THE
FLESHERTON ADVANCE

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W. H. THURSTON, - Editor

DIGGING A DUMP TO UNRAVEL A TRAGEDY.

It is now five years since A. J. Small, the Toronto theatrical millionaire, disappeared, and since that time though many clues have been followed by the police and the authorities have conceded that he is no longer alive, no intelligence as to what happened to him has been forthcoming. His sisters have not, however, given up hope of solving the mystery. Having been granted by the Court a share of the fortune they have resolved to spend a large sum in following up one "clue," which has been persistently suggested by the one professing to know more than the ordinary speculator in probabilities. The Misses Small have received permission from the civic authorities to overhaul the dump at Rosedale at their own expense, and it is understood will, if need be, spend a large sum to effectively set at rest the suspicion that their brother's body lies buried there.

The story, as believed by many in Toronto, is that early in the evening of the day on which he was last seen, Small was visited in his office by some person or persons; that an altercation ensued; and that the magnate lost his life as a consequence. It is not definitely assumed that the man was murdered for his money or for some real or fancied wrong; but it is believed possible that Small and coupe. or assailants simply hirred; that the dispute was followed by blows, and that death was caused either by a blow from a chair or by a fall over the chair, which was found next day with one of its rungs freshly smashed. The theory is that when it was seen that Small was dead, the attacking party became alarmed and securing a conveyance carried away the body and disposed of it—most effectively, as it has turned out. Such disposition would of course be carried out with the least possible chance of discovery if in the early evening hour undertaken succeeding the closing of stores and factories.

At first, because of the disappearance of Doughty, who for years had been the faithful secretary of the magnate, it was believed that if he could be got at the mystery would be cleared up. The arrest of Doughty and his conviction for criminally appropriating $100,000 in bonds belonging to Small, did not, however, result in unravelling the tragedy. There have been those, of course, who persisted in believing that Doughty knew more about the affair than he cared to reveal, but it is reported that though he has been visited in the penitentiary by expert police officers and by relatives of the victim, he has steadily adhered to his story that he knows nothing of Small's disappearance; that he ran away to the United States and assumed a false name because he did not desire to be mixed up in the disappearance, which he hoped would be as on former occasions, only for a time; and that in any case, the bonds he held were kept by him in trust at his sister's home and were not stolen, as on his return to Canada for trial he delivered them up intact.

Doughty has served nearly four years of a six-year term, and at last accounts held firmly to the assertion that he has nothing to reveal. Will the stirring up of the dump unravel the mystery? Even though the remains of the missing magnate are found, there will still be one very pertinent question to answer, "Who made away with him?" and what was the motive?

MORE ABOUT TAXATION

With all the enormous taxation that this country is laboring under it is noted that for the month ending October 31st our finances fell short of the ordinary expenditure by the enormous deficit of eight and a half million dollars. Still our legislators have given no sign of retrenchment or economy. All business houses and manufacturing concerns have had to retrench and reduce "overhead" expenses, but our legislators seem to be utterly indifferent to conditions and none of the abuses pointed out more than a year ago have been rectified. Salaries and expenditure all remain at the peak. A man cannot even wear out shoe leather tramping the floor in a brain effort to find out where he can get money without paying a tax for this exercise, yet for October we fell short of necessary expenditure by the huge sum noted above. The Farmers Sun in its last issue points out the remedy, which the government would do well to heer.

The Sun says:— "An immediate and drastic application of the pruning knife to Federal, Provincial and municipal and school expenditure there must be if tolerable economic conditions are to be restored. This country simply cannot go on if it is to be permanently handicapped by the burden of taxation which is being carried now."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Three Montreal men got five years each in penitentiary for flim-flaming a merchant of Haileybury district out of $2,500. Settell got three years for flim-flaming Sir Adam Beck and Mr. Pope out of thirty thousand dollars of public money. The administration of our Canadian laws should be a matter of pride to every Canadian—but is it?

* * * *

Merchants in the various parts of Canada are complaining that a large portion of the paper currency now in circulation has become dilapidated and unsanitary. That may be, and the government and banks should see to it without delay, but in the meantime this family journal will not be particular as to the condition of the dollar bills that may at any early date be transmitted in payment of subscriptions or for work done. The prime necessity is for our debtors to pay up and thus enable us to do likewise.

* * * *

The newspapers of the county are bringing forward a large number of names of prospective candidates for the Wardenship of this county next year. In connection with this we wish to point out that Reeve McKenzie of Artemesia is not only a candidate, but we believe has a much more solid claim to the honor than any other member of the County Council. Neither will anyone claim that his qualifications in every way are not sound. On sveral occasions he has retired in favor of somebody else, and his large experience ought to make it a sure thing this year. He has waited a long time and is more than entitled to the coveted honor.

* * * *

Some newspapers are claiming that the total eclipse of the sun to occur on January 24th will be the first in 200 years. This is not correct, for many now living remember the total eclipse of about 57 yars ago. The writer remembers it well. In this county it was not quite total but nearly so. It was at the darkest about 4 p.m., when chickens, ducks and geese scurried for night quarters, thinking they had already reached "the end of a perfect day" in the stubble field. An hour later they were more to pick up the broken thread of more to pick up theb roken thread of a happy existence. We well remember how we chuckled as a boy to see the birds fooled in this manner.

THE WOLF WAS A DOG.

Considerable excitement prevailed recently in Eden Grove when a young Nimrod of Brant township claimed the distinction of being the first man to shoot a wolf in a swamp in that district. Some hours later however, it became known that Mack Scott, general merchant of the Grove, had purchased a valuable police dog and had it shipped to him from Toronto, arriving the night before. The hunter had the skin removed from the animal and was about to make application for the customary Government bounty when Mr. Scott identified the carcass as being that of his valuable dog.

Letter From Wathington

The Advance has received a letter from an old friend at Donald, Washington, which we appreciated very much. Most of it is of rather a personal nature and was not intended for publication, but we feel that the publication of a few extracts will not be objected to by the writer.

Dear Sir:—

We have had an exceptional year here in regard to prices for fruit which is the main crop of this valley. There has never been such good prices not even during the war. I spent last winter in California and covered most of the State and also spent a short time in Mexico. The oil wells in both California and Mexico are as thick as trees in an orchard. I met so many people from Grey County that it was as good as going home. Nearly all the people coming from there have been doing well financally, but I don't like California as well as Washington. They were suffering there for the want of rain and the foot and mouth disease was at its height. It has since been controlled.

Real estate has been booming there for a few years. Some of the Strain boys are there; Joseph was in Los Angeles, also Mary and her hsuband.

I spent some time in British Columbia this summer. I was there for the First and Twelfth of July and met a number of Grey Old Boys and sure enjoyed it. Whenever it gets too hot here in the summer I start for British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,
—W. J. DAVIS.

MRS. R. STRAIN WRITES

Under date of December 2nd Mrs. R. Strain of Genoa Bay, B.C., says:—

"We are having mild weather, with flowers still in bloom outside. We had a few hoar frosts last week, but the nasturtiums are still clinging to the fence and are quite green. Pheasants are numerous here and farmers complain of them destroying their potatoes in the ground. Fishing is plentiful here in summer. My son, Percy, caught a 38 pound salmon and J. Chard caught a 22 pound one. The dog salmon are smoked by the Indians for their winter meat. Times are hard with so many mills being closed down on account of the depression in the lumber business."

SCHOOL REPORTS

S. S. NO. 6 ARTEMESIA

Sr. 4—Dora Hazard.
Sr. 3—Isaac Snell, Neilbert MacKenzie, Lloyd Banks.
Jr. 3—Macil Snell, Raymond MacDonald, Clarence Stafford.
Sr. 2—Jeanette MacLeod, Dorothy Snell.
Jr. 2—Bessie Cairns.
Jr. 1—Jessie MacDonald.
Pr. A—Billie Cairns, Marion Stafford.
Pr. B—Eric Stafford.
Pr. C—Irene Fisher.
Average attendance 11.9.
—E. M. NICHOL, Teacher.

Maxwell Public School

4th Class—*Annie Priestly, Dorothy Bemrose, *Annie Robertson, *V. Pallister, Verna Long, *Helen Long, *Lorna Card, Clarence Chard, *Violet Parker, *Mary Bremner, Clara Huff, R. J. Udell, Warren Morrison, Orval Parker.
Sr. 3—*Mabel Ross, *Margaret Bremner.
Jr. 3—*Ruby Robertson, *Mary Long, *John Bemrose, *Mary Bemrose *Golden Udell, *Allen Duffield.
Sr. 2 — *Kathleen Morrison, Jean Young, *Eldon McCutcheon, *Marjorie Seeley, Cecil Chard.
Jr. 2 — *Robert Long, *Marjorie Guy, Arleen Pallister.
1st Class—*Arthur Lawler.
Pr.—*Belva Long, *Billie Kerton, *Marie Chard, Isabel Pallister, *Irene Parker, Robert Priestly, May Linly, Stella Young, Lloyd Morrison.
Those marked (*) were present every day. No. enrolled 40; average attendance 37.7.
—HELEN MAYNARD, Teacher

Eugenia Public School

Those marked with an (*) are the best spellers in the class.
Sr. 4 — Jack Large and Donalda Sloan* equal, Rolph Large, Laura Fawcett, Everett Graham.
Sr 3—Reta Genoe*, Irene Martin, Hilda Gordon, Enid Gordon, Patty Morgan, Glenn Pedlar, Lorenzo Martin.
Jr. 3 — Victor Campbell*, Gladys Fawcett.
Sr. 2—Melrose Campbell*, Kathleen Pedlar, Gladys Williams.
Jr. 2 — Phyllis Graham*, Mamie Kerton, Lloyd Genoe, Frank Large.
Sr. 1—Lucy Sherwood*.
Sr. Pr.—Vernice Fawcett.
Jr. Pr. — Nellie Benson, Bernice Campbell, Argyle Martin, Teddie Campbell, Teddie Dixon, Anneta Turner, Percy Graham and Lottie Graham equal.
No. on roll 32; average att. 25.63.
—A. C. McQueen, Teacher.

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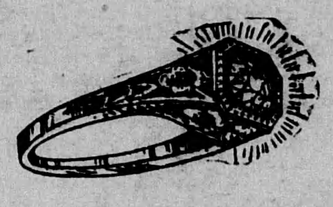

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