

GOLD DUST AS MEDIUM

Of Exchange Was Thoroughly Discussed Saturday Night.

AT MEETING OF BOARD OF TRADE

And General Expression That It Should be Retired

WAS SENSE OF THE MEETING

But Just How to Best Accomplish Desired Results Is Still an Open Question.

From Monday and Tuesday's Daily. The Board of Trade held a special meeting Saturday night for the consideration of the question of gold dust as a circulating medium. There were about 25 of the representative business men present and after a two-hours' discussion the following resolution was adopted:

It is the opinion of the Board of Trade that lawful money of Canada be the only medium of exchange in Dawson and that the chairman appoint a committee of five within three days to confer with miners and merchants as to the best time to enforce the retirement of gold dust, committee to report within two weeks to a special meeting called for the purpose of receiving the report.

There was a little hesitancy on the part of everyone with regard to opening the discussion, each desiring to hear his neighbor's views before giving his own, but when the ice was fairly broken each took a hand and the question was thoroughly discussed. Upon a call from the chair Mr. Fulda opened the discussion by saying:

"It seems to me that when any question of public interest is brought up for discussion people are very careful about committing themselves. The question which is before us now is one of great importance and we should proceed very slowly. There are a great many things to be considered in the question pro and con and it is for that purpose we are assembled here tonight. While I believe there are several objections to dust as a circulating medium and I consider the objections well taken, yet I don't believe we can dispense with it immediately. I think it would be wise to postpone definite action until after the arrival of the new governor who may have some instructions with regard to the subject. If we make a decisive move now there will be no retraction. There is one question we must consider: If we demand the immediate withdrawal of the dust, can we replace it?"

In reply to Mr. Fulda, Mr. Willis said:

"Mr. Fulda seems to be in some doubt as to the amount of currency necessary to replace the dust now in circulation. I can answer that by saying that there is enough currency now in Dawson to supply all the demand. The question to consider is: Do the people want to enforce the withdrawal of dust from circulation? If they do there is a statute which can be put into force."

Mr. Condon was asked to give the miners' views on the subject but said that he could not do that as he was not a miner, but he thought that gold dust, forced to be taken at any figure other than its actual value, as a medium of exchange was not the proper thing. He agreed with Mr. Willis when he said there was enough currency to supply the exchange for dust.

"The question," he said, "is one of personal bravery. The law on the statute books can be enforced at any time and by any one who would take the proper action to enforce it. It is more of a question of expediency which confronts us, whether it would not work an injustice to everybody to enforce it now while the contracts now outstanding are all for dust payments. I think it would be wise to wait until after the present settlement and then change the system."

Mr. J. H. Rogers, of the W. P. & Y. R., was called upon and said: "This is a subject which does not interest us. We demand currency payment and if everybody does the same that will settle the question."

Mr. Macaulay said: "We should

put some price at which gold dust be taken more to its actual value than the present. Let a committee be appointed from the Board of Trade to confer with a committee of business men to adopt some more equal value. The matter is entirely in the hands of the merchants and they can regulate it."

Mr. Mizner, speaking from the chair, said: "I hardly think that wiping out the dust from circulation or putting it below its present value would be fair to the miner. Dust now in circulation is not worth \$16 and it is worth more than \$15. Last fall there was an attempt made to reduce the price to \$15, but that was considered unfair to miners and it fell through. During a year's business we found that the average actual value of the dust received was \$15.40. At the present time we have a large amount of outstanding accounts payable in dust and I think it would be impossible to restrict it at the present time. We should, however, have an agreement for clean dust and not take anything else."

Captain Olson said: "If we are dealing in large amounts of dust it is an easy matter to clean it, but in small amounts it is a very difficult matter. The merchant here buys his goods outside and pays in currency; he has to pay his transportation and customs house charges in currency and when he has to sell his goods and take dust at \$16 he is losing money all the time. Dawson today is ripe for a currency basis and by giving a month's notice the change could be made very easily. The contracts now out do not affect the situation one particle for the dust which is paid on those contracts will be taken outside and minted without being put into circulation in either case."

Councilman Prudhomme was present and in response to a call from the chair said, "I do not think that there is any diversity of opinion on this point, that if we can get gold dust out of circulation without working an injustice to anyone that it will be a good thing."

"The establishment of a government inspector or assay office to buy the gold would I think be an absolute necessity."

Mr. Thos. O'Brien was asked his opinion and said: "In my opinion it would be very unfair to the miners to force this question on them without their opinion on the matter. The difficulty is that the miners would have to have their dust assayed. The big concern might take an unfair advantage of the small traders by buying dust from the miner and give them in exchange a certificate of value for the purchase of their outfits. I do not think it would be fair to compel the miners to sell their dust to anyone particular concern and that is what would happen if the dust were demonetized."

Mr. Condon took the floor and requested permission to make a few desultory remarks during which he said: "In the first place it is a misdemeanor to have gold dust on your person five miles from the claim. The miners have struck the key note when they say, 'Let us alone.' Make labor payable in currency and you have solved the question."

A representative miner was present who gave his opinion from the miners' standpoint but requested not to be quoted, therefore his name is not given, but he made a very strong talk for the miners, saying: "All the miners with whom I have talked, and the question has been very freely discussed, are very much in favor of the establishment of a currency basis. Never have I heard the expression 'let us alone,' which the gentleman speaking just before me quoted as current among the miners. Everyone realizes that when a man goes around town to buy goods and pays dust that there is always a shrinkage and when he gets through he hasn't in value of goods the amount of money he had with him when he started."

"There is also a feeling that when you buy goods and pay for them in dust you only get the actual amount of goods, which the dust is worth and that is \$15 to the ounce. Lots of the miners sell their dust and buy currency to do their trading just for these reasons. In my estimation and it is the opinion of all the miners with whom I have discussed the question that the establishment of currency as a medium of exchange would be very beneficial to the miners."

Mr. Willis made a statement as to the value of dust from the different creeks to show the percentage of miners who would be losers on the change. Bonanza dust runs from \$15.50 to \$17; Hunker \$17 to \$17.75; Hunker on the concession and Last Chance are low grade; Dominion is worth more than \$16; Sulphur is a little lower than Dominion; Gold Run and Eureka are about the same quality running more over \$17, so that according to the figures he said there was only a small percent-

age of the miners who would be the losers.

Capt. Olson here made a motion that it should be the sense of the meeting that the medium of exchange be currency.

This motion was discussed at considerable length and was finally amended to read as stated at the beginning of this article.

The meeting then adjourned subject to call from the president to hear a report of the committee.

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HOMER BIRD AT SKAGWAY

To Be Tried Second Time for Murder of His Partners.

Skagway, April 6.—Homer Bird has just arrived here on the steamer Senator. He was sentenced at Juneau during the summer of '98 to be hanged at Sitka on September 21st of that year for the murder of his partners Herlin and Patterson at a point on the lower Yukon called Slaughter House Gulch, near Anvil that spring. The supreme court granted a new trial and the case is set for hearing here. The point to be argued is as to whether the case can be tried here or will it have to be tried in division No. 2, in which division the crime was committed.

Bird was first arrested on an island not far from Nome. At one time he broke jail and was at liberty for three weeks when Deputy U. S. Marshal Vawter offered a reward of \$500 for his apprehension. He was finally rearrested and taken to Sitka on the revenue cutter Bear.

MAY PROVE REALITY

Like King's Railroad Bill Alive and Active.

Skagway, April 8.—Thomas Birke, a business associate with Mike King was a passenger from Victoria on the Amur. He says that the bill for the Chilkoot and Lake Bennett Ry., which is being asked by Mike King, did pass its second reading and has also been endorsed by government caucus, but before it will pass to its third reading in the provincial legislature, its sanction must be granted from Ottawa. The same parties backing King in his enterprise have been granted a franchise to build 120 miles of road on Queen Charlotte island, work on the first 30 miles of which will begin at once.

TO RECEIVE MR. ROSS.

Proper Committees Appointed at Meeting Saturday.

As per announcement in the Daily Nugget of Saturday a meeting was held that afternoon to arrange for tendering to the new commissioner of the territory, Hon. J. H. Ross, a fitting reception shortly after his arrival in the city which will probably be about the middle of the present week.

The meeting was held in the Board of Trade rooms and, while not large, was composed of representative Canadian and American residents of Dawson. Thos. W. O'Brien presided as chairman and Attorney Tabor acted in the capacity of secretary. As it was the unanimous sense of the meeting that the new commissioner be duly recognized after his arrival, the following resolution introduced by Attorney W. E. Burritt and seconded by J. P. McLennan passed:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that a banquet be tendered Gov. J. H. Ross upon his arrival in Dawson, and that a committee be appointed to consult with Mr. Ross as to the time of holding the same, and further, holding a public reception in Pioneer hall during the afternoon preceding the evening on which the banquet is held. The chairman to select the committee.

A general committee was appointed by the chair composed of the following:

Messrs. White, R. P. McLennan, Delaney, Milne, Noel, Condon, J. P. McLennan, Wade, Alex. McDonald, Bliss, Willis, Doig, Mizner, TeRoller, Fulda,

Burrert, Bruce, McCaul, Tabor and Clayton with the chairman.

As a special committee to look after the financial end of the matter Messrs. J. P. McLennan, H. T. Willis, Doig, TeRoller, O'Brien, Clayton and Tabor were named. To arrange for banquet, Messrs. R. P. McLennan, Fulda, Mizner, Burritt, Milne and W. D. Bruce. To arrange and have charge of toasts, Messrs. Wade, Bliss, White, McCaul, Walsh, Gosselin.

Reception, Messrs. Wade, White, Noel, Delaney, Condon, Tabor, Alex. McDonald and O'Brien.

F. C. Wade and E. B. Condon were instructed to wire up the river and learn of Mr. Ross' whereabouts, also to inform him of the movement in progress for his reception. An answer came at about 11 o'clock yesterday forenoon from Selkirk. It read as follows: "Accept with pleasure banquet tendered by citizens of Dawson. Your suggested arrangements satisfactory. Would name Monday or Tuesday evening of next week. (Signed.) "J. H. ROSS."

A number of those whose names appear on the above committees were not present at the meeting, but are in full accord with the steps taken and will use their utmost endeavors to make the reception to the new commissioner an unqualified success.

In conversation today with a number of movers in the matter it was stated that the retiring commissioner, Hon. Wm. Ogilvie, will preside as master of ceremonies at the banquet, which will be but a fitting tribute to that gentleman on his stepping aside to give place to his successor in office.

The meeting which was to have been held this afternoon to further perfect arrangements for the reception was postponed until 5 o'clock tomorrow evening.

BEING DULY DEDICATED

New Bridge Over the Klondike River Completed Today.

There was a large crowd went up the Klondike to witness the ceremonies attending the dedication of the new bridge this afternoon. There were between 12 and 15 teams besides a large number on bicycles and on foot who were lined up in front of the barracks, when the signal was given to forward march. The A. C. Co., A. E. Co., N. A. T. & T. Co., and Ames Mercantile Co., each had a team in line. Henry Honnen sent one of his stages. Several cutters were also present and the time honored dog teams were very much in evidence. The various social and benevolent orders were also represented and altogether the procession made a very good showing.

SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Mr. McKinnon, of Mr. Ross' Party, Thrown From Stage.

On the second day of Commissioner Ross' party out from Whitehorse, which was Thursday of last week, and while passing over one of the C. D. Co.'s cutoffs, the stage in which the party was traveling upset throwing Mr. McKinnon, who is coming to Dawson to accept the position of chief of the license bureau, violently against a stump in such way as to cause him to strike on his left side just over the heart. For some time it was thought he would not be able to continue his journey, but becoming slightly better he is coming on with the party which is traveling by easy stages for his benefit.

The party was at Selkirk yesterday and possibly would not leave there until this morning. It is not likely the distinguished travelers will reach Dawson before Wednesday night or Thursday.

Not His Brother.

It is told that Saturday afternoon at the continuation of the trial of Jacob Rosenfield, alias "Uncle Joe," on the charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, which charge was sustained, Rosenfield, alias "Uncle Joe" being held in jail to appear before the territorial court, the man he had claimed ties of brotherhood to, Uncle Hoffman, was put upon the stand as a witness.

Directing his question to Uncle Hoffman and indicating the prisoner Constable Piper said "Is that man your brother?"

"Vat!!!" exclaimed the genuine Uncle. "Dot man my brudder? Vell I should say he-ish nod."

H. S. Wallace and son of 6 Dominion, are spending a few days in town.

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AMERICAN CITIZEN

Aguinaldo Taks Oath of Allegiance to American Government

BUT IS YET A PRISONER AT MANILA

Carter Harrison Again Elected Mayor of Chicago.

MANY REPUBLICAN VICTORIES.

St. Louis Repudiates Bryanism—Dedicates of Carrie Nation Cut Little Ice in Kansas City.

From Monday and Tuesday's Daily. Washington, April 2, via Skagway, April 8.—Aguinaldo has taken the oath of allegiance to the American government under the terms of amnesty previously offered by direction of President McKinley. What disposition will be made of him has not been made public, but at present he is still a prisoner at Manila.

Carter Harrison Re-Elected.

Chicago, April 2, via Skagway, April 8.—For the third time Carter Harrison, Democrat, was elected mayor of Chicago today by an overwhelming majority.

Reports from St. Louis, St. Joseph, Denver, Leaville and other cities where municipal elections were held today show sweeping Republican victories.

In St. Louis the result is of more than local significance, as it is considered a defeat for Bryanism.

In Kansas City the Prohibitionists made very little showing notwithstanding the recent excitement raised there by Mrs. Nation.

Murderer Confesses.

New York, April 2, via Skagway, April 8.—Charles F. Jones, valet of the late Millionaire Rice who was murdered, today made a full confession. He says he forged the will and then killed his employer with chloroform. He claims he was instigated to the crime by Patrick who is also under arrest on the charge of murder.

Mushed Out of Town.

Dr. Morrison, for the past four months a bright and shining light in Whitehorse medical circles, was brought before the police magistrate last week charged with practicing his profession without the necessary license from the Yukon council, and at his trial was fined \$50 or ten days in jail. Not having the wherewith to liquidate he asked Judge Horrigan for a few days grace in which to raise the money, and the prosecuting lawyer, Judge T. W. Jackson, recommending that a reasonable time be granted him in which to settle his indebtedness, he was given until Saturday the 23d. After his release the doctor concluded that he could save money by "hitting the road," and he stood not on the order of his going, but went at once. The first day he reached Dugdale, the next Minto, and on Saturday Caribou, where Conductor Miles gently but firmly told him he would have to buy a ticket or get off. Needless to say that he was left behind when the train pulled out from that thriving burg. Coming from Minto to Caribou on the train the doctor spied "Shorty" Chambers on board and coasting him off into a lonely corner of the car struck him for a V "for a few days," but as "Shorty" had trouble of his own he would not listen to an insinuating voice, and in consequence the worthy disciple of Esculapius could not make the desired loan. He is by all probability, long ere this beyond the reach of the strong arm of the Whitehorse police force, meditating in security over the inhumanity of man to man, and racking his brain for information as to where he shall go to have his abilities—both financial and otherwise—properly recognized by a cold and unfeeling world.—Whitehorse Star.

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