

Stroller's Column.

It has come! The Stroller knew it would, but scarcely expected to hear of it until the first crowd of mushers over the snow arrived at Skagway and had begun to blow about the hair-breadth escapades of the trip, as was their wont in the old days. It has come, entirely unaided by the marvellous facility of the Klondiker for spinning yarn both the wool and web of which are of the best grade of fantastic fiction. It comes from Dick North, who shouldered a Remington rifle at Skagway during the Sooty Smith riot, came up to Dawson...



THEY GAZED ON O'BRIEN'S GHOST.

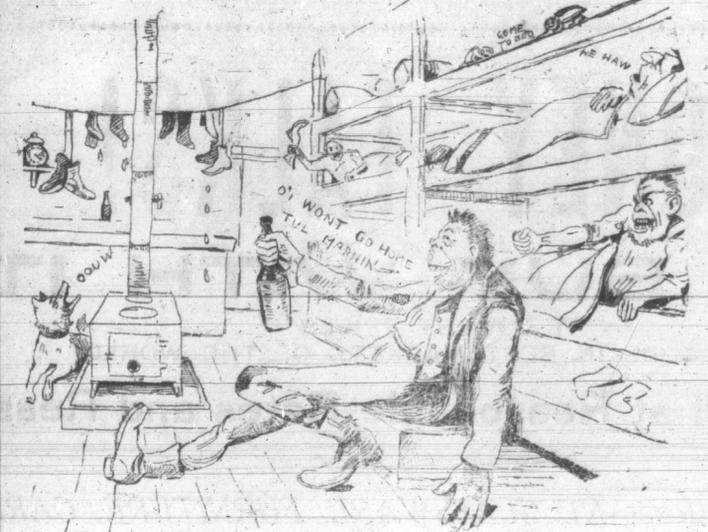
with a snow the other day, and saw the first news of the appearance of a ghost. The big-brow Scotman shook his head with the Stroller as soon as he had a brief reference to his having met the last, summer in Atlin, which is no good for poor men," he started in without any preface to tell of the appearance of it. "See, I've got a good pointer for your Stroller column," he said, "red he sees. O'Brien has turned up and started quite a little stampede at Skagway. "O'Brien?" "Yes, George O'Brien, whom you hung here one bright Friday morning for killing Fred Clayton on the trail. You know he said he'd...



THE GHOST WAS AN OLD COAT.

back in three days. Well, he done come back. "You mean his ghost?" "That's what it was claimed to be, yes. But it is a long story, let's go in here and sit down." "But where does the stampede come from?" asked the Stroller as soon as they were seated, "what has that got to do with it?" "That's part of the story. But let's get impatient. Let me think a moment and then I can give it to you straight." "From this time on I am going to North tell the story himself, mentioning his broad Scotch into many Klondikers. Tim Carney and Joe Beck worked in Atlin last summer for old man West, and when they were paid off before the last man-up they had three weeks grub with the intention of doing some prospecting as came out. They did not start way of the Golden Gate, as that has already been pretty well over this and previous summers, they took a boat and went north...

but Brosbeck wouldn't say anything. "The next morning he told Tim he had seen something or thought he had seen something, and if Tim would go with him at midnight to the same place they would see whether it was a fancy or not. "So they sneaked out of the village just before midnight, making to the westward, and they had not gone more than two or three hundred yards in the centre and held a book. We were told not to make a sound, and the Doc read and he read, all about the Red Sea and lots I couldn't get the glimmer of. And he trembled and he perspired, but George O'Brien didn't appear, neither as a wolf or a maulmoot or anything. So we adjourned and took a drink—solemnly, mind you. "Then the Doc, who was more, ex-



'O'M THE MOST POPULAR — MAN ON HOOKER.

when Brosbeck said: 'Hush! let's wait here for the glint of the moon.' "The sky was overcast that night with big, rolling black clouds, and the moon was no sooner out of one than it was in the next. Then, says Brosbeck: "We waited and we watched, I telling Tim to keep his eye on a big boulder there was rolled down in a little dry creek. Well, we watched. And the moon came and Tim gave a start, didn't ye Tim? "And Tim nodded solemnly. "Then we saw a man bending over near to the rock and Tim started to go for him. But I held him back, for, says I, that ain't a man, Tim, that's a ghost. Don't yer see he casts no shadow? "Then we both was a bit scared an' we thought it no business of our's anyway. When we got back one of the Indian women stopped us at the end of the trail and asked, 'Did you see it?' And she and some other Indians started to tell us about O'Brien. "Have another, said my old chum North, and he touched the button. "Well, he resumed, after nourishing his throat, 'there was not so much in the story, but I want to tell you there was a — of a lot in the way Brosbeck told him and the fidgets Tim showed while it was being told. But the most impressed of all was 'Doc.' "Why, boys, he said, 'you have seen O'Brien's ghost, that's all, and I want to tell you that a disembodied spirit is nothing for any man what is a man to be afraid of. Why I have, "And then he give us a long rigmarole, the substance of which was that he found ghosts to be in the natural order of things, and that he had during his divinity term studied — I asked him to write that word down for me, and here it is—M-E-A-PHYSICS. "Well, then he went on: 'Say, boys, there is no doubt you saw the Murderer O'Brien, and that he was hovering over the place where he had cached his nuggets. Now you must know from reading that in the Eighteenth and also in the early years of the Nineteenth century England was much pestered with ghosts who had secreted treasure, and as these spirits could never rest until they had divulged their cache and said what should be done with the booty, the church adopted a formula for what is called 'laying the ghost.' That is, by means of certain charms they would call him up, hear what he had to say, and promise him to carry out his wishes, then give him absolution and he would appear no more. "I have all these charms, etc., among my traps, (I am repeating what the Doc said, observed North) and I will furnish them up. Meet me tomorrow night at midnight and I will try to call up O'Brien. I don't think I can do it, because there's running water between here and Tagish, but I may. "So the next night we had another ghost session, and the 'Doc' made a magic circle or something or other in one of his rooms. He had cleared it of all furniture, even of the carpet, and there was not a glint of light permitted in it. There was a circle drawn in the centre. We could see it because it was made of sulphur or something or other that outlined it in the darkness. There was a break in the circle of about a foot, and Tim was given a stick of something to join the ends when the ghost got in. And the doctor admitted that it was a bit 'it.' "I never saw old 'Doc' look so handsome. He had a black gown and white tippet on his breast like these Canadian lawyer guys. And he stood...

away like the long drawn-out 'hoo-oo-oo' of a Durham bull, the loquacious entertainer would take a long drink and then branch out on a spell. "Shure, O'Brien the most popular man on Hooker an' if the boss of this road house an' I'd hire me to find his bar Old sell more whiskey than any the road houses on Hooker because the boys 'nd all come to me for the rasin that 'O'm popular.' "Then he would take another drink and sing 25 or 30 verses of 'God Save O'land.' "And thus, it was all night. Men swore and gnashed their teeth, dogs howled, babies cried, women were threatened with hysterics, and still the 'most popular — man on Hooker' kept up his alleged entertainment. He doubtless meant well, and as a first-class bore he made an immense success of his attempt. He availed himself of the liberty extended by all road houses, but by the following morning his sobriquet had changed and he was the 'most unpopular — man on Hooker.' "Some time ago the Stroller invited contributions for his department, since which time he has received a number which it would be no harm to fall down and worship for the reason that there is nothing like unto them.

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in Heaven above, earth beneath or the waters that be under the earth. Below is a sample, and if the police take the matter up the Stroller will not stand between the machine poet and the wood pile. "WERE I TO TELL were I to tell that little tall of Moments spent without avail. when we together lovers were in every noove, in every str-

Oh think how strong you set your will when we first met upon the hill. but oh alas, tis time to hush for fear would make your husband blush. BARONE SCHLENK, Poet from Germany.

QUAKER CITY'S SENSATION Four Young Men Kidnap and Rob a Woman.

Philadelphia, Oct. 7.—Charged with abducting and robbing Mabel Goodrich, the proprietress of a respectable house, Howard K. Sloan, Henry E. Wallace, D. Knight Finley and Donald S. Dunlap were today brought before magistrate and committed without bail until further hearing next Monday. Sloan is an unemployed newspaper reporter. Wallace was also a city reporter for the Press. Finley was employed in the business department of the North American as stenographer, and Dunlap was a barber. The quartette were arrested Saturday on warrants sworn-out by Mrs. Goodrich. The woman was the first witness against the prisoners and identified each of them. She told a remarkable story of her abduction, confinement and robbery committed by the men who fired her from her house, ill-used by and after robbing her of all her jewelry, made her sign checks for more than her balance in the bank.

Detective Donaghy related the story of the arrest of the prisoners, and stated that all had confessed. Dunlap, he said, told him that his purpose was to assist Sloan in placing Mrs. Goodrich in the hands of the Law and Order Society. He had not been told of the intention to rob the woman. Wallace was the only prisoner to testify. He said Sloan had suggested to him the plan by which Mrs. Goodrich was to be abducted in the interest of the Law and Order Society, which organization would reward them for their services. Later Wallace said Sloan made the proposition to rob the woman. Wallace refused to become a party to the robbery, he declared, and said further that he did not see Sloan from that time until the day of his arrest.

Counsel for Mrs. Goodrich asked that the prisoners be held on charges of conspiracy, highway robbery, assault and battery, and kidnaping. This was done excepting in the case of Wallace, who was held for conspiracy and kidnaping, the penalty for which, counsel announced, is life imprisonment.

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Strike Settled. Spokane, Oct. 7.—The plumbers' strike, which has been on several weeks, has been settled, and the men who were out, numbering about forty-five, are all at work again today. Settlement was effected by the agreement of S. E. Johnson to resign from the board of plumbing examiners. The trouble was caused by the refusal of the plumbers to take the examination as long as Johnson was a member of the board, claiming he was a bitter enemy of organized labor. The plumbers were threatened with arrest if they worked without first taking the examination and securing licenses, and they stopped work. Johnson's resignation is now in the hands of the board and will be accepted and—as soon as a successor is appointed the men will take the examination.

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