

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Reports Adversely on Many Bills Considered by It.

No Reductions to be Made Regarding Assessments on Certain Properties—Claims Not Allowed.

The finance committee of the Yukon council held a meeting Wednesday afternoon and prepared the following report which was submitted to the council last evening:

It is recommended that no action be taken in the matter of objections to assessment made on the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Bank of B. N. A., Ames Mercantile Co., Julian Baker, Trading and Exploring Co., and Olaf Olsen, as the committee is of the opinion that they cannot now be considered.

It is recommended that the sum of \$100 be paid to Dr. Madore in full settlement of his services for vaccinating people at Fort Selkirk.

The account of Mr. Dugas in his capacity of acting registrar for search of records made by Mr. Langellen in connection with partnerships, is not recommended for payment.

Action on the account of D. G. Stewart for wood was deferred awaiting a report from Capt. Starnes.

In the account of A. Kimash for care of indigent sick at Selkirk the committee was of the opinion that the Victoria Trading Co., of Victoria, is liable and therefore payment was not recommended.

In the matter of licenses to transient traders no further information had been obtained.

Action on the request of the Board of Trade of Whitehorse for assistance to purchase a steam fire engine was deferred for consultation with the board of fire commissioners.

Mrs. Bissler's account for \$72 for care of indigent sick at Whitehorse was recommended for payment.

In regard to the communication of H. E. A. Robertson on behalf of Mrs. McNabb asking for compensation for damages sustained by accidentally falling into a ditch the committee was of the opinion that the council was not liable and therefore no payment was recommended.

ELECTIVE MEMBERS

Of Yukon Council May be Paid for Their Services.

Commissioner Ross stated at the council meeting last night that it is his intention to introduce a bill in the near future providing suitable remuneration to the elected members of the council. This he said is in accordance with the rules of the legislative bodies with which he has previously been connected, where all the elected members receive remuneration and he considers the elected members of the local council certainly entitled to remuneration for their services. He also stated that he had considered the advisability of changing the meetings of the council from once a week to once a month and thought that the change would be for the better. Instead of passing a bill from week to week as is now done the council could sit two or three nights at a session if necessary to complete the business. This was considered a good suggestion by the council and while no action was taken last night, the change in the meetings will probably go into effect next week.

Mr. Wilson thanked the commissioner for the expression of the interest which he has taken in behalf of the elected members and said he thought that the remuneration should extend to the appointed members as well as the elected. Justice Dugas informed him that appointed members in the council cannot receive compensation for their services.

The matter of erecting a school building was discussed and a meeting of the board of public instruction will be called in a short time to further consider the matter.

Historical Landmark Removed.

The water house which for the past two winters has been located on Second avenue near Third street and which has been the occasion of much trouble such as lawsuits and fistie encounters, but which held its own against all comers, has been removed by the water company, voluntarily and in its own good time, taking with it both benedictions and maledictions, pleasant and bitter recollections. Covered with ragged bills advertising everything from prima donna down to Mustang trowsers, this ham bone of contention was taken from its moorings last night and now rests from its labors on the vacant lot in front of the criba of shady avenue. Of this building it may be truthfully said it is gone but not forgotten.

A Packed House. There was not a vacant seat at the Standard last night and no vacant standing room. It was family night

and families were there by the hundreds. In the play, "Sam'l o' Poseb," the reputation of the house and of the cast were fully and ably sustained. The management should, on the occasion of a crowded house such as was witnessed last night, provide a sufficient number of ushers to properly seat ticket holders as they arrive and thereby avoid confusion and the necessity of having to produce ticket stubs for inspection at irregular intervals during the performance. Next week that very popular play, "Shore Acres" will hold the boards and it is needless to say it will be a winner.

WILSON'S LIEN LAW

Again Deferred for Further Consideration.

The discussion of Wilson's miners' lien ordinance occupied a large portion of the time at the Yukon council meeting last night. Notwithstanding the fact that the retroactive clause was considered the most dangerous and difficult part of the ordinance and had been stricken out, yet after a discussion of an hour and a half it was found necessary to pass it up again for another week in order that new recommendations which were made last night might be incorporated in the bill by the legal adviser.

Copies of the recommendations as made by the Board of Trade were in the hands of the councilmen and where they did not create too much of a change in the purpose of the ordinance, they were adopted.

The council went into a committee of the whole with Mr. Wilson as chairman, who read the ordinance by sections. The first three sections were approved as read.

Section four gives the lien priority over all mortgages or other transfers made and recorded before the work for which the lien is taken commenced.

The Board of Trade recommended that the section be changed so that the lien or mortgage recorded first should take priority. As that, in the estimation of the legal adviser would practically nullify the whole intent of the ordinance, it was decided to allow the section to stand as read. Section five, with a few minor amendments was adopted. Section six, which in the ordinance provides for the registration of the lien to be made at the office of the gold commissioner or mining recorder was changed so that the liens should be filed in the registrar's office where the records can be kept together and open to inspection.

The reading went along very smoothly until the 17th section was reached when a snag was run into which nearly upset the whole proceedings.

This clause was considered by Legal Adviser Congdon the one to receive the most consideration as it opened an opportunity for injustice to be committed which it was desired to avoid.

Mr. Justice Dugas, speaking on the ordinance said: "To be frank with you it is my opinion that it will be found impracticable to enforce such a lien. We are trying to create a lien on property which does not exist. It is well and good for a lien to be placed on a building, where the material is on the ground. In the Northwest territories and British Columbia where a miners' lien has been attempted the only attachable property has been found to be the cabin and the shanties on the claim and it will be found the same here, unless the lien can be made on the title to the property the same as the mortgage."

Mr. Congdon said: "Besides the objections raised there is a liability under the ordinance for a lien to be placed on the dump just at the time the washup commences which would stop all work and perhaps by the time the claim was settled the water would be gone and then the dirt could not be washed up that year."

Mr. Wilson said that was an extreme view to take of the case although there was a possibility that it might happen. He thought that as laboring men are generally reasonable beings that the possibilities were small for such extreme measures to be taken.

After further discussion the questions involved were found to be of such importance that it was decided that further consideration would have to be given it, so on motion the committee arose and reported progress.

Fresh home grown lettuce and radishes are on sale in the market today.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

Fresh eggs. Selman & Myers.

SCIENTIST TALKS OF MARS

Does Not Believe Planetary Communication Possible.

Mars Much Older Than Earth and Probably Farther Advanced—Many Theories are Delusions.

Although it may be a shock for those who are fond of a sensation, I do not believe that it will ever be possible to establish interplanetary communication.

Let us first speak of the earth and the planet Mars. The distance between these two planets is too great to permit of communication; they are never less than 42,000,000 miles apart. I think it probable that Mars is inhabited. It is a planet which resembles ours in a great many ways. It has its continents, its seas, its clouds, its snow, its seasons. It takes longer than the earth to revolve around the sun. The year of Mars numbers 680 days, but it revolves round its axis in 24 hours, 37 minutes and 23 seconds. The days are, therefore, a little longer than ours.

During part of the year the cold is much more intense than on our planet, and the snow at the poles extends itself much further. This climatic difference has probably produced a more hardy race.

These observations are well known to scientists. A great many photographs have been taken of different parts of the planet; some very good ones were shown at the Paris exhibition. But between observing a planet and entering into communication with its inhabitants there exists an abyss which cannot be crossed.

All who interest themselves in astronomy have read about the canals which seem to put the seas of Mars in communication with each other. Some astronomers have gone so far as to suggest that the geometrical lines of these canals can be accounted for only by the theory that they have been constructed by human beings. But this is pure speculation.

The human eye perceives distinctly anything within its visual ray in less than the tenth of a second. The impressions can therefore be considered as instantaneous, and not subject to atmospheric disturbances. Not so in photography of planets and stars.

Here at the observatory we take great numbers of photographs, but atmospheric conditions do not permit us to take true ones more than four or five times a year. The light sent out by the planet is so reduced that the least disturbance of the atmosphere changes the aspect of the photograph, and under these conditions no two of them are alike. How is it, therefore, possible to be sure of what we think we see on the surface of these planets?

It is otherwise for the sun. The floods of light sent out by our day star almost neutralizes the influence of atmospheric disturbance on the sensitive plate.

Some astronomers have recently declared that they have detected geometrical figures of large dimensions formed by shining points on the surface of Mars. They have suggested that these might be signals by which the astronomers of Mars wished to enter into communication with the inhabitants of the earth, which is their most brilliant. But I think that optical illusion plays a great part in these astronomical observations.

We have now first-class instruments, which magnify 800 times. These dimensions are detrimental to the distinctness of the pictures, because the field of action for atmospheric disturbances is correspondingly greater.

In order to be visible on Mars, communications from the earth could be sent only by means of large geometrical figures of light signals. These figures should be at least 100 miles in size. Before undertaking communication with Mars astronomers must accept as probable that Mars is inhabited, that its inhabitants study the heavens as we do, that they observe our planet in particular with instruments similar to ours.

No signals sent out at such a formidable distance could bear the same aspect in a succession of photographs. They might easily be mistaken for other objects. According to the most probable cosmogonic theories the planet Mars is several million years older than the earth. The latter has been habitable for at least 20,000,000 years, although man's first appearance upon it

dates back about 100,000 years. Hence some astronomers assume that the inhabitants of Mars are more civilized than the inhabitants of the earth. This, however, is mere conjecture.

I am glad to say that astronomers have a great deal of interesting work to do apart from attempting the impossible. We belong to that class where all racial difference disappears. We form a cosmopolitan society, so to speak, where French, English, Germans, Italians, and, last but not least Americans in harmony together.

As far as communication with the other planets is concerned, it is altogether out of question. Neither their distances nor their sizes permit us to take such a subject into serious consideration.

I take this opportunity to express my high opinion of American astronomers. I cannot praise too highly their solid work, the minuteness of their investigations, their praiseworthy energy, and their tireless perseverance.— Maurice Loewy in S. F. Examiner.

They are Moving.

But four more days remain in which the painted dentizens of Fourth and Fifth avenues between Second and Third streets can remain in their present quarters; in fact fully half of them have already moved and are now located across the toll bridge in Klondike City and within a few days the haunts that knew them' once will know them no more forever. Where formerly sin, vice and debauchery held high carnival, owls will hoot at midnight and hats will play hide and seek through broken windows of deserted houses.

Notice to Odd Fellows.

Friday, April 26th being the 87th anniversary of Odd Fellowship, all members of the order in Dawson and on the creeks are requested to meet for social intercourse and the "good of the order" at McDonald hall at 9 o'clock of that night.

Refreshing beverages dispensed at The Pioneer.

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NUMEROUS MAD DOGS

Three Killed Yesterday—Another Had Right of Way Today.

It is now an off day that does not develop from one to three cases of rabies. About the same time one mad dog was being killed on Third street yesterday morning another was biting the dust back of the barracks and still another was killed later in the day in the lower part of the city. This morning about 9:45 o'clock a mad dog traveled nearly the entire length of First avenue, snapping at every dog he saw and biting a number of them. It is needless to say that so far as pedestrians were concerned the dog was given the right of way.

Latest stamp photos at Goetzman's.

Mumm's, Pomerey or Perinet champagne \$5 per bottle at the Regina Club hotel.

Electric Light

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A DEEP MYSTERY

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