A SAN JUAN SUICIDE.

Troubles and Gin are Said to Be the Reason.

The Solace Mining Company—Impaired Mail Facilities—The Seven Devils Country—Pocatello Schools.

George Schwartz, one of the pioneers of the San Juan, committed suicide at 7 o'clock yesterday morning in his room in the block which bears his name and which he owned. An old-fashioned Colt's revolver was the weapon used, it being clasped in the right hand when the body was found. One bullet was sufficient. It entered the head at the right temple and death was instantaneous. The dead man left nothing in the line of an explanation for his rash act, although financial troubles and drink are supposed to be responsible for it. Schwartz had been drinking heavily for several days and when last seen alive was at the Germania beer hall, where he drank with several companions until after midnight Sunday. He went to his home from there and retired. He awakened at 7 o'clock by some noise and in a moment of frenzy jumped from his bed, went into another room, revolver in hand, and sent the bullet into his brain which ended his career. There will be no inquest and the interment will be at Greenmount cemetery. The funeral services will be at St. Mark's church, Rev. Hiram Bullis officiating.

Mr. Schwartz was a native of Germany and about 51 years old at the time of his death. He took up his residence at Animas City in 1879 and followed his profession of watch maker and jeweler. He moved to Durango with the early movement in this direction and built up a good business. While very economical he managed to equander what money he made recently and was embarrassed when he killed himself.—Durango (Col.) Herald.

Little Slate Creek Placers.

During the present season representatives of a California syndicate of large capital have located a large area of placer ground on Miller creek and Little Slate creek, in the Florence basin. Among the locators are Commissioner Josh S. Fockler, C. B. Wood, Charles Phillips, Mike Green, Dave Lewis, Harry W., and Sharles Cone, W. C. Newburn, W. C. Crandall, Peter Turnbull and others. There are in all thirty claims, embracing about 680 acres, which takes in all the upper meadows above the old Van Buren ranch on Little Slate creek and nearly all of Miller creek, together with many tributary gulches which are known to be rich and have been worked for several years by Peter Turnbull, Victor Chandemanche, J. S. Fockler, Bob Royal, Captain Wilson, and others. There is unlimited water power and dump, and several miles of small ditches to cover the side gulches are already built and in constnat use. These locations comprise as promising an area of placer operations as can be found in the state. It was always profitable, even when worked in the hasty manner and with the crude methods of pioneer days. The top dirt is light and shallow, and the main creek and all the tributary gulches have fall enough to carry off any quantity of tailings. Big results may be looked for from that section when the ground is properly exploited. The task of consolidating the various ground and water rights into one conchete block is now in progress, and when consumated the projectors will speedily arrange the financial part of the undertaking.—Ketchum Keystone.

A Crazy Man Found

A man named O'Nell, aged 30 years, was brought here Tuesday in a demented state. He was found wandering around the hills near Red river meadows a few days since in a totally destitute and irrational condition. He was well cared for in Elk, and with good treatment he is recovering the use of what intellect he has, which evidently is not much at its best. His parents reside in Minnesota, and Sheriff Gregory is communicating with them to ascertain what disposition they wish to make of him. If they refuse to take any steps in the matter he will be sent to the Blackfoot asylum. He was examined by Dr. Searight yesterday, who pronounced him a chronic case of lunacy, caused by paralysis and nervous troubles.—Idaho Exchange.

The Solace Mining Company.

The Solace Mining company are making arrangements to operate through the winter with ten to twelve men. For upwards of a year past they have been running a cross-cut tunnel and struck the vein 1,390 feet from the tunnel's mouth at a depth on the vein of over 600 feet and about 300 feet below the deepest workings. The tunnel not only develops the mine as indicated, but facilitates drainage, water having been a serious obstacle to former workings from the surface. Purchasing and hauling of supplies are being contracted for on the strength of developments on the vein since it was struck, which are said to more than sustain the former high reputation of the mine. Ore has been marketed in car lots that ran upwards of 1,000 ounces of silver per ton.—Ketchum Keystone.

Impaired Mail Facilities.

The Wood river people, together with Custer county, have a just complaint on account of their impaired mail facilities. Since July the Union Pacific has been running a mail train but three times a week. The government makes the ridiculous proposition to pay $20 a trip for teams to make the delivery from Shoshone to Ketchum—70 miles— on the days when the train does not run. At the same time the Union Pacific wants $16,000 a year for daily mail. At that rate the Union Pacific must want $8,000 for three trips a week through the year, and the government wants a stage outfit to do the same work on odd days for $60 a week, or $3,000 a year. Logan, Alturas and Custer counties are important enough in point of population, wealth and business to have mail at least six times a week, if not seven times.—Nampa Progress.

The Seven Devils Country.

The fact that ex-Governor Hauser, of the American Mining Company, is now in New York perfecting plans whereby the extensive Seven Devils copper mines of the company are to be worked the coming season on a large scale, is somewhat significant when considered in connection with the efforts that are being put forth by Mr. Bates and his people to build a line of railroad into that section of country. It is so well known that the mines of the Seven Devils cannot be successfully and profitably worked without transportation facilities, the present action of the American Mining Company furnishes very tenable grounds for the belief that the Seven Devils railroad has a good deal of life left in it yet.—Payette Independent.

Town Built on a Gold Reef.

Johannisburg, in the Transvaal, is a wonderful little town. It is but five years of age and the inhabitants number forty thousand. It stands upon a gold reef, and upon this reef fifty companies are at work, giving employment to three thousand and eight hundred white men and over thirty-two thousand natives. The town has gas, water, tramways and handsome buildings, while for twenty miles east and west the funnels of mining works can be seen.—Argonaut.

The Pocatello School Trouble.

The school board has decided that unless it can receive some aid not now in sight, it must close the public schools January 1. This is the most serious proposition that the people of Pocatello have been compelled to face in their history. The danger is real and so near that it is only by heroic methods that it can be met, and it yet remains a question whether the people will rise to the occasion. We can imagine no more sorry spectacle than a city of the size and standing of Pocatello with the doors of its schools closed and its children running the streets in idleness. It would be a blot on our fair name that would retard our growth and advancement more than any other calamity that could ever befall us.

The situation can be summed up in the one word that has cursed the people of Pocatello in every public step, business enterprise and private household—extravagance. If we had built a $19,000 schoolhouse instead of a $20,000 structure, we would not today have been starring this grim jabberwock in the face. If fancy expenditures had been lopped off in the beginning, the devil would not have ben chuckling in glee today at the thought of deserted school rooms and children running wild like young Arabs. The question now is to get out of the hole in which we have put ourselves. From very shame we must devise some means to do it.—Pocatello Tribune.

He Was a Queer Duck.

We had a visitor Saturday—a queer duck. He had just come from a trip—stripped. Said he had gone to western Iowa "way back in the seventies; took a pre-emption, but got grass-hoppered and had to move on," says the Oxford Register. "Went to Dakota territory and took a tree claim; got a nice growth of trees and made a living one way and another, but a prairie fire cleaned me out. Went to western Kansas and took a homestead; drouthed out the first year and dried up the next; moved down near Arkansas city, worked on a farm, shoveled sand, and —waited for the Strip. When it opened I made a run for a claim I knew right well. Passed over dozens of good farms I could have had with nobody to molest me, but I was after the one I knew of and determined to have it. About a mile from the goal my horse dropped dead, and I took it on foot. Run? Well I guess yes. I could have distanced a jack rabbit. And when I got there three men had possession; one was plowing, one digging a well, and the other building a log house. Tell you, stranger, I've been climbing the greased pole of adversity all my life. Hey? Yes, I'm going back to Indiana—to die. Thank you sir. Hope you'll never have to turn beggar. Good-bye." And the soft winds whistled a few strains from Wagner through the keyhole.

CHARLES GOUNOD.

Charming Picture of the Deceased Composer by M. Saint-Saens.

Perhaps the most faithful and certainly not the least charming picture of the master who has passed away is that drawn by another great musician Mr. Camille Saint-Saens, in the columns of the Journal. Gounod, says the composer began by being misunderstood, followed only by a few faithful disciples; yet, though never deviating from the lines which he had laid down, he gradually achieved success, glory and popularity in spite of unceasing and ever active hostility. It was said that Gounod was wanting in melody, which was everything in those days, but when the cultus of Wagner succeeded that of Verdi and melody went out of fashion he was abused as a melodiste. He really knew and understood music. He went to the fountain head of his art, knew its history and its elements. His works, though free from excess of detail, are solid and pleasing, but they are not meant for those who seek violent effects—strong spices which burn the palate and deprave the taste. The master was not merely a musician —he was also a thorough artist, a man of letters and a delightful speaker. His personal charm is also now but a remembrance, but his correspondence remains, and it is to be hoped that it will be published.

A POSTHUMOUS INTERVIEW.

Gounod loved art for art's sake, and looked upon it as a thing far too sacred to be approached carelessly or with mercenary motives. "Artists," he said about a fortnight ago to a gentleman whose interview with him is reproduced in yesterday's Figaro, "are men to whom God has given a greater range of vision—they see more of the infinite than others do."

Nothing caused him more pain than a bad or careless rendering on the stage. "Oh," he exclaimed, "to give the work of one's brain and of one's heart, to intrust it to creatures who make money by pulling it to pieces, vilifying it and dishonoring it! Wretches! it is my child that you are torturing. Take me, strike me, tear out my beard by the roots. I am nothing. It is my work! my work! What? I give you this, and that is what you show to the audience? You calumniate me. It is a libel. That is not what I made! You are cruel forgers!" And after a few moments' pause he added, "A performance is a crucifixion."

Gounod was much moved, and his interlocutor sought to change the conversation by suggesting Faust.

"Faust," repeated the master, "Faust," and then confidentially—"The garden scene. Yes. I have committed many faults. Sometimes I am filled with remorse on account of it. Only sometimes, because * * * And there are many who owe their happiness to it.

"You protest! Yes, you are right. King George of Hanover said to me—'I listen to Faust on Sunday evening. It seems to me to be the continuation of divine service. I congratulate you. Your Marguerite leaves the stage pure.'"

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PROBLEM OF DIRECT TAXATION.

Taxation has been called the first great evil arising from government. It is rather the necessary contribution from individuals to the public need. It is also the tribute paid for governmental protection. Theoretically the maximum of social co-operation should bring the minimum proportionate burden. Many believe that our present taxation is oppressive only because government is extravagantly administered, or the tax is improperly adjusted. In the earlier days of the colonies in America there was no great need of taxes. There were but few public wants, because the social system was little developed, and its needs were easily satisfied. The contributions were at first voluntary. Before 1661 property other than land escaped. In 1796 taxes were assessed as follows, in the different states: By poll—In New England, North Carolina and Georgia; on land—In New England, middle states, except Delaware, and all southern states; on collective mass of property—In Rhode Island, New York, Delaware and Maryland.

The characteristic feature of the period from 1796 to 1861 was a general transition toward the present system of taxing all property, movable and immovable, real and personal, at one uniform rate. We now tax the selling value of property. Comparatively little personal property was in existence one hundred years ago. Only within the present century has that species of property, at first gradually, then very rapidly, assumed the enormous proportions to which we are now accustomed. The growth has accompanied the development of cities which naturally attract the wealthy, and become the peculiar home of invisible personal property. Personal property has increased more rapidly than real property has appreciated. It is now regarded as its equal in value in most of the states. The great mass of personal wealth is sure to escape taxation, and the burden is heaped upon the visible estates. What tax will do the greatest benefit to the greatest number and be the least burden to all? It will be well to recall Adam Smith's four classic maxims of taxation:

1. The subjects of every state ought to contribute toward the support of the government as nearly as possible in proportion to their respective abilities.

2. The tax each individual is bound to pay ought to be certain and not arbitrary.

3. Every tax ought to be levied at the time and in the manner in which it is most convenient for the contributors to pay it.

4. Every tax ought to be so contrived as to take out and keep out of the pockets of the people as little as possible above what it brings into the public treasury of the state.

General Francis A. Walker, in his "Principles of Political Economy," develops the first maxim thus: "No tax is a just tax unless it leaves individuals in the same relative conditions in which it found them." This has been accepted as the cardinal principle of just taxation by the latest modern writers.

There are two great general classes of taxation—direct and indirect. Indirect taxes are such as the tariff and internal revenue, taxes on expenditure, paid with every purchase of the rich man's luxuries or the poor man's necessities, so far as these fall under the internal or custom's revenue. The question of the best system of indirect taxation is one that is argued every day throughout this country, and its phases are well known. State and municipal taxation under our Constitution must be more or less direct. Such taxes may be laid—(1) on rent-bearing land, (2) on all capital, active or inactive, (3) on the proceeds of labor and the interest on capital, generally known as income, (4) on expenditure, (5) on the faculty or capability of production. Let us see how each of these taxes would answer the purpose of leaving those paying it in the same relative positions they held before the tax was assessed.

First—A tax on rent-bearing land would be a tax on rent and would fall primarily on the landlord. There would be no means by which he could shift the burden, except in so far as all like land were taxed, for the price of the agricultural product is fixed by other laws, and would not be correspondingly raised.

Second—A tax on capital would be a tax on savings. To tax realized wealth would be to punish men for not consuming their earnings as fast as they receive them.

Third—A tax on income is more nearly a just tax than that on rent-bearing land or on wealth, yet it would not reach those who do not strive in proportion to their abilities, but who should be amenable to the state for their quota of what they would be able to do. Still this is a very minor objection.

Fourth—A tax on expenditure would be escaped by the misers and in a measure by the wealthier classes, because, while the laborer spends all or nearly all his earnings, the great capitalist may spend but a fraction of his income in any way that can be taxed.

Fifth—The faculty tax is the ideal tax, but like most ideals it can hardly be realized. Men should serve the state in the degree in which they are able to serve themselves. For the purpose of revenue, however, this tax would not be successful. If honesty were the prevailing principle of mankind, and self-assessment were possible so that each man would pay as he thought he was able, then taxation on the basis of faculty would fulfill the requirements of the state. But as the state cannot long continue to depend entirely upon its honest citizens who are willing to pay as they are able, this tax, too, would finally become a burden on the few willing to bear it. So the system of espionage would have to be introduced again, and we should come back to a tax on assessed income.

The sources of income and rent, profits and wages. A tax on all three will be more just, but it should have these features (as stated by J. S. Mill):

First—Incomes below a certain amount should be untaxed.

Second—Incomes above this amount should be taxed only in proportion to the surplus by which they exceed the limit.

Third—Life incomes and incomes from business and professions should be less heavily taxed than inheritable incomes.—George F. Milton, in the Sewanee Review. [Condensed.]

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