

MONTH AT HARD LABOR

"Poker Dick" Davis Ran Against a Snag

Found Guilty This Morning of Being a Loose, Idle and Disorderly Person.

John Richard Davis, alias "Poker Dick," was given a touch of high life in the police court this morning, the charge against him being that he is a loose, idle and disorderly person, a vagrant with no visible means of support.

The first witness examined was Corporal Piper, the arresting officer. Has known the accused for a year and a half, during which time he has for the most part been hanging around gambling houses and saloons, and he has never known him to have done an honest day's work since his arrival in the country.

"You have seen other hard cases about town?" asked the counsel for the defense.

"Yes."

"Then why are they not here as well as this man?"

"They will be here in time."

Davis had been picked up Saturday night simply because he had become an eyesore to his constant association about such places.

Corporal Egan is in charge of the night patrol whose hours are from 7 in the evening until 7 in the morning.

Knows the accused and knows to his own personal knowledge that he has done no work for the past six months. His duty takes him around to the different resorts frequented by gamblers, bums, etc., and he is familiar with them all.

Defendant was constantly in the company of such, many of whom have been up before his honor upon the charge of gambling and in the case of some a conviction has been had.

"Then you have seen others who have been engaged in gambling besides this defendant?"

"They all look alike to me," was the corporal's reply.

Constable Mapley has also known the defendant for the past six months and has never known him to do anything legitimate for a living.

He is a member of the town detail and is around at all hours. He has been on duty continuously for the past six months and has of late paid particular attention to the accused and his habits.

Constable Burns has also known Davis for the past three months and has never known him to follow any legitimate calling.

He has seen him frequently around the saloons and gambling houses and considers that the bulk of his time is spent in such places. He last saw him in the "L. & M.," a resort that is not now running.

Sergeant Smith has known the accused 18 months and he, too, has never known him to do anything honorable for a livelihood.

He considers him a loose and idle person. His alias "Poker Dick," is derived from the fact that he is a professional poker player.

In cross examination counsel sought to learn why it was that if he were known to the police that gambling was being carried on according to the testimony that was given, it was not stopped, the gamblers indicted and convicted.

The sergeant explained that in such cases when there was a decided league against the police force it was a matter of the utmost difficulty to secure a conviction.

Dealers were regularly employed but they would remain in one place only a few days when they would go to some other house and thus keep traveling constantly.

The proprietors of the houses had an understanding between them and they were banded together for mutual protection.

His honor ventured the remark from the bench that if the public would only render the police some assistance the running of the short card games would soon be put an end to.

Davis gave evidence on his own behalf. He has been in the country for the past three years with the exception of last summer when he was on the outside.

When he first arrived he took a lay on Eldorado which he operated for some months. Later he had worked for several parties on Gold Hill and also for Chute & Willis on Gold Run.

He admitted having done considerable gambling both for himself and as a dealer working for wages. He had been out of employment for the past three months, but it was because he could not get work.

He was willing and anxious to work if he could only find employment.

"In summing up the case, his honor said that on the evidence he could not do otherwise than find the defendant guilty.

He had intended to impose a sentence of three months at hard labor, but would be lenient and make it one month instead.

It was a matter of regret that a conviction could not be secured against the keepers of such places, but such seemed almost impossible when they would bring a score of witnesses who would testify that the game being played was only for cigars or drinks.

The sentence of Davis was made a month at hard labor.

OFFICERS INSTALLED.

Masons Held Impressive Exercises - Names of Officers.

Yukon Lodge, No. 71, A. F. & A. M., G. R. M., held an installation meeting on Saturday night last.

The occasion was specially impressive by reason of it being the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist.

The following are the officers - Dr. A. J. Gillis, Wor. Master.

Dr. Alfred Thompson, Senior Warden.

Myron A. Day, Junion Warden.

Dr. A. F. Edwards, Treasurer.

A. D. Ross, Secretary.

J. S. Cowan, Chaplain.

J. A. Greene, Senior Deacon.

H. J. Grotzman, Junior Deacon.

Geo. Brimston, Dir. of Ceremonies.

Dr. Z. Strong, Senior Steward.

L. C. Anderson, Junior Steward.

T. R. Moulton, Inner Guard.

H. D. Fortain, Tyler.

Do Not Fear Hell

Hell has no terrors now for the Vassar freshmen after their experience last Saturday in their Hallowe'en sport, and some even said:

"You must be sure and visit hell, because Satan is just grand."

Telling this story, one is making public a Vassar secret, but then it's a girl's secret and must be told.

With frightened looks the freshmen heard, because they were told by the juniors, that on Hallowe'en they would be taken through hell.

At first they shrank from making the journey. They believed, however, that with the wrestling they had done with their studies they were fitted for anything, and at the appointed time every freshman went over to the "gym."

There was nothing thrilling in the hall. It was really attractive, for there were long tables laden with fruits, and lanterns shed a mellow light.

There were girls' ducking for apples. There were booths hidden by screens. Placards said, "Madam Sabrinskian, wonderful palmitist," and "Spiazzi Skwantziola will tell past, present and future. Has no equal on earth."

The doors were guarded by feminine policemen who had much difficulty in keeping their mustaches on their pretty upper lips.

Passing out of the gymnasium, those bound for hell got a cold whiff of air that chilled to the bone.

White robed creatures were in waiting, and each one acted as guide for six freshmen. They were led around the bill and through a door where hands reached out for them as they passed.

Then appeared a "hideous monster" as the freshmen called it in their frightful screams.

In the swimming tank were strids clad in white, combining their tresses. Horrible creatures that emitted frightful groans were in corners.

There was a clanking of chains, and diminutive devils, first and second cousins of the real Satan, shot out red fangs from grinning faces.

Then the freshmen went into the "math" department, where a "math professor" was guarded by a "shade."

Tormented by the little "red uns," the freshmen were escorted to the English department, and here was Satan in all his glory.

He had the real thing in horns and cloven hoofs. The room was full of "shades," and the freshmen were filled with awe.

Satan accepted or received the girls, determining their fitness by the character of the books they read.

A trophy was given each one who agreed to sell her soul. There was a lively demand for trophies.

Then the guide led back to the "upper regions," where the sports of Hallowe'en could be indulged in.

It was here that one girl admitted that "Hell was just grand," and another said, "It isn't in it with our exams."

A meeting in the interest of the candidature of J. H. Dawson and his colleagues will be held in the A. B. hall on Monday evening, December 24th, at 8 p. m.

All candidates for mayoralty and aldermanic honors are hereby invited to attend and express their views.

Send a copy of the Nugget's Christmas edition to your outside friends.

THEIR DOOM IS SEALED

Governor General Declines to Interfere

The last hope that Edward La Belle and Victor Fournier may have had of being able to escape the gallows has gone and the two will hang on January 20 as sure as the sun will rise in the east.

Late Saturday night Sheriff Eilbeck received the following telegram from Ottawa under date of December 21, the message arriving via Skagway by mail:

"His excellency, the governor general, orders the execution of Edward La Belle and Victor Fournier, now under sentence of death. Letter follows tonight. Repeat back this message to me immediately on receipt."

"Joseph Pope."

"Under Secretary of State."

Sheriff Eilbeck gave the news to the condemned men this morning, visiting them shortly after 10 o'clock.

La Belle was the first seen. He was found as usual reading his bible in which he seems to derive his only consolation.

When read the message that seals his fate there was a visible change in his expression and he pined very perceptibly.

His head trembled, his head dropped forward on his breast, and he heaved a sigh that betrayed an emotion known only to those who face death under similar circumstances.

The last hope that Edward La Belle was gone and none knew it any better than Edward La Belle.

In less than a month he and his partner in crime will have paid the penalty of their sins.

When the message was read to Fournier he exhibited his same old air of bravado, laughing and taking it as a joke.

He was asleep when the sheriff arrived and upon being awakened and told that the sheriff had had word from the governor general concerning his case, he drowsily stretched himself and then sat up on the edge of his bunk.

The telegram was read and the hideous triple murderer laughed.

"Dat's aw right. Hang de same day, eh?" was his remark.

"Yes, you hang together," the sheriff replied.

"Bien! Dat's good we hang together. Dat's aw right," and with that he turned over on his bunk and again appeared to go to sleep.

The sheriff will not begin the construction of the gallows until after the first of the year and as previously stated the instrument of death will be placed in hangman's corner on the same spot where O'Brien was executed.

The trap will be considerably larger than that ordinarily used on account of the necessity of it accommodating two men.

The room will also probably be roofed over and heated and lights will have to be provided as the law requires that the execution take place before 8 o'clock in the morning.

Those who will be allowed to witness the final act in the desperate tragedy that was begun in June will be confined to the officers, members of the press, and a few personal friends of the sheriff.

Admission will be possible only by invitation.

INJURED IN HOCKEY

In Hospital From the Effects of Christmas Day Game.

J. N. Merritt, of the Bank of B. N. A., is in the Good Samaritan hospital as the result of the splendid game of hockey he played on Christmas day.

On Saturday he had great difficulty in breathing, and thought that two or three of his ribs were broken.

Dr. Alfred Thompson, who is attending him, says that Mr. Merritt got bruised badly on the body and the consequent inflammation has produced a severe case of pleurisy.

There are no ribs broken or internal injuries but it will be several days before Mr. Merritt is able to be out again.

Another Hot Stovepipe.

The fire department had a hurried run at half past eleven last night to the law offices of Bowers & De Journal, on Second avenue.

It was only a red hot stove pipe, which was threatening to burn down the block.

The small blaze was extinguished without much damage being done, but the firemen continued to watch the premises for some time.

Adjudged Insane

Vancouver, Wash., Dec. 12 - John B. Pluss, an old pioneer of Clarke county, was adjudged insane and taken to Steilacoom yesterday by Sheriff-elect F. S. Niesecker.

He had lived on Fifth plain for twenty years. He has a wife and three children, the youngest of whom is 11 years old.

Last fall he was burned out in the big forest fire and lost his house and barn. Since then he has brooded over his troubles. It is thought he may be cured sufficiently to bring him home in a few months.

NEW YEAR'S EVE.

A. B.'s Will Welcome New Year in Fancy Dress.

There is no organization gives such pleasant balls as the Arctic Brothers, and the one they will give on New Year's eve will no doubt be equal in merit to its predecessors.

It is proposed to have a masquerade ball on a grand scale and to give effect to the many handsome dresses the hall will be specially decorated and present many new features of decoration.

Freimuth's orchestra has been engaged. Everyone will be masked as if in mourning for the dying year until the witching hour of midnight, when the masks will be thrown aside and the new year welcomed with gladness.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Dawson's Maids and Matrons to Organize a League.

The brisk game of hockey played by the Civil Service and the City Eagles on Christmas afternoon is still being talked about, and one outcome of the brilliant play on both sides is that the gentler sex are determined to take a hand in so fascinating a game.

Steps are being taken today by the ladies to form two teams of their own, one of which is to be called the Dawson Maids' Hockey Club, and the other the Dawson Matrons' Hockey Club.

These are to form a league to be called the D.A.A.A.W. H.L., and a series of games is to be played for a trophy (if the men will shell out liberally enough) of a silver tea service.

Bridging Lewis River

Vancouver, Wash., Dec. 12 - The Northern Pacific Railroad Company commenced work today putting in the draw span of its bridge across Lewis river, on its new line between this city and Kalama.

The bridge was practically completed, except the draw span, one year ago, and travel over the new road has been postponed that period of time on account of inability to obtain steel work.

It is thought the bridge will be completed about the first of the new year, shortly after which it is expected regular traffic will be commenced over the road.

A balky horse is an annoying creature under any circumstances, says the Youth's Companion, but the story of an incident which happened during a regimental drill raises the question whether such a horse may not simply be overconscientious.

The sun blazed down on a field of hot, tired horses and excited men, all waiting for a big, raw-boned animal to succumb to the urgings of the starter and get into line.

"Bring up that horse!" shouted one of the officers at last, his patience having given out. "You'll get into trouble if you won't!"

"I'm as tired of it as you are, sir," he said, with dull resignation, "but I can't help it. He's a cab horse, sir; that's what he is. He won't start till he hears the door shut, sir, and I haven't got any door to shut!"

Meantime the importers here say that the quarantine has little effect on the American meat supply, since the bulk comes from the west, and it is merely a question of shipping the cattle by way of New York instead of Boston.

Regarding the general question of opening English ports to Canadian and Argentine live cattle, there is not the slightest likelihood of the admittance of Argentine cattle until the board of agriculture is satisfied that the foot and mouth disease has been not only stamped out in the Argentine republic, but until the latter established an effective quarantine against the surrounding infected territory, of which there is no immediate prospect.

On the other hand, the importers say that the opening of British ports to Canadian live cattle is not only improbable but it would not favorably affect the English meat supply, because it is cheaper to ship Canadian range cattle dressed to England than to import them as live stock to be fattened for the market.

Best hot drinks in town - The Sideboard.

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Communications for publication in this column are invited upon all questions of public interest. Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible and to sign their names, which will be withheld if desired.

Against Capital Punishment

Editor Nugget: -

Dear Sir, - Less than two years elapsed between the two horrible murders and robberies up the Yukon, and so near do these cases resemble each other that everybody would lay the two crimes at the same man's door if no one had been caught and executed for the first offense or for either of them.

But since O'Brien was hung and we have conclusive evidence that Labelle and Fournier had no hand in the first murder, we know positively that the two deeds were committed by two different parties, and to an ordinary person nothing strange presents itself regarding the similarity of the two murders, but to a spiritual-gifted man, one who has made spirit life his close study, great thoughts present themselves here to substantiate spiritual truths, which come in evidence more vivid to those who seek them as we pass along the line of progression. Whether or not O'Brien was guilty is not in question here, but the question is: In what state of mind did he pass out of this life into the next? According to evidence he passed out with vengeance in his mind - not in his head, for the head does not think, but the mind thinks, and what is the mind but the spirit of the mortal himself? Therefore we say the spirit passed out of the body in a vengeful mood, and the severance of body and spirit did not change the spirit, his desires, or thoughts in the least, and the only effect which took place was upon the body, for it was destroyed. Had vengeance, thought and spirit been destroyed with the body, then we could truthfully say that a man had been put out of the way where he could do no more harm, but as the case now stands only the spiritually ignorant will make that assertion, while the wise will declare that a man has not been put out of the way in the least, but only all the more - in the way. Here is food for reflection for our law makers and the advance guards of civilization in general. You may ask: How is the man put in the way and how can he do harm after the separation of body and spirit? The answer is, that modern science has established the fact that after death of the body the spirit still remains here in our atmosphere, and roams about at will, making suggestions to us under favorable conditions so that we can readily receive them. It is simply a matter of mind exerting an influence over the ether, thus a spirit out of the body can exert the same hypnotic influence as another mortal over another. Yes, science goes farther and proves that under certain conditions the spirit can even take on a material body and thus communicate with us verbally.

Now, what is the result when we hang or electrocute a man and that man has vengeance in his mind at the time of execution? Will not his desires remain with him, and will he not put his threats and desires into practice. When he sees himself a perfect, active man after his body is dead, does he not soon realize the fact that he as a spirit is indestructible and that he has a great advantage over us; that he can see and hear us and enter our very houses and we are not even conscious of his presence. Of course he can not pick up a gun and shoot us, but he can hover about others upon whose mind he can work and cause them to do so, and while his desires for robbing and killing remains with him he will naturally linger around those people whose mind he can work and make them his tools, and I predict right here that if Labelle and Fournier are guilty, and if they pass to the other side of life with murder and vengeance in their mind, that before another two years we will have other similar murders and robberies as the foregoing two. The only way out of this difficulty is to put all murderers in prison for life, educate them properly and take away all pardoning power from all who have such power now. We who think ourselves far advanced in civilization - really know very little, more about the true science of life, how to overcome crime and sin in general and promote happiness and progress in the right way than a Moosehide Indian. I am one of the few who observe this truth and am honest enough with myself and his fellow man to acknowledge it. In vice and crime we are far in advance of the poor heathen, but in matters pertaining to the natural life of man and true manhood and womanhood, matters we can take with us into the next world and reap happiness and satisfaction from, we are no more advanced than our red brother in buckskin, and I venture to say that in 100 years from now the people will be "so" far advanced over us that we will truthfully be called people of the dark ages.

And now to progress with our subject of spirit life and spirit influence over mortals. Let us take a look at the Durrant case in San Francisco. Since Durrant was hung, San Francisco has been a slaughterhouse of women, and it is still so to the present day. This is only one case out of a probable dozen which I could recite, where after the execution of a certain peculiar murderer a number of very similar murders were committed in that very locality, and if no one had been caught and executed it would be thought that one culprit was guilty of them all. I claim that two wrongs do not make one right, and no one has a right to take a life, and if one commits murder he should not be killed likewise and be sent out of this world at short notice and in a mood in which he would not be fit to go anywhere. But keep him behind the bars and educate him and let him kill the body who gave it life. Thus we can put murderers out of the way in this life and make them fit subjects to enter the next. There is a way of overcoming the hypnotic suggestions of the spirits about us, and that is to fight them off and be just as positive that we will not commit the wrong which the spirits are trying to have us do, as they are determined we shall do their bidding, but the great trouble lies in the fact that not one out of a thousand mortals realizes from whence such thoughts come as present themselves to us at times, and while we see no one around we think they originate within ourselves without additional influence. The preachers and good church people in their ignorance call these spirit influences the devil, and actually believe that his Satanic Majesty really roams about in person and tries to mislead us poor mortals. Oh Satan's shoulders must be pretty broad and strong to carry all the blame which has been put upon them. If we left the old fellow out at will, mix together and took a little time to make a close investigation and pry into the door of truth and enlightenment we would find that the whole blame rested with our ignorance, and a way would be thrown open to overcome all now-existing obstacles.

Let us suppose that O'Brien, Labelle and Fournier are all guilty and all three pass to independent spirit life with vengeance in their mind.

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