

25 DEAD IN ONE PARTY

And Corpses Had to Be Buried Two and Three Deep.

An Interview With a Man Over the Edmonton Route Nails a Lie to the Cross—Many Lives Lost.

The Sun is even trying to defend the Edmonton trail, and declares that the one death on that "all Canadian route" has been told and retold until it has reached formidable proportions, both numerically and in extent. The Nugget has accordingly interviewed Mr. W. J. McGee, who came in over that route.

"Mr. McGee, was there more than one man died coming in over the Edmonton trail?" was asked.

"More than one! Great Heavens!! Why, in our party alone there were six, while I know of 25 among the people that traveled with us."

"Can you recall any of their names?"

"Why, yes, certainly. Let me see. Tommy Orchard, a banker's son of Chicago. He was drowned in Peel river. Then there was a cook from Chicago—his name I remember was Wells. He was drowned at Fort Resolution. He was coming in with a Dr. Brown. Then my own cousin, with six more men were drowned at one time up Gravel river. This was an inefaceable blow to our party, but we proceeded on and established that terrible place Wind city.

We built substantial cabins, but five men died and were buried there before we left. We were compelled to leave six more behind us at that place when we left over the ice.

What became of them, I don't know, but when we stopped and counted the men we had lost by death, the number was just 25. There were two died of scurvy at Snake river. We were 19 months on the trip, and I believe travelled fully 5000 miles. Dave Madison, of Los Angeles, lost both hands and both feet. Ed Harris, from Hamilton, Ontario, lost half a foot. Then there was the ex-mayor of Hamilton—I forget his name—died on Mills' island, above Snake river. I remember his case particularly, because he was insured for \$40,000 and affidavits have been secured from the party since we reached Dawson. There was "Old Man" Lang, a wholesale butcher of my home town of Los Angeles. He struck the trail with 6 head of oxen and 4 cayuses, and died at Danvaegon. We passed a party which had just come down from the Swan hills and they reported a number of deaths. But that is only hearsay." I can swear to the rest.

"There were fully 3000 people outfitted at Edmonton and Calgary, attracted to that point by the lying stories circulated of the ease of the route. There were a hundred cases of scurvy I know of. I wouldn't send the worst enemy I've got in the world over the route. The Edmonton people ought to be prosecuted, for they were as surely the cause of those deaths as if they had cut the men's throats. At Wind City we buried three in one hole, being too feeble to dig."

The foregoing and much more was given The Nugget man by Mr. McGee. What we have given of the interview is sufficient answer to the statements of the Sun, that the Edmonton horrors are purely the results of newspaper imagination and exaggeration.

China Makes a Protest.

Washington, Sept. 30.—The imperial Chinese government, through its minister here, Mr. Wu Ting Gang, has lodged with the state department an emphatic protest against the military order of Gen. Otis, excluding Chinese from the Philippines.

It is understood that among the specific points of protest submitted by the Chinese government is one to the effect that such an order is a departure from the announced purpose of the president of the United States to maintain the present status of affairs in the Philippines until congress has determined a permanent condition. The military phases of the question have been referred to Secretary Root. Owing to his familiarity with international law, he probably will consider the subject broadly, both in its international and its military aspects.

Gen Otis' order was issued some time ago, without directions from Washington, and apparently as a military neces-

sity, although the Chinese protest urges that there is no such military necessity, but on the contrary that the Chinese have rendered valuable military assistance.

It is understood that the Chinese government regards the outcome of this protest with much apprehension. It is pointed out that the Chinese have been long established in the Philippines, and that a considerable branch of the industry of the islands is conducted by them, and this complete termination of a long established communication between China and the Philippines injured these people both personally and materially.

A Story About Ingersoll.

Here is an entirely new story about the late Col. Ingersoll, which is quite as good and fully as genuine as the usual run of them:

When Ingersoll was a young man he went into a short-order restaurant in Peoria and called for an egg.

"You are an agnostic, I think," said the waiter, who was a college student in the winter, and had just associated himself with the restaurant business.

"Your habit of thinking has not betrayed you this time—I am," replied Ingersoll.

"Then you do not have faith in the integrity of this egg?" quoth the waiter.

"I have no faith in its integrity," replied Bob.

"I have no faith in anything. I believe only in what I see, or in what is proved to me."

"I have faith in the egg," said the student, and he regarded the colonel with sad eyes. "My faith tells me that it contains a yolk."

"My doubt admits nothing of the kind," said the agnostic.

So the student broke the egg, and lo! it contained a chicken!

But the fact is the agnostic took an unfair advantage of the student. He had eaten at that restaurant before.

Chasing English Ships.

Hong Kong Oct. 18.—The American gunboat Panpanga has chased the British steamer Yuen Sang from Manila to Hong Kong. The gunboat sighted the steamer during the night of September 13, about 30 miles off the north coast of the Island of Luzon, and suspected she was a filibuster. The Panpanga fired three shots, which the Yuen Sang disregarded, until the third shell exploded near her. She then stopped, and the commander of the gunboat boarded the Yuen Sang, found he had made a mistake and apologized.

An American gunboat, name unknown, followed the British steamer Diamte, bound from Manila to Hong Kong. The warship sighted the steamer near Subig bay during the night of September 16, and whistled signals to stop. The signals were disregarded and the gunboat ran alongside the Diamte, getting so close that her guns tore away the Diamte's rigging. The passengers were thrown into a panic. The gunboat, on learning the identity of the steamer, sheered off.

Remarkable Man.

Middleboro, Ky., Sept. 16.—William Henderson, father of Jefferson Davis Henderson, a Middleboro school teacher, died at his home at the head of Clear creek, this county, at the extreme age of 94 years.

Mr. Henderson had passed a remarkable life. From a youth he has drank, chewed and smoked, for over 40 years of his life drinking half a gallon of whisky a day. He was born in the same house in which he died and was never farther than 18 miles from his home in his life. He never saw a train although living within three miles of the Louisville & Nashville railroad.

Eruptions of Etna.

Mount Etna, now again in eruption, is in the northeast part of Sicily, adjacent to the sea, and near the city of Catania. Its altitude is 10,935 feet, and its base is 90 miles in circumference.

It is stated by Thucydides that an eruption of Etna occurred in 425 B. C. Four violent eruptions took place in a period of 20 years—in 140, 135, 126 and 121 B. C. The city of Catania has repeatedly been nearly ruined by the eruptions and earthquakes.

Another severe eruption is recorded in 1536 and a great one occurred in 669. In 1797, 1798, 1800, 1802, 1805, 1808 and 1809 slight eruptions were noted. A very violent one, which lasted more than nine months, commenced on August 26, 1852.

Since 1865 the mountain has not been markedly active.

The only qualified horse and dog doctor practicing in Dawson, Dr. Strong, D. V. S. Pioneer-barber shop.

Fine lamps at Mohr & Wilkens'.

YOUTHFUL TRAVELER.

Eight-Year-Old Tommy McMillan Starts Alone for Dawson.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 14.—The most interesting passenger arriving from Skagway by the City of Seattle today was Tommy McMillan. He is only 8 years old, but he has been half way to Dawson all alone, and would doubtless have gone all the way if he had not been turned back by the police.

Tommy says his home is on Madison street, Seattle. From his story it appears that his father went to Dawson about a year ago, Tommy being left in charge of his aunt and grandmother at Seattle. They were in poor circumstances, and as time went on without word from the bread-winner it became harder than ever to provide the family with the necessities of life.

Tommy is only a little boy, but he has a man's heart, so he determined to seek his father and obtain the much-needed aid for the old folks. Watching his chance he stowed away in the coal bunkers of a north-bound steamer. Arrived safely at Skagway, over the pass the little fellow trudged manfully, feet by kind-hearted travelers and sleeping wherever night overtook him. At Bennett poor Tommy was kindly but firmly turned back by the police, and, sad at heart, was compelled to return to Skagway. He boarded the City of Seattle and was given a free ride home. The passengers on the boat raised sufficient money among themselves to pay Tommy's fare to Dawson, and if, on arrival at Seattle, his story is found to be true, the youthful Klondiker will be sent, prepaid, to his destination.

Damphoffer Must Die.

Chicago, Oct. 18.—A dispatch to the Times-Herald from Washington says: Privates Damphoffer and Conife, sentenced to death by court martial for assaulting Filipino women, will not receive any mercy at the hands of the president. The sentence of the court-martial will be carried out as soon as the proceedings and findings in the two cases can be reviewed and approved by him, unless there should be some irregularity about the proceedings.

It is stated upon high authority that the president had fully determined not to interfere in the sentence of the court-martial. He reached this conclusion on the receipt today of a message from Gen. Otis in answer to an inquiry from the war department, confirming the newspaper reports of the crime committed by these two men and the sentences imposed by the court-martial.

Gen. Otis further stated that he would forward at once all the papers in the case for review by the war department, as required by law and regulations.

Expert With the Sword.

Dewey is perhaps the best small-swordsman among the senior officers of the navy, indeed, the best in the service, except possibly Lieutenant-Commander Lucien Young, whose skill with the three-cornered dueling sword is a matter of note all through the service. Standing about 5 feet 9 1/2 inches, or 10, lithe, and with cat like quickness, the American admiral would be a dangerous antagonist with the glittering blade in his hand if he meant business.

He has a liking for the sword.

"It has been the weapon par excellence of the knight and the gentleman for a thousand years," he once said talking of the arme blanche to a comrade. "With it kings bestowed the accolade. It is the mightiest and noblest of weapons. With this record of chivalry, the white arm comes down through ages, the last legacy of the dead days of romance and beauty to the twentieth century."

Title for Sale.

Any Chicagoan who has the proper qualifications may, at the cost of a few thousand dollars, acquire the legal right to the noble title of Marquis da Agua Branca, now worn by an impecunious relative of Dom Pedro II., former emperor of Brazil. When the marquis came to New York three years ago he was reputed to be worth \$50,000,000. He bought a handsome residence and spent money lavishly in its improvement. Later he married a beautiful young Mexican girl and gave splendid entertainments in her honor.

Guests at the residence of the marquis on West End avenue and One Hundred and Fifth street in New York sometimes found diamond scarppins as favors beside their plates. Then his wife disappeared, and the nobleman obtained a Dakota divorce from her. This was followed by rumors of financial embarrassment. It now develops

that the marquis has been made the victim of sharpers and that all of his fortune has vanished. His offer to dispose of his title is a last effort to recoup himself. Intended purchasers must, if Americans, be members of the Order of the Cincinnati, the Loyal Legion, or the Sons of the Revolution.

WRITE HOME A LETTER TONIGHT.

(Every arrival from the outside during the past summer brought the same tender message to some near relative, "Why don't you write? We haven't heard from you for ever so long." Othmar, with apologies, urges a compliance of the request in the following pretty lines, arranged for The Nugget.—Ed.)

Don't go to the gambling house, concert or ball,
But stay in your cabin tonight;
Deny yourself to the miners that call,
And a good long letter write.
Write to the dear old folks at home,
Who sit when the day is done,
With folded hands and downcast eyes,
And think of the absent one.

Don't selfishly scribble: "Excuse my haste,
I've scarcely time to write,"
Lest their brooding thoughts go wandering back
To many a bygone night
When they lost their needed sleep and rest,
And every breath was a prayer,
That God would leave their delicate babe
To their tender love and care.

Because you've come to this far-off land
And dwell 'neath the northern skies,
Don't let them feel that you've no more need
Of their love and counsel wise;
Far better to make them all believe
You never forget them quite;
That you deem it a pleasure, while far away,
Long letters home to write.

Don't think that the giddy girls and men
Who make your pastime gay,
Have half the anxious thoughts for you
That the old folks have today,
The duty of writing do not put off,
Let sleep or pleasure wait,
Lest the letter they are looking for
Be a mail or two too late.

Remember, dear father, so noble and kind,
—And mother so patient and true;
Perhaps tonight they are kneeling together
And silently praying for you.
Yes, the sad old folks at home,
With locks fast turning white,
Are longing to hear from the absent one,
Write them a good long letter tonight.

Items of Interest.

A Maryland law prohibits Baltimore policemen from doing mechanical work for the department or for hire.

The life of an iron pole for overhead wires is estimated to be 233 years. That of wooden ones is 11 years.

The doll is probably the most antique of toys. It has been found inside the graves of children of ancient Rome.

The Philippine buffalo, which is preferred to horses or donkeys, is almost an amphibious animal. It cannot do hard work for any length of time without bathing and wallowing in the mud.

Tortoise shell, as it comes from the West Indies, is coarse, dirty and lusterless, and only the most skillful and patient manipulation makes it the rich and beautiful material that it eventually becomes.

The California state board of prison directors has adopted a rule that hereafter when a convict is found with a deadly weapon in his possession he shall be kept in solitary confinement for the rest of the term, even if it be for his natural life.

There is trouble in the Irish courts. The lord chief justice of Ireland has just reproved the McDermott, Q. C., who is attorney-general, for appearing in court in "unprofessional costume," because he wore a white waistcoat under his gown on a hot day.

Shot and Frozen.

The police are in receipt of word of one Robert Watson, of Watertown, N. Y., who went hunting up Australia creek some two weeks ago and accidentally shot himself in the leg. Watson was alone at the time and was unable to help himself. The Fernstiek brothers, engaged also in hunting, happened to run across him next day, sitting in the snow with his back to a tree. An attempt was made to bring him in, but the shattered bone caused too much suffering and a brush cabin was built for him, where he presently died. It was then found that his feet and one hand were frozen. Inspector Cartwright has taken charge of his effects.

Send your friends a Christmas present via Nugget Express.

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