

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MINERS.

Reasons For and Against City Incorporation.

A Unanimous Vote in the Affirmative—The Association Proposes to Take a Hand to Protect Themselves.

The special meeting of the Miners' Association at Pioneer hall on Friday night was somewhat smaller than anticipated on account of the dense darkness and pouring rain but there was a remarkable life, snap and unanimity in everything that was done.

President Armstrong stated the objects of the meeting. The citizens' committee had met the miners' committee by appointment and had laid before them their intentions and hopes in regard to incorporation of the city of Dawson. The association committee had agreed to refer the matter to the association, hence the special meeting.

Mr. Ritchie thought it was a very necessary move and that there were means by which the association could help bring about the incorporation. He thought this was the first move towards representation at Ottawa. The matter of good streets and fire protection was of vital interest to miners, even those up the gulches, for a fire in town might mean the entire destruction of the grub supply.

A. F. George thought there was no doubt of the advisability of incorporation. The only question appeared to be whether or not it would be used as a means to help or further abuse the miners. He suggested endorsing the movement and suggested a committee of three to overlook the drawing up of the ordinance of incorporation.

Col. McGregor was in favor of incorporation. He believed all with the interests of the mining community at heart would agree that self-government for this piece of the territory was in the right direction. It behooved the miners, however, to see to it that they were not used to further the ends of others, for they had done too much hard work already in the direction of bettering conditions to see it overthrown by a powerful corporation which might not be friendly. We have a good climate, yet for the lack of sanitation the hospitals are full. The mineral resources here presented the opportunities of a lifetime, yet to the majority of us they had been rendered worthless by the machinations of the enemy. He thought the first step was incorporation, then representation at Ottawa, and then we would get in a blow at those wicked regulations.

E. Leroy Pelletier had unqualifiedly endorsed the movement when he first heard of it but upon mature thought had come to the conclusion that it had not altogether been brought about by disinterested desire for the public weal. Again, conditions here were different than elsewhere and not one of us wished to make this his permanent home. It might even be unfair to expect us to tax ourselves for the benefit of those to follow. The government was collecting ample funds to give us the required improvements and fire protection and we could quite readily see how they were quite willing—even anxious—that we take upon ourselves the additional expense of governing Dawson. He did not agree with Mr. Ritchie that all we had to do was to endorse the movement as that was all we had to say. He believed it wise that the committee be directed to oversee every move for if there was already a ticket being worked up as he had heard he thought we had a whole lot to say. The miners were not all up the gulches. They comprised the bulk of the business men here and the welfare of the community depended upon the welfare of the miner. Their interests were paramount and should be maintained as such even if we had to enter politics. Mr. Pelletier referred to the fire apparatus now lying useless in front of the N. A. T. & T. Co. store and pointed out that \$20,000 was a high price. He thought if the five companies now doing business here had to pay that whole bill they would still be getting cheap fire protection. If the association decided for incorporation he was in favor of going in for it heavily by taking a hand themselves that the miners' best interests might be served.

Mr. Langly said that he was employed by the N. A. T. & T. Co. and he knew the apparatus had not been charged at \$20,000. It was something over \$15,000 and the invoices were at the store for public inspection. The money had all been subscribed once but half had not been collected. He didn't think the price too high and that the company had been treated altogether right in the matter.

Mr. Pelletier reviewed the history of the purchase. Mr. George didn't care what the ulterior motives of the originators of the movement might be as long as his judgment led him to believe it to be a good thing. He believed there was simple brains in the association to detect anything wrong and see to it that the members of the proposed city government were in sympathy with the miners. Two and a half millions in taxes had been collected from 35,000 people and none of it spent in Dawson. Saloons were now being practically licensed and by incorporation that money and many other amounts could be kept here and used to the betterment of our conditions.

Mr. McCuen endorsed the last speaker except in referring to the townsite which needs to be drained as "our bog." It was Harper's bog, but for reasons of health ought to be drained just the same. He decidedly favored incorporation.

Mr. George Allen thought that "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" ought to be the watchword. In no corner of the world outside perhaps of Zululand or similar places was there as here 20,000 people without a vestige of self-government of any kind. He concurred with the other 300,000,000 of civilized people on the earth that local self government was an indispensible necessity. The way to protect our own interests was to endorse the movement and go ahead with it—not to follow. Put on a bold front and take the initiative and in that way would the interests of the miners best be conserved.

Mr. Ritchie hardly believed that there was a ticket in the field. His idea was that the miners should wait until a ticket was presented and then see it to see who, if any, were objectionable. Mr. Langly thought there would be plenty of time to talk politics after the petition now in circulation had been signed and incorporation granted by Mr. Ogilvie.

Col. McGregor was satisfied that there had been no considerable move made to caucus a ticket through, but then "coming events cast their shadows before."

Messrs. George and Pelletier talked practical politics and then the motion printed in our last issue was proposed and amended by Messrs. Allen and Walsh. The motion sets forth that the Miners' Association heartily endorses the policy of incorporation for Dawson and desires to see the powers conferred on the city as wide as possible and the right of suffrage as unlimited as the Dominion laws will allow and further that the standing committee of the association take such steps to further the incorporation as will best conserve the interests of the miners. The vote was unanimous and enthusiastic.

After a short address by the president, the meeting adjourned that the committee might hold a session. The interest shown in the matter throughout was intense and declares the association vitally interested in the matter.

You will want the Nugget during the winter months. Delivered a week for \$2.50 per month.

THE INCORPORATION OF DAWSON.

Views of Prominent Business Men on the All-Absorbing Topic.

The "Nugget" Obtains the Opinions of Merchants and Property-Holders—All in Favor of a Speedy Municipal Government.

Seventeen thousand of a population and neither a town or city! From early morn till late at night rings out in the clear, cool, crisp air, sound of the hammer of industry, in substantial buildings, and yet without a municipal government. The trenchant figures shown to the people of Dawson in last Wednesday's Nugget, where \$2,000,000 had been wrung from the people with an offset in expenditures of only \$800,000 by the territorial government, and that prodigious amount absorbed in salaries of officials and the sustenance of troops and police force, many of whom are miles away from Dawson, led the NUGGET to interview some of the prominent merchants and business men of Dawson concerning the all-absorbing topic of incorporation, and it appears to be the general and unanimous consensus of opinion that Dawson should, at the earliest possible moment, have thrown about her the cloak of municipality.

Mr. Hamill, manager of the N. A. T. & T. Co., was seen, and said: "I do not at this time care to speak for the company I represent; but for myself, I am heartily in favor of incorporation, and am fully satisfied to stand my proportion of the sum necessary to carry on a city government, in proportion to the amount of what property I individually own. There are many advantages, and necessary ones, that would accrue from incorporation, the principal one being fire protection. Then comes the question of street improvements, a most essential feature to the common weal, as our thoroughfares are becoming more traversed daily. Sanitation is the back-bone of all healthful municipalities, and this would follow. There is every reason in favor of incorporation, and when a man is willing to back his opinion with his cash, each in his proportion, he is certainly willing to stand his pro rata tax."

Sam C. Kirk, the druggist, was next seen, and stated that he "could not find any one who could give any reasons for not incorporating; that the inquisitorial researcher must look in vain for any tangible excuse for Dawson, remaining as she is—a large and growing city without an municipal government."

Messrs. Bartsch & Foley, proprietors of the Portland Meat Market, promptly replied: "Any business man must naturally be in favor of incorporation. Sewerage, street improvements, fire protection and other advantages all call for a city government."

Mr. Philip Sheridan, crown prospector at Fortymore, spoke frankly as follows: "Of course, city government is decidedly preferable in every particular to what is virtually military government. Streets, sidewalks, sanitary conditions, fire, water, wharves, schools, with the other advantages naturally following a municipality are all endorsements of the movement. Such taxation as would naturally follow the supporting of a city franchise would necessarily be in the hands of the people to exact and to say how expended. Not only is every precaution and advantage to be had of value to those resident of Dawson, but each owes it to those left behind in former homes to give them every protection possible, as in case of fire, in particular. I can see no reason why Dawson should not incorporate."

Hon. W. D. Wood, president of the Seattle Yukon Transportation Co., stated "that he probably might not be considered a resident of Dawson, his company's interests necessitating his presence at various places during the year with his real residence in Seattle, but having a firm faith in this city and its future, I would be heartily a supporter of incorporation. The advantages must be apparent to every citizen and property holder, and the NUGGET may put us down as strong endorsers of the movement."

Mr. John Manning, of Ash & Manning, was heartily in favor of incorporation. "We operate a legitimate concern and are without even the protection which a license would give. Our expenses are \$700 a day, and our share of the line the other day was \$1,250 and nothing to show for it. We are more than willing to pay our proportion of any taxes imposed, but what good is the payment of that money to anyone here. Look at the streets! Look at the number of sick in tents and hospitals! I say tax us and spend the money here, and then give us something to show for our money."

Gen. J. Armstrong, president of the Miners' Association, said he was heartily in favor of the movement: "I believe it to be one of those things which have got to come. It will be a powerful and wealthy corporation and can be made a power for the weal or woe of the miner. It has been said that incorporation of the town is the first step towards local representation on the governing board. I only hope this is so."

E. Leroy Pelletier said: "I believe, on the whole, I am in favor of the movement to incorporate Dawson, but I cannot for one minute shut my eyes to the fact that the movement had its origin in official circles. The reason is plain. If they can still go on collecting vast sums in taxes, and by incorporating Dawson avoid the expenses which they are now under and others which they must of necessity incur. Why, it does not require extraordinary intelligence to detect their motives. I believe the government which is collecting such immense taxes can be made to shoulder the expenses of Dawson's government, but I am not sure it will be wise to depend upon them for many local improvements which must be made."

Mr. A. Bienkowski, the popular newsstand man leaves Dawson for the outside on the Willie Irving. Bienkowski is a hustler for business and knows a good thing when he sees it. During the entire summer the NUGGET has been the staple article at his stand and has found a ready sale among his many customers. As a finishing touch for his summer's work, Bienkowski has placed an order for 3000 copies of this issue of the NUGGET which he will take with him to the outside. He intends visiting Victoria, Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles. At each of these cities he will offer the NUGGET for sale, and doubtless will clean up a nice little stake from his investment. When his business on the outside has been completed he will return to Dawson. The fact that the NUGGET is being widely quoted by the coast papers will materially aid the enterprising news agent in selling the papers he takes out.

A Letter of Inquiry. U. S. Consul McCook is in receipt of a letter from Wm. S. Stockton of Philadelphia. Mr. Stockton wishes to inquire concerning a young man, G. Paraidi, who is said to have died at Dalsam city of spinal meningitis. A man named Geo. R. Fox is said to have been the young man's companion and the author of the letter desires Fox or any one else to communicate with Paraidi's parents. Anyone having information in regard to the matter may convey same to Consul Gen. McCook.

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SCROGGIE CREEK.

The Interest Shown Calls for More Particulars—Can Boat the Entire 35 Miles in the Spring.

The interest shown in the new strike on Stewart river is proof that all faith in that river has not been destroyed by the summer's prospecting of that stream. The NUGGET, which had the exclusive story of the staking of Scroggie creek, has been besieged by returned Stewart river prospectors for further particulars. One party declares they sunk a hole to bed-rock seven miles up Scroggie creek before it was even named. The creek showed 25 cents to the pan, but bed-rock showed one measly color. They were discouraged and returning to the main stream again joined the stamped eastward.

Further particulars of the discovery 35 miles up are that preparations are being made to turn the creek and work the bed, for as yet no hole has been sunk to determine whether the gravel of the banks contains pay or not. In the high waters of the spring the creek is of a size to admit of towing a small boat all the way to the discovery claim. Al Johnson says he found 25 cents to a pan in the creek over a mile above discovery. Of the 25 cents one piece weighed 20 cents. Charley Harding, on 44 above discovery, claims to have taken 50 cents from his first pan of creek-bed gravel.

The creek at discovery is flat and quite wide. The discoverers have since visited the Klontike district to compare the formation, and pronounce Hunter and Scroggie creeks identical in that particular. No one has yet climbed the sides of the gulch to stampede the benches so nothing is known of them. Applications have been filed for townsite and timber by the discoverers.

The NUGGET is published on every Wednesday and Saturday.

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