

# THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

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## EXTRA

## MURDER MOST FOUL

### James Prater, a "Nugget" Composer, Slain by His Partner.

### HIS HEAD HALF FORCED FROM THE TRUNK.

### And His Skull Crushed By a Blow From a Hatchet.

### The Murderer Admits His Guilt to the Officers—A Razor and a Hatchet Were Employed in the Bloody Tragedy—The Murderer May Be Crazy.

The most horrid murder which has yet occurred to stain the record of the Yukon Territory was committed some time between eight and nine o'clock this morning.

The victim was James P. Prater, for several weeks past a compositor in the NUGGET office, and previously a well known newspaper man of Juneau, Alaska.

Prater had been occupying a cabin adjacent to the trail leading to the ferry, and about half way between the auxiliary A. C. warehouses and the top of the bluff back of Dawson. With him were George Hill, his partner and also a printer, Arthur Goddard, a Seattle boy who came in with them, and Albert Anderson.

Prater worked at his case in the NUGGET office until about nine o'clock last night—at which hour the paper was put to press—and then left in the company of another compositor. He spent the next two hours and a half with a dozen or so friends engaged in athletic sports close to the office, then visited several pleasure resorts about town.

At about half-past one o'clock in the morning—according to the best obtainable information—he started for his cabin on the hillside, and nothing more was known of him until the news of his horrid murder was conveyed to the police at about half-past eleven.

#### DISCOVERY OF THE MURDER.

As near as can be found out at this hour, Hill and Anderson got up and left the cabin ahead of Prater and Goddard, and went down town. The first named had occasion later to go back to the cabin at about 10:30 o'clock and upon entering he was accosted by Goddard, who said: "Jimmy's throat is cut; I want you to take care of the case."

Hill stayed only long enough to convince himself that the man spoke the truth, then hurried down town; he met Anderson on the street, and hastily informed him that "Prater has his throat cut." The two, without parley, hastened to return to the cabin and then went to the barracks and told their terrible story.

Captain Harper at once prepared to go to the scene, and upon arriving there found Corporal Wilson of the town station in charge.

Prater lay in his bunk at the south end of the cabin, curled up and unconscious, he was still breathing, but a horrid, gaping wound appeared on the left side of the neck and investigation disclosed another terrible wound on the left side of the head, where the skull was fractured as if from a heavy blow. He was alive and struggling for breath, but oblivious to all that was passing about him.

As Captain Harper entered, Goddard was observed

served standing with his two hands upon a table. His attitude and expression constituted an open confession of guilt, and one of the officers was moved to ask, "Why did you do it?"

Without any show of emotion, and with his hands still holding his weight from the table, Goddard replied, "I don't know."

#### COVERED HIS TRACKS.

While Goddard was kept under surveillance of one of the police, Captain Harper had the bleeding man removed to a place in the middle of the floor, where he was examined by Dr. Thompson of the police force. He was still alive, but his life blood was swiftly flowing away, and as the physician knelt by his side a feeble gasp and a quickly appearing pallor indicated that all was over. Ten minutes after their arrival James Prater was dead.

#### CORNERING THE MURDERER

Attention was then centered upon Goddard, and Captain Harper, taking him off his guard, abruptly inquired, "What did you strike him on the head with?"

"A hatchet," Goddard answered mechanically.

The captain swept the room with a glance and, seeing no hatchet there, went outside. There his search was quickly rewarded, for, lying against the corner of an adjacent cabin was a large, sharp bladed hatchet; it showed evidences of having been recently washed, but specks of tell-tale blood still showed on the rust at the back of the head, where it had escaped the notice of the murderer. It was also evident that he had put the hatchet in the place where it was found with the purpose of having it dried by the sun.

#### THE CONFESSION COMPLETE.

In the meanwhile Corporal Wilson was searching the cabin for the weapon that had inflicted the wound on the neck. It was not the hatchet, for the flesh was cleanly cut and the head half severed from the trunk. In a few minutes his search was rewarded by the discovery, in one corner of the cabin, of a razor, which the officer put in his pocket.

Captain Harper then took the matter in hand again. "Where is the razor you cut his throat with?" he demanded of Goddard.

Goddard, without any hesitation, walked over to the corner where the razor had been, and evidenced a sense of surprise when it did not appear in the spot where he had placed it. Then Corporal Wilson stepped forward, pulling the razor from his pocket at the same time.

"Is this it?" he asked, as he held it out. "Yes," replied Goddard, "that is the one."

"Why did you do it?" next asked the captain. "I was his partner and he was a traitor to me," was the response.

#### THE MURDERER IN JAIL.

Captain Harper then had Goddard taken to the barracks and locked up in a cell, where he was visited, a few minutes later, by a representative of the NUGGET.

Goddard was in a fever of excitement and evidently realized to the fullest extent the enormity of his awful crime. He would not, however, be induced to talk, other than to say that he was a partner of Prater whom he had met at Juneau.

#### HE MAY BE CRAZY.

Goddard is a young man of about twenty-one years, and came into the Klondike with Prater and Hill last spring. He was practically without means at the time, and Prater constituted himself his guardian. He was evidently well bred and possessed a high degree of morality. Last fall he was sent to Gold Run to represent a claim by Prater. It is said, in extension of his act of this morning, that he is insane, due to a gunshot wound received in the head before coming here.

James Prater, the murdered man, was a native of England, and was thirty-two years of age. He went to New York while a boy, and later removed to Alaska, where he followed the printing business until he came into the Klondike. His best work was done at Juneau, where he was foreman for a long time of the *Juneau Searchlight*. In disposition he was quiet and amiable, and generous to a fault. He leaves a father and sister at Seattle.

#### Dissolution of Partnership.

The partnership existing between Ed. Lewin and Joseph Cooper has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. All bills due the old firm will be collected and outstanding obligations paid by Ed. Lewin.

Dawson, May 10, 1899. ED. LEWIN. JOE COOPER.

#### Exploring Expedition Abandoned.

Mr. O. W. Jackson who, with Dick Emmons and Martin Gorman, left Dawson March 8 on an exploring expedition through Alaska, returned to the city on the Columbian last week and reported the abandonment of the project. As will be remembered by readers of the NUGGET, the party left here with but a small quantity of provisions, intending to live principally upon the spoils of the chase. They traveled west from Selkirk on snowshoes with dogs and Indian guides, but met with absolutely no game, and when the provisions in hand became short the Indians deserted them. Only one man in the party, namely Mr. Emmons, was acquainted with the country, and he was suffering excruciatingly with snow-blindness, so it was decided to abandon the trip for the time being. When they reached the White river and were then subsisting solely on rice, of which there were but three days rations left. Starvation stared them in the face and they knew that their lives could only be preserved by an early return to Selkirk.

After a council of war, it was decided to take the trail back, which was done, and the party finally reached Selkirk, but not until four days had been spent on a diet of raisins alone, with 25 raisins constituting some of the meals. Both

men and dogs were nearly spent for want of food, and their escape from death seemed to them providential. Mr. Jackson says it may be said for him that straight rice is a mighty poor diet for any body but John Chinaman, and raisins are good only when served in pudding. Messrs. Gorman and Emmons will remain at Selkirk until they hear from Captain Healy, who is expected in soon, and learn whether he desires another attempt made during the summer.

#### Memorial Day.

What does he who drops his tears Above the silent soldier dead? He drops the veil of by gone years Upon the struggle stern and dread, And lifts our reverence instead For Blue and Gray and brotherhood, And all the noble men who stood On battle fields and knew no fears— He lifts his soul who drops his tears.

What does he who scatters flowers Upon the silent soldier's grave? He scatters emblems of the hours Of peace to us who live to see This sacred day of memory. The day we reverence the brave And noble men who died to save To us that glorious land of ours— He gathers love who scatters flowers.

—RUSSELL S. BATES.

#### LOCAL BRIEVITIES.

The river is again rising rapidly. Joe Jourdan & Co. have constructed a substantial steamboat landing before their place of business.

The libel case of McCook vs. the NUGGET is set for trial before the Territorial court at ten o'clock Thursday.

The steamer Canadian arrived down on Tuesday morning with twenty sacks of mail taken on at the foot of Hootalingua.

The Canadian Development Co. have been awarded the contract for carrying the mails to and from the outside.

The coal from the Yukon mines was tested by the fire steamer one day last week and proved very satisfactory.

One of the late arrivals from Lake LeBarge reports that when he passed English post in April 1300 people had already gathered there.

The police stopped the late arrivals from selling goods at retail from their barges. The action was generally commented upon.

M. L. DeForest, did a neat piece of decoration at the Horseshoe for the Queen's birthday. The resort looked exceedingly attractive.

Bob Ainsley has just been apprised that a large stock of carbide which he had on the way in, was lost in the river at a point near Stewart.

An order has been issued that all the tent structures in the business part of the city must be covered by lumber by Saturday as a preventative of fires.

Joe Beaudene, a pioneer resident of the Yukon, died on Wednesday of pneumonia and the funeral took place at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon from pioneer hall.

Mrs. William Zahn, late of St. Paul, Minn., died on May 23 on Haggart creek, a tributary of the Klondike river, where she had spent the winter with her husband.

Among the well known citizens who left for the outside on Tuesday were Jack Raymond, O. Shay, Oscar Odine and Fred Johnson. They each take out a gold sack of goodly proportions.

The passage of the new mining regulations for the Yukon territory, as published exclusively in the NUGGET, has been officially confirmed by the recent receipt of mail from the outside.

The oddest cargo discovered in the tons of merchandise brought down the river last week was a half barge load of matches. The consignee is evidently not fully acquainted with Yukon affairs.

Fred Golling, a popular young citizen who had long been associated with the telephone company as lineman, has resigned his position and taken a commission as assistant purser on the Tyrrell.

Col. Evans returned to Selkirk on the Columbian. He was accompanied by Capt. Bennett and Sergt. Darlington, who have been assigned to duty there. Capt. Pierce succeeds Capt. Bennett at Dawson.

P. R. Ritchie, Mrs. Hill and Miss Edith Robinson spent Sunday delightfully at Grand Forks and vicinity. They were handsomely entertained at various places, including the office of the Nugget Express.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Crawford gave a musicale on Tuesday evening for a small company of friends. Those participating in the program were Mr. and Mrs. Crawford, Messrs. Edwards, Whitteir, Gillispie Sealor, Kallenborn, Clayton and Hazari.

The Bonanza King, of the Flyer Line, departed Tuesday afternoon on her initial trip to White Horse rapids. There was a fair passenger list aboard. The Columbian, of the Canadian Development Co., left an hour or so later with a good list of passengers.

The John C. Barr brought in an unusual passenger in the shape of a large, handsome lynx, which was captured down the river last winter. Tom Chisholm secured it for exhibition before the Aurora and it is looked upon as a sort of peace offering for that late bear joke.

Louis Schonborn, former proprietor of the Yukon Hotel, left for his home in Iowa on Tuesday, owing to poor health. There is no one in the country more respected than Mr. Schonborn, and he leaves with the best wishes of all who know him, including the NUGGET.

A large crowd of merry makers attended the masquerade at the Horseshoe on Wednesday night and an enjoyable time was had. The prizes were awarded as follows: Best costume, Evaline; best musician, Curley Monroe; best gait, human waltzer, Curley Monroe. The prizes were respectively a Yukon pin, a souvenir ring and a nugget pin.

The oddest looking craft ever seen in the port was dropped down from the island opposite Klondike City on Tuesday. It is the steamer Emma, and she is distinguished by having three house-like decks built upon a rather blunt hull, each one smaller than the other and resting squarely upon the center of the one below. She was divested of her machinery last fall.

## ARCTIC SAW MILL

UPPER KLONDIKE FERRY.

Since and Plume Lumber a Specialty.

ALL KINDS OF DIMENSION LUMBER.

LOWEST PRICES IN THE KLONDIKE.

City Agents: *Boyle & Zilly.*

Office at Mill BOYLE & SLAVIN Prop.

## AMERICANS OBSERVE MEMORIAL DAY

### Patriotic Services in Honor of Heroes of the Civil War.

### British as Well as American Citizens Do Honor to the Occasion—Gov. Ogilvie Delivers an Address—Features of an Interesting Event.

A large crowd of patriotic Americans gathered in the A. C. Co.'s warehouse on Tuesday afternoon to celebrate the occurrence of Decoration day.

Col. Davis, as chairman of the occasion, made an opening address of welcome, and then called upon Leroy Tostler as orator of the day. Mr. Tostler spoke with force and feeling upon the origin of the custom of decorating the soldiers' graves. He referred to the fact that the friendliest relations now exist between the north and south, and pointed out occasions where graves of those who were the blue and gray were decorated alike. His reference to the amicable feeling between England and the United States occasioned great applause. Mr. Tostler's address was appreciated by all who heard it.

The Newman children then favored the audience with patriotic songs, responding to several encores.

Capt. Jack Crawford spoke feelingly of soldiers' days, and recited a poem of his own composition on "Memorial Day."

Gov. Ogilvie was then introduced and spoke briefly. He pointed out the fact that Americans and British are all of the same stock, and that each alike glory in the brave deeds of their soldiers. An instance of the valor of an English soldier was told with much effect. "British soldiers," continued the governor, "are lying dead in every country. Had England a decoration day every land on that day would be covered with flowers." The governor's remarks were well received.

Mrs. O'Neil led the audience in singing "Tenting Tonight."

Music was furnished by a volunteer band, consisting of eighteen pieces.

At the conclusion of the program all joined in singing the national anthem, "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

The Rev. Dr. Grant then led in prayer, and closed the exercises with the benediction.

#### "Mush On."

Owing to the largely increasing population of Dawson, which is typical of the summer season, the police have decided to make an effort to keep the sidewalks to the business part of town free from loungers. Accordingly the order to "mush on, gentlemen," will therefore likely become a common request from the sidewalk of the law. One man heard it addressed to him on Monday and resented it in such strong language that he was taken to the barracks and next day arraigned before Capt. Harper.

#### At Forty-Mile.

A NUGGET man who visited Forty-Mile on Sunday, visited the post of the N. W. M. P. and was entertained by Constable Robert Taylor, who is in charge. There are but four officers there now, and the fine quarters are nearly all empty, including the jail.

The only mining news of importance found was that Jack Wade creek is holding up expectations, and all owners of property there are happy.

Elliott Herrick had just arrived down and reported that he and his partners had about finished the dam which is to turn the water from "the kink," as it is known, and run it into a straight channel. The work will be of great public service, while Mr. Herrick and his partners will have a promising piece of ground in the old river bed to prospect.

The townsite of Forty-Mile has been recently surveyed under instructions from the owner, Tom O'Brien, who evidently looks for a boom in town property.

Mr. McAndrews went to Forty-Mile on Sunday, and will act as customs agent there until the appointment of a regular official.

#### Last News and Fees.

There is one man, at least, who has cause to remember with gratitude the late excursion to Forty-Mile, and that is David Mathison, formerly a citizen of Tacoma, Wash. for it brought him and his assistants to the attention of big hearted Tom Chisholm, and in one brief minute raised him from the slough of despond to the pinnacle of hope and success. Sometime last winter Mathison, who was a prospector in the Forty-Mile district, at the time, was caught on the trail one bitterly cold night, and was so badly frozen that it was found necessary to amputate both his hands and feet. He was then placed in a cabin at Forty-Mile, where he remained, all but neglected, and in an agonized state of mind, owing to his helplessness and the thoughts of his family, until fortune brought Tom Chisholm to his door on Sunday.

Anyone who knows Tom might have guessed what was bound to happen. The unfortunate man was carried to the *Bonanza King* by Tom's orders and brought to Dawson. He is now under his charge and care here, and his big hearted guardian hopes to be able, by some means or other, to have him sent home to his family in the states. The man is a most worthy subject of charity, and Dawson's big hearted business men will see that Tom is fully backed in his most laudable undertaking in the man's behalf.

#### A Broken Rib.

Geo. Roache, an employe of the A. C. Co. and a passenger on the steamer Flora from LeBarge to Dawson, is suffering from a broken rib sustained while on board the boat. Roache was carrying a heavy box of oranges from the steamer at the time when she had been beached for repairs. A sudden lull he fell into an opening which had been cut into the hull for the purpose of examining the injuries which the boat had sustained. The rib was set by Dr. Woolf, and Roache at last accounts was doing well.

## Next Messenger

OF THE

## Nugget Express

Leaves for the Coast on or about 22

SATURDAY, JUNE 3.