

JOHN BLACK

Honorably Acquitted of Charge
—of Theft by Magistrate
McDonnell

AT GRAND FORKS FRIDAY NIGHT

When Magistrate Said There Was
No Evidence of Guilt.

CASE PROMPTLY DISMISSED.

Defendant's Brother Had Charge of
Defense But Submitted No Evi-
dence—Nothing to Refute.

From Saturday and Monday's Daily.
For the past three evenings Magistrate McDonnell has been engaged at Grand Forks in hearing evidence of the prosecution in the case of John Black, clerk in the office of the mining recorder at that place on the charge of theft. When the prosecution had submitted all its evidence, the defense which was being looked after by Attorney George Black of this city, brother of the defendant, declined to submit any evidence in rebuttal on the grounds that the prosecution had failed, even in a remote degree to substantiate the charge and the court, holding that view, promptly dismissed the case, stating that the young man was honorably acquitted, the evidence of the prosecution not showing a shadow of guilt on his part.

The theft referred to was committed between two and three weeks ago when a sum of money and gold dust aggregating in value something over \$200 disappeared from the office of the mining recorder at the Forks, the money having been taken in for recording fees in and miners' licenses issued from that office. The gaunt finger of suspicion had to point some place and it finally indicated young Black, an employee of the office. His arrest followed some days later, but as evidenced by the result of the submission of the testimony of the prosecution, a gross mistake was made and for a time an innocent young man was placed beneath a dark and threatening cloud. Young Black has many friends, who have never for an instant believed the charges preferred against him and who will rejoice to know that judicial investigation proved them wholly groundless.

Southern Gentleman.

"I am a Southern gentleman, sah, and no cake-walker," declared R. W. Page, ex-drum major of the Twenty-third infantry, to Attorney A. B. Treadwell, to whom he applied to have papers prepared in a suit which he will file in the United States district court, against the Chutes company for \$10,000 damages.

Page claims the Chutes company in flaming colored advertisements held him up to ridicule. Page is over seven feet tall, and, up to the time of his discharge, he was by far the tallest man in the United States army. Since he quit soldiering he has conducted a billiard parlor near the Presidio gates. The Chutes company is exhibiting a giantess, who has been extensively advertised as a freak. Recently pictures have been printed of Page, showing him to be the tallest man who ever carried a gun in the army. Those pictures brought him into prominence and the advertising man of the Chutes combined the pictures of the ex-drum major and the freak giantess and in the advertisement led the public to believe that the two tall people were to dance a cakewalk.

That was more than Page could stand. He says he does not pose as a freak. His home is in Tennessee and he has no time for cakewalkers. As a southern gentleman his dignity is offended by the announcement that he would engage in a negro dance with a freak lady. —Examiner.

To Be Sent Outside.

On the first through boat to Whitehorse the inmates of the insane asylum will be sent to the outside for treatment.

There are now in the asylum in Dawson seven insane people and there are two to come in from the creeks making a total number of nine to go out.

Several of the N. W. M. P., whose terms of service in the Yukon have expired and who are going out either to get their discharge or enter another branch of the service will escort them to the outside. A matron will also be sent to attend to the lady patients.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Lamb of Eldorado and A. L. Smith are guests at the Regatta today.

STAMPEDE ON BONANZA

Sour Dough Gulch the Objective
Point for 300 People.

Yesterday was a field day for stampedeers. As is related in the tale of Barbara Fritchie:

"All day long, through Frederick street
Sounded the tread of marching feet."

So through the boulevards leading from Dawson to the creeks a constant stream of humanity trickled out all day yesterday and all last night. Some of the stampedeers knew where their destination lay but others had not the slightest idea. They knew they were stampeding and that was about all.

A large number of both classes finally wound up at Sour Dough creek which enters Bonanza on the left limit at No. 67 below discovery. Sour Dough creek was a good point for the stampedeers to stop. In the first place it is not far from Dawson and in the second place it produces the advantage of having its banks covered with moss very much as Eldorado creek had before the primeval quiet of that creek was disturbed by the pick and shovel of the sacrilegious prospector.

Another important point which caused much satisfaction to the prospective Sour Dough millionaires is the fact that a dead horse, in an advanced state of decomposition is lying in the creek in about the same relative position occupied by a dead moose as was discovered on Bonanza.

These favorable indications gave great hopes to the crowd numbering more than hundreds of persons who clambered up the precipitous sides of Sour Dough creeks in search of a claim.

A good many of the stampedeers were disappointed by reason of the fact that there were not claims enough to go around. The man who staked No. 30 was compelled to drive his stakes literally into the side of the hill where the creek has its origin, and No. 37, if it had been staked, would have brought its owner on the other side of the ridge looking down toward the Yukon. Barring the fact, however, that some 30 people secured claims about 473 failed to do so, the stampede was a social and financial success—particularly a financial success, in view of the fact that each of the 473 parties concerned was saved a recording fee of \$15, making a total sum of \$7095.

In the language of the society reporter, the stampedeers dispersed at a late hour, the feeling being unanimous that the occasion had been a most profitable one—for the roadhouse keepers along the trail.

Cinematograph for Blind.

Dr. Dussaud, of the Psychological Institute of Paris, gave a lecture on February 16, at the Hospital de Societes Savantes, on the education of the blind and deaf. A large audience witnessed interesting experiments founded on his method for supplementing the senses of these two classes of unfortunate.

The cinematograph for the blind is a machine which passes under the fingers of the blind a series of reliefs representing the same object in different positions—the branch of a tree, a bird, or any other object. The blind person has the illusion of moving scenes just as photographs passing over a luminous screen lend the illusion to those with sight.

Dr. Dussaud has also arranged an electric vibration for the use of the deaf who are incurable. This gives them the notion of musical rhythm. For those not entirely deaf, he has invented a "gradual amplifier of sounds," which supplements the organs of hearing and in some instances improves them.

Dr. Dussaud expressed the hope that these two inventions would materially aid in the education of the deaf and blind. The doctor gave a number of statistics already furnished by him to the Academy of Medicine and the Society of Biology showing that his method had been applied during the last four years to more than 300 patients affected either with blindness or deafness, and that in most cases the results obtained had been extremely satisfactory. —Ex.

Police Court.

The Jap who was before the police court yesterday morning on the charge of disturbing the peace and who was remanded until this morning is a perplexing subject as it is a question whether his late escapade was the result of insanity or of too much hooch. A number of his fellow countrymen, Messrs. Preamble, Pro Bono Publico and Ketchup Yam Tomato, were present as witnesses this morning and all of them seemed to think the prisoner had what they termed "bad head." As a precaution and in order that he may be closely watched the fellow, who by the way was crazy for some time last fall, will be kept at the barracks for a period of 30 days. The Jap had the misfortune last winter to have one of his feet severely frozen and that fact probably accounts for his present delusion that certain enemies of his are desirous of cutting off his legs and sending them to Nome.

Mr. Theodore Schmidt was arrested at Gold Bottom last night on a capias sworn out by Chas. G. Johansson, the sum claimed by Johansson to be due him from Schmidt being \$10,000.

KLONDIKE TOLL BRIDGE

Purchased by Thos. O'Brien and Associates Today—Thrown Open
to Public Free of Charge.

About noon today Thos. W. O'Brien and others associated with him purchased the toll bridge which spans the Klondike river between South Dawson and Klondike City and now that thoroughfare is as free to the pedestrian as is any sidewalk, street, avenue or alley in the city of Dawson.

No longer need a man sidetrack and rummage through his clothes and possibly take off a shoe in quest of a festive two-bit piece with which to pay toll; no more need ladies who carry their money caked in their hosiery look embarrassed and decide they didn't care to cross the old bridge anyway. The Boosters' Union will commend the purchase. The Yukon council may now cease from wrestling with a knotty and perplexing problem. The residents of South Dawson and Klondike City may now refrain from using up yards of good paper in petitions to the council, and general rejoicing may be freely indulged in.

The toll bridge and the garbage questions have long been knotty ones and if Tom O'Brien or some other Moses will rise up to pilot the latter question out of the wilderness as he has done that of the toll bridge, men, women and children will rise up and call him blessed.

The price which Mr. O'Brien and his associates are said to have paid is the sum of \$4000 for the bridge and all appurtenances, including the toll house.

NEWS OF THE RIVER

All is Quiet and Will be Until Le-
barge Breaks.

Steamer Zealandian is reported off the ways at Lower Lebarge where she has been tied up undergoing repairs and is now ready for sailing. Should the lake show any signs of breaking immediately, she will proceed to Whitehorse.

The Leon sails for St. Michael Monday next followed by the Tyrrell on the 12th. The Susie will be in all probability the next boat after that to leave Dawson for St. Michael.

It is the general opinion among steamboat men at Whitehorse that the lake will break on the 11th.

The following was received by wire this morning:

No boats left Whitehorses.
Bonanza King passed Five Fingers at 4 this morning going up.

Steamer Bailey passed Selkirk going up at 10 p. m. last night.

The Victorian arrived at Lower Lebarge this morning at 9 o'clock.

The Arctic Queen formerly Emma Not is reported by down coming raftsmen to be passing at the mouth of the slough near Swede creek. Whether the crew mutilated or her machinery got tangled up with the steering gear has not been ascertained. She is carrying about 30 loggers to their summer camps on the Stewart.

Suicide Statistics.

In a paper printed in the American Journal of Insanity Mr. G. Styles presents statistics regarding the occurrence of suicides. Forty years ago it was shown that only 4 out of 10,000 persons rated as paupers died by their own hands, while 7 coachmen or other servants, 5 bankers or professional men, nearly 8 soldiers, 7 tailors, shoemakers or bakers, and only 13-10 carpenters, butchers and masons out of 10,000 were suicides. Sweden had the lowest average of all the countries considered, namely, 1 suicide to 92,000 persons; Russia had 1 to 35,000; the United States 1 to 15,000; Saxony 1 to 8,466. In St. Petersburg and in London the proportion was 1 to 21,000. If we take the statistics of the 50 years just passed for France the following results: For every 100,000 inhabitants of France there were in 1841-45, nine suicides; in 1846-50, ten; in 1851-55, thirteen; in 1856-60, fifteen; in 1861-65, seventeen; in 1866-70, twenty-one; in 1871-75, twenty-two; in 1876-80, twenty-six. During the years 1826-1890 the percentage of suicides increased in Belgium 72 per cent; in Prussia, 41 per cent; in Austria, 23 per cent; in France, 318 per cent; in Saxony, 212 per cent; in Sweden, 72 per cent; in Denmark, 35 per cent.

Were Ish Ripstein?

Some time ago suit was filed in police court against David Ripstein for wages. Yesterday when the case was called David was not on hand and the man who had filed the suit volunteered the information that he had skipped down the river several days ago. The case was continued until further information concerning the whereabouts of David could be obtained. It is possible that he has only gone to Fortymile to buy goods.

Is Not Improving.

Master Finan Delaney, the 7-year-old boy who was so badly torn and bitten by a savage dog three weeks ago and who for some time past has been at St. Mary's hospital, is not improving as it was hoped he would and today it is reported that hopes for his recovery are less bright even than they were a few days ago. All possible care is being given the little fellow around whom a great deal of interest centers owing to the uncommon and terrible cause of his illness.

EXPERT GUNNER

A Local Nimrod Challenges Any-
body in Country.

Jack Hubert, formerly proprietor of the Royal mail hotel is in town. Jack is a handy man with a gun and offers to meet anybody in the territory at a shooting contest, he to use an ordinary Winchester and his opponent to choose any rifle he may desire. Hubert will bet any money up to \$1000 that he can throw two nickels in the air and hit them both (using a rifle) before they strike the ground. Or he will turn his rifle upside down and shoot in that manner against anybody in the country in the ordinary way. He will give an exhibition of his skill in a few days a report of which will be found in this paper.

Anyone wishing to make a match with the gentleman can call at this office where arrangements will be made for a meeting.

The Automobile.

The Automobile Club of America has been notified by Col. John J. Astor that at least one of the proposed country houses on the road between New York and Albany will be ready this season. The house which Col. Astor has offered to place at the disposal of the club, without expense to them, is "The Maples," which forms a part of Col. Astor's Parncliffe estate. It will be fitted up in the best manner for the requirements of the club.

King Leopold II of Belgium is an ardent lover of the sport, and takes a keen interest in the development of the automobile in that country. He has decided to improve the roads, which in some parts of the kingdom are in a very bad state, and has charged one of the government engineers with the work of drawing up the plans. He is now having built in France a large automobile which approaches somewhat the idea of a palace car, as it will be divided into compartments. According to reports it is to have a sleeping chamber, a toilet room and a servants' compartment. This vehicle is to cost no less than \$50,000; the motor is built for 30-horse power, and its reservoir will contain 25 gallons of gasoline. The consumption of gasoline will cost about \$2 per hour. In this way King Leopold is to make his voyage in the future when he does not use his machine of the ordinary type.

A somewhat novel system for carrying the mail is now in use between two towns in France—Nonnetable and Courneille-Breille. These towns, 10 miles distant, are on a line of narrow gauge railroad, but a part of the mail was formerly carried by a four-wheeled car running on the rails, provided with two bicycle movements and worked by two men. As this system of locomotion proved too slow, the railroad company has substituted a four-wheeled automobile car which has 3-horse power gasoline motor, water cooled; the movement of the motor is transmitted to the rear axle by two round belts passing over two speed changing pulleys which are loose on the shaft and may be coupled by friction to a fixed pulley, mounted on the intermediate shaft. This shaft is connected by reduction gearing to a second intermediate shaft which carries a chain passing to the rear axle. Ball bearings are used throughout. A pedal operates a powerful hand-brake upon the rear axle. The total weight of this car is 1050 pounds, and it makes an average speed of 20 miles an hour. Since it has been put into use for carrying the mail its performance has been quite satisfactory. —Scientific American.

A. J. Steel and Geo. Furguson of Gold Bottom and Jack Hamill of No. 6 Eldorado, are registered at the McDonald hotel.

NEW RULES FOR BOATS

Cause Scow Men to Wear Bland
Smiles.

There are many surmises among river men these days as to the fate of many steamers which are in commission on the upper river for the present season owing to the fact that many new and inexperienced men are in command of boats. Another reason assigned for probable disaster is that, according to an order issued by Superintendent Darling of the W. P. & Y. R. boats, the steamers will at all times be in charge of the master instead of only when at the docks as has formerly been the case, the pilots being in command of the wheel at all other times. As it is said that there are men on the Yukon with masters' papers who can scarcely distinguish between a compass and a roulette wheel, marine complications may follow their increased range of authority.

A story is going the rounds of the waterfront to the effect that Superintendent Darling wired one of his masters here who was among the first to start up the river to flag every point and bar between Dawson and Whitehorse, presumably for the benefit of his inexperienced men. Skippers familiar with the river from Dawson to Whitehorse assert that if Darling's order is carried out there will be no hunting left in Dawson for use on the "Cel-o-rions Fourth," and the man that undertakes to flag all points and bars will not reach Whitehorse before navigation closes next fall.

In view of all these reports scow men are smiling blandly in anticipation of lots of business during the latter half of the season.

A Peculiar Accident.

A peculiar accident but one which could not altogether be unexpected happened to the one-story building which was only a short time ago erected next to the postoffice on Third avenue. It looked like a very flimsy structure when it was erected and yesterday the foundation which consisted of blocks of wood placed on the ground was washed loose by the water which gathered under the building and caused it to slide off the foundation and fall about a foot. All the goods have been removed today and the building is being raised and a new foundation of a more solid nature will be put under it.

Paid Under Protest.

S. Dinner who left for the outside on the Bailey Tuesday evening and for whom a capias warrant was issued and telegraphed to Selkirk, was stopped at the latter place but only until he could pay the bill when he was allowed to proceed on his way. The warrant was sworn out by B. Levy, the amount claimed being \$100. Dinner paid the amount under protest, claiming he did not owe it, but paid it in preference to being brought back to Dawson. He is hurrying out to the bedside of his sick wife.

Caught a Tartar.

The burglar had entered the house as quietly as possible, but his shoes were not padded, and they made some noise.

He had just reached the door of the bedroom when he heard some one moving in the bed as if about to get up, and he paused.

The sound of a woman's voice floated to his ears.

"If you don't take off your boots when you come into this house," it said, "there's going to be trouble, and a whole lot of it. Here it's been raining for three hours, and you dare to tramp over my carpets with your muddy boots on. Go down stairs and take them off this minute!"

He went down stairs without a word, but he didn't take off his boots. Instead he went straight out into the night again, and the "pal" who was waiting for him saw a tear glisten in his eye.

"I can't rob that house," he said. "It reminds me of home."

Memory, Not Mystery.

"Memory can play the strangest of tricks," says a specialist, "and it is responsible for not a few superstitious fears in sensitive people."

"A lady once told me that she found herself at times in places where her surroundings seemed to have been known to her before, though she knew that she had never been there previously."

"Probably you will recognize this experience, which is common enough. How many people, when reading or listening to a conversation, become vaguely conscious that they have read the passage or heard the identical words in 'the dim, long past'?"

"It is not a haunting mystery, but just a way that memory has. Innumerable impressions of the most trivial things are stored in the brain and will come out when called upon. In the lady's case she had probably seen a picture of the scene at some time, and a view of the actual place produced memory's feeble effort to recall it."

Miss Crettier, of Amsterdam, who climbed the Breithorn a short time ago, is the first woman who has made the ascent of this steep Swiss mountain in winter time. The peak is 13,000 feet in height.

DREDGING MACHINE

Floats Down Yukon From Cas-
sias Bar and Will be
Taken Up Klondike

FOR WORK AT MOUTH OF HUNKER

Which Presents Good Dredge
Mining Proposition.

OPERATED BY LEWIS RIVER CO.

Former Work of Company at Upper
River Points Not Remunerative
From Financial Standpoint.

From Saturday and Monday's Daily.

Two big barges fastened together and bearing a lot of heavy machinery, the craft piloted by a small launch, arrived this morning from Cassias bar, where, previous to last fall when work was suspended, operations had been carried on for two or three years. The outfit is the property of the Lewis River Mining and Dredging Co., and it is proposed to put the big machine at work on the mouth of Hunker where there is no doubt a large tract of land which will not pay to work by ordinary placer methods, but which is a good dredging proposition.

About 150 tons of machinery belonging to the apparatus is yet to be brought down the river while 100 tons of new machinery for the same concern is now at St. Michael and is expected on the first steamer up the river. The barges which arrived this morning are tied up almost immediately in front of the old postoffice building but will later be lined or towed up the Klondike to the mouth of Hunker where the machinery will be placed in position and operations will begin as soon as possible. About a dozen men, including members and employees of the company, arrived on the barges this morning.

Dredging for gold is practically a new feature in this section of the country and the results of the operations of the Lewis River Mining and Dredging Company in the Klondike will be watched with interest. There are said to be a number of fine dredging propositions on both the Stewart and Indian rivers.

Heretofore the company has lost a large sum of money in the operation of the plant and after many experiments and continual failures has decided at last to abandon the enterprise. The original cost of laying down the machinery and appurtenances is said to have been \$150,000, all of which has been a direct loss, labor entirely eating up the returns. The scheme of operation consisted of an engine operating an endless chain of buckets—25 on the string—each with a carrying capacity of one square yard of gravel. The amount handled by the machine is about 2000 yards a day. It takes seven men to operate, three eight hour shifts, two men to a shift with an extra man in case of an emergency. A digger is part of the paraphernalia it being used when an obstruction is met at the digging point. When this is operating the buckets are removed from the chain and the digger works independently. For the past two seasons Superintendent Elmer has been in charge of the work but upon landing in Dawson he is succeeded by another manager.

Telephone Journal at Budapest.

The system of "telephone journal" which has been in operation in Budapest for several years is meeting with increased success. The system was inaugurated in 1893; the subscribers receive their news by telephone instead of by a printed journal. All the interesting news is telephoned from the central office to the subscribers from 8 a. m. to 11 p. m. Each class of news comes at a certain hour, except for the news of the Stock Exchange and parliament, which are given every half-hour as they are obtained. The subscription price is 75 cents per month by periods of four months each; no extra charge is made for the receiving apparatus or lines. The receiver is double, so that two persons may hear the news at the same time; the announcement of the communications is made by an electric bell. At the end of 1898 the system, which was limited to the city of Budapest, had already 550 miles of lines. At present the number of subscribers reaches nearly 700, this being eight times the number during the first year. The system is likely to be extended to the neighboring towns of Segedin and Arad, as the preliminary trials which have lately been made have given good results. —Scientific American.