

TWO DESPERATE HOLD-UPS AT FERRY

Thugs Use Pistol on Erick Wikman, Night Boatman.

Effect of United States Collector Ivey's Release of Ferry Now Being Felt in Dawson—Attempted Highway Robbery.

The effects of the action of U. S. Collector of Customs J. W. Ivey in taking from the Northwest Mounted Police a prisoner charged with the larceny or embezzlement of a large amount of gold dust, are now being felt in Dawson, and in a manner not likely to engender any specially good feeling toward that officious official at present in the most distant portion of his bailiwick, avoiding the service of papers which would decapitate his official eranium.

A premium has been placed upon crime. Thugs and desperados may prey upon the innocent and unwary, be pounced upon in the dark, shot in the back, stugged with the sand bag in the hands of the cowardly assassin and robbed with impunity, and having assaulted his victim—possibly taken his life—conveniently drop down the river, cross the border line, and falling into the hands of the fender-hearted and patriotic Mr. Ivey escape the justice awaiting him and quickly and severely administered the evil door, who scarcely escapes the vigilance of our police service in this district.

Two desperate assaults were made upon the night boatman at the Bonanza ferry on last Thursday and Saturday nights, which Erick M. Wikman, the boatman, is not likely to forget soon, as he still carries the mark of the gun jammed into his face by the thug who held him up.

As nearly all are aware, many miners during the heated term prefer traveling over the trails at night, and to accommodate these, the ferry is operated day and night.

About 1:30 last Friday morning Wikman, a powerfully built man, landed on the Bonanza creek side of the Klondike but without a passenger. As he approached the ferry house two men were observed seated, to whom he spoke, asking "if they desired to be taken over." Their reply was: "Hold up your hands!" while at the same moment a gun was pointed at him and in such close proximity that his lower lip was severely cut by the weapon coming in contact therewith. The suddenness of the attack startled Wikman, who had in his pockets some \$500. With rare presence of mind he flung up his hands, and knocking the pistol from the hands of his assailant, ran for his life towards his tent, a short distance away.

The noise made during the enactment of the scene outside the ferry house, attracted the attention of the sleeping day force within, who being awakened by Wikman's cries for help, rushed to his assistance, the assailants who were heavily masked, making their escape in the darkness.

Failure in their attempt at robbery on this occasion, did not prevent a second trial, which occurred at about the same hour on Saturday morning, but on the left-bank landing of the ferry, Wikman was again on duty, and had just landed a passenger with a pack horse at the ferry house being paid \$1 therefor, which was the only amount on his person, when a whistle was given for him to come to the other side. Taking the boat over, three men, each with guns in their hands, ordered him to "Hold up his hands!"

Remembering his experience of only a short time before, and escape where he then was being impossible, he obeyed with alacrity as he gazed down the barrels of the three confronting "persuaders." The would-be-robbers then proceeded to "go through" him, literally divesting him of his clothing, shoes and stockings in the search for money belt and dust bags. Finding nothing save the dollar above mentioned they allowed him to dress and then ordered him to the other side, and made their escape over the regular ferry trail.

It would appear from the boldness of these occurrences, that murderers, assassins, cut throats and thieves are to enter upon a career of villainy and crime in out of the way places, and accomplishing their murderous purposes, find an easy avenue of escape to the American side, and through the intervention of meddling officials and technicalities of American jurisprudence avoid the punishment they so richly merit.

Heretofore the carrying of firearms was unknown in Dawson. A man walked the streets or trails any hour of the day or night with no feeling of fear, cabins remained unlocked, cashes unprotected and harm came to none.

The police department has been wakeful, vigilant and efficient, but what are to be the effects of their labor in catching criminals if they are to be released by intermediaries? It will induce the individual to protect himself, so that a dose of cold lead will be the probable hail called upon the road agent.

Attempted Murder and Robbery.

The full details of the attempted murder and hold-up of Jacob Myerhofer, on 62 below, Bonanza, at midnight Monday, will be given in our next issue.

The New Steel Launches.

The plates and machinery for the new government steam launches have been taken up in the neighborhood of the barracks, and engineers and mechanics are busy putting the different parts together. Capt. Call, who came up on the Columbian, has charge of the mechanical part of the work. A few of the plates are

missing, but these are supposed to be on the steamer Canadian.

The launches are seventy feet long and about fifteen feet beam. The hulls are of steel. The machinery which will propel the boats was made in England and shipped thence to Victoria. The plates for the hulls were made in San Francisco. Everything connected with the launches was sent to Victoria where they were put together. They will steam 16 miles an hour in still water.

On Sulphur and Dominion.

Sulphur creek is doing well for a new stream. Mr. Brimston, on 3 above, reached bedrock a week ago, and was highly gratified to find \$1.25 to the pan. It was his first shaft on the claim, hence his jubilation.

A fire was raging last week and it passed beyond the point of control and made a clean sweep from 64 below to the mouth of the creek burning some 30 cabins on its way.

No. 31 below upper discovery on Dominion is reported to be showing up wonderfully, and producing all kinds of gold. Ground sluicing is being followed on the upper discovery and on 1 above, and the results are all that could be desired even by a gold miner.

On 13, 14 and 21 below upper discovery drifting is being prosecuted and the dirt washed with good results. The ground stands well and the shafts do not fill with water so that drifting can be followed winter or summer.

Claim 27a below upper discovery was picked up as a "snap" last week by Messrs. H. Hebb and A. H. Morrison at \$10,000, and the same gentlemen bought 2a above the upper discovery for \$8,000.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

There are said to be 50 or 60 crabs at St. Michaels, with about 12 on the sand bars at the mouth of the Yukon.

A grand masquerade ball will be given at the Monte Carlo Theatre next Friday evening. It will be the event of the season.

The river begins to seek her bed. Well, no one can kick now; we have had exceptionally high water for the forepart of the summer.

The Hamilton has come and gone, bringing up a full cargo. An examination of her superstructure fails to reveal so bad a case of being "hogged" as was first reported.

The town police stationed in the rear of the A. C. Co. store, have had to move into temporary quarters in the rear of the postoffice while the town station is being repaired for the winter.

Improvement is the order of the hour so it is not at all surprising that the up-town postoffice is to be overhauled and the registered letter department moved from the barracks to that more favorable location.

Messrs. Thebo & Galvin have made arrangements whereby the handsome steamer Columbian will bring down from Selkirk about 100 head of their best cattle on each trip until the entire herd is here.

Nowhere else than in this section of the globe is the odd sight witnessed of eaking buildings. The A. C. building has been surrounded with scaffolding, and perched up and down the sides of the edifice can be seen men pounding away with mallet and large wooden eaking tools.

The Klondike City bridge will have extensive work performed upon it the coming winter. The owners contemplate the building of permanent piers on the bar in the center of the river just as soon as the frost shall have made possible the digging of foundations. It is also their intention to raise the bridge some three or four feet.

The Goodwin Bros. may be considered in the light of public benefactors. Sometimes the fair brothers are in town together and then like a fortunate conjunction of stars the result is music and music of a high order. Sunday night was just such an occasion at the Goodwin Bros. restaurant, and the perfect blending of those four voices moved the crowd to loud admiration. Several more voices naturally gravitated to the spot and it was well-towards Monday morning before the impromptu concert was brought to a close, with national airs of Canada and America.

The James Donville came in Sunday. She is not a large boat but fully equipped and carries 100 tons of provisions for passengers and supplies for the Klondike, Yukon & Stewart-Pioneer company, which owns the boat and several others. The company, which is being managed by Mr. McLean, has a sawmill on the steamboat, Col. McNaught, which is following with a cargo of provisions for the soldiers at Fort Selkirk. The James Donville left her barge on the flats but brought up in tow a small stern-wheeler named the Burpee. The company is going to erect a warehouse.

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LOST AND FOUND

FOUND.—About three weeks ago, a brown dog, 18 inches in height, on Bonanza trail. Apply Nugget office.

WANTED

WANTED.—A position by young lady experienced bookkeeper, cashier or clerk in store. Address Bookkeeper, this office.

WANTED.—Position as cook in town or at the mines. Apply Mrs. King, Nugget office.

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