

# FOUND DEAD.

## Fred Bonker of Ellendale Discovered Dead at American House.

## Post Mortem Reveals Valvular Heart Disease and Other Troubles.

## A Hard Working Citizen is Burned Out at Frederick—Briefs.

It has been a long time since denizens of Main street have seen a dead man. Late yesterday afternoon they saw one and are not likely to soon forget the unhappy spectacle.

The unfortunate was a young man named Fred Bonker of Ellendale, who had expired while in bed in a room on the upper floor of the American House. For some time after the discovery of his body his identity could not be established, and there was much speculation as to who he might be and from whence he came. Finally a number of the Ellendale gentlemen who are attending the Scottish Rite reunion were attracted to the scene and discovered that the deceased was a son of Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Bonker of their home place.

Bonker went to bed at the American House about midnight Tuesday night and died some time during the night or yesterday forenoon. A chambermaid who started to enter his room in the forenoon to do the work says that Bonker was then alive, for she noticed him move, so she closed the door and left him to continue his slumber. Coroner Harragin and Undertaker Pugh are both inclined to the opinion that death took place some time during the night, as the body was very rigid when they were called upon to inspect and handle it.

Before the remains were disturbed or removed, the coroner impaneled a jury consisting of C. C. Hedger, W. W. Cralle and Michael Murray, who proceeded to the hotel and looked at the corpse, its situation and surroundings. Some morphine pills and a bottle containing a liquid of which morphine was a constituent were found in the room.

About 5 o'clock the remains of Bonker were taken to the undertaking rooms of Mr. Pugh and were there examined by a good many people. It was learned from the Ellendale gentlemen, among them Hon. Geo. H. Keyes, Norman Keyes, Prof. W. E. Hicks, W. H. Gannon and Druggist E. F. Bodle, that Bonker had long been ill of a tumor or cancer of the stomach. He was treated for some time by Dr. Merchant of Ellendale, and last winter was in a hospital in Minneapolis. He was unable to get any permanent relief, and since his return from the east his acquaintances would not have been surprised to have heard of his death at any time.

The past spring and summer he was in Ellendale and although able to be up and about was in a very enfeebled state. Just how he happened to come to Aberdeen and when he came are matters not known here.

According to some evidence presented Bonker did some drinking on Tuesday night with one Houlihan who lives in McPherson county near Murray. Houlihan returned home yesterday afternoon, before the death of Bonker was known. The Ellendale gentlemen stated without reservation of any kind that Bonker was very temperate, so far as they knew, and in a general way they gave him a good reputation. His age, they stated, was about 24 years.

An autopsy was performed last night by County Physician Harragin, who found that death was caused by valvular heart disease. A fibrous tumor was also located, and one of the lungs of the deceased was nearly gone. In fact, he was terribly diseased, and it is considered a wonder he has lived so long. It is taken that his general vitality and strength were at so low an ebb that the heart succumbed and death was almost instantaneous. Bonker was lying naturally in bed, his position and countenance going to show that he did not suffer greatly in his last moments. He was an Odd Fellow and connected with a lodge at Janesville, Wis.

In accordance with a dispatch received from his parents his remains were prepared for the grave by Undertaker Pugh and were shipped to Ellendale by this morning's train. The Ellendale visitors performed valuable assistance in arranging matters and attending to various details.

Upon reconvering this forenoon and hearing a report of the post mortem examination, the jury found that Bonker came to his death by valvular heart disease.

maneuverings of this parasite on the people. In the tariff revision of 1894 it triumphed over the consumers of this nation. It was rebuked by the senate last spring, only to come again knocking at the doors of the senate, endeavoring to shape the governmental policy of this nation. Let senators who value their standing before the common people beware of such company.

#### In Re Pettigrew.

Senator Pettigrew, as everyone in South Dakota knows, is working like a Trojan to prevent annexation. Whether the sugar trust, through Jewett, has primed his guns, no one can tell. But we all know our "Foxey Frank" has recently made a tour of the islands for the purpose, as he tells us, of finding out truthfully whether the inhabitants really desire annexation or not. After an alleged investigation he proclaimed that the people are overwhelmingly against such a policy. The day has passed by, however, when Pettigrew's word is accepted at par in South Dakota. Some have not forgotten the Huron convention; others remember his treachery at Pierre last winter, and more recently, his actions in holding up the appointment of Brockway to the Chamberlain land office. His mouth piece, the Sioux Falls Press, reached here a day or so ago proclaiming in double leaded lines over his own signature, his denial of his opposition to Brockway and even went so far as to say he was in favor of him. Yet the chairman and clerk of the committee come out openly and say Senator Pettigrew objected to the consideration of Brockway's name when it was brought up by the committee. This is a matter of record by the clerk of the committee. In this as in many of his peculiar positions he will be driven from cover.

#### Free Homestead Bill.

Senator Ross of the Sisseton Agency has been here for the past week working in the interest of the free homes bill; likewise A. W. Lindquist of Wilmot.

It is understood that General Pease succeeded in having a fund raised to send him (Pease) to Washington to appear before the committee, but so far he has done nothing in that direction, and it is probable his influence would avail nothing even if he did.

#### Capt. Bowman on Hand.

B. F. Bowman of Ipswich is at Washington at present working in the interest of a bill before the house committee on military affairs which proposes to give a medal to the survivors of the "forlorn hope expedition" against Port Hudson, of which the captain was a member.

#### Rapid City Land Office.

The most important piece of pending legislation concerning the Hills country is the proposed removal of the United States land office from Rapid City to Deadwood. Senator Kyle has taken a natural attitude upon this question, only going so far as to request the committee to hold the matter in abeyance until all the facts can be weighed that have been or will be produced by all parties to the controversy.