

A FREE DISCUSSION NOT ALLOWED.

The Police Step in and Order a Mass Meeting Stopped.

Major Walsh's Magical Name Allows the Meeting to Be Finished—Americans Call for a Meeting of Their Own.

The mass meeting on Wednesday evening was attended by about three thousand people. It was probably the largest gathering ever held in Dawson. Mr. Frank Dunleavy, who had convened the meeting, said that at a former meeting of the same kind, a week ago, there appeared to have been an understanding of dissatisfaction and discussion had not been allowed nor the men present given an opportunity to air their grievances. The opportunity was to be given now to all.

Mr. Joe Knight Smith was voted into the chair and E. Lenoy Pelletier made secretary. The chairman said that he would see that all were given an impartial hearing. The convenors of the meeting were not making charges of corruption but there were undoubtedly very unsavory odors in the air and to anyone having the courage to come forward and make statements of fact, he desired to say that their interests would be protected. Men seemed to think that by coming forward they might endanger their properties; but he would personally put up as much money as their claims were worth, as a guarantee that they should lose nothing by taking a bold stand for good government and purity in administration. He had been in the gold fields of Australia for years and had always been right come out on top.

Mr. Dunleavy was introduced as the speaker of the evening. He outlined his speech under heads and commenced with the timber proposition. He, with thousands more, had secured a free miner's right in the Dominion of Canada by the payment of \$5. This license stated upon the face that it was a "permit" to do certain things, among others to cut timber for boats, cabins and for mining purposes; yet, when they went to building boats at Bennett, B. C., they were charged for every tree they cut down.

Then there was the ten per cent royalty grievance and the retaining to the crown of alternate blocks of ten claims. He told of recent doings at Johannesburg by Paul Kruger, the Boer premier. The Boers had imposed taxes upon the "Uitlanders" until they couldn't live. The Britishers had kicked and kicked, and at last Mr. Kruger told them he had decided to remit all taxes, but would put in their place a ten per cent tax on the gross output of the land. The howl that went up from the British miners prevented the consummation of the act, but Kruger contended that it was quite justified by the recent act of the Dominion authorities in imposing a similar tax. The government had evidently doubted the wisdom of their own act when they empowered Major Walsh to remit this penalty on industry, in whole or in part as his judgment might suggest. Major Walsh had remitted part, and in so doing had condemned the whole act.

On the subject of the reservation of alternate blocks of ten claims the speaker asked when it ever before had a government competed with the miners in taking up claims. As interpreted by the officials here the government got two claims to the miner's one for upon a discovery being made and ten claims laid out the government took another ten both above and below.

Then there was the giving away of waterways, lands, etc. to corporations. All water ways were supposed to be the property of the people yet here was a man closes up Bell river between lakes Linderman and Bennett and charging a toll of \$2.50 apiece on all the thousands of boats having to pass there, together with a half cent a pound for all their goods. The collections were being enforced by a willing constabulary.

Then there was another hold up at White Horse rapids. From earliest times anyone not caring to shoot the rapids could walk around them but now the ground had been taken from the people and a toll was being exacted. Coming on down to Klondike City you found that another toll must be paid to cross the Klondike river to Dawson. More than that you found that private individuals had blocked the Klondike river with booms until it was rendered exceedingly dangerous or quite impossible to navigate a boat through.

Almost the first piece of level ground you strike coming down suitable for camping or living upon you found had been given away to another company. You are ordered to "move off the streets and the lots in Dawson but can camp anywhere else—in the river if you like. He thought also that the collection of customs duties on a miner's supplies—supplies that couldn't be raised at all in this country—a great imposition. He would much rather pay a poll tax even than contribute so indirectly to the revenues.

After some suggestions on the extension of the telegraph and improvement of the postal service, Mr. Dunleavy said: "And what can be thought of our present form of government? We living under a form of government never before used in a British country except in the penal colonies of Australia." He continued by quoting from the laws of Canada which give six thousand men, wherever found, the right to organize and form a local government of their own. He thought it would be wise to organize an advisory body right here which would advise the government at Ottawa on local matters.

Other matters were touched on and Mr. Dunleavy stepped back amid much applause. The chairman invited speakers and guaran-

teed them protection. If they had a grievance now was their time or forever hold their peace. He hoped this meeting was the beginning of the end of all this talk and if men didn't come forward now they deserved to suffer the wrongs they complained of.

Repeated calls for E. Lenoy Pelletier at last brought that gentleman to his feet. He made a few apt remarks and was much applauded. So many complaints and grievances had been poured into his ears that he had favored the movement which was giving all an opportunity to be heard. If they didn't come forward and state publicly what they had stated privately to him he would never afterwards give them a hearing. He thought Major Walsh himself meant to do right by all of us, but was at the disadvantage of being a newcomer and must needs depend a great deal on his advisers. How unfortunate he had been in his choice of advisers he left it for the people to judge. In using his great powers to remedy our immediate wrongs, it was imperative that we all stand behind the Major and "back him up." If the Major should decide to suspend laws like the obnoxious royalty laws it must be shown at Ottawa that it was the result of an imperative need. He wasn't here to take part in the meeting, and his own grievances would be righted in other ways. Mr. Pelletier was frequently applauded, even when he scolded those in the audience who had such a long string of grievances to talk of on the street corners, but wouldn't come forward now.

Dr. Percy McDougal had no specific charges to make because he never had and never would pay any money to any public official.

He offered a resolution which was afterwards amended and put to the meeting. He didn't approve of officials working "overtime" and accepting gratuities therefor. His resolution was intended to increase the office force until the recording office could handle legitimate business without contributions from the inquiring multitudes.

Mr. McGee thought we ought to have had the liberal mining laws of British Columbia. They did not there tax you \$5 for recording a claim, nor \$10 for a miner's license. For the unfortunate condition of things which now existed in the district in its government and laws he largely blamed the outlandish reports which had been carried from here, official and unofficial. He proposed a resolution asking the government for British Columbia laws, but it was afterwards withdrawn as liable to detract from the force of the resolutions adopted at the mass meeting last week. He concluded, amid much hand clapping, with: "If these things remain as they are the result will be a depopulation of the camp. Your bills will never be sealed; your gold will never be dug, and your people will continue on down the river to cross the line into a land where the laws are both liberal and fair." Mr. McGee is a British Columbian, but said "I would ten times rather live under those laws now than in the Yukon district."

Mr. W. Hall had a positive grievance. He had been at Stewart and the police posted a notice which exonerated Mr. Fawcett's signature notified the miners that Dominion Creek would be opened on July 11, under a permit system. He had taken a small boat and traveled the sixty miles to the gold commissioner's office, only to find that the creek had been opened secretly days before. In the resulting stampede one poor wretch had even lost his life and some people would even think the gold commissioner's office guilty of manslaughter. He moved a resolution that the chairman and a committee of three be appointed to investigate the "Dominion Middle."

Hall continued that on his way down he noticed some dry drift wood on a bar. He applied for a permit to cut it and was advised that he must go to someone and buy the privilege. The timber was all sold and his miners' license simply gave him the right to buy from some company. He didn't like to accuse the government of fraud in the matter but in selling him the license it had sold him the cabin logs first. If a private individual should sell him an article and afterwards sell it to a corporation he would brand him as a rogue and a thief.

Mr. McConnell lamented the fact that the public records were not public. He moved the following resolution which was carried unanimously: "Resolved, That the chairman and a committee of three be appointed to wait upon the gold commissioner and to inform him that at a mass meeting of miners of the Klondike district it was resolved to petition him to employ sufficient skilled labor in the recording office and to provide sufficient office accommodation to spare the miners of the district the inconvenience, discomfort and delay in business to which they have been subjected during the past winter and to which they are still subjected."

The appointment of the two committees brought about a disturbance. A Mr. Clark moved a resolution that a new chairman be appointed because of the brusqueness of Mr. Smith. The audience unanimously condemned the resolution and supported the chair.

However, one of the police patrol forced his way to the front and ordered the meeting broken up. Then, indeed, the meeting became noisy and hisses and execrations filled the air. The policeman arbitrarily refused for some time to allow the meeting to be closed. Representations were made that the meeting was with Major Walsh's consent and some Americans shouted out a call for a meeting elsewhere where free speech should not be muzzled so outrageously. Things looked threatening for a while, but the policeman finally allowed the closing of the meeting in the regular way—standing at the chairman's elbow for the balance of the time.

The chairman and Messrs. Dunleavy, Gibson and Buten will investigate the Dominion middle, while the chairman and Messrs. Galvin, McDougal and Armstrong will wait upon the commissioner and ask for better accommodations at the recorder's office. A vote of thanks was given the chairman and secretary and speakers and also to the "Little Klondike Nugget" for taking so bold a stand in defence of the people's rights. Cheers and applause were given to all and the meeting dispersed.

HEARD ON DAWSON'S STREET CORNERS.

Every Tongue and Language Represented in this Metropolis.

But They All Talk on the Same Topic and All Reach the Same Conclusion—Some Are More Expressive Than Others.

Dawson is nothing if not cosmopolitan. The races, sects, political faiths and religious creeds that are not represented in the stages of this northern metropolis are few and far between. No one has as yet noticed a Chinaman in town and it seems to be the general impression that the climate would be decidedly unhealthy for any enterprising sons of the Flowery Empire who might happen to stroll this way. It is to be presumed that information to this effect has been sent down to the great Chinamen, or pig-tails and wash-wash houses would long ago have been common sights in the streets of Dawson.

The city of the Klondike might aptly be termed the Constantinople of the North, for nearly every language, tongue or jargon that is spoken today can be heard on our streets and avenues. The remarkable feature of the whole matter lies in the fact that not only can all languages be heard at one and the same time but all seem largely to deal with the same subject.

It may be of interest to the outside reader to know some of the remarks that are passed upon this universally interesting topic, and hence appear below what any attentive listener might overhear on one of Dawson's popular street corners of a nice afternoon. Down toward one corner comes a mobly looking chap dressed in a checked suit of a knickerbocker. It is not difficult to tell by his appearance from where he hails, but when the listener catches what he is saying to his companion assurance becomes doubly sure. "I say, now, it's a bloody damned outrage the way things are run. Why suppose a chap don't stand half a show. I'm a Britisher myself and a bloody good one, too, but I never heard of such laws in any British province before. And with these words he passes out of hearing and the listener resumes his position and awaits developments.

Here comes a tall, strapping, sunburnt fellow. His corduroy trousers are somewhat the worse for wear, but that doesn't seem to worry him in the least. He is puffing away at a big cigar, his hands are shoved deep into his pockets, his head brimmed but is tilted way back on his head. Evidently he is used to saying just what he thinks. His language is decidedly more expressive than that of his predecessor. In fact some of it would hardly look well in print. Therefore out of courtesy to the reader dashes are substituted in such places. "I'll be— if I ever heard of such a proposition. I came from a country where the laws are liberal and— me if I didn't think I was going to another of the same kind. But I've had enough of this. I'm going below."

He passes along but his placid soon taken. "Gott in himmel, vat can a man do? Yenn you finde a claim vat haf you got? May peckle you dig dose hole der oder fellow gets dose claim. Hell and damnation!" "Our German friend" mashes along, but the procession has just begun. Here comes a short, stockily built man. He wears a jumper and blue overalls. A stubby growth of beard covers most of his face, he wears a stouch hat drawn well down over his forehead and is pulling hard at a black-looking short stemmed clay pipe. "Oi say, now, Molk, and did you ever hear the loike of that? Faith and I'll blast me timbale if there's anything left, what with them royalty, and reserves and all. Howly St. Patrick, I'd never been here if I'd knowed how they was adther doing things."

But this scion of the Emerald Isle has passed out of hearing and a representative of Scandinavia next claims and observes attention. "I been came to Dawson for gold to dig; but I been afraid I will get me none. Fiteen tollerd pay me for license, and fiteen it costs me to record a claim. Half of dese claims we must give to the crown, and ten per cent of what we dig out beside. It beats der devil."

The flaxen-haired Scandinavian disappears in the wake of those who went before him. "What de deyvel am dey goin to do next? I'm thinkin' dat dis yer cold'n' pison is a gwine to hunt a warm climate. What, wid de law, and de winter it's too much like a game ob freeze out." Sunny Africa has spoken and with the rest of the procession passes along down the street.

There are still others, but this much has served to satisfy the listener's curiosity. He takes his own solitary way to his cabin, reflecting to himself the while that governments are fearful and wonderful contrivances and quite beyond the ken of the ordinary, finite intellect.

How it Can Be Done.

A good one is told on G. G. Berg, an old Dawson's first and only cow. A joker asked him how she was progressing for the state of that cow's health was a matter of public importance. Berg replied that she was doing nicely but might give more milk if it was known what to do for her.

"Don't you know how to make her give twice as much milk at a milking?" said the joker. "No, I don't. I suppose bran is good, and—" "Oh, no; that isn't the way. If you want her to give double as much milk at a milking, you blamed fool, don't milk her but half as often," and the joker dodged a side of beef that Berg threw at him and went off to think of something else.

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