

BURNING OF THE CAROLINE

A THRILLING EPISODE IN CANADIAN HISTORY.

The Brave Deed of the Men of 1837—
"Either Victory or a Winding Sheet
Beneath the Falls"—The False Charges
of Fiction—Canadians Need Not Blush
With Shame for That Little Band of
Heroes.

There were stirring times in the Province of Upper Canada in the year 1837. There was no rapid postal service, no Grand Trunk railway, nor telegraph wires strung all over the country at that time to keep people in touch with their distant interests. While the men of strong arm and loyal heart were away at Toronto and other places, supposed to be exposed to internal and external disturbance, the timid and helpless left behind were in a state of continual terror and suspense, not only because of the uncertain danger surrounding their friends at the front, but also because they believed they had reason to be concerned about their own personal safety says a writer in The Empire.

Every day some new rumor found a lodgment among the outlying rural sections, startling the quiet inclined people with some new phase of an impending danger, and often it was hard to tell friend from foe, for in the older and best settled districts the low murmuring often heard among the disaffected gave a seeming certainty to surmise. They heard of "Hunter Lodges" being formed in the towns and villages, where secret plans were nightly concocted and daily made public.

Unquestionably it was a stirring time, and the engrossing public interest had been raised to such a degree of excitement that would be, in our modern prosaic time, hard to understand, not withstanding a Fenian raid and North-West rebellion.

THE INSURGENTS AT NAVY ISLAND.

The year was drawing to a close. Men in authority had said that rebellion was stamped out at Upper Canada. Yet times were still stirring and ominous. Rumor asserted that several thousand rebels and American brigands, organized on American soil and led by an American general, had assembled on the Niagara frontier, had seized upon Navy Island, where they issued grandiloquent proclamations; and also with twelve cannon and other arms, stolen from the conveniently open Batavia arsenal, had erected batteries and declared war on Great Britain, and Governor Sir Francis Bond Head gave a certain significance to the same by firing a few shot and shell, whereby three or four loyal Canadians were killed. This time rumor was more than surmise, it was nearly correct. The urgency of the occasion gave loyal men little time to consider that an avowedly friendly nation could permit a band of brigands and pirates to use its border as a base of supply and line of retreat while they made war on a friendly neighbor. To remonstrate would have been futile. It was a time for active measures. There might be alarm the most poignant and intense felt all over the province, but there was no uncertainty. The ink on the Governor's call and proclamation was scarce dry, when nigh three thousand men, under the command of Allan N. McNab, colonel of the 3rd regiment of Gore militia, were gathered on the Niagara front, near Chippewa creek.

THE CAROLINE ON THE SCENE.

At this time the steamboat Caroline, owned by William Wells, of Buffalo, was cut out of the ice in the ship canal, fitted out in the interest of the gang on Navy Island, loaded at Buffalo and Black Rock with men and war material, and on the morning of the 29th December run down to Schlosser, a small town distant about two miles from the Falls on the American side of the river. During the time of the early French and English settlements Schlosser was considered a very important place. But now, except for its local historical associations, it is scarcely referred to.

In 1837 it boomed for a short time, and the half rotten old storehouse that toppled on piles over the river bank, the old shed in rear of the wooden wharf, the little tavern and the half dozen shanties beyond the railway crossing and station, they all became dignified with the name of "Fort Schlosser," and engrossed for a time a space in the annals of diplomatic ingenuity that has seldom been, in any other case, of so formidable and intricate a character.

During the day (the 29th) the Caroline made two or more trips to the island from Schlosser, and in the evening was tied up at the wharf. Meanwhile, Colonel (afterwards Sir Allan) McNab had not been idle. By his orders about sixty gallant volunteers met at the mouth of Chippewa creek, ready to hazard their lives at the call of duty. There were seven boats drawn up on the beach, every man knew his place, and though very few of them knew precisely the nature of the expedition, they knew it was full of danger, and the current at their feet, dashing past at the rate of six knots an hour, said plainly in the words of their gallant colonel, "It was either victory or a winding sheet beneath the falls."

WHO COMMANDED THE EXPEDITION.

They were commanded by Captain Andrew Drew, an officer in the Royal navy. Each boat had an experienced officer in charge. Their names, worthy of being remembered were; Shepherd McCormack, also of the Royal navy, second in command; Christopher Beer commanded the third; John Gordon the fourth; John Emsley the fifth; Thomas Hector and John Battersby the sixth and seventh.

After tracking the boats some distance up the river, at 10 o'clock, they embarked, and each man being informed as to the orders "to destroy the Caroline wherever they could find her," they started. Five of the boats only reached the Caroline. The other two lost their way (the night being

very dark) one of them grounding on Buckhorn Island. Quite a number of men (most of them asleep) were on board the Caroline when the boats reached and boarded her. In the scramble and scuffle that ensued a number were wounded on both sides. Shepherd McCormack and Richard Arnold were the only ones considered serious on the side of the raiders. After the American party had been driven from the steamer, one of them, named Amos Durfee, was

KILLED BY A SHOT

through the back of his head. As he fell where he had stood on the wharf, in the line of fire from the tavern and warehouse where the late occupants of the Caroline were sheltered, and reinforced by friends, and as at the trial of Alexander McLeod in Utica, in October, 1841, for being one of the expeditionary force, notwithstanding every degree of latitude being given by the prosecution to prove a strong case, there was no direct evidence given to prove that a shot was fired by any of the boat crews. So it is highly probable that poor Amos Durfee got his death wound from some of the trembling cowards he had been that day vociferously applauding. It was an unfortunate ending, and the American Government made the most of the occasion by making strong representations to the British Court of St. James on behalf of the sovereign people of the State of New York, and also declared every man who went on that expedition a murderer and an abettor of murder.

The steamer being now in the hands of the invaders, it was towed out from the wharf, set on fire and sent blazing over the falls. There was nothing removed from her, except some mattresses for the wounded to lie on and her colors. It was about 2 o'clock in the morning when the seven boats returned to Chippewa Creek, but they were not altogether. In the report of the transaction made by Colonel McNab at the time, it was stated that "no living person remained on the Caroline after the Canadians left her." At the Alexander McLeod trial, above mentioned, this statement was fully corroborated and accepted.

THE FALSE CHARGES OF FICTION.

It is unfortunate that we, who live in an age which may be considered remote in the brief, but eventful, history of our country, should sometimes read in American school book history the reiterated fictions that were at the time amply disproved. And it is still more unfortunate that now and then a Canadian, trusting to the plausible appearance of the lie, and being also afflicted with the cocoethes scribendi, repeats in print the base fiction of the many innocent victims who went to death on the burning Caroline.

Happily we live in the time when the burning of a Caroline would be unnecessary, and the occupation of a Canadian island an impossibility. But we know that there was a time when the possibility of the one made the other necessary. It is absurd to speculate to-day on what might and should have been done. If we calmly consider all the peculiar exigent circumstances which gave cogent existence to that conglomeration of diverse passions and interests, then known as the people of Upper Canada, and when we consider the urgent danger that confronted the men of 1837, though they may have erred in their mode of meeting it, for they had not the light and experience of 1894 to guide them, we know they faced that danger manfully and fearlessly. And looking at the facts as they stand recorded on the page of true history, there is no need to-day for any true Canadian to blush with shame or imagine that fame has left a stain on the laurel decked memories of that little band of heroes who, "asking not the reason why" went out on a dark December night to cross Niagara's rapid stream and seized and burned the steamer Caroline.

Flowers at Funerals.

A protest has arisen in England against the absurd length to which the custom of providing flowers at funerals has been pushed. It is called "a survival of the sentimental ages," and a great many people declare that the money spent in buying flowers to be thrown into the grave could be put to better use. One writer suggests that if to satisfy mere sentiment we must continue still to bestow substantial tributes at the grave it would be more reasonable to have the tributes take the form of whatever the deceased most valued in life. This suggestion opens wide possibility of innovation; for example, a dead non-vivand would have his coffin strewn with cold asparagus and truffles, and an English officer of dragoons would be sprinkled down with brandy and soda. The sweet young thing who was cut off in the spring time of her beauty might have her grave filled up with such books as Dodo, and the heartbroken mourners might testify to the worth of the man-about-town by dropping complimentary tickets and tears on his casket.

A Hen Rears Pups.

This summer might be seen at Greenhead, Lempitlaw, near Kelso, the extraordinary spectacle of a hen destowing maternal care on a litter of three Dandy Diamond pups, the property of Mr. John Wait, forester. It seems that the pups had been deserted by their mother, and in the course of their aimless wanderings had come into contact with a broody Orpington hen, the result being that the hen began to go about with and look after them. When she sat herself down, the pups climbed over her back and crawled under her wings, just like so many chickens, and were apparently as much attached to their feathered foster-mother as the latter was to her canine family.

He Pulls the Goose's Leg.

Mr. Walker Lief, who lives near Hamiota, Man, does not use a gun when he goes after wild geese. Great flocks of these wary birds now frequent the grain fields of the west. Mr. Lief rises early in the morning, and going to the grain field, he hides under the grain shocks so that the hawks cannot see him. As soon as a goose alights on the shock Walter reaches out, catches the goose by the legs and ends its existence then and there. This operation does not require much skill, but it gets the geese without the trouble of handling a gun, which is the pleasure of the sportsman.

IN THE FAR NORTH.

THE BARREN LANDS AND THE GREAT SLAVE LAKE.

Mr. Malterner, of Spokane—News of Gordon Cumming—Last Heard of He Had a Boot on One Foot and a Moccasin on the Other—The Musk Ox, Reindeer and Cariboo—Indians Who Wonder at a Sailing Canoe.

Mr. Malterner, of Spokane, Wash., has returned to Edmonton from his trip to the barren lands. The barren lands are about 250 miles from Fort Resolution. About 100 miles further, at a lake called Clinton Golden, the musk ox are to be found. At Lookhart portage, Gordon Cumming and Harry Munn, hearing that a white man was to follow in their direction, left a letter requesting Malterner to press on and overtake them. Mr. Malterner received the letter three days afterwards; but not knowing Gordon Cumming, thought he might be an explorer or miner, little thinking that he was on a similar trip as himself. When last seen Gordon Cumming was wearing a shoe on one foot and a moccasin on the other. On the west side of Artery Lake Mr. Malterner found that the delay caused by the ice, and the supplies running short, would not permit him to travel a hundred miles into the barren lands with safety with his Indian guide, he therefore turned back. He describes the barren lands as exceedingly rocky and very difficult to travel in. The rocks and ground are covered with lichen, which, when dry is hard and as beautiful as coral; but when wet is quite soft and sponge-like. The moss is the food of the reindeer or cariboo and is the source of numbers of mosquitoes and fleas. The deer had evidently only preceded them a short time as several wolves of a grizzly brown color, differing from the timber wolf and coyote were seen. These wolves follow up the cariboo when they go north and were not far away. Fur bearing animals are exceedingly rare. The beaver is not found much nearer than Fort Resolution district, the wood buffalo live in a south-westerly direction and bears are very seldom seen. On July 16 a large bear was killed with fur in perfect season just as bruin had come out of his winter quarters. Mr. Malterner brought the skin with him and found it very useful in his after trips to sleep upon. Mr. McKinley, of the Hudson's Bay Company's store at Fort Resolution, considered it a very fine one. The fact of this bear being shot in such a latitude with fur in season on July 14, shows now very long, these animals are able to live without food from the time they hibernated in the fall. The only other animal seen up there was the red squirrel, which is seen as far north as there is a spruce tree. Several ptarmigan were shot in summer plumage, dark brown feathers with white tipped wings. Other birds noticed were loons, of which there were three varieties, a few geese and very few ducks.

WHERE THE VICTORY WAS WON.

A Description of the Place Where the Japanese Won Their Great Victory.

It is in the mountainous tongue of land extending out into the sea from west Corea, towards the Chinese province of Siantung, that the Japanese won their great victory the other day. Ping Yang, or Phong-Yang, where the battle occurred, is on the Ta-tong River, and is the largest and, commercially, the most important town in the northwestern province of Corea. All Corea is covered with mountains, and there are no highways except the wretched roads along the valleys and across the passes. Several of these lines of travel from the north, east and south centre at Ping-Yang, and the water that flows past it reaches the sea about thirty-five miles to the west. All these advantages have given Ping-Yang, considerable importance. When the Chinese marched their forces across the frontier about six weeks ago, they made straight for this point of vantage, the largest town in Corea north of Seoul. It was in the face of these fortifications that less than a thousand Japanese, who had come up the west coast on a troop ship, made bold to join battle with the enemy. Of course they were driven back, and their inevitable repulse was hailed as a great victory in China. Then the Chinese crossed the Ta-tong River, and planted their outposts a few miles south of it. We are mentioning only a few leading facts that are now known to be true. It had been known for about a fortnight that a Japanese column from Seoul was marching north toward Ping-Yang. It had also been intimated, rather indefinitely to be sure, that other soldiers from Japan were taking the sea route in the same direction. It was not certainly known, however, that a third detachment had been headed for the same goal from Gensan, over a hundred miles to the northwest, one of the best harbors in Corea and the port that Russia covets so much. These forces has thus been converging gradually and in part secretly upon Ping-Yang. They made their approach very evident just eight days before the big battle began. They were thirty-five miles from Ping-Yang when they drove the Chinese outposts before them and captured Hwang-Ju. It was a week later before the column from Gensan came up on the Chinese right, and the three columns closed in upon the front and flanks of the Chinese position. What use the Japanese will make of their great victory remains to be seen. We have no reason to believe that a single detachment of Chinese troops faces them now in north Corea. They are, as far as we know, free to advance unopposed to the frontier, to seize the passes leading into the country, and even to throw China into a panic by marching toward Peking or invading Manchuria.

Rival Belles.

He—"Have you met Miss Richgirl?"
She—"Once or twice."
He—"Pretty sharp, isn't she?"
She—"I should say so. One has to keep away from her elbows."

AN ENORMOUS PAY SHEET.

A Change in the System of Paying the Salaries of Twenty Thousand Men—The Old Pay Car Doomed.

The new system of payment inaugurated by the officials of the Grand Trunk Railway is expected to be beneficial in every respect, and an advance upon the old methods, and, judged by broader views, to practically remove the serious risks the company ran under the old system of paying by car, which delayed payment of salaries along the line several days. All the leading railways of the United States are contemplating a change from the old system.

The object is to make available the banking and other facilities which have grown up since the Grand Trunk initiated methods or adopted English ones many years ago. Instead of transmitting hundreds of thousands of dollars through the country, with the attendant risks, counting money over and over, making up numerous remittances for one class of payers, and sending paymasters with the requisite equipment for another class, it is now realized that funds are lying in the cities and all the more important towns, adequate for all local wants while at smaller places there are the company's own funds to draw upon. The express arm of the Grand Trunk service also affords a valuable adjunct in the distribution and supply of money. By the means now successfully introduced, though to a limited extent, the placing of funds at remote points only to work back to the large centres, is avoided. The banks assume the actual disbursement of the money for which their agents are eminently qualified, and the company's staff will devote every care to the accurate production of the drafts, and to the delivery of them to those entitled according to the pay rolls. The banks have cordially entered into the plan, and it is to be carried out without cost to either the employees or the company. The compensation to the banks is to be found in the increased note circulation and the opportunities which will be afforded the payees to become acquainted with banking facilities and the consequent incentive to provident habits. It is confidently believed that as the plan gets fully introduced employees will realize that the pay draft is available for ready money for outstanding accounts, for deposit at banks from which it may be drawn as occasion requires, or, better still, it may augment some accumulation already lying at interest.

If properly understood and applied, there will be no rush to particular points, and the ample margin of time given for collection will be so appreciated that the unseemly crowding which has prevailed under the "pay car system" will cease. At present we understand the whole of the month succeeding that in which the money is earned is occupied in drawing, distributing, paying and checking up the necessary accounts. Hereafter it is anticipated there will be no remarkable inequalities in the dates of payment to the members of the large body of nearly 20,000 men affected by these arrangements, indeed we understand it may be practicable to circulate all the drafts by the fifteenth, instead of not until nearly the close of each month. It would seem as reasonable to expect the Grand Trunk employees, to use the pay drafts as we have suggested in their own time and convenience, as it is for them to rely upon themselves in their matrimonial and other appointments. We trust the plan inaugurated may prove beneficial to the Grand Trunk service, and predict that other large corporations will see the advantage of adopting similar methods.

A Costly Diagnosis.



Wife—"The doctor tells me that he thinks you have enlargement of the heart."
Husband—"I thought he must imagine I had something of the sort by the size of the bill he sent in."

Human Sacrifice.

The Khonds or Gonds, of Orissa, India, until quite recently, set apart special individuals, known as Meriahs, for victims to fertilize their sowing. These Meriahs intermarried, and their children were brought up to the same profession. During their lifetime they were regarded as sacred, and treated with great affection and deference. At the sacrifice they were cut up, and a shred of flesh was given to each cultivator, who buried it in the centre of his field with his back turned and without looking at it. In the Hartz Mountains there are the vestiges of a similar sacrifice at seed-time. A living man is carried through the village on a rough bier, dirges being sung during the procession, and on arriving at the fields he is lightly buried by being covered with straw. Instances of such associations of killing and immolation with the sowing of grain might be indefinitely multiplied.

Considerate Lightning.

The flash of lightning which recently struck the new palace of Potsdam may be congratulated on a measure of tact and consideration seldom seen in connection with the electric fluid. Having greatly endangered the safety of the royal building, the current instantly hurried along the telegraph wires to the fire alarm and set the bells ringing. Thereupon the palace firemen and the town brigade of Potsdam were quickly upon the spot and the fire was nipped in the bud.

PURELY CANADIAN NEWS.

INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT OUR OWN COUNTRY.

Gathered from Various Points from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Gravenhurst's tax rate is 35 mills.
Glenwilliam's 43-year-old goose is dead.
The Orillia Bicycle Club is organizing an orchestra.
Ottawa had over 100 vacant houses the past summer.

A new depot is to be built at Fredericton N.B., next year.
A movement is on foot to build a \$30,000 hotel at Digby.

A defective sidewalk cost Walkerton a \$3,200 lawsuit.

The new free library building at London will cost \$12,000.

Raccoons are abundant in the country districts of Ontario.

A new lodge of Oddfellows has been instituted at Winnipeg.

Winnipeg's new Conservatory of Music has just been opened.

St. Thomas has put out \$157,950 in building operations this year.

Hallville and Mountain Station will soon be connected by telephone.

Galt young men are thinking of organizing an old-time minstrel show.

Fresh water turtles for the Eastern market are bred at Chatham.

A 23-acre hop yard in Bathurst, Ont., will yield eight tons of hops.

Goderich will soon have an incandescent electric light and power system.

The Winnipeg Presbytery has just licensed a number of students to preach.

Evangelist Hammond will conduct special services at Chatham this winter.

An Orillia S. O. E. lodge will run an excursion to England next summer.

The rate in East Nissouri and West Zorra this year is 3 1/2 mills on the dollar.

Canada's mineral production last year reached a total value of \$19,250,000.

An electric railway from Arkona to the Michigan Central Railway is talked of.

A 100-acre farm has just been sold near Wrigley's Corners, Ont., for \$6,550 cash.

A consignment of 160 mail bags for Hong Kong recently passed through Winnipeg.

In two days eight carloads of silk passed through Winnipeg in bond for New York.

The C. P. R. delivers 175 carloads of wheat daily at the Fort William elevators.

Mrs. John Sutherland, of Boyd's Settlement, died recently at the age of 93 years.

The staff of the P. E. I. railway will erect a monument to the late Superintendent Unsworth.

It has been decided by the shareholders to wind up the Canada Meat Packing Company of Montreal.

Eganville has a bunch of potato onions containing 17 separate ones all growing from one seed sown.

The new Knox Church, Mitchell, was recently opened, the Rev. D. J. Battisby, of Chatham officiating.

Some one broke into the skating rink at Galt and stole a silver trophy belonging to the Granite Curling Club.

The 11th annual fat stock show of the Province of Ontario will be held at Guelph on Dec. 11th, 12th and 13th.

The Hudson Bay Company has closed its establishment in Keewatin and removed the entire stock to the new Rat Portage store.

An old bear and two cubs were captured near Lansdowne Station recently. They were driven out of the Blue Mountains by bush fire.

Even with present canal accommodation it costs much less to carry freight the full length of the St. Lawrence, even up stream, than across it.

The customs duties collected at the port of Winnipeg during the last fiscal year were \$150,000 less than the amount collected in the previous year.

Mr. Jos. S. Gill and wife, of Matchedash, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding recently. They have descendants in every province in Canada.

A letter has been received in Woodstock from Mrs. Birchall, wife of Reginald Birchall, the murderer of Benwell. She is living in London but is in poor health.

The C. P. R. Telegraph Company has opened offices at Macdonald, on the M & N. W. railway, and Sinaluta, on the main line of the C. P. R. in the North-West.

A young man was debarred the other day from entering the military training school at Point Levis Que, because he had poor teeth. He had been pronounced by the doctors as physically perfect in every other respect.

The Grand Trunk's financial report for half year ending 30th June shows gross receipts nearly \$1,000,000 less than in 1893, but the working expenses cut down \$725,000, leaving the actual shortage a trifle over a quarter of million, or about \$100,000 a week.

Nova Scotia's fruit export is of growing importance. The province will produce this year 112,000 barrels of apples and 110,000 baskets of plums, besides a large supply of small fruits. Altogether it is estimated that the surplus for exportation will bring to the province \$600,000.

The Chipmunk Ran Down His Throat.

A very peculiar accident happened recently to Eben White, a farmer living about four miles northwest of St. Johns, Mich. He had been working in the woods and lay down to sleep under a tree, and must have slept with his mouth open. A common mongrel pup and a small boy were his companions. While the old man slept the boy and the dog started a chipmunk and proceeded to chase it. That chipmunk made tracks for safety, and, seeing White's mouth open, dodged in. It was a new sensation to White to have a chipmunk trying to get down his throat alive, and he woke up in a hurry. He nearly choked to death before he pulled that chipmunk out, and then he killed the little animal and brought it into town to prove the truth of the story he tells. A doctor who examined his throat and mouth found it badly lacerated, and says he believes White's story is true.