

SKAGWAY IS NOT SO WICKED.

E. N. Smith Says That There Is No Need for Martial Law.

VIGILANCE COMMITTEE'S WORK

Since the Rowan Murder the Gay Town of the North Has Been Almost Void of Crime—'Soapy' Smith Is Not the Boss—A Pen Picture of Funerals in a City Where Undertakers Are Dispensed With.

"Soapy" Smith, the gambler, is no more running things at Skagway than any other person that lives there, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding," said E. N. Smith, who has just returned from the North, to a Post-Intelligencer reporter yesterday. Mr. Smith came down on the steamer Queen with his wife to spend a month with friends. He continued the interview, saying: "The report that Smith and the other gamblers are in charge of Skagway is absolutely without foundation. A few weeks before the murder of Marshal Rowan things were in a rather bad way at Skagway. But that murder ended it. Since

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wagon on foot to the graveyard. These lone mourners are well muffled up in big coats, with heads bowed and bodies shivering, because of that terrible cold wind. Living Is Reasonable. "Living at Skagway is now very reasonable. The best hotels in the city do not charge more than 25 cents for meals, although the short-order restaurants make higher charges. A man with a family can live there at a slight advance of what it costs him here. Of course he does not live the same. It costs my wife and myself 25 cents a day for provisions. We were careful in ordering, perhaps, but had all we wanted at that cost. The greatest difficulty is in keeping warm. There is only one way to prevent the wind from

touch a bar was seen to be enfolded in money. With eager eye fixed upon the tempting treasure, the spectator passed his hard-earned cash to the magician and grabbed the potent bar. Upon opening the outer wrapper, breathing short and quick the while, he found—just soap; but it was a very good soap. That was one thing to be said of "Soapy." He was always conscientious in little things and was far above petty tricks. Other people bought soap, and "Soapy's" business came to be profitable and he devoted himself to it till greater ambitions inspired him to more original endeavor. "Soapy" became very proficient in the shell game and in all the various schemes of the high-class bunco man. For many years he enjoyed power and influence in Denver, for his political relations and the

WANTS EASTERN BUSINESS.

Port Blakeley Mill to Enter Into Active Competition.

OTHER MILLS MAY FOLLOW.

Pacific Lumber Trade Journal to Announce That Within Thirty Days There Will Be in Operation on the Sound the Strongest Corporation Ever Organized to Handle Pacific Coast Forestry Products.

The Port Blakeley mill, which has hitherto enjoyed the reputation of being the largest cargo mill in the world, and which has been exclusively a cargo mill, is preparing to enter into active competition for Eastern business, and with that idea is making extensive arrangements to de-



SOAPOY SMITH, WHOSE DISTINCTION IS TO BE THE BOSS OF SKAGWAY

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THE SKAGWAY OF TODAY.

From a Recent Photograph.

the day the vigilance committee was formed there has been no trouble. Too great a majority of the 7,000 inhabitants are in favor of law and order, and the showing made at that time frightened the gamblers. The skin games were shut down about three weeks ago, but I noticed that they had opened up again just before I left. There is a little petty larceny all the time, but there have been no serious crimes since Marshal Rowan's death. "The arrival of the Federal troops at Skagway caused very little excitement after the first day's trouble on the wharf and the citizens were only interested spectators. As soon as the soldiers had straightened up matters for the Queen they marched back into the woods and started at once to erect their quarters. The headquarters will be some distance back from the town on account of the protection from the wind afforded by the timber. "A funeral in Skagway is one of the saddest things imaginable. There have been many of them since the north winds began to blow the latter part of January. The services of an undertaker are usually dispensed with unless the dead man has money and friends to take his body to the states. The coffin is usually a rough board box, put together by inexperienced hands. This is loaded on a big lumber wagon and taken back into the woods about a mile and a half to the burying ground. Almost every one who dies there has one or two friends who follow the

getting through the cracks in the houses, and that is to cover the outside with heavy tar paper. Then by having a fire all the time one can be comfortable. "The reason that the estimates of the number of deaths at Skagway differ so widely," continued Mr. Smith, "is due to several things. In Skagway a man cannot keep track of such things. The weather is beastly, and one stays indoors except when business prevents. The town is not laid out in streets, and when a man dies they get him to the graveyard as rapidly as possible. No official record is kept and I would not attempt to make an estimate of the number of people that have died from spinal meningitis. "Mrs. Rowan, the wife of the murdered marshal, is supposed to be alive. Now it is my impression that she never rallied from the shock after learning how cruelly her husband had been taken away. I think that she died soon after giving birth to her child. I could not swear to it, but that has always been my impression. I heard that her mother and sister had come out from the East and gone to Skagway expecting to find her alive. Their disappointment and grief will be terrible unless I am badly mistaken. "Mrs. Smith says that she 'simply lives' while in Skagway. She says she stayed at home and looked after their cabin while her husband attended to his business. She is more than glad to get back to civilization. "Soapy" Smith's Career. "Soapy" Smith, one time known as Jeff, gambler, politician, 'care-thing' man, has added to his other titles that of 'Shah of Skagway.' He also longs to be called 'Chief.' In the town at the entrance to White Pass 'Soapy' is a prominent citizen. The sporting fraternity own allegiance to his cause and when the place is incorporated it will further his ambition to be chief of police. It was Smith, it is claimed, who saved the neck of the bartender, who recently shot United States Deputy Marshal Motowan and another man, Vigilant would have lynched Fay had 'Soapy' not gathered his forces and prevented the execution. The story of the career of the would-be policeman seems a tale of adventure. He is known all along the Pacific coast as a most desperate gambler. It was however, in Colorado that he first achieved prominence. The memory of 'Soapy' Smith lingers in Denver like the recollection of a bad dream. It is almost impossible to ascertain when 'Soapy' came to Denver or whence, but out of the tangle of rich anecdotes of his earlier career there rises a picture which is indelible. It was in the good old times. Every man had money—unless he had met 'Soapy.' Up Sycamore street from the Union Depot there streamed a throng of people. In the midst of them stood 'Soapy' on a box. He had soap to sell, it was not plain, ordinary soap, fit only for the washing of dirty hands or soiled linen. It was, on the contrary, very remarkable soap. 'Soapy' touched the soap and lo! there was an inner wrapping of crisp bank notes around every bar. The eyes of the spectators bulged out. What was the use of hustling over the title for these crisp silver mines? Here was a fortune mine at hand. 'Soapy' had just a few left for sale. Under his magic

authority he wielded in the down-town districts gave him immunity from police interference. Year after year he flourished, bunked visitors, conducted a gambling house and made his name a by-word and a synonym. He made fortune after fortune and spent it all in riotous living and in good deeds, for it must be ever said of 'Soapy' that no hungry man ever asked all of him and was refused. Smith left Denver in 1886, driven out at last by the women empowered with the suffrage. He went to New Orleans, was imprisoned there for vagrancy, and finally drifted to the Pacific coast.

AMUSEMENTS.

A Bachelor's Honeymoon. This delightful comedy will return to the Seattle theater for Sunday night, and a special Monday matinee. Judging from the many favorable comments it received during its recent engagement, crowded houses will doubtless result. The same company will appear in "The Club Friend," which will be produced Tuesday night. It is the latest comedy from the pen of Sydney Rosenfeld. Rosenfeld is one of the most prolific of authors. Possibly his latest success has been "The Senator," in which William H. Crane has starred for several seasons. Among other plays, "A Possible Case," "A House of Cards," "The Two Escutcheons," and other comedies show the result of his prolific pen. "The Club Friend" was originally produced on August 7, 1891, at the Boston Museum, and achieved an instantaneous success. It is a clever, brightly written comedy with intensely strong dramatic situations. The author has taken the typical American of today, with his jovial good nature and friendly manner to depict the principal character in the play. "The Race for Life" by the Chapman-Warren Dramatic Company will be on the boards again tonight at the People's theater. This drama has made a tremendous hit this week and proved a drawing card. In the olio that follows the drama a great number of new and artistic specialties are introduced, among them being the great comedienne, Helen Hazard and Milton and Shirlis. The entire show will be given again tonight. At the Third Avenue. "The Merry Wives" will close their engagement at the Third Avenue theater Saturday night. There will be a matinee Saturday afternoon at 2:15 o'clock. The attraction next week will be the stirring drama, "The Prisoner of Algiers," presented by one of the strongest Eastern companies that has been seen in this city this season. When You Have a Bad Cold. You want the best medicine that can be obtained, and that is Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. You want a remedy that will not only give quick relief but effect a permanent cure. You want a remedy that will relieve the lungs and keep expectation easy. You want a remedy that will counteract any tendency toward pneumonia. You want a remedy that is pleasant and safe to take. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the only medicine in use that meets all of these requirements, and for the speedy and permanent cure of bad colds, stands without a peer.

liver its product to the railroads in this city. A pile driver is now at work on the tide flats adjoining the American Lumber and Shingle Company's plant, on the West Seattle trestle, on a piece of work that will be a unique thing in its way. The scheme for handling the lumber from the big Blakeley mills is on an equally big plan. A scow is now being built by the company that is capable of carrying from nine to twelve loaded freight cars, and this scow, with the empties, will be towed from Seattle to Blakeley, where the cars will be run ashore to the mill, loaded and then put aboard the scow again. A tugboat will take both scow and cars to the point of delivery in Seattle, where the loads will be run to the work that the pile driver has started upon, and from there a donkey engine will haul the loaded cars to the general level of the railroad tracks, when they will be started across the country for Eastern delivery. The construction at the trestle is a gridiron, and it will be arranged to meet the scow at any level of the tide. The same kind of a gridiron will be built at the Port Blakeley end of the route. It is said that the Port Blakeley mill is also figuring on entering the Eastern business, and if it should decide to, it will employ the same means that are intended by the Blakeley mill in relation to new features in the industrial development of the Puget sound country, the Pacific Lumber Trade Journal in its issue to be mailed tomorrow will say: "The Pacific Lumber Trade Journal is in a position to state that within thirty days there will be in operation on the Sound the strongest, financially, corporation ever organized to handle Pacific coast forestry products. The Eastern connections of the company are such that they are in a position to cover a greater range of territory than any other concern now handling lumber, shingles, etc. The personnel of the company is composed of the vast interests of such firms as Weyerhaeuser & Denkin and the Rock Island Lumber and Manufacturing Company, of Rock Island, Ill.; D. Joyce & Sons, of Lyons, Iowa; Trauser & Co., of Muscatine, Iowa; the Northwestern Lumber Company, of Eau Claire, Wis.; Laird, Norton & Co., of Whona, Minn.; F. H. & C. W. Goodwin & Co., of Buffalo, N. Y.; besides the officers of the company. The principal place of business will be at St. Paul, Minn., and the Western office will be in Tacoma. The officers of the company are: Thomas Irving, St. Paul, president; Frederick Weyerhaeuser, St. Paul, vice president and treasurer; W. I. Ewart, St. Paul, secretary; H. G. Foster, Tacoma, assistant secretary. The firm will be known as the Coast Lumber Company, having just been incorporated at Eau Claire, Wis. The object of the company, as stated before, will be the handling of Pacific coast lumber and shingles and will buy on the open market. It will be an important factor in maintaining prices, H. G. Foster, of Tacoma, is to be the Western manager, and associated with him will be Francis Hitchcock, of Seattle, both being too well known in the trade to need an introduction. The significance of the move cannot be overestimated. For years efforts have been made to induce Mr. Weyerhaeuser

and associates to become identified with the lumber interests of the Pacific Northwest, but until now without success. It means, if anything, that the future of the lumber business of the Coast is assured, and that we are entering on a new era. The fact that these gentlemen are turning their attention to the Coast, instead of to the South, furthermore, will lead to investments on the part of other Eastern lumbermen. "We are not at liberty to give the full details of the intentions of the Coast Lumber Company, but enough is told to give an insight into the proposition."

Lumbering Active at Gate City. Special Dispatch to the Post-Intelligencer. GATE CITY, March 4.—Just now there is unusual activity in lumbering circles. William Doby & Co. run their mill day and night; Beggs & Shaw, of Rochester, are operating the old Hunt mill and cutting 30,000 feet per day, and Smith's mill is now ready for business, cutting 20,000 feet per day. There are several million feet of first-class fir timber accessible to these mills, and all will doubtless keep buzzing at least until the snow flies. Logs can be floated from Back lake, twenty miles distant, for three months yet, and a possible scarcity of logs is not apprehended. A Mr. Forbes, representing Seattle parties, is in town, and has about completed arrangements to operate the shingle mill that has been idle for the past few months.

Ballard News. The city council of Ballard met in regular session Tuesday evening, with the following present: Mayor Startup and Councilmen McMillen, McVay, Melbade, Dill and Seedes. After reading and approving the minutes and allowing all the bills that had been approved by the finance committee, and referring such as had not been, a committee was appointed to confer with the different insurance agents in reference to insuring the electric light plant and report at the next meeting. The receipts for water and light for the month of February were: Water, \$11.90, and for lights, \$25.90—total, \$37.80. The marshal's report was read and approved. Upon motion it was ordered that the electric lights and water be shut off from delinquent consumers, after the 10th of

each month, and the marshal was instructed to so notify the public through the Ballard papers. The petition of William McKeever for the erection of a slaughter house on lot 8, Hamlet's garden, was rejected. The council instructed the city attorney to settle the bill of Attorney McLaughlin. Mrs. Charles Comer has been very sick for a week, but is much better at this writing. George C. Hitchcock, former editor of the Ballard Union, has removed to the residence recently vacated by Mr. McDonald, who moved to Blaine last week. Mrs. William Coleman has had a serious attack of pneumonia this week, but is slowly recovering, and is regarded as being out of danger. Mr. C. Butler and wife were baptized in the bay last Sunday afternoon by Rev. B. F. Brooks, and at the evening service taken formally into the church. The Presbyterian church has provided two dozen chairs for the primary classes, which adds much to the convenience of the teachers and comfort of the little ones. Mrs. P. V. Davis has just returned from a week's visit to her parents at Issaquah. The city is billed for the lecture of Prof. H. H. Shawhan next week. These lectures are to be given under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid, of the Presbyterian church. His subject is "Making a Man." W. H. Miller, working at the machine shops at Seattle, in some way caught the third finger of his left hand, breaking it at the joint.

Klondikers, do not fail to hear Lieut. Peary tonight at the Seattle theater. Will talk especially to you, giving his twelve years' experience in outfitting and living in northern latitudes. CASTORIA. The notable fact in the case of the new American provincial of the Order of the Holy Cross, the Rev. Dr. John A. Zahn, is that he is a "Darwinian." He avowed his belief in evolution years ago. The honey-hunters picked up their ears, but Pope Leo made him a doctor of divinity.

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