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WAS WEARY OF LIFE

Frank Matthews, Aged 19 Years, Rashly Commits Suicide.

TAKES LAUDANUM AND CARBOLIC ACID

Believed to Have Been Disappointed in Love.

Frank Matthews, nineteen years old, driver of a milk wagon for W. R. Seeman, whose dairy is at No. 628 7th street southwest, committed suicide this morning by taking a dose of carboic acid and laudanum. He was said to be under the influence of liquor at the time. While the real cause for his act is not known, some of his friends have an idea that he was filled by his sweetheart, and that he preferred death to living without her. When found in his room, No. 429 7th street, opposite the dairy, the young man was unconscious, and died before Dr. Hazen, the physician summoned, could reach him.

Matthews, whose parents live near Centerville, in Fairfax county, Va., had worked for Mr. Seeman for about two years. He had always been steady in his habits, and his work proved more than acceptable to his employer. Yesterday he was in his usual good spirits and gave no evidence that he had thought to worry him. After putting his horse away last night he dressed and went out. He returned to his room about the usual hour, and persons who saw him say he then seemed to be a little depressed. This morning he got up at 3 o'clock with the intention of taking a dose of laudanum and carboic acid. He was seen by Harry Thompson and Elmer Gantts, who are also drivers for Mr. Seeman, and attended to his work as usual. It was about 8 o'clock when he returned to his room and put away his horse. Mr. Seeman did not see him, but the colored hostler, John Harris, did see him. "He was pretty well tilted up with whisky," he said.

Instead of waiting about the dairy until breakfast was ready Matthews went across the street to his room. This he frequently done, after taking a nap before breakfast, and nothing was thought of it. Before going, however, he informed the colored hostler of his intention of working, and said he was going to quit. "I'm going over and pack my valise," he said to Harris, "and I'm going home."

These were the last words he spoke, so far as is known. Dr. Harris and he went directly across the street to his room, and was not seen again until he was found in an unconscious condition. When Matthews told the colored man that he was going to pack up and go home he evidently had no idea of doing so, for he had the bottles of poison in his pockets at the time. Dr. Harris, who had been called to the table caused the belief that he had gone to sleep and had not aroused in time, and Mr. Seeman sent his nephew over to call him. He was not in his room, and the door found the door locked.

The young man could hear heavy breathing from the room inside, and being unable to get in, he called out for help. Dr. Harris and Elmer Gantts then went over to assist him, and found Matthews in bed with his clothing all around him, and not responding to their calls, nor could they arouse him in any way and Dr. Hazen was called for.

In the meantime Mrs. Petignat, who occupies the house, went up to the room to learn what had caused the commotion. She found his valise open and on his head and remarked: "He's dead."

Then, taking hold of his hand, she noticed a wide gold ring on his finger, which caused her to add to her other remark: "And I'll bet this ring is the cause of it."

Hazen reached the room a few minutes later, and when he pronounced that life was extinct, the police removed the body to the morgue.

On the little washstand near the bed were two vials, which told the story of how the man had ended his life. On one of the vials was a label marked "Laudanum," with the initials "C. B. S." and "Poison" imprinted to indicate the dangerous qualities of the contents. This label being found on the bottle, it is believed that at Shaw & Liff's drug store, on Connecticut avenue, the carboic acid he had bought at Thomas K. Shaw's drug store on 7th street had been given to him.

Mrs. Petignat keeps a cigar and stationery store on the lower floor of the building, and she knew Matthews because he had been one of her customers for some time. "I frequently spoke to him about his lady friends," she said, "and asked him if he was soon to be married. His answer was: 'I'm not ready yet.'"

As soon as the police had removed the body to the morgue the room was locked and no search was made for any letters. There was nothing found in the pockets of his clothing to show any cause for his rash act. Coroner Carr found an inquest unnecessary, and gave a certificate of death. The body was turned over to his relatives, a brother and sister, who live here, and they will have it sent to the home of their parents in Virginia.

LIET. STEVENS' DEFENSE.

He Presents Evidence to Disprove Charges Against Him.

Lieut. Thomas L. Stevens of the navy was before the naval examining board at the navy yard today and presented a mass of evidence to disprove the allegations made against his moral character, which, if true, will prevent his promotion to the rank of lieutenant commander, to which he is eligible by virtue of his number in the list of lieutenants. Lieut. Stevens has been examined before for promotion above his present grade, but without success. It was alleged that he had been guilty of a serious offense, but the first board reported him as morally qualified, but professionally deficient, and a subsequent board reported that while proficient, he was morally deficient. He has been on probation for some time, and the examination begun today will decide whether he shall receive the coveted promotion, or whether he shall be dropped from the rolls of the navy. He is a son of Admiral Stevens, and has many friends in and out of the service.

FUNERAL OF ALPHONSE DAUDET.

Emile Zola Hooted by a Mob While En Route.

PARIS, December 20.—The funeral of Alphonse Daudet, who died suddenly on Thursday evening, took place today and was largely attended.

Emile Zola, who attended the funeral, was hooted while en route to the late residence of M. Daudet and to church, where the services were being held, by his support of the efforts made by the friends of Alphonse Daudet to bring about a reopening of his eyes.

WANT 600 REINDEER

Preparing for the Klondike Relief Expedition.

Secretary Alger Talks to Norway—Large Quantities of Condensed Food to Be Used.

Secretary Alger today cabled to William A. Kjelmann, the chief government reindeer herdsman, who is now in Alton, Norway, away up on the 70th degree of north latitude, to inform the War Department immediately how soon 600 reindeer can be secured and shipped to this country. These animals are wanted for draft purposes in the Klondike region. It is believed that they must be transferred at New York to the railroads, and in that manner carried across the continent and again by sea from the Pacific coast up to Dyea, or such other point as may be selected as the base of operations by the relief expeditions.

Secretary Alger has determined, after advising with the medical officers of the War Department and persons who have had much experience in arctic regions, to grant the reindeer, not to the advantage of the smallest possible weight and volume, the goods to be transported over the difficult routes of the interior of Alaska. Not only will the meats taken be of the most concentrated form, but particular efforts are making to secure some such condensed preparation of vegetables, such as potatoes and onions. It is known that such preparations are to be had in the market, but just in what quantity is not known, so the government has begun inquiry to ascertain the amount of such stores available for purchase by the government, and the prices demanded for them.

The State Department has already undertaken to request of the Canadian government permission to pass these stores through the Canadian territory, the British embassy being called upon to facilitate the negotiations. It is not anticipated that any objection will be made to the request, nor to the accompanying permit for our soldiers to pass over Canadian territory as guards for the expedition. Under the terms of the permit, an appeal will be required for the suspension of duties.

The President, Saturday afternoon, signed the joint resolutions passed by Congress for the relief of the miners in the Yukon river country and changing the appropriation for the government building and display at the Omaha expo.

DUNHAM AT CIRCLE CITY.

Department of Labor is Reassured About the Export.

The slight anxiety which has existed at the department of labor over not receiving any message from Expert Dunham of the department, who was sent to Alaska to investigate the situation there, has been dispelled. The last letter received from Mr. Dunham was September 5, just after he had crossed the Chilkoot pass. He has been heard from now, indirectly, under date of October 15, by Captain General Blanco, who is in charge of the department of labor said today that a letter dated Dawson City, October 15, has given an interview with Mr. Dunham, who had then left Circle City. The reason why no message has been received from him is, therefore, explained, as it would take a long time to reach Circle City. The committee has immediately decided to receive a letter some time this week.

The reference in the letter published in the Canadian paper from Mr. Dunham was: "Samuel C. Dunham, statistical expert of the United States department of labor, having made such inquiries as he cared to make in and about the territory of the Beha for Circle City. He will winter in and near Circle City, and intends to make a careful investigation of the Alaskan diggings, and immediately detect an increase in the vast gold-bearing district."

In an interview Mr. Dunham stated that the Klondike is exceedingly rich and will afford a good living for a year or two, and years to come. In his opinion the poor man should not be encouraged to go there. No man should think of going who has not at least a ten thousand dollars of food and at least \$1,000 in cash, and who cannot lose a year of his labor, his ton of goods, and his thousand in cash without working and his family or imperiling his life.

WORK OF THE STAMP DIVISION.

That for the Present Quarter the Largest in Its History.

As an evidence that the era of prosperity has set in, it may be mentioned that the work of the stamp division, Post Office Department, has increased in such a degree that the employees of that division are working overtime daily to bring the quarter's work up to date.

The increase is very large; in fact, the work for the fourth quarter of 1917 is the largest in the history of the office. This is significant, as the division, handling as it does requisitions from all post offices for stamps, envelopes, &c., for sale to the public, has its finger on the public pulse, and is a barometer of the business throughout the country. The condition is encouraging, if it is hard on the clerks of the always overworked stamp division.

HIS PLEA IS SELF-DEFENSE.

John Anderson on Trial for Mutiny

NORFOLK, Va., December 20.—The United States court this morning took up the case of John Anderson, accused of the murder of Mate Saunders of the schooner Olive Pecker. Counsel for the accused, in presenting his outline of defense to the jury, said he would show that Anderson was subjected to undue duress, and that he acted in self-defense to save his own life.

Personal Mention.

Lieut. J. H. Russell, United States Marine Corps, son of the late Admiral Russell, U. S. N., has recently been the guest of Mrs. J. C. Kennedy, 1630 Rhode Island avenue.

F. H. Broden, an attorney of St. Louis, Mo., is in the city, combining business with pleasure. He is a guest of his uncle, Capt. J. E. Hart of Capitol Hill.

Dr. J. Herbert Ford, a graduate of the academic and medical departments, respectively, of the Columbian University, has been granted temporary leave from his duties in the medical school of the university, to accept the position of surgeon on the steamer Nordland of the Red Star line. He sailed from New York Wednesday.

Mr. Joseph Hall has left for his home, New York, where he will spend the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Robert M. Miller has returned home for the holidays.

Rev. Mr. La Petra of Chile, who, with his family, was recently visiting Dr. and Mrs. S. D. La Petra of this city, have gone to California to visit relatives in that state.

A BROKEN PROMISE

Collapse of Spanish Aid to the Reconcentrados.

THE SUFFERING STILL VERY GREAT

Assistance Might Have Come From the United States.

BLANCO RESPONSIBLE

(Copyrighted, 1897, by Charles M. Pepper.)

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

HAVANA, December 15, 1907.

The first chapter in Spain's colonial policy is ended. This week marks the collapse of the aid that was to be given the reconcentrados. It is complete. In some places the urgent pleas of the local authorities have resulted in permission to distribute rations a few days longer if the rations had been had, but this is not general. The appropriation of silver money, which is at a discount of 20 per cent, has been sent to the provinces. Should more of it go astray some of the reconcentrados may see a silver dollar. When that is gone they must shift for themselves without expecting aid from the government. In some places the aid that was to be given the reconcentrados has resulted in permission to distribute rations a few days longer if the rations had been had, but this is not general. The appropriation of silver money, which is at a discount of 20 per cent, has been sent to the provinces. Should more of it go astray some of the reconcentrados may see a silver dollar. When that is gone they must shift for themselves without expecting aid from the government.

The end of the scheme of relief from the government, shadowy though it was, will not come with the crushing weight of surprise to the country people who were in need of succor. They had received so little evidence of a new system being in operation that its collapse will not add matter to the winter of their woe. They will suffer from the winter of their woe. They will suffer from the winter of their woe. They will suffer from the winter of their woe.

No Thought of Intervention.

This discussion of internal politics is going on with hardly a thought of the United States. The certainty that there will be no immediate intervention has left all parties free to discuss their own affairs. The resolutions before the House foreign affairs committee are discussed with a fair understanding of committee practice. A reported interview with Speaker Reed is republished and commended. He is quoted as saying that since Spain has changed her policy and is now acting toward Cuba with benignity the United States has no reason to be interfered. Spain's "benignity" in operation would appeal to the Speaker's sense of humor. The country people who are victims of the winter of their woe are too hungry to look upon the humorous side of benignity.

Another instance of benignity in operation is the case of the insurgent chief of the United States. He was told that they were expecting the surrender of an important local chief of the insurgents who was known as "Don Tomas" Garcia. The insurgent chief's family, and had arranged for him to present himself at a farm near Havana and receive a present. Garcia presented himself. A squad of Spanish soldiers were there to receive him. They killed Garcia and carried his body to the office of the inspector general Parrodo. The alcalde of Guines will not try to persuade other insurgents to surrender.

CHARLES M. PEPPER.

HAVE IT ALL FIXED UP

Opponents of Senator Hanna Have Held Their Canons.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, December 20.—Senator Hanna is expected here tomorrow. He is stated at his office that the senator will take a rest and endeavor to enjoy most thoroughly the holiday season. It is further stated at the office of Mr. Hanna that he is losing no sleep over the senatorial campaign and expects to win in walk.

Senator Burk is the representative of the Cuyahoga county delegation, who went to Columbus on Friday, returned home. They succeeded, after much hard work and numerous conferences with the governor and Chas. Kurtz, in hiring Columbus lodgings. The legislators admitted that they had talked to Kurtz.

There was an important conference of anti-Hanna republicans and democrats in Columbus last week. One of the Cleveland conferees says that a plan was worked out which will result in the defeat of Senator Hanna and the election of a republican who will oppose the recommendations of the President on the subject of financial legislation. He further avers that the conferees are determined to legislate, with three exceptions, have promised to vote for an anti-Hanna republican. The platform also contemplates defeating every other candidate for senator, and dividing the offices between the anti-Hanna democrats.

Politicians here regard the story as extravagant. There was a conference held, however, with a view of planning the defeat of Senator Hanna.

Prints Anti-Hanna News.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, December 20.—The Commercial-Tribune of Cincinnati, a leading republican organ in the state, has opened its news columns freely to anti-Hanna senatorial news, and the fact is taken generally to mean that it regards his defeat as very probable.

This morning the correspondence from this city contains the statement positively made that the three republican representatives who came here Saturday, Mason and Bramley of Cleveland and Jones of Canton, pledged themselves to Kurtz to vote against Hanna. This is no doubt based upon information from Mr. Kurtz.

CONVICTED OF PATRIDE.

Isom Lawson, a Fourteen-Year-Old Lad, Gets Life Sentence.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., December 20.—At Barbourville, this morning, Isom Lawson was convicted of the brutal murder of his father, the Rev. Irion Lawson, a popular Baptist preacher, and sentenced to the penitentiary for life. The case has attracted widespread attention, as the lad is only fourteen, and killed his father because the boy was called a nigger by the father's servant at Madrid. Secretary General Con-

TO TAKE WEI-HAI-WEI

British Far Eastern Squadron Ordered to Rendezvous There.

OFFSET TO RUSSIA AT PORT ARTHUR

Latter Incident Has Stirred All Europe to Action.

POSITION OF JAPAN

LONDON, December 20.—An unconfirmed report is current here that part of the British far eastern squadron will be stationed at Wei-Hai-Wei this winter. If true, this indicates that Great Britain is working in harmony with Japan. The latter power still occupies Wei-Hai-Wei, pending payment of the Chinese war indemnity.

The evening newspapers are much disturbed over the situation. "What do we get?" is the burden of their complaint, and they all insist upon the necessity for immediate action.

The Globe says: "Russia and Germany now have the two most important strategic positions in northern China, and Great Britain, whose commercial interests there are ten times greater, must be content with the crumbs from the St. Petersburg and Berlin tables."

American Probable Attitude.

The Pall Mall Gazette echoes the Standard's inquiry as to America's attitude and says: "Of course, the partition of the coast which is bound to come, will not be confined to Russia and Germany. Every naval state in the world is actively concerned in the disturbance of the equilibrium in the far east, Great Britain, France and Japan especially. But the United States cannot be treated as a quantity to be ignored. The American acquiescence with these seizures is not worthy of our past and our future. We may remark that we shall not be without sympathizers, as the Japanese address the bitter humiliation they have suffered at the hands of Russia."

As Viewed in France.

BERLIN, December 20.—The Paris correspondent of the Cologne Gazette telegraphs that paper that he hears on reliable authority that the Russian occupation of Port Arthur was connected with the visit there of the British war ship Daphne a week ago, when in spite of the protests of the Chinese the Daphne entered the harbor, allegedly to ascertain whether there were Russian ships there. China complained of the incident to the representatives of the powers at Peking.

The British far eastern squadron is said to be at Tientsin, and according to the correspondent quoted, is shortly expected at Port Arthur.

The Cologne Gazette regards the occupation as merely a continuance of the cooperation of Germany with Russia in Eastern Asia.

Russia's Attitude Explained.

ST. PETERSBURG, December 20.—The Nieuwspaper declares the occupation of Port Arthur has nothing political behind it, adding: "It must be a matter of indifference to the powers who are not planning seizures of Chinese territory as to which point the Russian squadron chooses for its winter station."

LIFE SAVERS IN PERIL.

Anxiety Felt at Lubec, Me., Over Non-Return of Crew.

LUBEC, Me., December 20.—Great anxiety is felt here over the failure of the return of the captain and crew at the life-saving station, who left here yesterday afternoon to go to the relief of an unknown schooner, which parted her chains in West Quoddy bay and was driven to sea with signals of distress flying.

A fierce gale broke with freezing weather yesterday morning. The schooner weathered wind and sea for several hours, but both chains parted and she was driven to sea. Later she was sighted about eight miles from shore flying signals of distress.

At 2 p.m. Captain Myers and the life-saving crew, comprising six men, started to go to the assistance of the vessel. At 10 o'clock this morning neither vessel nor life-saving crew had been heard from. The only hope for the safety of the latter is that they reached the vessel or landed in Grand Manan.

COTTON MILLS CUT WAGES.

Announcement of a Reduction of 10

SUNCOOK, N.H., December 20.—Notices have been posted at the China, Pembroke and Webster cotton mills here announcing a reduction of the wages of the operatives of about 10 per cent on January 1. The cut-down will affect the superintendents and overseers, and in fact, all of the employees of the three corporations, including nearly 1,500 operatives. The monthly pay roll amounts to about \$27,000. The three mills are engaged in the manufacture of print cloth. It is probable that the cut-down will be accepted.

Col. David L. Jewell, superintendent of the China mills, says the reasons for the reduction are the same as those which caused the cut at the Fall River mills and the Amoskeag corporation at Manchester.

NEW YORK, December 20.—The weavers at the German looms in the William Strange Company's mills in Paterson, N. J., are on strike. Albert Strang, manager of the mills, said today that his company had been paying higher wages to the weavers working the German looms than the other manufacturers, and as it could not continue to do so and compete successfully with rival manufacturers, wages had been reduced, and the men struck.

WEYLER IS IRRECONCILABLE.

Will Devote Himself to Vindication of His Conduct in Cuba.

MADRID, December 20.—The Nacional prints in its issue today a double-headed leading editorial article under the caption "Weyler," to the effect that the personal mission in life of Gen. Weyler at the present moment is to defend the army and his command in Cuba against the "insults" alleged to have been contained in President McKinley's recent message to Congress, and that he will energetically protest to the minister for war (Gen. Correa) and to the queen regent against these "insults" at the same time justifying the acts of the army.

ARRIVED AT PORT LIMON

Advices Received From the Nicaragua Canal Commission.

The Torpedo Flotilla at St. Augustine—The Raleigh Leaves Smyrna—The Carter Court-Martial.

The Navy Department is informed that the gunboat Newport, with the Nicaragua canal surveying party on board, arrived at Port Limon yesterday. Word was also received of the departure of the cruiser Raleigh from Smyrna yesterday for Port Said on her way to China. The gunboat Salcedo, on her way from China to New York, arrived at Colombo, Ceylon, yesterday. The gunboat Petrel, recently relieved from duty in Bering sea, has arrived at Hong Kong. The torpedo flotilla, consisting of the Dupont, Ericsson, Cushing and Porter, has arrived at St. Augustine on its practice cruise in the Gulf of Mexico.

Carter Court-Martial.

Leut. Col. John W. Clous, assistant judge advocate general, who has been detailed to duty as judge advocate of the court-martial appointed to meet at Savannah, Ga., early next month for the trial of Capt. O. M. Conner, Corps of Engineers, had a conference with Secretary Alger at the War Department today in regard to the case, with special reference to the formulation of the charges against the accused. Col. Clous is judge advocate general of the Department of Columbia, with headquarters at Denver. While here he will make his home at the Army and Navy Club.

Naval Orders.

Commander E. H. C. Leutze has been detached from duty in the ninth light house district and ordered to command the Alert, relieving Commander B. S. Richards, who will remain in the hospital at Mare Island for treatment.

Commander G. C. Reiter has been ordered to duty as inspector of the thirteenth light house district at Portland, Ore., relieving Commander J. P. Merrill, who is ordered to the United States coast guard cutter.

Medical Examining Boards.

Mr. Lodge questioned the commissioner in regard to the organization of medical boards of the pension bureau.

"I suppose you have complaints that I have been violating the civil service law," I hear it so stated. I have not. In coming into the pension bureau I found that soldiers complained against the bureau, being dissatisfied with the pension boards that had examined them. In some of these cases I have appointed a second pension board.

Mr. Evans continued to explain that by giving the soldiers an opportunity to go before a board composed of medical men in their own district, he had increased the confidence the soldiers had in the pension bureau, and that they were satisfied with the work of the pension boards, which involved additional expense to the government, but had not discontinued any boards, but had merely added additional boards, so that the soldiers could go before men in whom they had confidence. He pointed to the fact that the pension boards were generally army surgeons accustomed to making medical examinations, and that the pension boards were not going before the civil service commission for examination because they would be brought into competition with young men who were being examined by the civil service commission. The consequence is, the filling of these places by examination would deprive the bureau of the service of the best men of long experience and special knowledge.

Personal Notes.

Second Lieut. D. S. Stanley, Jr., 23d Infantry, is at the Soldiers' Home, awaiting orders.

Maj. W. B. Adams, corps of engineers, is here for duty with the light house board. He is at the Ebbitt.

First Lieut. E. S. Benton, 1st Artillery, is at the Ebbitt, on leave.

Second Lieut. C. Ayres is at the Army and Navy Club.

Maj. Frank Phillips of the ordnance department is here in attendance on the board of officers of the ordnance and fortification department.

Maj. Williams W. Gray, surgeon, is granted three months' leave.

Second Lieut. Morris S. Jarvis, 4th Infantry, is granted two months' leave.

Ensign G. A. Frank is at the Ebbitt, on leave.

Ensign G. C. Davison is visiting friends here, on a leave of absence.

INTRUDERS TO BE ARRESTED.

Instructions to Indian Agents in the Wichita Country have been sent to the Indian agents in the Wichita country to arrest all "boomers" who trespass upon the lands not yet opened to settlement. This is the result of information received by the Indian office that a band of land boomers is camping on the line of the Wichita country preparing to enter the country. Copies of circulars have been received, which are regarded by the officials as a land scheme designed to defraud. It offers for membership in the organization for its object the settlement of valuable lands in the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indian reservations. The movement is said to be instigated by Capt. Hews, an old prospector, who has declared his intention of organizing a band of boomers to enter the country. To obtain a membership in the organization a fee of \$5 is exacted, and the department believes the promoters have no other object in view than to defraud those who become members.

There is an agreement for the settlement of the lands of the Kiowa now pending in the Indian office. The settlement does not look for a favorable action.

INTERNAL DEPARTMENT CHANGES.

Announcement of Appointments, Resignations and Reassignments.

The following official changes have been made in the Interior Department:

Patrol office.—Appointment—Richard S. C. Hutchinson of Arkansas, copyist, \$20.

Pension office.—Reassignment—Patrick Curtin of the District of Columbia, messenger boy, \$400. Resignation—Wyatt E. Thompson of Georgia, copyist, \$300.

Railroad office.—Resignation—Charles A. Calhoun of Georgia, clerk, \$1,400.

Miscellaneous.—Appointments—Lester Perry of New York, \$1,000 for his object the settlement of the lands of the Kiowa now pending in the Indian office.

Commissioner of the Chippewa and Christian Indians in Kansas, C. A. Smart of Ottawa, Kan., vice Howel Jones of Topeka, Kan., declined, \$10 per day.

INSANE MAN KILLS HIMSELF.

Suicide of a Gambler in St. Joseph, Mo., Jail.

CHICAGO, December 20.—John Hogan, a patient at the Cook county insane asylum at Dunning, and a brother of the widely-known sporting man, Malachi Hogan, committed suicide last night in a peculiar manner. He eluded the vigilance of the guards and, going to the bath room, picked up a dust pan and drew the ragged end of it across his throat, completely severing the windpipe and veins of his throat.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., December 20.—Jack McCune, a gambler, who killed Wm. A. Albin on the morning of August 6, committed suicide in the county jail today by taking morphine. McCune had frequently said he would never be tried for the crime, and his case was to be called soon.

THE PENSION OFFICE

Commissioner Evans' Plan to Improve the Service.

FORCED TO KEEP INCOMPETENT CLERKS

Hampered by the Commissioners and Congressional Impotency.

EXEMPTION OF EXAMINERS

The Senate committee on civil service and retirement resumed its investigations into the operation of the civil service this morning. Commissioner Evans of the pension office appeared before the committee and was questioned in detail regarding the work of his force of 1,800 employes in relation to the civil service law.

There were present Senator Pritchard, chairman of the committee; Senator Lodge, Civil Service Commissioner Procter, Mr. G. H. White of the civil service commission, and ex-Representative James H. Hamphshire, who was present in behalf of the Anti-Civil Service League. The examination of Mr. Evans was opened by Mr. Lodge, who asked the commissioner how he looked upon the civil service law as applied to the clerks under him.

Mr. Lodge: "Do you think it would be a good thing to abolish the law so far as it applies to the pension bureau?"

Mr. Evans: "No, sir. I don't think it would be a good thing to limit the law. It was a civil service reformer, so called, but it has been affected by the trade to me. It didn't work out. The best men in my bureau are the men who came in through what is called the 'spoils system.' The law has been applied to them. They do their duty and never appeal to the civil service and expect to hold their positions by doing their duty in the bureau."

Mr. Evans continued to explain that by giving the soldiers an opportunity to go before a board composed of medical men in their own district, he had increased the confidence the soldiers had in the pension bureau, and that they were satisfied with the work of the pension boards, which involved additional expense to the government, but had not discontinued any boards, but had merely added additional boards, so that the soldiers could go before men in whom they had confidence. He pointed to the fact that the pension boards were generally army surgeons accustomed to making medical examinations, and that the pension boards were not going before the civil service commission for examination because they would be brought into competition with young men who were being examined by the civil service commission. The consequence is, the filling of these places by examination would deprive the bureau of the service of the best men of long experience and special knowledge.

Mr. Evans said that about 150 medical boards had been appointed, but that only about 100 were actually held. He said that the pension boards were not going before the civil service commission for examination because they would be brought into competition with young men who were being examined by the civil service commission. The consequence is, the filling of these places by examination would deprive the bureau of the service of the best men of long experience and special knowledge.

In reply to a question by Senator Pritchard, Mr. Evans said that about 150 medical boards had been appointed, but that only about 100 were actually held. He said that the pension boards were not going before the civil service commission for examination because they would be brought into competition with young men who were being examined by the civil service commission. The consequence is, the filling of these places by examination would deprive the bureau of the service of the best men of long experience and special knowledge.

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