

THE KLONDIKE NUGGET.

VOL. I. No. 39

DAWSON, Y. T., WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1908

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GALLOWS CHEATED AT LAST MOMENT

Condemned Murderers Did Not Hang, According to the Program.

A Holiday Complicated Matters and Judge Dugas Ordered the Execution Postponed—A Four Month's Reprieve Granted.

All the preparations had been made for hanging the four murderers on Tuesday morning; the limited number of witnesses to see the hanging had been given the passes which would permit them to pass the sentries; the prisoners had been duly notified of the hopelessness of their cause; extra sentries had been detailed for duty in the morning; a hangman had been secured who was to tie the knots and spring the trap; every little detail of the solemn march to the gallows had been arranged; ropes had been tested with weights and found to be sufficiently strong. In fact every little detail of the execution had been carefully planned and the morning of the day of execution was approaching when Sheriff Harper was served with a writ of reprieve. The remarkable document had been issued by Judge Dugas and the reprieve was for 24 hours only. This was at nearly midnight, on Monday evening and it was impossible to notify everyone of the reprieve, so that Tuesday morning found many men wending their way to the barracks.

The reason given for the reprieve was that Tuesday was All Saints' day, a statutory holiday in the Dominion of Canada, and that like Sunday, it carried the event over until the next day.

On Tuesday preparations for the delayed quadruple hanging were again undertaken but the execution was not to be for Wednesday, for Thursday, nor for months to come. At the trial of prisoner Henderson, Judge McGuire appointed Attorney Gwilliam to defend him. Gwilliam did his best but saw his client sentenced to be hung nevertheless. But news of the twenty-four hour reprieve reached him and hope for his client at once was fanned into re-existence. A hasty consultation was at once had with Attorney Woodworth, and his services secured. In the afternoon both repaired to Judge Dugas and a hearing was at once granted.

In behalf of Henderson, Attorney Woodworth put forth the plea that there was no legal warrant in sentence for his execution on Wednesday, November 2nd. Lives of prisoners were held sacred by the law until a legal warrant for death on November 1st was in hand, but it would be not more less than murder to slay the prisoner on October 31st, and it would be held in the same light by the law if the deed was done on November 2nd. The attorney-general of Canada had not expressed himself on the matter of executing the men on that date and time should be given him to so express himself.

On the other side it was argued that it would take months to communicate with Ottawa and secure an answer. The earnest attorneys for the condemned man protested that if natural conditions made it impossible to communicate with the attorney-general any quicker still it was not an unreasonable thing to ask for. The conference lasted some time and at last the attorneys had the satisfaction of an assurance from the judge that he would reprieve the condemned men for four months, until March 1st, 1909, thus giving the government time to be heard from and for another warrant for execution to arrive.

The second writ of reprieve was served upon Sheriff Harper between twelve and one o'clock Wednesday morning and the execution was declared off.

Henderson's faithful attorney, serving in a cause which will not bring him a dollar, does not at all expect to save his client's life by the reprieve. The prisoner is expected now to die a natural death before the expiration of the reprieve and that by this means his family will be saved the great disgrace of his death by hanging.

HENDERSON'S CRIME.

Edward Henderson was a sick man when he left Seattle for the gold fields in the summer of '07. He crossed the pass and with two companions had made his way as far as Lake LeBarge. Henderson, Gale and Peterson occupied the one tent upon the fateful night which has cost Peterson his life. Henderson was very peevish and irritable and still quite sick. George Gale was awakened in the morning by an altercation and a pistol shot and found Peterson had been wounded. Peterson lingered a week and made an ante mortem statement which was not allowed at the trial, there being no evidence that the dead man knew he was going to die. Henderson made no attempt to escape claiming he had shot only in self defense.

Nearly a year from the date of the crime the prisoner was brought to trial and his plea was self defense and irresponsibility. Attorney Wade introduced the expert testimony of Dr. Bonner to prove that the dead man could not have been kneeling over the murderer with his knee in his groin and his hand at his throat as represented in the defense. Further it was shown that Henderson was for days irritated to the point of frenzy at his companion and had even threatened his life. The testimony of Gale was such as to preclude the relative positions of the two men as set forth in the

defense. Henderson testified that a can he used in his sickness had been overturned in the bed and that then Peterson assaulted him and in mortal agony and fear he fired in self defense. The jury refused to believe his unsupported testimony and did not recognize his irresponsibility on account of his sickness.

The prisoner claimed to have been sick in bed for a year before he started on the trip. However that may be it is undoubtedly true he has been sick ever since his arrest. He was hauled to the court house in a wagon to be sentenced and could barely stagger to the prisoner's box. Of late his irritability has calmed somewhat and he has been devoting his thoughts to the new state he believed himself about to enter.

When he was first brought to Forty-Mile for trial his ailments were so many and his irritability on account of pain so great that small injections of morphine were given him. As his sickness continued, so his small doses of morphine were kept up until the present. His daily allowance never exceeded a quarter of a grain, and is often less, so that he cannot in any way be considered a fiend. Forty grains a day is often taken by persons who have unlimited access to the drug.

Henderson has a wife and two little girls, and he hopes they may never know of the crime for which their father is condemned.

THE CRIME OF THE INDIANS.

The crime of which the three Indians have been found guilty was committed last spring on the McClintock river. Billy Meechan, from the New England states, and C. A. Fox, of Pennsylvania, had built their boat about 30 miles up from Lake Marsh. They were all alone with the exception of frequent visits of Joe Nantuck, Jim Nantuck, Dawson Nantuck and Frank Nantuck, the four charged with the murder of Meechan and the attempted murder of Fox. The boat being completed, the outfits were loaded, good-bye said to the Indians, and the two white men embarked. When they reached a bend in the river, about 12 miles from its mouth, a volley of rifle balls met the boat, and both men were struck and went down in an instant. However, Fox was not killed, for the bullet went right through the left shoulder blade and left lung, and left his body at the breast bone. From his position when he fell he saw the four Indians leave the woods to watch the drifting boat, and each held a rifle in his hand. The Indians fled another volley, and then ran back into the woods to intercept the boat at the next bend. With his right hand Fox paddled the boat to the opposite shore and stepped out. For hours he slowly and painfully made his way to the camp at the mouth of the river, the Indians securing the woods behind him in a vain effort to cut off his escape. The police were notified, and soon captured two of the Indians still securing the woods and were shown where the body of Meechan had been sunk in the river and also where the goods were cached. It was a long tramp to catch the other two, for they were going from tribe to tribe all along the river. However, they were arrested and tried, Fox having recovered, and, giving his damning evidence, all four were sentenced. Frank was youthful, and the jury recommended him to mercy. The government commuted his sentence to imprisonment for life, and documents to that effect arrived in Dawson some ten days ago.

Official Salary List.

There is food for much thought in the government pay-roll in Dawson. The following are the salaries per year of officials, the scale being set in the Yukon Territory Act:

Yukon Commissioner	\$5,000
Comptroller	2,000
Stenographers, each	1,500
Comptroller's clerk	1,200
Gold Commissioner	1,200
Gold Commissioner's head clerk	900
Ordinary clerks in gold commissioner's office	900
Mining Inspectors	1,500
Crown Timber and Land Agent	1,800
Crown Timber and Land Agent's head clerk	1,200
Ordinary clerks	900
First Timber Inspector	1,300
Second Timber Inspector	1,200
Legal Adviser	2,500

Rations and quarters are in addition to the foregoing.

The first question which always occurs to anyone upon reading the above is "What kind of clerks does the government expect to get in Dawson for \$900 per year and their board?" It is hardly possible that a man captive in Dawson a whole year without having to spend that much money or more in clothing, cigars, amusements, etc. Mr. Wade is our authority for the statement that it was fully expected that government employees would make up for their inadequate salaries by taking advantage of the natural opportunities which here present themselves.

The natural opportunities which present themselves to a government clerk in Mr. Pawcett's office are not the natural opportunities of a miner or a prospector. How well these opportunities have been embraced is demonstrable from the files of the Nugget.

Yukon Council Proceedings.

There is an immense amount of work to be done by the council to frame suitable laws for the governing of the Yukon territory. The council has decided to sit three times each week until the press of business now before it is diminished.

On Saturday evening there was passed the dog muzzling ordinance and its provisions become operative after the 30th of this month.

Every dog in towns, villages, or assemblages of dwellings must be either chained up, in working harness or muzzled. All unmuzzled dogs will be taken up and impounded at 75c per day and the owners shall be liable to a fine of from \$10 to \$20. In default of payment the defendant shall be imprisoned not to exceed 30 days. Dogs not claimed by their owners in 10 days shall be sold and a legal title to the same shall be given. In case the dogs bring more than the expenses of the case the balance shall be turned over to the ex-owner of the dog. Prosecutions for not muzzling the dogs must be commenced, if at all, within one month of the offense.

A matter considered at the meeting was the purchase of fire extinguishers for the government buildings. The matter was deferred until data on the matter could be had.

At a meeting Monday night the Rev. Father Judge, Rev. Grant and Rev. Dickey addressed the council in behalf of the government aid for the institutions they represent: St. Mary's hospital, Good Samaritan hospital and Grand Forks hospital. The reverend gentlemen made eloquent pleas for the sake of the hapless sick they were caring for and it did not take the council long to vote them the \$12,000 which is on hand at the present time. To St. Mary's was voted \$7,000, to Good Samaritan, \$3,000, and to the Grand Forks, \$2,000 for the care of the indigent sick. This clause apparently precluded the use of the money except for the benefit of the indigent sick and has been followed by the following from the trustees of the Good Samaritan which was read at the last council meeting and was much discussed:

Inasmuch as the moneys at our disposal are inadequate to meet outstanding debts, and inasmuch as less than 35 per cent of the patients at the present in the hospital are able to pay any part of their expenses; be it resolved,

First. That we refuse to receive any patients, pay or do pay, from this date forth with.

Second. In view of this decision we decline to accept the \$3,000 voted, on the conditions stipulated.

Third. That we proceed immediately to wind up the affairs of the institution and meet our present liabilities by the disposal of the property at present under the control of the board. Carried unanimously.
K. G. BOWEN,
Secretary Good Samaritan hospital.

Fireman's Ball.

The sympathies of Dawson ladies have been enlisted in a good cause and they will give a grand masquerade ball on Thanksgiving eve, Wednesday, November 23d, for the benefit of the volunteer fire department. When the ladies take a hold of anything it always goes with a "whoop" and the masquerade is predestined to be the biggest thing of its kind ever seen in these parts.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

The Regina Club holds its first regular meeting at its quarters in the Regina Cafe on Wednesday night.

A large meat raft is reported on a bar 28 miles up the river, with the ice jamming behind and no possible chance of getting the stuff onto the shore yet.

The Tyrrell, on her trip up to winter quarters, got onto a bar, and stayed there 42 days. She was pulled off by other steamers, but was pretty badly ricked in the operation.

Ladd, of Portland, Ore., has three snows of precious edibles upon the river, and but one has arrived in Dawson. The non-arrivals contain large cargoes of butter and canned goods. One is ashore some 50 miles above.

Moran and Howard are publishing a daily revised theater program, containing more or less local happenings of the day, and have named it the Daily Digger. Moran is always "a-humpin'" himself, and there is no telling what the Daily Digger may grow into.

A recent arrival reports the following steamboats all tied up safely for the winter in a blind slough beyond Selkirk, which they have christened Steamboat Springs: The Seattle No. 3, Tyrrell, J. P. Light, Seattle No. 4, Hingsee and Low. Each boat has almost a full crew of men, so that there is quite a town there.

Lancaster and Calderhead have notified the volunteer fire department that one of their teams can be secured at any outbreak of fire free of charge. The engine is heavy, and may have to be hauled at times some considerable distance, so that the offer of these gentlemen is both acceptable and timely. One of these teams hauled the engine from the river at the last fire for practice.

THE NUGGET EXPRESS

Will deliver that package and save you a trip....

REMEMBER

Dog Teams leave Dawson for Eldorado and Bonanza every Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

KLONDIKE NUGGET OFFICE

or given to driver in charge of team.

THEY DAMMED THE YUKON.

But They Saved the Ninety Head of Frozen Beef.

A Struggle to Make a Landing—Twenty Lines to Hold a Scow—Ice Divides at Last and Glides Harmlessly By.

Messrs. McDonald and Danbelton had a hard time in getting to Dawson with their 90 head of slaughtered beef and several times their case looked hopeless. At no time did the cargo seem more surely lost than when abreast of Dawson.

To commence at the beginning, the gentlemen with their five men slaughtered and froze their stock above Selkirk. They loaded the meat into a raft and started down. Their unwieldy craft got hung up badly on a bar and had to be torn off in sections.

The services of Edward Hazard and W. J. Bryant were secured to aid in freeing the raft and after many days she was freed. Still she flew so much water the first available large scow was hauled and the meat transferred. The scow, which came so opportunely to the rescue, was empty, one, it having unloaded all its contents at the various Arctic Express Co.'s posts along the river and lakes. Nine days were consumed in traveling the last hundred miles and when the craft came in sight of Dawson last Saturday evening about 5 o'clock it seemed almost hopeless to try and make shore. At one time the ice pack carried them nearly across the river. However, the wind was slightly off shore and left a clear water space at the edge ice and the barge made a landing near the barracks. All but two men went up town and at 10 o'clock the wind changed. The ice closed in on the hapless barge and snap went the line. Frantic cries for help soon brought a crowd on shore to their assistance. Line after line was thrown out until 12 were in use. The crowd on shore made fast to everything they came across, but lines snapped like tow stings. She ground into the ice back of where the White Trading is frozen in and damaged her stern wheel considerably. When opposite the Nugget office a last desperate effort was made to stop the barge. Numerous dismantled barges are there frozen in the edge-ice and their standing skeletons make good rubbing posts. Every line was made fast and there came an anxious moment. The whole floating ice pack jammed and stopped dead still for an instant. Something must go. Either the edge-ice with its hundreds of human beings would be borne onto the shore or the ice would begin to pile up and engulf the scow. But, not just when disaster of some kind seemed inevitable the ice pack divided and recommenced to flow seaward. It was a close call in more ways than one, for the men in the barge had lost their small boat in a jam of ice some little time before. But, "all's well that ends well," and Dawson is better off by 90 head of good beef.

With Military Honors.

Constable Donnelly, of the N. W. M. P., died early Saturday morning and was buried with military honors on Monday. At 11 o'clock a procession formed at the barracks headed by a double file of 11 constables in full uniform in charge of Sergeant Davis. All were fully armed but carried their rifles inverted. They appeared in new moccasin footwear, with uniforms clean and bright and presented a very neat appearance. The coffin came next, carried upon a draped sled, drawn by two horses. The team was driven by Constable Thomas with Constables Smith, Carey, Lathrop and Watt walking alongside as pall-bearers, and Corporal Conway riding with the driver.

The dead man's horse, with bridle draped in black and white, followed the hearse led by Constable Lindblad. The empty saddle with boots fastened in the stirrups, toes to the rear, told the story plainly to the bystanders.

A detachment of the Yukon field force of the Canadian military followed behind the horse in double column, 30 strong. Colonel Steele and Captains Harper, Starnes and South, of the N. W. M. P., and Captain Burstall, of the military, brought up the rear.

The procession marched briskly to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, where mass for the dead was celebrated. Then the procession took its way to the police burying grounds, and the coffin was lowered to its last resting place with appropriate ceremonies. The impressive ceremony of bugling and volley firing over the grave was the last respect the boys could show their dead comrade, and the silent procession then wended its way to the barracks.

Jimmie Carroll Accepts.

Editor NUGGET:

A challenge to me in your issue of October 26th has been brought to my notice. I hereby accept the challenge of Jack Cronin to spar either a limited number of rounds or to a finish and will cover his \$250 or more, just as he pleases. I will meet Mr. Cronin next Thursday at the Nugget office between 10 and 11 a. m., to perfect agreement. Yours truly,
JAMES CARROLL.

A Good Map for 50 Cents.

The Mine Exchange Map of the Klondike Gold Fields, should be in the hands of every miner. For sale at the Nugget office. Price 50 cents.