

## A LARGE INCORPORATION MEETING.

Citizens Gather Together and Discuss Ways and Means.

An Offer of \$20,000 From Mr. Wills—The Fire Department Can Be Organized at Once, and the Engines Paid for.

The committee of five appointed at a meeting of the citizens to meet Mr. Ogilvie and to take steps for the incorporation of the city of Dawson, reported on Wednesday evening at a similar meeting. Pioneer hall was crowded, the standing room being all occupied.

Mr. J. A. Chute occupied the chair and called the meeting to order. He explained the object of the meeting and gave the origin of the committee. Mr. Ranke was asked to take the chair temporarily while Mr. Chute reported for the committee. Mr. Chute said that the committee, consisting of Messrs. Wills, Rutledge, Hansen and himself, had, after receiving their instructions, met two or three times to arrange their preliminary plans and had on Wednesday met the commissioner of the Yukon by appointment and were courteously received. Mr. Ogilvie had expressed himself as pleased with the movement and stated that if the citizens would give him their support shown by a petition of not less than 2,500 names, he would take the matter of incorporation in hand at once. Thereupon the committee had met and made a rough draft of a petition which would be signed by the secretary. The deliberations of the committee had been very much aided by Attorney Wood, Mr. Wills' assistance and counsel had been invaluable and the committee were under obligation to him. (Applause).

Mr. H. T. Wills, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, said he was one of the committee appointed a week ago to wait upon Mr. Ogilvie. As Mr. Chute had said, they had been well received. It only required that the people of Dawson should put their shoulders to the wheel. As a great many of the people of Dawson were not British subjects he explained that by the laws of the territories that was not a necessary qualification of voters in municipal matters. Section 280 of the North West Territorial Laws required the mayor and other officials of a municipality to subscribe to an oath, first, that "I am a British subject and the possessor of an estate valued at a certain amount over and above encumbrances," but voters were defined as men, unmarried women and widows, the territorial property qualifications being that they own assessable property to the value of at least \$200. This would admit Americans to a voice in the affairs of the town. As the matter now stood, we had no fire protection, no attempt at sanitation and our water-supply was of the poorest kind and cost us fifty cents a pint. We have a fire engine on the streets not yet paid for and useless. Our streets are disgraceful, in many places a perfect mud hole, and even if a fire engine were in shape for use it could not be pulled over those streets to the scene of the fire. Then there was the matter of charity. This winter there would undoubtedly be many cases needing assistance. Under the present system the soft-hearted man did more than his share while the hard-hearted man did nothing. (Applause).

Mr. Rutledge thought incorporation was the only salvation we have, the only way to get out of the quagmire. With a municipality which would be answerable to us for its acts there would be no inside rings, no inside pools unless the people wanted to have it so. If there were, then an election would soon settle it right. Mr. Rutledge then read the sections of the petition to Mr. Ogilvie. The petition sets forth that we have a population of nearly 18,000 people, property to the value of four or five millions, are the center of supply distribution for a district containing 35,000 people, that we cannot secure fire protection for the food supply which, if destroyed by fire would leave us for eight months without means of replenishing it; that the death rate from bad sanitation was high, streets and highways are almost impassable, water-supply poor and costly and that there has never yet been so large a town in the North West refused municipal self-control, the petitions are to be circulated for signing.

Mr. Rutledge raised the question of whether the people living on property bought from the townsite company to which there was as yet no title, would be considered as "property owners" and would be entitled to vote. Also whether the committee had obtained any assurance from Mr. Ogilvie that the titles would ensue.

The chairman replied that the committee had not taken that matter up as it was clearly beyond their instructions.

Attorney C. M. Woodworth was repeatedly called for and responded in an interesting and instructive talk. He introduced his remarks by recounting the steps he had taken towards securing incorporation for the town prior to the taking up of the matter by the committee. Wherever he had lived before the people themselves had been responsible for their own government and could turn them out if unsatisfactory. Here we were governed from far-away Ottawa—in fact, we had guardians to look after us. To-night we want the rights of free people—the right to look after ourselves and to have a government which shall be accountable to us for its actions. (Applause.)

We are the only considerable body of people in Canada without that right and we have to decide whether we want people from Ottawa to look after us and our affairs or whether we are tired of being told how to do that and decide to manage these matters ourselves. If this town were on the Canadian Pacific railway and had communication all the year round

with the balance of the world, still its destruction by fire would be a disaster. How much more would this be so here, where for the greater part of the year we are absolutely isolated from the balance of mankind. Mr. Woodworth then called attention to what he considered to be the plain duty of every citizen to find time for the consideration of these and other public matters and he would be culpably guilty if neglect was the cause of a disaster by fire or other causes. He thought that unless we were extraordinarily careful the coming summer in the matter of sanitary precautions which could only be prosecuted intelligently through incorporation, the amount of sickness would become so great as to touch the pockets of the indifferent ones, and thereby touch them on a vital spot. From his connections with several chartered companies he could further say that incorporation would mean considerable of an advance in values of Dawson property and he estimated it as not less than ten per cent. A point made by Mr. Woodworth and which he wanted to impress upon the people was that municipal taxes were all to be spent here in much needed improvements and was not at all in the nature of a tribute to Ottawa. The speaker received a hearty round of applause upon taking his seat.

Mr. Chute said that a plan had been hit upon whereby immediate action could be taken in securing fire protection pending incorporation. Mr. Wills had agreed to let the fire committee have the use of \$20,000 for a certain period at a very low rate of interest provided 10 or 15 citizens sign a note securing the money. Four of the committee had agreed to sign. This would allow of the fire apparatus being made available at once. (Applause.)

Mr. Lisle found there was some opposition to the movement. To his mind the matter silted down to the proposition that there would have to be taxation and government for Dawson and whether we would place that power of taxation and government in the hands of people here whom we could control or in the hands of a government sent us from Ottawa. The cost to the individual would be as great under the one as the other. Mr. Lisle moved the committee's report be approved and the committee instructed to continue in their labors and the motion was carried unanimously.

Some questions from J. E. Peters and others were answered and the chair said that the petitions would be left for signing at the large company stores and saloons.

Mr. Lisle proposed that when the committee considered enough signatures had been obtained they take up the petitions, draw up an incorporating ordinance such as they desired passed by Mr. Ogilvie and his council and present them at once to that last named gentleman.

**Antent the Water-Front.**  
The old Canadian law governing the sale of lands along rivers was that none should be sold within 60 feet of the waters edge. The new Yukon territory law increases the distance to 100 feet. As crown land agent the occupation of the Dawson waterfront will come under Mr. Williamson, a gentleman who is known to be opposed to the complete walling out of the river, as has been done under former management. The building up of a wall of buildings overhanging the river has crowded boats and rafts to the two cross-streets which penetrate to the river, and to-day, in case of fire, the use of river water for purposes of quenching is precluded by the impossibility of reaching the river without first blowing up or tearing down some stores. It will be interesting to see how a conscientious gentleman like Mr. Williamson will deal with so important a matter, especially after it is so apparent that the inconvenience to steamboats, etc., is great.

**Steamboat Arrivals.**  
The A. C. Co.'s powerful steamer Leah arrived Monday with a full cargo as usual. The company is now operating a line of the most powerful and largest boats on the river and they need them every one to supply the enormous trade they are doing this year.

The British American Corporation, Ltd., of Vancouver, had succeeded in getting two of their boats to Dawson Tuesday. The Tyrell and J. P. Light kept company from St. Michaels up and arrived about the same time. The Tyrell, has a capacity of 170 tons and brought up a full cargo. She is a shapely boat and it is contemplated putting her on the upper river.

The J. P. Light, Captain Gear, is a larger boat, having a capacity of 300 tons. These are the first of the much written of "Moran fleet" to put in an appearance. They were 22 days from St. Michaels. The company has bought out Tom O'Brien in Klondike city, the transfer including both the large store and warehouses built by that gentleman.

**An Addition to the Good Samaritan.**

The Good Samaritan Hospital board has completed arrangements for the erection of the main building, which will stand between the two wings now in use. The number of sick needing the care of the hospital has necessitated the construction of the building even before the board of trustees was financially ready to go forward with it, but by the kindness of Mr. John Nelson the necessary funds are forthcoming.

The vacancy in the board of trustees made by the going to the outside of the Rev. Dr. Turner has been filled by the election of Captain Hamson to that position.

### Removal.

After Saturday, August 27th, the Canadian Bank of Commerce will be found in the new premises between the Barracks and the Gold Commissioners office.

A down-town branch will be opened for the accommodation of the bank's customers shortly.

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## DUNLEAVY COMES BACK AT KELLUM

He is Waiting for the Hospital to Receive the \$100.

A Strong Letter to Sir Wilfred Laurier. A Deadly Conflict Between Two Moose Bulls. How Tricksters Were Blocked.

### Editor Nugget.

Dear Sir.—Regarding Mr. Kellum's offer of \$100 if I could substantiate my words about him in mass meeting, I would like to say that my words were: "I do know you the ways of the firm of Wade, Clark & Wilson, I want to tell you of a woman who came into contact with them over a claim." She refused the terms. They insisted when she became very angry and said she would go to the gold commissioner. Then this 'go-between,' or creature, said: "You had better mind what you are doing, and don't say too much, or you will have your rights canceled and sent down the river!"

Ye gods! To think a widow woman and a British subject can have her rights canceled by the will of such a man! This same individual said that Wade, Clark & Wilson had a list of over 200 claims, and that the stenographer working in their office had 12 of them to dispose of for a half-share, signed over to him presumably for his services in their mass meeting. Mr. Kellum's offer of \$100 if I could substantiate my words about him in mass meeting, I would like to say that my words were: "I do know you the ways of the firm of Wade, Clark & Wilson, I want to tell you of a woman who came into contact with them over a claim." She refused the terms. They insisted when she became very angry and said she would go to the gold commissioner. Then this 'go-between,' or creature, said: "You had better mind what you are doing, and don't say too much, or you will have your rights canceled and sent down the river!"

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SYDNEY HANARD.

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