

# PUBLIC OPINION

Has Not Changed One Whit From Status of Three Months Ago

## ON QUESTION OF INCORPORATION

Boomed by Office Seekers and Broken-Down Politicians.

## TAXPAYERS MUST BE SHOWN.

A Few of the Largest Representatives in Dawson Tensely Express Their Views.

From Monday and Tuesday's Daily. The effort on the part of a few incorporationists to attempt to railroad their desires through and over the masses while a feeling of general unrest caused by the issuance of recent orders is prevalent is destined to fall very flat and with a dull, sickening thud. All efforts to saddle an incorporation scheme on the crest of the wave of unrest now sweeping over Dawson will be immediately repudiated by the taxpayers and those upon whom would fall the burden of paying the fiddler in case incorporation was accomplished. A few warm advocates of incorporation have been diligent in the past few days in circulating a report to the effect that all the big company managers have, since the issuance of the new well-known order, undergone a change of heart and are now anxious for incorporation when only three short months ago they opposed the proposition most vigorously.

This afternoon a Nugget representative called upon a few of the largest merchants of the city and to them he propounded the question as to whether or not their minds had undergone a change on the subject of incorporation. Being unwell and confined to his room, Edgar A. Mizner, of the A. C. Co., was not seen. Thos. McGowan, attorney for the company, however, risked the assertion that Mr. Mizner's views have in no way changed on the question. "Show us," said Mr. McGowan, "where incorporation will be a good thing and we will get in and hurrah for it. But we must be shown."

J. J. Delaney, manager of the N. A. T. & T.—Any man that says that I favor incorporating the city is talking through his hat. I don't think anybody but office seekers want incorporation. They pay no taxes and could advance their individual interests by it, but it would be different with the taxpayers.

L. R. Fulda, manager of the A. E. C.—I gave my views on the question of incorporation when it was being agitated some weeks ago and have nothing to say now as my opinions have been in no way altered. The A. E. Co. is here to do mercantile and transportation business, incorporation or no incorporation. We have coal to burn. Incorporation is not troubling me, as I think the question has been already settled.

H. Te Roller, manager S.-Y. T. Co.—Of course I have not changed my views on the question of incorporation as I have not seen or heard anything to justify a change. Dawson has lots of good men, but show me one man fit to fill the office of mayor who would be induced to take it in case of incorporation. No, I stand just where I did when the question was agitated before. Incorporation is not needed by Dawson.

Mr. H. T. Wills, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, expressed views similar to those indicated above. He is still of the opinion that incorporation would be unwise under existing conditions in Dawson, and sees no reason to change the views which he expressed some time since. Referring to the matter of open gambling, Mr. Wills said that the question did not enter into the merits of incorporation one way or another. Gambling is contrary to the federal laws and those laws might be expected to be enforced at any time irrespective of any action taken by a municipal council.

And thus it was found all along the line, substantial business men upon

whom the burden incident to incorporation would fall being opposed to it and scheming politicians who are rapacious to feed at the public trough favoring it. But, as a prominent Canadian said today, "It give these agitators and broken down politicians a chance to harrange and bore people, but aside from that they do but little harm."

## NEW QUARTZ LOCATION

Will Be Opened Up on Donahue Creek.

A quartz ledge which gives promise of developing into a paying mine has been located on Donahue creek, a short distance this side of Thistle. The creek is called after the discoverer who made his first location last October.

Donahue claims that he has located a well defined lode which has been traced already for a distance of more than a mile. He brought to Dawson a number of samples of the rock taken from near the surface and the assays show a product of gold running from \$34 to \$130 per ton. A party of men will start up the river in a few days to sink a shaft on the ledge and if the present prospects indicate what the vein carries at a lower depth development work on a substantial scale will be undertaken in a short time.

The discoverer and those interested with him are confident that they have located a ledge which will ultimately prove of great richness.

## COST \$6 TO PLAY.

Box of Poker Chips Reverts to the Crown.

Notwithstanding the fact the weather was a frosty grey and the indicator in the official thermometer had to stand an tiptoe to see over 31 below zero this morning, J. M. Dougherty, "Nigger Jim," appeared in police court without a coat and with his vest unbuttoned to answer a charge of playing cards on Sunday in a licensed place. The man whose name suggests ash cake, watermelons, wire grass and many other things, had not been playing solitaire, as Phil Wren, F. W. Stephens and Charles Fay were likewise up on the same charge. They had indulged in a game in the Dominion saloon yesterday and had been taken in the act by Scotland Yard Piper, who had "raked the pot" which he presented in police court this morning. Each member of the quartette pleaded guilty to the charge and, after hearing the law in the matter read by Magistrate Rutledge, fines of \$1 and costs, making a total of \$6 each, was imposed. The assessments were liquidated, but when offered the box of chips no one claimed them and they will probably revert to the crown.

## SERIOUS ACCIDENT

Which Might Have Happened But for Telegraph Pole.

Saturday night a crowd of well known young people of Dawson went for a coast on the side hill at the end of Fourth street. Arriving at the top of the hill they all seated themselves in the sled and started down. At the bottom of the hill, on one side of the road, is a telegraph pole and as the sled started off like a streak of lightning running down a lightning rod the steersman lost complete control and the sled took what seemed to the coasters a direct bee line for the pole. The hearts of those on the sled ceased beating, the hats upon their heads began to raise and if any of them had a chance to think it was of the great beyond and wondered if their mansion was prepared for them. Just before the pole was reached it was seen that they had been the victims of an optical illusion for the sled had been held to the middle of the road by a well beaten path and the telegraph pole was 20 feet away from them. They all landed safely at the bottom of the hill and thanked their lucky stars for their escape and thought of what might have been.

## A. C. Co. Team Won.

A large crowd of whoopers witnessed the hockey game Saturday night between the A. C. Co. and Police teams, the former, as it is accustomed to doing with all comers, winning the game by a score of 5 to 2. Good feeling characterized the game which was a spirited one from start to finish.

# HIGHER COURTS

Both Hold Sittings This Morning and Transact Important Business.

## MOLLIE THOMPSON UP FOR TRIAL

Elected to Take Her Chance Before a Jury.

## WM. MARBLE PLEADS GUILTY

And Will Be Sentenced in the Near Future—Mabel Smith Does Not Appear in Court.

From Monday and Tuesday's Daily.

There was a good attendance at both of the territorial courts this morning. Three cases where the defendants had been bound over from the police to the territorial court were before Justice Dugas for election whether to be tried by jury or by the judge.

Molly Thompson was the first brought to the stand and after the charge of stealing from the person of George E. Nichols at the Globe hotel at Grand Forks, the sum of \$411 had been read to her she plead not guilty and elected to be tried by jury. Mr. Wade, the crown prosecutor objected to the prisoner being let off on bail until her trial on the ground that the circumstances surrounding the case were of such a peculiar character and the evidence given at the time of her trial before the magistrate and evidence he had learned since was so strong that he did not think her entitled to bail. The justice ordered her under guard until he could look over the evidence given before the magistrate.

W. J. Marbles, charged with stealing from the Dawson Transfer & Storage Co. canned fruits, etc., to the value of \$25 plead guilty. Sentence was suspended to be given at the same time with another similar case.

Mabel Smith was the next called, but was not present. Attorney Shoff appeared for her and stated he was not aware that the court would hold a criminal sitting this morning and that his client was up the creeks. When asked by the justice whether she had given bail for her non-appearance he could not say. The justice said, "If such bail has not been given she will have to suffer the consequences," as the rules as written must be enforced.

Stenographer Shepherd being ill and not capable of performing the duties and as no other stenographer was at hand, court adjourned until this afternoon, when the Belcher-McDonald case will be continued.

Justice Craig, in deciding against the habeas corpus proceedings to relieve Severance from jail, stated that for him to review the evidence given before Justice Dugas would be for him to create in himself a court of appeal.

"There is, no doubt, irregularities in the proceeding," he said, "as the order was not based on a summons. There is no writ of habeas corpus in a case like this and there is no evidence ordinance giving me jurisdiction over such a case. I am not prepared to say what steps should be taken, but think a writ of error would be the proper proceeding." He dismissed the case without cost.

## COMING IN BUNCHES.

Another Stampede --- This Time on Ophir Creek.

When the warm, balmy, good traveling days of March arrive, a spirit of unrest seizes the people of this vicinity and it only takes a small spark to start a large crowd of enthusiastic stampedeers and send people all over the country.

Saturday someone either with knowledge and the best intentions, or with malice aforethought started a rumor that a find had been made on Ophir creek and the indications showed wealth

equaling that of Eldorado and Gold Run. The rumor grew and with the assistance of a little imagination enlarged until evening it had taken possession of 40 people who, with visions of wealth floating before their eyes, left Dawson to get in on the new strike. Many old timers as well as a number of mine owners on Eldorado and Bonanza were among the stampedeers.

## MERCHANTS ARE HAPPY

Over the Fact That They Are Again Busy.

A local merchant was heard to remark at noon today that his firm had already sold more goods since the opening hour this morning than during three days last week or for three days during any period in the past five months. All the large orders sold this morning were for up the creeks, for which points sleds of all descriptions from four horse vehicles down the line to one sickly dog were seen starting out laden with supplies.

This increase of business is not confined to one or two business houses, but to every general outfitting store in Dawson and is due to the fact the working season has opened and that from now on the hum of industry will be apparent on every hand. This general revival in business circles is hailed with delight after several months of quietness never before excelled or known in the history of the country.

## DOWN THE RIVER.

A Few Pilgrims Off for Kuyukuk or Tanana.

There is not more than one person contemplating a trip down the river this season for each twenty that were arranging for departure in the same direction a year ago. Yet a few are preparing to get away, the majority of them for Kuyukuk, preferring that to the Tanana country, although a few will venture into the latter district. The majority of those who have already gone down the river this season have come in over the ice from the outside, their stay in Dawson being usually of not more than a week's duration. Owing to the almost unbroken condition of the trail on the lower river travel is altogether by dog team, no horses having yet been started on the trip. It is probable that horses will be used between here and Fort Yukon a little later in the season.

## Rapid Work.

Work on the new government bridge across the Klondike at the lower ferry is progressing rapidly and it is hoped to have it entirely finished by the time the ice goes out. The work of putting in piers and abutments is almost completed and the bridge will be suspended across the river in a few days. The fact that much of the work can be done on the ice is a great convenience as compared with the disadvantages with which the workmen would have to contend if the river was open.

## A Challenge.

Editor Nugget: Will you kindly insert in your paper the following: I hereby challenge Roy Agee (Colorado Kid) to meet me in a tea round go at the Club gymnasium, the winner to take all. I further offer \$50 to him, which I will personally subscribe, if he will accept this challenge, the money to be paid him by the referee when he enters the ring. Respectfully yours, C. SINCLAIR.

## Fire on Magnet Gulch.

Judge Davis' cabin on Magnet gulch was nearly destroyed by fire Saturday. The cabin is a double one, one half being used as a kitchen and the other as bunk house. The fire started around the chimney and spread very rapidly, filling the room with flames before anything could be removed. By hard labor the partition between the cabins was torn down and the kitchen was saved. The bunk house contents are a complete loss.

## Vancouver's Mayor.

Vancouver, Feb. 13.—Joseph Martin stated he would ask, at the earliest opportunity in the provincial house, that the government demand that Mayor T. O. Townley resign his position as mayor, the holding of that office at the same time he is land registrar, being inconsistent. Townley promised previous to his election that he would resign the registrarship, but still continues to hold both offices.

# BELCHER-McDONALD

Case Is Still On Trial Before His Honor, Justice Dugas.

## BANKER H. T. WILLS ON THE STAND.

His Bank Has Had Many Transactions With McDonald

## SINCE OPENING FOR BUSINESS

In Dawson Which Was in the Year 1898—Case Is Long Drawn Out.

From Thursday's Daily.

The Belcher-McDonald case was continued before Justice Dugas yesterday afternoon. Manager Wills of the Canadian Bank of Commerce was on the stand and testified as to the money which Alex McDonald had received from the bank and the securities which the bank held in the form of notes and mortgages on Alex's property.

A note given to the bank by F. M. James for \$800, and endorsed by Calder and McDonald which was eventually paid by Alex McDonald occupied considerable time.

John McCormick was next called to the stand and testified regarding an interview he had with Belcher on the 7th of July, 1900, at which time they had discussed the Calder case and the liability on the notes. Neither Roy McDonald nor Duncan McDonald were present at the interview.

This morning the case was continued with Manager Wills again on the stand. In answer to a question by Mr. McCaul he stated that the Canadian Bank started business in Dawson in the early part of June, 1898, and that Alex McDonald commenced doing a large business with them shortly after they started. The questions put to the witness by Mr. McCaul as to the amounts of McDonald's deposits during the month of June and July, 1898, was objected to by Mr. Wade and after considerable argument the justice sustained the objection as not applying to the transactions with the bank under discussion.

Witness was shown a release of mortgage to Olson & Co., for \$170,000 and asked if the payment had been made through the bank. He replied that it had.

Witness was then asked to turn to his ledger and find the date of the transaction McDonald had had with the bank. He said it was a mortgage covering three notes executed to H. T. Wills and J. T. McMullen as trustees for the bank of Commerce and approximating \$65,465.65. Mr. Wade objected to the question but was overruled.

Witness was asked if McDonald had had any large transactions with the bank during 1898. Mr. Wade objected to the question but was overruled. Witness replied that McDonald had given a mortgage to him as trustee for the bank on 27 Eldorado for \$203,096, another mortgage was also given him for \$147,061, and there was a further indebtedness of \$57,975.65.

That on the same date McDonald had executed to him as trustee of the bank a deed to the whole of 27 and a one-half interest in 36 and 37 Eldorado, but this had been merely a substitution of collateral security as they had on deposit as security for McDonald either \$80,000 or \$120,000, he did not remember which, and which McDonald wanted. The case will be continued this afternoon.

Mabel Smith, alias Mrs. Phillips, who was bound over from the police court on a charge of receiving stolen goods from Wm. Marble to the value of \$25 knowing them to be stolen and disposing of them, was before the justice this morning and pleaded not guilty. Her trial was set for tomorrow before Justice Craig.

Wm. Marble who pleaded guilty theft, yesterday was remanded to jail and will be sentenced Friday.

The curling club is improving the opportunity afforded by the present moderate weather and from one to three contests are being played nightly.