

after investigating the case decided that an inquest was not necessary. The deceased was an Englishman by birth, forty-five years of age, and had been engaged in business in this city for many years. He leaves two daughters, for whom he recently built a fine home in the northeastern part of the city. They are sixteen and eighteen years of age respectively. His estate is estimated to be worth about \$20,000, and Frank Kimball is named as his executor.

Since the inauguration of religious services on Sundays at the Salt Lake county infirmary, for the benefit of the inmates of the institution, interesting meetings have been held, at which there has been a good attendance. The meetings are held at 2 p.m., and attendance is entirely voluntary. Different denominations conduct the services in turn. The singing is usually furnished by selected choirs, that yesterday being from the First ward of the city. There is one feature in which an improvement for the comfort and enjoyment of the inmates could be made, and that is the putting in of a small organ, for Sabbath meetings and other occasions. At the present time one of the residents at the institution is a blind lady who has high ability and accomplishments as a vocalist and a performer on piano or organ, who has been compelled by the depression of the times to take refuge there. Formerly she made her livelihood by her musical genius, but dull times cut off this source. Her services are available for the benefit of the inmates in vocal or instrumental music as may be desired. The importance of an organ in conjunction with the visiting choirs also is readily understood. As the financial condition of the county is such that the purchase of an instrument from county funds is out of the question, Police Commissioner Nelson A. Empey, whose attention has been called to the circumstances, has undertaken to raise the necessary amount among the liberal business men of the city who may be willing to contribute a small sum for the comfort and enjoyment of the county's charges. Mr. Empey invites the co-operation of the generously inclined in securing the needed instrument.

HILLER'S DEATH.

It was a decided shock to the business community Monday to learn that E. G. Hiller, special tax collector in City Treasurer Duke's office, until very recently, had suddenly terminated his earthly career by taking strychnine.

Hiller had been for a time a very efficient and popular employee among his brother clerks. He had latterly, however, a weakness, and a very bad one. It was overfondness for liquor, and to that he owed his dismissal from the department. He continued to drink and with his dissipation came despondency mingled with an ever present and haunting fear that political and other enemies were seeking his ruination.

Yesterday morning he betook himself to a barn near his home at No. 437 east Second South street. Inquiry being made as to his presence there he evinced a desire not to answer the question, drew a revolver and com-

manded the owner to go away. This act was reported to the neighbors and the news of it spread quickly among them. Councilman O'Meara was one of those who heard of it and he determined to visit and if possible pacify Hiller. He succeeded in this to the extent that Hiller put away the revolver, subsequently found to be unloaded, and accompanied him from the premises.

On the way from the place Hiller related the story of his troubles and how his supposed enemies were seeking to encompass his destruction. He was taken to the police station where Dr. Dalby was summoned and where he prescribed for the unfortunate man, saying that he had a fit of temporary insanity and recommending that he be kept under guard but that he also be allowed the liberties of the hall. Between 5 and 6 o'clock in the afternoon he begged to be allowed to go home to dinner, and permission being granted, Chief Pratt deputed Sergeant Wire to accompany him. There was no unusual occurrence at dinner and after it was over he returned to the station with the officer and for a time talked in a wandering strain to the clerks and the boys who dropped in off duty. About 9 o'clock he asked to be permitted to retire for the night and he was shown to the patrolmen's nap room upstairs where he immediately lay down and as it was supposed went to sleep. But it was the sleep of death into which he fell as developments soon afterwards showed.

Just before ten o'clock Desk Sergeant Ferguson tripped lightly into the room to see how he was resting. All was perfectly quiet, and the officer withdrew and went back to his desk just in time to receive a telephone message from Hiller's wife asking as to her husband's condition, with the added admonition "Don't tell him, though, that I asked about him."

In response to her anxious inquiry the desk sergeant wired back the assuring words, "He is sleeping soundly," and the incident closed.

A few minutes before 11 o'clock Desk Sergeant Mackintosh, who had succeeded Ferguson for the night and to whose watchcare and keeping Hiller had been committed, also went upstairs to ascertain whether or not he had any needs and if so to supply them. He was stretched out full length upon the cot. When spoken to there was no answer. When his hand was touched it was ice like and limp. Dr. Dalby, among others, was speedily summoned. It took the doctor but an instant to arrive at the conclusion that the man was dead, and he so informed those present, saying that it was a case of suicide by strychnine and that diagnosis was found to be correct, as the wrapper of the deadly drug was discovered in one of his pockets.

The deceased was a Canadian by birth and 34 years of age. He came to Salt Lake during the real estate boom and was for a time with the firm of McCloskey & Cullock. He was a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Shriners' order, and will be buried under the auspices of those societies. His only relatives here are his wife and one child. Mrs. Hiller will be remembered as Miss Amelia Simpson, at one time an enterprising representative of the business

department of the *Evening Times* of this city.

Did E. G. Hiller commit suicide? That is the question his friends are asking each other, and the more frequently they propound it, in view of the results of an official autopsy made public this morning, the more convinced are they that he did not.

The inquest set for 4 o'clock Monday afternoon was postponed until 10 a.m. Tuesday, pending which a number of leading physicians made an autopsy. At the inquest Drs. Witcher, Root and Ewing stated that they had found sufficient cause for sudden death in the kidneys of the deceased. Those organs were abnormally inflamed and covered with pus, and it was not, in their opinion, improbable that their condition revealed the true cause of death. The contents of the stomach were removed and placed under seal and may be carefully analyzed later on, in case there should be a refusal on the part of the insurance companies to honor the policies held by the deceased.

It is significant that the autopsy showed absolutely no signs of poisoning. The fact that there was a strychnine wrapper in the pockets of the dead man's clothes cuts very little figure, as it was very much worn, indicating that it might have been carried for a long time—perhaps for months. The inquest had not been concluded at the noon hour, when an adjournment was taken until 2 o'clock.

On resuming the hearing this afternoon Dr. Dalby was put on the stand. He testified to finding the strychnine label in Hiller's pocket, but did not venture the conclusion that death was due to poisoning. He, however, did say that the deceased had expired in a convulsion. The jury accepted the statements of the autopsy physicians that causes of death were other than suicidal, and on the strength of the whole finding returned the following verdict:

"That the said Edgar Hiller came to his death on the 26th day of May, 1895. The cause of death was chronic inflammation of the kidneys."

Eva Evans, daughter of the Fresno bandit, has brought a suit to recover an interest in a mine in the Fresno (Cal.) mountains which was owned by John Sontag, the partner of her father. The suit is brought on the ground that she was the widow of Sontag, and thus entitled to the interest of her husband, who was killed while being hunted down in the memorable chase two years ago. Miss Evans married an actor, John Ellis, who played in the thrilling drama, Evans and Sontag, in which the Evans family blossomed forth some time after Chris had been taken to the Folsom penitentiary. Ellis, by the way, played the role of John Sontag. The couple lived in Oakland, at 1213 Eleventh avenue, for a time, but they recently moved to Visalia, where they now dwell. The fact that Eva claims to have been Sontag's widow is made a further bit of news in the fact that she married a namesake, Frank Evans, just before she became a member of the dramatic company. She was subsequently divorced from him, however; and then contracted the next alliance with Ellis.