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COLD BLOODED MURDER

Brutal Killing of a Missouri Man, His Wife and Family.

CHILDREN BEATEN TO DEATH

A Seven-Year-Old Child Only Left to Tell the Shocking Story of the Crime—Two Men Suspected of the Horrible Deed Arrested—The Girl's Story.

MILAN, MO., May 12.—Gus Meeks, his wife and two children were murdered in cold blood near Browning. Another of the children of the murdered couple was so badly injured that it is not expected she will recover. She is seven years old.

In Lynn and Sullivan counties of this state there are a number of cases pending in the criminal courts against William and George Taylor, brothers. They are charged with forgery, larceny and arson. William Taylor, Gus Meeks and others were jointly indicted. Meeks pleaded guilty and was sentenced at the last term of court to the penitentiary. Governor Stone pardoned him about a month ago for the purpose of having him used as a witness against the Taylor brothers.

It is reported that the Taylors had arranged with Meeks to give him a team of horses and wagon so that he could leave the county and not be present at the time of trial. The mother of Meeks says that her son received a letter from the Taylors at Browning telling him to be in readiness to go away, and that Meeks waited until midnight when two men whom Meeks said were George and Bill Taylor came to their home in a wagon. Meeks and his family got into the wagon and started for Browning.

The only statement regarding the crime obtainable was from the seven-year-old girl. It seems that when the Meeks family and the men accompanying them reached a point on the road near the schoolhouse in Lynn county, a small distance from Browning, they were attacked by two men who were lying in wait on the roadside. The first victim of the murderers' gun was Meeks. His wife jumped from the wagon and she was murdered in the same way. The fiends then seized large stones and beat the life out of the two children leaving the third one for dead. In the morning the living child regained her senses and went to the residence of Mr. Carter near by. She told her terrible story and a boy who was sent to the Taylor farm to investigate verified the horror by finding the bodies of the rest of the family. The Carter boy happening to meet George Taylor unwittingly told him of the murder. Taylor lost no time in starting for Browning on horseback. There he met his brother and both left hurriedly on horseback. On the strength of descriptions furnished by the living girl, the sheriff has arrested Sharon McCullough of Osman and George Howlett of Lime county as accomplices in the crime.

ANDREWS NOT GUILTY.

The "Doctor" and His Wife Acquitted of Murder by the Jury.

TORONTO, May 12.—The jury in the assize court yesterday returned a verdict of "not guilty" in the case of Ransome Andrews and his wife, Alice.

Justice Meredith, in his charge to the jury, reviewed the evidence, and put in a forcible manner the special points which the jury would have to consider. The special points were: Did Andrews receive the deceased for an unlawful purpose? Was it reasonable that $15 was paid for lying in, or did it seem like the price of abortion? They must bear in mind Doc Andrews' story that deceased herself had done an act to bring on a miscarriage? Was it likelier that a dreadful crime of that character could be committed by an inexperienced young woman than by the head and hand of an old man? Was the manner in which the girl was removed from the Andrews' house consistent with the theory of the defence? If the defence was to be believed they must unhesitatingly acquit the prisoners.

In conclusion, the judge asked the jury to lay aside all they had ever heard about the case, apart from the evidence, and all preconceived ideas. The charge was said by a Queen's counsel to be one of the best ever delivered.

The jury's verdict of "Not guilty" was received amid great excitement in the court. The prisoners burst into tears on hearing their innocence declared. They are not yet free, however, the county crown attorney having other charges to prefer against Andrews.

HIGHLY COLORED CASE.

A Breach of Promise Suit at Ottawa That Promises Some Interest.

OTTAWA, May 12.—A writ has been filed at the court house for service in what promises to be an interesting breach of promise case. The plaintiff is a young lady from Pembroke named Mary Grey, and the defendant is William Black, carpenter of this city. Miss Grey last summer was a servant in the house of a lawyer in this city. Her allegation in the writ is that Wm. Black promised to marry her and that she gave up her situation, went home to her parents in Pembroke in order to make preparations for the wedding. In the meantime Black is alleged to have married another. Miss Grey now seeks redress by claiming damages to the extent of $2,000.

Trout Fisher Drowned.

HALIFAX, N. S., May 14.—The first drowning accident among trout fishermen occurred here yesterday. Patrick Hasraher, shoemaker, went with a companion named Wm. Smith to Otter Lake, about ten miles from the city, taking with them a canvas boat. Smith remained on shore and Harraher went out on the lake to try how the boat worked. He stood up to cast his line when it capsized and he was drowned before he reached the shore. Deceased was forty years of age and leaves a wife and family.

St. Thomas Man Beheaded.

ST. THOMAS, Ont., May 13.—The body of James Armstrong, a cabinet maker, unmarried, age about 30 years was discovered on Saturday lying on the M.C.R. track at Ross street crossing. The head and left arm were severed from the body and scattered for some distance along the track. A coroner's inquest will be held.

Child Burned to Death.

HALIFAX, May 14.—Dorothy Cunningham, the three year-old child of the Post Office Department, set herself on fire on Saturday while playing with matches and was burned to death. The mother was almost crazed with grief when she saw her child.

At St. Louis on Wednesday, while Freddy Burke, aged 16, was playing with a small wire attached to a spool, the wire was thrown over a trolley wire, and, twisting around Burke's neck, shocked him to death.

By the fall of a chimney in the rear of the C. P. R. Telegraph Company's office at Winnipeg on Wednesday, Howard Smith, check clerk, was instantly killed, and Aubrey Tennant, messenger boy, fatally injured.

MRS. EVANS AND OSMAN GUILTY.

Verdict of the Jury in the Sharon Poisoning Case.

TORONTO, May 9.—The jury in the Sharon case last evening returned a verdict of guilty against Mrs. Evans and George Osman of administering poison to Walter Evans, husband of the female prisoner.

When the jury announced their verdict Mrs. Evans turned deathly pale and almost fainted, but recovered herself and submitted to being led from the box with apparent calmness.

Judge Robertson reserved sentence.

At the morning sitting Pegg was acquitted, the judge charging the jury that there was no evidence of complicity in any intention of administering poison. The jury returned a verdict of "not guilty."

The last sitting of this remarkable trial was held in the afternoon, when the Crown called on Walter Evens to testify as to whether he had ever been afflicted with hydrophobia or hysteria. The prisoner replied in the negative. This closed the evidence.

Judge Robertson commenced his charge to the jury by cautioning them against being carried away by the eloquence of the lawyers on either side. He said that Mr. Murdoch's idea of "a vile conspiracy on the part of the Evans' family" against the female prisoner is "in defiance of the evidence. It would be an outrageous condition of society if that family knew of a great wrong being perpetrated upon their son and brother and then remained quiet." Then the charge traversed the evidence, giving it a close analysis; the fact that Evans said that the oysters were "bitter" is a most important fact; if those oysters were so bad as to make a man sick he could have smelt that they were decomposed.

"Was the sickness of Walter Evans the result of strychnine poison?" was the next question discussed by the judge. This brought into judicial review the medical testimony given in this case; it emphasized Dr. Howe's evidence. The judge thought it an extraordinary thing that medical men invariably take sides and are prepared to make out a case for the side on which they are called. "What a mess they made of it," said the court; "no two of them agreed."

Coming to the question of motive, the Judge said "that letter the unfortunate woman wrote in the strongest corroboration of Maggie Reid's story." After the court read from the letter, he quoted from the servant girl's evidence to show that more than was in the letter was necessary "to kick up such a trouble." Speaking of the purchase of the strychnine by Osman, his Lordship thought that the fact that no foxes were there, by evidence, is an important feature. "It is a thousand pities that Osman is not able to account for his having the poison. If you can't say the prisoners are guilty you must give them the benefit of the doubt."

The Judge concluded by saying that nothing should be considered by the jury against Mrs. Evans except as to the charge now against her. The Crown, he said, should have established how many grains there were in that bottle and would then have established a stronger case.

ANTONIO LUCIANO HANGED.

Italian Murderer Suffers the Penalty for Killing a Compatriot.

GRENFELL, Man., May 10.—Antonio Luciano, one of the Italians sentenced to death for the murder of the Italian scissors-grinder, was hanged this morning.

Luciano and Antonia Decidio were both sentenced to death for the crime, the evidence against them being purely circumstantial. Subsequently, Luciano confessed to killing his compatriot, but claimed it was due to an accident. The Italian Government intervened on behalf of the condemned men. The Governor-General yesterday signed an order-in-council commuting the sentence of Decidio to imprisonment for life, but allowed the law to take its course with respect to Luciano.

The condemned man displayed great nerve on the scaffold, and appeared prepared for death. After repeating the litany after the priest, Luciano made a speech in broken English, as follows:—"I would like everybody not to believe what the papers say about the crime. I die innocent, like Jesus Christ. He died for everybody; I die for my partner, Decidio. I made the confession so that both might not die. We are both innocent. I am a stranger in a strange country; nobody believes me, but Jesus. I pray you, gentlemen, believe me. Good-bye. I no kill the man. Nobody believes me but Jesus. I leave my wife and two children." He then told the hangman he was ready, and shortly after the drop fell.

TIP'S TRAGIC DEATH.

The Famous Central Park Elephant Dies by Poison.

NEW YORK, May 12.—Tip, the big elephant in the Central Park menagerie, died last evening after many hours of agony. Such a botched piece of work has never been accomplished by any set of men who have professed to have the slightest skill in killing wild animals or to save animals from unnecessary cruelty and suffering. From 6 a. m. until 4 p. m. the great king of the forest went shuddering from one convulsion into another under the influence of the cyanide of potassium which had been given to him. The first dose of the poison was not sufficient to put a quick and painless end to his life. After many consultations between Supt. Smith of the menagerie, Supt. Hankinson of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Secretary Burns it was resolved at 3 o'clock to administer another dose of poison. The second dose finally proved effective.

Lightning's Work Near Brownsville.

BROWNSVILLE, Ont., May 11.—Last evening while a very heavy storm was passing over, lightning struck and burned the entire farm buildings covering 100 feet square, including several tons of hay and one steer, owned by Mr. E. B. Brown. During the afternoon he had turned the whole of his cattle, numbering thirty-six, and several horses, out on pasture for the first time. This saved him from what would have been a much heavier loss, as absolutely nothing could be taken from the cattle sheds. One yoke of oxen was taken from the driving shed attached, which was the only things saved. Loss over $2,000, insured for about $800.

Murdered in His Cell.

BARCELONA, May 11.—Marin Borras, the anarchist, who was soon to be tried for complicity in the attempt to kill Captain-General Martinez de Campos, has been found dead in his prison cell. The body was badly bruised and the medical examiner believes he died from violence.

Dwelling Destroyed by Blenheim.

BLENHEIM, Ont., May 12.—Fire completely destroyed the house owned and occupied by Edward Adair, caused by the explosion of a lamp. Nothing was saved.

Cunningham & Robertson, furniture manufacturers of moulding, have assigned. The liabilities amount to $17,000 and the principal creditors are the Ontario Bank, $6,315, and Molsons Bank, $3,[illegible]

Major-General Herbert is warmly defended by the French press of Montreal against the attacks made upon him for eulogizing the Papal Zouaves and holding them up as good examples for the 65th

TABERNACLE IN ASHES

Dr. Talmage's Church for the Third Time Destroyed by Fire.

ONLY THE WALLS STANDING

An Adjoining Hotel Also Gutted by the Flames and Several Other Buildings Badly Damaged—Total Loss About a Million Dollars.

BROOKLYN, May 14.—Rev. Dr. Talmage's new tabernacle, at the corner of Clinton and Greene avenues, Brooklyn, was burned yesterday. The Hotel Regent adjoining, and several dwelling houses in the vicinity were also destroyed. The loss is estimated at $1,000,000.

This is the third time Dr. Talmage has lost his church by fire. He was in the church when the fire started, surrounded by a number of his congregation, but all escaped. He was moved to tears as he witnessed the destruction of the beautiful edifice. Four firemen were injured during the fire, not fatally however, and there was great excitement and scenes of panic as the fire progressed.

The fire was discovered just after the congregation had been dismissed from the morning service. A small boy rushed into the church through one of the open doors and informed the sexton that he had seen smoke coming out of the windows on the Waverly avenue side of the church. The boy volunteered to go up in the back of the organ to see if it was there. He did so, and a second later he appeared before the three gentlemen with his face blackened and almost suffocated from smoke. All he could say was that he discovered the fire in the back of the organ. Dr. Talmage and Messrs. Day and Moody then started for the organ, but before they could get near it, flames burst from the top. The gentlemen then made a hurried exit. The flames spread with lightning rapidity, and the sparks flew in all directions. The greatest excitement prevailed.

The people living in the Hotel Regent were just getting ready for dinner when the fire was discovered. They fled from their apartments leaving everything behind them. The firemen were kept busy putting out small fires which occurred in the houses near by, and in the vicinity of four blocks of the church and hotel. The Summerfield M. E. church at Greene and Washington avenue, also caught fire from flying sparks and damaged the building to the extent of $35,000.

Despite the efforts of the firemen the flames spread quickly and the adjoining houses caught fire, five on Greene avenue sustaining damage all the way from $5,000 to $13,000. While the firemen were at work on the houses on Greene avenue flames were seen coming from the roofs of the four houses on Washington. They were extinguished after having damaged each house to the extent of $1,500. Two houses and a stable on Waverly avenue were also damaged to the extent of from $2,000 to $5,000 each.

The Tabernacle and Hotel Regent were completely gutted. Nothing remains but the walls. The total loss is estimated at a little over a million dollars. The loss on the Hotel Regent, including the buildings, paintings, and the guests' household goods will amount to $600,000. The loss on the Tabernacle is about $400,000 and the adjoining buildings are reported to be damaged to the extent of $5,000.

Perhaps the loss which will grieve Dr. Talmage the most is that of the memorial stones which he brought from the east and which were set in the wall at the right of the organ. Russel Sage who holds a mortgage on the tabernacle of $125,000 and interest amounting to $15,000 said the tabernacle was insured and he would stand by the church and help them get on their feet again.

Dr. Talmage will start on his trip around the world to-day. The tabernacle was insured for $130,000 in four companies.

THE EMBARGO QUESTION.

Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Chaplin Engage in a Controversy.

LONDON, May 14.—The question of the admission of Canadian cattle into Great Britain and the efforts to lift the existing embargo has developed a controversy which in certain high circles bids fair to grow sultry. The letter which Sir Charles Tupper addressed to the Times on the 5th inst., combating statements made in the House of Commons on the 15th ult. by Mr. Henry Chaplin, and to the effect that cattle imported from Canada in the years 1890, 1891 and 1892 carried pleuro-pneumonia with them and infected the herds in Scotland, embraced an unqualified denial of the speaker's assertions.

Mr. Chaplin thereupon renews the attack in reply to Sir Charles' denial, and reiterates his statement that the responsibility for the disease in Scotland in 1892 was with Canadian cattle imported that year. Scotland, he adds, was absolutely free from the disease prior to that. Regarding the proposal to exempt Canadian cattle from slaughter at the port of debarkation, Mr. Chaplin says that in his opinion such a course would expose both owners and breeders to a great risk.

"No government," said he, "would be justified in sanctioning it," and concluded, "I will resist with every means in my power any attempt to give effect to the views upon the Board of Agriculture by the Marquis of Ripon."

Death of Judge Scott, of Peel.

BRAMPTON, May 14.—Alexander Forsythe Scott, late judge of the County Court of the County of Peel, died at Brampton on Saturday morning after a long and painful illness. The judge was born in Brampton and passed all his life here, entering upon the practice of his profession immediately after his call to the bar and building up a large and lucrative practice.

The Czarwitch's Marriage.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 14.—It is reported that the marriage of the Princess Alix of Hesse to the Czarwitch will take place on November 10. The Czarwitch will accompany the Czarine to the Caucasus to see the Grand Duke George, who has long been ailing.

Suing for $25,000.

MONTREAL, May 11.—Lieutenant Colonel Hughes, the chief of police of this city, has taken action for $25,000 damages against the Montreal Herald on account of an attack made upon him in connection with the efficiency of the police force.

Drowning Near Parry Sound.

PARRY SOUND, Ont., May 14.—James Wilson, a young man working on a saw log drive, was drowned yesterday at Sergeant Rapids, sixteen miles from here. The body was recovered some hours afterwards.

David Hamilton, colored, who murdered Mrs. Amanda Sherns, was sentenced at New York on Friday, to die in the electric chair in Sing Sing Prison in the week past Saturday.

Thomas Jones, a conductor, at Enniskillen, Ont., was run over by an engine in the Central yards at Utica, N.Y., on Wednesday, and his right leg was so badly crushed that amputation was necessary.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT

OTTAWA, May 8.—Sir John Thompson introduced his bill yesterday providing that the first Monday in September of each year shall be designated Labor Day, and be observed as a statutory holiday. The bill was read a first time.

Mr. Martin moved for an order of the House showing the number of settlers brought into the Yorkton and Saltcoats district from Dakota, and into the Calgary district from Chicago, and showing in each case the nationality of such settlers, the cost of obtaining them, and the number that still remain and the occupation those remaining are engaged in.

Mr. Mara asked that the return should also be made to include a statement including the States of Washington, Idaho and Oregon. He had spoken to many settlers from those districts and all had told him that they had done splendidly.

Mr. Martin said that he had no objection to the addition, and while he was on his feet he would say that he was free to admit that the settlers who had taken up land in the Calgary district had done well.

The motion passed.

Mr. Flint moved: "That it is expedient that as speedily as possible this Parliament should enact a law to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in Canada except for medicinal, manufacturing and sacramental purposes."

After recess, Mr. Broome, in seconding the motion, said the time had come when the Government should take the matter of revenue into consideration, so that should the courts decide that the prohibitory power lies with the Dominion Government they would be ready to pass the law.

OTTAWA, May 9.—Hon. Mr. Daly yesterday moved the House into committee on his bill to amend the Northwest Territories Act altering the election law. The bill provides that the elections shall not take place until three weeks after the nomination, because of the lack of railway facilities.

Mr. Martin discussed the features of the bill. The committee reported progress.

The House went into committee to consider the provisions of the new tariff.

Hon. Mr. Foster announced the following changes, which were agreed to:

"Provided all iron or steel bars, rods, strips, or steel sheets, of whatever shape, and on all iron or steel bars of irregular shape or section, cold rolled, cold hammered, or polished in any way, in addition to the ordinary process of hot rolling or hammering, there shall be paid 1-6 of a cent per pound in addition to the rates imposed on the said materials."

Axles, springs, and parts thereof, axles, bars and axle blanks of iron or steel, n.e.s., were placed at 1 cent per pound and 20 per cent.

The duty on wire nails was put back to 1 cent a pound; shoe tacks (½ oz. to 4 oz.), 1 cent per 1,000, and 1½ cents per pound. Tacks and brads, not exceeding 16 oz. to the 1,000, 1½ cents a 1,000; over 16 oz., 1½ cents per pound. Brass and copper nails were put to the old duty of 30 per cent.

OTTAWA, May 10.—Dr. Weldon's bill to disfranchise voters taking bribes was discussed in the House in committee yesterday, taking up the greater part of the sitting.

Mr. Jeannotte, in French, opposed the bill. He said it was not practical, and in the event of anyone being tried and proven innocent, it would entail on an innocent man an expense hardly justifiable.

Dr. Sproule opposed the bill.

Mr. Jeannotte moved an amendment to the second section, providing that in all cases particulars should be given.

The amendment was lost.

Mr. Belley proposed an amendment giving power to judges to examine the petitioners. This was lost.

Mr. Aymot proposed an amendment, adding the words "provided that the court be satisfied by the affidavits produced that such extensive bribery has been practiced."

The amendment carried.

An Act respecting the Guelph Junction railway, providing for the extension of the time for commencing the work for three years and the completion for five years, has been reported in the Railway Committee.

OTTAWA, May 11.—In the House yesterday Hon. Mr. Ouimet, to reply to Mr. Gibson, said the pier at Oakville was reconstructed in October, 1887, at a cost of $14,280. The Government was aware that the outer end of the pier had settled, but as the lighthouse had been moved back there was no danger of it being washed away. The Government was now considering a petition from the municipality of Oakville asking that the outer end of the pier be rebuilt.

The rest of the sitting was taken up in the discussion of tariff items.

Mr. Costsworth, speaking of the item of cotton velvets, stated that he had been asked by the Toronto Board of Trade to request that velveteens should be classed among dress goods with a duty of 25 per cent. After considerable discussion it was decided to class velvets, velveteens and plush fabrics under one head, with a uniform duty of 30 per cent. ad valorem. Webbing, elastic and non-elastic, was made 30 per cent. Cotton sewing thread, in hanks, was reduced to 12½ per cent. Cotton thread and crochet cotton on spools or tubes was left at 25 per cent.

Sir Richard Cartwright objected to the duty of 12½ per cent. duty on cotton in hanks. The item passed.

Cordage, n.e.s., which appeared in the new tariff at 30 per cent., was reduced to 27½ per cent.

Mr. Foster stated that if the House desired it he would put the duty on cordage at the old figure in the old tariff, namely, 1½ cents per lb, and 10 per cent. ad valorem. This was agreed to.

The items of rope, binder twine, bootlaces, hammocks, lawn tennis nets, damask, towels, sails, sacks, manufactures of hemp, flax and jute, jute cloth, silk, manufactures of silk and ribbons were passed.

OTTAWA, May 12.—In the House yesterday Sir John Thompson said there had been a desire evinced on the part of the House to have the papers with reference to the hard pan cases. There was a motion on the paper which would cover the case. He was sorry Mr. Fraser was not present, but in his absence, with the permission of the House, he would move for all the reports, papers and orders relating to the hard pan cases, and also the findings of the judge of the Exchequer Court respecting these claims. The motion passed.

Mr. Casey asked that iron and steel used in the manufacture of agricultural implements should be placed upon the free list.

The item was passed.

Resin oil was placed on the free list.

Flax was also on the free list.

Mr. Bennett asked if iron and steel bruns, sheets, plates, angles and knees were to be free for wooden ships as well as for iron, steel or composite ships.

Hon. Mr. Foster said that the Government was considering that point, but had not arrived at a conclusion as yet.

The item of sugar not above number 16 Dutch standard was allowed to stand over for further consideration.

Word has been received that on April 28 the Venezuelan Cities of Egido and Merida and several villages were destroyed by an earthquake, with heavy loss of life.

A despatch from Yakima, Wash., says that a battle occurred on Thursday night, between the deputies and commoners, in which two deputies were shot, one fatally.