

# TO PROBE COUNCIL

And Investigate Causes Leading to Passage of Game Ordinance.

NO DIRECT CHARGES WERE MADE.

Last Night's Mass Meeting Not a Numerical Success

BUT IT WAS VERY HOT STUFF.

Tone Was Principally Against Dominion Government and the Yukon Council.

From Thursday and Friday's Daily. At last the acts of the Yukon council are to be investigated by a commission appointed by a meeting called by the citizens' committee. No specific charges have been preferred, but dark hints were dropped at the so-called mass meeting last night that an investigation will reveal a condition of affairs which will warrant the calling for a royal commission to do further investigating. The particular act of the council in question is the game ordinance passed by it and it is to find out the means employed in securing its enactment and passage that the committee composed of Mr. Matheson, a freighter, Joe Clarke and Col. Donald MacGregor was appointed. The third man on the committee was hard to find as no one wished to act, but it was finally forced on the colonel.

The meeting last night at McDonald hall was not a large one from a numerical standpoint, there being less than 40 persons present; but what the meeting lacked in numbers it made up in what might properly be called "utter abandon" of speech as the result of the introduction of numerous resolutions which were typewritten, brought to the meeting and handed around to various persons to be presented to the meeting.

Col. MacGregor called the meeting to order and said it would be conducted along the line of previous meetings of the citizens' committee's mass meetings in the palmy days of that committee. The colonel then said the meeting should select a new chairman or retain him as it desired. The hint was taken and the colonel was retained. Joe Clarke was retained at the secretary's table. The chairman said the meeting would be conducted on parliamentary lines and it was declared open for business.

C. M. Woodworth was the first on the floor. He said there were many important things to come before the meeting, among them arrangements for properly receiving his honor, the new commissioner, the consideration of the establishment of an assay office in Dawson and many other things. Mr. Woodworth favored the locating of an assay office here and closed his remarks by introducing a resolution very similar to that passed by the Board of Trade a week ago in that the government establish an office here for the assay and purchase of gold dust, but that it be not compulsory that owners of dust must sell to it. The resolution was seconded by J. H. Willison, who asked that meetings be called on the various creeks to obtain the sentiment of the miners on the questions of an assay office and of retiring gold dust as a medium of exchange. With this addition the resolution passed.

In a document replete with whereases, Dr. Catto introduced a resolution that the citizens' committee with Councilman Wilson added thereto, present to his honor, Mr. Ross, a copy of the citizens' address as presented to the governor general on the occasion of his visit here last August. In support of his resolution Dr. Catto talked at length and said all mining laws should be made here; that the minister of the interior is deaf and that his brain is defective. The resolution was adopted.

J. R. Hamilton, a second-hand dealer to whom had been assigned the duty of introducing one of the many resolutions, next took the floor. The purport of his resolution was that, whereas, at a mass meeting held on May 7 of last year a motion made J. F. Sugrue

and seconded by Mr. Prudhomme, the government at Ottawa had been requested to withdraw Mr. Ogilvie as commissioner of the Yukon, and in view of the fact that such request had at length been granted, that a vote of thanks be tendered the government for its compliance with the request. Joe Clarke seconded the resolution. Woodworth opposed the resolution and said its passage would reflect discredit on the citizens' committee; that the crowd was too small to adopt such a resolution and he did not believe it would carry, giving to Mr. Ogilvie a commendation rather than a rebuke. Alex McFarlane, J. W. Willison and J. H. Falconer all opposed, the latter saying that Mr. Ogilvie may have made mistakes, but he could not be accused of boodling. Joe Clarke favored the motion and accused the meeting of lacking in backbone. Dr. Catto, in his inimitable tone which he never varies because it can not be imitated, said the retirement of Mr. Ogilvie was too small an affair for which to be thankful. Mr. Willison asked if Mr. Ogilvie had been removed or had voluntarily resigned, and, in Biblical parlance, "No man could answer." Col. MacGregor thought the resolution in bad taste and ruled it out of order. But the crowd would not stand for that kind of "parliamentary" work and Hamilton was requested to withdraw the resolution, which he did.

Joe Clarke, having been "trun down" on the "gratitude" resolution of Hamilton, sprung one himself which he introduced by a rambling preliminary in which he referred to a certain high Yukon official as "a travesty" and in the next breath said "Poor McTavish who preferred the charges last year was given money and made to skip off down the river for he told me so himself the evening he left." Then he introduced the resolution mentioned in the beginning of this article which provides for the appointment of a commission to investigate the means used in bringing about the passage of the game ordinance, and for further providing for a royal commission if grounds are found, also for the suspending from office the parties under investigation while the investigation of the royal commission is in progress. Later the part providing for a royal commission was stricken out. The resolution furnished food for more than an hour's talk.

Mr. Matheson, formerly a hunter, but for two winters past engaged in freighting meat down the Klondike, made a very interesting talk which, while foreign to the resolution, imparted a vast amount of information relative to the abundance of game in the upper Klondike country. In one gulch Mr. Matheson saw 10,000 ptarmigan and 3000 caribou and he believed there were ten times as many caribou in the brush which he could not see. Game is plentiful and Mr. Matheson says there is no danger of caribou, ptarmigan, pheasant and grouse being exterminated for years to come. Moose, he said are becoming somewhat scarce. Mr. Matheson can not see the sense of protecting ducks and other migratory birds in the Yukon to allow them to "fly south and be killed and eaten in Seattle and California." He seconded the resolution. He said the Yukon council has no use for what they term the "bum hunter" but said the "bum hunter" is the man who will discover gold in the upper Klondike if it is there, as when they are not hunting they are prospecting. He thought, to quote from Shakespeare, "unseemly haste" had been exercised by the council in the passage of the ordinance.

Woodworth thought it probable that the council had been jobbed into passing the ordinance and was of itself prompted by good intentions. Clarke said it was not the game the council wants to protect, but the butchers. Catto said the man who drew the ordinance was inconsistent as its preamble said it was to protect game and in the ordinance it says it is to protect butchers. He favored the investigation. Woodworth opposed the investigation and said the resolution as introduced did not emanate from the whole citizens' committee.

Barney Sugrue said Wilson and Prudhomme should be asked to look after the question and have it reopened. Joe Clarke said he has evidence which shows that an investigation should be held. Mr. Clement, of Brian & Clement wanted the committee to be general and have authority to investigate all alleged corruption. Col. MacGregor could not see how meat destroyed on a certain day as per ordinance would protect living game. He gave it as his opinion that there is something wrong. The resolution finally passed as above stated.

Barney Sugrue wanted to know why Mr. Anderson had been appointed boiler inspector when the credentials of other applicants had not even been

looked at. Alex McFarlane said the government had a right to appoint whom it pleased and Barney replied "The government has no power to hoodwink the people." He said Prudhomme was on the committee but was not consulted in the appointment.

The secretary was finally instructed to address a letter to the Yukon council asking for an explanation of its act in appointing the present inspector of boilers.

Joe Clarke introduced another resolution the substance of which was that, whereas, the demi-monde of Dawson is soon to move to Klondike City and as there is now one free bridge over the Klondike river and as the Yukon council is arranging to take over the toll bridge leading to Klondike City and making thereof a free bridge, that the council be petitioned to at once cease from expending any more money on Klondike bridges until there are good roads and trails made leading to all creeks. The resolution passed.

J. H. Falconer moved that a vote of thanks be tendered the Ottawa government for reducing the royalty from 10 to 5 per cent. Barney Sugrue said to thank God and not the government; thanks are due from the government to the citizens' committee for calling its attention to the needed reduction. Catto strongly opposed the motion and said 10 per cent had maintained an indecent government and it would continue to be indecent on 5 per cent royalty. J. W. Willison said the government probably didn't care about thanks but thought it should be accompanied by a request to continue in the good work and remove the royalty entirely. Frank Slavin who had seconded Falconer's resolution, strongly favored it and said, "The mining laws of the Yukon today are the best in the world." Nobody called Slavin a liar. Frank Hales opposed the resolution and said "we should thank the government for nothing." By adding a request that royalty be entirely abolished, the resolution passed.

About this time, the hour of midnight drawing very near, a number left the hall and Joe Clarke loudly announced that the hall had to be paid for and a dollar "per" would foot the bill. This only added to the stampede and the meeting informally dissolved into the night, no motion to that effect being made. A few, however, stopped at the officers' desk and the "kerplunk" of silver was heard.

## FIRE AT A ROADHOUSE

Elby on 30 Below Bonanza Narrowly Escapes Destruction.

Last Tuesday night while the big wind storm was raging the Elby roadhouse on 30 below Bonanza caught fire and it was only by the greatest exertions on the part of a bucket brigade that the entire structure was not burned to the ground. Mrs. Davis who is housekeeper for the house has a room back of the kitchen. While closing the door which the wind had blown open her lamp which was on a stand suddenly exploded and in an instant her room was in flames. The alarm was sounded and before the fire could spread to the other part of the house it was under control but not until it had completely burned up the entire contents of the room. Mrs. Davis lost all her dust, diamonds and other jewelry and also \$2000 in currency which she had sewed up in her bedclothes. The fire spread so rapidly that it was impossible to save one single item of her personal effects or furniture and her loss amounts to more than \$4000. The damage to the main building is very slight. The Elby is one of the largest roadhouses on the creek and is owned by Messrs. Nicholson and Marsten.

## PROMISING KOYUKUK

Letter Received Says Country is Very Rich.

Barney McElroy, of Dawson, has received a letter from Victor Virgil Lowry who left here five weeks ago for Koyukuk. The letter was written from Fort Yukon, which place Lowry reached after a rather bad trip over the ice from Dawson, a large part of which was over a practically untraveled and in many places, badly drifted trail. At Fort Yukon Lowry had met a man just out from the Koyukuk from whom he learned that several of the creeks in that country are turning out remarkably well, pans being taken from claims on Gold Bench going from \$3 to \$5

each. Other rich creeks are reported as having been discovered and the prospects of the country in general are extremely good. Provisions are very scarce, the miners having to go to Bergman, a distance of 70 or 80 miles, for flour, lard, sugar and tobacco. Lowry intended pushing on from Fort Yukon at once by way of Chandelar river. He was in the Koyukuk last year when he secured on interest in a number of claims which he proposes developing this season.

## TO RETIRE GOLD DUST

Council of Board of Trade Holds Short Meeting.

The council of the Board of Trade held a short meeting last night at which the president announced the following committee to confer with the miners and merchants relative to the retirement of the gold dust as a medium of exchange: D. B. Olson, Alex McDonald, H. C. Macaulay, E. B. Condon and T. A. McGowan.

Mr. Condon leaves today for a trip up the various creeks and he will bring back with him expressions of opinions from the representative miners on the subject.

The discussion of the transportation question was left over for one week when it will be brought up and precedence over all other questions. Notices will be sent to all members of the board, and others interested in the subject will be invited to be present.

## OGILVIE INVITED

To Attend the Banquet to be Given to Commissioner Ross.

The banquet committee yesterday afternoon met in the Board of Trade rooms for the purpose of forming sub-committees and electing a chairman for the night of the banquet which is to be tendered to Commissioner Ross. R. P. McLennan acted as chairman. A special committee was elected to arrange a toast list and menu as follows: Wade, McCaul, White, Gosselin, Bliss, and Walsh. Attorney White withdrew in favor of H. TeRoller, acting U. S. consul.

A sub-committee was formed to arrange for banquet music, wine and decorations including the following names: Mizner, Doig, White, Lewin, Milne and O'Brien.

H. T. Wills was elected to preside at the banquet as chairman. Complimentary tickets were ordered sent to judges of the territorial court, officer commanding N. W. M. P., and Commissioner Ogilvie. The committee will meet again today at 5 p. m. and continue to meet until all arrangements have been perfected.

## Four Kings and a Joker

At the time of Col. Cody's advent into the capital of Germany the old Emperor William was entertaining three kings of smaller Germanic powers. The royal gentlemen were very much interested in the Buffalo Bill exhibitions, and Col. Cody was the recipient of many favors from the emperor himself. One feature of the performance was the exhibition of the antiquated Deadwood coach containing passengers who are attacked by Indians and finally rescued by cowboys.

The kaiser asked to be allowed to ride in this vehicle with his royal guests and to participate in this interesting experience. The request was of course granted, and when the coach was furiously assailed by howling Indians its inmates were as usual saved by gallant cowboys.

After it was over and as the royal party were descending from the coach the emperor remarked: "Col. Cody, I do not suppose this is the first time that you have ever held four kings."

"No, your majesty," returned the quick witted scout, "but this is the first time I ever held four kings and a royal joker at the same time!"—San Francisco Evening Post.

## Passing of Sleds.

Although there is little to yet indicate the near approach of spring, the use of sleds and sleighs in Dawson for this year is practically a thing of the past although as long as the nights continue cold the country roads and trails will be in fairly good condition for hauling. The greater part of heavy teaming is now done at night while the surface of the roads is frozen. Around the town runners are being mostly replaced by wheels.

# IN FROM NOME

Messrs. Dwyer and Reed Arrive This Afternoon After 38 Days Travel.

BRING STORY OF WHOLESOME DEATH

Resulting From Stampede Being Caught In Blizzards.

WINTER UNUSUALLY SEVERE.

Considerable Sickness and Destitution Reported—Promising Outlook for the Mining Country.

From Thursday and Friday's Daily. Messrs. Dwyer and Reed, two intrepid long-distance mushers, arrived in Dawson at 2 o'clock this afternoon from Nome, having covered the long distance, much of which was over an unbroken trail, in 38 days, leaving Nome on March 4th. They drove four dogs and traveled very light, starting with but little grub and buying as their needs demanded along the route, but little difficulty being experienced in any place in securing supplies for themselves and feed for their dogs. They left their dogs at the S. Y. T. Co. stables on their arrival and disappeared before a reporter could find them. Mr. TeRoller, however, had a short conversation with them on their arrival and through him it was learned that during the winter previous to the departure of the travelers from Nome nearly 200 people in that and surrounding districts had lost their lives through being caught in blizzards and freezing before they could be rescued. The majority of these deaths had occurred while the victims were out on stampedes, many of them starting with but scant clothing and but little provisions. The lack of timber all through that country causes the wind to blow with unusual severity and as a result wholesale death was the portion of many who attempted stampedes.

It was also learned that there was considerable sickness and much hardship endured in Nome City during the winter, owing to the fact that there are many persons there unable to provide themselves with the necessities of life.

The two travelers met but few parties headed down the river until passing Fort Yukon when several were bound for Koyukuk. From a mining standpoint the prospects of some of the more recently discovered mining districts north of Nome are reported as very flattering.

## Stories of John Sherman.

To his aid in his political life John Sherman brought a nature instinctively methodical and an unflinching probity. He saw to it that the public moneys were not squandered or used for dishonest purposes. A claim for \$1,000,000 was once brought to him for his signature. It had been regularly allowed, but it was illegal, and he refused to sign.

"It has been allowed," insisted the claimant's attorney, "and you must sign it."

"I will not," repeated Mr. Sherman, and he did not. He would have resigned, he afterward confided to a friend, had it been required of him sooner than even seem to sanction fraud. Neither would he permit irregularities. The chief of a bureau one day came to him for an order to pay for some machinery.

"Has it been advertised?" asked the secretary.

"No," said the chief, "but there are only two places where it can be made, and we are accustomed to get their bids and contract with the lowest."

"But," said the secretary, "the law says it must be advertised."

"At least this may pass, for it is made, and we need it."

"I cannot help that. The law says it must be advertised, and advertised it must be." And advertised it was at very large saving to the government.—Saturday Evening Post.

A joint meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and all persons interested in holding bench show is to be held Saturday night in the Board of Trade rooms.