

DEATH OF DWIGHT C. JOHNSON.

Untimely End of Life of Well-known Ore Buyer.

DWIGHT C. JOHNSON, one of the best known ore buyers in the Northwest, met with an untimely end in Spokane, Washington, on July 4. The *Nelson Daily News* published the following account of the sad fatality together with brief particulars of the deceased:—

Mr. Johnson was in the Spokane Club on Saturday afternoon while the Fourth of July celebration was proceeding on the streets of the city. It is surmised that he fell asleep after dinner on a settee in the club reading room which is on the third floor. A fire broke out in the building, which soon filled every room with dense smoke. Wakened by this, Mr. Johnson made his way to a window and hung from the sill for about two minutes. He endeavoured to hang on while a life saving net was being brought by the firemen, but his hold weakened and he fell to the roof of the adjoining building, sustaining internal injuries from which he died shortly after being taken to the Deaconess hospital. Had he held on to the window sill for 30 seconds longer he would have been saved in the life net that firemen were eagerly preparing while the marooned victim clung to the sill.

Hardly a minute after the deceased reached the window thick volumes of smoke swept toward him and poured out from the aperture. Apparently choking from smoke and terrified at the danger of his position, Mr. Johnson started to straddle the window and the large crowd that lined Riverside Avenue concluded that he was about to jump. Cries of "don't jump," "Hold on a little while longer and you will be saved," arose from the throng that stood breathlessly watching, expecting every second to see the clinging man release his hold.

Half a minute before the firemen had stretched the life net, Johnson released his hold and crashed to the roof below. Whether he became frightened or was weakened by the blinding smoke is problematical. He struck on his right shoulder, sustaining broken shoulder blades, a severely battered arm and internal injuries.

The deceased made his headquarters continuously in Nelson during several months of 1901 and 1902 while he was engaged as ore buyer for the Everett smelter. But his energies were never restricted to a single task. He has been an invaluable though never a conspicuous factor in the organization of many mining enterprises in British Columbia, Washington, Montana and Idaho. Before settling in the northwest Mr. Johnson had made a tour of the western shore of the Pacific from Siberia to Australia in the interests of an American mining syndicate, looking into mining conditions generally and especially markets for mineral products.

Mr. Johnson's chief contribution to the mining activity of the Nelson district was in connection with

the Reliance Gold Mining and Milling Company. It was through his instrumentality that the late T. A. Noble and the Bissell Bros. were interested and the construction and equipment of the mill made possible. Although since the death of Mr. Noble there has been little activity at the Reliance those familiar with the situation are certain that Mr. Johnson's judgment was sound and his work was not wasted.

The deceased gentleman was of an extremely quiet and retiring disposition but perfectly frank and direct in all business dealings. His circle of acquaintances in Nelson was comparatively small but every acquaintance became a friend.

R. S. Lennie, who was associated with him in several enterprises, on receipt of the news of his death said:

"I consider the death of D. C. Johnson a heavy loss, not only to all his personal friends, but to the mining industry in the West. He was not only an expert on the values of properties and products, and an authority on market conditions everywhere; he was also a man of the soundest judgment and of great power of initiative. At the time of his death he was engaged in several enterprises which, had they been carried to a successful issue, would have ranked him at once with the leading financiers of the country."

The deceased was about 45 years old. His wife was in Seattle at the time the accident occurred.

LEGISLATION REGARDING CHILD AND FEMALE LABOUR.

Reviewed in Dominion of Canada *Labour Gazette*.*

LEGISLATION IN CANADA with regard to child and female labour is the subject of a review published in the March number of the Dominion of Canada *Labour Gazette*. The article is a summary of existing legislation in the several provinces of the Dominion, and the subject is dealt with in accordance with a classification under four heads, viz.: (1) Child and female labour in factories; (2) in workshops; (3) in mines, and (4) miscellaneous and pending legislation with regard to such labour.

While the following excerpts have reference only to British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, it may be premised that the reviewer makes this comment in connection with his tabular statements of leading provisions of Coal and Metalliferous Mines acts relating to the labour under notice: "Female labour is not mentioned in the Nova Scotia acts. Of the different coal mining regulation acts, the most stringent is that of British Columbia. With regard to metalliferous mining, there is a pronounced similarity between the Nova Scotia and British Columbia acts on the one hand and the Ontario and Quebec

*For March, 1908, Vol. VIII, No. 9, pp. 1100-1120.