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**...NORTHERN COMMERCIAL COMPANY...**

**GOVERNOR ROSS' OPINIONS**

As Expressed to Nugget Reporter  
Last Night

He Favors All Things Which in His  
Estimation Will Advance the  
Country's Interests.

"My views of incorporation are well known," said Commissioner Ross during a pleasant little chat had at his residence last night. "I believe it to be the best thing the people of Dawson could do and my reasons for thinking so are that a better administration of the city affairs could be had if the people had it in their own hands, and I think also it would be more economical. The Yukon council has its hands fully employed in carrying for the territorial matters and can not devote the time it should be necessary to properly administer the city affairs, so I say incorporate by all means. It is purely a matter of local interest, and whether such steps are taken or not rests entirely with the people. If we do incorporate there will be no noticeable change in our affairs other than the shifting of the management of the city from the shoulders of the Yukon council to those of a mayor and say six councilmen. The N. W. M. P. would still have the same duties and powers they now possess and would be available for enforcing not only the ordinances already in effect passed by the council, but likewise those which from time to time would be introduced by the municipality. In an election I should not favor dividing the city into wards for the purpose of electing the councilmen, but rather should select them all at large. In that way I think better material could be secured. The members of the council would serve gratuitously and no one in the city government, save the clerk and treasurer, both of which offices could be filled by one person, would receive any salary. We have our first meeting of the Yukon council Tuesday afternoon next, and I can scarcely hope to bring up the incorporation matter at that time, but at the following meeting, which will be held within the present month, I expect to have the bill providing for incorporation introduced. It will be carefully considered before being passed. With the city incorporated the Yukon council will afterward stand only as a parent or sponsor, as it were. We grant the right to incorporate, but can always decrease or increase the powers conferred thereby; that's all. "In regard to the matter of representation in parliament, I discussed the question at considerable length with the minister of the interior while in Ottawa, and I am sure as soon as our census returns have been received we will be treated fairly in the matter. We can hardly hope for more than one member as our population is not sufficient for two. "The province of Quebec has 85 members, a number that never changes; and it is taken as the basis from which a unit is made. As the number 65 is to the total population of Quebec, so is the unit found upon which representation in the other provinces is based. With the present population of Quebec the unit is 25,000; thus with Prince Edward Island, for instance, with a population of say 100,000, they would be entitled to four members, and the Yukon in order to be given two would have to have a population of 50,000, a number I fear we do not possess. In the election of a member for this territory it would be purely a question of politics. Two candidates, possibly more, would be in the field and one would be for the government and one against it. "The suspension of J. Langlois Bell, late assistant gold commissioner, was a subject the governor did not care to speak of, save to say the matter will not come under the investigation of a royal commission. From other sources it is learned, however, that W. W. Corry, here at present as an inspector general, will have charge of the affair, which resolves itself simply into the dismissal of a civil servant. The only charge ever preferred against Mr. Bell was that of maladministration of affairs in his office. The government is dissatisfied with the way in which he has carried out the regulations; and his suspension came as would that of any other clerk employed by any individual. Mr. Corry it is understood is now investigating certain official acts of Mr. Bell's, and if they are found as alleged his suspension resolves itself into a dismissal. "The matter of concessions was also talked of at considerable length, and the commissioner considers the public

should feel satisfied under the interpretation now placed upon them, particularly that to Treadgold and his associates. The minister of the interior never had any idea of giving away the entire territory under that concession, as the general report was spread about some months ago. Water, and plenty of it, is a great essential if many of the hillsides and benches now idle are ever worked, and to make large quantities of that available will require the expenditure of a great deal of money. The report at one time was also circulated that under the Treadgold concession the water of the Klondike became solely the property of the concessionaires, a statement which will appear ridiculous on the face of it. "I am becoming greatly interested in the quartz of the territory," continued the commissioner, "and I am more than pleased to see extensive capital taking hold of it with a view to the establishment of mills. There would seem but little doubt that much of the vast amount of quartz so common in so many different sections would contain sufficient values to warrant its being worked. I have thought much of the advisability of having a couple of diamond drills sent in in order to more quickly demonstrate the depth of some of the ledges and the quality of the ore several hundred feet beneath the surface. The people at Ottawa are becoming more and more alive to the fact every day that the country is here to stay and is not on the decline, and I can say positively that they intend doing all in their power to assist in the general development of our resources. As an evidence of their intentions one has to but see what has been done this season in the way of roads. But in speaking of roads, I am sorry that freighters are not giving the work we have done more consideration. We can not

make a macadamized roadbed in a day, and yet loads within the past week have gone out to the different creeks which would scarcely be excelled in point of view by the huge trucks one sees in the cities. A wagon loaded with three or four tons, as is not an infrequent occurrence, may do \$500 worth of damage to a new road by simply passing over it once. The grades are cut to pieces and the work of weeks is well nigh destroyed in an hour. It is really very discouraging. We don't expect the roads to last a life-time without any repairing, nor do we want to be rebuilding them constantly. This difficulty could be avoided if freighters would transport the heavy machinery when the roads are dry and hard in the summer or during the winter season, and at such times as the present use lighter loads. I am

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