

POLICE COURT BUSINESS.

"Swiftwater Bill" in the Role of Attorney.

Klondike River Residents in Court—Nuisance Perpetrators and Vagrants—Tomorrow the Gamblers.

The former part of the week witnessed the appearance of a large number of people who reside adjacent to the north bank of the Klondike river in Magistrate Perry's court, on the charge of depositing filth and garbage on the banks of that stream. The nominal fine of \$1 and costs amounting to \$6, was imposed in each case.

On Tuesday, A. J. Swanson, Patrick Walsh and Anton Smith each plead guilty to the charge of committing a nuisance on the public streets and each was fined \$2 and costs or seven days. The former two paid cash, but Anton Smith will supply the motive power necessary to operate a bucksaw for the next seven days.

For getting drunk and painting the town in bright vermilion, L. Canton came up with \$10 and costs.

T. B. Lyon, on the charge of vagrancy, was given until this morning to prove that the charge is not justly preferred. In the meantime Lyon is in jail.

Laborer Lumen was awarded judgment in the sum of \$69.70 against Mine Owners Baltoff & Buxton for labor performed. Five days was given in which to pay the amount.

B. A. Liscom and W. C. (Swiftwater) Gates were in court the former with an account of \$81.25 for labor performed, which account Gates said was about \$65 too high. Liscom told his story and was supposed to be cross examined by "Swift," and for several minutes Magistrate Perry was kept busy instructing the questioner to refrain from giving his own testimony and confine himself to asking questions. Liscom likewise deviated somewhat from the course prescribed for witnesses and volunteered some information on points not intended to be brought out. Liscom told "Swiftwater" that he ought to be ashamed of himself to treat an old schoolmate as he had—toward: Leave him a pauper in a land where meals cost from \$1 upwards. The court finally brought them back to earth and after considerable adding and subtracting had been done the order of the court was that Gates pay \$38.75 and the costs. And "de swiftest ting dat ever hit de Klondike" paid the bill like a man.

This morning W. S. Allen and F. M. Jones each paid \$2 and costs for committing nuisances on the streets.

The case of Edward Metcalf vs the Victoria Meat Market, McDougall, prop., for a month's wages where only nine days' labor were performed, Metcalf being discharged at that time, was dismissed and costs charged to plaintiff. McDougall proved that there were good grounds for his discharge of Metcalf, it being established by two witnesses that he, Metcalf, was in the habit of blowing his nose on his work apron.

Warrants for the arrest of between 30 and 40 gamblers were issued, and fully that number were up yesterday afternoon when the usual fine and costs, \$56, were paid.

Who'll Be Next?

The question, "Who'll be next?" is one which many persons in Dawson are now putting to themselves without being able to frame a satisfactory answer. The occasion for the asking of the question is that the police have started out on a round up of vagrants and if being out of work and unable to procure it constitutes vagrancy, then does that evil stalk rampant in Dawson at the present time. There is no desire on the part of the law to prefer a charge of vagrancy against a man who is anxious to work, but who cannot secure employment, but just how the officials distinguish between men idle through circumstances and those idle through choice is not apparent. There is a line of demarkation, but to the casual observer and in a place like Dawson where hundreds of men hug barroom stoves six days every week that line does not stand out in bold relief, and just how it is discerned by the officers is a mystery. Hence the query: "Who'll be next?"

Dawson, like every other portion of the habitable globe, has her share of men who, like the lilies of the field, toil not, neither (pronounced neyther) do they spin—men who would hang around barrooms and card tables and live on one meal a day, if they knew that a job at \$20 per day, but at hard manual labor, was awaiting them up the creeks. It is this class that is intended to be reached by the law, and not those men who are willing, yea anxious to do anything that is honorable in the line of employment, but who are not able, owing to the surplus of labor, to do so at any price. The injury to the feelings of such a man, in case a charge of vagrancy was preferred against him, would be such as to cause him to lose respect for himself for the remainder of his life.

In the meantime, the fiat has gone forth and those who are known to themselves and others as spongers and bums will do well to change their base of operations and thus avoid that exercise required in sawing wood, which exercise is quite violent for a man who has baked his shins all winter at a fire. Besides, in sawing wood it is necessary to take firm hold of the saw, and grasping anything, except an idea, tightly has a tendency to drive the blood from the fingers, and fingers through which the blood does not circulate freely freeze very readily. See!

The George Case on Tap.

The case of the crown vs. A. F. George for contempt of court, was being heard in Judge Dugas' court today, but was not completed at the hour of this paper going to press.

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