

SHE MADE MANY WILLS.

And Every Move She Made Called for a New One.

Her Actions Kept Her Surrounded By Affectionate Solicitude—Niece Draws the Lucky Number.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]

"Several years ago," said a New Orleans lawyer, chatting about queer experiences in his profession, "a woman died in this city who to my certain knowledge had made about 25 different wills. Of course there are people in the world who have a mania for will making, just as there are manias in other directions, but there was a distinct method in this woman's madness. She made her numerous wills for the deliberate purpose of exciting curiosity and then profiting by it, and if the true story of the curious complications growing out of that policy could be written it would form an astonishing chronicle of greed and duplicity.

"To begin with, she had a couple of pieces of improved property worth perhaps \$6000 and a lot of personal belongings which were mere junk and rubbish, but which she valued at a fabulous figure. Between the two she was reputed to be worth from \$50,000 to \$60,000, and there was much jealousy as to the prospective succession among a lot of distant relatives. The old woman's plan was to take up her quarters with some particular set of her kin and make a will in their favor. Needless to say, she would be treated with every consideration, but she was irascible and invariably got into a quarrel in the course of a few months and moved somewhere else, where the same program was repeated. She spent years in migrations of that sort, going the rounds of her relatives several times and camping temporarily with numerous personal friends.

"When she finally died, it was found that her last authentic will left the coveted property to a niece who had shown her scarcely any attention at all, and the will of rage and disappointment that arose was something simply terrific. I dare say she engendered more family bitterness when she was alive, precipitated more rows and was instrumental in causing a greater number of people to stop speaking when they passed by than any one person in the parish. This was an extreme case, but it was by no means unique. Almost every lawyer in town who has a large general practice could cite instances where judicious will making has kept old age surrounded by affectionate solicitude."—New Orleans Times Democrat.

Gold from Alaska.

The superintendent of the United States mint at San Francisco, in his report for the year 1899 just sent to Washington says:

"The receipts of Alaska gold at mints, assay offices, refineries, smelters, etc., for the calendar year 1899 were \$5,602,012 and the silver \$220,343, a total of \$5,831,355, or \$3,199,844 more than in the year 1898. Of this increase, it is estimated that \$2,400,000 came from the new placer camp at Nome last season, the first year in its history, and the rest of the increase from the quartz mines of Southeastern Alaska.

"The receipts at mints, assay offices, private refineries and smelters for the calendar year 1899 from the Klondike were \$15,986,625 gold and \$267,300 silver, a total of \$16,253,925. This shows a marked advance in output for the Klondike field, since the increase over the previous year is \$5,028,198."

The North Pole.

Joseph Zouke Lajoie is the full name of the French-Canadian voyager who claims to have lived two years at the North pole; to be the first to reach that mysterious place. He was born in the province of Quebec and is 38 years old. His father is a pioneer trapper of the Canadian Northwest territory. Joseph was innured in early life to the intense cold, hardships and exposures of the land of the Eskimo. In 1880 he was with his father at Battleford, where one of the decisive battles of the Riel rebellion was fought in 1884. There he parted with his father, and started on a three year hunting expedition to and beyond the Arctic circle.

While on this expedition with a companion of the name of White, the two became separated. Lajoie was carried northward on an ice floe. He was made prisoner later by a strange, copper-colored people. His ability to produce fire with a flint led them to believe him to be a magician. They then made him their chief. Through them he came to the place he named Mount Blanc—the

pole itself—and he named the land about it Poletesejoie. This word is a compound of "pole" and the native syllables "Te-Se" and the discoverer's own name.

Lajoie is acknowledged by experts of the Smithsonian Institute to be cleverest most clever. His contradictions are few, his manner of stating his marvelous story convincing. He has brought back with him strange polar wood and claims to be able to produce at slight expense the lodges of two natives of the pole region who aided him to leave that land, but who died before they parted. He cached their bodies on the borders of Alaska. Lajoie claims his discovery of the pole was made between 1892 and 1894.—Edmonton Post.

They Thawed Dynamite.

The first news of a terrific explosion which occurred near Ketchikan a week ago, says the Alaskan, was brought to Skagway yesterday by Customs Inspector Fleming, who arrived on the Cutch. He says that 25 sticks of dynamite exploded while being thawed near a stove in a cabin. Four men were in the cabin at the time, and two of them were thrown completely through the roof, and dropped to the earth outside. The most wonderful part of it is that these two men made their extraordinary trip through the top of the house and back to earth without a scratch.

The two other men who were in the house were badly injured. It appears they were thrown against the walls, or something, and did not go through the roof or walls. One man was badly cut and bruised all over his body, and so severely injured he did not survive. However, he lived until taken to Ketchikan where he was given surgical attention by an experienced doctor, but he was beyond recovery. He suffered, excruciating pain before passing away.

The fourth man was severely injured below the waist. His ear drums also suffered much, and it was several days until he began to recover his hearing. Mr. Fleming says it is a wonder that the man's ear drums withstood the terrific concussion.

The names of the men were not ascertained by Mr. Fleming, but he says they were all Swedes.

The place of the accident was near Dallhead, on Grayina island and 16 miles from Ketchikan. The men were working in a mine.

Mining in Russia.

There are not a few men in Dawson who entertain strong opinions that in Siberia exists good mining fields and many of them have ideas of crossing to that country in case Nome does not turn out as expected. Some weeks ago a gentleman in Dawson wrote a friend in Chicago regarding the matter of mining in Siberia. The Chicago friend in turn made inquiry of William E. Curtis, assistant secretary of the state department in Washington, who submitted the following reply which was forwarded from Chicago to the Dawson resident above mentioned:

Washington, D. C., April 5, 1900. Mr. R. I. Mansfield, 130 Reahto Building, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir: In answer to your inquiry of the 2nd, I would say that a miner who wants to work on Russian territory must first obtain a permit from the czar at the office of the minister of state domains, St. Petersburg, for which he pays a small fee. Upon arriving at the mining camp he files this permit with the nearest authorized official and receives a license to work within certain limits and to locate claims of certain dimensions, but no distinction is made between foreigners and natives. Very truly yours,

WILLIAM E. CURTIS.

Important Masonic Meeting.

All members of the Yukon Masonic Association are requested to be present at the meeting tonight in Fraternity hall, when the election of officers for the ensuing term will be held.

Living Whist.

Beginning tonight one of the finest and most unique entertainments ever witnessed in Dawson will open a three night's engagement at the Palace Grand. It is the initial appearance of Prof. Whitley's human pack of cards with which the great game of living whist will be played.

The game of whist will be played on the principles promulgated by Hoyle, and the best players will take the odd, or two or three, odd tricks. Those who will play the four hands are Judge Dugas and J. T. Lithgow, partners; and H. T. Willis and C. J. K. Nourse, partners. These players will be pitted against each other and the game will be played for all there is in it; also a \$150 prize to be awarded to the champion of the three nights' tournament.

The persons representing each card will, as they are "played," and the trick is formed, execute a dance; the Aces, Kings, Queens, Jacks and Joker will each execute a solo dance as they are played.

In addition to the living whist, the Kermis will also be presented each evening by 28 children. A grand ball

will close the entertainment Thursday, the last night of the tournament. The proceeds of the entire series will be donated to St. Mary's hospital. Tickets are on sale at Reid & Co.'s drug store.

POLICE COURT NEWS.

In police court yesterday afternoon the case of A. U. Warnecross, charged with stealing gold from the sluice boxes on claim 23 below on Sulphur, was continued until such time as witnesses can be gotten in from Sulphur. Warnecross is still in jail.

When Vera Holmes was arraigned yesterday afternoon on the charge of "d. & d." she was the picture of despair and woe. Her frock was torn and her face twitched like a jumping-jack. As this was not Vera's first offence nor her second, nor her third, but possibly her tenth or more, the court decided to not impose a fine, but to give her two weeks in which to pack her Saratoga and depart from the territory. She promised to conform with the order and sadly departed from the temple of justice. But alas! Vera's appetite for the ardent asserted itself before many hours, and before "low 12" last night she was again taken to the guard house in a beastly state of intoxication. She is still in jail.

Thos. Dawson, who had not been before the court since the 27th of April, at which time he stretched "Fah arms heavenward and swore to "never touch another drop" was up this morning on the charge of being drunk. Thomas denied the allegation and put several somewhat pointed questions to the arresting officer. He told a story of having been robbed of \$14 taken from his cabin yesterday, and on going to the barracks to secure aid in his trouble, claims to have been arrested and detained without good and sufficient cause. As the evidence of the prosecution was strongly corroborated, Thomas was convicted; but, being a regular customer of the court, he was not fined. Thomas was "Black Mariaed," so to speak, for five days.

The case of Ernest W. Rose vs. Patterson, a Sulphur claim owner, for wages, resulted in an order being made against Patterson for \$133.

The cases of the Queen vs. Brown and Sutherland, charged with having given to Fred Struthers, bench-claim recording and claim renewal clerk in the office of Assistant Gold Commissioner Bell on May 9th a bribe, were to have been up this morning for preliminary hearing but were continued until this afternoon. Both men have been in jail since the evening of the 9th. Struthers is out of jail on bonds.

They Will Go.

All advice to the contrary, the fact remains that many people are leaving here in small boats for Nome every day. A gentleman who is employed on the water front in the lower part of the city is authority for the statement that for the past ten days the exit from Dawson and down the river has been from 80 to 100 persons every 24 hours. At this rate, with the statistics of the late census at hand, the effect on the population of the Yukon is woefully apparent.

Coming This Way.

F. H. Bense, a Dawson-coast trader, arrived from the Sound on the City of Topeka with 30 tons of freight which he is taking to the Klondike metropolis. He predicts many will come this way enroute to Nome. While at the Golden North he said:

"Passenger accommodations on the steamers that are to sail from the Sound are now going at a premium, and it is natural to suppose that these high rates will drive passengers this way unless it be that some of the big companies that have ships in the transport service put them on the Nome route the last thing."

"I know that a man recently paid \$125 for the last ticket on one of the big steamers that is to sail from the Sound, and that tickets for the ocean route have sold already as high as \$150."

"Two men bound for Nome by the Yukon river route, who will build boats somewhere on the headwaters of the stream, came up on the Topeka."—Daily Alaskan.

A "Practical" Joke.

An Irishman took a contract to dig a public well. When he had dug about 25 feet down, he came one morning and found it caved in—filled nearly to the top.

Pat looked cautiously round and saw that no one was near, then took off his hat and coat and hung them on the windlass, crawled into some bushes and waited events. In a short time the citizens discovered that the well had caved in, and, seeing Pat's hat and coat on the windlass, they supposed he was at the bottom of the excavation.

Only a few hours of "risk digging" cleared the loose earth from the well. Just as the eager citizens had reached the bottom and were wondering where the body was Pat came walking out of the bushes and came, naturally thanked them for relieving him of a sorry job.

Some of the tired diggers were disgusted, but the joke was too good to allow of anything more than a hearty laugh, which soon followed.—London Answers.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.

The Klondike Nugget

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AVOID POLITICS.

Word has been received in Dawson from an authoritative source that the Conservative party will endorse the demands of the Yukon territory for parliamentary representation. The election of two Yukon members will be recommended, and the Conservatives will pledge themselves to place their recommendation in effect in the event they are again placed in power.

There is no information at hand to indicate that the representation will be opposed by the Liberal party, and, in fact, there is some reason for belief that they, also, will go on record as favoring the election of two members of parliament from this territory, in which case representation will become an assured fact.

We are of the opinion that the interests of the territory will be best served by avoiding, if possible, a concussion of the two great parties upon questions affecting our development. Canadian citizens in Dawson, and throughout the territory in general, should consider, above the interest of any political party, what may be done to secure recognition of what is generally conceded to be the special needs of the Yukon territory.

It makes little difference to this isolated corner of the Dominion of Canada what political party is in power, or who is guiding the policies of that party, providing a disposition is made manifest to give prompt and careful consideration to our needs.

There is nothing to be gained by making the Yukon an issue between the parties. There are no questions here which should divide the parties. Every effort should be made, on the contrary, to secure from both the recognition to which we are entitled, and, if this can be done, the future of the territory should be secure.

Two members of parliament, elected by the suffrages of the voters of the territory, and supported by the promises of both political parties, should be able to accomplish lasting and beneficial results.

QUAY REJECTED.

The United States senate has won the approval of the people by declaring that Matthew S. Quay is not entitled to a seat in that body. Both of the celebrated cases that were laid before it at the beginning of the session have been settled, and in both of them the decision reached is in accord with the wishes and beliefs of the country. It is a splendid record, where to fall short of duty would have been so easy, and the senate deserves all praise and honor for its acts.

The case of Quay was one in which it was entirely possible for honest differences of opinion to exist. The legislature of Pennsylvania adjourned without electing a senator, after a long deadlock. The governor immediately appointed Mr. Quay, assuming that he had a right under the constitution to fill the vacancy. Thus the old issue was raised, whether a governor can appoint after the legislature has refused to exercise its prerogative. There are excellent reasons for either interpretation of the constitution, and each view has strong legal support. The precedents are mainly in the negative. But it was a question upon which

able men might differ sincerely. Few men could have mustered a larger following than Mr. Quay. He was formerly a member of the senate, and his old associates felt the tie. He is a man of engaging personality. Many of those who dislike him as a politician are attached to him as a man. Very powerful influences in his native state were behind him. It seemed improbable for a time that his claim would be rejected. Yet he has lost ground from the time his case first came under consideration, and the narrow margin of one vote, by which he was rejected, could never have been overcome.—Seattle P.-I.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION.

It will be a remarkable fact if the clean-up season passes without the occurrence of hold-ups and robberies on the trails leading to Dawson. There is good reason for belief that efforts at this sort of crime have been made already, which have failed of success only through the intervention of fortunate circumstances. On all the roads leading to Dawson from the creeks, there are numerous places which are peculiarly suitable for the work of the intending desperado. There are stretches of several miles in extent where there are no inhabited cabins, and the adjoining woods furnish all the protection desired.

The only way in which such crimes can be prevented is by the exercise of the utmost vigilance on the part of men coming into town. Heretofore, men have thought nothing of coming into Dawson, carrying with them all the way from \$5,000 to \$10,000 in gold dust, and without escort of any kind. This may have been perfectly safe in the past, but it is the opinion of those who are informed that such is no longer the case. Several suspicious circumstances have already been reported, and it is quite likely that, unless care is exercised, serious results will follow. No one should come down from the creeks without escort of some kind. An ounce of prevention, especially in a case where gold dust, and perhaps life, is concerned, is certainly worth more than several pounds of cure.

The subject of telegrams, stolen or otherwise, is a very painful one—to our contemporary, the News. So painful is it, in fact, that our contemporary exercises the utmost caution in referring to it. We don't have any desire to appear at all officious in the matter, but, just as a matter of courtesy and good fellowship, we wish our estimable contemporary to understand that we will be glad to furnish copies of our own telegrams whenever the News' "exclusive telegraph franchise" fails to work. The two important outside events of the past week were the Corbett fight and the relief of Mafeking, both of which came to the Nugget in special telegrams after the publication of the regular issue for the day. On each of these occasions, an extra edition of the Nugget was issued to meet the demands of our readers, and no other Dawson paper made any effort to handle the news. It must be that occasionally a screw becomes loosened in our contemporary's "exclusive franchise" machinery, and, in such emergencies, we again assure our contemporary of our willingness to render any assistance in our power.

Special Power of Attorney forms for sale at the Nugget office.
Sour Dough Letter Heads for sale at the Nugget office.