

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

DAWSON, Y. T., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1898.

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DEATH BY THE STRYCHNINE ROUTE.

Stella-Hill Gets Tired of Life and Suicides.

Jealousy the Probable Cause—Has tried it Before—The Most Rapid Case of Strychnine Poisoning on Record.

Stella Hill is dead. The pressure of life with in the Arctic regions proved too much, and in the presence of would-be rescuers, she took the deadly draught which ended her earthly troubles. While the contemplation of suicide as a means to end all earthly woes has probably engaged her mind many times before, it remained for the concomitant circumstances of last evening to bring her resolutions to a focus, and her physical condition at the time made the act the most rapid of which we have any cognizance.

Stella Hill was engaged at the Monte Carlo, as a dancing girl, and excelled in the art of the waltz. Very few prize dances she engaged in, but she carried away the prize for waltzing. Naturally enough, she was fortunate in securing partners and had no need to be at all anxious on that score. Stella has been living for a long time with Charley Hill, engaged as bartender at the Pioneer saloon. Whether or not she had reason to be jealous of waltzing partners, the fact remains that she was jealous. She had danced all night, as usual, and after cashing in a successful night's checks at 6 a. m. Tuesday morning she proceeded light heartedly to the Pioneer in search of Charley Hill. At that place she was advised that he had left some little time previously with "another girl." That she was much affected was apparent in an instant, but she departed quietly and was observed shortly afterward entering the drug store of Kelly & Co., on the waterfront. She had accused the two clerks within, and told them she wished to purchase some strychnine. When asked what she required it for, she entered into a long and calm explanation: She wanted it for rats and mice. Dresses and costumes were very expensive, and she found them dropping into holes. "Did she understand the use of the poison?" "Why, certainly," she was going to mix it with lard and put some small boxes of the mixture in her trunks. She appeared quite cool and voluble, and signed her name in the register with a steady hand. An eighth-oz. bottle was given her with a caution. Resolved upon the rash deed of the morning she proceeded back to the dance-hall and acted so strangely in bidding friends good-bye, that it was resolved by the management not to leave her alone for a moment. When she repaired upstairs to her room she was followed and talked with. At about 7:15 a. m. she was left alone for a few moments and evidently at once locked the door. Speaking through the partition she bade some neighboring roomers "good-bye." Just at this moment Charley Hill arrived on the scene, and having been advised of the circumstances, proceeded to push in the door. As it burst open the small crowd assembled saw the girl standing upright in the room. In her hand was a glass of colorless liquid. As the friends entered the doorway she hastily drank the contents and threw herself backward onto the bed with the remark: "I have taken care of myself now, and it's all done." Immediately a doctor was sent for and Dr. Richardson was on the ground within 15 minutes of the time she had swallowed the poison. Up to this time the poison had shown no effect and the gathered friends believed the coffee and mustard they were administering was proving an antidote. Just as the doctor entered her countenance changed and she said very hurriedly: "Rush up, doctor; I'm dying." She immediately went into spasms, and in five minutes was dead.

Kitty Straub was a native of Boon's Ferry, Oregon, where she was born some 19 or 20 years ago. Four years ago she was in Juneau and three years ago she left there for the inside. After a sojourn at Forty-Mile and Circle City she came to Dawson. She lived the past summer over the Oatley Sister's concert hall, and was for a long time very ill of fever. The girl has always, in the interior, gone by the name of Stella and latterly as Stella Hill. She was a tall girl with light brown hair and evidently subject to fits of dejection, for she attempted suicide at least once before some 12 months ago. She was not a heavy drinker as a rule, and from custom could take a great many drinks without showing their effects.

In the minute or two she was alone in her room she hastily scribbled a note to her lover: "Dear Charley—I am disgusted with life since you deceived me and I guess you will be sorry when you find me, etc., etc." The latter end was scribbled so hastily as to be almost invisible. On the back was a note to her brother.

Dog Ordinance Killed. That obnoxious dog ordinance is knocked into a cocked hat and good natured dogs are once more free from the persecutions of a horde of penurious lads who took pet house dogs, by preference, to the pound because they were more easily caught by inept dog catchers. The article in the Nugget last Wednesday on the impounding ordinance, set people to thinking and no justification could be found for that ordinance at all. It was neither a revenue measure nor a health measure, and the more the people pondered over the facts as published the more indignant they became. On Friday

a petition was circulated around town beseeching Gov. Ogilvie for relief from this oppressive measure. Meanwhile Col. Steele was investigating in his own way and from the reports of his own men he learned that the ordinance was without friends or supporters at all. The men who had asked for and suggested the dog pound ordinance in mid-winter were no longer in evidence; in fact had hidden their heads from the storm of public disapproval they had provoked. And so it came to happen that four days after the publication of the story of the practical workings of the dog ordinance, after a conference between the governor and the commander of the N. W. M. P., the governor directed the commander of the police to suspend the workings of the ordinance except where it applies to vicious dogs.

There are still some 30 or 40 dogs in the pound which will have to pay the pound expenses, but no more peaceable dogs are to be taken by the dog-catchers. In this connection we would like to suggest that the proper course to pursue is to kill the law from the statutes and not leave it in existence though inoperative, to be brought up at some future time to the disgust and discomfort of the dog owners.

More Enterprise. The down town edition of the Miner-Sun has always been noted for its journalistic enterprise. For instance, it undertook last summer to bring about a general conflict of all the great nations of the world. Not only did it undertake this task but actually succeeded in persuading itself, though it is true no one else believed it, that a great war involving America, England, Russia and Japan was in progress. Under a great "sore head" it narrated the blood curdling story only to be compelled a short time afterward to eat its own language.

Another sample of this journalistic phenomenon's peculiar talent for keeping in touch with the times is shown in its issue of Tuesday. It will be remembered that on last Wednesday the Nugget published a lengthy account of the dog ordinance. Two days later by order of Col. Steele the dog ordinance was suspended and has not been enforced since. Four days after the demise of the dog law the keen scented and up-to-date government organ comes forth and in solemn tones advises the Yukon Council that inasmuch as dogs are an important institution in Dawson it would be the part of wisdom to revise or repeal the ordinance.

Such enterprise as this deserves special commendation. It is not often that the public is given an opportunity to witness such journalistic push and energy as has been displayed by the Yukon-Sun-Miner. The moral to it all is very plain. If you want to know what is going on, after it has all passed into ancient history, read the government organ, the Yukon-Sun-Miner.

Townsite at Stewart. A Dominion land surveyor is to be dispatched at once to the mouth of Stewart river to lay out a townsite there. The settlement around the police post is large and constantly growing by accretion of prospectors, traders and others until it has been decided to survey a site at once in order to avoid discommoding cabin builders by making them conform to streets laid out at some future time. The town will be laid out on the angular point on the right bank of the Yukon and to the right of the mouth of the Stewart.

That Mail Contract. The weakly struggle of P. C. Richardson and his assigns over the mail contract is a spectacle for the gods. It was conceded by all that the man who was such a gigantic failure as was P. C. Richardson would never succeed in bringing a single mail sack to Dawson, but it was sincerely hoped the Arctic Express company, the assigns of P. C. Richardson, would jump into the breach and give us the service we are entitled to. The Arctic Express company started a sleigh load of mail for the coast last week with great eclat. At Stewart the mail matter was dumped at the police station and left there and there it is today.

The facts appear to be that P. C. Richardson, with the greed of a porker and the perspicacity of a mole, has "funked" on the division of the \$84,000 he was to receive for a twice-a-month mail service to and from Dawson. By tying up some 60 tons of mail at Seattle, some eight tons at Skagway and Dyea Richardson hoped he was able to keep the Arctic Express agents in the interior in the dark and to get several consignments of mail to the coast free of cost to himself; and such indeed would have happened had not the express messenger heard at Stewart of P. C. Richardson's "fall down."

The police have decided to take the matter largely into their own hands where it was before official notification was received last fall of the giving of the mail contract to Richardson. At that time the police were organizing relays of men and dogs every few miles along the river and had they been left alone they would have given us the best service we have yet had. As the situation is at present they have decided to take out and bring in with each official mail enough public mail to make

a load for the dogs. That mail now lying at Stewart will be forwarded by the boys in uniform whenever they have teams traveling southward. Later mail taken from Dawson will of course be given the preference over the abandoned mail and if there is 500 pounds of each new semi-monthly mail then these unfortunate letters at Stewart will not stand much chance of getting out before spring.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Dr. W. H. Blewett is making mysterious river trips these days.

Attorney Clark, of the firm of Wade, Clark & Wilson, has been made crown prosecuting attorney, vice Phil Sheridan, resigned.

Richard Tucker says Pat McHugh "isn't in it" when it comes to wrestling. They have selected next Saturday week as a favorable date to pull it off.

The new Family theatre, located between Pioneer hall and the Klondike hotel, was opened on Wednesday night to the general public by a minstrel show.

Wood has dropped and as has beer, and still we are a long ways from the spring washup which is to infuse new life-blood into the channels of trade.

A rumor is around town to the effect that Con Peoples, who left for the outside with Dan Drew some days ago, is lying up at Selkirk with frozen feet. Particulars are not obtainable.

"He who steals my purse steals trash," but it would surprise you to know how many people are contemplating a strife for those cash prizes at Pete McDonald's on Friday. Needless to say the Nugget will be represented.

P. E. DeVillie, familiarly known as "French Pete," has closed up the French Royal restaurant, and there has been opened up in its place a wholesale and retail grocery and meat market by M. C. Bossey & Co., with "French Pete" as manager.

On No. 13 below on Bezanza, an attempt is being made by the owners to demonstrate the utility of a thawing machine which after thawing the ground furnishes scalding water to wash the dirt with. The refuse is then hoisted to the top.

There was one of those pleasurable times at the Fairview on Friday night when the tables are moved out and the gallants disport themselves in the sunshiny effulgence of the ladies' smiles. Left hand to your partners and grand right-and-lick.

The outer door to the Yukon commissioner's office has a broken lock and a new one has been substituted. The door binds so badly that many try the door and turn away believing it to be locked. If you have business within, put your shoulder to the door and shove hard.

Next Saturday evening the ladies will conduct the exercises at the Eldorado City Social and Literary Club. A most interesting program is being prepared and a nice lunch will be served. Everyone is invited and those who bring cups will get liquid refreshments.

Quartz locations are being made every few days. The latest lode discovered was located by Ben W. Anderson. The vein was found on the hill at the rear of the town. Assays have not yet been made but Mr. Anderson is sure he has a winner as the quartz has been pronounced of excellent quality by experienced assessors.

Some people make time but some make "time." Dan Ferguson, wearing a lapel button consisting of a dog bearing the initials A. C. Co., says his one dog brought him down from the Forks in 1 hour and 25 minutes. Thinks he could have done better but some one tempted him into a "refreshment store on the way."

At the interesting wrestling bout on Friday between the veteran Jack Corners and the im-mense Richard Tucker, the latter was given the contest at the end of the second bout. Corners said he had sprained himself and could not respond. The Tivoli has seen many good contests but none more interesting than when the "youngster" made things so warm for the "veteran."

F. G. Patterson and H. F. Bush, both of the Empire Line, searched Dawson from Circle City on Monday night. Mr. Patterson is purser of the company's steamer, Seattle, and Mr. Bush holds a similar position on the steamer Tacoma. The gentlemen are en route to the outside and will remain in Dawson only two days. They report matters at Circle City as being very encouraging.

The N. W. M. P. have decided to relieve the present mail block and to a considerable extent. A post office system has been perfected by which the official mail to Ottawa is kept going without interruption from the time it leaves Dawson until it reaches Bennett. Now the official mail sack seldom weighs more than 50 pounds and it has been found that the dog teams might just as well drag 500 pounds seeing that each team runs but a short distance.

Each month enough postoffice mail matter will be taken to make up that weight. P. C. Richardson is the contrary, notwithstanding, and on the return trip the same weight of mail will be brought back, if any can be found.

Sunday's Entertainment. Last Sunday evening the Wanderscope Co. gave an entertainment that could not be excelled by any company not only in Dawson, but in any country.

The descriptions given of the stereoscopic views were highly appreciated and words of praise were heard on all sides of the beautiful tinted views thrown upon the screen.

Mr. Tracy, assisted by the illustrations, sang to good advantage and his melodious voice brought forth repeated echoes.

Prof. Trenaman surprised the audience in his torchlight swinging which was given in a darkened hall, producing a beautiful effect.

The moving pictures, however, were the greatest attraction. "The Lone Fisherman," "Black Diamond Express" and battle pictures bringing forth a storm of applause.

Next Sunday evening stereoscopic views and moving pictures of the Spanish-American war will be given, Mr. Tracy will sing the latest illustrated war songs, and other specialties which will be announced in Saturday's issue, will be given.

Reserved seats at Kelley's Drug Store.

Miners of the Forks will have an opportunity to see the Wanderscope and stereoscopic views tonight. Mr. Tracy's illustrated songs will be a feature.

The Wanderscope Co. will present the war scenes and moving pictures at the Forks on Wednesday night.

DEFINITE BOUNDARY LINES.

The Miners' Association Suggests Some Important Changes.

Rights to Be Restored Upon the Abandonment of Claims—Six Months Open Season—Four Stakes to a Claim.

On Monday evening the Miners' Association held a special meeting to consider amendments to the mining regulations presented by the standing committee. It is proposed to have them well threshed out at a series of miners' meetings up the gulches and then to submit them to a large meeting in town before forwarding them to Ottawa. The amendments as debated and passed Monday evening are most important in the changes they will work in the regime of the camp. The interests of the miner—the man of the pick and shovel—were considered paramount.

1. A six months open and closed season will discourage the holding of claims by non-miners for speculation, while working no hardship upon the bona fide miner.

2. All claims to be 250 feet square, to be marked by four stakes. The present unsatisfactory "rim rock" boundary is dispensed with entirely. Fractions to take care of themselves as in quartz claims; anyone wanting them takes them.

3. Five miners in a new section can elect their own recorder if they are 50 miles from the government recorder. The present law says 100 miles.

4. The present penalty for a miner's recorder failing to report in three months to the government recorder is for the miners to forfeit their claims, etc. It is proposed to inflict a penalty of three months and a fine on that recorder.

5. In the absence of a mining recorder he shall appoint a competent substitute.

6. A recorder shall have no option in the matter but must record vacant ground to the applicant.

7. No monopoly in timber.

8. Miners' certificates good for house logs and fuel without further royalty.

9. A practical miner as mining inspector in each district to examine underground workings, etc. for the protection of miners.

10. Miners' certificates \$5; recording fees \$5; renewals \$5.

11. Any government official or employee found to be interested in mines to be subject to a term of imprisonment.

12. No royalty.

13. No reservation of claims to the government.

14. When a "free miner" presents a document or deed for recording together with the proper fee, it shall in no case be optional with that recorder to accept it for record or filing. In case a claim is already recorded, subsequent applications to be filed in the order of their receipt and marked with the day and hour, the relative merits of the applications to be decided by the proper authorities.

15. Discoverers to be allowed two claims.

16. No one to be allowed to take up more than one claim in a district.

17. In case of the working out of a claim or its proving worthless, the staker may abandon the same by posting up a notice of abandonment on his stakes and filing same with recorder. After 30 days of such notice his rights shall be restored and he be allowed to take up another claim.

18. A "free miner" may stake out any vacant ground for prospecting and shall remain in undisturbed possession as long as he works the ground; three days' absence to act as a forfeiture.

19. When a free miner desires to record he shall be allowed the usual time, but shall secure from the recorder a copy of such record and shall securely fasten same upon the initial stake of his claim within 30 days of the time he left to record same.

The foregoing suggested amendments will work many important changes if adopted. They are largely designed to rid the community of non-workers and leeches as with a six months open season no one will wish to keep large tracts of unknown ground in his possession. The practical worker in possession of a piece of ground and bona fide prospecting the same is made safe. A man prospecting in the hills can read the stakes and will know without returning to town whether a piece of ground is claimed, staked or recorded. The substitution of a definite boundary instead of the present rim rock farce will appeal to all.

Good Words From Sulphur. Undoubtedly the best strike of the year, so far as Sulphur, is that just made by Mr. H. Gerwin who has a lay of 120 feet on 5A below. Mr. Gerwin and his men sunk three holes to bedrock with hardly a prospect and in the fourth struck fine pay. Another hole was then sunk 70 feet away and still better pay located.

One pan washed out \$38 and 20 pans, not picked, averaged \$3.50. There is three feet of pay gravel that easily averages 45 cents to \$1.50. The Nugget man was down in the drift, 20 feet down and a handful of dirt taken from above bedrock looked like it had been sprinkled with coarse gold from a salt cellar.

Tonight at the Grand Forks the Wanderscope Co. will exhibit moving pictures and illustrated songs by Mr. Tracy will be on the program.

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