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**NAPANEE BANK
ROBBERY RECALLED**

Napanee jail is to be closed. In future, in accordance with the decision arrived at by the joint committee of the county councils of Frontenac and of Lennox and Addington, all prisoners from the district will be incarcerated in the lockup in rear of Kingston's court house.

Just fifteen years ago the town of Napanee was made famous by the robbery of the Dominion bank, and a few months later, Holden and Pare, two experts in lock manipulation, advertised Napanee and its jail by their daring escape. This escape created the greatest interest throughout the country at the time.

"I remember the day well on which Ponton and Mackie were placed in custody," said an old newspaper man. "Pare, the master mind, when arrested across the line, turned his face towards the only avenue for escape left open, and gave the police the required information. Un-signed bills, passed by his sister, Mrs. Sausier, led to his undoing, and he became a witness for the crown.

"Holden when first placed in custody, stood by Mackie and Ponton, but fearing a stiff term in prison, and heeding the overtures made by the crown officials and the Pinkertons, he fell in with Pare, and their joint testimony, well corroborated by circumstantial evidence, convicted Mackie, while Ponton secured a jury disagreement. Pare and Holden, according to the terms of the bargain with the crown, were to be released on suspended sentence, but the jury disagreement in the Ponton case forced the authorities to hold the two men from across the border, pending the hearing of the ex-teller at the following assizes.

"Time weighed heavily on the hands of Pare and Holden, and they finally took French leave. They were gone four months, and had got as far as Moncton, N. B., before they were captured. The next Ponton trial was held in Cobourg, and at its conclusion I had, through the kindness of the sheriff and the jailer, the late Major Snelgrove, the privilege of spending a Sunday afternoon with the two 'box men.' I queried them as to how they got away from Napanee jail.

"It seems that Pare, who was on the upper tier of cells in the Napanee lockup, communicated with Holden by means of the tapping system. They feared that the promise of the crown attorney would not be kept, and decided to get away. It was Holden who did the fine work, and picked lock after lock. Twenty odd years previous he had been a convict in the Portsmouth penitentiary, and was then employed in the lockshop, when, under the contract system he worked for the late L. B. Spencer, of Kingston. Locks for jails all over the country were being made and he and Charles Durand, who had a continental reputation as "Piano Charlie," in a spirit of mischief, and also in the hope that at some future day they might benefit some poor devil 'sloughed' as many of the jail ones as came into their hands. In the Napanee 'stir,' Holden ran across some of his work of twenty years previous. When they reached the jail yard, Holden, who was a man with a powerful physique, piled stiek after stiek of cordwood against the wall, until the two men were able to reach the top. The jail bedclothes they used to lower themselves with, and finally succeeded in boarding an east bound freight train.

"Pare died in prison, and Holden went to Boston on his release. From the lips of both, I received a detailed account of the looting of the Dominion bank at Napanee. They had been sentenced then, and had nothing to look forward to in the shape of reward by subterfuge. The Pinkerton men did their work well. They earned every dollar the bank paid for the labor done by Wilkes and Dougherty. The latter was a bright man in his line, and is now one of the deputy commissioners of police under Col. Bingham, of New York.

"Of those placed under arrest, Ponton was acquitted. 'Jack' Roach was allowed out on suspended sentence, and subsequently died in St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary, while serving twenty-one years for an offence committed in Montreal. Pare received three years, Holden four, Mackie two and Mathias, for passing unsigned bills stolen from the bank in Windsor, six years.

"Mackie gave evidence on behalf of Ponton at the first trial, and was taken to Cobourg on behalf of the defence for the second hearing, but was not called. The year he had then spent in prison had given him plenty of opportunity to consider everything carefully, and he had decided to use his own words, 'to tell it as

it was.' So he informed prison officials and those who met him at the outer G.T.R. station at Kingston. E. Gus Porter, counsel for Ponton, was so notified, and Mackie was not brought into court from Cobourg jail. Had he been called to the stand Robert Mackie would have implicated 'Billy' Ponton. It was a daring plot, with many actors in the caste. The bank's loss was large, and the cost of the prosecution heavy.

"With the passing of the Napanee jail, a penal institution with a unique distinction ceases to be of interest. Across the 'Bridge of Sighs' to the big front door trod the feet of many men of more or less note, but none with so distinctive a personality as 'Big Bill' Holden. They were two bright minds—Holden and Durand—and the adjusting of locks was a trick of fate, kind unto Holden and Pare years after. They little knew how they builded. Holden is dead—died a disappointed man, embittered against the world. 'Piano Charlie' after an adventurous career, rich and the husband of a Cuban lady of wealth and education, was taken for an offence committed years previously, and died in a Belgium prison. 'Charlie' was well tutored. He was a musician of some note and had the benefit of an academic training. Culture and polish he had acquired, and the veneer never wore off."

FALL FAIRS

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Bancroft | ..... | Oct. 2 & 3 |
| Barrie | ..... | Sept. 22-24 |
| Beaverton | ..... | Sept 29-Oct 1 |
| Belleville | ..... | Sept 9 & 10 |
| Bobcaygeon | ..... | Sept. 25 & 26 |
| Bowmanville | ..... | Sept. 16 & 17 |
| Cobourg | ..... | Sept. 24 & 25 |
| Cobourg Horse Show | ..... | Aug. 12-16 |
| Fenelon Falls | ..... | Sept. 10 & 11 |
| Gooderham | ..... | Oct 2 |
| Halliburton | ..... | Sept. 25 |
| Kinmount | ..... | Sept. 15 & 16 |
| Lakefield | ..... | Sept. 16 & 17 |
| Lindsay | ..... | Sept. 18-20 |
| Markham | ..... | Oct. 1-3 |
| Midland | ..... | Sept. 25 & 26 |
| Millbrook | ..... | Oct. 2 & 3 |
| Minden | ..... | Sept. 20 |
| Newmarket | ..... | Oct. 7-9 |
| Oakwood | ..... | Sept. 22 & 23 |
| Oshawa | ..... | Sept. 8-10 |
| Ottawa (Central Canada) | ..... | Sept. 5-13 |
| Peterboro | ..... | Sept. 11-13 |
| Port Hope | ..... | Oct. 7 & 8 |
| Port Perry | ..... | Sept. 11 & 12 |
| Sunderland | ..... | Sept. 16 & 17 |
| Sutton | ..... | Sept. 25 & 26 |
| Toronto (Can. National) | ..... | Aug. 23-Sept. 8 |
| Woodville | ..... | Sept. 12 |

**TROUBLES OF
FINANCIAL WORLD**

Montreal, Que., June 21—In view of the recent attacks on Canada's credit by American financiers, it is interesting to note that so far as State and municipal financing is concerned, the conditions in the United States are as bad, if not worse, than they are in Canada.

"It will no doubt be some slight consolation to Canadians to know that the Americans have been in the position of throwing stones while living in glass houses," says the Financial Times today in an article on the situation.

"Tennessee has failed to sell \$11,458,000 four per cent. bonds to refund its present debt of that amount, \$9,222,000 of which matured on July 1. This is the second attempt. At the first offering of the new bonds in May there was a syndicate bid for \$5,588,000, but at a price of only 84. On Tuesday the bids aggregated little more than \$1,000,000. Louisiana, which could not sell \$11,198,300 of refunding four per cent. bonds in April, is busy finding how to provide for its debt of that amount maturing January 1, 1914. Its problem is more difficult than that of Tennessee, for Louisiana's constitution, in addition to limiting the interest rate to four per cent., provides that no bids of less than par can be accepted.

"These are the most striking examples of failures to sell securities, which have the taxing power behind them. But in addition to these there were \$8,000,000 of municipal issues that failed to sell in May, and nearly as many in April. More than 150 cities and towns throughout the country have thus felt in the past two months the changed conditions in the investment market."

The Financial Times says it does not desire to gloat over the difficulties of our neighbors, but suggests that a little more tolerance and consideration be given Canada at a period when a tremendous growth of population is taxing to the utmost our financial machinery.

**Children Cry
FOR FLETCHER'S
CASTORIA**

WEDDING BELLS

MERRIFIELD—STEVENS

The residence of Mr. Geo. Stevens, Douro street, Peterboro, Wednesday evening was the scene of a very pretty Oune wedding, when his second eldest daughter, Alice Maud, was united in the bonds of holy matrimony to Mr. Russel Merrifield of this city, by the Rev. F. E. Cragg, pastor of the Mark street Methodist church. The wedding march was played by Mrs. Cragg.

After the wedding ceremony a dainty wedding repast was served. The young couple left this morning for a trip to Kawartha Lakes, and on their return will take up residence in this city.

ACTON—MINNS.

The marriage of Miss Stella Adelaide Minns, daughter of Mr. Francis Minns, to Mr. Leonard Tyrer Acton, M. A., son of Mr. and Mrs. James Acton, took place quietly in St. Stephens Church yesterday, Rev. T. J. Wallace officiating. The bride was given away by her father, and wore her pretty travelling dress of navy blue, blue hat of a light shade, and corsage bouquet of orchids and lilies. Miss Ethelwyn Acton was bridesmaid in pink satin with overdress of flowered crepe de sole, hat with pink roses. Dr. Frederick S. Minns was best man. Mr. and Mrs. Acton left at once for Montreal, and will reside in the Braemar Apartments.

CONGER—THURSTON

A pretty wedding celebrated at 7 p. m. Wednesday, June 11th, at Suver, Oregon, was that of Miss Alice Thurston, to Mr. Laurence L. Conger. The ceremony was performed by Rev. F. M. Baum, of Portland, the bridal couple standing beneath an arch of locust and beautiful Caroline Testate roses. The young couple were unattended. The bride wore a gown of pearl grey chiffon cloth with draped skirt and carried a sheaf of white roses and ferns. Miss Alice Thurston, of St. Helen's Hall, Portland, cousin of the bride, rendered the wedding march. Only the immediate relatives and friends were present.

After the ceremony a dainty dinner was served, the decorations being prettily carried out in pink and white roses. Later in the evening the bridal party motored to Albany, departing on the Oregon Electric for Portland and other points west. On their return Mr. and Mrs. Conger will reside on their ranch at Suver. Going away the bride wore a suit of grey cloth fana trimmed with white, and a white Milan hat trimmed with flowers and satin. The bride is a daughter of Mr. Jas. H. Thurston, formerly of Fenelon Falls, Ontario, where they resided until four years ago, when they moved to Suver, Oregon, where they are engaged extensively in farming.

**WIRELESS SOON
FOR TELEPHONES**

June 18 — The Evening Standard ascribes to William Durnall, an English engineer, an invention which will possibly revolutionize etheric telegraph and make the long distance wireless telephone commercially possible.

The invention consists of an electric generator capable of producing heavy currents with alternating frequency of 3,000 to 10,000 periods per second. Both telegraph and telephone by wireless have hitherto been handicapped by the lack of such generators. A wireless telephone demands currents of frequency greatly higher than the frequency of the sound waves produced by speech, while the efficiency of the wireless telegraph is greatly increased thereby. Hitherto it has been impossible to construct a dynamo of large output which is capable of producing such currents.

Mr. Durnall's invention, it is said, overcomes all these difficulties. It produces currents of high frequency, and also of variable frequency. The generator consists of a prime alternator, which produces polyphase alternating currents of given frequency and voltage. This frequency and voltage by means of a series of machines working on the same shafting, and known as "transformer generators," is stepped up to a very high degree without increasing the revolution or speed.

The usual mechanical difficulties which present themselves in the shape of centrifugal forces are thereby avoided.

The inventor maintains that it is possible to construct machines of such power that the commercial use of a wireless telephone for a distance of several hundred miles will be immediately possible, and will hasten the development of big centres for wireless distribution of correspondence.—Mail and Empire.

**BAD ROADS RUIN
COUNTRY TOWNS**

Towns in the last census period in the United States gained three inhabitants for every one that rural districts gained; but all those living in incorporated places of less than twenty-five hundred inhabitants are classified by the census as rural population. The gain in population, broadly speaking, was confined to towns of more than twenty-five hundred inhabitants; and a table prepared by the National Federation of Retail Merchants shows more than six thousand country towns, in eight states, that actually lost population in the ten years. This table includes one hundred and fifty-six county-seats in Missouri, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois, out of a total of four hundred and ninety county-seats in those states.

This rather extensive stagnation or decay in country-town population in that great agricultural region approximately bounded by the Missouri, Ohio and Hudson rivers is described by a correspondent as appalling. It certainly indicates that the country town should take stock of itself.

Several months ago an investigation of the same phenomenon within a relatively restricted area led to a strong presumption of an intimate relationship between good roads and country-town population—those towns that enjoyed the advantage of improved highways tending to hold their own, or to gain, and those under the disadvantage of bad roads tending to lose. For a country town that depends upon rural trade, this is the very first point to be considered. Saturday Evening Post.

And the United States is no different in this respect than Canada. A town that gets a bad name for poor roads can not hope to attract more population and industries.

The farmer hates to go over a sloppy town road as much as anybody and the merchants lose his trade to a great extent during the spring and fall seasons of bad roads and rainy weather when in reality he has more time on his hands than at any other time of year and would probably take advantage of the slackness to do his town shopping if the roads were in good condition.

Neither will a manufacturer come to a town where his teaming costs him double or is well nigh impossible on account of bad roads.

Lindsay's new pavements if extended on the main thoroughfares throughout the town will prove the best investment the town has ever made both in actual saving to the merchants, carters and people at large and on account of the favorable impression the good roadways will make in inducing manufacturers and new citizens to come here.

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