POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2033

PALMISTRY EXPOSED BY A SCIENTIST'S BLUNDER

Lombroso's Discovery of "Criminality" in the Hands of a Man Supposed to Be an Assistant, But Who Was Really an Honest Hostler, is Declared M. Bertillon to Be a Complete Demonstration of the Fallacy of Hand-Reading--Why it is That Ugly Women More Likely to Be Thieves Than Pretty Ones, and That Criminals Are Mostly Fools.

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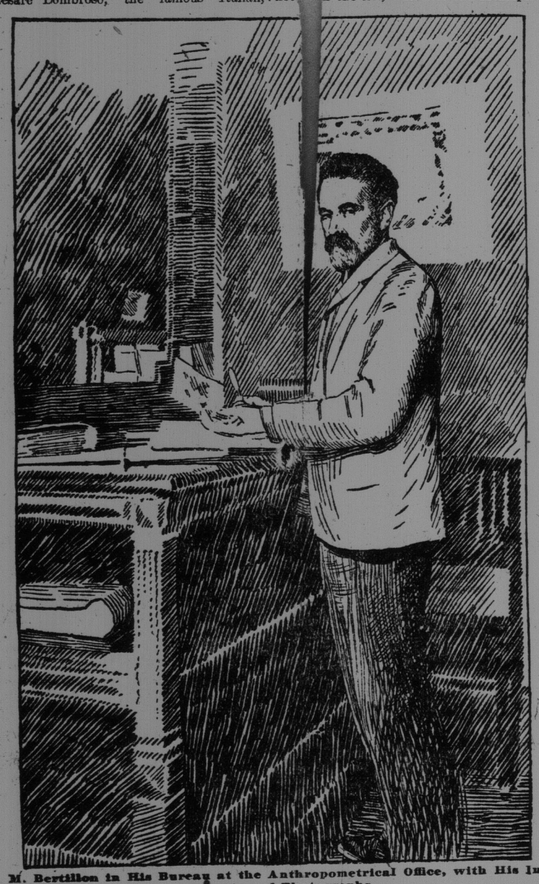
Paris, Dec. 16—Many years ago an irreverent quiz sent Lavater the cast of a great man labeled as being that of a notorious criminal, and in eulogistic terms requested the favor of the Swiss savant's opinion. Lavater, who was the chief exponent of the anthropological theories of that period, promptly discovered that the great man had signs and bumps of criminality sufficient to hang a hundred jailbirds. When the joke leaked out learned Europe was convulsed with laughter at poor Lavater's expense.

The recent discomfiture of Professor Cesare Lombroso, the famous Italian, whose name stands for all that is modern and up to date in the theory of criminalism, was, if possible, more painful still. In order to understand the significance of the incident and to see how much light it appears to throw on the subject of palmistry, it will be worth while to give here more details of the story of Professor Lombroso's unfortunate discovery than appeared in the press despatches.



M. Bertillon in His Bureau at the Anthropometrical Office, with His Instruments and Photographs.

When a man named Soleilland was arrested last spring, charged with killing a little girl in circumstances of unspeakable horror, a Paris newspaper printed a reproduction of two hands which it declared to be those of the assassin. Months passed by, Solejlland was duly tried,found guilty adn sentenced to the guillotine,and the opponents of capital punishment began to bestir themselves.

One of the latter, in the fervor of the cause, bethought himself of Professor Lombroso, and in the innocence of his heart sent the photograph of Soleilland's hands to the illustrious criminalist, who presently wrote to the Temps, the leading French evening paper, the following letter:

"To the Director of the Temps:

"Having received the photograph of Soleilland's hands, I have acquired the conviction that in spite of all the learned observations already made science has not yet pronounced its last word on him. The right hand presents altogether the aspect of what in nervo-pathology is termed 'ape's hand,' that is to say it possesses the atrophy of the hypotenary; in other words, its subital margin, instead of being slightly convex, is absolutely rectilinear, and in the direct prolongation of the forearm.

"Besides, the transversal lines of this hand, instead of being oblique and two number, are reduced to a single horizontal line, such as M. Carrusa and myself have observed among the lower apes amongst epileptics, idiots and born criminals. There are other peculiarities: The ring finger is wide apart from the others, as in the case of apes, and the length of the middle finger is the same as that of the index finger. The left hand, larger than the other, is, on the contrary, perfectly normal and offers no peculiarity.

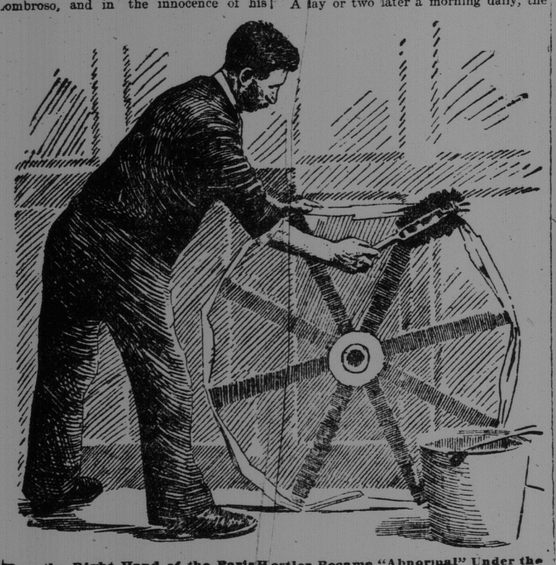
"I am the only member of Soleilland's family. Therefore, that I have had an opportunity of examining asymmetry is united with the chromatic asymmetry previously seen in the iris, warrants the assumption of other asymmeteries in the thorax and the head, etc.

"To grasp the importance of these anomalies it is well to bear in mind that I have found in the born criminal an epileptic, of which he (Soleilland) is a variety, not only an atavic but also a pathological foundation, finding expression especially in excessive asymmetry. It is as though several individuals had been melted down into one single individual for the misfortune of humanity. All this should make us reflect before pronouncing a final judgment on Soleilland.

"CESARE LOMBROSO."

The "master's" words were read with awe in the City of Light and duly telegraphed to all parts of the world. Needless to say, the pro-Soleillandists were delighted, for they read therein the strongest argument against the execution of the death sentence.

A day or two later a morning daily, the Eclair, appeared with a mighty headline: "La Gaffe de Lombroso" (Lombroso's Blunder), and as sub-heading, "He Mistakes the Hands of Two Honest and Thoroughly Normal Workmen for Those of Soleilland."



How the Right Hand of the Paris Hostler Became "Abnormal" Under the Action of Water and Acid.

The world gasped and read on. In truth a more comical catastrophe it would have been difficult to conceive. Professor Lombroso had found the terrible destiny of Soleilland writ large on a hand that was not Soleilland's at all. He had detected "a chromatic asymmetry already noted in the iris," and with a favorable array of atavism, asymmetry, pathology and the like had proved up to the hilt that Soleilland was a "born criminal"—could not help himself, in fact—and all this upon false data. In only one particular had he not erred. He had "spotted" the left had as being normal, and thus resisted the temptation of proving Soleilland doubly helpless.

The irony of the situation was apparent directly it became known that M. Bertillon, the chief of the anthropometrical bureau and famous the world over as the author of the Bertillon system of identifying criminals, was the unconscious and innocent cause of Lombroso's blunder. The Eclair had had the idea of asking M. Bertillon whether he had supplied the photographs of Soleilland's hands, and this is what it learned:

"You are perhaps not aware," said the chief of the anthropometrical bureau, "that it is absolutely forbidden to communicate judicial photographs to the press. The Prefect of Police must give his sanction before this can be done. When the press was full of details of Soleilland's life a reporter came and asked me for some photographs of criminals' hands to illustrate a serial story. He was without any authorization from the Prefect. Perhaps he thought that in a moment of distraction I might give him Soleilland's hands.

"This would have been difficult, for Soleilland's hands never have been photographed. I gave him a print of the right hand of a worthy hostler and another of the left hand of an honest sheep-flayer—photographs which I took ten years ago to illustrate my album of physical defects or deformities or stigmata as revealing a man's calling. What was my astonishment next day to see my two photographs reproduced in the reporter's paper under the headlines: 'The Satyr-Assassin and Anthropometry: Soleilland's Hands, etc., etc.' Then followed an article in which it was stated that 'M. Alphonse Bertillon has measured and photographed the assassin, and has examined from the criminalist's point of view Soleilland's physical defects. The monster's hands show a characteristic design. Their deformation clearly proves that they have been used to handling the hammer and packing and cording parcels.'

"I protested, but my protest passed unheeded. It is a pity, for it would have prevented Professor Lombroso from the unpleasantness of mistaking for the hands of a born criminal those of two honest workmen who were good enough to pose before my apparatus ten years ago. What the professor mistook for a sign of degeneracy is merely a professional deformity. The hostler is subject to a retraction of the flexible tendons of the hand. His little finger is stiffened and separated by the action of water and acids, which are also responsible for the straightening out of the folds of the palm."

But the cup of bitterness was not yet full. It was bad enough that Professor Lombroso's data should have played him false. It was worse still that even regarding the data as correct the deductions therefrom should be called into question and the whole criminalist edifice, the work of many years, should be ruthlessly demolished. M. J. Naville in an open letter to Professor Lombroso attacks the statement that the single horizontal line of the palm is peculiar to lower apes and the majority of epileptics, idiots and born criminals. "If ever," he adds sarcastically, "you happen to come my way, I should be happy to show you a similar case in the two hands of a man who has reason to believe that he cannot be classed in any of those categories. This characteristic sign is repeated in four of his children." Another savant unkindly hinted that the great criminalist had discovered the stigmata of degeneracy by a process of suggestion. He had before him, as he believed, a criminal's hand, and it was quite natural that he should discover a confirmation of his theories. In a series of photographs reproducing the hands of honest men and criminals alike he placed before M. Lombroso, and then let him test his theories by separating the wheat and the tares.

To crown all, Dr. Manouvrier, a professor at the Paris School of Anthropology, furnished abundant evidence to show that the skull which Professor Lombroso regarded as the skull of Charlotte Corday, and on which he relied for one of the principal chapters of his work on female criminals, is, to say the least, of very doubtful authenticity.

Professor Lombroso made the best of a bad job. He replied to his adversaries that the anomalies were there even if the hands were not those of the assassin. He denies that the single horizontal fold of the palm can be caused by a man's calling. "Every savant knows that it is an atavic phenomenon, anterior to birth." He unjustly pours out the phials of his wrath at having been led into such an egregious blunder on the devoted head of M. Bertillon, whereas he should have reserved them for the wily reporter, the cause of all the mischief. "A self-respecting man should treat very differently a man who has devoted all his life to science."

The storm now has blown over. The other day I called at the Anthropometrical office and was fortunate enough to find M. Bertillon in a communicative mood. It is easy to see that the creator of the anthropometrical system, in spite of the courteous form in which he clothes his utterances, has a boundless contempt for the pseudo-scientific theories that would brand a man on the strength of an anomalous conformation of hand, head or eye. The criminalist of the Lombroso school hardly could find favor in the sight of this cold, practical observer, trained in the school of experience, who can tell a thief, a vagabond, a criminal at a glance.

"This new-fangled criminalism," he said, "is nothing more nor less than palmistry dressed up in an imposing covering of scientific terms such as strophy, hypotenary, medius, chromotic asymmetry and the like. If the lines of the hand indicate anything at all, this can only be by the application of the law of correlation, in virtue of which, to take a familiar instance, we are enabled to recognize a milch cow by the arrangement of the hairs of its legs. If we admit as a philosophical principle that man descends from the ape, and if we find ourselves in the presence of a man with an ape's hand, the believers in transformism (exaggerated Darwinism) will be able to say: Ape's hand, ape's brain.

"It never will be a case of certainty, but there will be come presumptions of its being true. Such is Professor Lombroso's reasoning. In the case of Soleilland, it crumbles to pieces of itself, for the hands taken by Lombroso were not Soleilland's at all.

"Let us examine now ordinary palmistry. In criticising ordinary palmistry by absolutely asserting that it is a fraud, it is clear that I deprive myself of a pleasure that is not to be sneered at, for I deprive myself forever of the pleasure of taking a pretty girl's hand in mine and, under the cover of science ,turning it this way and that and scrutinizing it for ten minutes while I tell her things that fill her with emotion—things about her past, present and future, such as I would have them be. But what correlation can there possibly be between the bifurcation of the stoppage of what palmists—modern sorcerers—call the tree of life and, let us say, suicide? I should feel much more confident in foretelling a man's suicide after a few minutes conversation with him on the subjects which excite his ambition or exalt his religious ideals and the like.

"What is the palmist's trick in order to abuse the credulity of the public? Making skeleton-key answers which are applicable to any and every event. It is all very well for a palmist to tell a girl that she will marry a rich husband, but what I want to know is this: Given a hundred women who have married rich husbands, are there certain peculiarities in their hands common to all or the greater part of the hundred?

"It is the same with phrenology and graphology. Graphology, the new branch of occultism, plays the part of a society game, fortune telling, which by appearing to take the handwriting as the basis, really relies more or less consciously on the angel and demon which is at the bottom of all humanity, and makes it possible to say in veiled terms many secret things which each applies to himself and thinks he has succeeded in dissimulating. With the aid of a little natural perspicacity, the graphologist ends by believing in his pretended science; the mind is once more the dupe of the heart.

"Professor Cesare Lombroso takes characteristics which are accidental and accessory to the individual and constructs out of them the past, present and future of that individual. The anatomical characteristics on which he relies could only serve a posteriori. They have but very little scientific value as indicating a bias toward criminality. One must use excessive caution on such ground.

"For instance, if you observe the batches of prisoners brought into a police station you will not fail to remark that nearly all the women arrested for theft are ugly. Why? Simply because the women of the people that are favored with good looks are seldom driven to steal; they have no need to do so; they find money more easily by other means. Ugliness is, therefore, a concomitant quality of female thieves. And yet you would not argue that ugliness indicates a thief.

"Anatomy can be of very little service in determining a criminal. There are, however, exterior signs and movements and the play of the features which are well-nigh infallible. It is quite a mistake to argue that because a man has a sloping forehead or a small brain that he is destined to be a criminal. But it is a fact that criminals are those who are ill equipped in the struggle for life. Many people think that criminals are clever people and wonder why they did not turn their talent to better account. But my experience does not bear out this view. I find them deficient in ability, as is proved by the fact that they almost invariably play the same trick over and over again until they are caught. I remember one remarkable instance of this.

"He was a swindler who had been a jeweler by trade. He would go into a shop, choose articles which his practiced eye told him were valuable and say: 'They are for my sick mother. Send them round to our hotel for her to look at.' When the jewelry arrived he would take it ostensibly to his mother's bedroom and disappear by another exit. Well, he was caught at last, and for some years the trick ceased. Recently it began again, and I said immediately: 'That must be So-and-So. He must be out of prison.' And sure enough he was. But he had not the ability to invent another trick, and so he was caught again almost instantly. This is one of hundreds that I could mention.

"Yes, criminals are people who are 'wanting,' badly equipped for the battle of life, but you may believe me there is no such thing as the bump of criminality."

R. FRANKLIN.

SAYS YARMOUTH HAD NARROW ESCAPE

Pilot Tells of Experience on Voyage from St. John to New York.

Captain Frank Cates, the coast pilot, who navigated the steamer Yarmouth from St. John (N. B.) to New York, returned to this city yesterday. According to the story of Captain Cates, the Yarmouth had a narrow escape from going down while off the Maine coast.

The Yarmouth, in command of Captain McKinnon, left St. John last Tuesday afternoon. The vessel's bottom was supposed to be tight, but there was a great hole in one of her tanks through which the water poured. At 1 a. m. Wednesday, when about fifteen miles from Bar Harbor, one of the crew rushed up to the captain and informed him that the vessel was sinking. Captain McKinnon immediately investigated, and found several feet of water in the hold. He told Captain Cates to take her to the nearest port, and the pilot headed for Bar Harbor. By that time the water had gained so rapidly that the vessel steered badly and she staggered along at a slow pace.

She did not reach Bar Harbor until 5.30 a. m. The pumps were set in operation, and after reaching smooth water the holds were pumped free and temporary repairs effected. She resumed her passage to New York Thursday, and reached there without further mishap.—Boston Globe.

SUSSEX MAN IN CRITICAL STATE

Wm. Buckley, Who Fell or Jumped from Train at Apohaqui, Received Terrible Injuries.

Sussex, Jan. 7—William Buckley, a young man of this place, met with a serious accident and one that may prove fatal, about 6.30 o'clock this morning. The young man, who is twenty-five years old, left here on the Halifax express for Apohaqui, where he is employed as a teamster. At Apohaqui station the young man either jumped off or fell from the train. He was found a few feet west of the railway platform by Neil Johnston, in a serious state, with his face badly bruised, it being cut from the forehead to the point of the chin, his nose smashed and a large lump on the side of his head. The doctor thinks his skull is fractured.

Buckley was taken to a nearby house, and Dr. Burnett was quickly summoned, who fixed the man us as best he could; but he holds out little hopes of his recovery.

Mr. Buckley is a native of this place, and was married about a year ago.

10,000 at Hanlan's Funeral.

Toronto, Jan. 7.—(Special)—About 10,000 people attended the funeral of Edward Hanlan this afternoon, including the council and municipal officials and boards and all the different athletic associations in the city.

Envelopes were first used in 1839. Before that time one simply folded one's letter together and fixed it with sealing wax.

COWS GIVE MORE MILK —cattle make better beef—bulls are no longer dangerous when dehorned with the KEYSTONE DEHORNER. Cuts 4 sides at once—No crushing or bruising—little pain. The only humane method. Write for free book. R. McKENNA 219 Robert St. Toronto, Ont. Lake of Picton, Ont.

FOUND TRUE BILL AGAINST DAVID

Assyrian Put on Trial for Wife Murder Pleads Not Guilty

INTERPRETER SWORN

Murderer's Defense Will Be Insanity, and Lowell Doctors Will Be on Hand to Testify in His Behalf--Crown's Case Expected to Be Brief.

Fredericton, N. B., Jan. 7—In the York Circuit Court this afternoon the grand jury, after examining a number of witnesses returned to court and reported a true bill for murder against Thomas David, the Assyrian, charged with murdering his wife at McAdam Junction, in July last. His honor thanked the jury for their services and dismissed them from further attendance.

Solicitor General Jones, for the crown, at once arose and moved for the arraignment of the prisoner. Fifteen minutes later David, securely handcuffed, was brought in court by City Marshal Roberts and placed in the prisoners' dock. He presented a rather forlorn appearance, showing plainly the effects of his six months sojourn in the county jail. His clothes, which were the same as he wore when arrested, looked much the worse for wear. He had not shaved for more than a week and the prison pallor of his features added to his general dilapidated appearance.

Tom David.

Interpreter Necessary.

The prisoner was ordered to stand up and, as Clerk Campbell read over the bill of indictment to him, he seemed to be all attention. When the question, "Are you guilty or not guilty?" was asked him, he made no reply, but gazed in amazement at the clerk. Asked by the court if he could understand English, he replied "not very much."

J. D. Hazen, addressing the court, said that he appeared for the prisoner and it was the intention of the latter to plead not guilty. The court replied that the prisoner would have to plead for himself. After further questioning the prisoner Judge McLeod concluded that an interpreter was necessary and Michael Ansar, of Lowell, was ordered to act in that capacity. The indictment was then read over and interpreted by Ansar. Being asked to plead David replied through the interpreter "I ain't guilty at all."

The solicitor general moved for trial and counsel, although it was 4 o'clock, expressed a willingness to go and empanel the jury.

It was given out by the judge when the jurors were sworn they would not be allowed to separate and as several of those on the panel had neglected to arrange for a week's stay in the city it was finally decided to proceed no further until tomorrow morning. Court then adjourned.

The crown case is said to be very simple and will not occupy more than a day or two. Witnesses will be called to prove the shooting at McAdam and the subsequent death of the woman from her wounds in Woodstock hospital.

Defence, Insanity.

The defense will undertake to prove that David was insane before and at the time he committed the rash deed. Drs. Sullivan and Leary, of Lowell, who had to do with David in a professional capacity while he was a resident of that city are here to testify in his behalf. Dr. Anglin, of the Provincial Hospital, has been subpoenaed as an expert in insanity by both the crown and the defense. He was in court this afternoon and observed the prisoner's actions very closely. Chief Clark, of St. John, was also an interested spectator in court this afternoon.

Fredericton, Jan. 8—Very satisfactory progress was made by the crown this afternoon with the David murder trial, begun Tuesday before Judge McLeod in York circuit court. The witnesses examined were John Power, St. John; Capt. Porter and Ensign Martin, lady Salvation Army officers of Woodstock; Policeman Gardiner and Dr. Butler, of McAdam; Marshal Kelly and N. Foster Thorne,both of Woodstock.

The story of the shooting of Mrs. David in McAdam station was described by eyewitnesses and there was nothing in the evidence of a sensational nature. The prisoner in his place in the dock maintained an attitude of stolid indifference and gave no outward indication that he even understood the testimony that was being offered.

Before adjournment the judge and jury expressed a wish that the trial should be finished this week and with that end in view it is likely that, beginning tomorrow, night sessions will be held.

John T. Power, of St. John, was the first witness examined for the crown. He told of traveling by train from Woodstock to McAdam on the morning of July 8 and seeing the accused and a Syrian woman on the same train. He saw them again at McAdam and they seemed to be quarrelling. Shortly afterwards he heard revolver shots and saw the prisoner near the ladies' waiting room with a revolver in his hands. He saw Mrs. David at the same time and heard her say her side was hurt. Witness helped Policeman Gardiner apprehend David.

Saw David Shoot Wife.

Capt. Porter and Ensign Martin swore that they were also passengers on the train from Woodstock and noticed David and his wife. They were afterwards in the ladies' waiting room at McAdam and saw David shoot his wife. Two shots were fired from a revolver, one of which struck Mrs. David and the other the wall of the room. Ensign Martin accompanied the injured woman upstairs, assisted in removing her clothing and remained with her until Dr. Butler arrived.

J. F. Gardiner, the C. P. R. policeman who arrested David, swore that he heard two revolver shots fired in the station and saw the flash from the second one. He also saw David with a revolver in his hand and running over at once took it away from him. He judged that only four feet separated David from his wife when the first shot was fired. The revolver used, which was 32 calibre self-cocking, was shown in court and identified by the witness. Four of the six chambers of the weapon were loaded. The judge, counsel, witness and jury all examined it in turn. A box of cartridges found on David was also produced and identified by the witness.

Gardiner was subjected to a tedious cross-examination by the prisoner's counsel, but his direct testimony was not shaken. He thought a man armed with a loaded revolver could easily get away from McAdam station after committing a crime if he so desired. The prisoner did not appear to be much excited when arrested. After the arrest David said he was an American citizen and wanted to know if anything could be done with him. Afterwards when told that his wife was dead he said he did not know what he had done.

Dr. Butler.

Dr. Percy Butler, of McAdam, testified that he had attended Mrs. David in the C. P. R. hotel at McAdam after the shooting. He found a wound in the right side of the abdomen which might have been made by a bullet. She appeared very nervous but her physical condition was otherwise good. Witness accompanied the patient to Woodstock hospital and he consulted on the case with Dr. Rankin. They decided it would be inadvisable to operate at that time.

Town Marshal Kelly told about assisting Dr. Butler to remove Mrs. David from the train to Woodstock hospital. He did not see the woman alive afterwards.

Under cross-examination, witness said that he had seen a Syrian named Chas. Nicholas about Woodstock but did not know that he had arrived there in company with Mrs. David.

N. Foster Thorne, editor of the Woodstock Sentinel, testified that he had traveled from Woodstock to McAdam on the train with David and his wife. The couple seemed to be engaged in a very animated conversation in a foreign language. He assumed from the man's gestures he was scolding the woman. At McAdam he heard two revolver shots and afterwards saw Policeman Gardiner come out of the station with the prisoner. The court refused to admit as evidence a conversation which the witness had with the prisoner.

Kelly Abond, a Syrian from Woodstock, told about a conversation he had with Mr. and Mrs. David at the home of Abdallah Moses in Woodstock on the day before the shooting. He acted the role of peace-maker and tried his utmost to reconcile the couple. He tried to induce Mrs. David to accompany her husband to Lowell, but her reply was, "I won't go; I'm afraid he'll shoot me." David told him that he liked his wife, otherwise he would not have come after her. Witness tried to impress on the couple that they were no longer under the yoke of Turkey but were subject to the law of King Edward.

The court room was crowded with spectators during today's sessions and the proceedings were followed with considerable interest.

At this morning's session the following jurymen were chosen: Winslow Gilbert, farmer, Douglas; John C. Gilman, farmer, Kingsclear; William S. Rimour, farmer, Douglas; Ambrose Jewett, farmer, Bright; Isaac Peabody, gentleman, St. Mary's; Cook Kitchen, contractor, Kingsclear; Charles W. Estey, farmer, Bright; Thomas W. Sasom, merchant, Fredericton; Fred Barr, farmer, Bright; Robert McDonald, farmer, Douglas; Frank Burnett, farmer, Kingsclear; Henry Prescott, farmer, Queensbury.

Solicitor General Jones opened the case for the crown in a brief speech and outlined the evidence that the crown would produce to prove that David shot his wife at McAdam on July 8th. last inflicting wounds which caused her death in Woodstock hospital a few days later. He said that the crown would prove that David had made threats against the life of his wife in Woodstock two days before the shooting took place. As it lacked a few minutes from one o'clock when the solicitor general had finished his opening remarks the court adjourned for dinner without hearing any evidence.

BRANCH RAILWAYS REPORT HANDED IN

Local Government Commission Finds the Nine Roads in Fair Condition

Three of Them Have No Bridges But Others Have Shaky Wooden Structures--Big Increase in Business Notwithstanding Poor Equipment--Session or Election to Be Decided Jan. 22--Minor Officials Appointed.

Fredericton, N. B., Jan. 8—Robert A. Loggie, Wallace W. Loggie, Robert Murray, Mary Loggie and Eliza Loggie, of Chatham are applying for incorporation as the Miramichi Fish Company, Limited. The proposed capital stock is to be $99,000.

Weldon and McLean give notice in this week's Royal Gazette that application will shortly be made by the Albertite, Bilite and Carmel Coal Company, Limited, for authority to increase its capital stock from $99,000 to $1,000,000.

At a meeting of the board of education this afternoon a communication was received from Earl Grey asking the co-operation of the educational department in a scheme to establish a national park of the Plains of Abraham. Consideration was deferred until the next meeting. The question of introducing military training in the schools in the province was also stood over for a month.

It is understood that the government will hold a meeting on Jan. 22, when it is probable the date of the session will be announced and writs issued for the bye-elections.

At the government meeting this evening J. V. Russell, of St. John, was appointed a school trustee to succeed himself; Frank J. Rafferty on committee of great marshes, and Norman L. McGloan a justice of the peace.

An interesting letter from Rev. Jas. Ross, of St. John, on immigration and kindred subjects was referred to the commissioner of agriculture.

Branch Railways Report.

T. M. Burns and Gilmor Brown, C. E., commissioners appointed by the local government to examine and report on the branch railways of the province have finished their work, and their report is now in the hands of the government.

The document consists of seven typewritten pages and contains a lot of information. It gives a summary of the amount of capital invested, the increase in the volume of traffic, gross earnings for 1901 to 1906, and a comparison of operation expenses and net earnings from 1901 to 1906.

There are nine branch lines in New Brunswick tapping the Intercolonial: the Caraquet & Gulf Shore, 85 miles; Kent Northern, 27; Beersville, 6 6-10; Buctouche & Moncton, 32; New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island, 36; Salisbury & Harvey, 45; Elgin & Havelock, 28; St. Martins, 30; York & Carleton, 12.

The report states that the commissioners travelled over each of these in turn and fully inspected the bridges, rolling stock, buildings, etc. In general they found that the properties have been materially improved during recent years, although there is room for further improvement. Wooden bridges and trestles are the curse of most of the branch lines, there being a great many of such structures, which are a source of expense, annoyance and danger. The Kent Northern, Beersville, and York & Carleton have no bridges, and in the case of the Kent Northern, this contributes to its excellent financial showing. Many of the bridges are nearly worn out and will have to be rebuilt.

The lines, with the exception of the Kent Northern, are poorly equipped with snow fighting apparatus, which hampers them during the winter months.

The lack of ballast on all the branches is deplored by the commissioners and in the case of the Kent Northern it is inexcusable, as that road sells ballast to the I. C. R. On the Moncton & Buctouche there is no ballast to be obtained.

In some of the roads new ties have been put down in recent years but more are

Big Increase in Traffic.

needed. The commissioners found that a large percentage of the rails on the branch lines are Barrow steel, weighing 57 pounds per yard, which are quite heavy enough for the traffic. The locomotives are very good but the rolling stock is in only fair condition. The St. Martins road has two splendid passenger cars in fine order.

Traffic in both passenger and freight is reported to have increased remarkably in the last five years. Passenger traffic has increased in that period all the way from 22 to 158 per cent while, with one exception, tons of freight hauled have increased from 18 to 56 per cent. The Kent Northern and York & Carleton have enormous increases in freight and the commissioners are inclined to believe there is some mistake in the returns of the latter. The increase in gross earning ranges from 21 to 94 per cent. The operating expenses have also increased in that period, the average being 30 per cent and this has kept the net earnings down In 1901 six branches showed deficits and three surpluses and in 1906 conditions were exactly reversed. The deficit of the six branches in 1901 was $3,764 and the surplus in 1906 was $10,650. The commissioners believe that a still better showing was made during 1907.

In from 1901 to 1906, both inclusive, 419,893 passengers were carried and only one was killed and two injured. Accidents occurred on the Moncton & Buctouche Railway. Six of branch lines had no fatal accidents in the six years. This, the commissioners believe to be remarkable showing. The report concludes:

"When we consider that nearly all this freight amounting to more than 1,000,000 tons was carried in sixty cars and a large percentage of the 419,893 passengers were carried over the Intercolonial Railway in going to and coming from the branch lines, and when we consider that in nearly all cases the Intercolonial gets a long haul for this traffic, we begin to realize the value of business that these branch lines as feeders give to the I. C. R. Apart from their value to the I. C. R. as feeders these lines of railway have been of incalculable benefit to the localities which they serve and to the province at large. What the country would do without them is best illustrated by the consternation that prevails when one of them closes down for a day or two. Their successful operation is of great benefit to the people of the province, and any money which has been put into them by the government in the way of subsidies has been much more than repaid in respect of the value of property in the districts which they serve and in the increased business and the prosperity of the country at large is due in a great measure to their existence."

A minister one Sunday announced to his flock that he would have to leave them, as he was called to another field.

"How much more salary do you expect to get there than here?" asked one of the deacons.

"Three hundred dollars," remarked the minister, with some hesitation.

"I do not blame you for goin'," remarked the deacon, who had been a worldly man in his time, "but you should be more exact in your language. That isn't a "call," it's a 'raise.'"

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