

DEATH ENDS CASE

LOSS OF VALUABLE PAPERS ON ALASKAN TRAIL.

San Francisco Court Finds No Grounds for Suit Unless Dead Man Can be Found to Produce Necessary Documents.

San Francisco, Feb. 24.—Gripped in the fleshless hand of a dead man somewhere in the snowblown wilderness of Alaska there lies buried forever from human ken a precious document which would have been worth thousands in the United States circuit court of appeals yesterday. But human justice was forced to stop before the grim justice of nature, which had locked its secret fast within the mysterious expanse of the Arctic's frozen circle.

Within the sober court of the three circuit judges there was unraveled yesterday a tragedy of the north which even caused the ready speech of the attorneys to halt and break. The spirits of men left to perish upon the snow barrens of the frozen North or to endure the tortures of lingering want haunted the dingy red canopy over the heads of the magistrates. Northwestern Commercial Company vs. R. D. McDougal was merged into the vivid chancery of Life vs Death.

In the early arctic winter of 1900 R. D. McDougal, an almost moneyless miner from the interior, contracted for his passage from Nome to Seattle with the Northwestern Commercial Company. He gave them his last penny and agreed to make up the full dole of his passage by his labor. On the day of the vessel's

sailing he was sent ashore to help load a lighter after having taken his blankets and heavy clothing on board. That night the vessel sailed away in a blinding storm, leaving the miner to fight the winter penniless and without clothes.

He brought suit against the steamship company in the Alaska circuit court and gained judgment for \$11,000. From this judgment the Commercial company determined to take an appeal to the court of appeals for the ninth circuit meeting at San Francisco in the first week in February. To file their suit in time it was necessary to intrust it to the care of one of a party of men who were going overland by trail from Nome to Seattle.

With a transcript of record and a writ of error Dr. R. B. Miller started over the winter's trail. But the travels had not proceeded far when the rigors of the wilderness gripped them. More and more painful became each faltering step. Miller, the bearer of the precious documents, lagged farther and farther in the rear. At last he froze to death. The body and the documents were left to the wolves and the winds.

When the attorneys endeavored to plead their case before the magistrates yesterday they were asked to supply the necessary documents, and falling to do so their case was dismissed. The documents, which would have been worth thousands, were tight in a dead man's clutch far off somewhere in the depths of the lasting snows.

Hebrew Interpreter Wanted.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 24.—Uncle Sam greatly needs the services of some language students. A Hebrew interpreter, in particular, is wanted, and examinations for this position are to be held today in the chief cities of the country. The candidate selected will be assigned to the place of interpreter with the government immigration bureau at Montreal with a salary of \$1200.

EDUCATORS AT CINCINNATI.

Superintendents of the National Educational Association Meets Today in Cincinnati.

Cincinnati, O., Feb. 24.—The department of superintendents of the National Educational Association convened here today, the estimated attendance being 1,400 persons. The indications are that the gathering will prove to be one of the most successful ever held by the society, for nothing has been left undone which would conduce to the pleasure of the visitors. Many of the most prominent educators of the country are present, the number including Dr. W. T. Harris, United States commissioner of education; President Charles W. Eliot, of Harvard University, and President Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia University.

The opening session was held in St. Paul M. E. church, where the address of welcome was delivered by Superintendent Boone, of the Cincinnati public schools, with a response by Superintendent Jordan, of Minneapolis, president of the department. The regular program of papers and discussions was then taken up, to be continued during the next two days. Some of the principal topics to receive attention are as follows: Co-education in colleges and high schools; Reduction in time in the elementary grades; how to utilize fully the plant of a city school system; literature in the grades and how to use it; best methods of electing school boards; readjustment of the high school curriculum. At an open session this evening Dr. Harris is to tell the convention of the University of Oxford and the Rhodes scholarships.

Rev. C. M. Sheldon is at the head of a movement to establish at Topeka, Kan., a life insurance company that will only issue policies on the lives of Christians and total abstainers. All the churches of the United States are to be asked to assist the organization.

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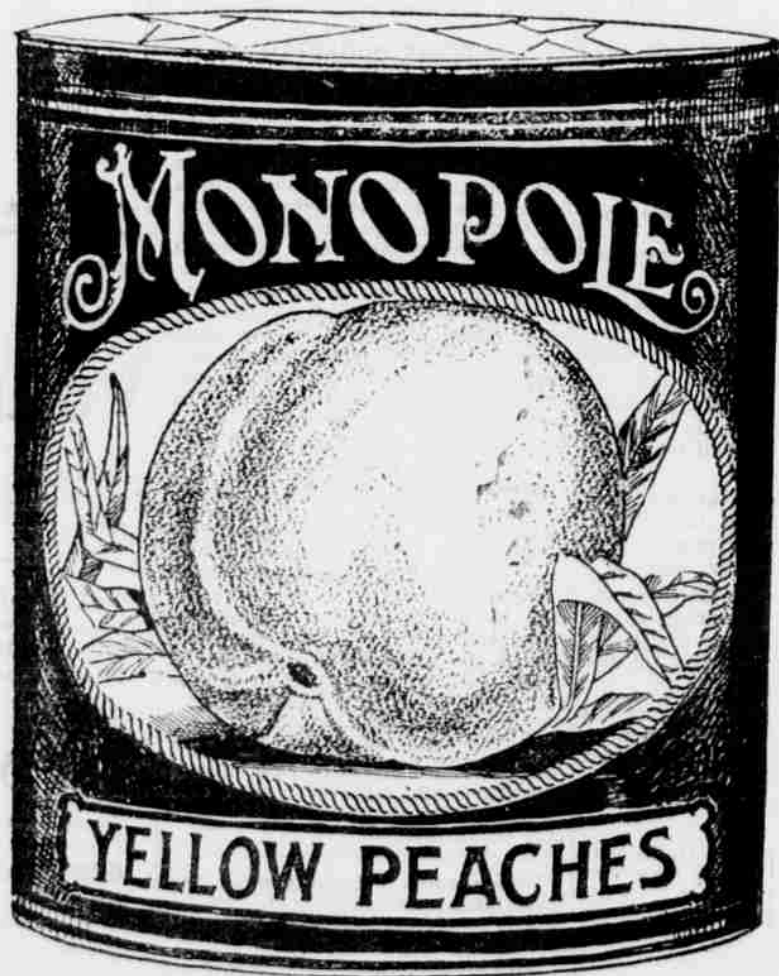
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