

# James Hamilton Ross, a Western Public Man

Mr. J. H. Ross, of the Yukon, is aptly called the "public man" of the Northwest. He is a man of many parts, and his life has been a constant struggle for the betterment of the territory. He is a man of many parts, and his life has been a constant struggle for the betterment of the territory.

The same by which in the Northwest territories he is even yet most known is "Jim," a friendly nickname of James Hamilton Ross. He was born in London, Ont., May 1, 1854, son of John Edgar Ross of the same name.

## TO THE COUNCIL AT REGINA

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For some time preceding his election to the council, Mr. Ross had been a member of the council. He is a man of many parts, and his life has been a constant struggle for the betterment of the territory.

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to legislate. It was a direct testimony to Mr. Ross's ability that at his first session he was selected one of the committee to draft the memorial, and every line of it shows his handiwork. Thus we find the council calling upon the federal government to recognize the rights of the squatters and of dealing favorably with the claims of the half-breeds. It is in the memorial of this year that we find the first intimation of the wisdom of irrigation in certain parts of the territories, a policy subsequently carried out with vigor when Mr. Ross became commissioner of public works. Railway extension was also demanded. We find, too, that the council urged that it should have greater control in the expenditure of its money. It also demanded more money. If claimed the same subsidy per capita as was given the provinces, as well as additional sums as compensation for the public lands that were being sold by the Dominion government, as well as an advance on account of the school lands that would be sold in a future more or less remote. Two other important items were a demand for reduction of duties and lower freights on lumber and agricultural implements, and most important of all, a request for the representation of the territories in the Dominion parliament.

Good pioneer business that for a maiden session and the next was like unto it. A new member joined the council in the person of Mr. J. G. Turfitt, the present commissioner of public lands. He represented Moose Mountain, described in Governor Dewdney's official speech as "the most beautiful and thriving district of the territories." Mr. Turfitt, as a rule, sided with Mr. Ross and Mr. Oliver, the embryonic territorial opposition, though he deserted them on the most important matter of the session when he and Mr. Jackson Oliver called for many important reforms, a resolution supported by the two of them alone. Indeed in these early days it was the lot of Ross and Oliver to be often alone in their actions and it must be a grim sort of satisfaction to both of them that almost all for which they fought as a "hopeless (?) minority" has been achieved and the realization of the rest is within sight. The proposal of Ross and Oliver was for increased legislative powers; it pointed out that the Northwest was paying more than its share of taxes and that there should be some consideration shown for the deprivation from the territories of its lands, timbers and minerals; it asked for the Hudson's Bay railway, demanded the abolition of official members of the council and that supplies should be by open tender in the districts affected. These were a few of the remarks that were side-tracked, but even when so emasculated, the memorial was not altogether bad. Like the original motion it demanded that the council should be superseded by an assembly elected by the people. It is worth noting, too, that the council declared its intention of keeping aloof from the party politics of the Dominion and announced that any use of the assembly for party purposes would be deplorable—a policy still insisted upon by the assembly. The session was a purely business session and it was tedious to detail the legislation. Mr. Ross introduced and carried a bill to exempt certain properties of the settler from seizure; he made a strong demand for control of the trails and satisfaction of carrying into effect when he came to administer public works. He succeeded also in getting the privilege for the settlers to cut firewood and timber for building and many minor matters were also legislated upon. It is worth noting that up to this time the members of the council received no indemnity for their services, but Sir John A. Macdonald was now generous enough to decide that henceforth they should have \$400 a year.

THE NORTHWEST REBELLION. The calm stream that was marking the progress of the new country was rudely interrupted by one of those disasters that experience shows to be inseparable from the early history of all communities. In the lieutenant-governor's speech at the opening of the session referred to in the previous paragraph, allusion was made to what were described as "exaggerated reports of a feeling of disaffection among the half-breeds and Indians." The council was assured that there was no cause for alarm. "I can confidently say," the lieutenant-governor declared, "that our Indians are generally more contented than they have been since the treaty was made, and the progress they are making in agriculture is most gratifying." It was evident, however, that the lieutenant-governor, who was also Indian commissioner, was being buoyed by false hopes. During the summer of 1884 considerable mutterings of discontent had been heard among the half-breeds in the south Saskatchewan district. They complained that they were unable to obtain patents for lands they had long occupied and were indeed in danger of being dispossessed by land companies, whose grants overlapped their holdings. Their complaints, however, brought no redress, with the unfortunate, the terrible result that is now an old tale and need not be repeated here. Indeed the catastrophe is re-

ferred to now only because the grievances just named are precisely those that the Northwest council on the initiative of Ross and Oliver so strongly yet so vainly urged should be removed. Had that advice been followed there would have been nothing to rebel about and Canada would have been spared a dark and costly page of history.

## THE FIGHT FOR LARGER POWERS

The thread of this history now returns to the work of the Northwest council. The elected members were chosen for two years only, but we find Mr. Ross again in his place, re-elected for Moose Jaw. Amongst members who took their seats for the first time was the present Senator Perley. The council met on the day the last spike was driven into the C. P. R., and the event was referred to in the governor's speech. Not much calling for comment was done this session, the legislation being chiefly of an amending kind. There seemed, however, a great difficulty in getting the reply to the address composed and carried. The committee appointed to draft the document failed in its endeavors and Mr. Ross made a bold dash by proposing that all the elected members be added to the committee. This was carried but did not suffice to bring out agreement. The council therefore went into committee of the whole on the subject and at last an address was drafted that could be agreed to. The reason of all this fighting was the insistence by Mr. Ross and the others who acted with him for stout demands for urgent reforms. The reply made a vigorous demand for parliamentary representation, which the C. P. R.'s exemption from taxation was disapproved; there was a sly hint that the rebellion might have been avoided (as above stated) in Mr. Ross's proposal for compensation to those who had suffered loss and calamity to those who had been imprisoned, suggestions that were ultimately acted upon by the Dominion government. Indeed the rebellion naturally came in for a good deal of notice. Votes of thanks to the N. W. M. P. and the volunteers were passed and recommendations to the central authority to grant pensions to the widows and families of those killed were unanimously agreed to. Amongst other interesting items was the application of sixty-five districts for schools under the Oliver-Ross ordinance. The federal authority was asked to establish a supreme court for the territories and thus avoid the cumbersome and expensive process of having to go to Manitoba. A board of education was also established and finally the Dominion government was asked not to apply the fiscal policy of protection to the territories as the same was believed to be oppressive to the settlers and further, that officials should be selected from residents in the territories. It remains to be already visible on the horizon. The elected members now outnumbered the official and appointed members of the council, and the lieutenant-governor lamented the great difficulty of consulting the members of the council in their executive capacity when not in session and expressed a hope that some arrangement might be made under which he would have the benefit of such assistance, thus shadowing the establishment of an advisory council, ministry or cabinet. The immediate arrangement was that the local members should have access to his honor on matters affecting their respective districts.

## MR. ROSS'S MARRIAGE

Before the council again met an event happened to Mr. Ross of the kind trivially but truthfully described as the most important event in any man's career. Mr. Ross was a successful pioneer, had become a foremost citizen of the Northwest territories and had taken his legitimate position in the front rank of legislators. He now married, the lady being Miss Barbara E. McKay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McKay, of Moose Jaw, formerly of Prince Edward Island, and now living at Victoria, B. C., and with them the younger portion of Mr. Ross's family. Mr. Ross has been described as a pioneer. So was Mrs. Ross. She made a pleasantly playful allusion to this in a neat little speech at a semi-public function at government house, Regina, on the occasion of a presentation to her by the ladies of the town on her departure to share in her husband's new career, a journey brightly heralded, but on which the dark shadow of tragic gloom throws a quaint and interesting side-light on her pioneer life. She said: "I have been nineteen years in the territories—but will not say what proportion that is of my life as it will be telling too much, but it is almost half a life time. I came to the territories as a young woman and I am not going to the Yukon alone, but am taking seven little Nor' Westers with me. I cannot forget the Northwest is my home and I shall always regard it as my home. In nineteen years one makes a good many friends and I hope I have, I know I have, and in leaving them I am sorry. It is said that Mr. Ross was the first white man in his district and I was the first white woman. In reply to this a friend had said 'well, then when he selected you he had not

many to choose from.' This was said as a joke on me, but I can tell you all I am very pleased because had it not been for that I might not have had the pleasure of meeting you this afternoon." The marriage was a fortunate one to both parties. They were companions meet for each other. Lest it be thought that this sketch of Mr. Ross's career has too much Northwest assembly in it, let it be said that Mr. Ross's public life is written there and there alone, just as his private life is written by the hearth of his home and there alone. Of this "the daily round, the common task" is all there is to record. The ladies of Regina in taking leave of Mrs. Ross spoke of her "strong, sunny personality," of "her wisdom in counsel and strength in execution," of "fine qualities of heart and brain which shed forth such a kind of lustre to the cheer and help of many." These were the qualities that filled the Ross home with joyousness. Mr. Ross himself too was always full of cheer, a genial, indeed, a jovial smile never absent from his face and thus the happy couple, with a merry family around them, were a pattern of domestic felicity. This is all that needs to be said of the sanctity of their private life.

## A CANDIDATE FOR THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT

Another important event in Mr. Ross's career took place before the Northwest council again met. The Dominion government had acceded to the demands of the council so strongly urged by Oliver and Ross for parliamentary representation of the territories. Two seats in the senate and four in the house of commons were allotted and in 1887 there was a general election. In West Assiniboia Mr. Ross was elected the standard bearer of liberalism, his opponent being the late Mr. Davin. It required courage and an iron will even to avow liberalism let alone championing it in the Northwest in those days. A short time ago Mr. A. L. Sifton and quite recently Mayor Finlay of Medicine Hat, have spoken of the disdain with which Liberals were regarded by their neighbors at the period under review. The strong personality of Sir John Macdonald and the fascinating fallacies of the National policy had dazzled and dared people and Liberals were regarded not merely as persons holding certain opinions but as traitors to the people and false to the country. Particularly was the Northwest believed to have the special care of the powerful Sir John, who, aided by Sir Charles Tupper, promised all the blessings of the earth and the heavens as well for the prairies of the west if its settlers would but fall down and worship the inventors of the N. P. The task Mr. Ross undertook, therefore, was no light matter, but he was equal to the occasion. He had already established a reputation as a lucid debater and persuasive exponent of his views. He now showed himself not only an effective platform speaker, but a powerful orator. The contest of 1887 is the topic of conversation today and we are told how Ross handled Davin without gloves. It must indeed have been a splendid fight. Davin's effervescent fireworks and Ross's ponderous cannonading reverberating as from amid the Scotch mountains whence the blood within him came. It was artillery against fireworks. The fireworks won, however (Davin, 726; Ross, 423.) But the effect of the battle was the beginning of the unmaking of Davin, the latter evidenced by the fact that Mr. Davin's next opponent was a foe of his own household, politically speaking of course, viz.: Mr. Tweed of Medicine Hat. (Concluded in Wednesday's issue.)

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## ALTERNATE MONDAYS

### City Council to Meet Semi-Monthly

### End of the Summer Work Does Away With the Weekly Sessions.

After the present month shall have become a part of the dead past the city council will meet but twice a month, Alderman Murphy having at the meeting last night given notice that at the meeting to be held two weeks hence he intended to introduce a motion to amend the bylaw providing for the weekly meetings by the insertion of the word "alternate." The change will take effect about the first of December and thereafter the council will meet only every other Monday. The reason for such action is on account of the closing down of practically all the work of the city which obviates the necessity of meeting every week. Should an occasion ever arise by which quick action should be desired a special meeting can be called at a moment's notice. The session last night was the shortest in the history of the council, it not lasting much over a half hour. At the opening Police Commissioner Macdonald took the chair owing to the absence of Mayor Macaulay, but as the latter arrived almost immediately the head of the table was resigned in favor of his worship. All the members were present.

## NOT NECESSARY.

Dr. McLaughlin has written a book which tells how the physical body can be filled with vitality. It is not necessary to read his book. Just trade with Dunham, who carries the finest line of family groceries in Dawson.

## FOR SALE—Very cheap, interest in creek claim No. 143 below lower on Dominion. Inquire E. C. Stahl, this office.

## D. A. A. A.

Tenders will be received by the undersigned up to Saturday next (8th inst.) noon, from parties willing to supply two hundred and twenty-five cords (approximately) firewood, laid down at the D. A. A. A. building, Dawson.

## (a) In four-foot lengths.

## (b) In sixteen-foot lengths.

Wood to be delivered as required. The association does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

C. B. BURNS, Secretary D. A. A. A.

P. O. Box 391.

Auditorium—"Are You a Mason?"

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Stradbrooke, in Suffolk, has been the scene of a remarkable harvest feat. A local farmer last week carried a field of wheat during the morning, threshed it in the afternoon, sold and delivered it to a local miller early in the evening; the miller ran some through his mill, and with in four-and-twenty hours of the wheat being taken from the field in which it had grown he had sold flour that had been manufactured from it.

According to a report issued by the British Medical Association, one of the chief causes of the prevalent decay of teeth is that the average dental apparatus does not get enough work. It is held that cooking has come to such a condition of refinement that chewing is becoming one of the lost arts and that the teeth are simply wasting away from lack of exercise.

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It's False Economy To Delay Buying What You Really Need. NOW is the time to buy your Overcoats, Caps, Mitts and Winter Goods. Our Line is Complete. PRICES RIGHT. M. RYAN, Front St. Under the Ferry Tower

mitted his report for the month, showing the number of arrests made for infraction of the city bylaws and the fines collected. The total arrests made was 35 in all of which with two exceptions convictions were required. The two exceptions were dismissed with a caution. The classification of the convictions included 27 drunk and disorderly, two for running bicycles on the sidewalk, and one each for running a hand cart on the sidewalk, committing a nuisance, furious riding and obstructing the streets. Fines collected amounted to \$141.

The following new bills were presented:

Standard Oil Co.	\$ 6.00
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W. Barrett	176.00
W. S. Kennedy	39.00
Telephone Co.	40.00
J. P. O'Connor	200.00
H. L. Meyers	26.00
R. Moncrief	204.00
Dawson Transfer Co.	25.00
E. Shoff	2.00
Mechanics' Emporium	8.00

With reference to the bill of W. Barrett, Alderman Murphy stated that it was for feed for the stock of the fire department and as an exceptionally low price had been given the arrangement was that it should be a spot cash transaction. He recommended that it be paid at once which was agreed to.

The bill being made on Second avenue and Princess street was referred to incidentally, his worship remarking that the retaining walls being put up on either side of the street should be placed in position with considerable care in order that the street should not spread as the result of heavy traffic passing over it. The suggestion was made that the walls should be double.

Alderman Murphy gave notice of the amendment to the meeting bylaw that he intended to introduce two weeks hence, which met the approval of the entire council. The resolution of Alderman Macdonald, notice of which intention was given two weeks ago, to reduce the fee for the transfer of licenses to a minimum of \$5, was due last night, but its presentation was deferred another week. The motion had been prepared but it was not at hand at that time and its postponement was necessary.

Bathing facilities are provided for the employees of a great paint factory in Cleveland, Ohio. All are encouraged to take daily shower baths and the men of the "dry color department" are absolutely required to do so in the interests of their health. Before the rule was made it was a rare thing for any man to work more than a month in the department mentioned, owing to the injurious action of the lead used in making dry colors. Nowadays, men are able to work years in this department, and not more than one in twenty appears to be injuriously affected by the lead.

There are more school gardens in Bavaria and Oldenburg than in any other part of Germany. In Prussia there are none, although there are a few public schools in which agriculture is taught. A school for the cultivation of vegetables was established for young people who were past school age in Batavia, Germany, some years ago.

Apia, in Samoa, has been holding a cricket match for the benefit of the church that has lasted three months. There is no entrance fee for the spectators, but anyone who chooses can bat on paying 1s, and when he is bowled out can go in again on paying once more.

## \$50 Reward

Stolen Sunday, June 8th, one male, small dog, very dark grey, white breast, light chops, light grey stripe running from point of nose up between eyes, front legs white, hind feet white, extreme tip of tail white, belly light color, always carries tail curled, over back or left side, nose very small like a fox or coon. I will pay the above reward for any information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the thief and recovery of dog.

Answers to name of Prince.

F. J. HEMEN.

Klondike Nugget.

# FOUR CARLOADS OF JOB PRINTING MATERIAL

The finest and Largest Assortment Ever Brought to Dawson.

DO YOU NEED PRINTING? IF SO THESE PRICES WILL GET YOUR WORK:

Letterheads	\$6. PER THOUSAND
Business Cards	3. "
Meal Tickets	4. "
Dodgers	4. "

Jobs Promised Tomorrow Delivered Today.

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET JOB PRINTING DEPARTMENT.