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The Daily British Whig

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LAST EDITION

Girl Tells How Toronto Jail Matron Was Cruelly Done to Death

JAIL MATRON IS MURDERED IN THE WARD

By Three Girl Inmates Who Made Their Escape.

TIED TO WATER PIPE

And Choked to Death—Slayers All of Toronto—Fourth Girl Frightened Into Silence.

Toronto, May 26.—Enticed into a ward in the Toronto municipal jail farm for women by a ruse arranged by three escaping inmates, Mrs. Margaret Mick, aged 55 years, a night matron, was cruelly slain some time on Sunday night. She was attacked, tied to water pipes, and choked into silence and death. The three girl assailants, one aged 21 and two each 16 years old, stole her jail keys and escaped from the farm.

The three girls—all of Toronto—for whom warrants charging murder have been issued, are:

Isabel Prouse, alias Ruby Smith, aged 21.

Bessie Carroll, aged 16.

Jeanette McMinn, aged 16.

Mrs. Mick was found dead at five minutes to seven o'clock Monday morning, when Mrs. Prince and Miss Chirry, day matrons, came on duty. The body was sprawled athwart the corridor, each arm outstretched to full length and tied securely to water pipes. The face and body were covered with a sheet, and when this was removed discoloration was quite marked. There was a wound on the cheek. The arms were bound to the pipes by strips of blankets taken from the beds of the prisoners.

Three of the four cells in the ward were empty, with doors wide open, and doors leading to the outside also were open. In the fourth cell was Gladys Palmer, terrified, her head buried in the bed clothes, who sobbingly told of the terrible events of the night before, which she had overheard, and how she had been frightened into silence, and did not give an alarm.

Mrs. Mick was alive when the three assailants left her, the Palmer girl said, and she heard her moaning. Just before the assailants left she said she heard them say to Mrs. Mick, in urging her to keep quiet, and give up her keys: "You have a daughter. Think of her." To which Mrs. Mick replied feebly: "I would do anything for her."

While the Palmer girl could not see what went on in the corridor, this dramatic conversation is thought to have taken place when the girls were tying Mrs. Mick to the water pipes.

Dramatic Conversation.

The ward in which the tragedy occurred contains four cells, two on each side of the corridor, and adjoins the main building. The four inmates were being given special medical treatment, and were therefore somewhat isolated from the other inmates.

About 8 o'clock Sunday night, according to Gladys Palmer, the McMinn girl called out: "I am going to make my getaway tonight."

"I am with you," said the Carroll girl. Isabel Prouse called out: "I'd like to go, too, but I might get cold feet." It was a premeditated plan of escape, in the opinion of Major W. J. Morrison, superintendent of the jail farm. It looked as though the girls had decided to escape and how they were going to do it, but had no fixed time. The decision of the McMinn girl apparently definitely fixed the escape for that night.

Following the conversation Jenny McMinn crawled through the transom, a small opening, about the size of a telephone directory, and used only to pass in and out plates of food. Having with her a knife or spoon, she picked away at the bolt catch of Isabel Prouse's cell, until she was able to open the door. They then both went and talked to the Carroll girl.

Immediately afterward one of the girls called out in order to bring the matron. When Mrs. Mick arrived, according to the story of Gladys Palmer, she was induced to open the Carroll girl's cell door by

CHILD IS STRANGLED WHILE LEADING PONY

Saskatoon, Sask., May 26.—Annie Findley, five-year-old daughter of a Kerkrobert farmer, died of strangulation yesterday when she became entangled in a rope with which she was leading a pony, and was dragged a considerable distance.

A story that a water tap was leaking and flooding the cell. The two other girls apparently had hidden in their cells.

The Attack.

When the door was opened the Carroll girl rushed out, while at the same time Isabel Prouse and Jenny McMinn attacked the matron from behind, the authorities learned from Gladys Palmer's story. Apparently a sheet was thrown over the matron's head, and she was forced down to the water pipes which run along the corridor. Medical evidence will show that the matron was choked into silence by hands at her throat, and was suffocated so much by this attack that a hemorrhage followed. The Palmer girl places the time of the attack between 10.30 and midnight on Sunday.

The wound found on the woman's face apparently was inflicted by the same instrument which was used in prying off the bolt of the cell door. When the matron was tied to the water pipes, the keys were taken from a belt around her waist, and the three girls escaped after opening three doors which led them to the lawn.

The Palmer girl was so frightened for her own safety, she told the authorities, that she did not call out. After the girls had gone, she said, she heard low moans from the matron, and afterward there was silence. Horribly frightened, Gladys Palmer buried herself in the bed clothes and fell asleep.

Jeanette McMinn has been captured and is held on a charge of murder.

Girl Remanded a Week.

Toronto, May 26.—Jeanette McMinn, was remanded to-day for one week when she appeared in the women's court to answer to a charge of murder of Mrs. Margaret Mick. No evidence was heard.

The Police are Looking for Isabel Prouse, alias Ruby Smith, and Bessie Carroll, both of whom face similar charges.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN EXPORT POWER

The Welland Ship Canal Is Expected to Be Completed in 1929.

Toronto, May 26.—Regulations governing the export of power are within the jurisdiction of the federal government, in the opinion of the law officers of the Crown, Premier King stated in the Commons yesterday afternoon.

He was answering a number of questions by T. L. Church, of North Toronto, concerning the general question of export power, and of Carillon power in particular. Asked by Sir Henry Drayton if the opinion of the officers of the Department of Justice would be tabled, Hon. Ernest Lapointe, minister of justice, said that such communications had always been treated as confidential.

Completion of the Welland ship canal is expected during the year 1929. It was stated in answer to a question from Andrew Knox, M.P. for Prince Albert. A review was given of the project showing that surveys were made in 1908, construction was commenced in 1913, \$51,203,488 had been spent at March 31, 1925, approximately \$100,000,000 is the estimated total cost, and if appropriations are available yearly, to full capacity of contractors, and no set-backs occur, it is expected that the project will be completed during 1929.

TWO SASKATCHEWAN CHILDREN DROWNED

Moose Jaw, Sask., May 26.—Slipping from a raft of railway ties, upon which she was playing, six-year-old Florence Molitor was drowned yesterday.

THE COMMONS IN SESSION ON THE HOLIDAY

Home Bank And Freight Rate Legislation Is Coming.

INCOME TAX CHANGES

Exempting Assets of a Taxpayer Is Being Considered By the Government.

Ottawa, May 26.—In the Commons yesterday afternoon Hon. J. A. Robb, acting minister of finance, replied that he hoped to bring down the legislation dealing with the Home Bank this week, while Hon. George P. Graham, minister of railways and canals, stated that legislation in connection with the freight rate question would in all probability be brought down by next week at the latest.

E. J. Garland (Progressive, Bow River) complained that legislation respecting rural credits and the revaluation of soldiers' lands had not yet been introduced.

Income Tax Amendments.

The Government has under consideration amendments to the Income Tax Act, which would exempt the assets of a taxpayer so as to afford greater security to the purchaser or lender in good faith, it was stated by Hon. P. J. A. Cardin, acting minister of customs, in answer to a question.

The same answer was given to a question as to the possibility of providing greater security for consorts married under the separation of property clause, who were not now on an equal footing under the Quebec provincial laws, with consorts married under the community of property laws.

Mr. Cardin said that the policy of the Government would be announced in due course.

A bill to amend the Dairy Produce Act and to give power to the Department of Agriculture to refuse to grade butter for export at its discretion was given third reading and passed final stages.

The Canadian Government has refunded during the last year \$11,719 as drawbacks on duty paid on New Zealand cheese brought into Canada to be used in the manufacture of kraft cheese which afterwards was exported to Europe. This was stated in the House of Commons yesterday in answer to a question.

Dr. Beland's Imprisonment.

The detention and imprisonment of Hon. Dr. H. S. Beland, present minister of health and soldiers' civil re-establishment, by the German authorities in Belgium at the beginning of the war in 1914, was recalled in the House.

H. A. Stewart, Conservative member for Leeds, moved that the Government place on the table all correspondence between the Canadian Government and any other government on the subject. Premier King agreed to produce all the available documents except those which the British Government might wish to consider confidential.

News In Condensed Form Off the Wires

France refuses to accept security pact that will leave allies in Eastern Europe in lurch.

Big United States oil company secures option on government lands in Prince Edward Island.

London is regaining its former status as the world's financial centre, says Premier Baldwin.

Sergeant Michael O'Leary, V.C., was acquitted at Bridgeburg of a charge of smuggling aliens.

The great water falls at Niagara was illuminated Monday night with twenty-four giant searchlights.

Dr. Charles F. Hastings, once a prominent physician of Erie, Pa., who vanished five years ago, has been found in the role of a toy-mender.

LOOKING AROUND

It was surely a Blue Monday for the young man who sought a marriage license in Kingston and could not get one, because of the statutory holiday. Ontario marriage licenses and liquor for medicine are two things that cannot be supplied on holidays. You can get almost everything else, from a loaf of bread to a cigar.

Kingston's beer drinkers are wondering what kind of folks live up in Port Arthur that a few drinks of the new 4.4 beer will cause them to become intoxicated. No one down here can get anywhere near a state of hilarity on the new drink.

Learning is surely spreading through South Frontenac. It is announced that the largest number of pupils on record will tackle the high school entrance examinations the end of June. Frontenac has produced some able men in all walks of life, and there may be some real geniuses in the batch of entrance pupils who are getting ready to take the departmental June tests.

Report has it that beer permits are to be given to the Frontenac, the Golf and the Kingston Conservative clubs. It will be interesting to know if some other clubs about here will get licenses or be turned down.

By all means give the Salvation Army another tag day in order to raise funds to carry on their good work. The Army taggers were given a hard touch last Saturday owing to the wintry weather and rain. They are entitled to a better day.

If you have no prayer you can offer, the one repeated to the famous T. P. O'Connor by Sir Gilbert Parker, who told of it in St. George's cathedral on Sunday evening, should satisfy anyone. It is a petition that everyone might well learn.

Fewer thefts of flowers have been reported this spring, which is a pleasing condition. Usually shocking thefts of spring flowers from gardens have been reported, and vandals have also despoiled many front lawns flower beds. Perhaps the horticultural society is to be complimented for instilling better manners into those who like to despoil. The tulips have had a fine month. Cold does not injure them and they have appeared in all their glory.

Justice Mowat is right when he says that there are a lot of rural magistrates in this country who are not versed in the law and make "slap-dash" convictions at times. There were times when even city magistrates made some rather strange convictions, and appeal after appeal succeeded before county judges. Kingston is lucky in having as its police magistrate an experienced lawyer whose decisions are never questioned because they are always based on the weight of evidence.

Canada's only woman member in the House of Commons takes a rap at the Royal Military College when over the opportunity arises. The gentlemen cadets should insist that Miss MacPhail accept an invitation to their June ball and that she see the military school as it really is. She might have a look in moonlight at the wharf, on which she objected to spending money for repairs.

The three girls who gagged and bound the Toronto jail farm matron, causing her death by suffocation, would have made a fine "ladies' auxiliary" for Red Ryan and his bandit band. They were foolish girls to do violence to their jail guardian. Unrepentant prisoners are real criminals they do not try to break from jail. It is easier to serve the short sentence that a jail is for. Now manslaughter has been done in an effort to regain temporary liberty, for it is absolutely impossible for those girls to win their freedom and retain it. The arm of the law is growing longer every day. These Toronto girls differ from Red Ryan in this respect—that the notorious bandit boasts that although he has robbed banks of much money he has never lost taken a life.

A brass tablet in memory of twenty-four members of St. Thomas church at St. Catharines, who fell in the war, was unveiled by the lieutenant-governor.

Report That Missing Girl Murderers Attended Kingston-Oshawa Ball Game

Isabel Prouse And Bessie Carroll Arrested in Oshawa—At First Thought They Had Come to Kingston.

Oshawa, May 26.—Isabel Prouse and Bessie Carroll sought by the police on a charge of murder arising out of the death of Mrs. Margaret A. Mick, matron at the municipal jail farm for women, as a result of injuries she received when assaulted by the girls and their companion, Jeanette McMinn, after which they made their escape from the institution, were arrested by the Oshawa authorities to-day.

Oshawa, May 26.—The three girls, who made a sensational getaway from the Toronto municipal jail farm for women, late Sunday night after cruelly slaying Mrs. Margaret Mick, aged fifty-five years, a night matron, were walking openly about the streets in Oshawa on Monday and were seen by the Oshawa police who, however, did not know who they were at the time through not having a detailed description of the girls and their clothes.

Jeanette McMinn, aged sixteen years, was arrested in Toronto, Monday night where she returned with a number of young people after losing track of her companions, who apparently wished to elude her. They left the car on a pretence and never returned, and a search by her companions failed to find them.

Isabel Prouse and Bessie Carroll then attended the Kingston and Oshawa ball game and were enthusiastic rooters from the grandstand. It was thought that they might have returned to Kingston with the ball players, but this story was somewhat scouted.

Inspector Morrison in enquiring into the story that they were given passes by the members of the Kingston team.

Shortly before 2 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, Chief of Police Rob-

inson received a telephone message from the chief of police at Oshawa, stating that it was believed that two of the girls wanted in the case, had attended the Kingston-Oshawa baseball game, and that following the game they had gone on to Kingston, in a bus that had conveyed the Kingston ball team home.

It was learned here that the members of the Kingston ball team did not return from Oshawa in a bus. The bus suffered a breakdown on its trip to Oshawa, and the players came home on the train.

It is stated that one of the girls was wearing a fawn coat with a dark hat pulled over her eyes, and that the other girl was attired in a dark coat with a dark hat with a light brim, and wore a pink dress.

DENIAL BY KINGSTON PLAYERS.

The Whig, upon receipt of the above Oshawa despatch, got in touch with members of the Kingston ball team to ascertain whether there was anything to the report or not. Several of the players were questioned, and it was found that none of them had seen or heard of any such two girls. The players left Kingston on Monday morning and went to Oshawa by bus. On the way to Oshawa the bus broke down and the team was delayed but they all went to the ball park together and entered at the south gate of the park, the players being together all the time. None of them saw or heard of any girls either before they got to Oshawa or after they were there.

Owing to the fact that the bus had broken down on the way to Oshawa, it was decided by the club that the best way for the team to return to Kingston would be by train. The team came down to Kingston on the Canadian National and not by bus and were by themselves all the time. The bus did not return at the time the team left.

MOTOR BOAT BEATS CRACK TRAIN'S TIME

In Covering the Distance Between Albany and New York City.

New York, May 26.—Gar Wood, driving his motor speed boat Baby Gar IV today, beat the time of the Twentieth Century Limited between Albany and New York City. Wood's time between the railway bridge at Albany and the Columbia Yacht Club Manhattan, was given out by the official observer in the boat as 2 hours, 53 minutes. The Twentieth Century's official time between these two points was 3 hours and 10 minutes.

A DRIVE TO REDUCE DANGER OF INFECTION

German Slogan Is "Don't Let Your Children Be Kissed by Strangers."

Berlin, May 26.—Germany's medical men, in a campaign to reduce contagious and infectious disease, are using the slogan, "Don't let your children be kissed by strangers." The Germans are told that refusal to permit children to be kissed does not mean that the parents believe strangers who attempt to kiss them are diseased.

"Persons who kiss do not necessarily have to be ill themselves," says the campaign poster, "but there is danger of their serving as disease carriers."

To Confirm Trade Treaty.

Ottawa, May 26.—The bill to confirm a trade agreement between the Canadian Government and that of the Netherlands was given third reading and passed final stages in the House of Commons yesterday afternoon.

Wider Powers for C.P.R.

Ottawa, May 26.—A bill to give the Canadian Pacific Railway wider powers in its financing of the Toronto Terminals Railway, was given first reading in the House of Commons yesterday.

257 Armenian Immigrants.

Ottawa, May 26.—Since May 1st, 1924, 257 Armenians had been admitted to Canada, it was stated in the House of Commons yesterday in answer to a question.

BENEFIT FOR ALBANI

Royalty Attended Concert at Covent Garden.

London, May 26.—Singular tribute was paid to Madame Albani, famous Canadian prima donna, who has been appointed Dame of the Order of the British Empire, when royalty, representatives of the English society and prominent leaders in the world of arts, attended a benefit concert at Covent Garden yesterday for the aged singer, who is now living in retirement in London.

Their Majesties the King and Queen were unable to be present, as originally intended, but the royal box was occupied by Princess Mary and many other royalties. Madame Albani, who occupied another box with her party, was presented with huge bouquets by Madame Melba, representing music, and Mrs. Kendal representing drama.

OTTAWA FLAGPOLES BARE.

Protest on Empire Day Laxity Made in House.

Ottawa, May 26.—The absence of flags from some of the Government buildings in the capital in commemoration of Empire Day, yesterday afternoon, from L. J. Lader, Conservative, Vancouver South.

UNVEILING AT GUELPH.

Cross of Sacrifice Erected by Chapter of L.O.D.E.

Guelph, May 26.—The new \$2,500 cross of sacrifice erected by the Victoria, Guelph, Chapter Independent Order of Daughters of the Empire, was unveiled yesterday afternoon with befitting ceremony when hundreds of Guelph citizens gathered. All organizations of the city were represented, and addresses were delivered by R. H. Fish, general superintendent of Ontario lines of the Canadian National Railway, Col. H. C. Osborne, C.M.G., secretary of the Imperial War Graves Commission, and Major General MacBrien, chief of staff. Mrs. R. L. Torrance, regent of Victoria Chapter L.O.D.E., officiated at the unveiling.

IS AMUNDSEN RETURNING BY WAY OF ICE?

British Authorities Have Confidence in the Great Explorer.

RELIEF EXPEDITIONS

Are Being Discussed But Experienced Arctic Explorers Think the Party Is All Right.

London, May 26.—Not since the world waited for months, in 1912, for news from the ill-fated expedition of Robert F. Scott, the British explorer, to the South Pole, has the fate of any polar explorer excited so much speculation and interest in Britain as has that of the Amundsen-Ellsworth expedition, now overdue at Spitzbergen.

Throughout continental Europe also Amundsen's plight is the one absorbing topic of interest and anxiety. Newspapers give the greatest prominence to dispatches from Spitzbergen, as well as to speculation of what might have happened after the party hopped off for the North Pole.

So far, it is the general opinion here, however, that there is no immediate cause yet for anxiety, many Scandinavian and British authorities express the opinion that it is probable the party succeeded in reaching the Pole, descended there, and that Amundsen is now awaiting favorable weather conditions before attempting to return.

Coming Back Over Ice.

London, May 26.—Captain Ellis, the airman who has hitherto held the world's record for a nearest approach to the North Pole by airplane, a feat accomplished by the Oxford Expedition last year, today expressed the conviction that Amundsen reached the Pole, abandoned his planes and was now making his way back across the ice.

Ellis said: "Amundsen is safe. I do not think he could ever have seriously hoped to return by air. The only real landing places for his flying boats are lanes in the ice, and gaps in the huge ice field as big as a street with water in the bottom, and those lanes are treacherous things. A shift in the wind would close them up in half an hour, and the airplanes would be crushed to pulp by the ice."

Sure He Will Return.

New York, May 26.—While tentative plans for relief expeditions are discussed, experienced arctic explorers are still confident in the ability of Captain Roald Amundsen and his five companions to return safely from their airplane flight to the North Pole. The Amundsen party left King's Bay, Spitzbergen, last Thursday afternoon.

To Hurry His Plans.

London, May 26.—Gretter Algrason, the young British Columbian who planned to race Amundsen to the North Pole, announced today that he would hurry his plans for flight in order to be ready to take part in the search for Amundsen expedition now overdue on the return from Arctic.

GREAT DIVERGENCY BETWEEN THE VIEWS

Of France and Great Britain Regarding German Disarmament and Security Pact.

London, May 26.—The Westminster Gazette says the French reply to the British enquiries concerning France's attitude towards German disarmament and the proposed security pact shows great divergency between the French and British views. "Unless some compromise is reached," it says, "the great British and France will have to pursue separate paths. It is understood the reply will be discussed by the cabinet to-morrow."

Queen Mary's Birthday.

London, May 26.—Queen Mary to-day quietly celebrated the 56th anniversary of her birth. She received a great flood of congratulations from all parts of the Empire.