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SKAGUAY, ALASKA, MONDAY, JULY 11, 1898

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THE BRANNICK HOTEL.

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All Modern Improvements. Sample Rooms for Commercial Men.
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May 1st. 1898

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To Dawson City? The Bennett Lake and Klondike Transportation Company are now operating the three large and commodious steamers ORA AND FLORA.
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Steam and Lager Beer on Draught 10 CENTS, STRAIGHT.
All kinds of Cold Lunches and Sandwiches.
Hot Lunch from 11 a. m. to 3 p. m.
DEUTSCHES HOUS.

HUNTED LIKE WILD BEASTS

Bowers and his Pals Captured.

THROW UP THEIR HANDS

Slim Jim Jumps From a Second Story Window but is Soon Recaptured.

Since our last issue on Saturday afternoon there was no lull in the excitement, no diminution of the crowds in the streets night or day, or in the number of citizens armed with Winchesters patrolling or scurrying hither and thither on the hunt for the rest of Soapy's gang. At 6 o'clock on Saturday evening fourteen of the suspected men had been captured and were under a strict guard in the City Hall. About midnight another and very important capture was made of the man who was with Soapy on the dock, armed with a gun against the people. As he came up some one cried, "They have killed Soapy; and if you don't clear out quick they will kill you too." He returned to town on the double quick and nothing more was seen of him until he was dragged from his bed on Saturday night and brought up to the City Hall. Later two or three other men were captured in the same house, and the arrests continued up to midnight last night, before which time the City Hall had been surrounded by a large number of men who were imprisoned in the upper rooms of the Burkhard hotel. In all about thirty were taken in, but the exact number and their names was as far as possible kept a secret.

All this time the efforts of the citizens were particularly directed to the capture of Bowers, Tripp, Wilder and Slim Jim, the men who actually stole the sack of gold dust. All the trails and the wharves were guarded, with the exception of that to the waterworks. As this did not lead to anywhere it was not thought of, but subsequent developments show that this was the route taken by the four desperadoes immediately after Soapy was shot.

Shortly before 5 o'clock Sunday morning a citizen who had been on guard duty and had returned to his cabin near Herman and Shoup streets for a much-needed nap, saw from his window a man passing whom he believed to be Tripp. He rushed out, and finding it to be the bunco man, immediately arrested him.

"Well," said Tripp, with an air of cool resignation, "I suppose I've only about a quarter of an hour to live."

"Is that about all you think a man such as you deserves?" he was asked.

"Guess it is," was the quiet rejoinder.

Tripp afterwards told a straightforward story of his actions from the time of the shooting up to that of his arrest. He was "laying low" in the hotel where other arrests were made Sunday evening, when word was brought him that Soapy had been shot. He and the three others at once slunk by way of Morris' lot to the slaughterhouse and up the waterworks trail. They had revolvers with them but had not time to think of getting food or blankets.

The first night they slept near the lake and remained in hiding all the next day. Saturday night almost famished with hunger they hit the trail again and came down to the slaughterhouse with the hope of escaping by boat or of getting back to friendly cabins. It seemed too risky to attempt to pass the lines of armed patrolmen, however, and shortly after 2 o'clock they started back up the trail. Tripp, who is an old man, was tired out and refused to go back. His companions expostulated with him for an hour, but he stuck to his declaration that he "would rather be hung on a full stomach than die of starvation in the mountains." So he was at length permitted to return.

As to the actual robbery he also gave an apparently fair account, freely acknowledging that he himself snatched the sack of gold and took it into Soapy's parlors. He handed it to the barkeeper (who is also under arrest), another man whom he named being present. A few minutes afterwards Soapy himself came in and told Tripp that he had got the dust all right.

What became of the sack afterward Tripp declared that he did not know and that if he did he would say so. He had himself gone to Soapy and advised him that "the people were making such a stink about the job it would be wise to give the stuff up." Smith made no reply. He could not say, either, who would be likely to know where the dust was. He felt certain that only one, or possibly two men, would have Smith's confidence in such a case, and he could give no hint as to who was likely to possess the secret.

After Tripp's statement that he had left Bowers and the other two men on the waterworks trail that morning, there were plenty of armed volunteers to scale the mountain and beat its face foot by foot, and also to go to the falls and the lake, but the careful search made proved unsuccessful.

At nine o'clock a report came in that the men had been seen near the cemetery, and a strong posse immediately started for that point, some on horses, others on foot. Part of these were the wagon road and the remainder formed a cordon to beat the woods. As this cordon moved slowly forward the bushes back of the cemetery were seen to move. The command was immediately given to the men supposed to be in hiding to throw up their hands or be fired upon. One of them, after a brief pause, shouted, "All right," and Bowers stepped from cover with his hands above his head. The other two followed him. They were forced to walk ahead still holding up their hands until the larger body of armed citizens in the road below was reached, when they were searched and their weapons taken from them.

When the prisoners were brought into town about eleven o'clock there was the greatest excitement seen since the shooting. The neighborhood of the city hall was black, with people and ringing cheers broke out again and again.

Some of the more excited were for lynching the prisoners but at half past eleven Commissioner Sehlbrede hurried to the scene, and begged the people to maintain the good order up to that time well observed. His words had an undoubted influence. He then ordered the prisoners to be removed to the second floor of the Burkhard Hotel, for better protection and the better facilities offered for the examination of the prisoners.

For an hour the crowd remained eagerly discussing the situation and many demanding that the three men be summarily dealt with unless they would disclose where the stolen gold dust was secreted. Then a shot was fired. Everyone seemed to know in the same moment that Bowers had escaped. There was a rush for the rear of the hotel premises. A score more shots were rapidly fired. The prisoner recaptured and proved to be Slim Jim. Then the demand to lynch him was renewed with some force, and Slim pitifully pleaded for mercy or at least a little time. Leading citizens surrounded him, however, and coolly held back the more excited of the crowd.

Just in the nick of time up came Capt. Yeatman with seventeen or eighteen of the regulars from Dyea. Slim was taken back to the Burkhard and very soon complete order was restored, the citizens who had for so many long hours been doing patrol duty returning to their homes for much-needed sleep.

The threats of the crowd reaching the ears of Slim he had made a dash through the second story back window. The rifles were fired to give the alarm and to inform him that he was so well surrounded that escape was impossible. He had barely reached Broadway before he was again in custody and pleading for his life.

The woman who lived with Soapy endeavored to leave town on the City of Seattle. She was brought back and examined and her trunks searched.

SOAPY & CO'S SILENT PARTNER.

A Resolute Committee Pledged to Unearth Him.

THE SOLDIERS ARE GONE.

Citizens Promise to Protect the Prisoners and to Maintain Order.

The plan of the citizens last night was to bring the prisoners before Commissioner Sehlbrede, have those committed to Sitka against whom there was direct evidence and to order the remainder of those known to be disorderly characters to leave the town. The hearing was to begin at ten o'clock, but meanwhile a committee was at work with the prisoners, endeavoring to discover the hiding place of the stolen gold, and this had not completed its labors, but continued then throughout the day.

As there was a crowd impatiently waiting for the trial to begin, and as it was impossible for the committee to make a full and complete report without further investigation of the clues already obtained, it was deemed advisable to inform the citizens of what was being done and also to ask their further pleasure. Also it was thought well to give a warning that although Capt. Yeatman and his men had returned to Dyea, the first act of violence would bring the soldiers back and result in the town being placed under martial law.

At three o'clock Acting-Deputy Marshal J. M. Tanner mounted a dray in front of the city hall, and said he desired to make a statement to the citizens. He desired to ask them if they would support him and his deputies, or if they desired to have the military quartered on the town—not for a day or a week, but for a long season. It was for the citizens to decide the situation and returned with his men to Dyea. He had only done so upon the solemn assurance of the acting marshal and the leading business men that order would be maintained, and that the men arrested would be protected and have a fair trial.

Captain Yeatman had said, continued the acting marshal, that he had special orders from the president and could take charge here at any time and declare martial law. If the men now imprisoned were not protected and given fair trial he would be bound in honor to do this.

Mr. Tanner assured the citizens that those found guilty would be punished, from the highest to the lowest, and asked if they would leave the matter in the hands of the investigating committee and pledge themselves to protect the prisoners until they had been fairly tried and Skaguay cleared of this disorderly element. If people wanted violence they would have first to overcome him and his deputies. (Cheers.)

H. E. Battin next addressed the gathering. He said: "You all know that Soapy Smith has silent partners. (Cries of "Yes, Yes.") The committee is trying to get at these partners. They are the men to hang if you must take the law in your own hands—which I don't think you will—men who have elevated themselves on a pedestal of seeming morality and robbed the public. Those are the men your committee is trying to locate. (Cheers.)

"You must not expect to cure in a day, a disease the growth of months. You cannot cure the present state of things by a hanging. There are punishments much better in every sense to fit the crime; and you do not desire it to go out to the world that the people of Skaguay could not control themselves.

"You may rely upon it that no guilty man will escape the committee, whoever he may be. A few of these prisoners we have evidence enough against to convict; there are perhaps twenty others that we cannot convict although we may feel that they deserve it. What the committee does it will do quietly, and the moral atmosphere of Skaguay will be cleaned. But if there is any act of violence then we shall have martial law and your property and homes will not be worth a nickel. Business will come to a standstill. I have been requested to ask if you are satisfied with the committee as it stands or would like to nominate others."

Some one asked who were the committee and Mr. Battin gave the names as follows: Tanner, Sylvester, Battin, Burns, C. E. Hawkins (engineer of the railroad) President Graves, of the railroad, Freeman, Whitten, and Humbert. As they were read the crowd cried "good" or "he's all right," and someone suggested that Mr. Rennie's name be added, which was done.

Someone asked if Mr. Stewart could not be paid the amount of the gold stolen from him, to which Mr. Battin answered that

[Continued on Fourth Page.]