

# SWIFTWATER'S DIRE STRAITS

The Noted Klondiker Experiences a  
Hard Time Financially.

## ENDEAVORS TO PAY OFF HIS DEBTS

Story of His Business and Social Adventures  
in California Published for the First  
Time in Detail.

One of the most picturesque characters in the far north, a man who has made the frozen ground of the Klondike yield him several fortunes—Swiftwater Bill—is busted.

When seen by passengers who came down on the steamer Humboldt at White Horse Rapids, he had very little money, and, according to one of his partners—who is now in the "Swiftwater" prospects of replenishing his exchequer this season are not particularly bright.

"Bill" Oakes, unless the enterprise that is taking him north now turns out well, is a broken man. Since his supposed successes in the north in '97, he has scattered gold in various parts of the country. He was a prince while it lasted.

Mr. A. Winter, of San Francisco, who was interested with "Swiftwater" on claims 12 and 13 below Eldorado, is authority for the statement that "Bill" is a "broken reed"—financially. To a Star reporter at the Hotel Northern, he said last evening:

**Must Make an Effort.**  
"Swiftwater will have to make the play of his life now with that English company he formed, or go to work in the north on one of the claims he formerly owned. I met him first a year and a half ago, when he held an interest with my brother, A. H. Winter, in claim 13 below Eldorado. My brother and I still have our interest in claims 12 and 13. Bill has one-sixteenth interest in No. 13, and one-quarter interest in No. 12, but I understand they are both heavily mortgaged. The clean-up from the two claims this year will amount to about \$250,000. Swiftwater's share is absorbed by his debts. He will get nothing from the clean-up."

"His scheme now is to work a five-mile grant on Quartz creek. He has interested certain English capitalists, and is taking in quartz machinery. What do I think of it? Well, he will find it difficult to mine quartz profitably in the Klondike, as the working expenses are enormous. If his scheme pans out I will be very much surprised. If it fails entirely, he may come out with a few thousands, but he won't be able to buy any more wine at \$50 a bottle."

**Had a New Flame.**  
"I met 'Bill' at White Horse when I was coming out. He was traveling with a new flame, a rather pretty blonde girl, and was going to Dawson. His quartz mining machinery was, I believe, somewhere near Bennett."

"Swiftwater" looked very wretched, and seemed to have the blues pretty bad. I learned that he had started for Dawson with Gusie La Moore, the variety actress, her young sister and a third woman. They stayed some time at Bennett, where I believe Bill, as usual, spent money freely."

"Gusie and her sister quarreled with Bill at Bennett, and I understand refused to go on with him. They were at Bennett when I reached there, and did not appear to be sorry that Bill had gone ahead of them. They said they would go into Dawson by themselves."

"From what I know of 'Swiftwater's' affairs, I should say that he has spent everything during the past two years. Wine and women are responsible for his present embarrassment."

"Swiftwater" first gained notoriety by buying up all the eggs in Dawson at a fabulous price for Gusie La Moore's sister, who afterwards became his wife. His subsequent domestic troubles are well known in Seattle.

**Swiftwater in Society**

In connection with the fore-going tale of financial misadventures on the part of "Swiftwater," several

other interesting stories have come to light concerning his "society escapades" two winters ago.

It appears that when "Bill" came out from Dawson on his notable trip, he was seized upon by the leaders of San Francisco society and was made a social lion. A committee of bankers called upon the supposed multimillionaire, and not only induced him to become president of an Alaskan mining company, which they had organized in the California metropolis, but also insisted upon his purchase of an elegant home on East Thirtieth street, in Oakland, Cal. The Klondike nabob consented to take the honors offered, also the house in question, which was valued at \$14,000. One of the bankers, acting for his associates, clinched the bargain for the house by paying the owner \$4500 on account, expecting, of course, that some day, when "Swiftwater" had time, he would draw a check for that sum, and also pay the balance due on the property. Nobody thought of "rushing" a man like him, who had millions.

**Hung Out His Shingle.**  
So "Swiftwater" entered Oakland and hung out his social shingle. Smart society folks gazed approvingly upon him as a mighty man of dollars, and offered recognition. There was an old, conservative element in the city, however, which thought it might be just as well to wait a bit and see who and what Mr. "Swiftwater" might be. After a short while the Klondike nabob closed his house, becoming weary of the inertia, and went to more congenial scenes. A few months later, it is said, the sheriff took the house into custody until its ownership could be finally settled.

"Swiftwater" had contracted a good many financial obligations in San Francisco, and after his departure some of the creditors thought that payment should be exacted, and so they brought attachment suits against the mining company of which "Swiftwater" was still president, seeking to hold his interests therein for the debts. The suits caused much comment in business and social circles, and the fact that "Swiftwater" was not made of money seemed to gradually find its way into the heads of those who had courted his attentions.

**Swiftwater's Bluff.**  
But the best part of the story remains to be told. When "Swiftwater" left Dawson on his trip out two years ago, he only had a small sum of money with him. Before leaving he went to a friend there and borrowed \$5000, giving his clean-up from a sixteenth interest in No. 13 Eldorado as security. He had \$4000 of his own, and with the \$5000 borrowed, possessed exactly \$9000 in dust. This sum furnished him with the means to spend a winter outside. When he struck the United States and began to throw dollars in all directions, the impression soon gained ground that he was immensely rich and could afford to light his cigars with \$100 bills. As he went East cutting a 100-foot swath across the country, he tipped porters and waiters in sixteenth fashion, and they gladly spread his fame as a rival of Rockefeller. The news was printed in the Eastern papers that a new Croesus had appeared, and he was welcomed with open arms by the plutocrats of the Atlantic coast—all from a sixteenth interest in No. 13 Eldorado.

His Eastern trip cost him a good part of his ready cash, and so he cut it short and returned to San Francisco, where the mining company already mentioned was organized and the house purchased in Oakland.

The Rainier-Grand hotel will be the scene tonight of a merry banquet given in honor of the officers of the battleship Iowa. It is understood the affair will be quite formal, and covers for only 30 will be laid. The guests will be Capt. Terry and the officers of the warship, Mayor Humes, Senator Scott, and the heads of the city departments, together with the army officers in the city. The toasts will all be of a patriotic nature.

**AFTER "BLIND PIGS."**  
The authorities are making a raid on the stands at the parks, which have been selling liquors without a license. Detective made 11 arrests yesterday, and the parties all pleaded guilty. Fines ranging from \$40 to \$100 have been imposed yesterday by Justice Cann.

"The Passion Play" at the Jefferson theater next week as an exhibition for the family.

The Crigler

### Report Denied.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 24.—Inquiries have been coming in all day at the War department relative to the source of information that has it that Ota will be recalled from the Philippines. Acting Secretary McKeljohn says the story is untrue.

### DROWNED AT DAWSON

Burk Scott, a brother-in-law of F. R. Butterworth, of this city, was drowned at Dawson on June 5. He went to the Klondike four years ago, and owned claim No. 59 on Bonanza creek. He was 35 years of age. His relatives went to the Humboldt this afternoon, expecting him on the boat but instead of meeting him they were notified of his death.

### BIDS FOR NEW BRIDGE

Bids for the bridge across the White river at Orilla were opened yesterday by the county commissioners. The structure is to be a drawbridge with a steel span 158 feet long. The following are the bids: Puget Sound Dredging company, \$12,980; Savage & Scofield, \$13,140; Northwest Bridge company, \$13,370; Seattle Bridge company, \$13,500; Van Norman Bridge Co., \$13,600; Pacific Bridge company, \$14,000; Robt. Wakfield, \$14,840; Smith & Howard, \$15,375. The bids were taken under advisement by the commissioners.

### AMUSEMENTS.

The amusements next week will be varied. At the Seattle theater, beginning Friday night in three performances, Herbert Keiley and Kiffe Shannon will appear in "The Moth and the Flame." The drama is from the pen of Clyde Fitch, and Seattle people will see this clever performance which captivated Eastern audiences, exactly as put on before them. The dialogue is said to be bright, and many clever pictures are presented.

At the Jefferson theater, the Passion Play, which has had such a phenomenal run in London, New York and other large cities, will be produced. The Passion Play is endorsed by the greatest thinkers of the day. All classes agree that it is a soul-inspiring and intensely interesting stage production. From an educational and historical standpoint it is considered one of the best things before the American public today. Beginning Monday night, the Passion Play will be on all the week.

The Oberon, Seattle's new concert hall, opened last Monday night. The ladies' orchestra has been engaged, and several specialty artists.

### OPEN AIR MEETING.

The first open-air mass meeting in the interest of municipal ownership will be held Monday night at Pioneer square. Good speakers have been secured for the occasion, among whom are Clark Davis, Everett Smith, and it is probable that J. Allen Smith will be on the program. This meeting will be the initial number of the campaign of open air discussions in favor of municipal ownership.

### Y.M.C.A. SPRING HANDICAP

The annual spring handicap meet of the Y. M. C. A. is being held this afternoon at the Y. M. C. A. park. Much interest is shown in the events, and a large crowd is present. The entries were closed Wednesday. Three clubs entered teams, and several individuals entered from the University of Washington. The teams are: Seattle Y. M. C. A., Seattle Athletic club and the Tacoma Y. M. C. A.

The fine weather for the last few days has offered splendid opportunities for training, and some splendid results are expected.

The officers of the meet are: Referee, Winlock W. Miller, S. A. C.; starter, P. C. Curtis, Tacoma; handicapper, John A. Whalley; timers, Prof. A. W. Crane, Prof. C. W. Van Derveer and A. G. Douthett; track judges, S. M. Humes, Dr. C. B. Ford and R. G. Russell; field judges, H. C. Coffman, H. R. Ferris, F. A. Frederick; clerk of the course, C. A. Harlow, Y. M. C. A.; scorers, J. B. Corbett, Jr., Charles Sewell; marshal, William H. Lewis.

### STATE RED CROSS MEETS

The past week has been a banner one for the club women of the state, and delegates were here from all over to attend the Women's Federation of Clubs. The State Red Cross Society took advantage of their presence and held its meeting yesterday in the City library rooms, and it was attended by many ladies—so many, in fact, that standing-room could not be had. Mrs. Jno. B. Allen, state president, was not in attendance, as she had left for Spokane to attend the funeral of her brother-in-law, Hiram E. Allen, and Mrs. C. W. Greggs, of Tacoma, presided. The ladies discussed plans for taking care of the volunteers when they arrive from Manila, but no definite steps were taken.

Reports were received from the Alaska Auxiliary Red Cross movement which showed the helpful work done among the mining camps in the frozen north. Good reports were received from the State Red Cross delegates and the meeting adjourned to meet again July 12.

### CHICAGO AT A TRUST'S MERCY

CHICAGO, Ill., June 24.—Officials of the gas trust have served notice on the city that they will not allow the gas to be turned after the appropriation is used until they have assurances that the bill will be paid. The estimates prepared by the comptroller show that the fund is nearly depleted. Only \$300,000 was appropriated by the council for this purpose, though over \$600,000 was expended last year in gas lighting.

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