

TAXATION QUESTION

Was Principal Theme of Discussion at Last Night's Council Meeting

WHEN BOARD OF TRADE COMMITTEE

Was Present to Discuss Various Systems

FOR LEVYING ASSESSMENTS.

Council Willing to Act With Citizens and Committee Appointed With That End in View.

From Friday's Daily.

In response to the invitation of the Yukon council for suggestions from the business men in regard to the taxation question, a committee appointed by the council of the Board of Trade composed of Falcon Joslin, H. T. Wills, Thos. McGowan, F. W. Clayton and J. J. Delaney, appeared before the Yukon council last night.

The council went into a committee of the whole and was addressed by Falcon Joslin on behalf of the committee, who said that at a meeting of the Board of Trade held Wednesday night at which a representative body of business men was present a general discussion of the taxation question was held and a meeting of the council of the board was called for Thursday afternoon with instructions to prepare some kind of system of taxation which would meet with more general satisfaction than the present one and submit the same to the council.

The council of the board had met in the afternoon but the time has been so limited and the question given so little thought that it was found to be an impossibility to prepare a plan in the short space of time allowed. However the committee had arrived at two conclusions: First, that the present ordinance as far as the tax on real estate is considered is fair and just and is generally approved. The tax on the volume of business popularly called the "turnover" system, is considered unfair and unjust and to arrive at some modification of that tax or prepare a new system is the duty of the committee.

The license system had been considered and it was the opinion that a general license tax on business houses and professional men and of other occupations would probably be decided upon. The details of such a plan could not be worked out in such a short time and the committee wished to request a week's time in which to prepare their report.

In reply Commissioner Ogilvie stated that when the present ordinance was enacted opinions had been requested from the business men regarding the best method of taxation but that very few had expressed their opinions on the matter, but that the majority of those who responded were of the opinion that the tax on the volume of business was the one which met with the more general approval. "The turnover and license system, in my estimation," said he, "is the same thing under a different name. It will mean the same in the end, because the tax must be imposed in proportion to the amount of business done and the money invested."

Mr. Joslin replied by stating that the meeting held by the Board of Trade Wednesday night had been the first general meeting when the question had been discussed; that now the people were taking an active interest and there was a disposition now to get down to work and prepare and formulate a plan.

A motion was made by Justice Dugas that a committee from the council be appointed to meet with the committee of the Board of Trade to prepare such plans and that the legal adviser be instructed to prepare an amendment to the present ordinance if found necessary. The motion was carried, and Messrs. Wilson and Prudhomme were appointed as the committee.

The general meeting will be held

Monday night in Commissioner Ogilvie's office.

The committee from the Board of Trade then expressed their thanks to the council and retired.

Dangerous Business.

A collector of bad bills in the city is authority for the statement that more worthless checks have been issued in Dawson lately than during the entire previous year. These checks have been taken by merchants, saloon keepers and at gambling tables and when presented at the banks have brought forth the response, "No funds." The fact that these check writers have not been brought up and asked to explain their acts is due to leniency on the part of those by whom they were taken and no want of law and evidence to make it uncomfortably warm for those who write checks heedlessly.

THEY MUST VACATE

Only Warehouse Business Allowed on Waterfront.

Crown Land and Timber Inspector Mr. F. X. Gosselin has caused to be served on all persons doing other than a legitimate warehouse business on the waterfront of the city of Dawson notice that they must vacate the public domain just as soon as they can arrange for so doing.

When permits are issued by the government for the erection of warehouses on the waterfront it is stipulated that such warehouses shall be used wholly and exclusively for the purpose of storing incoming and outgoing goods and not for storage of goods to be sold therefrom at either wholesale or retail.

That portion of the waterfront on which the Allman bathhouse now stands has been leased to the Dawson Hardware Co., which will erect a large warehouse and wharf thereon.

IMPORTANT POINTS

Relating to Gold Commissioner's Authority Decided.

This morning Justice Dugas rendered a decision in the cases of Fulda vs. Senkler and Cashman vs. Senkler. These cases were brought to prohibit the gold commissioner from cancelling mining grants already issued on the ground that he had not power to interfere where a grant had been obtained.

In the case of Cashman vs. Senkler an injunction obtained by Cashman was dissolved on the ground that the gold commissioner had cancelled the grant before the injunction was granted and nothing remained for him to do which he could be enjoined from doing. The injunction was dissolved with costs. In the case of Fulda vs. Senkler, prohibition was refused on the ground that the gold commissioner has power to cancel a grant already issued.

The judgment was very lengthy, covering a number of constitutional points. Pattullo & Ridley appeared for Fulda and Mr. Wade for Senkler.

The case of the Imperial bank vs. McCandless Bros. was being heard before Justice Craig this morning. This is an interpleader issue to determine whether goods seized by the sheriff on an execution by McCandless Bros. against Parson Produce Co., were the property of the Parsons Produce Co. or the Imperial bank. Mr. Wade yesterday objected that on the trial of an interpleader issue no question of preference or statutory fraud could be gone into. This morning Justice Craig sustained the objection. The case is still proceeding.

Judgment was given for \$203.65 to plaintiff in the case of Guber vs. Garvie yesterday by Justice Dugas. Attorney Ridley appeared for plaintiff.

Register or be Fined.

A crusade is to be made against all partnership firms who have not as yet registered such partnerships. A list is in the hands of the council and a week's further time has been given in which an opportunity will be extended for all delinquents to make their registration. In speaking of the matter at the council meeting last night Justice Dugas said: "There is so much litigation and legal entanglements resulting from a failure to comply with the ordinance that the time has come when a strict enforcement should be demanded."

The penalty for failure to comply with the ordinance is as high as \$500, so that it behooves those who have not already done so to register their partnership business before the week of grace has passed.

MUCH IMPORTANT BUSINESS

Was Transacted by Yukon Council Last Night.

As Usual the Royalty Question Asked but not Answered—Several Ordinances Passed.

The Yukon council met in regular session last evening at the courthouse, with the following members present: Commissioner Ogilvie, Justice Dugas, Major Wood, E. C. Senkler, Messrs. Wilson, Prudhomme and District Secretary Brown.

A number of applications for the position of inspector of boilers were received, but as the ordinance has not been passed the applications were laid on the table.

The work of vaccination in town and the different creeks is being hurried now and the report from Dr. McArthur shows the number of persons vaccinated by Dr. McFarlane to be 2200, Dr. Lambert 1541, La Chapelle 2000, with Drs. McLoud and Edwards yet to hear from. It is expected the entire work will be finished within another week.

The council justified the action of Major Wood in furnishing food to Samuel McKinnon who is alleged to be destitute and voted to meet the expense incurred.

While waiting for the committee of the Board of Trade to appear the question as to whether the council had power to take the petition into consideration until there is a revision of the present ordinance was discussed and it was finally decided to leave the matter in the hands of the legal adviser and get an opinion next week.

"In accepting these petitions, I think we should require unanimity," said Justice Dugas, to which the commissioner replied that it was impossible to expect that.

Mr. Wilson inquired as to the status of the townsite of Grand Forks, stating when the townsite was laid out owners of property had given 25 feet with the understanding that the council was to donate enough to make a street 60 feet wide, but that it had failed to do so, and the street is only 25 feet wide and the people are complaining.

Justice Dugas in reply stated that at the time the townsite was laid out it was the intention to acquire title to part of the surface ground of No. 6 Bonanza and convert it into a street, but that before that could be done buildings had already been erected on the 25-foot limit and that some action on the part of the council will be necessary.

Mr. Dugas stated that complaints had recently been heard concerning the violation of the ordinance respecting signs on the street and that the ordinance should either be strictly enforced or repealed.

Mr. Prudhomme raised a question concerning the engineer's report of the Sutton road on Bonanza and was informed that the road was in a very unsatisfactory condition and that the work should be inspected before any money be paid out on it.

A question was raised by Mr. Wilson as to whether the cattle grazing tax of 5 cents per day could not be taken off for cattle coming into this country, as the cost of collection would be more than the revenue. He also asked if anything had been done regarding a reduction of the royalty, stating that he was continually being asked about it and he moved that the council instruct the commissioner to telegraph to Ottawa to find out. The motion was amended by Mr. Dugas that the commissioner wire as a representative of the miners and not from the council. Mr. Senkler stated that recommendations had been made to Ottawa asking for a reduction of the royalty but that no answer had been received. Mr. Ogilvie stated that he would be glad to act on a commission from the miners, upon which Mr. Wilson withdrew his motion.

An ordinance granting to the commissioner further sums for certain public works was put on its first reading.

An ordinance respecting the amendment of certain sections of the Northwest territorial act regarding schools was moved for first reading.

Mr. Wilson moved that the legal adviser be instructed to draft an ordinance giving the miners a lien on the dumps; motion carried.

In regard to the owners liability to miners receiving injuries while working on their claims, Mr. Dugas said that the ordinance is the same as the employer's liability act only it does not go quite so far.

A motion to amend the marriage or-

dinance so as to give the commissioner and ministers the power to issue licenses and to raise the fee from \$3 to \$5, the issuer to retain \$2 and the balance of \$3 to go into the general fund was made by Mr. Dugas, and, being a matter of urgency, the rules were suspended and the ordinance passed its first, second and third readings.

The amendment to the ordinance respecting the construction of boilers and the examination of engineers operating the same passed its second reading.

The amendment to the ordinance respecting the school board passed its second and third readings. The clause remunerating the extra members did not meet with the approval of the council and was stricken out. The ordinance provides for the appointment of two members, one a Roman Catholic and the other a Protestant. The question of appointing the members from the clergy or laymen was discussed at length and it was finally decided to make the appointment from the laymen. The appointments will be made next week.

REPORT WAS FALSE

No Telegram Affecting Closing Order Received.

At a late hour yesterday afternoon someone whose creative power is stronger than his love for truth and veracity started the report that two telegrams had been received from Ottawa, one by Major Wood, the other by Sheriff Eilbeck, countermanning the order relative to the closing of gambling houses and extending the wide open period to July first. The glad tidings spread like measles in a country school. There was no doubt about it. Major Wood and the sheriff had telephoned the news to the chancellor of the treasury who fired it on to the inspector of flues, who in turn transmitted it to the royal inspector of coffee mills who was then at Biddy Malone's house and Biddy yelled it over the back fence to Bridget Go-Step-and-Fetch-It just as Bill Jones was passing and Bill came on down town and got a drink on the strength of the story at the Aurora and Jim Smith heard Bill tell Andy McKenzie all about it and Jim told the man that told another man that told Jim O'Neill all about it, and a fellow who was taking a drink at the Pioneer at the time heard it and he told me. So, you see, I got it straight and there is no doubt about it.

But like thousands of other stories that there are no doubts about, there's no foundation whatever for the report. On the question of the closing of gambling houses no telegrams were received by the above mentioned officials and the status of the order is the same as it has been for two weeks past, namely, that all gambling must close to remain closed tomorrow night.

REGARDING THE TRAIL.

McCandless Thinks It Will Not Last Long.

Mr. H. McCandless returned from a trip to the outside a few days ago. "This wind," said Mr. McCandless, "is very bad on the trail, causing the snow to cover it in some places as deep as five feet."

"Everybody is looking for an early breakup and in many places water is already running down from the hills. All the old timers along the trail say that there is more snow this year than any season in their recollection and they are looking for high water."

"There is an immense amount of freight coming in. Every boat from the sound to Skagway is loaded and the trains are kept busy hauling it from Skagway to Whitehorse. It is impossible for the stages to carry the number of passengers who are at Whitehorse on their way in and the probabilities are that the majority of them will either have to walk or wait for the opening of navigation."

"I think I am within the limit when I say that there will be as many as 50 teams come into Dawson within the next ten days. Travel along the route has been very slack all winter and the roadhouse people are all complaining, but from now on until the river begins to be unsafe-travel will be very brisk."

Mike J. Conlin a wood dealer is very seriously ill with erysipelas at St. Mary's hospital.

Several teams of oxen are on the way in. Some of them being within 50 miles of Dawson.

RECEIVED BY WIRE.

BUBONIC PLAGUE

Exists to Such an Alarming Extent in City of San Francisco

THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT STEPS IN

And Orders Suitable Action Taken to Suppress It.

TERRIBLE TEXAS TORNADO.

Senate Adjourns After Six Days' Session—McKinley Coming West—Hopeful Skagway.

From Friday's Daily.

Washington, March 9, via Skagway, March 15.—That the bubonic plague exists to such an alarming extent in San Francisco and that the fact has been concealed by the city and state authorities has been proven by the investigation of a federal commission. There have been at least six deaths lately from the disease of which there are many cases at present. The federal government has commanded Gov. Gage and other state officials to do their duty and a general quarantine may be the result.

Texas Tornado.

Wills Point, Texas, March 9, via Skagway, March 15.—This place was visited today by a tornado which entirely devastated 14 dwellings, the public school building and a large cotton mill. As one result of the storm four persons are dead and twenty injured.

McKinley to Visit Pacific Coast.

Washington, March 9, via Skagway, March 15.—President McKinley today informed the cabinet of his intentions to start on a trip to the Pacific coast during the first week in May. He has invited all the members of the cabinet to accompany him.

Senate Adjourned.

Washington, March 9, via Skagway, March 15.—After a session of only six days length the senate has adjourned. John H. Mitchell, of Oregon, took the oath of office and was generally complimented on his re-election. All nominations sent in by the president were confirmed without objections.

Still Seriously Ill.

Indianapolis, March 9, via Skagway, March 15.—Ex-President Benjamin Harrison is still seriously ill, his complaint being intercostal neuralgia.

Skagway Hopeful.

Skagway, March 15.—Attorney J. H. Price who was sent by the citizens to Washington to represent them in the townsite case against Moore, has returned. He says the secretary of the interior will undoubtedly reopen the case but gives no special reasons why he should do so.

T. C. Healy Improving.

T. C. Healy, who has been confined to his room since his return from the outside, is steadily improving and will soon be able to be out. Mr. Healy was ill with la grippe during the most of his stay in Seattle and was able to make the trip into Dawson only by the exercise of the strongest will power. While coming in he lost a valuable Clidesdale horse which cost him in Seattle \$185. The horse had been shod before Mr. Healy left and he attributes the loss of the animal to the fact that the shoeing was improperly done. The feet of the animal became badly swollen, the swellings reaching such proportions as finally to burst. The result was that the horse had to be killed. A second horse reached Dawson safely without losing a pound of flesh.