

"All reports of Committees, and all resolutions of Council involving the expenditure of money, must, before the same can be legally passed by the Council, be accompanied by a certificate from the Comptroller that there are unappropriated funds at the credit of such appropriation;

"And no contract or agreement shall be binding upon the City until the same has been submitted to and passed by the City Council;"

"And every Alderman who shall vote any sum exceeding the balance so unappropriated, shall be personally responsible therefor, and shall, *ipso facto*, lose the right of sitting in the City Council for five years;"

"The City Treasurer shall be personally responsible for every sum of money which he shall pay, knowing that it exceeds the appropriation voted by the Council for the purpose in question."

It is in view of the above that we so strongly maintain the city is not responsible for any unauthorized expenditures. It is to be regretted that an appeal was not taken in the case of a recent decision against the City. A Committee does not represent the City of Montreal—the City Council is the only legally constituted body that does so, and it simply relegates certain specific limited powers to the Committees in order to facilitate the public service. Certain appropriations are placed at the disposal of these Committees, beyond the limits of which they have no power to expend a single cent; not only so, but if they do, the members of the Committee, who do so, are personally responsible therefor, and liable to be disqualified from sitting in the City Council for five years. Further, the City Treasurer is personally responsible for every sum of money which he shall pay if it exceeds the appropriation voted by the Council for the purpose in question. It is knowledge of the matters referred to in this article that ought to arouse the people of Montreal to greater interest in civic affairs.

IN THE KLONDYKE.

At Dawson City.—The Bank of British North America.—The Post Office.—The London Times and other complainants.—An improved mail service.—Mr. Ogilvie and his active Lieutenant.—Bankers at Dawson Diggings and their quarters.—The Bank of Commerce.—Luxury and lemons.

By the courtesy of the Bank of British North America, we are enabled to produce some views of places of interest in far-famed Dawson City. The picture of the building at one time occupied by the pioneer monetary institution in the Yukon territory will serve to show that the want of suitable offices in an edifice with some claim to architectural beauty is not permitted to delay the enterprise of bankers when, in quest of dividends, they enter "fresh fields and pastures new."

The Dawson City Post Office with its group of gold hunters, waiting for letters from home; the principal hotel; and the station house with a North West policeman standing in the doorway, are all interesting souvenirs of a much-talked-of country.

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That some dissatisfaction has been expressed with the hastily made Post Office arrangements at Dawson City is not surprising, and the *London Times* correspondent, and other complainants, who have ar-

raigned the officials for neglect of duty and various offences, may be pleased to know there is every evidence of improvement in the departments of the public service in the Klondyke. We have received a letter from a friend at Fort Selkirk. This letter was written on September 25th, and its delivery at the office of THE CHRONICLE, on the 18th inst., shows a very creditable mail service. The improvement noticed in the Post Office and other departments of the public service since the arrival of Mr. Ogilvie is doubtless due in a measure to the assistance he derives from an active and energetic lieutenant, Mr. John T. Lithgow, whose knowledge of departmental work, executive ability, and peculiar fitness for the position he occupies, was evidently known to and recognized by the Finance Minister.

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In April last, when several young and old bank officials were rejoicing in the receipt of orders to join the expeditions of the Bank of Commerce, and the Bank of British North America to the Klondyke, we commented upon the exposure, hardship and virtual exile which sometimes falls to the lot of the Canadian banker. We remarked that the officials of any large and enterprising bank are likely in the course of their service to have a wide and varied experience of life and that the reminiscences of an old bank manager, inspector or clerk, when told at the close of a long career, ought to be highly interesting reading.

Learning early the lesson of obedience, and subjected to discipline which makes of the majority of them good and useful citizens, bank officials become accustomed, like the soldier and sailor, to receiving marching orders without questioning same, and to changing quarters with a celerity admirable to witness. But it is seldom the lot even of the banker to be called upon to enjoy or endure the novel experience of banking life at the Dawson diggings as pictured by Mr. William Stuart, who has recently returned from the Klondyke, where he erected a new building for the Bank of Commerce. Mr. Stuart was interviewed by the *Free Press*, and is reported as saying of the first office occupied by the bank: "The Bank was opened in Dawson on June 6th, and, two days later, business was in full swing, an old oil building being made use of until the other building was ready for occupation. One million dollars in gold were often contained in this little building. A government policeman acted as night watchman. At the present time, the bank staff consists of, besides the manager, seven clerks, three of whom sleep on the floor among the gold and four in the rooms overhead."

However, the conditions of life at Dawson City are evidently improving, like the postal and other services, day by day; for this returned contractor is able to report of the new quarters occupied by these bankers. "It is a two-storey building with an extension kitchen. Downstairs are the business offices, assaying room and dining-room, and upstairs are seven bedrooms and a bathroom." Any man who has his morning tub to wallow in and is not more than twelve miles from a lemon is living in luxury; even if rough timber costs \$200 a thousand feet and a pane of ordinary glass is hardly purchasable at \$250.

We trust such energy and enterprise as that displayed by Canadian banks in the Yukon will be rewarded, and we hope the business of the gold fields will prove profitable and permanent to all who have journeyed thither.