

LOUP CITY NORTHWESTERN

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PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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The Murder of W. H. Waite in Old Mexico

Full Particulars of the Dastardly Crime as Described in Letter Received from Near Friend of Dead Man

EVIDENTLY WORK OF BANDITS

No Witnesses to the Fearful Deed and Prob- ably Murderers will Never Be Apprehend- ed—Crime Common and Americans Getting Out of the Country Quickly as Possible

Medias Aguas, Ver., April 7, 1912.—
Mr. W. S. Waite, Loup City, Neb.—
Dear Mr. Waite: I went over to La
Esmeralda, the afternoon of the 5th,
as I wrote you I intended, doing, but
did not arrive there until about 9 p.
m. I found there Mr. True, a Mr.
Carlos Tolle, a doctor, judge and sec-
retary, from San Juan Evangelista, be-
sides a number of Tizamar men. The
doctor had already made his examina-
tion, and the authorities were begin-
ning to make the customary inventory
of the personal effects.

Your brother had been to visit Mr.
True that day, returning late in the
afternoon. Gregorio had been with
him until nearly dark. Evidently he
had been reading when these men
came upon him. As there were no
witnesses, I suppose we will never
know what took place, but there were
no evidences of a struggle and his
body was found about 25 meters
(steps) down the old trail leading to
the creek, with both hands bound
tightly in front and a deep knife
wound in the left side. He was lying
in the gully formed by the wear of
the path, just even with the first rub-
ber trees. Of course, no one knows
how he came to be lying at that
point. I have two or three theories,
but as they are only guesses, they
are not worth anything. There was a
candle and a book on the kitchen ta-
ble, as though he had been reading.
He had not yet retired, as he was
dressed as he was the day before. The
three doors were all open as they had
been the previous evening.

The 5th was a fiesta, so Gregorio
sent his little girl rather late to sweep
and clean up. She returned, telling
her father that Don Guillermo was
not there. They supposed he had gone
out somewhere, so sent the little girl
back somewhat later, but she again
returned with the same story, adding
that he had not yet made a fire for
breakfast. This was probably around
7 o'clock. Then Gregorio went to
look around for him. After calling a
few times, he became alarmed and
kept on going until he found him as
above described. His pockets were
turned inside out and I think his
watch was gone. I forgot about this
until the authorities were gone, so I
am not positive, but think I would
have seen the watch had they recov-
ered it, as I saw his rings.

These fellows had evidently begun
to rife his house. His box was open
and some of the things turned over.
The cash box was open and the inside
tray removed, but there were about
ten pesos (dollars) of small change
still in the tray, and in going through
the chest we found about fourteen
more of small change, nothing above
20-cent pieces. He must have had
some 50-cent and dollar pieces, as well
as some bills, but these were all
taken, as well as his gun and rain
coat. It is my theory that this was
committed by Tizamar men; that
probably they were disguised and
your brother recognized them at the
cost of his life; or that they were
frightened away before completing
the rifling of the house.

Fructuous Sanchez, that man of
mine who talks so much, was extrem-
ely useful. He seems to have
been the first there after the dis-
covery and immediately sent word to
me and to True, and then began to
look around for traces of the murder-
ers. In the sand of the creek banks
he found the tracks of three men, and
up on top of the bank a place where
they had evidently been sitting. I
suppose that they came through the
woods and brush from the road lead-
ing from Aholal to San Juan, which
you will remember is not far distant,
and remained hidden on the high
bank opposite the old gate or bars to
the creek until darkness fell and
Gregorio had gone to his own home.
I suppose it occurred in the neigh-
borhood of 8 o'clock.

We have pretty strong suspicions
who the men were. I gave the names
to the judge and strongly urged him
to get them. I also wrote a spanish
friend in San Juan to keep after the
judge. Unless some one keeps after
them I am sure that nothing will
ever be done by them. In fact, that
is the main trouble today with Mex-
ico, as I see it—the childish incom-
petence and indifference of the author-
ities from Madero on down.

I had a telegram from the Ameri-
can consul, in reply to mine to him
regarding this. He asked for further
details, which I gave him as soon as
I got back, and this morning I wrote
him fully. I have an idea that he
will prod up the authorities, too.

I took the responsibility of assum-
ing charge, as I felt sure that would
be your wish, and had the judge,
since the court will have to direct
somewhat for a short time according
to the custom, name Gregorio as the
one to be left on the place. Gregorio
was making a milpa, your brother
had some clearing under way, with
the object of getting the odd corners
into grass. This latter I suspended,
awaiting your instructions in the
matter.

This has been a terrible shock to
us. He was our oldest and best friend
in the country. One who under-
stood the conditions and the difficul-
ties of working here and was always
so honest and fair in his dealings.
We feel now as though we were en-
tirely alone in the country, so far as
real friends are concerned, and in fact
we are. Conditions are so bad that
to sell any property here now, or at
any time in the near future would be
impossible, otherwise I believe we
would get out.

Conditions are rapidly growing
worse, and apparently there is no
chance for improvement until the
United States takes a hand, and if
that occurs we will have to leave
temporarily. A great many Ameri-
cans have already left and others are
leaving every day. We have about
decided ourselves to get into Coataz-
acoalcos for a time, as affairs are be-
coming so bad. Only last night
there was an assault a couple of
stations north of here. Two persons,
one a Jap, were cut up with mach-
etes. I suppose the United States
government understands what should
be done, but to us who are interested
here it looks as though something
should be done pretty soon.

Owing to the extremely unsettled
conditions here, I do not feel that I
would dare to be away from the place
long enough to permit me to go to
San Juan to witness the burial. Mr.
True and Mr. Tolle went. I staid at
the place until they started for town,
about 4 a. m. Sent my head man
from over there and a letter to San
Juan, assuring that everything would
go on all right, and then I came back
to Coileso.

Assuring you of my sympathy in
this loss, which is ours also, I am
yours very truly
A. B. COATE

United States Takes Action

Official action on the murder of Mr.
Waite and other Americans was given
publicly from Washington last Sun-
day, the 14th, to the effect that our
government "expects and demands
that American life and property with-
in the republic of Mexico be justly
and adequately protected, and that
this government must hold Mexico
and the Mexican people responsible
for all wanton and illegal acts sacri-
ficing or endangering American life
or endangering American property
or interests." Copies of government
action have been forwarded Ameri-
can consuls in Mexico, and are said
to be the strongest demand the
United States is known to have made
on Mexico.

STORY OF THE COAL FIELDS

Appropos of the Mining Troubles in the East

[Note.—Some time since, the editor
asked his son, Frank W. Burleigh,
who is down in the anthracite regions
of the east with Columbus, Ohio, as
his headquarters, for a story of the
mines, miners and Mining, as seen
from personal observation, and by
those who are next to the great
throbbing heart of one of the world's
greatest industries. In response, he
last week sent the following article,
which owing to the strikes in the
mining regions is of peculiar interest,
even to our people, who for the most
part, perhaps, know little or nothing
of the inside of mines or miners'
work.—Editor.]

While this all absorbing question is
before the representatives of the great
organization of the miners and of the
miners and of the operators of the
coal mines, it is also a burning ques-
tion in the home.

The price of coal has a different
meaning to each one of the different
parties with whom it is brought into
contact. With the consumer it is a
question of amount of money it will
cost him for fuel during the winter
months or for his factory. With the
operator it is a question of what he
will have to pay for having this com-
modity taken from the earth and
placed upon the cars ready to sell in
the open market.

With the miner it is a question of
his daily living and to the family it
often means the question of life itself.
For in the price of coal we must
figure the awful cost of life, and
mained and crippled wrecks of hu-
manity which these mines have taken
as toll for robbing nature of her
treasure.

The large number of widows and
orphans in every mining community
is striking proof that work in the
mines is not free from danger. Of
course a great many of the accidents
are due to carelessness. Many lives
are lost in the great accidents in
which hundreds, but by far the great-
er number, are lost in the single ac-
cidents, or one or two at a time. In
the rush to secure easy coal, the msn-
er becomes careless and does not post
up the room properly and then with
out warning a few tons of slate, rock
or coal, suddenly fall and the man's
life has paid the forfeit. The man en-
ters his room some morning and is
suddenly blown to pieces; the room
had filled with the deadly fire damp
during the night and the flame of his
open lamp had set fire to it. These and
many other causes lead to the great
loss of life in the mines.

But a trip into a mine is one of
interest to a person who is not at all
familiar with the mines. As you ap-
proach the mine, the first thing
which you notice is that the hills
around are almost bare of trees. This
is caused by the mines using the
timber to "Timer" up the "Top."
Then comes the great hoppers or trip-
les as they are sometimes called.
This is where the coal is loaded into
the railroad cars for shipment. All
of the coal taken from the mines is
loaded and shipped at once and never
stored.

Up on the top of this hopper a long
string of cars will be seen, slowly
making their way by means of the
"Rope" to the top of the incline
where they are detached from the
rest of the cars and one by one let
down to the top of the chutes and
dumped over the screens. These
screens are long iron bars set one and
one quarter inches apart. Over these
bars the coal slides, the fine or
"Slack" and the M "nut" coal drop-
ping through between the bars and
the lump going into the car where it
is picked over and all pieces slate,
sulphur or "Bone" coal taken out.
The miner is supposed to pick all of
this out, but pieces will often slip in
in spite of the watchful eyes of the
loader.

Folling these small loaded cars back
we come to the black mouth of the
mine itself. There are many ways of
transportation used in the different
mines, according to location. Some
use the "Rope Haul" where the mine
is above the hoppers and the loaded
car draws the empty car to the top.
Some use the "Rope Haul" with an
engine to draw the loaded cars out
and the empty car into the mine for
a distance of from 1,000 to 1,600 feet.
Then they are taken by the "Motors"
and carried still farther until the
point of distribution is reached, where
the driver and his horse is waiting to
take the cars to the miner.

The easiest way of getting to the
"Face," i. e. where the men are work-
ing, is to climb into one of the dirty,
black, empty cars and ride in. It is
well to keep the head down as low as
possible and trust there be no wrecks
for the "Top" or the "Roof" is never
any higher than the coal seam. This
runs from 18 inches to 8 or 9 feet.
Keep the head well down for the top

is hard, yes, harder than your head,
and the thickest skull might be
seriously bent if it appears above the
top of the car very far.

When the end of the rope haul is
reached then the little motor comes
rushing in and is quickly made fast
and the balance of the trip continued.
If you are afraid of rough riding and
fast riding over uneven tracks you
had better stay at home, for you will
now be given a sample of speed which
will call for the stoutest nerves.
Forty miles an hour in an empty
coal car on a good solid track out of
doors is a rough ride, but take the
same speed in a dark narrow tunnel,
in a little car and on rough, creaked
track, around curves that seem to be
almost square, and you have the trip
on the "Motor Trip." As you alight
from the first ride behind a mine
motor, you silently give thanks that
you have reached the end of the trip,
and that the law of the state will
not let you return the same way.

Arrived at the end of the motor
trip you find yourself almost stunned
by the strange situation and come to
yourself to find that you are in a place
of bustle and noise almost equal to
that of railroad yards, only hear it
is the shouting and swearing of the
drivers, instead of the puffing of en-
gines. The smoke of the lanterns on
each man's cap makes the air foul
and dim. But out of the confusion
you soon find that things are working
according to plan and that each
swearing, sweating driver is getting
the cars which he is to take and rush-
ing them to the face, where they are
taken by the "Fillers" as the minor
is called, and run into the "Room"
where he is working. In opening a
mine, there is first made what is
called an entry. This entry is driven
straight through to the end of the
coal field which is to be opened.
After it enters a certain distance, or
when it is in the good coal, there is
started a "Room." This room is
from 24 to 25 feet wide and is worked
straight back from the entry. Then
at a distance of about thirty feet
another room is started, thus leaving
a "Pillar" of solid coal about thirty
feet wide separating the rooms. This
pillar is a support of the top. After
the room has been worked in a cer-
tain distance, they work towards
each other to connect the rooms. This
is called a "Break Through" and is
for the purpose of making the air
circulate through the rooms where
the men are working.

In mining the coal each miner has
two rooms, so that he can be working
in one room while the other is being
"Cut" or the car is being pulled out.
The room is first. This is one of the
modern improvements and is called
machine mining. The cutting ma-
chine is a great steel chain, armed
with long steel teeth, driven by a
motor. This is brought up to the
face of the coal and cuts a narrow
ledge near the bottom in to a depth
of from five to seven feet. Then the
miner comes in and with a great long
drill makes a hole back into the coal
about half way to the top. In this
hole he places a charge of powder.
This charge of powder is made by
rolling a tube of paper about one and
one-half inches in diameter and from
20 to 40 inches long, and filling with
powder. Here is one of the dangers
which many miners disregard. They
open their keg of powder and with
their lamps on their cap proceed to
make the cartridge. Sparks often
fall from the lamp and many men
have been blown up as a result. The
cartridge is then placed on a long
copper needle and pushed into the
hole, the hole is then "Tamped"
solid with fine dirt or dust. Then
the "Needle" is withdrawn, leaving
a small hole in the powder. A squib
is then lighted and the miner gets
out of the way. He is supposed to
get into the entry and away from all
possible harm, but he oftentimes does
not even leave the room and I have
seen men stand not more than four
feet away and directly in front of the
shot. This is very dangerous.

As soon as the first shot is fired,
the miner proceeds to take out the
coal to which has been loosened and
prepare for the more important and
larger "Shot" of getting down the
upper part of the coal. This is ac-
complished in the same manner. After
the coal is "Shot" down, it is
loaded into the cars and taken out
to the hoppers where it is dumped
screed and weighed.

Now what does the miner get for
this dangerous work? He is paid the
sum of 95 cents a ton, or rather that
is the basis of the pick and shovel
mining. Where the machines are
used he gets a smaller rate, as the
the machine makes the work so much
more easy. But the ton of coal must
be real coal and not the "Nut" or
"Slack" He is paid only for what is
loaded on the car.

After the first "Entry" is started,
other entries may be started a distance
of about 500 feet from the first, and
parallel with it, and still others, un-
til the whole width of the coal is
reached. After the "Rooms" have
all been worked out, then starting at
the farthest side they "Draw" the
pillars and let the top fall in. These

are caused by the taking away of the
supports in the mine below.

But the work of the miner is fasci-
nating and a man who once becomes
a miner very seldom ever leaves for
anything else. He can make good
money as long as he can have steady
work, but owing to the numer-
ous strikes, and days off for funerals
and breakdowns, the miner has in
reality but a very small wage and
this causes the discontent and un-
rest.

But the minor is an important fac-
tor in our modern life, and without
the product of his labor our civiliza-
tion would be woefully out of
working order. No factories could
run, railroad trains would not be able
to continue in business, our electric
light and power plants would have
to close down, and our homes would
be in darkness and cold, and all with
little thought of the miner.

We were pleased last Friday to meet
and make the acquaintance of Mr. C.
W. Trumble of Hazard, democratic
candidate for representative from
this county. Although for years
Mr. Trumble had been a reader of the
Northwestern, his active business
affairs at Hazard made his coming to
the county seat very rare, while the
editor has been so busy with his work
that he has never been able to get
out to Mr. Trumble's home to see
that pretty little village, hence our
first meeting in all these years. We
are willing to admit we are very
much pleased with Mr. Trumble's
appearance, and feel that if the fates
and the opposition to republicanism
should happen to win him the nomi-
nation, and election he will to the
best of his ability represent the best
interests of the county. But, oh,
he's a democrat, see!

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Joseph in Egypt	Sat. April 20th
Jack and the bean Stalk	" " 27th
Lead kindly Light	" May 4th
Red Cross Myrtar	" " 11th
Brutus	" " 18th
Blot in the Scutcheon	" " 25th
Cardinal Woolsey	" June 1st
Girl and her Trust	" " 8th
How Washington crossed the Delaware	" " 15th
Panama Canal	" " 22nd
The Bounder	" " 29th

These are pictures that you should not miss because you
may never have the opportunity to see them again. Don't
forget the date. Admission 5 and 10c.

A. O. LEE, PROPRIETOR.