DIED IN AN OPIUM JOINT

A Prominent Railroad Contractor Killed by Smoking the Deadly Drug.

Sad Ending of the Life of P. M. Matthews—His First Experience at Hitting the Pipe Ends Fatally.

Special to the Standard.

BUTTE, Sept. 21.—In the southeastern outskirts of the city of Butte there stands on a knoll a group of about twenty little log cabins. They are occupied mainly by the workmen of the neighboring Parrot mine, but the smallest and meanest hut of the whole group is occupied by a Chinaman named Ah Chung and his wife. The cabin is about twelve feet long by ten feet wide, is about seven feet high, of one story, and built of logs. The interstices between the logs are plastered with clay. There is no sign or writing on the house or doorway to indicate whether a Chinaman or a white man lives there, but the miners of the vicinity know it as the wash house of Ah Chung. To the secret few it is known as an opium joint.

The interior of the hut is divided by a thin partition of rough scantlings into two rooms. The front room is about eight feet deep, and is crowded full of miscellaneous household goods. At one side stands a cook stove, its pipe leading up through a hole in the rough boards of the ceiling. A large ironing board occupies the opposite end of the room, a lamp hanging over it. The walls are decorated with a hundred miscellaneous articles known to the Chinese—gilt pictures of gods and demons, pipes of various kinds and shapes, fantastic images, etc. Two common wooden chairs are near the stove. Behind the stove a doorway cut through the partition leads into a small bedroom. The bed, or couch, is nothing more than a raised platform, covered with bed clothing, and without headboard or foot-board. It reaches the entire width of the four-foot room. A mass of trash is heaped upon the floor at the foot of the bed, and hung on the walls and from the rafters.

Into this opium joint at 7:45 o'clock last evening walked Mr. Matthews, of Minneapolis, the bridge builder of the Northern Pacific railroad, and one of the best-known railroad men in western Montana. He was in perfect health, in the full vigor of manhood, 47 years old, weighing 225 pounds, rugged, strong, of magnificent physique. At 6 o'clock this morning Sherman's undertaking wagon removed the corpse of Mr. Matthews from the joint to the morgue.

Mr. Matthews was a member of the contracting firm of Matthews Brothers & Kerrick. He left the camp on the Northern Pacific railroad near the city at 7:30 o'clock last night with the avowed intention of "hitting the pipe," as he told Frank Sullivan, foreman of the firm. Mr. Matthews was accompanied on his fatal visit by P. C. Krech, the firm's bookkeeper. Mr. Matthews had never tried opium smoking before and made the venture for a lark, or experience. He had heard a great deal about its effects and decided to try it. Ah Chung did the washing for the camp and had invited Matthews to come down and have a smoke.

On entering the joint Matthews first sat down and smoked a cigar. After about twenty minutes he went into the rear room where the Chinaman, Ah Chung, was preparing the hop for the pipe for smoking. Matthews began about 8 o'clock smoking the pipe which Ah Chung had prepared. The pipe contained old opium, which had been used once. After four or five minutes he smoked again and kept smoking all the evening. He described his sensations as most delightful. Mr. Krech says he smoked no opium himself, though Matthews strongly urged him to try it. He thought Matthews smoked ten or twelve pipesful up to 10 o'clock. He kept talking in a fantastical manner, describing his sensations as being the nearest like heaven of anything he ever experienced. If heaven was as good, he declared he would hereafter lead a good life that he might enjoy it. About five or ten minutes after smoking the last pipe he became stupid. Krech had been urging him to go home, but he refused. Soon the matter appeared serious and Krech and the Chinaman began trying to arouse him. They succeeded in arousing him in about an hour, Matthews then being able to sit up on the edge of the bed. The Chinaman then gave Matthews a drink out of a bottle. The bottle, which was shown to a STANDARD reporter, is of Chinese manufacture, and is wound round with wisps of straw. It contains a dark, thick liquid, which gives forth a most horrible smell. It is pronounced by Chinamen to be a stimulant or appetizer used at meals, like Worcestershire sauce. The Chinaman was all the time confident that Matthews would soon be all right. But in a minute or two, he again laid down and at once lapsed into a state of stupor. All efforts to arose him after that were unavailing. He died, Mr. Krech thought, about 2:45 o'clock in the morning. Ah Chung told Mr. Krech it was opium that Matthews had been smoking and Matthews gave the Chinaman's wife $1 for the opium. Krech says he himself fell asleep literally exhausted about 2:30 o'clock in the morning and remained asleep until 3 o'clock, when the Chinaman had aroused him, who said he could not hear the man breathe any more.

Word was immediately sent to the railroad camp and at 3:30 o'clock Frank Sullivan, the foreman, was at hand. Matthews was then unconscious but Sullivan thinks he was still breathing. He took him out of doors into the fresh air, the air in the hut being stifling. In about five minutes he felt of Matthews again and found him to be cold. W. D. Matthews, brother of the dead man, arrived at 4 o'clock in the morning. He thought at the time he could feel a little pulse in his brother's wrist.

Coroner Howard was summoned as soon as possible, and pronounced the man dead after a brief examination. The body was removed to Sherman's undertaking rooms in Galena street, and a jury was summoned for an inquest, which was held at the office of Dr. Howard early this morning. The testimony substantiated the story as it is given above. Ah Chung, the proprietor of the joint, said that the deceased only smoked three or four pipesful at the outside. He said that he went to sleep and presently made a "beep" noise. He died about 3 o'clock in the morning. The Chinaman was positive that opium was not the cause of his death. He admitted cooking the opium for Matthews when he asked for it. Miss Jennie, the Chinaman's wife, said that Matthews smoked four or five pipesful of opium. He laid down on the bed and the Chinaman heard a noise like snoring before he died.

Nick Abegg, who lives the third door from the Chinaman's, saw the two men go in last evening, but had seen nothing more until he was called early this morning and saw Matthews dead.

The coroner's jury consisted of J. P. Creighton, W. P. Sherman, William Williams, R. F. Ingersoll, A. Hargrave and W. H. Bower. The verdict rendered was that the deceased came to his death from the effects of opium, produced by smoking the same in the house of Ah Chung, where he died.

Ah Chung and his wife were immediately placed under arrest, charged with keeping an opium joint, but it is likely that the more serious charge of manslaughter will be preferred by District Attorney Booth. The Chinamen of the city are greatly excited over the matter to-day and are confident that Matthews is not dead, or at any rate was not killed by smoking opium. The leader, or head man among the Chinamen of Butte, said to a STANDARD reporter to-day:

"I never heard of such a thing as a man being killed by smoking opium. There have been cases where men have been killed by eating opium, but never by smoking it. I know of lots of cases in China among my friends, where men have smoked opium and lain in an unconscious state for three or four days, apparently dead, and then come to life again. Then too a death by opium poisoning is more violent. Matthews died a peaceful, quiet death, but those who die from opium, die a violent death."

Dr. Howard ridiculed the idea that Matthews was not dead. At noon to-day the deceased's brother called and asked whether another examination would not be advisable, as he wished to be thoroughly satisfied on the matter. Dr. Howard declared it useless.

The corpse of Mr. Matthews lying in the morgue, gave every appearance of death. The man was almost a giant in stature. The only marks on his body were blue marks on his left arm which looked as though they might have been caused by a hypodermic injection.

Matthews has a wife and three children living in Minneapolis. His oldest son has been engaged with his father in railroad work. Mr. Matthews was well off financially. The firm with which he was connected has the contract for all the bridge construction and track laying on the Homestake route of the Northern Pacific line. The railroad camp where Mr. Matthews spent most of his time when not in Butte is a short distance south of the Silver Bow mill.

A MYSTERIOUS PATIENT.

Dr. Johnson of Butte and Three Callers who Would not Give Their Names.

Special to the Standard.

BUTTE, Sept. 21.—This morning about 4 o'clock three men called upon Dr. Johnson and requested that he attend to the wounds of one of their number, whom the other two claimed to have found in Basin gulch at the end of a railroad bridge, lying in a state of insensibility. The doctor examined the injured man's wounds and found that his scalp had been almost torn, or rather cut off, and literally hung down over his right ear. The man was dazed and very weak from the pain and loss of blood. In answer to the latter's inquiry the injured man said he was an employe of the Montana Central railway, and had come to Dr. Johnson to have his wounds dressed because he knew that Johnson was surgeon for that road. The doctor urged upon the fellow that he go to the railway hospital for treatment, but this he would not do. The doctor was unable to elicit any information from the injured man other than that he was employed by the Montana Central. He refused to tell his name or to say how he was injured. He at first promised to give all the particulars as soon as his wounds were dressed, but when the doctor had completed his work, the fellow positively refused all information. The man's companions are also very reticent. They merely said they found the man at the end of the railroad bridge lying in an unconcious state, with his scalp nearly torn off. They refused all other information about the matter, but appeared very anxious about the wounded man's condition. They seemed greatly relieved when the doctor informed them that with proper care the injured man would recover. The men's absolute refusal to impart any information or even tell their names and the air of mystery which surrounded the whole affair led to the belief that the man was not injured in the manner in which his companions claimed. A STANDARD reporter spent much of the day in searching for a clue to the mystery but was largely unsuccessful. When the man's wounds were dressed he was taken away by his companions and no knowledge can be obtained of their whereabouts. Late to-night the reporter learned that sometime this morning before 4 o'clock a row occurred in a disreputable house in an alley off Galena street, in which several men participated. No notice of the trouble reached police headquarters, and it is suspected that the man whom Dr. Johnson attended may have received his injuries at this place at the hands of the men who accompanied him to the doctor's office. Such being the case, it is very probable all would join in suppressing the real truth of the matter. It is quite certain that the man was not injured by falling and striking his head against the timbers of a bridge as this cut upon his head was a clean incision and was evidently made by a knife or other sharp instrument. Again, had the men found the man, as they said, why should they be averse to stating the full particulars? Besides it is highly improbable that they would be walking in that vicinity at 3 o'clock in the morning. And had they found the man in an insensible condition how did they convey him to town. It is evident from all the facts known of the case that the man was hurt in some place and manner which he and his companions were equally desirious of keeping secret.

Butte Mining Notes.

Special Correspondence of the Standard.

BUTTE, Sept. 21.—The Red Lion has put an additional five stamps to work, making ten in all.

The American Flag and Lida Dixon are at present running a tunnel into the base of the mountain.

The Gray Rock has dispensed with contract work and the miners are now on day's pay.

A new compartment shaft is being sunk east of the Modoc, one of the mines of the Chambers syndicate.

The Champion has erected new and complete hoisting works, a new gallows frame, new engine and boilers. A nice body of ore has been struck on the 370 east drift.

It is considered impossible for the Parrot to resume until sufficient water can be procured.

The Colorado has been making some needed repairs.

The Moulton mine is working about twenty men underground, but the mill is still in a state of suspension.

The new smelter of the Silver Bow company will be brought into active use this week.

The Keystone Mining company is erecting a hoisting works, boiler, and engine capable of doing work at a depth of 1,000 feet.

English capitalists have made an offer for the Powder Horn property.

His New Hall.

Otto Wommelsdorf of Stuart has now approaching completion a handsome dancing hall, which will be thrown open to the public next Saturday. The building adjoins Otto's premises on the south, and is 25x50 feet in dimensions. The opening on Saturday evening will be celebrated by a grand ball to which the public is cordially invited. Otto is a famous host and will do everything possible to accommodate visitors to his popular establishment.

THEY WERE BADLY LEFT

Butte Republicans Wish They Had Postponed Their Last Night's Rally.

The Democrats Held a Rousing Meeting and Caught the Crowd—Republicans Down in the Mouth and Nearly Ready to Quit.

Special to the Standard.

BUTTE, Sept. 21.—Butte City was bright with illuminations to-night. From low land to summit it was lit up by torch light, rockets, roman candles and greek fire, until the whole place was fairly ablaze. Both parties had advertised great demonstrations, and both had arranged torchlight processions. The republicans confessed last night their mistake in getting up a parade on the same night as the democrats. By actual count they had 205 men carrying torches in line. The democrats had 923 voters carrying torches.

Miners' union hall, where the democratic meeting was held, was crowded to its utmost capacity, standing room not being found after 8 o'clock. W. A. Clark presided, and in a brief speech said that Montana would soon take its place among the democratic states. Amid great applause the chairman introduced Hon. R. B. Smith. Among other things Mr. Smith said: "The democratic party has never in all its history as a party declared itself in favor of free trade. It has always stood on this ground, that the taxes and revenues should be sufficient only for the necessary carrying on of economical government. There is no reason why there should roll into the coffers of the nation $100,000,000 a year more than is necessary to run this government. Such taxes are better in your pockets. Though all the time the republican party has declared itself the friend of the laboring man, during the the year 1889 there have been more strikes, lockouts and suspensions of mills and mines than occurred during the whole four years of Cleveland's administration. How many millionaires were there in the United States when the republican party came into power. A half dozen. How many tramps were there? They were curiosities. To-day, after years of republican rule, how many millionaires have grown rich from the legislation which makes the rich man richer and the poor poorer. There are estimated to be 10,000 millionaires and 100,000 tramps. The republican party has never seen fit to carry out the pledges it has made to the workingman. It is known to be controlled by these rich corporations. It is not to the best interests of the laboring classes that Chinese immigration should be unrestricted. It was the democratic party that passed the Chinese exclusion act, but the republican party, under Harrison, is putting such construction on that law that Chinese are flocking in again by the thousands.

It was in 1873 that the silver dollar was stricken from the currency of the country and the government was then united by republicans. In 1878 there was a democratic majority of 82 in the house of representatives, and then was silver coinage restored in spite of President Hayes' veto. Under the republican rule we were to have a fair civil servicere form, but where ever there was a man whose name began with "H" he was sure to get a pension. Never before was there such a raft of presidential relatives in office.

Mr. Carter asks what the democratic party has ever done that you should vote for it. I ask what has Mr. Carter ever done that you should vote for him. When Mr. Toole and Mr. Maginnis were fighting for the admission of Montana, Carter was hobnobbing with those opposed to it.

Mr. Smith concluded with an eloquent peroration exhorting Montana to enter the Union as a democratic state guarded by the democratic watch-dogs.

Hon. W. Y. Pemberton was then next introduced and was received with hearty applause. Mr. Pemberton devoted much of his time to the consideration of Thomas Henry Carter, and his apt hits on the republican's candidate for congress were received with cheers and laughter. Mr. Pemberton declared he had yet to learn of any democratic speaker who has not endorsed the Australian system of voting. The democratic party is not opposed to registration but only to that registration which compels men in sparsely settled districts to lose from one day to one week in traveling 100 miles to get registered. Mr. Pemberton rejoiced that it had been his fortune to champion the side of the men who toil instead of fighting for corporations. Mr. Carter claims that the republican party contains all the patriotism, virtue and morality of the country, and is the friend of the laboring man. Mr. Pemberton said he would put the morality party on the stand and try it on the record it has made. Who gave the country the railway grab, the star route frauds, the credit mobilier, the whisky ring that defied the government? They are all the offspring of republican legislation and administration.

Somebody in the audience at this point asked what was the matter with Secretary Webb. Mr. Pemberton replied that everybody understood the republican policy of springing something like that always before the elections In all the democratic record of the territory the republicans have found one thing to make political capital of, but they weren't so anxious to punish the boodlers of the star route frauds. Mr. Pemberton drew a telling comparison between the records of Major Maginnis and Mr. Carter as to education, experience, ability and experience. He said that the democratic party under Thomas Jefferson had given Montana to the Union, and had it yet, except what the republicans had given to the railroads. Thomas O'Brien also spoke briefly.

The Republican Meeting.

Special to the Standard.

BUTTE, Sept. 21.—The republicans of Butte to-night held a rally in the pavilion, where ex-Gov. Carpenter and H. J. Haskell, republican candidate for attorney general, spoke upon the issues of the campaign. A torchlight procession in which about two hundred men joined, attracted a fair sized audience to the place. Thompson Campbell was chairman, and introduced the speakers in terms of great praise. Mr. Haskell said the democrats had promised that the county officers would not be disturbed, but in the constitutional convention went back on these promises and brought on a new election. He said the democrats have expressed themselves as being in favor of the free importation of wool. Toole and Maginnis are at heart free traders, though they deny it for political reasons. In Massachusetts the wage-earners are much better off under protection than the laboring classes in England under free trade. These facts are proved by the savings deposited in the savings banks. The democracy have succeeded, after ruling over twenty years, in saving absolutely nothing, for the state auditor's report of last year shows that there were outstanding in warrants unpaid to the amount of $25,000. The democracy wanted to pass a bill offering a bounty for gophers and prairie dogs, but the governor had to call the democratic legislature together and repeal all these bounty laws because there was no money in the treasury. The democrats opposed the passage of the bill for the appointment of a mining inspector upon the grounds of expense, yet it cost only $3,000. Again the democracy oppose the appointment of a boiler inspector, but a republican legislature if elected will see that such a bill is passed. Ex-Governor Carpenter said he desired to give only facts to those who came to seek the truth. It is the first time that any one has ever had a chance to address an audience of honest voters. It is the first time that the voters of Montana have had a chance to exercise their franchise. The registry law is dear to the heart of the republicans of Montana. The corruption which brought Rome to the dust was the result of a dishonest political system. He hoped that there was no man in Montana who would seek to control the voters by means of an unjust use of riches. The Australian system is a good law, and while it may be imperfect in some details, it is a poor way to improve it by entrusting it to its enemies. The question of how Montana's industries may be protected and fostered is the most important in the present campaign. The present protective system is the only means by which the people of this country can exist in competition with free-trade countries. America can never adopt free trade until American wages are reduced to the starvation rates of old world. The democrats always opposed protection, except during war time. No manufacturer ever grew rich in this country under protection. The great fortunes of the millionaires were made through the agency of the unholy trusts. Mr. Carpenter's speech was very prosy, and when he had finished not 50 people were in the room. It is but the simple truth that the meeting was not a success.

Frank Lewis's Victim.

Special to the Standard.

BUTTE, Sept. 21.—Coroner Howard today examined the trunk of the young man Johnson who was shot by his room mate, Lewis, last night. The letters of the deceased were read in order to ascertain where his parents live. The young man's name is Stephen Johnson instead of Frank Johnson. The coroner's jury, however, declared the dead man to be Frank Johnson. The dead man's parents live in England, at Maidenstone, near London. The letters to the boy from his mother, received shortly before his death are most affecting. They appeal to him to cease wandering and come home once more, and at all events to live a Christian live and keep close to God. Johnson's brother lives in New Orleans. Johnson was naturalized in 1884.

Lewis refuses to give any particulars about himself, fearing that his people may hear of the tragedy. Friends say that Lewis had been saving money to educate himself, and had intended to leave Butte for school October 1.

Lewis was arraigned before Judge Newkirk at 2 o'clock this afternoon on a charge of murder. He pleaded not guilty. His preliminary examination was set for 10 o'clock Tuesday morning.

It has transpired that Frank Lewis, the young man now in jail for shooting Stephen Johnson, has a father and mother in Maine City, Missouri. Lewis has made every effort to keep the residence of his parents a secret, but a reporter to-night obtained definite information in the matter. Lewis hopes to be set at liberty before his parents learn of his trouble.

Big Transfer of Real Estate.

Special to the Standard.

BUTTE, Sept. 21.—Among the real estate transfers recorded to-day was that of John H. Curtis to Martha F. Curtis, one-third interest in the Idine lode claim, lot 310; one-half interest in house and lot on Idine lode claim; one-half interest in the Parnell lode claim, lot 374; one-half interest in the Bland lode, lot 304; one-fourth interest in Washington lode; one-fourth interest in Governor Houser lode, on Camp Creek; one-fourth interest in the Gregory lode; one thirty-second interest in the Yellow Jack lode, lot 172; one-half interest in the Grand Junction, lot 141; one-sixth interest in the Black Warrior, lot 359; lot 10, block 61; 64 feet of lots 11 and 12, block 47; lot 33 and east 14 feet of lot 32, in block 29; one-half of north 2 feet of lot 5, in block 37; east 32 feet of lot 10, block 29; lot 5, block 70; lot 6, block 61; lots 12, 14, and south 25 feet of lot 15, block 61; one-half of lot 23, block 15; one-fourth of 48 feet of lots 5 and 6, block 39, all of the above in Butte townsite; one-half of lot 2 in block 7, Kemper's addition; one-half of lot 13, block 6, Noyes & Upton's railroad addition; brick house on lot bought of L. Ringling, west of J. A. Talbot's residence; one-half of house and lot on North Main street, on Modoc lode; one-half of Curtis & Noyes' addition; also lot 4 in block 3, King's addition. The consideration mentioned was $1.

Marriage Licenses Granted.

Special Correspondence of the Standard.

DEER LODGE, Sept. 21.—The following are the marriage licenses granted by Probate Judge Emerson during the week ending September 21:

September 16—Joseph Walters, Anaconda, to Lizzie Ryan, Anaconda.

September 17—Frank Boullock, Anaconda, to May M. Zansten, Anaconda.

September 17—William Shuh, Philipsburg, to Ollie J. Reader, Philipsburg.

See D. J. Hennessy Mercantile Co.'s press goods and plushes at 45 cents.

ONE WEEK LONGER.

Montana Hotel, Room 9.

UNTIL SUNDAY, SEPT. 29.

DR. D. H. GRAY.

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WITHOUT PAIN.

DR. GRAY does not claim anything outside the pales of science. He operates with a patented electric inhaler, and extracts teeth by means of VITALIZED AIR, which is entirely painless and harmless. Teeth filled without pain. Consultation free.

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Shown this season by any firm in the city.

Ladies Intending to Buy a Nice Dress

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ANACONDA HARDWARE COMPANY.

MAIN STREET. - - - ANACONDA.

Something New!

Peerless Brand Gray Rosin-Sized Sheathing.

The cheapest and most durable building paper. Clean to handle, Waterproof.

NO SHRINKAGE IN WEIGHT. NO WASTE.

Put up in rolls 36 inches wide, 1,000 square feet in each roll. Only $2.50 per roll.

ONLY $4.50 PER ROLL.

Straw Brand weighs 160 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Multiply 160 by your price per 100 pounds and see what 1,000 square feet costs you.

A Choice Line of Stoves at Attractive Prices.

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AT

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Now is your time to buy. Call and inspect our stock. Full line of

STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES,

—AND—

GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS