

HONOR FOR
GEO. T. BELL.Grand Trunk Man Honored by
Passenger Agents.Fine Gavel Presented to Him at
Toledo Meeting.An Honor Which Canadians Will
Duly Appreciate.

Mr. G. T. Bell, the retiring president of the American Association of General Passenger and Ticket Agents, was honored at the convention just closed in Toledo, by being presented with a gavel. It is the custom to present the retiring president of this, the oldest railway organization in the world, with a gavel, to be retained by him to commemorate his term of office. Mr. Bell is the first Canadian who has been elected to the presidency of this association. The Grand Trunk Railway being recognized as a great international route, and having lines extending through a number of the New England States, is therefore a member of a number of the territorial passenger organizations, and the New England Passenger Association elected to present the gavel to Mr. Bell. It is a marvel of ingenuity and historical combinations, embracing the history of the association from the commencement, and even anticipating airships as a modern means of transportation, and it, and the case which contains it, were put together with the best skill and art of Tiffany, New York. In presenting the gavel to Mr. Bell, Chairman Weeks, of the New England Passenger Association, made the following address:

"Mr. President and members of the American Association of General Passenger and Ticket Agents: "New England is not unmindful of the privileges it has enjoyed at your hands, or unappreciative of the honor of presenting the retiring president with something that will remind him of those he has served so faithfully and well. Put yourselves in the committee's place, and we can hear you ask, 'What would we appropriate for our versatile President? Must it be identified with transportation? Certainly. Should it originate in Canada?' 'No; our association is American, and three great nations are indebted to Mr. Bell for a betterment of their passenger service.' 'Ought we to confine it to the great Transcontinental line with which he is identified?' 'No, we cannot do that, as our President is on record as a zealous advocate of all rights and privileges for water lines.' Again comes the inquiry from the perplexed committee. 'What can we get?' and there is no answer."

"One who served us as secretary for a quarter of a century, an honored President now in the round-house of existence, said at our semi-centennial convention in Pittsburgh, 'I do not know what inventions are in the brain of the future; I do not know what garments of glory may be woven for the world in the loom of the years to be. We are just on the edge of the great ocean of discovery.'"

"Did our friend, A. J. Smith, picture man's mastery of the atmosphere? Did he anticipate the revision of our constitution and by-laws so that air lines would be eligible for membership? Let us believe he did, and let us proceed upon those broad lines which have made our association what it is. Our token of esteem must represent Canada, Mexico, and the United States. It must be connected with rail, water and air transportation. It should mutely proclaim our progress and be associated with dear friends who make life worth living. Upon these ideas we have built, and if we have erred it has not been intentional."

"Let me explain what we have done and describe our President's gavel. The sturdy Cleveland Oak, which forms a part of the head, represents the great Dominion and speaks for the water lines. It is a part of the beautiful new steamship Hamonic, of the Northern Navigation Company. The ebony blended with the oak is part of a railroad tie which has rendered service upon the progressive rail lines of Mexico. The handle was furnished by the Wright Brothers, the men who have made human flight possible, and is a part of the world's first successful aeroplane. It speaks for the United States, the great State of Ohio, for aviation, and the two great aviators, Wilbur and Orville Wright."

"Our progress may be referred to by quoting from the proceedings of the Pittsburgh meeting in March, 1905, as follows: 'In calling attention to the fact that the association is international in scope, embracing Canada and Mexico in addition to the United States, Mr. George T. Bell related that in the year the American Association was formed the first band of steel of the Suspension Bridge joining the British Empire and the United States was laid across the Niagara Gorge.'"

"We are glad to say that the various parts of his gavel are bound together with one of the strands of steel from the cables of the Suspension Bridge referred to by Mr. Bell. It would be difficult to select a more appropriate illustration of passenger progress than the company he so ably represents. We have, therefore, embodied in the head of the gavel a rivet from the Victoria Tubular Bridge at Montreal, the last one of which was driven by his Majesty King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, on August 25, 1860, and the committee has been assured that the rivet was not the last one, it was the next one to it, and upon this rivet we have placed the twinkling star of the association."

"The silver band on the gavel is in memory of humanity's friend, the late Dr. William Henry Drummond, to whom civilization owes much and one who was near and dear to our President; it is from the Drummond mine on Kerr Lake in the Cobalt district, and was taken from a box of nuggets brought down by the doctor on his last trip to Montreal. A monarch of the forest from Prince Rupert furnished a beautiful piece of British Columbia fir, which has been inlaid with Mexican ebony, and forms the case in which we have enclosed the result of our efforts. The gavel rests upon a cushion of regard and esteem, and it affords me an unpeakable pleasure to present it to you with the best wishes of the American Association of General Passenger and Ticket Agents."

In his closing address as President, Mr. Bell urged that strong committees representing the transportation lines of the entire country be appointed to radically relieve and improve the overburdened coupon ticket system now in use."

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GREED OF GAIN

Poignant Letter Written by Gambler Suicide.

Had Lost His Money and His Character and Was Disgraced.

London, Sept. 18.—An inquest, at which a remarkable letter was read by the Coroner, was held at Maidenhead recently on the body of Bernard Bramstone Baker, 25, who had acted as manager of his father's hostelry, the Queen's Hotel, Reading.

The young man was killed on the Great Western Railway at Maidenhead station, and the suicidal nature of the occurrence was made plain by the letter which was handed to the first witness, the brother of the deceased, for identification of handwriting. It began: "Maidenhead, Sept. 2, 1909. My Dear Father,—By the time you receive this letter I shall be far away from this earth, and may God forgive me for the fearful act I am going to do after I have written this to you and Alf. I pray the Lord that you will eventually look over my terrible sins."

I have tried all I know to keep straight, but the devil was in me and I fell to his enticements. One thing and one only has been my downfall—the greed of gain. No one has been to blame except myself. I have not been encouraged by anyone. Only my fearful greed is to blame for the terrible act I am about to commit."

The curse of gambling has taken hold of me, and has brought me to this. No one in Reading has had much to do with me in this matter, and it will do no good to anyone if I tell you who has had the money. I will say it is a well known London firm."

The writer went on to say that he could not face the world again in his dishonor, and continued: "In another half an hour I shall be answering another judge, but I consider it far better for you and myself that I should do this. * * * It is only the fact that I am unable to face my downfall that I am going to do the crime. Now, must soon end, as the time approaches for my death, on which I look with calmness, because I cannot realize that hell can be any worse than the torture I have undergone in my conscience during the last six months. They say opportunity makes the thief, and there never was a truer saying."

There was a closing pathetic reference to the writer's mother: "If my darling mother had only been spared this would not have happened, but God willed otherwise, and this is the consequence. I intend to fortify myself with the cursed drink to be able to commit this crime. Good-bye to you both and all my true friends. Reading, none of whom are to blame for my conduct. I remain, your dishonored and disgraced son, Barney."

The jury found a verdict of suicide while temporarily insane, and expressed sympathy with the family.

DASHED TO DEATH.

Accident at the Farah Mine at Cobalt.

Cobalt, Sept. 19.—On Friday afternoon E. Decente, a miner, single, aged about thirty, engaged at the Farah mine, along with a companion, Wilfred Bailey, descended the shaft too soon after blasting at the hundred foot level. The men realized their danger at once and gave the hoisting signal. Bailey managed to get out safely, but Decente fell from the bucket, being dashed to death seventy feet below in the bottom of the shaft. The remains were removed with considerable difficulty by Manager Smith, and an inquest will be held to-morrow.

DRINKING MORE TEA.

English Working Classes Using It Instead of Solid Food.

New York, Sept. 19.—A cable despatch to the Sun from London says: British customs receipts from tea for the last financial year show an increase of \$1,100,000 as compared with the preceding year. According to the annual report the amount retained for home consumption was 11,500,000 pounds greater than in the previous year. This is due to the fact that in a time of industrial depression, like the present, the English working classes often make tea take the place of solid food.

