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SECRETARY OF STATE TALKS

Says Nothing Has Yet Been Gazetted Re-Treadgold Concession and Nothing Done That Cannot Be Reconsidered—No Monoply.

Ottawa, Feb. 19.—In an interview on the Treadgold concession matter, Secretary of State Scott says:

"A clause has been inserted protecting miners in so far as they can demand and secure water raised by hydraulic process and thus work their claims. The project, it is assumed was in the interest of the country, and there was no suggestion of monopoly.

"Another object is to utilize sections of mining lands not accessible at present on account of their situation above the water level. At present a great volume of water flows off during the spring freshets and it is the intention to reserve part of this for distribution during the remaining months of the year in districts not worked now. Several parties made similar proposals to the government during the last few years. An agreement will naturally cause excitement at the present time, but it will prove, I think, to be in the interests of the district. There is no monopoly. The company must provide miners with water, and lands will be worked which are now valueless. The whole matter will be discussed in parliament.

"No order concerning it has yet been gazetted and whatever has been done is subject to reconsideration on any evidence the people of the Klondike have to offer."

Fake Correspondence

Vancouver, Feb. 19.—The Seattle Times correspondent in Dawson has raised much excitement throughout Canada by the statement that Dawson's deathblow has been struck by the Treadgold concession order and that a majority of the merchants and miners are abandoning that town already for Eagle City.

Notice.

For the benefit of our friends we wish it understood that the Alex. Ross who was fined in the police court for drunk and disorderly conduct was not Alex. Ross of the Bank of Commerce nor Alex. Ross of the Seattle saloon.

Governor at Vancouver

Vancouver, Feb. 19. — Governor Ross arrived from Dawson this morning. He goes to Ottawa Friday.

Lib ral Ass ciation.

The meeting of the Liberal association advertised for this evening at Pioneer hall has been postponed.

Miss Canada:—"Sir Wilfrid, You Must Right This Matter."

DOINGS AT OTTAWA

Parliament is Getting Down to Work.

John Charlton Favors Principle of Reciprocity in Matters of International Trade.

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—Bennett will offer a resolution in parliament that in the event of a military force being sent from Canada to the coronation, such force shall be composed "in entirety of officers and men who have seen active service with the Canadian contingents in South Africa."

John Charlton will move "that the House is of the opinion that Canadian import duties should be arranged upon a principle of reciprocity in trade conditions so far as may be consistent with Canadian interests, that a rebate of not less than forty per cent. of the amount of duties imposed should be made upon dutiable imports from nations or countries admitting Canadian natural products into their markets free of duty, and that the scale of Canadian duties should be sufficiently high to avoid inflicting injury upon Canadian interests where a rebate of forty per cent. or more shall be made under such conditions."

In the House today Premier Laurier announced that the Alaska boundary matter is in the same position as last year.

SMALL SUM FOR YUKON

Only $50,000 For River Improvements.

Total Federal Estimate Much Less Than Last Year, Including Capital Account.

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—The Federal estimates for 1902-3 show a total of $53,361,638, a decrease from last year of six and a half millions while including the capital account. Of the estimate $50,000 have been provided for improvements on the Lewis and Yukon rivers, but the allowance for the engineers in charge is to be paid from this amount.

Minority Report

Washington, Feb. 18. — The minority report on the Pacific Cable bill dissents from the proposition that the government build the cable and points out that the Commercial Company is already prepared to construct a cable on advantageous terms to the people.

Seeks Incorporation

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—The Metropolitan Bank of Canada seeks incorporation at the hands of parliament.

WOODWORTH IN CONTEMPT

Case is Called in Territorial Court This Morning and Enlarged Until March 10th—Defendant Appears in His Own Behalf.

The contempt proceedings brought against C. M. Woodworth at the instigation of Mr. Justice Dugas were begun this morning and after considerable argument upon points of law involved was adjourned until March 10 or thereabouts, pending the recovery of certain documents needed and thought to be still in the city, but which may have been forwarded to the British Columbia court of appeal as a part of the record.

The contempt of which Mr. Woodworth is alleged to be guilty is the outcome of the famous case of Belcher vs. McDonald, in which something like $100,000 was involved, Mr. Woodworth acting as counsel for the plaintiff. The case was heard before Charles Macdonald, appointed by the court as referee, and in reference to the findings, which were against his client, Mr. Woodworth is said to have committed a contempt by filing an affidavit wherein was stated his belief that the referee had been unduly influenced in his findings by means of secret instructions given the referee by his lordship, much to the prejudice of his (Woodworth's) client. At the time of filing the affidavit his lordship held that the allegations were scandalizing and contemptuous and not only false but were malicious, calculated to bring the honorable court into ridicule. Mr. Woodworth was then adjudged in contempt; but was purged from the charge by striking out from his affidavit the matter objected to. On October 17 Mr. Woodworth filed with the clerk a notice of appeal in which it is said he reiterated and accentuated the former contempt by stating in his notice of appeal the following matters and things:

"The said referee was biased in his findings by certain instructions, directions or suggestions as to the taking of accounts made by Mr. Justice Dugas to said referee after the order of reference herein and without the knowledge of the plaintiffs, by which instructions, directions or suggestions the said referee was influenced to take said page 385 of defendant's ledger as his starting point in taking said accounts, and to refuse to receive or give weight to the evidence referred to is sub-parag(aphs (e), (f) and (g) thereof."

In paragraph (I) thereof as follows:

"Said instructions ought not to have been given or in the alternative ought not to have been given without notice to the plaintiffs, and the plaintiffs have been prejudiced therein."

The day following the filing of the notice of appeal Mr. Woodworth departed for the outside and having returned but a few days ago the proceedings now begun have necessarily been delayed. He appeared this morning in his own behalf and was unassisted except by an occasional suggestion by his law partner, Mr. Georges Black. There seemed to be some discrepancy between the copy of the notice of appeal filed and that now in court and Mr. Woodworth disclaimed any responsibility for any other than that he had filed personally on October 17, which it is said does not contain any allegations in reference to "secret instructions," a statement born out by Mr. Arthur Davey, counsel who appeared for Mr. Woodworth in his former contempt proceedings.

His lordship requested the deputy clerk to read the citation ordering Mr. Woodworth to appear and at its conclusion the accused pleaded not guilty to the offense charged. He asked that before further action was taken that Mr. Charles Macdonald, who had brought the proceedings, be instructed to appear in court and also that the court stenographer take careful notes of statements made, as he did not wish to be misquoted.

"Do you admit the signature to your notice of appeal?" asked his lordship.

"My lord," replied the accused, "I am charged with a very serious crime and admit nothing."

Mr. Woodworth insisted upon the presence of him upon whom rests the onus of bringing the action, to which his lordship replied that he himself had caused the proceedings to be taken and Mr. Macdonald had acted only on his instructions. He said further that the witnesses as to the signature in question would be forthcoming at the proper time. In speaking to the citation and in his own behalf Mr. Woodworth referred to the two kinds of contempt of which a person accused may be guilty, that of civil and criminal. From the nature of that brought against him he considered it to be of the latter class and if such were true he is entitled to a trial by a jury of his peers. With unmistakable earnestness he said:

"If I am guilty of this offense as charged there is scarcely any punishment too severe for me."

His lordship was not disposed to look upon the matter in a similar light. He said:

"Why do you make such a play upon words? You are not charged with perjury, but simply making allegations insulting to this court. If in the findings of the referee in the Belcher-McDonald case you considered you were not securing justice why did you not come to me for direction as you have in hundreds of other instances? This court will not stoop to defend itself from idle gossip nor is it bound to go any further than simply declare that such and such allegations are false. You are not accused of perjury by simply re-affirming facts which had previously been denied by the court."

In reply Mr. Woodworth stated that in the case of Belcher vs. McDonald there were large intergsts at stake and he was perhaps more than usually eager in the defense of his client's affairs, but he never for one instant had the remotest idea or intent of offering the court an insult. Exception was also taken to the manner in which the action was brought, a number of cases in point being cited in support of the position taken. Extracts were read from an ordinance passed by the Yukon council in which provisions are made by which the legal adviser is authorized to bring actions similar to that now being heard. His lordship replied that the ordinance in question was not applicable to the present case, but had reference only to such where barristers were accused of maintenance, champerty or misconduct.

Mr. Woodworth also asked that the record be headed correctly and be brought up under a proper motion. He said he still believed that the court had been guilty of errors in its directions to the referee in the Belcher-McDonald case, but insisted that no intentional insult had been offered the court by himself.

His lordship in conclusion expressed regret over what has happened, but he must consider it an insult to the court to re-affirm matters which had once been denied. In causing the con-

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