

TO BE HANGED BY THE NECK.

The Only Sentence Which Could Be Imposed Upon the Murderers.

The Sentence Received as Stolidly as the Other Proceedings Were by the Indians Who Knew of No God and no Hereafter.

The trial and sentence on Thursday and Friday last of the four Indians—Joe, Jim, Frank and Dawson Nantuck—for the murder of Billy Meoclan, was held in Pioneer hall, the courtroom in the barracks being much too small. There were a large number of people present to watch the proceedings. The Indians understood little or no English, and at the trial were given two interpreters to translate for them. Great pains were taken by the judges to have them understand that they did not need to plead guilty, unless they wished; that if they had any excuses to offer for their acts it would be perfectly proper to say "not guilty" of the charge of murder. Nevertheless, Dawson and Joe pleaded guilty, with characteristic Indian stolidity.

A jury of six, taken from a venire of twelve, heard the evidence given by C. A. Fox, the partner of the murdered man. Corporal Rudi, who had captured the first Indian, also had very good evidence. The prisoner, Frank, had made a clean breast of the affair immediately upon his capture, in spite of the corporal's reiterated advice that he didn't necessarily have to tell anything to incriminate himself. Frank had showed the police where the body was sunk in the McClintock river, where the canoe was hidden and where the boat was tied up. This prisoner appeared to be almost penitent. He is but a boy and was dragged into the affair by the influence of prisoner Jim. The questions put to the murderers by the judge through the interpreter showed them to be wholly deficient in the most ordinary morals. Their cunning, also, was of a low order. They could plot to destroy the two men in the boat and steal their goods; but appeared to be stolidly indifferent to the results of the admissions they were making, though it was repeatedly impressed upon them. Questioned about their knowledge of a God or a future state, everyone was surprised to find they knew nothing about either one. Even the "Great Spirit" and "Happy hunting grounds" of the North American Indians were unknown to them.

Mr. Lisle, barrister of London, did what could be done in defense of the prisoners, and Mr. Wade, Crown prosecuting attorney, acted for the crown. The jury consumed a half-hour in deliberation and then returned a verdict of guilty against the four, with a strong recommendation for mercy for Frank Nantuck. Friday afternoon Pioneer hall was packed to the doors to hear the sentence of the court. One at a time the prisoners were called to their feet, and in low, yet distinct tones the judge repeated the impressive formula put in his mouth by the accumulated evidence of centuries of English law: "Dawson Nantuck, the sentence of the court is that you be taken hence in the custody of the North West Mounted Police to a place of safe-keeping, and that on November 1st you be taken thence to the place of execution, and be hanged by the neck until you are dead and may the Lord have mercy upon your soul."

It is seldom that a judge can repeat that formula without being much affected, and yet it had to be gone over to each of the four prisoners. Not one in the court-room but was sympathetically affected by the venerable judge's suppressed emotion at sentencing those intellectual children to death.

The prisoners had had the whole thing explained to them beforehand, so they knew what was said; yet they were probably the most unmoved men in the court-room. They had been asked if they had anything to say why sentence should not be imposed upon them and had emphatically shaken their heads. They evidently wondered why, having been caught, they had been allowed to live so long, and could not understand the gray-haired judge's emotion at sentencing them. Having been hopeless from the first they experienced no shock at the sentence of death. The church-like stillness of the court-room they looked upon simply as the reverence of a people for their big chief. That their own impending deaths lent solemnity to the occasion they could not conceive.

The jury strongly recommended Frank to mercy, and that recommendation will be forwarded to Ottawa by the judge together with a report of the proceedings. There is time between now and November 1st for Frank's sentence to be changed, if deemed wise, and in the interests of justice that such should be done.

It is generally supposed, though not officially decided upon that the murderers will be hung in Dawson. Public executions have long been abolished in British territory so that but few will witness the execution.

A Society Event. The real swagger element of West Dawson's was turned out on Tuesday last to assist at one of the swell society functions of the season. In the ordinary vulgar parlance of the country, the occasion would probably be termed a "log raising," but it is far more in accord with the eternal fitness of things to speak of the affair as a reception given upon the completion of Mrs. Crane's palatial residence.

The gentlemen who so gallantly tendered their services to the lady are to be greatly commended for being able to enter so heartily into the spirit of the occasion. They labored long and diligently though some unkind persons have insinuated that the dinner which awaited

the termination of the work was the principal incentive.

The Rev. Mr. Seaton, of Seattle, officiated as general director of construction. It is a singular coincidence that all the other gentlemen concerned had offered to act in the same capacity. This, of course, is only evidence of the great amount of executive talent possessed by West Dawsonites.

Some critically-minded individuals who did not participate in the affair have been heard to remark that when it rains the water is more likely to run toward the ridge-pole than toward the eaves. The Nugget discredits this story, though if true it doubtless was done with a purpose. Probably the general director of construction, knowing that the climate forbids anything in the way of roof-gardens, intended to provide Mrs. Crane with a skating rink as a roof attachment.

It is also stated that no exit was left in the roof for a stove pipe. Anyone who knows anything at all is aware of the fact that more or less heat always escapes through a stove-pipe. Hence, if the stove-pipe does not protrude from the house no heat will be wasted. The reasoning is so exceedingly simple, the wonder is that no one has thought of it before. When their labors were completed the gentlemen were invited to partake of a sumptuous repast. Mrs. Crane assisted, by Mesdames Taylor and Hall, of Seattle, did the honors for the occasion. The ladies were attired in costumes befitting so distinguished a gathering, and the gentlemen wore the conventional overalls and jumper.

Among the guests were the following: Mr. E. A. Jackson, representing "Recreation," Mr. Eugene Seafford, of "A Delaire Place," in the Adirondacks; Mr. McLean, of the B. C. Mining Journal; Mr. Brown, representing London financial interests; Mr. Geo. DeLeon, representing California capital, the Dawson representative of the Rocky Mountain News, and several prominent Californians, whose names were not secured. The affair was voted one of the successes of the season.

Copper River a Failure.

The rush to Copper river upon which such great hopes were based last winter has almost entirely stopped. Late papers from the outside state that Copper river has proven a dismal failure. Men who invested their all in their efforts to reach the headwaters of the stream where the coveted gold was supposed to be in abundance are returning to the states, sick and discouraged.

Mrs. L. M. Bradbury, who penetrated 200 miles into the interior tells the following to a representative of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer:

"As regards conditions in the interior, I would say that there are many disgusted people who would give anything to get back home. There are about 500 men camped at the lake and as many more at the river, twenty-five miles beyond. Only one party that I know of is further in than that. It is headed by Messrs. Amy and Stevens, of Stockton and San Francisco. They were ten miles up the river when we last heard from them, and had found an Indian trail to the headwaters of the river, over which they had started.

The swift waters of the river have caused many parties to come to grief. They put their outfits in boats and lost them, barely escaping with their lives. Some of the men who were grubstaked were glad for an excuse to come home. Most of the people who are discouraged and coming back are of the sort that expected to find a gold mine as soon as they crossed the glacier and were not prepared for further hardships.

We left Valdes on the 23rd and brought down six men who claimed to have no money. When they got on the Discovery they bought first class tickets and had enough to buy a drink every morning. There are a number of people at Valdes who have no money to pay their passage back. At Yakutat they picked up ten men who were more than disgusted."

Beef for Dawson.

C. W. Thebo has arrived at Pelly over the Dalton trail from Pyramid harbor with 1,000 head of beef cattle and 120 horses. He says the trail proved excellent and the stock found ample sustenance along the route. They made eight or ten miles per day and arrived at the river in as good condition as any stock going into Chicago. The pasture is good around Solikirk, and the most of the stock will probably be kept there until wanted or until the animals can be slaughtered and frozen.

On the Trail.

A representative of this paper made a round trip to Dominion creek last week.

A six-foot German, supposed to be insane, is visiting the trail occasionally. He carries a gunny sack of provisions, carries a red buck saw and talks constantly to himself. When seen by the representative, the insane man had descended the mountains somewhere and had headed up the Bonanza trail, being fast asleep at the time, lying on the bog of lower Bonanza. Some days ago he attacked a party of passers-by with the buck saw and cut one of them over the leg quite badly.

Roddy Connor keeps the Dawson Drop Inn on 25 below on Bonanza. The unprecedented travel this summer has eaten him out of house and home, and a sign confronts passers-by: "Meals 75c to men with full sacks. Meals gratis to men with no sack at all."

The man of newspapers found on Dominion that most of the work had been abandoned for the summer. The difficulty of taking in food over the summer trail has resulted in the closing of many cabins, and twenty of them were passed in succession, either nailed up or deserted and empty. It looked for a time as though the subscription man would have to go hungry. Andrew Robertson, on 10 above upper discovery, found his grub supply made it impossible to sell any amount, however small, at any price. Learning what paper was represented, the popularity of this periodical was immediately demonstrated by its representative being made free of the best in the house.

Finest line of soaps and perfumes, Kelly & Co., Druggists, Front Street.

TO MONOPOLIZE DAWSON'S FUEL.

A Movement in the Wrong Direction by the Timber Office.

Only Two Firms to be Allowed to Cut Wood for Sale Excepting the Mills and They are Much Too Busy.

The people of Dawson who are aware of the facts are much worked up over what will prove a cruel monopoly, unless the officials in a certain department immediately take proper steps to modify the effects of a recent action of their own. Since early in June all applicants at the timber agents office were confronted by a type-written proclamation, over the signature of Timber Agent Wilfison, informing them that by orders from Ottawa no more permits or berths would be granted to cut either firewood, house logs or wood for the Dawson market. Modifications of this inflexible order have been made from time to time so that men with leisure could cut a set of house logs for themselves by paying over a certain sum of money, usually from \$10 to \$15. The possession of a free miners' certificate was not regarded in the matter. Then individuals were given permits to go out and cut a small amount of firewood for themselves. Thousands of men willing and anxious to cut wood for the market were turned away or referred to men who already held timber berths. The result is as could be foreseen; here is the 1st of August and scarcely a stick of firewood in Dawson. In one month winter sets in. Suddenly, and without bids, a most peculiar contract or permit is given out to two firms which practically blankets every available stick of fuel on the Yukon, from Dawson to Fort Selkirk. Every stick of driftwood is given to Messrs. Goldsmith & Co., and every stick of dry wood on shore or on the islands given over to Messrs. Smith & Co. The contracts given these gentlemen are of an ambiguous nature, but all agree that outside of a few berth owners, they are to have the exclusive sale of all wood this winter. The berth-owners have green trees suitable for logs, and have their hands quite full in supplying the mills. The gentlemen of the two fuel companies are quiet philanthropic, and are very positive they will not charge anything out of reason for their wood, after the river freezes and no more can be brought down.

Let us see how that works already; A Nugget representative went to Mr. Smith and was quoted a price of \$20 per cord for present prices on the banks of Dawson. A man was sent to the office of the timber agent to ask for permission to cut wood for sale. He was told that no such permits were being given, but he could see Mr. Smith. He went to Mr. Smith and made a contract by virtue of which he can cut wood between Dawson and Selkirk. His contract reads that "he shall, in payment thereof, deliver to the said Smith & Co., fifty per cent. of the wood he brings down."

Here is the thing in a nutshell; The monopoly pays the government 50 cents per cord royalty; the cutter pays the monopoly \$20 per cord royalty—for the cord of wood he gives in return for his own is worth just exactly that much. As the price advances he practically pays more and more royalty. If public agitation does not bring about very quick change in the policy of the timber agent, the freeze-up will find the monopoly with the only dry fuel wood in Dawson.

A Distinguished Arrival.

A distinguished young lady arrived in town on Wednesday night last, and is going to stay with Dr. and Mrs. Brown, while they remain in Dawson. The young lady is not at all opposed to expressing herself, yet refuses to be interviewed as to her first impressions of Dawson. She cares not for gold and is simply here for her health. We congratulate Dr. and Mrs. Brown on the safe arrival of their nine-pound daughter.

Another Aggrieved One.

I was very much pleased to read in your last issue a criticism concerning the refusal of the officers to permit newspaper reporters boarding steamers to interview the captain and passengers. We do not mind being refused permission to witness the theater performances and boxing matches, but there are times when other courtesies would be very acceptable and none more than the one mentioned above. The representative of a creditable newspaper has the courtesies extended to him in all portions of the civilized globe. Why not in Dawson? REPORTER.

To Fight With Dixon.

Pluto, the colored Australian fighter, is billed to fight the invincible Dixon at San Francisco in December. He is planning to leave on the first up-river boat, so as to arrive in San Francisco in ample time for training. Pluto has established a remarkable record for himself, having always fought heavier men and yet never losing a battle. However, Dixon will fight him at his own weight. This little man's record is second to none in the world, and it behooves Pluto to be in his very best fighting trim when he meets him.

Where to Buy the "Nugget."

The Nugget is on sale at the following places: A. Bienkowski, newstand at wharf. Chas. W. H. Schultz, opposite Monte Carlo. R. J. Gondolfo, next to Monte Carlo. Jake Kline, cigar store, Hoffman House. The B. B. & M. Newsstand, near 2nd St. W. Hoax & Strahl, opp. Mining Exchange. Grand Forks Hotel, at junction of Bonanza and Eldorado creeks. Goode & Craine, road house on Hunker.

Have your prescriptions filled by Kelly & Co. Druggists, Front Street.

STAUF & ZILLY

Mining and Real Estate Agents

Mining claims bought and sold. Drafts Issued and Cashed. CLAIMS HANDLED FOR NON-RESIDENTS. We will exchange currency for gold dust.

The Alaska Exploration Company

Operating the elegant river steamers

LEON LINDA And ARNOLD

Palatial Ocean Liners

Direct for San Francisco, Cal.

We are in the field for business. Our stores and warehouses are now in course of construction at Dawson and other points along the Yukon river. L. R. FULDA, Agent. For further information enquire of SYDNEY HANSARD.

Drink Beer

It's Healthful! It's Invigorating!! It's Good!!!

MADE IN DAWSON BY THE DAWSON CITY BREWERY

IN KEGS OR BOTTLED

LADIES' FOOTWEAR AND GENTS' DANCING SLIPPERS

VARIETY STORE.

First Ave., between First and Second Sts. PRICES REASONABLE.

Desirable Lots for Residence and Business Locations FOR SALE BY Harper & Ladue Townsite Co.

Office: Corner Second Street and Fourth Avenue.

Bennett Lake & Klondike Nav. Co.

Strs. Ora, Flora & Nora SAILING WEEKLY

Head of Lake Bennett OFFICE: 2 DOORS BELOW NUGGET OFFICE H. TEMPLE FALL, Agent. Flora expected to sail Friday, July 29.

O. K. ADVANCEMENT O. K. COMPANY SEATTLE FURNISHERS... NATIONAL BANK... Dredging Co. New York Block WASH. NSON & CO. AGENTS... HAND--Y BRAND Evaporated Fruit and Vegetables... SESHOE McKee... LIQUOR CO. ... ASKA EX. CO. ...