

# STRYCHNINE KILLED DAWSON, IS VERDICT

## Coroner's Jury Recommends Widow Be Held for Further Investigation.

### DAUGHTER TAKES STAND

#### Domestic Strife Over Child Is Exposed and Mrs. Dawson Tells of Little Trick to Get Her Husband's Attention.

Mrs. Johannah Dawson will be held for further investigation into the death of her husband, George S. Dawson, by strychnine poisoning. This was the verdict of the coroner's jury just before midnight, after spending 10 hours hearing the evidence in the case.

George S. Dawson came to his death by means of strychnine poisoning, administered or taken in some manner unknown. The jury recommends that Mrs. Johannah Dawson be held for further investigation by the authorities, read the verdict.

Deputy District Attorney Ryan said last night that probably he would submit the case to the grand jury.

For three hours Mrs. Dawson was on the stand. She testified willingly, talked freely and did not once falter. For two hours Mr. Ryan questioned her, but in many instances she managed to evade definite statements.

#### Witness Conspicuous Figure.

Dressed in black, her sharp eyes peering from beneath a black veil, Mrs. Dawson was a conspicuous figure in the hearing. While others were testifying she leaned forward in her chair, eager to catch every word. She displayed no signs of nervousness, she smiled at many of the questions. On the stand she talked rapidly and incessantly.

Little additional evidence was brought out at the inquest.

There was a total absence of malice or words of blame from any of the witnesses. Most of them were relatives or neighbors and members of the same church. None of them could be led into a statement which might implicate or cast suspicion on anyone else.

#### "Higher Power" Felt.

"Even now," said Mrs. Dawson on the stand, "I feel that there was any strychnine in George's stomach. A higher power seems to tell me it isn't so."

"Let us assume," said the attorney, "that a man and a woman are alone in a house. They have breakfast, and a few minutes afterward the man dies of strychnine poisoning. One or the other must have administered the poison. Isn't that so?"

"You'll have to assume yourself," replied Mrs. Dawson. "I can't assume. I just tell what I know."

The jury consisted of F. J. Yenneke, B. F. Daly, R. H. Hanley, N. N. Calkins, W. B. Hanley and J. P. Hanley, Deputy Coroner J. J. Dunning conducted the inquest.

Ruth Dawson, the 17-year-old daughter of the dead man, over whom the trouble between the Dawsons is alleged to have started, first was called to the stand. Under questioning, the girl testified that she had been peaceful in the family. The morning before her father's death she quarreled with Mrs. Dawson, she said.

"She told me," testified the girl, "that I couldn't stay there that night and needn't come back to the house at all. I went to Mrs. Dunbar's home, in Lents."

A letter from Mr. Dawson to Ruth, in which allusion was made to the girl's dead mother, was introduced, and the girl was asked to read it to the jury. This letter, Mrs. Dawson admitted later, was the immediate cause of her filing suit for divorce from Dawson two months ago.

#### Married Daughter Testifies.

Mrs. H. A. Dimmock, Dawson's married daughter, was next on the stand.

"Father came to our house Tuesday night, July 14, and told me he had quarreled with mother," she said. "He told me she had said 'if you don't leave here now, you never will.'"

"I said, 'Oh, Harry, do you think she would dare to do anything to him?'" replied Mrs. Dimmock, reluctantly. "That was the most natural thing for me to think of, after their quarrel the night before," she explained later.

Dr. W. T. Stout, who was called to the Dawson home a few minutes before the man died, testified that the symptoms were those of strychnine poisoning. He said he instructed Mrs. Dawson to save the food that was on the table for analysis.

Frank Dawson read several letters written to him by his father, telling of trouble between Mr. and Mrs. Dawson.

#### Mrs. Dawson Takes Stand.

"I was not feeling well that morning," she said, in telling of the circumstances surrounding the death of her husband. "I got up and prepared his breakfast. He had three eggs, toast, cheese and two cups of coffee. I poured myself a cup of coffee, but I can't remember whether or not I poured his first one. That's not exactly clear."

She dwelt on this question until interrupted by the District Attorney.

"Did you have a disagreement with Mr. Dawson at the breakfast table?" he asked.

"No," she answered. "When he finished his breakfast I was lying on the sofa. I wasn't feeling well, and, besides, I wanted him to think that because he wouldn't make Ruth go to work that I was going to leave him."

"Why did you want him to think that?" she was asked.

"Oh, I wanted my husband to make over me a little, which I believe is a trick of womankind in general."

"He kissed me several times before he left, for we had made up our quarrel the night before," continued Mrs. Dawson. "Then he came back again and said he was not feeling well. He said, 'The coffee or something has made me sick.' I told him it was only a bilious attack, and to go on to work. He said he didn't believe he would go to work. I told him he would lose his job if he didn't, and he said that didn't make much difference if I was going to leave him."

A report from City Chemist Calloway, declaring there was no trace of strychnine in any of the other food found in the house or in the coffee taken from the pot, was introduced by Deputy District Attorney Ryan.

#### DROWNING VICTIMS FOUND

Bodies of Childs and Ewin Recovered by Grappler Brady.

The bodies of Edward M. Childs and Haskell Ewin, who were drowned in Columbia slough last Sunday, were recovered yesterday by Municipal Grappler Brady.

#### BONFIRES ARE UNDER BAN

Chief Dowell Takes Precaution as Result of Brush Flames.

Because of the fire danger due to the dry condition of the woods and unkept tracts of land, no bonfire permits are to be granted in the outskirts of the city or in South Portland on the West Side until the city is visited by a shower. Fire Chief Dowell decided upon this yesterday as a result of a series of fires originating in small fires built in South Portland in the last few days.

With the wind blowing and grass and other inflammable materials as dry



Mrs. Johannah Dawson Leaving the Inquest Over the Death of Her Husband.

#### \$800,000 IN GOLD IN PORT

Year's Record Bullion Arrives in Seattle From Alaska.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 21.—Eight hundred thousand dollars in gold bullion, the largest consignment received from the North this year, was brought from Nome, Alaska, by the steamship Victoria, which arrived today.

The Victoria also had \$75,000 worth of furs.

For baby's comfort—Santiseptic Lotion. Adv.

## H. H. EMMONS HURT

### Women Rescue Portland Lawyer From Beneath Auto.

### INJURY MAY BE FATAL

#### Touring Car Goes Over Embankment Near Goble, Or., Crushing Attorney and Injuring Other Occupants of Machine.

H. H. Emmons, a Portland attorney, was seriously, if not fatally injured, when a large touring car in which he was riding, plunged over a 20-foot embankment, near Goble, Or., Monday, and pinned him on a log, part of the weight of the machine resting upon his throat. Mr. Emmons nearly strangled and had it not been for the efforts of Miss Sarah J. Kaninsky, Mrs. Emmons and Mrs. William Greagan, Mr. Emmons probably would have died of strangulation.

Attorney Emmons was called to Goble Monday on business. He invited Mrs. Emmons, Miss Kaninsky and Mrs. Greagan to accompany him in a livery automobile, of which A. Hall was the driver. About one-half mile out from Goble on the return trip, Mr. Hall complained that the steering wheel was not working properly. A moment later the machine turned towards the outside of the elevated road and tumbled over the embankment, turning turtle.

#### Women Quick to Rescue.

The automobile struck on a log. Mr. Emmons was lying on his back on the log with the machine resting upon his chest and throat. The three women passengers freed themselves easily and crawled out from beneath the car. Seeing the purple face of Mr. Emmons, they worked frantically to free him. Their efforts to raise or remove the car were of no avail. Then they dug into the log about Emmons' throat and succeeded in tearing off pieces of the rotten log until some of the weight was removed from the attorney's throat.

By these methods, Mrs. Emmons, Miss Kaninsky and Mrs. Greagan succeeded in removing the log and freeing Mr. Emmons and Mr. Hall. The latter was not seriously injured and was sent to get help.

#### Recovery Hope Slight.

Mr. Hall returned with an automobile party of rescuers headed by Sheriff Lake, of St. Helens, and in which was a physician. Mr. Emmons received temporary assistance and was rushed in the machine to St. Vincent's Hospital, where surgeons worked over him until a late hour last night. Slight hope for his recovery is held.

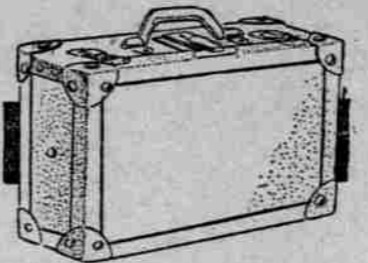
Mr. Emmons sustained a fracture of two ribs, one of which punctured the lungs, and other minor injuries. The remainder of the party were bruised and slightly injured.

Mr. Emmons is 55 years old and has been practicing law in Portland for several years, with an office in the Boardman station. Miss Kaninsky has been employed in Mr. Emmons' office.

#### Etta Weller Asks Heart Balm.

That she disregarded his vows to marry her is the basis of a claim for \$25,000 damages made in a breach of promise action filed yesterday by Etta Weller against John I. Routledge. It is alleged that the defendant asked the plaintiff

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## EXPERTS VIEW HIGHWAY

### ROAD FROM ELLENSBURG IS BEING WELL BUILT BY CONTRACTORS.

#### Sixty Per Cent of Work is Now Done and Part of Line Will Be Open When Spring Travel Starts.

ELLENSBURG, Wash., July 21.—(Special.)—William R. Roy, State Highway Commissioner; State Highway Engineer Alle, I. C. Ottis, State Engineer in charge of the Sunset Highway, and P. J. McHugh, the general contractor for the 28 miles of the Sunset Highway to be built this year, completed a trip of inspection by foot over the portion of the road which has been constructed from North Bend to Lake Keechelus.

There they were met by Mr. Quigg, of the Quigg Construction Company, and spent the afternoon in consultation. After a three days' trip they returned to Seattle Sunday night. The construction work is about 60 per cent completed.

The Sunset Highway starts two miles east of North Bend and the end is on this side of the summit near Lake Keechelus, the new Summer resort. Here it connects with the old state highway. The maximum grade is 5 per cent. The bridges, three of them, are of steel construction. Those over the Snoqualmie River have 80-foot spans and the steel is placed on concrete abutments.

The road surface is to be of dirt for the present. Later, it will probably

## Brothers Drowned When Swimming.

OAKLAND, Cal., July 21.—James Hudson and his brother Allen, were drowned today when swimming in the Oakland Estuary. James, who was 14, was seized with a cramp. Allen, two years older, jumped in to save him and was overcome and dragged down in the younger boy's death struggle.

## POLICE FEAR FOUL PLAY

### Letter Found in Coat of Bert James Tells of Family Ruction.

The finding of the coat of Bert James, a contractor, on the Ainsworth dock early yesterday, and the subsequent discovery that when last seen James was said to have had \$600 on him, has caused the police to fear he has met with foul play.

James disappeared from his home, 1222 East Seventeenth street, at noon Monday. He had the money to pay off some of the men he employed.

In the pocket of the coat was found a letter addressed to his married daughter in Idaho. The letter had been written last Friday, and had never been mailed. It recites some family troubles which, in the opinion of the authorities, makes suicide a possible explanation of James' disappearance.

## Carlton Brakeman Killed.

CARLTON, Or., July 21.—(Special.)—John I. Lipton, 25, brakeman on the Carlton & Coast Railroad, was killed at 6:30 o'clock last night when a car of logs rolled on him. He was switching the train at a curve 12 miles from here. As the train made the switch, the logs broke loose from their fastenings and mashed him. His cousin, G. J. Lipton, lives near Lents, Or. Mrs. Rowell, his mother, lives at New Kirk, Okla.

## Boy Scouts to Camp.

HOOD RIVER, Or., July 21.—(Special.)—Two citizens who drove over a fire hose when the home of J. B. Anderson, on Oak street, was burning a week ago were fined \$25 each. Ira E. Williams, a rancher, and J. R. Winston, an expert of the local horticultural experiment station, were the defendants. When brought before City Recorder Howa, Williams made a plea to have the complaint withdrawn.

## Farmer's Heirs Pay Big Tax.

OLYMPIA, Wash., July 21.—(Special.)—Charles K. Wood, a Whitman County farmer, left the greater part of his money to "strangers to the blood" and the estate therefore pays \$3206.44 to the state of Washington as inheritance tax. The value of Wood's separate property was \$34,431.47.

## Kittitas Veteran is Dead.

ELLENSBURG, Wash., July 21.—Howard Ebert, 75, an early settler of Kittitas Valley, died this morning from

## CROSSING HOSE COSTS \$25

### Two Men Accused at Hood River Are Tried and Fined.

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