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EIGHTH YEAR — SATUURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 3, 1887.—EIGHT PAGES. — PRICE ONE CENT

NO LIGHT ON THE MYSTERY

OPENING OF THE INQUEST TOUCHING JOSEPH PRIESTMAN'S DEATH.

The Wife of the Dead Man Tells About Their Business and Social Relations—She Knows of no Financial Embarrassments—What James Bartlett Saw in Dufferin-street.

About 300 men and boys crowded the Parkdale Town Hall last night when Coroner Lynd re-opened his enquiry into the death of Joseph Priestman, jr., found dead with a bullet hole in his brain on the common west of Exhibition Park early on the morning of Aug. 25 last. It was after 8.30 before the coroner got the court started, and in doing so he admonished the auditors to keep quiet as possible. In the event of their not doing so, he would be compelled to adjourn to the council room down stairs and exclude the public. This had the effect of producing comparative peace and quietness until the court adjourned at midnight, which enabled the reporters to catch the last car for the city, said car being filled with a merry crowd of young West Enders who had been having a high old time at Slattery's Grove. Their merriment was in strange contrast to the scene which the scribes had just quitted. It was not, however, an unwelcome change.

There were plenty of unoccupied seats in the room, but throughout the village the inquest and the mysterious tragedy was the general theme of conversation. So much so was the case that a street preacher with a bass profundo voice, who was holding forth near the Subway, could not collect a bigger audience than half a dozen of boys, two of whom were city bootblacks.

The Widow and Some of the Spectators.

Mrs. Priestman arrived in the company of her daughters and a couple of lady friends about 8.20 and was shown to an anteroom. Mrs. Priestman was attired in deep mourning. She was the first witness and was under examination for over an hour. She gave her testimony without apparent nervousness or emotion, notwithstanding the many delicate questions that were asked her.

County Crown Attorney Badgerow was present at the hearing and assisted the coroner in the examination of witnesses. Detective "Joe" Rogers was beside Dr. Lynd and refreshed his memory with enquiries that might possibly throw some light on the mystery of the affair. High Constable Jones was also on hand and sat beside the reporters.

Foreman John Clarke and his fellow-jurors were arranged in a semi-circle around the coroner's table. They had been already sworn in and viewed the body on the evening of Aug. 25 at deceased's house in Dunnavenue. It may be remarked that the jury is a highly intelligent-looking one.

Among the interested spectators were Park Superintendent Chambers, White Star Line Tommy Jones, Rev. John Hardin, rector of St. Mark's church, and Lieut.-Col. Gray. Mr. Harrison was one of the officiating clergymen at the services at the house before the remains were taken to Welland. He was an intimate friend of the dead man.

By the way, bibles must be scarce in Parkdale, for it took about twenty minutes to scare up a copy of the Sacred Book on which to swear the witnesses. Dr. Lynd had inadvertently left his at home.

Mrs. Priestman Testifies.

Mrs. Sarah Priestman, wife of the deceased, was the first witness examined. She deposed: I am the wife of the late Joseph Priestman. I last saw him alive at 9.30 o'clock on Thursday evening, Aug. 25. He was then in his usual good spirits, and had been in good health and spirits for some time previous.

"Was he of a despondent nature?" asked the coroner. No, but quite the contrary. He came in about 9.30 after taking "Baby" Page home. The girls then came in, having spent the evening at Lawyer Stephenson's. He asked them how they enjoyed themselves, and they said very well. About five minutes afterwards he went out again, and I asked him not to remain long.

The Coroner: "For what purpose?" A: "He said he was going to meet some person near the subway."

Mr. Badgerow: "Did he say whom he was going to see?" A. "No, he merely said he was going to see some one near the subway."

To the Coroner. "When I told him not to be long he said he would not be absent more than an hour." A. "Yes."

Q. "Was it his custom to go out at that hour?" A. "Yes. He frequently went out at that hour. He was always punctual in coming home at the hour mentioned."

Q. "Had he anything of value about his person?" A. "He had his watch and chain and some money. His watch was silver, the chain was gold with a masonic emblem on it."

Q. "Why do you think he had money with him?" A. "I saw him with bills in the afternoon and observed him put them back into his pocket. I am positive he had money with him that night when leaving."

Q. "As to his financial position, was he in any trouble?" A. "Not that I am aware of."

Q. "You would know if he was?" A. "I am sure I would."

Q. "What about your family relations?" A. "They were very happy and agreeable. We had no trouble of any kind. His principal occupation was that of insurance agent and he was about 45 years of age."

Q. "Who were present in the house that night before your husband left?" A. "W. H. Puttman and my daughters, Alice and Nettie. Mrs. White and Mrs. Conlin had been in the house during the evening."

Q. "Do you recollect Mr. Priestman having had any partner in his business?" A. "He had an assistant, but he left in May for home and never returned. His name was Wilson E. Schooley. He had been with my husband eight or ten months, and was married to my niece."

Q. "Did he give satisfaction up to that time?" A. "Yes. The reason of the difference was that Schooley began to drink. While he was drinking we heard several complaints about him borrowing money in the city. He told one man at Brownsville that he had been sent by Mr. Priestman to collect money, and not having succeeded he borrowed some. When he went away Mr. Priestman told him, he might come back, but when he did come back he began drinking again. There were no irregularities prior to May that I am aware of."

Mr. Badgerow: "For what reason did Mr. Priestman dismiss him?" A. "Well, he didn't want him because he was drinking. There was no fuss, nor had blood between them. When Schooley came back Mr. Priestman reasoned with him. There were a few angry words between them about a ring. Schooley had pawned his ring. Mr. Priestman said to Schooley that he would pay his way home to Hamilton, but would not give him the money. Mr. Priestman said to me on one occasion that 'Will was rather crazed while he drank. He (Mr. Priestman) asked myself and one of the girls to go down to his office and see what we thought of Schooley's mental condition. We went to the Arcade but Schooley did not turn up. I never heard my husband say that he apprehended any bodily harm from Schooley. I did not hear my husband speak of Schooley after he left. From the relationship which existed between Priestman and Schooley, I don't think Schooley would return to do him any harm—Mr. Priestman was his only friend."

Q. "Where is Schooley now?" A. "When I was in Welland I heard that he was in Windsor."

Q. "Did you think it peculiar that your husband did not return that night?" A. "I was not uneasy about him until midnight."

Mr. Badgerow: "Was Mr. Priestman in the habit of confiding his business matters to you?" A. "He was. I never knew him to keep any matters secret from me."

Q. "Was he speaking to you recently about any business embarrassment?" A. "No, but he said he was about selling his Richmond-street property. I knew nothing of any financial embarrassment, but I knew he had bills to meet and that he was going to see Mr. Stephenson about them."

Q. "Did he say that he was able to meet the bills?" A. "I understood that he could."

Q. "If he had any embarrassment would it worry him much?" A. "I think it would. I think if he was not able to meet his bills he would feel it very much. The troubles Schooley occasioned him gave him a great deal of worry."

Q. "Would he treat business difficulties philosophically or would they occasion him worry and trouble?" A. "Well, he was able to think clearly."

Q. "What time in the afternoon did you see him with the money?" A. "About 3 o'clock. He remained in the house from the time I saw him with the money until he left at night. I do not know how much money he had, but he gave me a five dollar bill. I called Mr. Putnam about 2 o'clock on the morning of my husband's death."

Q. "How many revolvers had Mr. Priestman in the house?" A. "He had three."

The revolver with which the fatal shot was fired was here produced and Mrs. Priestman said she had never seen it before. It was not one of the three which Mr. Priestman kept in the house.

A juryman asked if the deceased was in the habit of carrying anything about him besides his watch, chain and money, and Mrs. Priestman replied that he was in the habit of carrying an American trade dollar in memory of a baby boy of theirs who died in 1883. Priestman had this coin with him on the evening he left the house.

The Coroner: "Are you aware that Mr. Priestman made a will lately?" A. "Yes, about a week before his death."

Q. "Can you assign any reason for making the will at this particular time?" A. "No more than that he said every man should have his will made. He made several wills."

Mr. Badgerow: "When did he make a will prior to this?" A. "He had been making a will ever since he came to Toronto. He made changes in his will whenever he made changes in his property. His last will was made after a conversation as to his sister's death, who had died without a will. He also referred to his uncle who died intestate."

To a juryman: "My husband was a right hand man."

To Mr. Badgerow: "He bought two of his revolvers when we were at Stonebridge, and the other since we came to Toronto. Since the act prohibiting the carrying of firearms passed he has not carried his pistols in the city or anywhere else."

Mr. Badgerow: "When he had your husband for three weeks?" A. "After he bought the first two he taught me to use one. That was eleven years ago. At that time we traveled a good deal."

The Foreman asked if Mr. Putnam went out a second time to look for Mr. Priestman, and witness replied in the affirmative. The first time he went out he returned, took a rest, and went out again. About 11 o'clock that night witness heard persons running past the house towards the lake, but she heard no shots. The night was bright and starlight.

The Foreman: "Did Mr. Priestman frequently take the route over the common?" A. "He did. He frequently took Dufferin-street to the subway. When he was going out he said he would not be more than an hour, and would come back the short cut. He had a walking stick with him. He frequently took us (his family) over the common to the subway before the cars ran along Queen-street to Dundavenue."

What James Bartlett Saw.

Mr. James Bartlett of 32 O'Hara-avenue, Parkdale, deposed that between 9.30 and 10 o'clock on the night of Aug. 25 he was in Dufferin-street, whither he was attracted by a fire in the C.P.R. workshops, near by. He was standing about midway between King-street and the workshops. "I spoke to a man who came up and asked me how it (the fire) originated. He said he had seen it from his house in Dundavenue, and was interested in insurance, and that only he had an engagement to fulfil he would wait and see how the fire went on. The man took out his watch, looked at the time and walked away hurriedly. The man was dressed in dark clothes."

A photograph of Mr. Priestman was produced and the witness recognized it as that of the man he had been speaking to on the occasion. "There were quite a number of people about—chiefly boys," said the witness.

The Lamplighter's Story.

Alexander Smith, a lamplighter, constable and detective in the employ of the Consumers' Gas Company and Parkdale, was the next witness. Mr. Smith is one of the most important functionaries in the West End suburb. He was dressed in a black frock coat and white vest, by which was strung a long watch chain. He deposed that on the morning of Aug. 26 about 4 o'clock he went to "distinguish" his beat. He "distinguished" Dufferin-street, and when he got "paralyze" with Dufferin-street, he noticed something "lying alongside the railway track."

Witness continued: "I went over and found Mr. Priestman's dead body lying on its back. There were spots of blood and papers lying on either side of the body, and also on the sidewalk. There was a revolver lying about three feet from the left foot of the man—or about five feet from the left hand. There was a Christy hat on the ground near the body, fifteen cents and a walking cane. The cane was partly under the left thigh. There was also a small ring or watch case partly open. Two chambers of the revolver were empty. The man's coat was opened, as was also the vest. The trousers' pockets, right and left, were turned inside out. There was blood on the man's lips, and a large clot of blood on the right side of the head. The head was pretty close to the edge of a plank. There was blood on the fingers of the left hand. The legs were straight out, the feet pointing northwest, and the arms by the side. The discovery was made about 5 o'clock in the morning. I did not move the body, but as soon as I left to report the matter to the coroner I saw a man coming along the track, whom I arrested. The man said he had walked from Hamilton, and when searched nothing was found in his possession. He was then discharged."

Mr. Smith then underwent a fusilade of cross-questions from Mr. Badgerow and individual jurymen. The papers scattered around the dead man's body, and which weighed almost half a pound, were spread out on the table and passed among the jury. Many of the papers were spattered with blood as it spurted from a wound. Only on one or two were blood found on both sides, and then on the side supposed to have been next the sidewalk and only in small spots.

Some of the blood marks were so strange as to their formation that Foreman Clarke suggested that a dog might have stepped in the dead man's blood and then on the papers. All kinds of curious questions were fired at Lamplighter Smith, and when he was asked by an enterprising juror if he thought the papers were in the man's pocket when the fatal shot was fired he admitted that this baffled him. He explained as minutely as possible the position of every piece of paper found around the body. The papers on the west side which had the most blood on were between three and four feet from the body. When witness went away to notify the coroner he left Mr. John Chambers in charge.

The Park Superintendent's Story.

Park Superintendent Chambers was next sworn. He also gave a minute description of the surroundings when he went over from his house in the park to view the body at 5 o'clock Friday morning. Mr. Chambers went on to say that on Thursday, Aug. 25, he made an appointment with Mr. Priestman for the following (Friday) morning on business.

To Mr. Badgerow: "The business was connected with insurrnce."

To the Coroner: "On the west side of the body several papers were strewn. I did not touch any of them, but I looked down at them. There were also papers on the east side. They did not look as if they had been displaced after falling to the ground. There was no blood under the papers that I am aware of. There were only two or three drops of blood between the body and any of the papers. The bloody papers were about two and a half feet away from the body."

Then Mr. Chambers said: "When I came up first I thought it was a case of suicide. I soon changed my mind after taking in the position of the papers, the blood and the body. Smith said when I first saw him that he thought it was a case of suicide. I feel certain it was murder."

Mr. Badgerow: "You have fully made up your mind to that, Mr. Chambers?"

Mr. Chambers: "Yes, all things considered I feel certain that Mr. Priestman was murdered."

Mr. Badgerow: "Do you know anything of Mr. Priestman's disposition and habits?"

Mr. Chambers: "I always found him a courteous, agreeable, level-headed gentleman."

To the Coroner: "I think the papers were handled and then thrown to the ground. The papers were there for some time before I came. The sidewalk under them was quite dry while the papers were damp with dew."

Mr. Chambers then related a circumstance which occurred on the night of Aug. 25. He, with Mr. Purvis of the Credit Valley Railway, were near his (Chambers') cottage in Exhibition Park about 8.30. A man, whose appearance he did not like, came up and, in answer to a question, said he had got into the park and could not find his way out. "My little boy," continued Mr. Chambers, "let the man out at the Dufferin-street gate. The boy came back to me and said he did not like the looks of the man. Mr. Purvis made the same remark to me."

To a juryman: "I heard no shots that night. If there were any fired it was long after 10. I retired at that hour. Had there been any shots fired in the common earlier than 10 I certainly would have heard them, because I was outside all evening with Mr. Purvis. I have frequently heard shots on the common but never took notice of them."

Mr. Chambers here repeated his theory that Mr. Priestman was murdered.

Some Expert Evidence by Marksman Jones.

Mr. Thomas Jones, the White Star Line agent of Yonge-street, who lives at No. 60 Lorne-crescent, Parkdale, quite near Mr. Priestman's house, was the last witness. On the fatal night, about 11 o'clock, witness heard a distant pistol shot on the common. He knew it was about 11 because the Grand Trunk train for Hamilton passed just afterwards. He had heard shots before on the common but never took notice of them.

Mr. Jones then gave some expert evidence about the powers of powder in the singeing and blackening way. Looking at the British bulldog from which the fatal shot had been fired, and which lay on the table, he said if the muzzle were held within an inch of the head the hair immediately around the orifice of the wound would be blackened. At fifteen inches a circular patch as large as the mouth of a goblet would be blackened and burned.

A juryman: "How do people fall when they are shot?"

Mr. Jones: "Oh, they may tumble in any direction and roll over. A man often makes three bounds into the air after being hit in a vital part."

A juryman: "Could a man turn a somersault after being hit with a bullet?"

Mr. Jones: "Sure he might. Stranger things than that have happened."

The inquiry was then adjourned till Tuesday evening, Sept. 20, at 8 o'clock.

AN ABANDONED CAB

Stolen From Hamilton and Found at Bronte—A Team and MAN Hurt.

HAMILTON, Sept. 2.—Last Monday night Buckman Thomas Connell left his hack and horses for a few minutes on the corner of Catharine and Barton streets, and when he went back for them they had disappeared. It was Wednesday before they turned up. The hack was found on the lake shore near the Village of Bronte, close to the water's edge. The pole had been slipped, and lay underneath the vehicle. The horses had been turned loose, and wandered into John Briggs' stable, quite near the spot where they were unhitched. In the hack were found, among other things, the photograph of a handsome and elegantly-dressed young lady of Hamilton, a pair of lady's prunella gaiters, a pair of lady's rubbers, a man's white shirt, an empty bottle and a black silk parasol with a broken handle. The Oakville Star publishes, under glaring headlines, a sensational account of the discovery of the hack, and intimates that "a single or a double murder" might have occurred. It is not so bad as that. A party of night-birds on a spree merely took possession of Connell's hack for a ride, and they were probably afraid to return to the city with it for fear of the consequences.

On Thursday, while drunk, William Wayhrant, who says he belongs to Ayr, tried to jump on a C.P.R. train while it was going at the rate of 30 miles an hour. He fell off the platform uninjured and was taken into custody. This morning he was fined $10 and costs for trespass.

About noon to-day the engine of the train from Hamilton on the Hamilton and Dundas Street Railway left the track and plunged into the Bay. Fortunately the train was not very heavy, and the only passenger injured was hurt except a young Toronto man named Bartram who jumped out of the train and had one of his arms injured. A force of men was immediately set to work to clear the track. A side track was built up to the engine, it having been found impossible to move it on to the main track. The whole damage is to the engine, which is injured to the extent of several hundred dollars.

ENTICED FROM HOME.

A Toronto Girl Saved From Shame by the Detroit Police.

DETROIT, Sept. 2.—Mary Griffin, 16 years old, arrived in Detroit from Toronto last night and asked Officer McNamara to be directed to her sister's boarding-house, naming one of the most notorious resorts in the city. The officer took the girl to the Central Station, where Sergeant High questioned her and learned that her sister had induced her to come to Detroit. She was horror-stricken when she learned the character of the house. She was turned over to the "Open Door" Society.

Secure your tickets and seats at Nordheimer's for the great ball game to-day, and avoid rush at the gates.

Drowned in the Ottawa.

OTTAWA, Sept. 2.—Mr. James Walsh, of the Public Works Department, was accidentally drowned at Gatineau Point, opposite the city, about 10 o'clock to-night. He and two friends were crossing the Ottawa River to the city when the boat, which was old and leaky, sunk. The three were thrown into the water. Walsh sank before assistance could reach him, but his two companions, St. George and Demerault, were saved. Walsh's body had not been recovered up to a late hour to-night.

The Pope Loves Ireland.

DUBLIN, Sept. 2.—The papal envoy in reply to an address presented to him by the people of Tipperary, said: "The Pope loves Ireland, knows her sufferings and feels the deepest sympathy with her people. He sent me to tell you of his love and sympathy, and moreover that he intends to do a great and real good for Ireland. When he raises his voice the potentates of the earth will listen reverently, because his voice is never raised but in truth and justice. He will do all in his power for the future prosperity of Ireland."

Mr. Mackenzie Still at Winnipeg.

WINNIPEG, Sept. 2.—Hon. Alex. Mackenzie will remain in Winnipeg for several days yet. He intended to leave for Toronto last night but on the advice of his physician he deferred his departure.

The Elections in Holland.

THE HAGUE, Sept. 2.—In the elections for members of the Second Chamber of the States General the returns from 25 districts show the election of 27 Liberals, 10 Orthodox Protestants and 13 Catholics.

Cholera in Malta.

LONDON, Sept. 2.—In Malta during the past twenty-four hours there were five new cases of cholera and four deaths.

CHAT ACROSS THE CABLE.

The Italian military manœuvres have given great satisfaction to the military authorities.

A great pilgrimage to Rome is being arranged in Hungary. Five hundred persons have signified their intention of taking part.

Sixty-two thousand pounds of bullion were withdrawn from the Bank of England yesterday for shipment to America.

There were fifteen new cases and eight deaths from cholera in Catania on Thursday, and thirteen new cases and six deaths at Palermo.

Joseph Richard Cox, M.P. for East Clare, writes to the papers saying that he will address his constituents at Ballycorie on Sunday, notwithstanding the Government's proclamation.

The Madrid Dia warns the Government not to allow France to push the Algerian Railway to the oasis of Figuig, which would be a violation of the integrity of Morocco, and would make France mistress of the Sahara, which it is one of her cherished ambitions to become.

The Paris Siecle announces the issue of a great loan to transform the floating debt and the old 4½ per cent. rentes into perpetual 3 per cents., in order to provide resources for the extraordinary budget of 1888, and for the conversion of debts which the State may be called upon to pay at short notice.

A CAPIAS NE EXEAT REGNO

HENRY TAYLOR OF LONDON TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.

He is Charged With Neglecting to Invest Funds Put in His Hands for That Purpose—The Prisoner's Ineffectual Effort to Procure Bail.

LONDON, Sept 2.—This afternoon Mr. R. M. Meredith appeared before Judge Davis, in chambers, and demanded a capias for the arrest of Henry Taylor, ex-President of the Bank of London.

After a long discussion the request was granted and the capias was placed in the hands of High Constable Schram for execution. Mr Taylor was arrested at his residence in London South at 4 o'clock. He took the matter very coolly and told the constable he would not go to jail, but would fix matters all right.

His first resort was to appeal to the Ontario Investment Association for the protection that they promised. A meeting was called, but no decision was arrived at by 10.15, by which time Sheriff Glass either, wanted things settled or Mr. Taylor in the county jail. The time was extended fifteen minutes by the sheriff, but nothing was done, and Taylor was escorted to the jail by High Constable Schram and Detectives Graham, Young and Jackson.

Arriving at the prison Mr. Taylor prevailed upon Sheriff Glass to give him twenty-four hours from the time of his arrest to procure bail. Mr. Taylor, who was still in the charge of the detectives, then set out to look for bail, but up to 1 o'clock he failed to find any person who would take the risk.

The capias on which he was arrested was issued at the instance of R. M. Meredith for breach of contract, Mr. Meredith having placed $15,000 in Taylor's hands for investment which Mr. Taylor failed to invest.

Taylor said to a reporter that he was arrested for debt but further would tell nothing.

Another Account.

By the Associated Press.

LONDON, Ont., Sept. 2.—Henry Taylor, ex-President of the Bank of London in Canada and President of the Ontario Investment Association of London, was arrested at his house this afternoon on a capias issued by Judge Davis, at the instance of R. M. Meredith, Mr. Taylor was lodged in jail tonight.

There are various causes assigned for Taylor's arrest, the one generally accepted being that funds entrusted to him for investment by Mr. Meredith were not invested, but still there is a strong feeling that the real cause is being suppressed.

AN ALARM IN THE EARLY HOURS.

A Startling Incident Which Set Seven Policemen on the Jump.

Shortly after 1.30 o'clock this morning a loud sound, resembling more the forcing of a safe than the discharge of firearms, was heard in the neighborhood of Bay and Melinda streets. Several persons rushed to their bedroom windows and the policemen on the adjoining beats were quickly on the spot. All agreed that the sound came from the Melinda-street corner, and one of the neighbors says that she heard a crackling like the breaking of shingle and within a minute the sound of a shot. Several of the policemen thought it was too violent for firearms. Seven of the policemen met at the corner of King, Bay and Melinda-street, and examination of all the premises as far as was feasible was made. Several premises were entered, the wood-shed just within Melinda-street examined, and the roofs of the houses and rear of the premises searched. A number of persons were attracted to the spot of the unusual sound in the stillness of the night. No clue, however, was got to the strange circumstance. The police remained on the look-out for some hours.

THE PARADIS CASE.

The Forged Check is Not Produced and the Charge Fails.

OTTAWA, Sept. 2.—The celebrated Paradis forgery case was settled in Aylmer to-day by the dismissal of the case by the magistrate. It will be remembered that when Hon. Mr. McShane was examined last week he promised that if he could find the check, the endorsation on which it was charged Father Paradis had forged, he would send it to the court. To-day a check was produced, but Mr. Foran, counsel for the prosecution, declared it was not the check in question. The check produced, he said, was for works in the Township of Egan, while the check required was for works in the Township of Aumond. Mr. McShane had not fulfilled his agreement to send the check to him (Foran) or the court.

Mr. Ayler contended that the check produced was the one referred to in Trembly's evidence, and as it did not bear out the charge the case against Father Paradis fell to the ground.

Mr. Foran said there was another check, that referred to in Trembly's evidence, and it had not been produced.

After a long discussion by the lawyers, the magistrates decided that no forgery had been proved, as no forged check had been produced, and therefore dismissed the case.

A Five Days' Battle.

The Salvation Army will begin this evening a five nights' celebration at the Temple in honor of its fifth anniversary in Canada. Before the meeting there will be a torchlight procession along Yonge, King, York and Queen-streets. The evening will be enthusiastically devoted to welcoming home the Commissioner and old officers of the city corps. The battle will rage till Wednesday night.

Hanged for Murder.

COLUMBUS, O., Sept. 2.—Josiah Terrill was executed in the jail at 12.30 o'clock this morning for the murder of Charles Phelps, aged 66, of Pomeroy, Ohio. Terrill showed wonderful nerve and declared he was innocent. Phelps was a miser, and the crime was committed for the purpose of robbery.

Manitoba Favored.

WINNIPEG, Man., Sept. 2.—The Government observatory gives the rain fall for the five months, ending with August, 1887, at 10.60 inches, against 6.24 in 1885 and 8.62 in 1886, showing that the drought, which was so general throughout the Western States this season did not extend to Manitoba.

OUR OWN COUNTRY.

Items of Interest Received by Mail and Wire.

A commercial union demonstration will be held at Woolwich, Waterloo county, on Friday next.

William Rice, who was arrested some time ago at London charged with stabbing John Ward, has been committed for trial.

The fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Salvation Army in Canada will be celebrated on Saturday by a jubilee banquet.

Mr. Robert Barber of Toronto and James R. Brown of Oshawa, Provincial Factory Inspectors, are in Hamilton fulfilling their duties.

Nelson Martin of Brantford, who has just been released from penitentiary, has been arrested for robbing the residence of a Montreal gentleman.

As the change in the rifles used by the Canadian militia would cost at least half a million dollars, it is not probable that any change will be made at present.

While Nelson Anderson of Puslinch was loading one of his horses to water the animal kicked him in the face, the cork of the shoe cutting out one eye, completely destroying the sight, and through the bridge of his nose, mutilating that fearfully. He is slowly recovering.

ABOUT THE ISLAND PARK.

How the Money Voted by the People Was Squandered Without Their Knowledge.

There is likely to be not a little dissatisfaction among the people when it is known how the $25,000 they voted for a park on the Island has been or is being expended. It will be understood that the revenue expended upon parks in this city does not come out of general taxation but from what is known as the "Walks and Gardens" property. The Property Committee, who have charge of the parks, offered if the city would vote the $25,000 bylaw to provide the interest and sinking fund out of walks and gardens' funds, so that not a cent of it would ever come out of taxation. This was agreed to and the money voted.

But while the Property Committee proposed to provide for the making of a park out of their funds, they never intended to also provide the site. What, however, has the Council done? They have compelled the committee to furnish the funds to take up Mrs. Mead's lease, as it covered the site for the park. Mrs. Mead had partially sublet to Messrs. Fleming, Turner & Boyle for twelve years, at a rental of $600 per year for the first five years and $1000 per year for the other seven. It cost $13,000 to quiet Mrs. Mead's title to the property and $2500 had to be paid for improvements, in the shape of electric light apparatus, etc., put in by Mr. Fleming. This leaves only $9500 that is actually to be spent on the park of the money voted by the people, a palpably insufficient amount.

If the city had made the payments for the site, as should have been done, and allowed the Property Committee to expend the whole $25,000, we should have had, in a year's time, a park of fifty acres, with a large pavilion, bowling, refreshment halls, hand stands and all the appliances for amusement, with reduced ferry rates, and the whole self-sustaining, for the leases of refreshment booths would produce revenue sufficient to keep up the place. Instead the $9500 will be spent and then the committee will have to wait until they can get more. There are splendid possibilities about the place. The dredge is now at work, and even with the $9500 a great deal of work will be done. But more money will have to come from some place, or what has gone before will be wasted and the Island will be as well make up its mind at once to pay back to the committee the $15,500 taken from it.

A BIG FIRE IN MONTREAL.

It is Believed the Insurance Will Fully Cover the Loss.

MONTREAL, Sept. 2.—Early this afternoon a fire broke out in the store occupied by the Wanzer Lamp Company and spread with great rapidity into the adjoining store, occupied by G. W. Prowse, and up the ventilator into the premises of Beckett Bros., printers. There on the upper flats had a close call for their lives. The smoke was stifling. The flames had communicated to a staircase leading from the shop below, effectually cutting off their exit in this direction, while the smoke was rolling up in so dense a volume in front as to render escape by the windows and along the ledge into the adjoining building both difficult and dangerous. Beckett Bros' loss is comparatively. Mr. Beckett was alone at home and had a very narrow escape. Mr. Prowse is insured for $25,000, the building for $10,000, $5000 in the North British, $5000 in the Royal Canadian and $5000 in the Western Assurance. The stock is insured for $20,000 in the following companies: North British, Royal Canadian, Western Commercial Union and Phœnix. Only half an hour before Mr. Prowse had taken an additional insurance of $5000 in the Royal Canadian.

Beckett Bros. are insured for $6000 in the London and $3000 in the Norwich Insurance Companies.

F. E. Lundy of the lamp store is insured for $2000 in the Western, Phœnix, Queen and Queen Assurance; damage mostly by water.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

The Island campers will have their last church parade to-morrow morning, when the Rev. S. Shaw will preach.

The Army and Navy Veterans' Burial Society will meet the second Tuesday in every month at 8 o'clock in room 1, Temperance Hall.

The Rev. Principal Grant of Queen's College, Kingston, will occupy the pulpit of old St. Andrew's Church to-morrow morning, and Rev. D. J. Macdonell of this city in the evening.

Edmund Graham, who is charged with throwing vitriol in the face of Louis Sievert, was further remanded yesterday for a week as Sievert was unable to appear.

Eugene Moran, a fruit pedlar, was fined at the Police Court yesterday for obstructing the street, and got an additional small fine for expressing the opinion that Magistrate Denison's decision might be law but not justice.

Charles A. Hunter of 134 Shuter-street was assaulted Thursday night in Rosedale by three unknown men, one of whom struck him on the arm with a heavy stick. His assailants fled when he made a motion as if to draw his revolver.

Architect Lennox has been for some weeks engaged on the plans of the new Court House. There is a growing anxiety, especially on the part of the aldermen, to see them finished. Mr Lennox hopes to have the plans ready in three weeks.

Martin Carey, a well-known tough and jail bird, of no fixed residence, was arrested yesterday red-handed. He went into Richard Fuller's public house, corner of Arthur-street and Euclid-avenue, and called for a glass of beer. While the landlord was drawing it and had his back turned, Carey reached over the counter and helped himself to a bottle of whisky. He was making off when he was apprehended. He was lodged in St. Andrew's Police Station. A long list of previous convictions against him.

John Rodmond, a laborer, who said he lived at the Rossin House, but who, it was ascertained, hung out at Smith's boarding house, 103 Shuter-street, was arrested last evening on suspicion of stealing a coat and a pair of trousers.

Messrs. Struthers & Co., 179 Yonge-street are having a special exhibition of housefurnishings, stoves, etc., during the "fair" week, and are giving a 10 per cent. discount on all purchases. Everyone should avail themselves of this opportunity.

Lieut. William Burton of Canton Toronto, I.O.O.F., Col. Slatter's aide-de-camp, and Albert Lodge, who was elected Deputy Grand Master for the District of Toronto at the session of that grand body recently held in Peterboro, has been commissioned accordingly.

Judge McDougall will preside at the County Court, which will open on Monday. The following is a list of the cases to be tried: Toronto Street Railway v. City of Toronto; Merchants' Bank v. Board; Taylor & Wheeler v. Morrison; Clarkson v. Robinson; Best v. McCrimmon.

The new firm of Husband & Smellie, 352 and 354 Yonge-street, beg to call the attention of their numerous friends to the fact that they are now in a position to furnish them with carpets, oilcloths, mattings and floor coverings of every description at prices lower than any other house in the city.

A final exhibition of the Smith lumber cutting machine will be given to-day at 3 o'clock sharp at John Abell's works, Queen-street west. An exhaustive description of this machine appeared in these columns some weeks ago and all interested should not fail to attend to-morrow.

Hugh Clark, a newly-arrived immigrant, claims to have been fleeced out of $25, which he deposited with one J. E. Peterkin as security that he would go to work on a job at 85 Queen-street west. Clark found out that he had been swindled yesterday and called upon Peterkin to return his money. Peterkin succeeded in eluding his victim who thereupon notified the police.

Enterprising and deserving of patronage, the McMurtry Tea Co.'y, 328 Yonge-street, advertise special offer in connection with the Industrial Exhibition Art Union distribution of prizes on Sept. 13. As you will notice by reading advertisement in another column, each and every purchaser of teas at their store between this and the day of distribution, get free of charge one of their tickets, which likely as not may be the winning numbers.

About 10.30 o'clock last night smoke was seen issuing from the window of a room over the store occupied by Frank Bonnell, hatter, 229 Yonge-street. The fire alarm was sounded and in a few minutes the fire brigade were on the scene, but the fire was suppressed before their arrival. The origin was supposed to be from a lighted cigar left carelessly in the room. No damage was done.

A novel point was raised at the hearing yesterday of the case of Queen v. Kennedy before Justice Armour. Mr. Aylesworth, who appeared for the defendant, contended that the statutes of Canada having recently consolidated under the name of the Revised Statutes of Canada, the old ones being repealed and re-enacted in the new ones, the repeal of the Scott Act necessitated its being re-enacted by popular vote before it can again become law. Judgment was reserved.

MR. GLADSTONE'S DESIGNS.

SALISBURY SAYS THEY WILL BE KNOWN IN TIME.

In an Address to the Electors of Dungannon Mr. Russell Says as Yet He Has Not Withdrawn from the Liberal-Unionist Ranks.

LONDON, Sept. 2.—Lord Salisbury has written a letter to the Conservatives in the Brighton Division of Glasgow, in explanation of their defeat in the recent election, in which he says: "By dexterous ambiguity of language many Liberal-Unionists have been persuaded that Mr. Gladstone has abandoned his separatist designs. In course of time the Gladstone policy must be explained definitely, and then the exertions of the Unionists will receive their triumphant reward."

Mr. Russell's Position.

DUBLIN, Sept. 2.—In an address to the electors of Dungannon last night, T. W. Russell, M.P. for South Tyrone, and one of the Liberal Unionists who disapproved of the proclamation of the National League, explained that he had opposed Parnell's bill to reduce the rents because the Government had promised to appoint a commission of enquiry. The report of this commission, however, had convinced him that a revision of rents was needed. He was sorry for the landlords, but they must realize that a purchase scheme should be pressed forward in order to put an end to the suspense now existing. The tenants must not be compelled to pay impossible rents merely because interest had to be paid and because of mortgages on the land. As yet he had not left the Liberal-Unionist ranks, but he believed that the House of Lords, by its action on the Land Bill, had struck a dangerous blow at the Union itself. He had unbounded confidence in Lord Hartington, and would adhere to the Unionist party in Parliament, but he would not be a Tory landlord.

THE BULGARIAN TROUBLE.

Bismarck to Mediate in Favor of Ernsworth's Mission.

SOFIA, Sept. 2.—Prince Ferdinand presided at a council held yesterday to consider the Porte's official notification that Turkey has assented to Russia's proposal to depute Gen. Ernworth on a special mission to Bulgaria. The Cabinet crisis continues, but it is believed that M. Stambuloff will be able to-day to announce definitely the formation of a cabinet.

Bismarck Favors Russia's Proposal.

VIENNA, Sept. 2.—The Political Correspondence asserts that Prince Bismarck has agreed to mediate with the Bulgarian Government in favor of Gen. Ernworth's mission.

A TOTTERING OLD MAN.

Evidence that the Emperor is in Very Feeble Health.

BERLIN, Sept. 2.—While passing through the saloons of the palace after the banquet following yesterday's parade of the Guards, the Emperor stumbled over a slight unevenness in the parquet flooring and fell, bruising his left hip and shoulder. He was assisted to his feet and continued for some time conversing with the guests. The incident created general anxiety. Crowds flocked to the palace all day to-day. The Emperor appeared at the window several times and was greeted with uproarious cheering. He slept well during the night and rose at 9 o'clock.

A Short Detention.

LONDON, Sept. 2.—The Cunard steamship Samaria, which left Liverpool on Aug. 31 for Boston with 1000 passengers, returned to Queenstown with machinery disabled, and after being repaired proceeded on her voyage at midnight.

Do not fail to buy your Tickets for Industrial Exhibition Art Union at A. & S. Nordheimer's.

AT THE THEATRES.

A Brilliant Presentation of "Fantasma" Promised—"The Waifs of New York."

The Hanlon Bros. will give their initial performance of "Fantasma" at the Grand on Monday evening next. The wonderful reputation of these famous brothers as inventors of mechanical effects and startling stage illusions will be found to be fully sustained when the many changes wrought in their spectacular play since its production in this city a year or so ago, are brought to light. The scenery, which will be remembered as being of the most gorgeous description, has been vastly improved upon, and hardly a stick of the old material will be used. The fairy palace, with its suspended arts and supports, are disporting in the deep, and lovely mermaids swim gracefully around gazing with wonder upon the mortal invaders of their watery bowers. A sword combat takes place in this scene in which one man successfully repels four opponents, a feat the like of which is never before been presented upon the stage.

"The Waifs of New York."

The closing performances of "Hearts of Oak" will be given at the Toronto Opera House this afternoon and to-night. Next week the attraction will be Mr. N. S. Wood in his new play "The Waifs of New York." The Montreal Herald says of his opening in that city last season: His acting this season has developed a latent talent for comedy, which suits him well. He has one of the best companies that has appeared in this theatre for some time.

Filling Up the "Gridirons" With Stone.

Early yesterday morning workmen began to fill in the dangerous "gridirons" at Queen and Yonge-streets with block stone, in accordance with the arrangement between the Board of Works and the Street Railway Company. After the cars stopped