

ROMANCE OF THE FAR NORTH.

Fate Tears Asunder Ties of Two Happy Homes.

A Gold Martyr Learns That He Has Lost His Wife's Love Forever—Dies in the Philippines.

The history of the Klondike, when it has been wholly written, will be remarkable for the number of romances with which its chapters teem; and among the many, few will be stranger than that of J. A. Woods, one of the fortunate men of '97, who found that wealth could not win him back the love of the wife he had left at home and who finally sought surcease from sorrow on the battlefields of the Philippines, carrying his wealth with him to the end. His death occurred on June 10, just outside of Manila, and a search of his body disclosed \$24,000 in drafts, besides a copy of a newspaper reporting his return to Whatcom, Wash., from the Klondike.

Woods was a man of 38 years, of sandy complexion, and the frame of a Hercules. In 1886 he was living the life of the common coast pioneer on a farm up in the Chilliwack valley, which he had hewn out of the wilderness. About that date he met and married a woman, who still survives him at Whatcom. Later he went to work on the Canadian Pacific railroad, where he was disabled by having a hand crushed and his income stopped. This state of affairs did not please his wife, and she asked for a separation until such a time as he could again support her as pleased her. This he agreed to, and made her over every dollar's worth of property which he possessed, and which included the farm at Chilliwack which he owned. His wife rejoined her folks, and after he recovered sufficient to work he started out to possess himself of the means wherewith to bring his family and himself together.

Here the story diverges and goes into history, which was printed two years ago, and which at the time caused a great deal of comment. Two years ago last June the wife of Woods had been a number of years a divorced widow and was conducting a lodging house. In the month of May a man giving the name of Lewis and his wife took rooms at the house and Lewis secured work in one of the mills on the bay.

In stature and complexion Lewis bore a marked resemblance to her former husband, Woods. In looking over some of Lewis' photographs taken at an earlier date Mrs. Woods became assured that he was no other than her former husband. She communicated her belief to Lewis' wife that Lewis was a living husband of hers. Mrs. Lewis taxed her husband with the accusation, which he indignantly denied. To this Mrs. Woods added hers. Despite his protests of innocence and his entreaties for her to remain, Lewis' wife left him and went to the home of her parents.

Lewis was invited to prove his identity and in a vain effort to do so left for the lower Sound country. He was an Englishman by birth and raising, and had no relatives in this country, nor anyone who knew him in his youth. Of course, those who had known him for the last five years had known him as Lewis, but who he was prior to that time they could not say. Thus he was left in the strange position of a man unable to prove his identity. Mrs. Woods in the mean while gave a statement to the press in which she asserted that Lewis was her former husband, Woods. The publication of it brought Lewis home in a double quick to whip a few reporters, but after due consideration this part of the program was abandoned.

It was while this excitement was at its height that the real Woods came into the city. His history after the separation from his wife had been written in letters of gold. Drifting about for a

few short years, he finally drifted to Alaska in search of gold, which meant a reuniting of his family. He was among the first to reach the Klondike, and a one-third interest in one of its best claims was his luck. He cleaned up about \$30,000, and with this returned in search of his wife, arriving at the time stated.

Immediately on his arrival he was acquainted by the police with state of affairs. He obtained an interview with his wife, who, however, refused to recognize him. Lewis was then found and together they went before her, but she would not recognize him. He established his identity, however, so perfectly that she was finally forced to admit her mistake. He was in utter ignorance that she had obtained a divorce, and when told of it begged her to remarry him, promising her in the presence of her attorney to settle every cent he possessed on her. After prolonged negotiations she persisted in her refusal. He then settled down on a fine farm, which he bought, near the city, built a spacious house and tried to commence life anew, ever with the hope that the woman he loved would finally consent to share it with him.

Nothing came of all his endeavors, and, becoming desperate, he sold his ranch, put his money into drafts, enlisted in a regiment of the regular army destined for the Philippines, and sought and found death in defense of his country's flag, among strange people in a strange land.

The result of the estrangement of Lewis and his wife is not known.

An Untimely Demise.

A wide circle of friends were greatly shocked on Monday afternoon by the sudden death of Miss Edith E. Saunders, which occurred at her home on Seventh street, between Second and Third avenues, at about 3:30 in the afternoon. Deceased had never been strong from childhood up, and on the day of her death she had complained of feeling poorly; while lying in bed she was observed to experience a brief, sharp spasm and in a few minutes all was over. A physician who was hastily summoned said that death was due to heart failure. Miss Saunders was 27 years of age and came to the Klondike about a year ago from Chicago with three sisters, namely, Mrs. William Bard and Nina and Maud Saunders; two other sisters live in Chicago. The remains were embalmed by Undertaker Greene, and on Wednesday afternoon heretofore sealed in a beautiful casket trimmed in rich white plush, were given temporary burial at Hillside cemetery. The funeral service was conducted at the late home of deceased by Rev. Dr. Grant, who was assisted by a choir consisting of Messrs. Erhardt, Clayton, Wilkins, George Noble, Harry Leland and Fred N. Tracy; Mr. Wilkins also rendered a beautiful solo, entitled "Good Night." A large number of sorrowing friends were present, most of whom followed the remains to the grave. Several beautiful floral designs lay upon the casket, including a cross of white peas and pansies from Mr. Acklin, a crescent of white peas from Mrs. May, a cross of purple peas from Mrs. Brown, a wreath from Mrs. Austin and a large bouquet of mixed flowers from the employes of the A. E. Co. The pall bearers were Messrs. C. W. Thebo, C. Wilkins, A. G. Green, William Crabb, Thomas Scott and Alfr d Smiley.

The deceased was a most estimable young lady, and her demise is the occasion for general sorrow on the part of all who knew her.

W. T. Uber, a young miner aged 26 years, died at Grand Forks a few days ago from the effects of intermittent fever. The sick man was given every attention by his partners and neighbors, but it was of no avail. The funeral was largely attended. Uber came from Mercer county, Pennsylvania.

The Slough Bridge.

The Yukon commissioner will receive sealed proposals until the 29th for building a bridge over the slough at Fifth avenue, and for leveling and sidewalk-ing the avenue from Third street to Mission street.

STEAMERS IN COLLISION.

Canadian and Merwin Clash in Thirty-mile River.

Wheel of the Former Is Badly Damaged—Sybil Arrives From St. Michael—The Nome Strike.

Stories arriving down the river on Wednesday and Thursday indicated that the steamship Canadian, of the C. D. Co., had met with serious misfortunes that would delay her arrival for several days. Her first accident occurred in the Thirtymile river during a dense fog, when she came in collision with the steamer Merwin, the prow of the latter crushing into and badly damaging the other's wheel. As a result of the impact the two boats were firmly wedged together and had to be chopped apart.

When the Merwin arrived in port it was not believed that the Canadian was more seriously hurt than described above and she was expected to reach Dawson a few hours later. On Thursday, however, the steamer Ora arrived from above with the startling news that the Canadian was passed at Selwyn river; she was tied up to the bank, her freight had been unloaded, her siphons at work drawing water from the hold and a canvas bulkhead drawn about the forward part of the hull. These circumstances indicated conclusively that the boat had received a hole in the hull, but where or how was not learned. The captain of the Ora slowed up in passing and was ready to render assistance or take the mail aboard, but no attention was paid them from the Canadian and the Ora went by. On Thursday afternoon the Canadian herself arrived, when it was learned that her hull had, in fact, been perforated by striking a bar just above Selwyn, but it was easily repaired and water got into but one of the compartments.

The steamer Sybil, belonging to Mr. Reid and which was turned back with a cargo of liquor a month or so ago, arrived from St. Michael on Wednesday, having made the trip in 12 days. There was practically no freight on board, and only a few passengers. Talks with the officers elicited the fact that the Cape Nome excitement continues, many people still arriving from the outside. Nothing was known of development work in the creeks, but many men were engaged in rocking gold from the seashore; indeed, it was reported from Nome that mechanics were scarce at \$15 per day, as nearly everybody preferred mining on the beach. The steamer Yukoner was passed on a bar about 40 miles below Circle, while the Cudahy was supposed to be just behind. The steward of the Sybil, Chas. E. Goodenough, was presented by the passengers to St. Michael with a testimonial acknowledging the courteous manner in which he had treated them and his endeavors to make the trip a pleasant one.

The steamer Merwin reached port from White Horse on Wednesday with a good sized passenger list, among whom were several old timers. The boat's bow showed a number of ugly looking wounds, and inquiry developed the fact that she had come into collision with the wheel of the Canadian in the Thirtymile river. The Canadian's wheel was quite badly damaged, resulting in sending her to the banks until repairs could be made. Dr. LeBlanc returned with the boat, having purchased a steam capstan at Vancouver with which the boat will be fitted on her next trip up.

Garron Reid purchased at assignee's sale this week what, if the parts were put together, would be the Pioneer, a steel launch built in England and shipped here in sections by the Pioneer Trading Co. The craft cost \$30,000, and Mr. Reid bought it for \$300.

The Mary F. Graft, of the A. E. Co.'s fleet, arrived from below on Mon-

day night. Her cargo, in a large measure, consisted of liquor.

The C. D. and Flyer lines indulged in another rate war on Monday. The first named quoted a rate of \$25 to White Horse and \$40 to Bennett, with meals, and the Flyer people retaliated with a rate of \$10 to White Horse without meals. A large number of people availed of the low rates to go outside.

The Martha Cole arrived from below on Saturday night.

The steamer Sybil has been leased for the balance of the season by the C. D. Co.

The steamer Closset, which arrived from White Horse Wednesday, reported picking up a scow with 14 horses in the Thirtymile river. It was towed to shore and turned over to the owners.

It is probable that the steamer Sovereign will not be sent to St. Michael again this year owing to the advanced stage of the season.

The Anglian left for White Horse on Monday.

STILL SETS THE PACE.

Henry Cox Opens Private Dining Rooms at the Fairview.

Proprietor Henry Cox of the popular Fairview hotel is never happy unless he is improving the already first-class service of his excellent establishment. His latest accomplishment is the dedication to the public of three private dining rooms, which will enable him to cater with especial satisfaction to his guests for private dinner parties and banquets. He insists on giving as good service as can be had anywhere in the world and better than anywhere else in Dawson.

Canadians Fear Chinese.

Victoria, B. C., August 8.—The recent decision of the privy council disallowing legislation of the provincial legislature excluding Chinese from employment in coal mines is the immediate object of a visit to the city to-day of Hon. Dr. McKechnie, president of the council, and Ralph Smith, M. P., from South Nanaimo. The action of the privy council threatens the coal mining industry with disaster, and some Chinese have already been put to work in the mines at Union. McKechnie and Smith are anxious to obtain from the executive assurance that steps will be taken to re-enact legislation, and to thus give to white laborers protection afforded them by excluding Mongolian competition. With this end in view, they will wait upon the premier this afternoon. Should the reply be unfavorable, a mass meeting will in all probability be held in Nanaimo immediately, at which the whole matter will be discussed and a determination arrived at.

Starvation Causes Rebellion.

Vienna, August 8.—The Neue Freie Presse to-day says the peasantry of portions of Bessarabia (a government of Russia), bounded on the south by the Danube and the Black sea, have revolted, being driven desperate by famine. Troops, it is added, have been sent there and several encounters have taken place. A score of peasants have already been killed and many have been wounded.

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