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STRANGE COURSE OF PANTCHENKO

Accused Doctor Now Repudiates Confession Previously Made That He Poisoned Count Vassilli Bouturlin

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 4.—Dr. Pantchenko, who twice pleaded guilty to the murder of Count Vassilli Bouturlin, and who prior to his appearance on the witness stand made an elaborate confession of his guilt, later retracting parts of it and modifying other parts, astonished the crowd in the courtroom today with a sweeping denial of his confession and a statement that he had been induced to make the admission of guilt on the promise that his mistress, Mme. Muravin, would be freed from charges and that he himself would be released from custody.

Pantchenko who has been wavering from his confession for two or three days, retracted the testimony closely yesterday after the medical experts had testified that Bouturlin's death was due to poison and that the poison might have been diphtherial toxin. Pantchenko refused to answer whether he had injected diphtherial toxin into Count Bouturlin. Today he denied that he had done so, and he retracted absolutely his original story. Several witnesses were put on the stand today, including the servants of the Muraviev and Bouturlin households. They testified that the poisoning of Count Bouturlin had become back-slash gossip even before the count died. It was common talk that Pantchenko was always in need of money. According to the testimony, Mme. Muravin's servant boasted to the front door porter: "My mistress is soon to become rich." A servant of the Bouturlin household came to summon Dr. Pantchenko and said to the porter: "He poisoned our master; now he does not come to see him."

ADVANCE GUARD OF RAINBOW FLEET

Steam Whalers White, Black and Green Expected Here 20th Inst.—For Halibut Fisheries Co.

Three of the five new whalers to be added to the fleet of the Canadian Northern Pacific Fisheries Ltd. are expected to reach here by the 20th inst. The vessels are now en route up the coast bound from Christiania and consist of the White, Black, and Green. The last report from Calico, Ont., arriving here, they will be fitted out and made ready for the spring whaling. The Canadian Northern Pacific Fisheries will operate all the year round. During the coming season and summer efforts will principally be directed to whaling. The new station at Nadeh Harbor, Queen Charlotte Islands, is rapidly being constructed, and will be finished in a month. The plants at the other stations, namely Sechart, Kyquoot and Rose Harbor are undergoing a thorough overhauling and the apparatus, where worn or damaged, is being replaced. During the summer it is understood that cold storage plants will be installed at all four stations, so that as soon as the whaling is over for the year the company will be able to enter the halibut industry. The whaling fleet will be utilized during the winter months for halibut fishing, in which industry the company proposes to engage on an extensive scale.

ISLAND ILLUSTRATED

Wherever the Pacific Highway Association makes an exhibition along the Pacific Coast, Vancouver Island is being thoroughly well advertised through the enterprise of Mr. A. E. Todd, vice-president of the board of trade. In the name of the Vancouver Island Development League, he has just forwarded fourteen photos, framed in an attractive fashion, and depicting island scenes of an interesting character. The photos are labelled as follows: Parliament Buildings, Victoria; Shawinigan Lake; A Rough Un-travelled Country Road, about Sixty Miles from Victoria; Auto Trail, Victoria; Country Road in Early Spring on Vancouver Island; Side Road through Timber, in Early Spring, on Vancouver Island; Empress Hotel; Shell Bay; Country Road through Timber, in Early Spring; Results of Morning Trawl for Salmon near Victoria; At Cowichan Lake, Deer Hunt; Scene; Elk Calling. The titles are distinctly printed on the sides of each picture, while the following words also appear: Presented to the Pacific Highway Association by the Vancouver Island Development League.

The Pacific Highway's advertising propaganda is mainly confined to the different automobile shows held here and there. Mr. Todd, in believing the photos, said that he believed they would prove a help to the Pacific Highway Association and a valuable advertisement to Vancouver Island. The last place at which the Pacific Highway Association's exhibit appeared was at the show last month at Los Angeles. Included in this exhibit were a few Vancouver Island photos supplied some time ago to the Pacific Highway Association by Mr. McCaffrey, of the Island Development League. These, in conjunction with the fourteen which Mr. Todd has now forwarded, will give Vancouver Island the best exhibit of any of the various sections active with the Pacific Highway movement.

Homesteaders Rates CHICAGO, Feb. 4.—An extension of the period in which special railroad rates will be allowed homesteaders to the northwest was voted today at the

meeting of the trans-continental passenger association, at which all trans-continental lines were represented. The question of special convention rates will be reported tomorrow. The homesteaders rates heretofore effective to North-Pacific Coast and intermediate stations, which expired February 1 and March was extended to include the entire year. A special colonist rate of \$32 from Chicago to North-Pacific, California and Mexico points from March 10 to April 10 was decided upon.

Trains Still Snowbound WINNIPEG, Feb. 3.—Few trains moved today on any of the three great railway systems in western Canada, hundreds of passenger and freight trains being buried in the snow drifts or at the mercy of dead locomotives. Many towns and villages of the interior are out of fuel because of non-arrival of trains. No trains have started here from Montreal for two days. Hundreds of men are engaged in digging out trains, but the wind is so strong and the cold so severe that little progress has been made.

BORROWED MUCH MONEY

William J. Cummings, Of Carnegie Trust Fame, Said To Have Loans From Canadian Banks

OTTAWA, Feb. 4.—A special from New York today says: "That William J. Cummings, chief stockholder in the Carnegie Trust Company, which closed its doors a month ago, and his friends, in addition to \$2,400,000 obtained on notes from the trust company, borrowed at least twice as much from New York and Canadian banks, is declared to be a fact. The Canadian loans are being investigated by Deputy Superintendent Torley of the Canadian banking department, who has been in this country for several weeks. He is said to have made startling discoveries."

COMMENCE CLEARING OF RIGHT OF WAY

First Twenty Miles Of New Island Railway Let To Sub-Contractors, Who Begin Work Tomorrow

The work of clearing the right of way on the island section of the Canadian Northern Pacific railway company will be commenced tomorrow. Operations will start simultaneously at a number of points between a distance of seven miles from Victoria and Sooke on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Over this portion of the route the entire right of way has been purchased through the agency of Messrs. Green & Burdick Bros., acting for the railroad company. Messrs. M. Carlin and Grant Smith and company who were awarded the contract for the first forty miles of construction have sub-let the contract for clearing the right of way for the first twenty miles. The sub-contractors will place some two hundred men at work and the force will be gradually increased as time advances. As soon as the right of way is cleared from a point 1.7 miles outside Victoria to Sooke, actual construction work will commence and before the spring is far advanced, the first twenty mile section will be well in hand. While rails are being laid over this distance the operation of clearing the right of way from Sooke to Shawinigan will be undertaken and at the present outlook the contractors are hopeful of having the first forty miles of the road completed by, at latest, the end of this year.

BRINGING PEOPLE TO THE LAND

The annual meeting of the Victoria branch of the Vancouver Island Development League, scheduled to take place on Friday, the 17th inst., will be a commentary, through settlement statistics, on the progress which the island is making. Through Government Agent Rayson, of Alberni, an arrangement is being made to obtain figures of the number of settlers who have either pre-empted or bought land in the West Coast districts during the year ending February 15th. Added to these figures there are other statistics in the possession of the league which show, in part, the number of those who have come to the island through the energies of the organization. This is the first year that such efforts have been made to show the results achieved by publicity. These results must inevitably be partial, as it is impossible for the officers of the league to keep track of all those who are attracted to the island, through the advertising propaganda. The president's report, however, will show some very tangible results of a hard year's work, and will moreover be able to point to a surplus as far as the finances of the organization are concerned. The meeting will among other business include election of officers, and probably the programme of work to be carried out during the year will be discussed.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Webster of Vancouver, who have been spending the past week in town have gone up to Duncan to visit friends for a few days before returning to the Terminal.

Dr. Samuel Owens, new in the Cobb building, is as well known to members of the police department as any doctor in the city, no word was given him, and it was not until ten weeks after Mrs. Porter's letter, on October 22, that the chief sent a formal postal card to her, giving Dr. Owens' address. She thereupon communicated with Dr. Owens, who went immediately to Vancouver and took his brother's body to Tacoma, where a brother and two sisters reside, and where the body was cremated.

WARM CAMPAIGN IN SOUND CITY

Mayor Gill And George W. Dilling Busy With Meetings—Frauds In Registration Alleged By Opposition

SEATTLE, Feb. 4.—The hottest municipal campaign in the history of Seattle is increasing in intensity as it draws to its close. Mayor Gill held a big noon meeting in the Grand opera house, which was packed to the roof, and he also mounted a "season" on Cherry street, and addressed an overflow meeting of about a thousand hearers. Within the theatre he was introduced by Gen. J. B. Metcalf, and divided his time with Mrs. Leon W. Browne, a woman lawyer.

George W. Dilling, the rebel candidate, held the biggest meeting of his campaign in the Dreamland rink tonight. The hall was crowded to its standing capacity somewhere between four and six thousand, and several hundred persons were turned away. The day was begun with the publication of a statement by Prosecuting Attorney John F. Murphy to the effect that his office force would be busy all day preparing 235 warrants for persons whose names appeared to be fraudulently registered in the downtown precincts. His investigations had shown that some lodging houses had been given as the address of more than twice as many voters as there were sleeping accommodations for.

Campaigns here usually come to their climax the Saturday before a Tuesday election, but this year it will be fought to the bitter end. Monday will be devoted to mass-meetings and general campaigning.

MASONIC MIX-UP

Lodge At Port Huron, Mich., Offends Grand Lodge Of Canada—Inter-course Is Forbidden

HAMILTON, Ont., Feb. 4.—The fraternal relations that have existed for the past fifty-six years between the Masonic grand lodge of Michigan and the grand lodge of Canada, are at an end, for the time being. The new grand master of Canada, Brother D. F. MacWatt, of Sarnia, has issued an edict of non-intercourse which will prevent in force until satisfactory explanations are made by the grand lodge of Michigan.

On Sunday, June 19, 1910, the Worshipful Master, officers and members of Pine Grove lodge at Port Huron, Mich., a Masonic lodge under the jurisdiction of the grand lodge of Michigan appeared in Masonic clothing at Sarnia in the province of Ontario and acting as a lodge, performed a Masonic ceremony.

Permission was not sought from nor given by a competent Masonic authority warranting the Pine Grove Lodge to appear and act as a lodge within the jurisdiction of the grand lodge of Canada, so that the act of the grand lodge of Michigan cannot visit Canadian lodges.

BUSINESS OF POST OFFICE IS GROWING

Advance Shown In Sales Of Postage Stamps And Money Orders Over Same Month Of Last Year

The business of the post office for the month just closed has shown a considerable increase over that of the same month during the previous year. An advance is shown in the amount of postage stamp sales, and fully 600 more orders were issued, and a large number more were paid over last year. The returns sent to Ottawa by the master Shakespeare for the month of January, as compared with the same month of 1910 follow:

Sale of articles of postage stamps, 1910, \$9,895,977; 1911, \$9,446,712. Cash receipts from second class matter mailed, 1910, \$105,544; 1911, \$112,244. Cash receipts being rent of boxes and drawers, 1910, \$51,655; 1911, \$114,490. Money orders issued, 1910, 2,587; 1911, 3,556. Money orders paid, 1910, 1,998; 1911, 2,187. \$50,880.79. Money order commissions, 1910, \$802.94; 1911, \$412.31. Postal notes sold, 1910, 1,576; 1911, 3,538.70. Postal notes paid, 1910, 1,109; 1911, 2,548.55. Postal note commissions, 1910, \$34,711; 1911, \$31.83. Savings bank deposits, 1910, no record; 1911, \$6,139.84.

SEATTLE, Feb. 3.—An instance of police neglect is that of Owens, who was killed in a street car accident in Vancouver, B. C., and his body taken to the morgue. Mrs. Porter, of Vancouver, wrote a letter to Chief of Police Wapensteen, of Seattle, stating that the deceased had a brother, a physician, in Seattle, and requesting that he be notified. In spite of the fact that

Dr. Samuel Owens, new in the Cobb building, is as well known to members of the police department as any doctor in the city, no word was given him, and it was not until ten weeks after Mrs. Porter's letter, on October 22, that the chief sent a formal postal card to her, giving Dr. Owens' address. She thereupon communicated with Dr. Owens, who went immediately to Vancouver and took his brother's body to Tacoma, where a brother and two sisters reside, and where the body was cremated.

FRUIT PROSECUTION

George Hicks, a fruit-grower of Swan Lake district, was convicted in the police court yesterday morning on a charge by Dominion Fruit Inspector D. M. Robertson, of Vancouver, of "selling fruit in packages in which the faced or shown surface gave a false representation of the contents of such packages," or in other words he put the big apples on top of the boxes and the tiny ones underneath. He was fined ten dollars and \$3.50 costs. It seems that Hicks sold some boxes of apples to J. E. Renouf, the grocer, in the fruit inspector found that these were large apples on top and culls underneath. J. E. Renouf, who gave evidence, said the apples were about as good as 75 per cent. of the apples sold, whereupon the magistrate asked if it was usual to sell such apples.

Two other charges were laid in the Saanich police court against the same fruit grower, one of failing to put the initials of the packer on the boxes of fruit and the other for failure to designate the grade of the fruit. He pleaded guilty. Mr. W. H. Langley, who appeared for the government, stated that the government had no wish to persecute anyone and as the grower had been already fined in one case he asked that sentence be suspended. This the magistrate did.

VICTORIA ROMANCE ENDS IN TRAGEDY

Seattle Girl Wedded Here After Elopement—Returns From Orient A Widow—Her Husband Murdered By Filipinos

But eighteen months ago one of the principals in a romance which had its origin in Seattle and culminated here when with her lover she eloped to this city, was arrested by the police, and later released and happily married despite the wishes of her parents, Yashti Large, as she then was, but now Mrs. Geer, widowed by the murderous attack made by Filipinos upon the man whom she wedded here, arrived yesterday afternoon from the Orient a passenger on the Empress of China.

It was a pathetic scene when her mother who had come over from Seattle to meet her, saw the daughter clothed in the deepest mourning standing on the steamer's deck. She recognized the object at the same moment. The daughter collapsed and had to be immediately attended to by the ship's physician. The mother, on the dock below, forgot everything but the fact that she must clasp her bereaved daughter to her breast and in her attempt to get on board nearly fell into the water. But for the presence of Detective Heather of the local force she would undoubtedly have fallen from the wharf. The presence of the police officer made another link in the chain of strange events which commenced on the morning of the day eighteen months ago when the young runaway couple from Seattle, determined to defy the parental orders, came here to marry.

In a small case beneath the berth in the cabin occupied by Mrs. Geer on her trip from the Orient reposed the ashes of the man whose soul murder by the natives of the Philippine Islands, had recently made another link in the chain of strange events which commenced on the morning of the day eighteen months ago when the young runaway couple from Seattle, determined to defy the parental orders, came here to marry.

Just six weeks ago Mrs. Geer set out for the nearest port to secure supplies leaving her husband, who had determined to go into the hills and induce his help to return. That was the last time he was seen alive. Mrs. Geer returned to the plantation to find her home in ashes and no sign of her husband. For some days afterwards no clue to his whereabouts could be found. Finally a search was instituted by some troops from the nearest post. His body, horribly mangled, was discovered lying in the thick undergrowth. Mrs. Geer immediately made preparations to return home and after having secured her husband's remains which were cremated, set out for Seattle.

In the meantime, Detective Heather, while in Seattle, had met Mr. and Mrs. Geer and they became fast friends. Mrs. Large, mother of Mrs. Geer, was escorted to the boat yesterday by Detective Heather. In a hack they were driven by the identical hackman who on the more auspicious occasion a year and a half ago had acted with the effort as witness at the wedding of the woman who returned yesterday a widow conveying the ashes of her husband to his homeland for burial. It was a sad meeting between mother and daughter. They have for Seattle today. On the voyage over the sad story of the young woman became known to the passengers and every kindness and attention was given her by passengers and members of the ship's company.

Newly Incorporated Companies Among the newly incorporated companies whose certificates have just been gazetted are the Alberni District Electric Light and Power Company, A. G. Brown-Jamison Company Limited, Canadian Northern Pacific Coal Company Limited, Chinese Daily Reform Gazette Sun Co. Limited, Coast Electric Brick Company Limited, Columbia Valley Orchards Limited, Consolidated

Are you taking part in our Great White-wear Sale? Campbell's Are you taking part in our Great White-wear Sale?



"American Lady" Corsets

We take pleasure in announcing to the ladies in and around Victoria that we are showing for the first time the "American Lady" Corset, for ladies of stout, slender or medium build.

Within the last few months this particular corset has come into great popularity, so much so that, after thorough and careful investigation we are satisfied that its popularity is deserved.

"AMERICAN LADY" Corset produces a figure, perfect in symmetry, charmingly graceful in its ease. The instant responsiveness to the slightest undulation of the body is a surprising comfort to ladies who have never before worn an "American Lady" Corset. It gives a figure perfect in its conformity to fashion's edicts. Ladies wear the "American Lady" because it brings to them that elegance of figure, that poise, which only unusual comfort and confidence in the correctness of one's dress can give.

PRICES ARE: \$5.50, \$4.50, \$3.75, \$2.50 AND \$1.50

DISTINCTION IN DRESS

Is a matter of figure not fabric.

The Store that Serves You Best.

For Epicurean Palates

Table listing various food items and prices: Mortadella Sausage, per tin 50c; Norwegian Fish Balls, per tin 25c; German Lieberkuehn, (genuine imported), per tin 65c; German Frankfurters (genuine imported), per tin 65c; Cresca Capon, the most delicious of all cooked chickens (the whole bird in jelly), per tin 42.50; Cresca Fowl (the whole fowl in jelly, exceedingly nice), tin 32.00; Pimentos (Spanish Peppers), per tin 35.00; Lobster in Aspic Jelly, extra tasty, per glass 75c; Chicken in Aspic Jelly, another delicacy, per glass 85c; Halford's Curried Fowl, exceptionally appetizing, per tin 50c; Curry Paste, per jar 50c; Jelly in Aspic, per jar 25c; Curried Prawns, per glass 75c; Wine Jellies, per glass 35c.

DIXIE H. ROSS & CO.

Independent Grocers, 1317 Government Street. Tels. 50, 51, 52. Liquor Dept. Tel. 1590

Electric Heaters Limited, Cranbrook, son. The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Mabel O. Brewster, while Mr. Archer, of Seattle, supported the groom. The young couple left for the Sound cities and will return via Vancouver. Only the family relations were present, owing to recent bereavements.

New Wing Vancouver Court House

Public Works Engineer F. G. Gamble has given public notice to contractors that the time for receiving tenders for the new wing of the Vancouver courthouse has been extended until the 21st instant; also that the drawings and description of the site selected for the new trans-Columbia steel bridge at Trail have been deposited with the minister of public works at Ottawa and duplicates with the registrar of deeds at Nelson, it being the intention of the provincial minister of public works to apply to the governor-general-in-council for approval thereof on the 1st proximo.

The Rev. John Antle of Vancouver, is a guest at the Empress hotel.