

MYSTERY ALMOST SOLVED.

Hole Through Which Bodies Were Thrust Found in the River.

But Human Eyes Will Probably Never View the Remains of Clayton, Relfe and Oleson.

The following which appeared in the Skagway Daily Alaskan of March 17th is somewhat premature in that it asserts that the bodies of the three men, Clayton, Relfe and Oleson, with whose mysterious disappearance the readers of the Nugget are familiar, had been found. The bodies had not then nor have they since been found. As to the other statements of the paper, they are admitted by the officials here to be, in the main, true. It is known here that the police have been equally as vigilant in the search for traces of the bodies as have been the hired professional detectives; they have gone over the ground most carefully and have elicited many features in the case which, while not yet made public, are probably in line with the story as given the Skagway paper, and which, when given out, may be relied upon as being authentic. The Skagway paper's story is:

"The startling news received last night that the bodies of the Clayton party had been definitely located and the whole mystery cleared up. It was startling for two reasons; one that it came so suddenly upon the heels of the sensational denouement in the disappearance of the Hortons; and another that the long protracted search for the Clayton party since the beginning of the year had proven so fruitless in offering even any clue to a solution of the mystery that public interest in it was waning."

The news that the Clayton mystery was solved, therefore, came with a suddenness of shock equal to that which confirmed the mysterious disappearance of the three men. Six days ago the Pinkerton detective, McGuire, and Captain Scarth were sending messengers from Minto to Fort Selkirk in hot haste to fetch ice saws. They had located the hole in the ice through which the bodies of the three murdered men, Clayton, Relfe and Oleson had been thrust, and they feel entirely confident that they have at least one of the murderers in the jail at Selkirk. This is the man who gave the name of O'Brien, who was so long in custody at Tagish, and a few weeks ago was removed to Fort Selkirk to be tried on a charge of stealing from scows. Not having enough direct evidence to connect him with the Clayton tragedy the officers might have released him. That they held him on a minor charge pending a more rigid investigation into the circumstances of the mysterious disappearance of the three men, now shows their good judgment and that the evidence they had already collected against him, while not strong enough to convict, was sufficiently circumstantial to warrant their grave suspicions.

"Where the bodies have been definitely located is about three miles this side of Minto, in the river and not close to the trail, so that the theory that three men following each other in the daylight, one man pushing or riding a bicycle, having all accidentally fallen into the same hole is altogether untenable. But this is not all. On the edges of the hole that was, but which, of course, has long been frozen over, a lower strata of the snow discolored with what has been proven on chemical analysis to be human blood.

"There is other evidence. Near the spot of the burial was found a broken sleeve link, and a pocket knife, both of which are particularly identified as having belonged to members of the missing party. In O'Brien's possession, too, has been found certain articles which it is known beyond a doubt belonged to young Relfe. Also a closer examination of the cabin near Minto, at the time of the tragedy occupied by O'Brien, has led to other discoveries. He had evidently burned up a lot of wearing apparel, and in the tinder has been found buttons that will probably be identified.

"There are doubtless many other details that demonstrate the dogged perseverance and the high intelligence of the detective and his aids who have been working on the case, but the officers all the way through have been reticent and, even in the hour that crowns with victory their persistent endeavors, have told but little of the links of evidence obtained one by one in the course of the long search."

In verification of the above, the Alaskan on the following day, March 18th, published the following:

"The report given yesterday morning in regard to recent discoveries near Minto in connection with the disappearance of the Clayton party is pronounced true by Mrs. F. W. Clayton, who has arrived from Dawson, with the exception that the bodies had been located but not found at the time she was on the ground. She says all other points of the report in the Daily Alaskan yesterday morning are true, and says, further, that she was at Minto and saw where the ice had been cleared of the snow, saw blood on the ice, a hole in the ice, and men sawing ice from the river in working on the mystery case."

"The evening paper yesterday said: 'Constable Seeley called on the Clayton family, reporting the discovery of what was supposed to be blood stains on the ice between Minto and Hutchiku.'"

It is confidently expected that the mysterious disappearance will be fully explained in the very near future and that many facts now known to those in charge of the investigation; and the most heinous and hardened crime which has ever darkened the pages of the otherwise unusually clean history of this far northland will be avenged, not as crime in many older countries is avenged, but by the deliberate but uncompromising law of the land which is for the protection of those who obey it, or for the punishment of transgressors as it finds them.

DID HE WRITE THUS?

[The German emperor wrote in Queen Victoria's autograph album.—News Note]

Gave grandma on this written page. Let stately rhyme your thoughts engage. Oh, read with care, and don't forget That I'm the greatest poet yet! Seen it with grand maternal glee— When this you see, Remember me.

And when perchance you come to stray Among the classics some fine day, Old Mars you'll note, with aspect grim— But I'm a bigger man than him. To me all warriors bend the knee— When Mars you see, Remember me.

And if again you cast your eye On ships which o'er the ocean fly To carry mail beneath my care, Suppress your seizures then and there. Those ships must travel far and free— When ships you see, Remember me.

No War Yet.

New York, March 17.—A dispatch to the Herald from Yokohama says:

No one of the legations in Tokyo nor any one of the Japanese officials will acknowledge that war with Russia is imminent. It is well known in diplomatic circles that at present Japan and Russia are working secretly to obtain concessions in Korea against other nations, but this does not mean that a clash between Russia and Japan is not coming in the future.

Japan is the only serious obstacle in the way of the Russian Eastern policy. Japan must have Korea, which already is flooded with Japanese coolies, who are really soldiers.

Russian transports pass through Nagasaki constantly loaded with troops for Port Arthur.

The Japanese common people have a great hatred for Russia and would welcome war without counting the cost, but they have little power.

Japan has not money for war and Russia will yield to Japan as long as the trans-Siberian railroad is incomplete.

An American engineer, who has been over the road, reports that it cannot be used effectively for nine months.

Rumors of an impending war originated in Shanghai, not in Japan, and were based on generalization, not on facts.

Russia is now changing her representatives throughout Japan and would not do so if she expected an immediate outbreak.

As during the last three years a crisis resulting in war might arise at any moment, but for the present it is not at hand and in my opinion Russia can prevent it until she is ready.

Russia to Dominate.

New York, March 17.—A dispatch to the Journal and Advertiser from Odessa says:

Among the officers of the volunteer fleet of cruisers who recently returned here from the Far East there is a strong belief that the enormous garrisons being formed at Port Arthur, Dalni and Vladivostok will be utilized as a coercive lever for compelling the Japanese to abandon their pretensions and acquisitions in Korea.

The commander of one of the cruisers expressed his conviction that before the end of this year Russian influence in the Far Eastern peninsula will have become so absolutely dominant that the Japanese will feel morally constrained to give up the struggle and retire from the many important enterprises they are now prosecuting for the gradual assumption of a Russian protectorate.

Short orders served right. The Holborn.

The warmest and most comfortable hotel in Dawson is at the Regina.

Chewing tobacco \$1 per pound. Royal Grocery, Second ave.

WANTS PROSPECTOR BACK

"C. S. B." Offers Suggestions as to How to Get Him to Return.

Would Give Him Title for a Limited Number of Years to all the ground He Originally Stakes.

Dawson, March 31, 1900.

Editor Daily Nugget:

Granting that prospecting in this Yukon country is at a standstill, a condition which I imagine every fair-minded observer will allow, it has struck me that possibly you would open your columns to practical suggestions likely to meet the approval of observant officials, and to be confined entirely to the object of encouraging prospectors. It is certainly one of the most vital issues of the immediate present that new pay ground should be located in the Yukon district and tributary rivers; but unfortunately the men who would ordinarily be doing this work are either across the line or else discouraged and now working for wages on ground heretofore located. It is unnecessary to go into the reasons of this absence of prospectors. Broadly speaking, one might put it down to a lack of confidence in the attitude of the Ottawa authorities towards prospectors; but, rightly or wrongly, let that side of the question alone. What we consider our "grievances" are already being ably handled and no doubt confining correspondents to suggestions on above proposed lines you would have to work over-time with a blue pencil eliminating criticisms.

Under existing encouragement we see that prospectors refuse to budge. Now then, who among the bright-minded here in Dawson can originate a suggestion aimed at this multi-prospector to persuade him to tackle his job anew? Will he move for a lessened royalty? I doubt it. Will he move for more ground? I doubt it. Will he move for a cash bonus? Possibly; but that is hardly practicable. Then what on earth will move him? Gentlemen of the legal fraternity, he wants you bright-minded brothers in law to draw up for his protection the shortest, strongest possible ironclad deed from the Dominion government to their hard-working employee, the original prospector, discoverer, giving him an inextinguishable title for possibly a limited number of years to such ground as he originally stakes, or is allowed to stake under a competent Dominion surveyor, in the government employ, whose original posts shall be as immovable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

The question then is, will he move, even if this is practicable? Next, Yours in overalls, C. S. B.

About Jack Wade.

O. A. Benson, of Fortymile, who is interested in Jack Wade creek, is in the city. Benson says that matters on Jack Wade are in a satisfactory condition and that a good cleanup will be made this spring. A good big dump is being taken out on lower discovery, which is showing up well. Good pay has also been struck on a bench off of No. 6. The claim is being worked and the pay is getting better. Both the N. A. T. Co. and A. C. Co. have stores on the American side, 41 miles from Fortymile town. Goods are taken through in bond to the stores and the miners are enabled to buy without duty charges being added.

Concerning Thorburn's Death.

A coroner's inquest on the body of Capt. William Thorburn, deceased, was held last Saturday. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by reason of a gun shot wound, which he himself accidentally inflicted. The remains were interred Sunday in the cemetery, which is situated on the hill east of Dawson.

For gentle slumber try the Fairview. Same old price, 25 cents, for drinks at the Regina.

The Holborn Cafe for delicacies.

Spring Styles Arrive.

The Star Clothing house has received today its first consignments of gent's furnishing goods over the ice. They comprise fancy shirts in swell patterns from the famous Neustadter Bros' factory, the very latest in neckwear, hats of the latest stock, and a full line of high-class clothing. A. S. Levine is the enterprising proprietor of the establishment.

Table de hote dinners. The Holborn. Shoff, the Dawson Dog Doctor, Pioneer Drug Store.

Every room a miniature home. The Fairview.

Private dining rooms at the Holborn.

Get your eyesight fixed at the Pioneer drug store.

N. A. C. & C. Co.

Bargains in

Spring Footwear

Buy Now Large Stock...

Reducing Prices to Make Room for Summer Goods.

John McDonald...

Merchant Tailor

Full Line of New Suitings.

FIRST AVE. OPP. S. Y. T. WAREHOUSE

Fresh Beef

The Only Fresh Beef in Dawson.

Pat Galvin..

Market...

Sold at Reasonable Prices

Wholesale and Retail

Depot, First Avenue T. & E. Co. Building

H. I. MILLER, Prop.

NOTE—This beef has been brought in over the ice from Selkirk, where 119 head of choice stall-fed cattle were slaughtered.

MOHR & WILKENS,

DEALERS IN

"The Finest Select Groceries"

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S. E. Cor. Third Street and Third Avenue AND Opposite Klondike Bridge

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Dawson Electric Light & Power Co. Ltd.

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Full Line Choice Brands

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Chisholm's Saloon

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FRONT STREET.

We Want to Close out Our Stock of

Groceries, Provisions

Choice Hams and Breakfast Bacon Just in Over the Ice.

J. E. BOOGE, Manager.

Mitchell, Lewis & Stover Co.

OF SEATTLE, WASH.

Mining Machinery

Of all Descriptions.

Pumping Plants a Specialty

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Health Is More Than Wealth

Try the Sanitarium Baths...

For All Physical Ailments

Ford's Club Baths

The Only Health Resort in Dawson

Third Ave., Bet. 3rd & 4th Sts.

BERT FORD . . . Proprietor

A New Name

The Business Known as the Juneau Hardware Co. Will in the Future Be Known as the

Dawson Hardware Co.

And When Buying Hardware Come and See Us.

One 10-inch Centrifugal Pump Complete With Pipe and Two Engines, 10x12 Cylinders, at a Bargain. Also a Large Quantity of 1 1/2 inch Pipe.

M. H. JONES & CO. . . . Proprietors

THEATRES.

Palace Grand

THIS WEEK

"Lynwood"

PRECEDED BY

The Sculptor's Dream.

NEW MANAGEMENT

NEW FACES....

Return of the Great

O'Brien-Jennings-O'Brien

NEW SPECIALTIES.

Buy Your Meat From

The City Market

And Get the Best in Town

Largest Wholesalers

Miners Call and See Us. We Will Meet all Competition and Give the Best. Orders Promptly Filled.

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Second Ave. Opp. S.-Y. T. Co.

Received Over The Ice

Full Line of

Globe Valves

and Steamfitters' Supplies

McLennan, McFeely & Co. Ltd.

DAWSON, Y. T.