

DEATH ENDS IT.

The Last of a Celebrated Contest

AND A FAMOUS CHARACTER.

William McGarrahan Dies Suddenly at Washington.

WELL-KNOWN AT THE CAPITAL.

He Had Devoted Years of His Life to the Fight for a Mine Which He Claimed.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—William McGarrahan, the celebrated claimant to the New Idria mine, died at the Providence Hospital at 11:45 to-day. McGarrahan has been a familiar figure at the Capitol for years, and was well known to the Senators and members, a majority of whom believed



William McGarrahan.

in the justice of his claim. The bill to permit the trial of his case in the Court of Claims was passed by Congress, but vetoed by President Harrison. Several other bills have been passed by one or the other House and a score of committees have reported unfavorably on the claim.

Mr. McGarrahan's health broke down completely about ten days ago, rendering necessary that he should be taken to the hospital. He visited the House for the last time last Friday in the interest of his bill, and when he returned to the hospital he was exhausted. He did not get out again. Death was due to a complication of diseases which began to show their effect about a year ago. Dropsy developed in a few days and after that he sank rapidly until the end came.

McGarrahan was before the public eye for a quarter of a century in a most singular position. Indeed, his life and its many trials were the wonder of Washington and also of many people in California for years past. At one time he was a prosperous merchant in San Francisco, had a host of friends, and the community had every reason to respect him. Then he went to the national capital, there to fight for a mining claim which he honestly and profoundly believed to be his by right. He partly passed from the gaze of Californians, though at intervals his name appeared in connection with a lawsuit which has become memorable, if not historical. Adverse decisions of lower courts only strengthened his determination to carry on the fight in the highest tribunal of the land. Even in this court of last resort he was defeated, and still maintaining an abiding faith in the justice of his claim, he applied for satisfaction at both houses of Congress.

McGarrahan was a pioneer among California pioneers. He came West when the State was in its infancy, and nearly half a century ago acquired a ranch by purchase under a Mexican title. This title was at the time understood to be protected by treaty, and consequently no doubt about the validity of McGarrahan's claim was entertained. He had no idea either that his land was worth more than its value as grazing land, but later on an exceedingly valuable deposit of cinnabar ore was discovered upon it. Then an American corporation was formed to operate the deposits and extract quicksilver from the ore. The company went to work quietly and settled on the land, claiming title thereto on a United States mining patent.

The remembrance of McGarrahan was met with a deaf ear, as the mining corporation paid no attention to his claim of ownership. With the influence and advantage that wealth gives, the newly formed corporation continued its operations, and when he sued in local courts they met him on every count. And the result was always what might be expected—success for the corporation.

When the contest began McGarrahan was a wholesale liquor merchant in this city with a good trade and very bright prospects ahead. His business, remunerative as it was, soon became a matter of secondary importance. He plunged into the legal contest, which passed from one avenue to another, rising with each successive step until it ended in the United States Supreme Court. Three different fights were made before this bench and three times the decisions were given against McGarrahan.

Defeated in the courts, he appealed to Congress, with varying success in both houses. Various bills were passed for his relief for the express purpose of giving McGarrahan a chance to establish his rights in a legal sense.

Manager Maxwell of the New Idria mine, which was the bone of contention, was told last night of McGarrahan's death. "Is that fellow dead?" he asked. "He ought to have died years ago. All I know about him is he kept a whisky-shop, or ginmill, here in San Francisco. He was a wholesale whisky-dealer, of course, but I call it a whisky-shop, all the same. He set up some kind of fraudulent claim to our mine and cost the company \$1,000,000. That's all I know about him."

This uncharitable effusion, spoken in a contemptuous manner, showed plainly how bitter was the feeling against the man who made an honest fight for his rights. McGarrahan always had the reputation of being generous to a fault, frank, warm-hearted and independent in spirit. So he was respected by all who knew him, except, perhaps, those who were pitted against him. He was a man well beyond the prime of life, but yet in possession of health up to the time of his fatal sickness. His trials and disappointments hastened the coming of his end.

Suspended Payment.
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FOR A PRIVATE CLAIM.

Canal Company Had Permitted Judgments to Be Taken.

It Is Said There Is Nothing of International Interest in the Story From Bluefields.

GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE.

Governor Markham Pardons Several State Prison Convicts.
SACRAMENTO, April 24.—Upon the recommendation of the State Board of Prison Directors, Governor Markham has granted the following commutations of sentences of prisoners in State penitentiaries:
Francisco Zetti, convicted of assault to murder, and sentenced to Sierra County in February, 1884, to twenty-four years' imprisonment, had his sentence reduced to seven years.
The life sentence of Felix Polinski, imprisoned in August, 1878, for murder in the first degree, was commuted to twenty-nine and a half years. The prisoner is now 71 years old.
C. M. Garrett, sentenced in Los Angeles in January, 1890, to ten years for incest, is released because it appears he was a victim of a conspiracy.
The woman who was then supposed to be his daughter had made a confession that she had sworn falsely against Garrett.

IT WAS FOUL PLAY.

People on the Schooner Mary Brown Were Killed.

VICTORIA, B. C., April 24.—To-day Mrs. Hazelton of San Francisco, who returned from the North after a search for her brother, James L. O'Brien, lost in the schooner Mary Brown, called on the Collector of Customs, Indian Commissioner Vowell and the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company to thank them for courtesies and assistance.
She and Mr. Carlie, who accompanied her, lost contact with the schooner on the coast of British Columbia. They have with them O'Brien's vest, which has in it three distinct knife cuts, one directly over where the heart would be and one at the neck, and a bullet hole through it. Three silver watches, which are supposed to be O'Brien's, and other articles of the schooner, which were purchased from Indians.
They are satisfied that no one survived the wreck, but are convinced there was foul play.

SEVERAL SHOTS FIRED.

Fight Between a Sheriff's Posse and Robbers in Oregon.

KLAMATH FALLS, April 24.—Last Friday two men called at John Johnson, an American City of Seattle. They demanded \$3000, and when they refused to pay a silver dollar, and while Johnson was trying to get his hands on the men, they ordered him to open his safe. Johnson did so, and delivered over to the robbers its contents, which amounted to \$3000.
The robbers mounted their horses and fled, followed by a posse from Bly, and on Sunday were overtaken near Lake View, where a battle ensued. The robbers were killed, and the others and resulted in the capture of the outlaws after several shots were fired.

FOR THE FAR NORTH.

Wellman's Expedition Sailed for Spitzbergen.

ALESUND, Norway, April 24.—The American Northern Polar Expedition, under the command of Walter Wellman, started to-day for the island of Spitzbergen on the steamer Ragvold Jarl, which has been chartered for the expedition. Experts here pronounce the steamer the best boat in Norway. The aluminum boats the expedition carry were greatly admired here for their beauty, strength and lightness. Prior to the departure a large number of cable dispatches expressing well wishes for the success of the expedition were received from the United States.

CAUGHT IN THE GALE.

Fishing-Boats Wrecked Off the Coast of Ireland.

DUBLIN, April 24.—A terrific gale prevailed to-day out on the southern coast of Ireland. The storm was particularly severe in the Skibbereen district. There was a large fleet of Scotch, English and Irish fishing-boats off the coast when the gale set in. Some of them made for port, while others remained, thinking they could outride the sea. It is feared many of the latter have been wrecked. Scores of them are missing and much wreckage has been washed ashore. Reports from various parts of the south coast show that great damage was done on land.

SWUNG TO AND FRO.

Peculiar Antics of the Venetian Tower in Chalois.

LONDON, April 24.—The correspondent at Atlanta of the Times says he has visited Chalois, the capital of the northern part of the island of Euboea, which was greatly affected by the recent earthquakes. He found 200 houses destroyed and the new cathedral badly damaged.
The lofty Venetian tower in the center of the town swung to and fro so violently that it knocked down adjoining walls, though it remained standing itself and sustained no damage.

TURNED ON THE GAS.

A Distinguished Frenchman Asphyxiated in New York.

NEW YORK, April 24.—A Ledger la Roche, director of the first class of the French Ministry of the Interior, was found dead to-day in a room at the Hotel de Paris on Christopher street.
He was a guest there awaiting the sailing of the next French steamer. He had turned the stop of the gas jet too far, and his death was caused by escaping gas. A coroner's jury rendered a verdict of accidental death.

CASE WAS SETTLED.

Bank President Charles W. Waldron Squares Things.

WHITCOMB, Wash., April 24.—The complaint against Banker Charles W. Waldron, charging him with having received a large sum of county money for deposit at the Whitcomb County Bank, knowing it to be in falling circumstances, was this evening dismissed on motion of the County Attorney.
A settlement was effected to the full satisfaction of the County Commissioners, as Waldron promptly returned the money in full, as he said, to force a return of the "accommodation certificates" for \$20,500 issued by him to enable the treasurer to make a showing satisfactory to the commissioners in December last.

REFERRED TO SUB-COMMITTEE.

It Will Dispose of Mr. Boatner's Resolution.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—The House Judiciary Committee to-day referred to a sub-committee of five, of which Boatner is chairman, the latter's resolution authorizing the President to begin suits against the Pacific railroads for the recovery of the indebtedness due the Government.

Yeaman Favorably Reported.

WASHINGTON, April 24.—The nomination of James D. Yeaman to be Interstate Commerce Commissioner was favorably reported by the Senate in a second executive session to-day.

Mexican War Pioneer.

MADERA, April 24.—Captain R. P. Mace, an old-time pioneer and veteran of the Mexican War, died this morning, falling quietly into a slumber which he could not be awakened.
He was well known throughout the State, having been twice elected to the Legislature. He was aged 74.

Midwinter Fair Baggage Notice.

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