

THE PARTON TRAGEDY.

Evidence in the Hurdville Case at Parry Sound.

OIL SOAKED PAPER FOUND.

The Wife and Sons Attempt to Shield the Old Man—Not So Bad Now as They Painted Him—Parton Talks to a Reporter—Other Evidence—The Crown's Theory.

Parry Sound, May 9.—A charred, oil-soaked piece of paper found in the ruins of the Parton home, in which five children were burned, relieved the monotony of an otherwise featureless investigation into the charge of murder against Joseph Parton to-day. The inquiry went on all afternoon and was all but concluded when Constable A. E. Goodall produced this coup.

The Family Attitude.

The evidence given to-day was, with the exception first mentioned, a disappointment to the Crown. Immediately after the fire the Parton boys were most outspoken in their remarks, and it was as a result of this that an investigation was held. When confronted in court, however, whose statements were most important showed a lack of memory and reticence which told distinctly to the old man's favor. The Parton boys, while compelled to admit the statements as to their father's cruelty made previously, did their utmost to tone it down. Mrs. Parton showed a similar disposition, and it looked as though the evidence was not strong enough to warrant a commitment. The finding of oil, or grease-soaked papers, while in itself of no great consequence, is a point which deserves some investigation. The bundle consisted of a large number of receipts on a spike file, whose place in the house was upstairs, away from the pantry or other source of oil. Partially burned as they are, the Crown believes they have been used as a sort of fuse or kindler. The idea is that they were used accidentally or through contact with some other burned material is not entertained seriously. Then by whose hands was the oiling and lighting done?

The Crown's Theory.

In reviewing the position of the prisoner the motive of the crime for which he stands accused does not show immediately on the surface. The theory of the Crown appears to be that this general habit of regarding his children as a burden led him to the extremity, when he was on the verge of moving to Parry Sound, of taking this means of wiping out the trouble. This theory requires proof that Parton's cruelty to and hatred of his children had existed up to the time of the tragedy. In the witness box, however, the children declare this to have ceased when they grew up. The Crown has not the insurance log to stand upon, as the premises were uninsured. On the other hand, they were no longer the old man's property. James Farrer, Mr. W. L. Haight, District Crown Attorney, and Mr. F. R. Powell represented the Crown and the accused respectively. The prisoner occupied a seat near the witness box during the proceedings. Most of the time his mind appeared to be far off, and he affected deafness, but his face brightened with interest whenever a crucial point was reached. The evidence given covered largely the same ground as that taken at the inquest.

This Afternoon's Investigation.

The investigation this afternoon was held in the court house, and was conducted by Police Magistrate Farrer. Mr. W. L. Haight, District Crown Attorney, and Mr. F. R. Powell represented the Crown and the accused respectively. The prisoner occupied a seat near the witness box during the proceedings. Most of the time his mind appeared to be far off, and he affected deafness, but his face brightened with interest whenever a crucial point was reached. The evidence given covered largely the same ground as that taken at the inquest.

The Day's Evidence.

The evidence to-day failed to establish Parton's movements immediately preceding the fire. He retired about 10 o'clock, his wife immediately afterwards. Mrs. Parton was awake until 11 and then slept. When she jumped from bed her husband was asleep, according to her statement, and had been ever since retiring, so far as she could tell. It is still possible that he had been sleeping and come back to bed while she slept, and that he had been in the house at the time the fire was accidental received some support in the statement that the kitchen stovepipe in passing through the ceiling was not protected by metal. On the other hand, there is the direct evidence that the fire broke out simultaneously in the upstairs of both buildings in the log section on the side remote from the hole in the other part no fire had existed for two days. The girls were provided with a lamp and there is no certainty that it was put out when they retired.

Declares His Innocence.

"Before God in heaven I am innocent. I say my God strike me down if I am not. I am as innocent as an angel in heaven." It was with such declamations as these that Joseph Parton, protested the baselessness of the charge to-day. Parton was interviewed in the court house before his trial began. As he slouched into the little room allotted by the sheriff for the purpose he bore every appearance of infirmity and abstractedness, both of which vanished at times when he felt it necessary to give his story in dramatic gestures. Parton is of rugged build, rather coarse and of very hard features, a face and eyes which seem foreign to sympathy. He talks with a slowness, apparently born of age, but his logic and reasoning power were surprising. He argued that he had been ill with the grip for three months and went so far as to say he had been half crazy since the fire, but his conversation revealed a man very sane and alive to the opportunity of presenting his defence to the public. His face was unkempt and his clothes, while of good material, were untidy and bore evidence of thoughtlessness.

Can you explain the origin of the fire?

"I know no more of the cause of the fire than that does," and the dramatic prisoner picked up an empty mailing tube lying on the desk.

you suspect your neighbors, for instance?"

"I have some pretty bad neighbors. They have bothered the life out of me by borrowing things from me. You see, they are jealous of me. I have more money than the most of them, as I came into a fortune from the old country. They borrow sugar, flour and many other things, and even money. I could have lent \$5,000 had I wanted to. I got tired lending and some of them may have spit against me on this account."

"Have you any other theory?"

"A spark may have fallen to the roof from the chimney, or a match may have fallen on the floor and been walked on by the boys."

"Will you describe your movements on the night of the fire?"

"I went to bed at 11 o'clock, went to sleep, and never heard a sound until my wife awakened me, saying the house was on fire. I put on my trousers and went outside. I have been sick for three months with the grip and a catarrh and was sick the night of the fire. The sight of the fire brought me dizzy, and I could not stand up. I was too sick to do anything at rescuing my children."

"What have you to say to the charge of murder?"

"I do not suppose any sane man would set fire to his house and burn up his property, his clothes, his money and even his children? Do you suppose I would deliberately set fire to my house and burn my children? I would not think of such a thing."

Treatment of His Family.

"What do you say regarding the charges of cruelty to your children?"

"My boys used to go away and work in the lumber camps. They learned to be in the lumber camps, they learned to be in the lumber camps, they learned to be in the lumber camps. I was not brought up to that, you know, I was brought up to be a farmer and was a chemist before coming out here. It grated on me, and I corrected them for it, so they got angry with me. Then I could not stand any more, and I know when they were thirteen children you have to be very careful with the food."

"Did you flog the children, as was stated?"

"No, I used the strap on them. I tried to get them to stay at home, but they disobeyed me, went away and learned bad habits."

"Were you violent to your wife, as she says?"

"The only violence toward her was an occasional word regarding waste, for which she would run to her parents, who lived across the river. My wife punished the smaller children when they needed it. I loved my children. I used to come away from the pantry or other source of oil. Partially burned as they are, the Crown believes they have been used as a sort of fuse or kindler. The idea is that they were used accidentally or through contact with some other burned material is not entertained seriously. Then by whose hands was the oiling and lighting done?"

"What did you do after the fire?"

"I stood around a while, then, feeling sick, I crawled into the hay-mow and laid down, but never slept a wink. After daylight I drove to Parry Sound to get some medicine, as I had to have it."

"Did you not attend the funeral of your children?"

"I could not stand it; my head and stomach won't stand such sights. I have not attended a funeral since I came to Canada."

Parton declared he had intended bringing two of the little girls with him to Parry Sound to live. He again affirmed his innocence and declared that if he were convicted his prosecutors would have to answer for murder before the bar of heaven.

Martha Parton, wife of the prisoner, the first witness, pointed out that the stovepipe in passing through the ceiling was unprotected from the wood save by wire supports. The boys had no lamp with them, but the girls had, and she could not swear it had been put out when they retired. On being awakened by her daughter's cry of fire she went to the stairway and found the upstairs in flames, but the downstairs was not. There was plenty of time to rescue articles of value from downstairs had they neglected the children. "But I had no thought of such a thing," she declared, with feeling. They had intended to bring to Parry Sound that Thursday. Mrs. Parton admitted that her husband had dealt harshly with the elder children, but said he was very good to the little ones. A motion picture of the trial was shown to the jury.

James Parton's Evidence.

James Parton, the eldest boy at home, after describing the fire, said in reply to Mr. Haight: "Father has always used me well enough since I was any size. He used to use me a little more, but I needed some that I got then." The witness declared his father had not used him cruelly and had not injured his back nor caused the scar on his face. He would not say his father had wished to be rid of them. He said, however, his father had often expressed the wish that "he and his brothers would stay away from home, as he had enough of the others to keep." Witness thought the fire was strange. He did not know how it was started. He did not know how it could have been an accident in the excitement he had suspected someone of setting it on fire. At this point in the examination the prisoner moved to one side, and strained to watch the

witness with intense earnestness. You told Isaac Hurd you suspected your father?"

"Well, I think we were wrong, because after the fire, the Crown Attorney commented on the little pieces of information which reached the ears of the court from day to day. The Crown, so far as he was concerned, had no intention of endeavoring to get down to the present. Assize, should there be a commitment. He Mr. Powell argued that there was to be better served by an adjournment of four or five days. Every day brought forth some new material which was relevant and important. Mr. Haight for the prisoner, objected to the delay proposed. The Magistrate's duty was not to allow this case to be an oppression. This was a matter of torture. There was not a little of evidence to connect the prisoner with the supposed crime."

The Other Brothers.

After Reginald, the 12-year-old brother, had told what he saw of the fire, Alfred, aged 23, was called. He felt hard toward his father for his conduct after the fire. The latter told witness in Parry Sound that he had been sick, but would have returned home if the big boys had not been there. He was not of the opinion that his father had anything to do with the fire.

William Parton said his father had asked him to desert when he was pouring water on the ruins where the bodies were.

Isaac Hurd told of a conversation with Parton after the fire. Witness was wondering how the fire started, and Parton said, "prisoner whipping me." He once said, "I must have been a mile off, and at that distance heard the blows."

Walter R. Foot, of Parry Sound, swearing on the day of the fire Parton told him he and his wife had difficulty in saving themselves. They had to crawl out of the building.

The Charred Paper.

Constable A. E. Goodall produced a bundle of charred paper found in the ruins of the milk house near the remains of the house. It had been

One witness more, Mr. Haight explained, was to be called, but he was sick in bed. His evidence was material and concerned Parton's statements after the fire. The Crown Attorney commented on the little pieces of information which reached the ears of the court from day to day. The Crown, so far as he was concerned, had no intention of endeavoring to get down to the present. Assize, should there be a commitment. He Mr. Powell argued that there was to be better served by an adjournment of four or five days. Every day brought forth some new material which was relevant and important. Mr. Haight for the prisoner, objected to the delay proposed. The Magistrate's duty was not to allow this case to be an oppression. This was a matter of torture. There was not a little of evidence to connect the prisoner with the supposed crime."

"There is a good deal of suspicion," the Magistrate interposed.

Mr. Powell argued that there was no motive for Parton to commit the crime. He had by the fire lost his own property and his own security. Mr. Haight pointed out that the property had been sold to his two boys.

His Worship remarked that not one father in ten thousand would have acted as this one had. Mrs. Parton went back the second time and found him asleep when the house was on fire. "Not one in ten thousand would have done that," said the Magistrate, with emphasis. "We have the right to sit here and examine and find out the truth. It is my place to allow a thorough investigation before this inquiry. The Crown cannot make a thorough investigation in this matter and get it ready for the Assize on Tuesday." It was decided to adjourn until tomorrow at 9:30.

Met Death by the Storm.

Lightning Killed a Young Man of Bond Lead.

Bradford, Ont., May 12.—This afternoon a severe storm, accompanied with thunder and lightning,

DEWET ON THE WARPATH.

Reported to be in the Transvaal With 2,000 Men.

THE BOERS IN CAPE COLONY.

Durban, May 10.—Mrs. Botha, wife of the Boer commandant-general, has arrived here en route to Holland, where she will see Mr. Kruger and request him to urge her husband to abandon the war. She speaks highly of the treatment accorded her by the British. She is accompanied by a number of Boer ladies.

War Office Denies It.

London, May 10.—The War Office here denies the statement published in New York that Lord Kitchener has telegraphed advising yielding all the demands of the Boers, with the exception of independence, owing to his conviction that they cannot be forced to lay down their arms without a long continuation of the war.

Returning From South Africa.

Kingston, May 10.—Word has been received in the city that Dr. Ross, who went to South Africa with the Canadian Mounted Rifles, is returning to Kingston. A cable sent him announcing Dr. Ross's death was delayed in transit, but on receipt of it he resigned his commission and started for home.

Blood's Good Work.

Standerton, May 9.—Gen. Bindon Stoodert is giving the Boers no rest in the Middleburg district, and by his carefully-planned and well executed operations he is putting the finishing stroke to the enemy's resistance in that quarter at least. His troops

Secretary of State for the Colonies: London, May 9.—His Majesty's Government have received with much pleasure the following message from High Commissioner for South Africa:

"Inspector-General of South Africa: Constabulary reports most favorably on Canadian recruits; average physique of men is splendid, and they seem to be well fitted for their duties."

"Regret that owing to my departure have not yet had time to see them myself.—(Signed) Chamberlain."

TROLLEY CAR TRAGEDIES.

One Smashes Into a Wagon and Kills Two People.

Another One Runs Away

With a Hundred and Fifteen Persons on Board and All are Injured—Five Injured in the Wagon are in the Hospital — The Motorman Arrested.

New York, May 12.—Of twenty-six young people who started from College Point, L. I., last night, on what is locally known as "Starlight" ride, two were carried home this morning dead, five are in the Jamaica Hospital, four were allowed to leave the hospital after having their wounds dressed, and every one of the remainder is more or less bruised. A collision with a trolley car caused the accident. The dead:

Michael Schrier, 23 years of age, College Point.

Joseph Pickett, 20 years of age, College Point.

Those still in the hospital are: Ellen Dietz, 17 years; Kate Hooking, 20 years; Mattie Debever, 17 years; Kate Hoffman, 32 years; Henrietta Silver, 20 years.

The 26 merry-makers were on their way to an hotel 10 miles away, where they were to have a dance. They were on a trolley car, the bottom of which had been filled with straw. It was almost midnight when they reached Distler's Hotel, on the edge of Jamaica. When in front of the house the driver saw a trolley car approaching from the rear. He could cross the tracks in time to avoid a collision, but made a miscalculation. He applied the lash to the horses to no purpose. The motorman was arrested, though claiming to be without blame in the matter.

The Car Runs Away.

New York, May 12.—An open trolley car, on which were packed 115 persons, got away from the motorman this afternoon near Fort Lee, N. J., and several persons were killed. Every person on the car was bruised, but only three were seriously hurt and only one of them is likely to die—Frank Sunstruck, the conductor, who received possible internal injuries. J. E. Robinson and his wife, of this city, were seriously hurt.

The heavily loaded car had started down an incline a quarter of a mile in length, when the motorman lost control. It went so fast that no one dared to jump. The road is a winding one; at the foot of this hill the track curves sharply, and the rails at this point were laid specially to counteract such an accident as happened this afternoon. When the front trucks hit the curve they started around and made it the rear ones followed part of the way. The wreck upon the car, however, as it swung about, was so great that the body was lifted and torn from the trucks and rolled over and hit the ground. The motorman stuck to the car, and when the wreck which packed the car apart, took place he shot into the air and landed in the soft earth near a fence at the corner. The passengers were caught in and under the car and were piled in a mass, screaming, praying, cursing and weeping. Another car was close behind, though under control, and on reaching the curve stopped and the passengers piled out. This gave plenty of hands to help in the rescue work. The car was caught in and under the car. The injured were taken back to Fort Lee, where such as needed it received medical attention.

What caused the car to run away will probably never be known, as it is too badly wrecked to warrant an inspection, which would prove valuable to settle the point.

"BOBS" MAKES NO CHANGES

Drill and Tactics Go on Just the Same as Before.

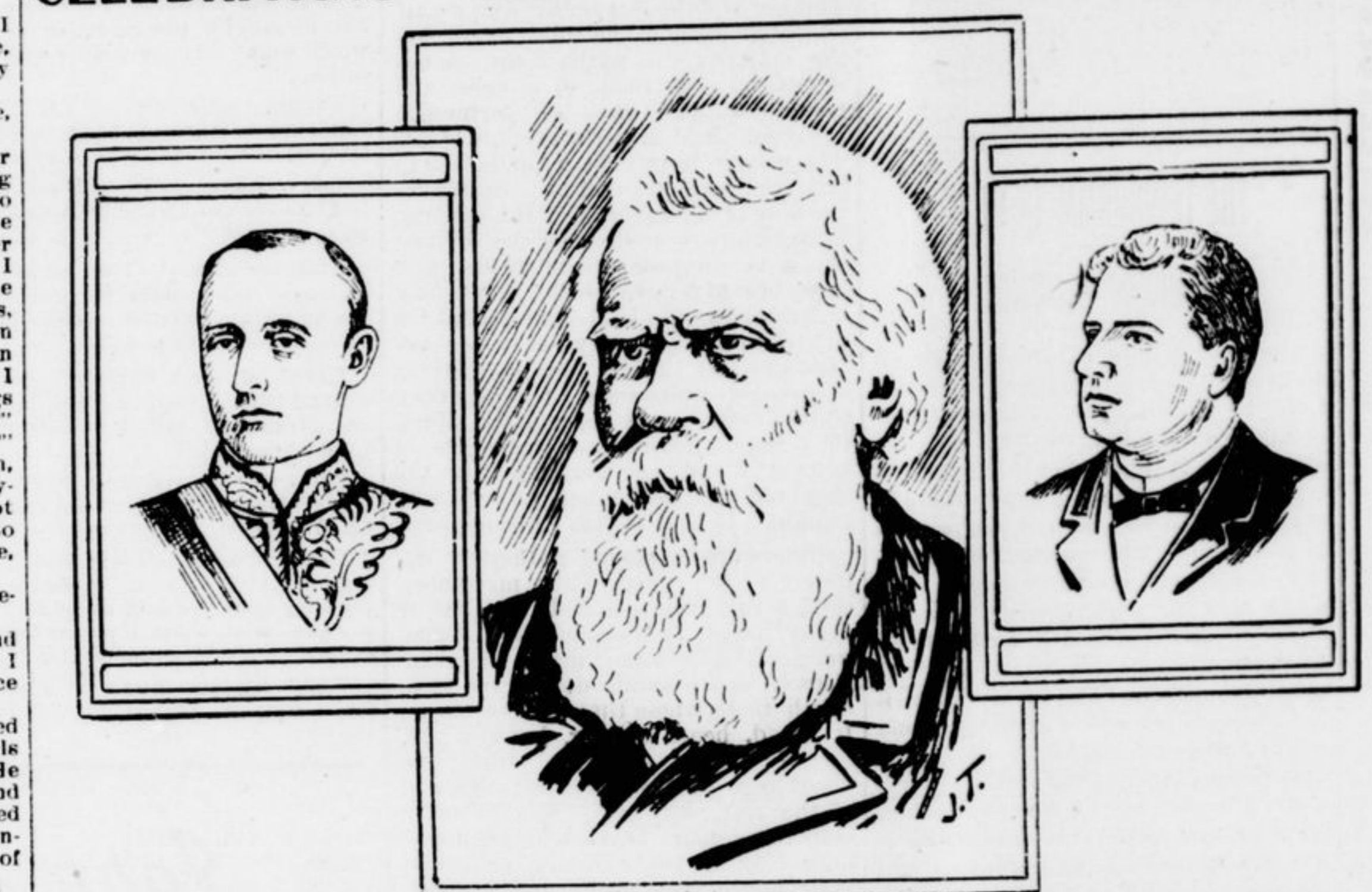
London, May 12.—Lord Roberts returned to England with the reputation of being the only general capable of reorganizing the British Army and turning the lessons of South Africa to practical account. Military men assert that while he has been in the War Office several months, there have been no changes in drill and tactics. The drill season has opened, but the troops are trained precisely as they were before the Boers gave the British series of object lessons in the resources of defensive and guerrilla warfare. The fact that Mr. Brodrick's reorganization scheme has not yet received the approval of the House does not explain the slowness of the headquarters staff in adapting the old time system of training to new conditions.

Bomb Outrage at Malta.

London, May 13.—The Daily Mail publishes the following from Malta: A bomb was exploded at midnight against the residence of the Archbishop, but no serious damage was done.

Mr. A. M. Dechene, M. P. for Lisles, has been called to the Senate to succeed the late Hon. J. J. Ross.

CELEBRATING THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.



LORD HOPETOUN, First Governor-General of Australia.

SIR HENRY PARKES, "The Father of Federation."

HON. EDMUND BARTON, Leader of the Federal Party.

wrapped in newspaper since yesterday and had exuded oil on the wrapping. It smelled strongly of oil or grease. Oil would make slowly across the river. My wife punished the smaller children when they needed it. I loved my children. I used to come away from the pantry or other source of oil. Partially burned as they are, the Crown believes they have been used as a sort of fuse or kindler. The idea is that they were used accidentally or through contact with some other burned material is not entertained seriously. Then by whose hands was the oiling and lighting done?

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passed over this section in Bondhead, about six miles west of this place, the spire of the English Church was blown down and the church otherwise damaged. The Presbyterian Church was also damaged by lightning. Two young men, named Grant and Robbins, were standing in the porch of this church when the lightning passed through the belfry into the porch, were killed instantly. Robbins was badly stunned, but not seriously injured. Grant was about 20 years of age and was a son of Mr. Hector Grant, a farmer, of West Gwillimbury.

"GO FIRST, YOU'RE MARRIED."

Heroic Self-Sacrifice of Kentucky Man Costs Him His Life.

Indianapolis, Ind., May 12.—William Phelps, of Richmond, Ky., and James Stansbury, of this city, were cleaning the inside of an upright boiler at the Cerebine mills this afternoon, when an employee turned on the steam, thinking the cock was tight. It leaked, and the scalding steam poured in on the two men. The only exit was up a ladder to a manhole in the top. Both jumped for the ladder. Phelps reached it first, took one step and stopped. He jumped aside and said: "I am going first, Jim; you are married!" Stansbury sprang up the ladder and escaped with slight burns about the face and legs. Though Phelps hurried at his heels, his act of heroism cost him his life.

Hitched to a Car.

Winsted, Conn., May 12.—Watson Frisbie, a Woodbury farmer, hitched his horse to a freight car standing on a siding at Tompaug station yesterday and left it there while he went to make a purchase at the village store. In the interval the car was coupled to a freight train, which started out of town before Frisbie could liberate the horse. The animal was dragged at a lively pace until it broke away and ran wildly over fences and through fields, demolishing the wagon and lacerating itself.

Grave-Diggers on Strike.

Rome, May 12.—The grave-diggers at Naples have gone on strike, and are trying to prevent all interments. They have attacked some funeral processions, and to prevent further disturbances the police now accompany such processions to the cemeteries. In several instances relatives have refused to bury their dead, fearing unseemly scenes, and are awaiting a settlement of the trouble.

are forming a network of patrols which are harassing the enemy so successfully that they are unable to organize even small parties. The surrenders number hundreds on some days, and every day a large contingent come in and give up their rifles.

Horses for Africa.

Vancouver, B. C., May 12.—Hundreds of horses which have been running wild during the last few years on the plains between Lillooet and Cariboo and Okanagan are being captured to be sold to the British Government for use in South Africa. An Imperial cavalry officer is now at Kamloops buying them as rapidly as they are brought in. The horses are of good size, most of them being mustangs bred with the domestic horses that have been lost by ranchers at various times and joined the wild herds.

Lots of Field Guns.

Cape Town, May 12.—A force of Boers raided a store Friday thirty miles from Richmond, Cap. Colony. The Boers who were in the Bedford district last week have moved north into the Transvaal. They still have a couple of field guns. General Campbell, of the Seventeenth Brigade, while returning from Middleburg, met with opposition from forces of the Boers, who employed two guns and two pom-poms. They moved parallel with the British forces. General Smith-Dorrien's brigade was also sniped at considerably before re-entering Wonderfontein, the force opposing having a pom-pom.

Admiral Canadian.

Ottawa, May 12.—His Excellency the Governor-General has received the following cablegram from the

CELEBRATING THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION.

There was a... British grown... contains no adulterated... characteristics.

"SALAD"

Green. Samples of... A THRILLING ST...

There was a... British grown... contains no adulterated... characteristics.

There was a... British grown... contains no adulterated... characteristics.

There was a... British grown... contains no adulterated... characteristics.

There was a... British grown... contains no adulterated... characteristics.

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