

Stroller's Column.

The other day a mild appearing stranger called on the Stroller and in a voice that showed at once that his teeth had dragged anchor and were all loose asked:

"Do you believe in spirits?"

The Stroller, thinking that something was about to be sprung on him, replied that he did believe in spirits, especially when taken with a little lemon.

"You wayward and frail young thing," exclaimed the man with the tamborine voice, "I refer to the spirits with which we, the elect, hold converse and sweet communion."

The Stroller apologized and in his embarrassment said something about taking it without lemon and right out of the bottle, but the old man, seeing he was frustrated, appeared to not notice the break but went on to say that he was a medium of the first water and that he would be pleased to meet a few of the elect in Dawson. He said that the people he made a specialty of calling upon could not be reached by telephone and that to reach them by letter it was necessary in many cases to use an asbestos envelope.

The Stroller sighed and asked his visitor about the prospects for a rubabaga crop on Puget Sound and the old man said:

"You should fix your mind on things spiritual instead of on things of the earth, earthy."

Promising to call again the visitor departed, but a sort of fog and an odor of cheap hair oil pervaded the Stroller's sanctum for the next two hours and until a bill collector called and dispelled the gloom with a cheaper brand of hair oil.

In speaking of Spiritualists, the Stroller once had a neighbor who was "one of us" as he was pleased to call himself and his co-religionists. He was a physician and a faithful one. He was faithful for the reason that when a man got sick he would visit him daily for a month to prevent him getting well. But occasionally he would "throw physic to the dogs" (paregorically speaking) and take time to attend a seance. He would turn his back on a case of typhoid or a case of twins anytime to attend what he called a "sitting." It was his chief delight to monkey with the supernatural.

Once the Stroller in a burst of confidence told the doctor that Spiritualism would get the best of him some day, and he replied that he proposed to commune with spirits imaginary so long as there was a drop of the real thing in the cellar. Then he told the Stroller the secret of his pretended belief.

It seemed that his wife was a Spiritualist and it had long been her chief ambition to have her husband share her belief. She was an ardent temperance advocate and when her husband would return from a long night ride through the rain and cold

she would give him catnip tea instead of a whiskey toddy.

Finally he saw a glimmer of light in the misty future and he suddenly embraced the belief of Spiritualism. Then he wore a half jag all the time and his good wife thought he was communing with spirits and was very happy.

Had his wife not found some of his spiritualistic tracks down in the cellar her faith in her husband might have remained unshaken, but one day the doctor forgot to remove the step ladder and that showed where the hole in the floor connected with his mysterious cabinet.

From that time on it was off with the doctor's quiet cellar seances for everytime he had business down there his wife would insist on going with him, as she said, to hold the lantern.

One day at Skagway four years ago the Stroller heard a man remark that "bureaus" made the best pack animals that could be procured for the White Pass trail.

Yesterday a Dawson man remarked to the Stroller "I see some feller of your name is in trouble about an employment 'burro'."

Somemen would rather be right than be president and some men would rather fan a pug prizefighter with a towel than be right.

The Stroller admires bravery any place he sees it and to him the greatest display of bravery at the swatting recital last night was witnessed in the preliminary go when the smaller of the two men had the hardihood to venture to move around in the ring on such slim legs as he wears.

The knowledge of prizefighting is a good thing to have but unfortunately it can not be acquired without practice in the ring, and practice with an aggressive sparring partner is apt to give the eyes a dark blue tinge that would make a modest man like the Stroller ashamed to meet his pastor, for no matter how a black eye is obtained there is something about it that suggests rough and tumble conduct. Only in certain circles is the bum lamp, the tin ear and celluloid nose an emblem of greatness and in this circle a man is not liable to meet his loving pastor unless the latter goes out on a slumming trip.

More than once in his stormy career has the Stroller mourned his lack of knowledge of the many art and has suffered in consequence. He remembers one instance in particular when a man stole a horse and, thinking he had left the country for good, the Stroller wrote him up. The fellow had been in hiding in the neighborhood and a copy of the paper containing the write up was borne to him. That night he came to the office disguised as an old man to interview the writer of the article. Latitudinally the Stroller was the

larger man but longitudinally he was out-classed. Latitude does not go for much in a rough and tumble and for the next two weeks the Stroller wore a Chesapeake Bay oyster under each eye.

The coroner's jury brought in a verdict that the erstwhile horse thief had come to his death through his inability to digest lead.

A. B. Floater.

The A. B.'s will give an up river excursion on July 4th, leaving the Aurora dock at 8 p.m. They have chartered the steamer Sifton which will take a large barge especially fitted for dancing. Good music and a good time assured. Tickets per couple \$5, extra ladies free. Tickets can be secured from Frank Mortimer, Aurora dock, or the following members of the committee: J. L. Sale, Dr. Edwards, Rudy Kalenborn, Chas. Taylor, J. A. Green and L. L. James.

Not Practical Politics

London, June 20.—In an interview today on the forthcoming colonial conference, Edmund Barton, Premier of Australia, said he considered that an Imperial customs union was not within the bounds of practical politics, though it might be possible many years hence. Inter-Imperial free trade now would deprive the young communities of their main source of revenue, namely, the customs, and render it impossible to carry on their internal governments successfully. Mutual tariff concessions within the empire stood on a more practical basis, and he hoped to see the difficulties in the way of such concession removed.

A learned judge who was one of the guests at a dinner was unexpectedly called upon to reply to a toast. Recovering somewhat from his surprise, he said that his situation reminded him of the story of a man who fell into the water while he was fishing.

With no little difficulty he was rescued, and, after he had regained his breath and was in a fairly comfortable condition, his rescuer asked him how he came to fall into the water. "I did not come to fall into the water," replied the unfortunate fisherman. "I came to fish."

A knowledge of the physiology of the human larynx has made it possible to supply artificial voices to persons who have been deprived of the one nature gave them, and a number of cases exist where the cavity has been opened and a larynx made of suitable material with rubber membranes has been inserted and become practically useful in speech.

"But you must remember, dear, that you promised to 'love, honor and obey' your husband."

"It isn't possible, grandma. I defy any woman to love and honor a man who always insists on being obeyed."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

When pickling, always use the strongest vinegar and have it scalding hot, as cold vinegar becomesropy and will not keep.

EVERYBODY CELEBRATES

General Observance of Combined Holiday.

Firing of Guns and Pistols Ushered in the Morning—Fine Decorations.

At about 12.01 this morning the great American bird began flapping his wings and uttering loud and prolonged screams, and at intervals has been doing the same thing all day long and doubtless will continue to do so until midnight tonight.

The morning was ushered in with much firing of guns, pistols, cannon, firecrackers and other equally noisy producing explosives, all calculated to remind the listener that the great day "has come."

Local canines whose lungs were unimpaired by the ravages of last winter's cold, joined in a grand chorus of howls which served to stimulate interest in and add excitement to the occasion.

Local business houses have displayed a commendable degree of patriotic spirit in decorating their establishments and in other respects taking cognizance of the fact that a celebration is in full swing.

The company stores and other large concerns are closed for the day and in general Dawson has given itself over to the observance of the occasion which includes the celebration of Dominion Day and the Fourth as well. The program of events as arranged by the committee in charge is as follows:

- 1— $\frac{1}{2}$ mile horse race, handicap, 1st heat, purse \$100, entrance \$10. Purse and entrance money divided into 75 per cent. to winner and 25 per cent. to second horse.
- 2—100 yard dash, handicap, amateur, prize medal.
- 3— $\frac{1}{4}$ mile bicycle race, handicap, 1st prize \$15, 2nd prize \$10.
- 4—Yukon Derby, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile dash, handicap, 1st prize \$200 and 75 per cent. of entrance money, 2nd prize 25 per cent. of entrance fee. Entrance fee \$25.
- 5—120 yard dash, handicap, 1st prize \$25, 2nd \$10, 3rd \$5.
- 6—Pipe race, contestant to light pipe, run 100 yards and finish with pipe alight. Prize \$10.
- 7—Mule race, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, open, 1st prize \$25, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10.
- 8—Ladies' bicycle race, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile open, prize \$15.
- 9—Trotting or pacing race, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, 1st heat, purse \$100. Entrance fee \$10. 1st prize 75 per cent. of purse and entrance fee, 2nd prize 25 per cent. of purse and entrance fee.
- 10—Egg race, contestants to run 100 yards, carrying egg on a spoon. 1st prize \$10, 2nd prize \$5.
- 11—Pony race, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ hands high, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile handicap, purse \$75. Entrance \$10. 1st prize 75 per cent. of purse and entrance fee, 2nd prize 25 per cent. of purse and entrance fee.
- 12—Combination bicycle and foot race, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, contestants to ride one-half of distance and run one-half. 1st prize \$15, 2nd \$10.
- 13— $\frac{1}{4}$ mile horse race, 2nd heat.
- 14—Combination bicycle and foot race, half mile, contestants to ride half of distance and run half of distance, first prize \$15, second prize \$10.
- 15—Sack race, 100 yard handicap, 1st prize \$10, 2nd \$5.
- 16—Gents' driving race, 1st heat, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, purse \$100. Entrance fee \$10, 1st prize 75 per cent. of purse and entrance fee, 2nd prize 25 per cent. of purse and entrance fee.
- 17—1 mile foot race, handicap, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile laps. 1st prize \$40, 2nd \$15, 3rd \$10.
- 18—Putting 14 lb. shot, handicap, 1st prize \$15, 2nd \$10.
- 19—Putting 56 lb. weight, handicap, 1st prize \$15, 2nd \$10.
- 20—Three-legged race, handicap, 100 yards, 1st prize \$20, 2nd \$10.
- 21—Trotting or pacing race, 2nd heat.
- 22—Men's jockey race, 100 yards, 1st prize \$20, 2nd \$10. One contestant to carry another, changing positions at each 25 yards.
- 23—High jump, handicap, 1st prize \$10, 2nd \$5.
- 24—Running broad jump, handicap, 1st prize \$10, 2nd \$5.
- 25—Gents' driving race, 2nd heat.
- 26—Pole vaulting, handicap, 1st prize \$10, 2nd prize \$5.
- 27—Potato race, 10 potatoes 2 yards apart, 1st prize \$20, 2nd \$10.
- 28—Consolation horse race, prize donated by Mr. Brown, harness-maker.
- 29—Lacrosse match at barracks grounds, 7:30 p.m.

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Job Printing at Nugget office.

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