

# DENNAM'S CLOSE CALL

## Took an Overdose of Laudanum Sunday Night.

### SAID TO BE AN ATTEMPT AT SUICIDE

#### The Man Was Employed By Major Perry.

#### Dennam Is Now a Patient in the Barracks Hospital—His Normal Health Will Be Recovered Within a Few Days.

[From Monday's Daily.]

Rumors were rife at an early hour this morning that G. Dennam, an household servant in the service of Major Perry, had attempted to commit suicide. Tired of life and devoid of friends, it was said that the young man made an effort to journey to the undiscovered country via the laudanum route. His uncommon desire was frustrated by the interference of a physician, who succeeded in relieving the unfortunate fellow of the poison. Dennam is now a patient in the Barracks hospital, slowly recovering from the effects of his rash act.

The young man is a native of Canada he has been in the territory for a considerable time, and, though not a soldier nor policeman, he is a member of the Yukon Field Force band. Major Perry has employed him as a servant.

For the past few months, Dennam has been complaining of his ill health, and at various times he has doctored himself with medicines taken from his private chest. At 9:30 last night, he took an overdose of laudanum, whether with suicidal intent or accidentally, yet remains to be determined. At present the physical condition of the young man precludes him from giving any information. As soon as it became known that Dennam had taken the drug, a physician was hastily summoned, and immediate danger of death was avoided by the prompt administration of antidotes.

Major Perry, when questioned respecting the matter, said:

"Mr. Dennam is not a soldier nor policeman. For some time past I have employed him in the capacity of a servant. He has been in the habit of doctoring himself, and last night he was unfortunate enough to take an overdose of laudanum. He is in no danger of death, and will recover his normal health in a short while. My opinion is that he made a mistake in the quantity of the drug. I have not spoken to him since the accident, but I am willing to venture the opinion that he did not contemplate the commission of suicide."

#### The Question of Fuel.

The coal industry of the Yukon has attracted the attention of capitalists. The consumption of fuel in this territory is increasing annually, and the scarcity of wood has compelled the larger companies to direct their efforts to the development of the coal fields. There is a profitable market in Dawson for this sort of fuel, but this fact is not the inducement which has occasioned wealthy concerns to prospect the country so thoroughly and to expend thousands of dollars in tentative developments. The enormous quantities of fuel, which are required by the navigation business, is the reason why coal deposits have been sought so eagerly. The supply of wood, on the Yukon, is not exhausted, but such timber as the steamboats use is scarce along the banks, and is difficult to obtain, when situated, as it is, a mile or so from the shores of the river. Last season the fuel accounts of all of the navigation companies exceeded the estimate. A

few of the boats burned coal, and these had a most successful summer.

Several deposits of bituminiferous mineral have been located in the territory adjacent to the Yukon river. Some of the claims have prospected exceedingly well, and promise to produce vast quantities of a good commercial quality. To the present time, operations have been confined to the trading companies.

The N. A. T. and T. Co. is developing its property very extensively. In reference to the matter, Capt. Healy said:

"Our coal deposits are located about 60 miles down the Yukon river. We have been conducting work on a large scale for the past two years. The ground has verified our anticipations; and the body of mineral is not only extensive but of a good quality. We employ about 50 miners, and have an expensive plant of machinery in operation. The product is conveyed from our mine to the river on a railroad, the rolling stock of which is comprised of 20 cars and a locomotive. Next summer, we shall be able to supply not only our own wants, but those of the citizens of Dawson. Before the river closes in the fall, our property will produce, and we can deliver in the city, 50,000 tons. We marketed a small quantity during the past summer; but this year, we have better arrangements, and we expect to offer an excellent commercial commodity for \$12 per ton. One ton of coal will go farther than two cords of wood." The A. C. Co. is interested in coal lands at various points on the river. About two miles up Nation river, which flows into the Yukon 75 miles below Eagle City, the A. C. Co. did considerable work last year. At this place, 40 men were employed, and a tramroad transported the product. Part of the output was marketed in Dawson and sold as high as \$100 per ton. Operations are suspended now; and it is said that the deposit was a "blow-out" and not extensive enough to warrant further developments. The same company has a field in the vicinity of Minoak, which has given good prospects and promises paying quantities.

Mr. Fulda of the A. E. Co., when questioned relative to the properties of his concern, replied:

"Last summer, we bonded from Miss Gates some coal land on Rock creek, about 22 miles from Dawson. The ground has been prospected, and showed well enough to warrant us in taking up the land. We have expended thousands of dollars on the property, and, at the present time, there are 30 men engaged in development work. I consider the quality of our coal 50 per cent better than a y which I have seen in this country. The only question which remains for us to solve is that of quantity. If the deposit is extensive, Dawson will be incalculably benefited, for the mineral is applicable to all ordinary use. I burn it in my office, and it has given me the utmost satisfaction."

#### Skagway a Wholesale Point.

A letter just received at the Nugget office from a prominent merchant in Skagway reports the local business of that city as being remarkably dull. Many people are preparing to leave there in the spring for Nome, but the element that will leave is what is termed the floating population. All the old established business firms will stay with Skagway. The letter states that extensive preparations for wholesaling to the interior during the coming season are being made. Large stocks of goods have been ordered from below and will be received and on sale by the time navigation opens, at which time it will be possible for the Dawson trade to order a stock by telegraph and receive it within six days. Many outfits for this country were purchased at Skagway last season at a great saving of both time and money as compared with Seattle and other lower points.

As a wholesale town Skagway will be of great profit to Dawson and to the entire interior country.

# HERE ARE SOME QUEER GEMS

## Extracted From Our Contemporary's Market Report.

### Eggs Sell at \$100 Per Case Wholesale and Retail at \$2.50 Per Dozen—Turkeys, \$1.50 Each.

It is not often that the reading people of Dawson have so much information fired at them in one discharge as was contained in a recent article in our evening contemporary. The article in question appeared last Friday, occupied the leading position on the first page of the paper and was headed "Dawson Meat Market." Some portions of the dissertation would strike terror to the heart and purse of a hungry man, while other portions of it would be like a summer shower to the parching desert to the same heart and purse.

The "grub" editor of the News, after disposing of the beef, mutton, pork and butter situation, tackles eggs and perhaps, knowing them to be nearly all frozen, handles them quite roughly. Here is what he says:

"Eggs are practically cornered by a few and \$100 a case is eagerly paid wherever offered. These are now retailing at from \$3 to \$2.50 a dozen."

Unless egg cases have been through a course of green persimmon treatment, a mathematical problem is suggested in the above. A case of eggs, by all the laws, customs and rules of all countries, contains 30 dozen, for which, according to the News' "grub" editor, "\$100 a case is eagerly paid." The following sentence reads, "These are now retailing at from \$3 to \$2.50 a dozen." The mathematical problem suggested by the above is: If a merchant pays \$100 per case for eggs and retails them at from \$90 to \$75, how many cases will he be compelled to handle before he is justified in presenting Rachel "mit a djumt."

Not satisfied with his brilliant disposal of the egg proposition, the "grub" editor must needs attack the ancestry—the parent stem, so to speak—of succulent hen fruit, which he does by quoting the following rices which his paper asserts are now current in Dawson:

"Chicken, \$1.50 each; turkey, \$1.50 each; goose, \$1.50 each; mallard duck, \$5 each."

Now this is the portion of our contemporary's market report that would cause the little birds to warble "lays" in the hearts of hungry people. Think of it, chicken, turkey, goose, \$1.50 each. How it must thrill with pride the heart of a brown leghorn hen to reflect that she can produce the price of herself at six sittings of 15 minutes each day. But what must the turkey, that great American bird which the News quotes at \$1.50 per copy, think of the same paper's compliment to game, which is:

"Rabbits, \$1.50 each; ptarmigan, \$1 each; grouse, \$2 each; quail, \$2 each; prairie chicken, \$2 each."

Imagine, dear reader, if you can, the pompous Chesterfieldian strut of the Bob White quail when he sees in the News that he is worth 50 cents more than a turkey. Can the meat and poultry editor of the News complain if the next goose he meets hisses at him after rating it 50 cents lower than a common grouse? If that benighted space writer again finds himself in a barnyard, he will do well to keep himself as he now quotes salmon bellies, "very scarce."

#### Ferocious Klondike Wolves.

C. D. Shafer, who runs a roadhouse on Dominion, near Gold Bottom, came to Dawson with the rush in the fall of '97 and has since, with varied success, been a resident of the country. During the first fall and early winter of his arrival here Mr. Shafer devoted considerable time to hunting wild game in the country adjacent to the headwaters

of the Klondike, considerably over 100 miles back from Dawson. Besides being profitable, from a financial point, the occupation afforded good opportunity for acquiring information relative to the wild animals which frequent that section of the then practically unexplored country.

In the course of a recent conversation with a representative of the Daily Nugget, and in detailing some of his experiences as a nymrod, Shafer said:

"I was away up the Klondike early in the winter of '97, and was looking for moose. Now in moose hunting it is foolish to attempt to track a moose and expect to get close enough to shoot him, for it is almost impossible. Moose are about as smart animals as exist in any country and about the only way to kill them is for the hunter to appear suddenly before he is either seen, heard or scented and fire away. If his aim is steady, well and good, he probably downed a moose, but if he missed, there is no use to follow the fleeing game, for moose are too smart to be slipped up on twice in close succession."

"One morning, long before daylight I left my camp and struck out across a ridge for another valley, where I hoped to find some game. Considerable snow had fallen the day before, but had ceased about 9 o'clock the previous night. After walking perhaps a mile I came upon the footprints of a moose, and judging from the size of the tracks, it had been a very large one. As the wind was favorable to my coming up with the animal, I followed the tracks, but had gone but a short distance until I found that several wolf tracks were leading in the same pathway through the snow. When I first noticed the latter tracks there were but two, but they were as soon joined by others which struck the trail from all directions and by the time I had traveled three miles the path looked as though a flock of sheep had passed that way. Every here and there I could see where the moose had stopped and turned about and around several times, and at these places the wolves had always scattered out some distance on both sides. On following the trail from the ridge down into a little gulley I came to the silent sequel of the last journey of that moose; for there on the ground in the center of a large area in which the snow was trampled down as flat and hard as a traveled street, lay all that was left of what had been a very noble animal, and all that was left was the contents of the intestine—a mere handful of brush, buds and twigs—and the horns still attached to that thick skull or crown of the head from which they grow, and which is as hard as steel. Every hair and bone of that moose, aside from the remnants mentioned, had been eaten by that ferocious pack of wolves, and so ravenous had they been that they had eaten the snow upon which the noble bull's life blood had flowed."

"So far as I am informed," said Mr. Shafer in conclusion, "these wolves have never been known to attack a man. They are very cowardly in daylight, but I would not care to take chances with them at night, especially when the snow is deep and the weather severely cold."

#### Another Missing Man.

George Steelsmith who left here sometime the latter part of December for the outside has not been heard from since he started on his trip. The Semi-Weekly Nugget of December 30th contained a lengthy article regarding Steelsmith's object in going to Alaska, he being a Jack Wade creek miner on whom an injunction forcing him to quit work had been served, and it was in his own and behalf of others similarly situated that he undertook the trip, his destination being the United States district judge's office in Sitka, where he had hoped to have the injunction dissolved. As Steelsmith was to have kept friends here advised by wire of his progress on the trip, and as nothing has yet been received from him, considerable anxiety is felt for his safety, but 'tis hoped he reached his destination in safety.