Changes in School System

Superintendent Eaton Suggests Modifications--Referred to the Education Department.

Much Ado About Three Dollars - Some Other Valuable Reports Submitted.

The meeting of the board of school trustees held last evening in the council chamber of the city hall was remarkable, even among meetings of that body, for the voluminousness of the reports presented and the lengthened discussions regarding minor matters. Superintendent Eaton had prepared a report for the school management committee upon the High school system, and the system of certificating teachers, and this was referred to the board by that committee for consideration. It is a masterly resume of a very wide question, and was dealt with by being referred to the whole board as a committee, to be presented to the department of public instruction.

Reports on the prizes recommended, the repairs done to the school buildings and the work needed, on attendance and several other matters were also discussed or taken as read, and a very long discussion took place regarding the payment or non-payment of a small account amounting to three dollars, for the printing of tickets for a concert projected by the teachers of the South Park school, and abandoned because of some misunderstanding regarding the disposal of the proceeds.

Chairman McMicking called the meeting to order shortly after 8 o'clock, there being present Trustees Mesdames Gordon Grant and William Grant, and Messrs. William Marchant, A. L. Belyea and Dr. Lewis Hall. Secretary-Superintendent Eaton and his assistant were also in attendance.

The minutes of the last meeting of the board were read and duly adopted, after the two lady trustees had been informed upon some minor point which did not appear to them to have been correctly recorded.

Then came communications, the first of which was from Miss Powell, a teacher, informing the board that she wished leave of absence during a portion of the first week in October, commencing on the Tuesday morning, for the purpose of attending the wedding of a friend at Cumberland.

Trustee Hall moved, and Trustee Mrs. Gordon Grant seconded, that the request be granted, Miss Powell's salary to be forfeited during her absence. Carried.

F. W. Howay, secretary of the board of trustees of New Westminster, acknowledged receipt of the board's letter of July 23rd regarding the action of the department in limiting the holidays to be allowed in computing the per capita grant to the statutory holidays, and informing the board that the New Westminster trustees are endeavoring to secure strength by having the boards of Nanaimo and Vancouver join with them in pressing their objection thereto.

This was received and filed on motion of Trustees Marchant and Mrs. Gordon Grant, the chairman saying he thought their New Westminster friends had taken them rather more seriously than was intended.

The finance committee recommended for payment accounts amounting to $474.86, and the report was adopted.

The same committee recommended that the substitutes employed during the absence of teachers, Mrs. Taylor and Miss Arthur, be paid at the rate of $1.25 a day, and the amounts deducted from the September salaries of the ladies named; also that similar action be taken in the cases of Miss Frank, Miss Sylvester and Miss Robinson.

The first portion passed easily, but some discussion ensued regarding the three last named teachers. Secretary Eaton explained that Miss Robinson had been absent a whole week owing to the sickness of her sister, Miss Frank had been absent three days, and Miss Sylvester two days.

Trustee Belyea thought this would be drawing the line a little too tightly. Complaints were heard of the insufficiency of the salaries paid, and to be so strict would savor of "cheapness."

Mrs. Gordon Grant explained that a portion of Mrs. Taylor's absence was due to the sickness of her mother, and if other teachers be paid during their absence through that cause so should she.

This section carried eventually, Trustees Mrs. Gordon Grant and Belyea objecting. Trustee Hall made the claim that members of the board, if they were kept at home owing to the sickness of members of their families, would have to lose their salaries, or if they paid for assistance would be out of pocket anyway, and as the rules stipulated that the action contemplated in the motion be adopted, it would be well to adhere to the rules.

Then the finance committee's report went on to refer to the board two accounts, one from Mr. Maxwell Muir, the architect who reported on the work required at the various school houses, prepared the specifications and superintended the work being done, for all of which he charged $229.40.

Mr. Marchant, as chairman of the finance committee, explained that the reason this account was referred back to the board was that the members of the committee knew nothing of what arrangement had been made with Mr. Muir, and as they understood the usual fee was five per cent. of the total cost of the work, and this account amounted to ten per cent., they deemed it better to bring it before the board in the hope that Trustee Belyea, who made the arrangement with Mr. Muir, would have some information to give them. They did not intend to object to the payment of the account.

Trustee Belyea said he saw Mr. Muir as instructed by the board, and informed him what he was wanted to do, but had no arrangement with him regarding his compensation.

Trustee Marchant then moved that the account be referred back to the finance committee with instructions to see Mr. Muir, and if he satisfies them it is a just and reasonable charge, to pay it.

Seconded by Mrs. Gordon Grant, this motion was adopted.

Then came the account sent in by Miss Agnes Deans Cameron, of the South Park school, amounting to $3, for the printing of the tickets for the concert which didn't come off. Miss Cameron said that acting upon the unanimous wish of the teachers of her school she waited upon Superintendent Eaton especially to consult him about raising funds by means of a concert for the purpose of teaching singing in the school. That Mr. Eaton agreed with the proposal, assuring her he would take all the responsibility. She asked Mr. Eaton if he had the details about the concert, and he said "No; do as you have done on previous occasions," and that it was not necessary for her to apply to the board. The chairman had subsequently ordered her to stop the sale of the tickets, and said that any money received in that manner would have to be turned into the board's funds, which the board would perhaps augment for the purpose of paying teachers to give musical instructions in the various schools.

Mrs. Gordon Grant moved that the account be paid, but no such easy solution of the matter was to be arrived at, Chairman McMicking opening the ball by explaining his share of the transaction. This was embodied in a report, which was also read, and which stated that he had been appointed a special committee to interview the teachers of South Park school. That he met them accordingly, and explained to them the views held by the board, and believing that what had been done, although somewhat irregular, had been done in perfectly good faith, he did not desire to place the staff in a false position. He explained that the board was willing the concert should be held, provided the sale of tickets was not indulged in, an entrance fee to be charged at the doors. He was asked by the teachers what disposition would be made of such funds, and said he hoped the board would supplement them so that the study of music could be undertaken in two or three of the schools. Failing such supplementary aid, he gave it as his opinion that it would be only fair to spend the money raised by the concert, in South Park school. He recommended the teachers to hold the concert on that understanding, but it was abandoned and the account for printing the tickets was now sent to the board to pay.

What would the board do with the account?

Trustee Belyea thought the best way would be for the trustees to "chip in" four bits apiece and have done with it. The trouble arose by the teachers of the South Park school constituting themselves another board of trustees, but it was not fair to ask the teachers to pay the bill, nor was it fair that the ratepayers' money should be used for that purpose.

Mrs. Gordon Grant said Miss Cameron was not aware there were rules relating to the subject until after the concert was arranged, when she was informed thereof by another teacher, who had seen them. Then, after seeing Mr. Eaton, Miss Cameron felt quite sure she was on good ground, and arranged with Mr. Barton that he should have the proceeds of the concert to pay him for instructing the children in the school. Then when she learned the proceeds would have to be devoted to a general fund she thought there was a danger of breaking faith with Mr. Barton, as there was no guarantee that he would be the teacher selected. Personally, Mrs. Gordon Grant expressed herself willing to fall in with Mr. Belyea's suggestion that each trustee should contribute a share of the amount of the bill.

Chairman McMicking, like Barkis, was also willing.

Trustee Marchant was not, by a jugfull. He would rather throw the fifty cents into the street or donate it to a fund for the assistance of down trodden newspaper reporters. The board had done all it could for the South Park school in the awkward circumstances they were placed in. They had broken the rules, and he had no doubt they intended to go on with the concert without being aware that they were breaking the rules. Mr. Eaton communicated with Miss Cameron, and there was some misunderstanding, to remedy which, they appointed the chairman with full power to act, and there appeared no reason why the concert should be abandoned. He felt that in a moment of pique, caprice or ill-temper, the staff of the South Park school decided not to carry out the concert plan, and it looked very much like an attempt to overawe the board. He would not give a nicket towards the account. If it was a just bill it should be paid, but inasmuch as it appears to be a deliberate attempt to show the board that if they would not do as the teachers at South Park wished, they would not have any more to do with it, he thought it amounted to a piece of impudence, and he would have nothing to do with it.

Mrs. Gordon Grant thought some respect should be shown to the superintendent. If he authorized the concert it would be a small piece of business to refuse to pay the bill. Then Mr. Barton was to be considered. He was getting up the concert without any guarantee at all.

Mr. Belyea thought the board was in an uniquely awkward position.

Trustee Hall then took a hand, and explained that Mr. Eaton only authorized Miss Cameron to go ahead with the preliminary work, and he would get the necessary permission from the board. Dr. Hall was opposed to paying the bill. He would not mind contributing his share, but would not sign any requisition for the ratepayers' money to go in that way. There was no reason for the discontinuance of the concert. The chairman had urged to the contrary, and Dr. Hall had heard two hundred tickets had been sold. But the main objection the board took was the same as that taken by the parents of the children, that the children should not be made agents for the sale of tickets. He would like an explanation from the superintendent.

Mrs. Gordon Grant wanted to know if Miss Cameron's statement were correct.

Superintendent Eaton had a little tale to tell. He regretted very much that the communications on the subject had not been in writing. It would be a lesson to him in future. He also regretted that his recollection of the whole proceeding did not tally with Miss Cameron's. In the first place, in the interview which took place in his office, the rules of the board were consulted, Miss Cameron either reading them or be reading them to her. That was before the tickets were printed. On the day upon which the teachers met Mr. Barton to organise the concert, to guard against any possible misapprehension, he telephoned asking that a formal application be made to the board stating in detail the plans to be adopted. Miss Cameron did not receive that 'phone message herself, someone else answered the 'phone.

Mrs. William Grant said Miss Cameron received the message, but the tickets were then printed.

The motion to pay the account was then put and lost, the ladies voting aye and the gentlemen no.

Trustee Marchant then moved the adoption of the report as a whole; it was seconded by Trustee Hall and carried.

The chairman asked what disposition the board would make of Miss Cameron's letter. Mrs. Gordon Grant moved to refer it to the finance committee with power to act, but Trustee Marchant moved to receive and file it, and his motion prevailed. The chairman's report took the same course, and the bill remains unpaid.

The school management committee reported as follows:

To the Board of School Trustees:

Ladies and Gentlemen,—A clause in the City Superintendent's report of July 12th suggesting as desirable certain changes in the constitution of the High school was at the meeting of August 9th referred to your school management committee.

Your committee has the honor to report that at the request of the chairman of the committee the city superintendent has submitted a more extended report embodying his views on the matter.

This report commends itself generally to the approval of the committee and is herewith submitted to the board for its action thereon.

The city superintendent's suggestions in regard to prizes, which were also referred to your committee, are reported back to the board with the recommendation that they be adopted as the policy of the board in respect to prize giving in the schools; they are as follows:

1. Disallowance of competitions limited to members of a single class.

2. Permission of individual competitions open to the pupils of like class rank (grammar, intermediate and primary) in the city.

3. Encouragement of competition by classes for school trophies.

The city superintendent has been asked by the committee to submit to the board a list of the competitions with the conditions thereof which in his judgment the board might properly sanction for the current year, and your committee further recommends that, subject to the limitations of accommodation, the duplication in the South Park school of primary instruction given in the Kingston street school be disallowed.

The superintendent's report referred to is as follows:

Victoria, Sept. 8, 1890.

Lewis Hall, Esq., Chairman of the School Management Committee, Victoria, B.C.:

Dear Sir,—You have been pleased to request me to present for the consideration of your committee a detailed statement of my views as to the conditions under which the Victoria High school might reach a higher degree of efficiency than has been possible hitherto. In complying with your wishes I shall be obliged to go further afield than the limits of our city school system and discuss the relations of High schools to the provincial education scheme; referring incidentally to what may seem at first thought irrelevant, the training and certification of teachers.

The inclusion of secondary or High schools, in a state system of education is, on this continent, universal. We sometimes hear in Victoria that the public school should teach only the three R's; that in doing more it educates children above their station: that parents who want more for their children should themselves pay for it. This is stupid doctrine. What is the proper station of any child? There is no feudalism in this country. A present day school system providing for instruction in reading, writing and reckoning alone would be as intolerable to the public as it would be indefensible in principle. So restricted a form of literacy would in this age be illiteracy. The public schools must fit in with the social and industrial life of to-day, not those of fifty years ago.

The maintenance of the High school at the public expense is an unescapable obligation. It is equally obligatory that it should be maintained under conditions that will secure the greatest good to the greatest number; and the first requisite in the reconstruction of the High school system of this province is a definite, systematic and well balanced course of study, not only sanctioned but prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction. In the absence of such a course, instruction is comparatively aimless, desultory and fragmentary. The energies of the teachers are frittered away in the attempt to cover the whole field of possible secondary studies. The interests of the few who demand special subjects for university or professional examinations disparage the interests of the many who do not have these examinations in view.

There is undoubtedly some prejudice against the High school, due to the misconception that it is primarily and essentially a classical school. It is not, nor, under the conditions which obtain in this province, should classes hold a first place in the curriculum. The majority of British Columbia High school pupils will not take a university course; and this fact should determine the kind of education they are to receive in the High school. Preparation for university matriculation should be undertaken by those schools only in which the staff is large enough to permit it without detriment to the non-classical course; which should be devised in the interests of all but the few who require classical instruction. The authorized study plan should therefore aim not too ambitiously at a thorough training in the fundamentals of a liberal education, and make relatively subordinate provision for subjects that are not essential thereto. Specialization along university lines should be permitted only to the larger schools.

Students who satisfactorily complete the course of study prescribed by the department are entitled to formal recognition from the department. Provincial High school certificates should be issued which would not only be accepted by university and professional councils in lieu of their own "preliminary" examinations, but would accredit the possessor's scholarship wherever and whenever such credentials might be of value. These certificates might properly be of three grades corresponding to a subdivision of the curriculum into a junior and senior non-classical course and a classical course which should presuppose the completion of the other two. With a well arranged High school course leading up to certificates of proficiency awarded by the department itself, duplicate courses and examinations for determining the scholarship of candidates for teachers' certificates would be superfluous. The standards set for the latter should be identical with those set for the former. Under such an arrangement, not only would the teachers be better educated, but the expense of maintaining the system would be greatly economized.

There seems to be need for not more than three grades of teachers' certificates; a first and second, qualifying for teachers in schools other than High schools, corresponding generally to the present First B and Second A; and a High school teacher's certificate, for which only university graduates should be eligible. The junior High school certificates should be accepted by the department as sufficient evidence of qualifying scholarship for teachers of the second class, and similarly the senior High school certificates should be the necessary and sufficient scholarship credential for teachers of the first class.

It is greatly to the discredit of the province that no provision has as yet been made for the special training of teachers. It is a lamentable waste of public money to put schools in the hands of inexperienced, untrained teachers; to say nothing of the criminal sacrifice of children's interests which the practice involves. British Columbia is the only integral portion of the civilized world in which the system of public schools does not recognize provision for Normal school training as a vital necessity, not an educational luxury. The public will never get value for its liberal appropriations for education until suitable provision for the training of teachers is made.

The prevalent idea of a Normal school seems to be that of an institution in which those who intend entering the teaching profession may get the necessary scholarship as well as professional training. This would require an expensive building, expensive equipment and an expensive staff. But no such school is necessary; prospective teachers should get their general education in the High school. There would be no justification either in reason or in practical expediency for constituting for this class of pupils a special school which would duplicate the educational facilities given in the High school. What is needed is provision for purely professional training; and such provision, reasonably adequate for the present, could be made at a very insignificant expense.

A three or four months' course of instruction to teachers in training, combined with practice and observation, while not the equivalent of the training given in the higher Normal schools, would nevertheless be a long advance upon nothing. Such a course could be given successively at three different centres, one on the Island and two on the Mainland. The current expense other than the instructor's salary would be very small and could be met, if necessary, by a moderate fee. The only accommodation needed would be a single class room and no equipments would be required. It would be necessary to make arrangements for the use of the local schools for observation and practice purposes.

I have prepared in outline a plan in which the above considerations are embodied, omitting many details which would readily work themselves out, once the general principles were adopted. This plan I submit herewith. Possibly a better one could be devised; but that a radical reconstruction of the High school system and that of certificating teachers is urgently needed, there can be no doubt.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Yours respectively,

FRANK H. EATON,
City Superintendent.

HIGH SCHOOL AND TEACHERS' CERTIFICATES.

The curriculum of all High schools to comprise two consecutive courses, junior and senior.

Both courses to be essentially non-classical, providing, however, for elementary classics as options.

Junior course certificates to be awarded by the Council of Public Instruction to all students who satisfactorily complete the junior course.

The senior course to be open only to those who hold junior course certificates.

In addition to the junior and senior non-classical course, High schools with four or more teachers to provide an essentially classical course open to students who have taken the senior and junior course and the classical options.

Classical certificates to be awarded on completion of the classical course.

All candidates for teachers' certificates, except university graduates, to be required to hold High school certificates. No further scholarship tests to be necessary.

Holders of junior course certificates to be considered as having satisfied the scholarship requirements for second class teachers' certificates.

Holders of senior course certificates to be considered as having satisfied the scholarship requirements of first class teachers' certificates.

Only university graduates to be eligible for certificates as regular High school teachers.

A course of professional training extending over, say, fifteen weeks to be given every year in Victoria, Vancouver and Nelson (or Rossland) by a specially qualified instructor appointed for that purpose.

This course of training, consisting of pedagogical instruction, together with observation and practice in the public schools, to be open to those who hold High school certificates.

No one other than teachers of experience to be certificated as a public school teacher, who has not had professional training equivalent to that to be provided for as above.

Trustee Belyea said although the report of the superintendent might have merits, and really anything would be better than the present system, the board could do nothing with it, they had not the power. He did not feel inclined to stay there all night to discuss it. It was along the lines upon which he had repeatedly talked to the superintendent, but they could no more deal with it than the city council could.

Explanations followed, and then Mrs. Gordon Grant moved the report be referred to a special committee to lay it before the council of education. Mr. Marchant seconded this, it was carried, and the chairman appointed the board a committee of the whole for the purpose, a date to be arranged for as many as could to wait on the department.

Then came the following report from the superintendent:

Sept. 13th, 1899.

Trustees of Victoria Schools:

Ladies and Gentlemen,—At the request of the school management committee I have prepared the following list of prizes which I should like to see offered by public spirited citizens as a stimulus to the teaching of special subjects during the current year. In adopting this list, or any portion of it, however, I would not think it desirable for the board to make it exclusive.

For Grammar Classes.

1. An individual prize in bookkeeping; competition open to first division pupils; award to be based partly on knowledge of the subject as tested in a special examination held for that purpose near the end of the year, but mainly upon mechanical excellence of the regular class work done during the year.

2. An individual prize in memory map drawing, open to all grammar grade pupils; tests to include maps of any of the continents and any of the principal countries of Europe and North America; especial emphasis to be laid on physical features.

3. An individual prize in drawing, to be awarded for the best drawing book, No. 3, complete; certified by the teacher as the exclusive work of the competitor during school hours. Open to all grammar grade pupils.

Intermediate Classes.

1. An individual prize in geography, open to all pupils of intermediate classes; to be awarded for the best examination on the situation, climate, products, people, commerce and political institutions of the various parts of the British Empire, and particularly of Canada.

2. An individual prize to be awarded for the best examination on the prescribed course in nature lessons, open to all pupils of intermediate classes.

3. A class prize in reading, open to all intermediate classes; not less than five competitors from each class; prize to be the permanent property of the school to which the successful class belongs.

4. A class prize in writing, open to all intermediate classes, not less than ten competitors from each class; prize to be the permanent property of the school to which the successful class belongs. Award to be made on special tests.

Respectfully submitted,

FRANK H. EATON,
City Superintendent.

Victoria, B. C., Sept. 13th, 1899.

Read and laid on the table, a copy to be furnished each trustee.

Trustee Marchant moved the adoption of the 3rd clause of the school management committee's report, which carried, the superintendent's being laid on the table for further consideration, copies to be furnished the trustees.

The next was a long report from the architect detailing the work done to the various school buildings, and that still needed during the year. This was taken as read and ordered, on the recommendation of Trustee Marchant, who characterised it as a very important report, to be kept on record for reference.

The monthly attendance report showed an enrollment of 2,424, an attendance of 2,156.71, 5 cases of truancy, 37 of corporal punishment, 135 of tardiness, fourteen and one half days absence of teachers, an attendance percentage of 91 and of punctuality 99 3-5ths. The 37 corporal punishment cases are divided as follows: South Park, 13; Hillside, 5; Girls', 1; Spring Ridge, 1; North Ward, 7; Boys, 8; and Victoria West, 2.

Received and filed.

Mrs. Gordon Grant very humbly asked for permission to be granted to the purchasing committee to obtain a wall clock for the Kingston street school, to cost $5, and brought up the matter of another ticker, which has been repaired, and which went ten minutes beautifully but then quit. The new clock will be bought and the repaired one referred back to the repairer.

Other subjects discussed at great length, but of even less importance than those reported, were the buying of books for the orphans; the possible economy in the matter of school supplies (the superintendent explaining that $9.25 will buy all the text books a pupil requires from the time he enters the school until he reaches the high school) and the re-arrangement of the dates of the meetings of the superintendent and the teachers.

And the board rose as the clock struck ten.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY MAXIMS.

Make a good choice before you carry your spouse to church. When you have her sure, neither adore nor neglect her.

Take care not to provoke her, or indiscreetly to raise her anger by unjust or outrageous severities; neither make her proud by too much complaisance, or ill-timed civilities.

Live in your family as would an angel; but if that exceed your power, live as a sociable creature.

The wise man is steady and constant. His soul is unchangeable and immortal, but his determinations are not so. 'Tis the business and excellency of the gnomon, the index-pointer of a sun dial, to continue fixed and never change place; but it would cause great confusion if its shadow were to do so too.

The ladies who have made themselves most renowned, and have been best beloved in the world, are not those who have been the most beautiful, the most witty, or the most knowing. The perfect woman of Solomon was perfect mistress of three sorts of knowledge:

1. She understood how to ask proper questions, and to give others happy and proper occasions for telling what they knew.

2. She had capacity enough to conceive readily and clearly the answers they gave her.

3. She knew when to admire, and express her admiration in such terms as testified to all the strength and sincerity of her mind.—From Nicolas Faugnet's Maxims, translated by A. B. Cheales.

Walter Wekman, the Polar explorer, has undengone the first surgical operation for straightening his right leg, which was seriously injured by his falling into a snow-covered crevasse while leading his party. It resulted in the successful loosening of the sinews. Another operation is necessary, but the attending physicians say they expect to save the leg.

Little is known as to the actual fortune of the late Cornelius Vanderbilt, says the New York Tribune. He was a reticent man about his private affairs. His fortune has been variously estimated all the way from $80,000,000 to $200,000,000. It was mostly in railway stocks, bonds and securities.

The pain of a burn or scald is almost instantly relieved by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It also heals the injured parts more quickly than any other treatment, and without the burn is very severe does not leave a scar. For sale by Henderson Bros., Wholesale Agents, Victoria and Vancouver.

A Much Married Man

Four Wives Claim the Estate of a Dead Klondiker--Deceased Left a Fortune.

All the Women Send Accurate Descriptions of the Dead Miner.

Just now Dawson is enjoying a sensation caused by the death of a rich miner who bore a common English family name, viz., that of William H. Sutton.

The man died February 1, 1896, in the Forty-Mile district, and is reported to have left as an estate a snug fortune in gold and nuggets in addition to various rich mining claims. Sutton so far back as can be ascertained by Consul McCook was but little known in the Forty-Mile country, and no one has so far turned up to whom the dead miner confided anything about himself or his past life.

And all this only increases the "heaps o' trouble". Sutton seems to have left behind him with his fortune and estate, for no less than four women claim the deceased miner was their lawful wedded husband, and, what is of very much more importance to them, that they and their children are entitled to Sutton's money. None of the four are at all bashful in putting forward their claims, and while none of them evince in their letters a consuming grief over Sutton's death, they unanimously assert they need his money, want it and are going to have it, if it is possible to get it.

In addition to the quartette of widows after Sutton's money, there are several alleged male relatives, among whom is an Oklahoma man.

The women claiming to be Sutton's widows are:

Mrs. Halma Sutton, of Anoka, Minn., but who writes from Chicago.

Mrs. L. L. Sutton, of Ottawa, who has a daughter, and who has employed an attorney.

Mrs. Josephine Sutton, of Chicago, who also has a daughter.

Mrs. Donna Bruce Sutton, of Chicago, who has several children.

From letters written by the alleged widows and the discriptions furnished of their husband, it begins to look as if Sutton was a much married man, with but one legal wife, and surface indications point to Mrs. Halma Sutton as the one showing up the strongest proof of her widowhood and right to the Klondiker's fortune.

Mrs. Halma Sutton describes her husband as William Henry Sutton, who was living with her in 1897 in New York city, and left her for the Klondyke. She says he was 28 years old, brown hair, blue eyes and weighed about 160 pounds, and she mails a photograph to Consul McCook, which has been recognized as that of the deceased miner by some of the men who worked on Forty-Mile with him. Mrs. Halma Sutton also says she has heard of one Josephine Sutton, who claims the deceased as her husband.

The description given of her husband by Mrs. L. L. Sutton, of Ottawa, tallies closely with that given by Mrs. Halma Sutton. She also had heard of "that woman, Josephine Sutton," in Chicago, before her husband left for the Klondyke, and sent her daughter over to Chicago to see her father, who told the girl that he was not married to "that Josephine woman." Mrs. L. L. Sutton had never heard of any other Mrs. Sutton's claiming her husband. He left her some years ago "because she was perfectly useless," she says, and he had grown tired of supporting her.

Then comes the Mrs. Josephine Sutton, of Chicago. Her description of the missing husband gives the same blue eyes, brown hair, height and weight as the other women describe, but she places the age at from 40 to 50. In fact, it is supposed that the age 28, as given by the first Mrs Sutton, is a misprint, and should read 38, since the photograph she sends is of a man about that age. Josephine Sutton claims to be a lawful wedded wife.

Lastly, while Mrs. Donna Bruce Sutton's description of her husband does not tally as closely with the others as they do with each other, still it has many points of absolute similarity. She says her husband was at one time chief of police at Bradford, Pa., and gives certain marks and scars that will be conclusive proof of identity if found on the body buried at Forty-Mile creek. In fact, the Dawson officials think that Mrs. Donna Bruce Sutton is probably mistaken in the man.

From the fact that both Mrs. Halma and Mrs. L. L. Sutton knew of the existence and claims of Mrs. Josephine Sutton, of Chicago, it is believed the three women, at least, are hunting the same man, and the photograph sent by Mrs. Halma Sutton having been recognized by the miners, it is also likely that the man they are hunting is William Henry Sutton, who died and is buried in Forty-Mile district.

The prospects for a long, lively and very bitterly contested fight over the estate of the deceased miner has moved Consul McCook to commence an investigation at once. He has asked miners who knew W. H. Sutton to call on him and take a look at the photograph. The consul has also advised the commissioner at Eagle City to administer upon the estate of W. H. Sutton, sending him an inventory of such property as has been found. This includes no cash or dust, but does enumerate the following valuable claims as belonging to deceased: On the American side of Forty-Mile he owned claims on Squaw, Hall, Arkansaw, Canyon and O'Brien creeks, and also claims on Walter's fork, Dome and other streams. In addition Sutton is said to own valuable property in Dawson, which, according to last advices, had not been found.

Judges are but men, and are swayed, like other men, by vehement prejudices. —David Dudley Field.