

Attempt to Suicide

A couple of strangers who came to Hope on the train Monday attempted to commit suicide Tuesday morning but were prevented and put into the city lock-up.

The first man tried to kill himself by cutting his throat with a knife but the knife was too dull and he succeeded only in making a few scratches. Not content with this he tried to borrow a knife from some of the residents but he told his reason for wanting it and was then put into the hands of the police. The other tried to let a G. N. engine do the work for him but he was seen in time and pulled away from the dangerous position.

The story as told by drayman McCann follows: Mr. McCann was passing down the street when he was accosted by a stranger who asked him for a knife. Mr. McCann asked him what he wanted it for and the stranger said he wanted to kill himself. When the request was refused the stranger produced a knife and asked Mr. McCann to cut his throat. He took the knife from him and tried to dissuade him from the attempt.

Later the stranger appeared at the car where the draymen were unloading coal and repeated his requests. He was induced to get into the sleigh and was delivered into Chief Burner's hands and locked up.

Only a little later another stranger was observed sitting on the track in front of the passenger engine. He, too, wished to die but was taken to the lock-up.

The men were sent out by an employment agency at Minneapolis. They were out of money and not being able to find any one who would take them in they decided that life was not worth living. Both appear to be recovering from a bad drunk and that, with the cold they had suffered, seems to have prompted the crazy desire.

Chief-of-Police Burner kept the men in his custody until yesterday afternoon when he turned them over to Sheriff Standley, who saw that the men continued their journey to Finley and were put at work with the snow-gang at that place.

Their names, as found from their tickets, are John Mackla and Eric Laweryla. They are Finns and, as nearly as can be learned, came from some place in Wisconsin.
