.

The ceremony incident to the retirement of Mr. Ogilvie and the inducting into office of Mr. Ross was simple and brief. Up to the noon hour the former was seated at his office desk as fully engaged as though he was beginning rather than completing an official term. At that hour Mr. Ross, all members of the Yukon council, Judge Craig, Legal Adviser Congdon, several other local officials and press representatives assembled in the commissioner's private office to participate in and witness the simple ceremony.

Retiring Commissioner Ogilvie requested Territorial Secretary Brown to read from a beautifully engrossed parchment an address of welcome from himself as commissioner and his fellow members of the Yukon council to Mr. Ross. The address was as follows:

The Yukon Council to the Hon. J. H. Ross, greeting:

The retiring commissioner of the Yukon territory and the members of the Yukon council desire to accord to you a hearty welcome to the territory.

The members of the council wish to assure you of their cordial sympathy and support in the duties upon which you are about to enter as commissioner of the territory.

In a new country like this, where so many exceptional conditions exist, many different problems present themselves in connection with its proper government. Some of those have been met and adjusted. But it is only natural to expect many more to arise; and in the solution of these, we wish to assure you of our hearty support.

In matters of this kind we would not be human if we were always of a common mind; but we wish to say to you and to assure you that we all aim at one object—the advancement and development of the territory.

Again extending to you a hearty wel-

come, and wishing you a successful term of office, we are, sir, your obedient servants.

(Signed) WILLIAM OGILVIE.
C. A. DUGAS.
J. E. GIROUARD.
E. C. SENKLER.
Z. T. WOOD.
A. J. PRUDHOMME.
ARTHUR WILSON.

Dawson, Y. T., April 12th, 1901.

In reply Mr. Ross in a few well chosen words courteously thanked the retiring commissioner and council for their gracious reception of him on and since his arrival and hoped for their continuous wise counsel in assisting him to well and faithfully perform the duties devolving upon him as commissioner of the territory. Hearty applause followed Mr. Ross' few but appropriate remarks.

At Mr. Ogilvie's request the oath of office was then administered to Mr. Ross by Hon. Justice Dugas. The usual oath of allegiance to King Edward VII was first administered. Mr. Ross reading it in clear distinct tones, after which came the oath of office which was:

"I, James Hamilton Ross, do solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that I will truly, faithfully and to the best of my skill and knowledge execute the powers and trusts reposed in me as commissioner of the Yukon territory—so help me God."

The documents were duly acknowledged by Justice Dugas and very hearty congratulations of Hon. James Hamilton Ross as commissioner of the Yukon followed, Mr. Ogilvie being first to extend the glad hand to his successor.

Thus was performed the simple ceremony which retired Mr. Ogilvie from a position he has filled to his own credit and the good of the territory and of whom it may properly be said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," and inducted into that same position Mr. Ross, in whom there is no doubt implicit confidence may be reposed and whose administration so auspiciously begun will be one continuous era of prosperity which ever follows in the wake of official honor, uprightness and integrity.

the results which had been attained. The full text of his remarks will be published tomorrow.

RECEIVED BY WIRE COMPANIES TO COMBINE

Dawson's Three Largest Companies on the List.

San Francisco, April 5, via Skagway, April 12.—The Call will say tomorrow: "Within a week arrangements will be completed for the formation of a great combination of all Alaska trading and transportation companies. Many millions of capital will be combined and great interests will be centered in Frisco which are now scattered and to some degree antagonistic. The companies which are parties to the deal are the Alaska Exploration Company, Alaska Commercial Company and North American Transportation & Trading Company. These three companies are heavily capitalized. The Alaska Exploration Company has capital stock amounting to \$1,000,000, Alaska Commercial Company \$2,000,000, and North American Transportation & Trading Co. has a capital of \$5,000,000. Whether the Ames Mercantile Company of this city will be a party to the combine also does not seem to have been determined. The capitalization of the Ames company is \$200,000. When the deal is finally consummated the corporation representing the combined interests will be known as the Yukon Mercantile Co. The negotiations have been carried on as secretly as possible and have been fruitful of but one large result up to the present time. That consists in the agreement that has been made to regulate the transportation on the Yukon river. There will be no more cut rates. This was considered one of the essential provisions necessary to be made at once in view of the coming season. There is a complete understanding in this regard. Rate cutting and the need of better arrangements for the general welfare led up to the making of the combination. Hereafter the new corporation will be enabled to devote its attention to the development and up-building of the trade of Alaska and the Yukon country generally which heretofore it has been impossible to do under the antagonistic conditions that have prevailed."

SAYS NOYES IS ALL RIGHT

Deputy Clerk Reed, of Nome U. S. Court, Talks.

Mr. John T. Reed, first deputy clerk of the U. S. district court at Nome, who arrived with B. T. Dyer yesterday afternoon after a long journey over snow and ice, says the stories published on the outside of Judge Noyes' malfeasance in office are untrue, and are prompted by certain Californians there who attempted to bribe the Nome judiciary and, being unsuccessful, seek to ruin his character. He says a thorough investigation would completely exonerate Mr. Noyes.

Mr. Reed says the statement as to there being destitution in Nome is not correct as all the inhabitants are well supplied and in good condition for spending the balance of the winter in plenty. Socially he says Nome has been very lively this winter, there being many secret orders and clubs in existence in the beach city. The Arctic Brotherhood, of which Mr. Reed is the duly attested traveling representative, has a membership of 160, and is, he says, the best organization of Nome, none but the very best element being admitted to membership. A meeting of the Dawson camp will be held tonight in honor of Mr. Reed's arrival. The two pilgrims will leave for Whitehorse tomorrow en route to the outside. Mr. Reed to his home in New York, and Mr. Dyer to visit the home of his family in Texas.

C. Geo. Johansson and James McDougall, of Hunker, and Capt. Whalen are stopping for a few days at the McDonald.

B. Jeffrey and wife of Gold Run, returned this morning from a trip to their home in New York and are registered at the McDonald hotel.

THEY ALL OBJECT

Residents of Klondike City Have No Use for Demi-Monde.

PETITIONED COUNCIL TO THAT EFFECT

Much Routine Business Transacted Last Night.

DOGS CAUGHT AT SO MUCH PER

Present System to be Abolished After May First—Inspecting Boilers No Sinecure.

From Friday's Daily.

The Yukon council met in regular session last night at the courthouse and transacted a large amount of routine business.

Albert Lamontine who runs a hotel at the upper ferry presented a petition asking the council to grant him permission to build an approach from his hotel to the bridge, which is several feet higher than his house. The council granted him permission to build steps from the bridge to the ground subject to the approval of the engineer, but refused the building of the approach on the ground of its liability of fire.

Arthur Morrow who runs a store on the other side of the bridge put in a similar petition which was granted under the same conditions. Mr. Morrow also applied for an opportunity to purchase the lumber and material left over from the new bridge providing the same is for sale. Referred to board of public works.

The property owners of Klondike City presented a petition calling the attention of the council to the removal of the demi-monde into that city and requesting the council to carry out its original intention and have them go back up on the hill or some where besides Klondike City.

Major Wood said there was a mistaken idea regarding the ordinance and its boundaries which he recited as originally passed. He also stated that the council had not specified any place for them to go, but had simply told them to get outside of those boundaries which it was believed would take them from the heart of the city.

Justice Dugas in speaking of the question cited the law with regard to houses of prostitution and said that anyone owning or even frequenting a house of prostitution is guilty of an offense and is liable to a fine or imprisonment. This is an evil which as long as men and women are women cannot be prohibited. Not only in this particular place but it has been tried in every civilized country on earth with the same result. Dawson has been more successful than many older and more settled communities in controlling this class of people. The law on the subject is plain and any citizen has a right to prosecute so let the citizens take the matter in their own hands and if these people become a nuisance let them be prosecuted.

Mr. Ogilvie said the matter is in the hands of the police, let them attend to it. On motion of Mr. Senkler no action was taken on the petition.

Mr. Wm. Baptist presented a communication offering to sell his hotel near the upper ferry to the council for an insane asylum for a consideration of \$5000. The communication was referred to the board of public works.

A communication was read from Mr. Anderson the newly elected inspector of boilers and engines stating that in consideration of his services he would have to be paid the sum of \$400 per month and his expenses. On motion of Mr. Wilson a salary of \$400 per month with no expense allowance, except in special cases where a long trip is to be made and an expense account to be approved by the council was voted. An account of \$50 from Mr. Craig the artist for preparing the address which will be presented to Mr. Ross by the council was ordered paid.

A petition was presented by the residents of Grand Forks for the continuation of the road up Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Eldorado on the right limit instead of the

left. Referred to public works committee.

An account from the N. A. T. & T. Co. for \$136.75 and another from Mrs. Fancher for \$30 for decorations in the Savoy theater at the time of the memorial services of the late Queen Victoria was ordered paid.

Mr. Prudhomme, with regard to several complaints which had been registered to him of muzzles being taken off of dogs by the dog catchers and then being impounded, asked whether the dog catchers were receiving salary or working on commission. In reply Major Wood stated that the pound was in charge of a constable, but that small boys were hired to catch dogs and were paid 50 cents per head for all dogs brought in. Mr. Prudhomme moved that some responsible party be appointed dog catcher and be paid a salary which would stop complaints of that nature. The matter was allowed to go over until the 1st of May when the present system will be changed to the license system which it is thought will settle the question.

Mr. Prudhomme also raised the question as to why the account of Sutton which was voted at the Saturday meeting had not been paid. He was told that the finance committee had raised an objection to its being paid.

Justice Dugas, in response to the question said "That matter was referred to the board of public works committee for investigation and before the committee had made its report the council allowed the claim. I objected to the petition at the time and I am not yet satisfied that they are entitled to it. Owing to illness I was not present at Saturday's meeting and I did not know that the subject was to come before the meeting."

Major Wood said that a notice was given at the meeting Thursday night a week ago that the subject was to be brought up and Sutton was told to be there with his witnesses. This notice was given out by the commissioner but had probably not been heard by Mr. Dugas. At the meeting held Saturday the question had been discussed. Mr. Sutton and his witnesses had been examined and they all agreed that the expense had been incurred and therefore the money was ordered paid.

Justice Dugas said he had not understood the question was to come before the Saturday meeting and that he alone could not prevent the payment of the money. All he wanted to do was to clear himself of any responsibility in the matter.

The report of the comptroller regarding the number of transient traders licenses issued last year was read and showed that only three had been issued.

Justice Dugas asked how it happened that only three had paid their licenses stating that there was surely evidence of false representations and that some steps should be taken to prevent such a state of affairs in the future.

Mr. Ogilvie said that a number of the scow men had said they were bringing in goods for merchants.

He would suggest that instead of their being licensed an inspector should be appointed and a tax be placed upon the value of their cargo.

Mr. Wilson said that the taxing of the scow owner would legislate the only cheap means of transportation out of existence but he was assured by Justice Dugas that there was no effort to tax them out of existence, but that they should help to bear the expenses of the country in which they do business and in some instances make considerable money on every trip. The subject was on motion referred to the finance committee which was also instructed to investigate why only three out of more than 150 had paid licenses.

The balance in the funds which is set aside for the purpose of buying law books was on motion laid at the disposal of Justice Dugas to buy needed books for the library.

On motion of Justice Dugas the secretary was instructed to furnish each member of the council with a file in which to keep papers and communications pertaining to business connected with the council meetings, the expense to be defrayed by the council.

The council then went into a committee of the whole to consider Wilson's miner's lien law.

Mr. Pattullo, legal adviser, was present and on his recommendation the passing of the ordinance was referred for one week so as to give Mr. Congdon the new legal adviser an opportunity to look it over. "This is an entirely new piece of legislation for this territory," said Mr. Pattullo, "and therefore it should be given the greatest discussion. While I am justly proud of the ordinance as it stands I realize the difficulties which will be encountered in applying it and therefore I would suggest that the new legal adviser who has just come from New Scotia, where such a law is in force, be given an opportunity to look it over." On motion of Mr. Dugas the final reading of the ordinance was laid over for one week and in the meantime it is to be considered by Mr. Pattullo, Mr. Congdon and Mr. Wilson.

TRIBUTE TO MR. OGILVIE

From His Co-Workers, Members of Yukon Council.

Last night being the last night in which the council would meet with Mr. Ogilvie acting as presiding officer, a resolution was passed expressing the appreciation of the members of the council for the services which he has rendered the territory and also the esteem in which he is held by each member.

After all the business before the council had been completed and the council was about to adjourn, Justice Dugas moved that the council resolve itself into a committee of the whole with Major Wood occupying the chair. Addressing the chair he said:

"The news reached us a few weeks ago that our commissioner had tendered his resignation to Ottawa and tonight the news comes to us that tomorrow the new commissioner will be given the oath of office and assume the duties of commissioner of the territory."

"In the two and one-half years in which Mr. Ogilvie has presided over the council differences of opinion on certain matters have arisen, but we have always discussed the matter as men and not allowed any feeling of

animosity to enter into any of the discussions.

"There is no use to refer to the public meetings in which private animosity has actuated the proceedings. As members of the council and as citizens we have always been able to approach our commissioner and we know that he has been actuated with only one desire and that is to serve the public. His actions have been straightforward and honest and nothing ever need be said in defense of any of his actions. He possessed a high public reputation before coming here and that reputation he has ably sustained. Therefore as a small expression of the esteem in which we hold Mr. Ogilvie I would move the adoption of this resolution."

That the members of this council take this last opportunity of expressing to Mr. William Ogilvie the high appreciation of his conduct in all his dealings with the council and at the same time of recognizing his continuous efforts to help in the development and welfare of this territory under the most trying difficulties, due to the peculiar circumstances under which this territory was opened.

Mr. Senkler took great pleasure in seconding the resolution which was passed unanimously. In reply to the resolution Mr. Ogilvie thanked the members for their expression of their kindly feeling toward him and then made a review of the work of the council of the last two and one-half years, and spoke of the difficulties which had been met and overcome and