The Toronto World.

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A St JOHNS WARD TRAGEDY

SAMUEL CURR STABBED TO DEATH IN EDWARD STREET.

A Newspaper Pressman's Fatal Find in the Early Morning—Six Persons Under Arrest—Evidence at the Inquest.

A fatal stabbing affray, which is still shrouded in deep mystery, was committed in Edward street about 4 o'clock yesterday morning. The victim is Samuel Curr, aged about 37, a laborer, who has been working in the sewers and other city works for a number of years.

About 4.10 a.m. a young man named Wm. A. Mitchell of 39 Baldwin street, who is employed as a pressman in the News office, was proceeding to work along Edward street. His usual custom was to walk to 98 in that thoroughfare and wake a fellow-pressman named Joseph Leak When opposite No. 118—which is between Chestnut and Centre streets, on the north side—he stepped into a pool of blood, and examining the sidewalk more closely discovered that bloody tracks were to be seen at intervals leading to the east. By actual measurement, ninety-six yards eastward he found the body of a man lying on the north side of the sidewalk. The body lay against a whitewashed fence on one side of a lane leading to a yard. It was covered with blood and Mitchell could hear the gurgling of blood in the dying man's throat as he gasped for breath. The man was unable to speak. He immediately notified Mr. Leak, and they in turn notified Policemen Munns, Robert Slemin and McDonald, who were on their way home from duty. The officers saw at a glance that the man had been stabbed, a gaping wound being visible four inches below the left ear, the jugular vein having been completely severed. Dr. A. A. Macdonald of 202 Simcoe street was summoned, and when he arrived the man was gasping in the throes of death, and expired immediately.

Detective Reburn, who was on duty at police headquarters, was notified, and that indefatigable officer was engaged on the case until last midnight.

Three persons were placed under arrest, and three women of the town are held as material witnesses. No. 118, Edward street, opposite to where the pool of blood was found, has been occupied since last July by Hattie Jeffrey as a house of prostitution. She and two of her girls named Georgina Woods and Minnie O'Brien are detained in custody. The girl O'Brien was arrested in Grand's livery stable at 6 o'clock last night after an afternoon's buggy driving. The other persons in custody are John Flavey, a plasterers' laborer, who boarded with Curr at George Elliott's house, 150 Elizabeth street; Mrs. Mary Cross, who lives at 148 of the same street, and William Neal, a laboring man. As yet there is little or nothing against any of the prisoners.

Coroner Johnston opened an inquest at the morgue last night, when several witnesses were examined. Samuel Drury, of the Canteen, West Market street, was made foreman, and fourteen respectable and intelligent citizens were impanelled with him. The jury viewed the body, which was deposited on a marble slab in the dead-room. All of the left side of the clothing was fairly saturated with blood. The remains was clad in the garb of a laboring man, with brown overalls, heavy top boots and beside them lay a faded cap. The face was cleanly shaven, and a closely-clipped mustache adorned the upper lip. The thumb of the right hand is missing, which is said to have been cut off by the murdered man himself to secure his discharge from the English navy.

County Crown Attorney Fenton and Detective Reburn were present and assisted in the cross-examinations.

The first witness examined was Fanny Johnson. This woman is probably 35 years of age. One of her eyes was discolored, and traces of quite recent dissipation were plainly discernable. She wore the habiliments of the demi-monde and a black hat, profusely trimmed with dark feathers, did service as head gear. The gist of her evidence was that she had known Curr for eight years. During the last four years she had spasmodically lived with him as his wife. Formerly she was an inmate of a disorderly house. Curr, she avowed, was very kind to her, and when she mentioned his name she made an attempt to weep, which was partially successful The last time she had seen him alive was on Sunday night, when they occupied the same room at Mrs. Cross' house, 148 Elizabeth street. Monday morning Curr arose, went next door, got his breakfast, packed his dinner in his pail, and started ostensibly for work. She did not see him alive again. Monday night the woman said she stopped with a Mrs. Robinson at No. 6 Nelson street, but she did not know where Curr was. Johnson said there was some jealousy existing between deceased and one of the prisoners, John Flavey, about her (Johnson's) affections. On one occasion she had heard Flavey say: "I will have you (meaning witness) yet."

Mitchell and Leak told the story of finding the remains. They immediately proceeded to work after informing the police. Mr. Leak said he had known deceased around his neighborhood for twelve months. On Saturday, May 24, he was passing Mrs. Cross' yard in Elizabeth street, when he saw the woman Johnson and a woman named Lilly Brown quarrelling. They struck one another. The dead man and Flavey were present. He passed there a second time and the women were quarrelling again. Flavey was not there this time. A year ago he saw deceased and another man quarrelling. Deceased, he thought, was arrested. ["He was no such a thing," put in Johnson, who was sitting close by, "he never was arrested in his life."]

Policeman Slemin testified about examining the pool of blood opposite No. 118. He listened attentively outside, but could not hear any sounds within. He was of opinion, from the position of the pool of blood, which was twelve feet from the steps in front of the house, that the man was murdered on the sidewalk. He and Inspector Ward made a diligent search for the murderous weapon, but could find no trace of it.

In cross examination by a juryman Policeman Slemin said Mr. Leak told him that deceased boarded at Geo. Elliott's, 150 Elizabeth street. He went there and knocked twice. Flavey and Mrs. Elliott came to the door. Flavey had his coat, hat and boots off, but his pants and vest on. He told them to come with him and see if they could identify a man that was lying dead in Edward street. They did go, and as soon as Flavey looked at deceased he said: "Hello, Sammy old boy, who stabbed you;" or words to that effect. He did not think Flavey had then seen the wound.

Some of the jurymen looked upon this as important evidence.

Esther Hawkins, a young woman wearing a cardinal hat and tartan dress, was examined. She said she was an inmate of 118 Edward street. About daylight yesterday morning she was awakened by hearing noises in front of the house. She occupied a room at the back. She could hear one man telling another to "come on," when one of them said: "I can't." She then heard a noise as if they were scuffling, and later on she could hear shuffling footsteps as if one of the men were running away. Afterwards Hattie Jeffrey came into her room and said there was a pool of blood outside, and two men looking at it. Mrs. Jeffrey also told her that after the noise on the street a man knocked at the door and wanted to get in. Mrs. Jeffrey said she told him it was after hours. Mrs. Jeffrey slept at the front of the house. She had her window partly open, but the green blinds were closed. Witness had never seen any of the persons under arrest in Mrs. Jeffrey's. Monday night there were four persons in the house. They all left shortly after midnight. Two of them were named William Grimbeley and Louis or "Lou" Grants. She did not think any men could be in the house without her knowing it. Witness was allowed to go after giving her evidence.

Fanny Johnson, who has been "assisting" Detective Reburn in his search for evidence, was recalled, and said she went to 118 Edward street yesterday. She found blood stains on the hall floor, but she afterwards admitted that they were water.

This was all the evidence taken last night and the hearing was adjourned till 7.30 to-night in the police court room.

Jennie Vincent, who keeps a house of ill-fame at 124 Edward street, between which and Jeffrey's house is a vacant lot, was at the inquest, but she is to be examined yet. She has a theory of her own about the murder, but she would not divulge to a World reporter who spoke to her. However, she said that Curr rapped at her door at 1 o'clock Tuesday morning. He was drunk and she would not let him in. He would not go away. She slipped out of a back door and walked around a block to look for a policeman. When she returned (alone) he had disappeared. This much of her theory only would she divulge.

Important testimony is expected to-night from a deaf mute who resides near the scene of the tragedy.

The woman Johnson called The World reporter out to a room adjoining the one where the inquest was going on. She said (confidently and in an undertone) that she was positive some one in No. 118 did the cutting. She was as positive that neither Flavey, Neal or Mrs. Cross knew anything about the murder. Mrs Cross is a harmless-looking old woman, with anything but a fascinating countenance. The woman Johnson also said that Minnie O Brien, one of the inmates of 118, told her that she (O Brien) had murdered Curr, and threw him out because he had no dollar. As Johnson has not recovered from her spree, her remarks do not go for much.

Coroner Johnston committed all the persons in custody to jail for the night.

The murdered man is an Englishman, and it is understood was married in that country but his wife and child are dead. He has been in Toronto nine or ten years, and was an ordinarily steady man at his work.

Mr. Fenton said after the conclusion of the hearing that the city should be indicted for maintaining a nuisance at the morgue. It was found that an open register in one of the rooms is directly above a sewer, and consequently the place is continually full of sewer gas. In this Mr. Fenton is right. Of all our abominations, the city morgue is the worst. The coroners should refuse to hold any more inquests there.

OVERDRAWN ACCOUNTS.

A Revelation in Regard to the Failure of the Penn Bank.

PITTSBURG, Pa., May 27.—Several accounts in the Penn bank are overdrawn for large sums. Among the accounts is one of D. Wilson & Co. which shows overchecking to the amount of $240,000. No such firm is known and it is supposed the account represents a number of persons lately operating on the wrong side of the oil market, and who were allowed to draw to the extent named.

A director states the account of one prominent oil dealer is overdrawn $97,000. These two accounts represent more than the entire capital and surplus of the bank.

New York's Stock and Cotton Exchanges.

NEW YORK, May 27.—At the annual meeting of the produce exchange to-day the treasurer's report gave the total estimated expense of the new buildings at $3,208,000. The annual address of the president congratulated the exchange upon its brilliant prospects. The annual income, exclusive of membership dues, is estimated at $200,000 net. An annual surplus of $75,000 is anticipated.

At the annual meeting of the cotton exchange to-day the treasurer reported that the finances were in a flourishing condition. The transactions for the year amounted to 422,000 bales as against 506,000 bales last year.

To Resume Operations.

NEW YORK, May 27.—Donnell, Lawson & Simpson, brokers, who failed in the recent panic, will probably soon resume. Most of their creditors have accepted the proposition made by the firm, the assets being rapidly converted into available funds by the assignee.

Greenbackers For Butler.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 27.—The attendance at the greenback national convention which meets here to-morrow is unexpectedly large. There are now about five hundred delegates here and the managers expect two hundred more. All indications point to the nomination of Butler.

The Ottawa Postmastership.

OTTAWA, May 27.—The report goes that it is probable that Senator Skead will accept the postmastership at $2600 a year. As for the vacant senatorship, the fight lies between Mr. Clemow, Dr. Grant, and Mr. John Rochester, with odds in favor of the first-mentioned.

A Hamilton Couple Divorced.

HAMILTON, May 27.—Frank M. White, whose domestic affairs were brought prominently before the public here some time ago, owing to dissensions between himself and the wife of his bosom, has again come before the public. The supreme court of Michigan has granted a divorce to his wife Minnie and given her the charge of the two children.

ABOUT CANADIAN BANKS

THE DANGEROUS WORK THAT SOME OF THEM ARE ENGAGED IN.

They Should Not Lend on Their Own Stocks—$15,000,000 of Bank Stocks on Margin—Half of the Stock of Two Banks on the Street—Double Liability Clause.

From Bradstreets, New York.

Our Toronto correspondent writes as follows: The crash in Wall street caused no sensible reverberation here. Brokers were timid and some whistling was done to keep up courage. The banks' stocks make by far too conspicuous a figure on our exchanges, and inside buying generally goes on in case of a decline. The amount of stocks of one kind or another that are being carried on margin in Montreal and Toronto cannot be less than $15,000,000, and of these the majority are bank stocks. It is very difficult to tell from the lists of shareholders in the banks who are the proprietors, very large amounts being held in trust. About one half the stock of two Toronto banks is held in trust. This probably means that the stock was never paid up in the regular way, but that different persons put their names down for it, and when it came to be treated as paid up, somebody was found to lend ninety cents on the dollar upon it. In the first instance the bank probably made the advance, in which case the addition of new stock added nothing to the strength of the bank. At this stage it becomes important to find an outside lender on margin who will advance 90 per cent of the face value. New bank stocks, which are apparently absorbed almost as soon as they are offered, have been in the case of two banks loaned upon by the banks themselves, though the operation is contrary to law. In some form or other about one-half the stock of two Toronto banks is on the street out of investment, and whether it was ever held by bona fide investors it is difficult to say. What is important is to know to what extent the banks have advanced on their own stocks and to what extent they have been relieved by outsiders coming in as lenders. On this point it is impossible to get any precise information. What is certain is that for some weeks stocks have been declining in price, and margins being wiped out the lenders have often been left with the securities on their hands. This is as likely to have happened to the banks which do this kind of business—they are not numerous—as to individuals. Savings banks take this kind of security oftener than is good for them, and at least one of them is in possession of stocks of which the present market value is far less than the amount loaned upon them. On the $15,000,000 of stocks of different kinds which are being tossed about on margin the losses during the last year must have been very heavy. One bank stock has gone down in two years from 173 to 123. The manager of this bank gets credit for being heavily concerned in the speculations that have sent the stock up and down. Loaning by a bank on the security of its own stocks being illegal, a company was formed to act as intermediary, as if what cannot be done directly could be done indirectly. From another bank its own directors last summer borrowed $2,000,000, its whole capital being $1,500,000, and a large part of one-half of that was probably nominal, existing by force of the loans debited against the directors. There was no doubt about the amount loaned to the directors, for it appeared in the sworn statement sent by the bank officers to the government. Though no catastrophe followed this remarkable way of doing business, and though so far as is known there was no reason to fear any, recent events in Wall street add new proof that the practice is full of peril.

As a rule there is too much borrowing by Canadian bank directors from the banks they control. Out of a capital of a little over $61,000,000 the directors ordinarily borrow between $8,000,000 and $9,000,000. And this $61,000,000 must, in reality, be reduced by the amount, not ascertainable, to which, in the face of the law, the banks have loaned on their own stocks, so that the percentage of directors' borrowings is larger than it appears.

With at least $15,000,000 of stocks out of investment, and being carried on margin for purposes of speculation, it cannot be said that there is no danger in the situation. From time to time part of this stock becomes the property of involuntary investors, and if anything should happen to throw a large quantity of it on the market the price would go down with a run. In that event, what has happened in Wall street might be repeated here on a small scale.

For the first time in the history of Canadian banks the double liability of stockholders is, in the case of the Exchange bank of Montreal, now in liquidation, being called into play. A second call on the shareholders on account of the double liability has been made. It will be interesting to learn what proportion of the shareholders will meet the calls. This bank would scarcely afford a fair criterion of what would generally be got out of the double liability, for it has wealthy shareholders who hold large amounts of stock. Where the stock is widely distributed, small portions are held by poor persons who would be unable, in case of failure, to make good an amount equal to their stock, and the security of the double liability would prove to be far from absolute. In the case of this bank a new danger from a bank lending on its own stock has been revealed. The bank being the holder of some of its own stock there is no one to pay the call on that stock. But a practice which squeezes capital out of a bank is always perilous, and there are strong reasons for enforcing the legal prohibition against a bank lending on the security of its own stock.

A Slanderer Fined.

LEXINGTON, Ky., May 27.—B. J. Treacy was fined $500 for printing a slanderous card about Circuit Judge Morton. Three newspapers which printed the card are under indictment.

Cholera at Calcutta.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—The cholera at Calcutta is increasing. There were 253 deaths the week ended April 12.

A Tiller in the Tolls.

ST. LOUIS, May 27.—Prentice Tiller, the express robber, was to-day sentenced to five years.

The New York Horse Show.

NEW YORK, May 27.—The second annual exhibition of the national horse show association which opened here this morning is attracting a large attendance equally of men and of women.

THE REBELS ROUTED.

Victory for the Governor of Dongola—A Messenger to Gordon.

LONDON, May 27.—It is reported that Turkey will participate in the Egyptian conference on condition that the question of protectorate or annexation be not mentioned. The sultan agrees to send 15,000 troops if he is permitted to co-operate in Upper Egypt and the Soudan.

The governor of Dongola telegraphs to Cairo that he has visited the disturbed districts and persuaded the people to remain quiet. He engages to pacify the entire Soudan if several thousand troops are sent him.

In the commons to-day Gladstone again declared the Egyptian conference would be limited to a discussion of the financial situation.

In the lords to-day Granville said the government had no intention of employing Turkish troops in connection with the British army for the reconquest of the Soudan.

Zobehr Pasha has, at the request of England, sent a servant to Khartoum with letters insisting upon General Gordon's return. The messenger will return in fifty days.

The governor of Dongola has retaken Debbeh. He compelled a peace by the total defeat of the rebels in the disturbed districts, who were completely overawed by the power of the government.

Freemasonry in Italy.

ROME, May 27.—The issue of the recent encyclical against secret societies gives special interest to some piquant revelations made not long since with regard to the organization of the Italian freemasons. They have, it appears, three centres—Naples, Rome and Turin. The Roman grand orient, though it affects to speak with authority on behalf of Italian masonry, is far less important than the Turin section. Both, however, are more "advanced" than the Neapolitan masons, by whom, about a year ago, they were solemnly excommunicated. The number of masons in Italy is small, and tends to grow smaller. But, as in France, Spain and Germany, among them are many prominent politicians hostile to catholicism. The Turinese masons are trying hard to oust the Romans from the position they hold in the confraternity. As they are better disciplined, resolute and active, they will probably succeed.

Lord Granville Will Resign.

LONDON, May 27.—It is reported that Lord Granville will resign his position as secretary of state for foreign affairs on the dissolution of parliament on account of health failing and becoming too deaf to conduct the business of the office.

The Father of Forty-nine Children.

PETERSBURG, Va., May 27.—Edward Wilson, colored, the oldest citizen in Petersburg, died here to day, aged 105 years. He had been the father of forty-nine children.

No Stock in Gladstone's Wisdom.

LONDON, May 27.—At a liberal meeting in Leeds to-day a resolution was adopted expressing confidence in the motives and integrity of Gladstone. The word wisdom was also in the resolution as originally offered, but this was too much for the meeting, and they struck it out.

Elopement of an Heiress.

LONDON, May 27.—The daughter and prospective heiress of Crawshaw Bailey, one of the wealthiest iron masters in Wales, has eloped with Gordon Canning, a catholic. The young lady's governess, who is also a catholic, gave the couple opportunities for meeting. The Jesuits are said to have assisted in the marriage.

About Bismarck.

BERLIN, May 27.—The Tageblatt says Bismarck's retirement from the ministry is again doubtful. If he remains president of the council he will give up the functions of minister of foreign affairs and minister of commerce and industry.

Fanatics in the Philipine Islands.

MADRID, May 27.—A batch of fanatics, under Cadeeship, a so-called prophet, appeared in the Phillipine islands last month. Troops dispersed them, with a loss of thirty eight killed and wounded.

Thirty Women's Narrow Escape.

DUBLIN, May 27.—Patterson's match factory in this city was burned to-day. Thirty women narrowly escaped perishing in the flames.

Railway Accident at Dundas.

DUNDAS, May 27.—An accident occurred to a freight train on the Great Western division a little below this station, about 6 30 this morning. A wheel on the third car from the engine broke, throwing eight cars loaded with boxed meat, flour, etc., off the track. The cars were badly smashed and the track torn up for a considerable distance. Traffic was delayed most of the day. No lives were lost.

Paralyzed at Dinner.

LONDON, Ont., May 27.—At noon to-day, Frank Clampitt, in the employ of Hobbs, Osborne & Hobbs, was in the act of partaking of a plate of soup in a restaurant, when his head fell over alongside of his plate. The head waiter tried to arouse him but failing to do so reported the matter to Mr. Campbell, who at once sent for Dr. Stevenson who pronounced it a case of paralysis. At last accounts Mr. Clampitt was doing fairly.

Belleville Briefs.

BELLEVILLE, May 27.—There was a chicken dispute in Kingston yesterday and a main was fought. The fights were mostly in favor of the Kingstonians, but the representatives from this city won a good stake.

A two story brick house owned by James Stout in Huntingdon, six miles south of Madoc, was burned on Sunday morning.

While a young son of P. P. Lynch was experimenting with a cannon yesterday, the charge exploded in the wrong direction, and the boy was severely injured.

Fatality at the Falls.

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., May 27.—A stranger fell over the river bank this afternoon and was killed, having fallen a distance of 100 feet striking on the rocks beneath. The police brought the body to the top of the precipice by means of ropes. Deceased had letters in his pocket bearing the name of Wm. V. McDonald, from his father, who lives in Brooklyn, N. Y.

FISH BLAMES FERDINAND

THE BANK PRESIDENT DECEIVED BY YOUNG WARD.

Liabilities of the Grants—Condition of the West Side Bank—Another Failure—Fragments of the Panic.

NEW YORK, May 27.—James D. Fish, last evening reiterated the assertion that he was innocent of any wrong-doing. He declared he had not misappropriated a dollar, and that he was ruined and penniless. He may have been a stupendous fool, but he was not a robber. He had been most shamefully deceived by Ward, and was completely in the dark as to the rotten condition of the firm. Ward told him the government contracts were secured through the special favor of Gen. Grant, Senator Chaffee, President Arthur, and other persons high in political life, and that they were sharing the profits. He had not the least inkling that a crash was at hand. Ward is still in jail, and spends a great part of his time preparing his statement.

It was reported last night that John C. Eno was sick at his residence here, and that an officer was in the house with him.

James R. Smith, a director of the Marine bank, and a member of the firm of Reid & Smith, cotton merchants, made an assignment yesterday. The firm did likewise. It had a capital of $250,000.

The president of the West Side bank states that arrangements have been made to resume business. It has been learned that the defaulting cashier, Hinckley, and Geo. I. Seney frequently operated on a joint account, and that the former lost some of the bank's money in Seney stocks.

Bank examiners John Q. Adams and James S. Thurston have finished their investigations of the affairs of the West side bank, and report a surplus over all liabilities of $63,000. They say the suspension of the bank should not be considered as a reflection upon its solvency. Such action was taken as a precautionary measure and is fully justified by the refusal of its clearing house agent to clear for it. The bank will be ready to transact business as soon as arrangements are made with another bank to represent it in the clearing house.

Schedules in the assignments of Frederick D. Grant and Jesse R. Grant were filed to-day. The schedules of Frederick D. Grant show liabilities of $2,215,000, and assets nominally worth $1,990,000, actual worth unknown. Schedules in the assignment of Jesse R. Grant show the liabilities to be $95,000; assets nominally $131,000.

United States District Attorney Root lodged a warrant for the arrest of Ferdinand Ward at Ludlow street jail to-night on complaint of Bank Examiner Scriba, who charges that Ward aided President J. D. Fish in misappropriating funds of the Marine bank. The affidavit recites the same facts as that in the case of Fish, giving the amount drawn out of the bank by Grant and Ward as $375,000.

Returned to Work.

FALL RIVER, Mass., May 27.—The striking spinners at the Tecumseh mill returned to work this morning.

The strike is over. The end of the present week will find the striking spinners at work again if they can find work. The strikers have lost 16 weeks' wages and spent from $10,000 to $15,000, the accumulation of four years, and $10,000 more contributed by sympathizers. Many strikers who are now desirous of returning to work find their old places filled. Those who have made themselves obnoxious find it impossible to procure their old places and difficult to find new ones. The loss in wages has been over $200,000, and falls directly upon the merchants of the city. Business has also received a severe blow.

Shady Bank Transactions.

NEW YORK, May 27.—In the case of the Wall street national bank charged with over certifying the checks of Cecil Ward & Co., United States Commissioner Griffiths to-day decided to hold the defendants, Thos. W. Evans, Cornelius F. Simpson and John B. Dickson. The checks were not certified, but accepted, which the commissioner thought was more obnoxious to the evident intent and spirit of the law than the certified checks.

New York Stocks.

NEW YORK, May 27.—The stock market manifested more strength to-day than for a good many weeks. The upward turn in prices from about 11 o'clock yesterday to 12 to-day recovered nearly the whole of last weeks' decline except in Jersey Central. The experience of yesterday and to-day looks as though the long decline in prices had run its course and though there will be a reaction from the present advance it will scarcely be to as low prices as have been already made except in a few cases.

Suspension of a Bank at Hot Springs.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., May 27.—The National bank here has suspended. A warrant was issued for the arrest of President Bruons, charged with falsifying the bank's accounts. He could not be found. One of the directors said if the bank's assets are properly handled they will pay all depositors without assessment but leave the stockholders nothing.

Working the Negro Vote.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 27.—Much complaint has arisen in this state over the removal of efficient railway postal clerks and the substitution of illiterate negroes in their places. The removals have been general and to such extent that the attention of congress will be called to the matter and an investigation doubtless ensue.

Traders' and Travelers' Union.

NEW YORK, May 27.—At a meeting of the stockholders of the recently organized Traders' and Travelers' union to-day, seventy-four firms were represented. The officers elected were: General manager, Russell P. Hoyt, of E. S. Jaffray & Co.; secretary, John V. Cheevey; auditor, J. W. Steward, of G. W. Corlies & Co.

Killed His Wife's Seducer.

ATLANTA, May 27.—In Fulton county, a few days ago, Thomas Elliott crushed Charles Smith's skull with a brick because he had seduced his wife. The affair has created a sensation, as the parties are prominent church members.

Good Templars Gathering.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—The grand lodge of good templars, representing 350,000 members from all parts of the world, convened to-day in their thirtieth annual session.

MURDER AT DETROIT.

A Confidence Man Shot by a Crook's Companion.

DETROIT, May 27.—Thomas Britton, a noted confidence man, was shot and killed last night in the bar-room of Charles Parker's restaurant, in this city. The tragedy followed an encounter between himself and John Considine, a local crook. There had been a feud of long standing between the two, which culminated in Britton's murder by a friend of Considine's named Hickey. Last evening Britton, accompanied by a younger brother, came into the bar-room. Presently Considine came in, and Britton stepped up to him, asked him whether he had threatened to break his jaw, at the same time striking a blow at Considine, who struck back. The two clinched, and a scuffle ensued. While the struggle was in progress, Hickey came running into the room, made a rush for Britton. He had a revolver in his hand with the butt of which he struck Britton on the head several times. He then fired at him, and Britton fell to the floor and died in a short time. Hickey escaped by the back door, and was afterward seen on the ferry crossing to Canada. He is 22 years old, five feet seven inches high, smooth-faced and always well dressed. Considine is under arrest.

DISEASE-SPREADING CATTLE.

Shocking Condition of Matters in New York State—An Official Report.

ALBANY, N. Y., May 27.—Inspector Arthur Hollick's report to the state board of health shows a shocking condition of matters at Blissville, Queen's county. In one place there are four or five hundred cattle housed and fed on distillery swill fattening for slaughter. One of them is diseased with pleuro pneumonia. In another place there were five cases of acute pleuro pneumonia in the stables, and three outside were just dying. They had been milked that morning, and the milk was distributed to customers. In another stable out of 126 cows nine were diseased. Outside the city limits are several smaller dairies with about the same percentage of disease. The Brooklyn commissioner suspects that when the diseased cows are no longer able to furnish milk, they are slaughtered and smuggled to New York and Brooklyn for food.

DOMINION DASHES.

The Latest and Best News Found in Our Canadian Exchanges.

Henry Vennor, father of the well-known meteorologist, died at Peterborough on May 25.

It is said the Quebec ministry have decided to give $700 sessional indemnity to the members, an increase of $200.

The goods and plant of the London steel company are in the hands of the sheriff under writs amounting to $4000.

It is understood that Pierre J. U. Beaudry, advocate of Beauharnois, has been appointed assistant clerk of the privy council.

The Bell organ company band, Guelph, have purchased a number of new instruments, and have now twenty five of superior class.

A team of B battery, Kingston, ran away Thursday and knocked down an old lady, Mrs. Sinnott, who is not expected to recover from the injuries received.

Nelson Potts, Cauboro, near Dunnville, was arrested for stealing oats from a neighboring farmer, Hugh Crawford. He gave bonds of $800 to appear at next assizes.

Ashworth's acid works at Yale, B.C., were burned May 17, with a loss of $75,000. A Chinese employe was roasted to a cinder. The proprietor was badly burned.

Mrs. Wm. McNorgan was arrested at St. Thomas and taken back to London for stealing gold earrings, broach, gold locket and chain from W. T. Humpidge of the London house.

The bishop of Algoma ordained in St. George's church, Montreal, Rev. Robert W. Pinute, a young Englishman who came out with his lordship, to undertake duty as a missionary in Algoma.

Phipps, the wife murderer, awaiting his doom in Sandwich jail, is apparently resigned, and says he will meet death firmly. He never alludes to his victim, but evinces emotion when his children are spoken of.

Prescott is down on the Scott act, and the citizens think they have good reason to be, as the town has two breweries and one distillery, which give employment to a large number of men, and keep the town alive.

J. A. Whelpley of Grenwich, N. B., has invented a three-wheeled vehicle which can be turned with absolute safety in its own length. A carriage firm have already decided to introduce the invention in their works.

At London east Monday a boy threw a lighted firecracker at a son of Wesley Brown barber. It struck him in the face and exploded, injuring one of his eyes to such an extent that it is feared the sight will be destroyed.

The Bobcaygeon Independentman settles the whole matter of female suffrage and dress reform in his usual terse and brilliant style: This journal will yield on the subject of the franchise—but pantaloons—no, sir, never.

A deputation of Kingston civic officials and merchants pointed out to Sir John Macdonald on Thursday that the city would be ruined unless the tolls were removed on the St. Lawrence grain trade. Sir John promised favorable consideration.

The Niagara folks are feeling sore because the annual drill of the volunteer camp is to be held at Toronto this year, instead of where the whirlpool roars. One newspaper correspondent says it is a good thing other places can't steal the river or they would take it away, too.

It has been said that great statesmen are incapable of attending to the necessary petty details of everyday life, but the Bobcaygeon Independent proves that such is not the case. He concludes a powerful article on Henry George's land theories with the announcement: Life is short, the bass are biting ravenously, butcher's meat is fifteen cents a pound, and so we are off fishing.

Wednesday a woman tried to leave a deformed boy at Victoria hotel and Dr. Tripp's, Guelph, while she went on an errand, but in each instance permission was refused. She then deserted the boy, was arrested and given an hour to leave the town with the child. She got. Erin, Orangeville and Caledon were variously given as her residence.

The Galt Drowning Calamity.

GALT, May 27. The body of young Davidson was found about 7 o'clock this morning. Search still continues for the body of Miss Fairbridge.

BRUTAL FIGHT AT BLYTH.

FATAL RESULT OF A FEUD BETWEEN TWO FAMILIES.

Old Farmer Maines Kicked to Death by Young Henry Beamish—An Investigation Proceeding.

BLYTH, Ont., May 27.—A brutal fight occurred yesterday morning outside the village between two farmers and their sons, named respectively Beamish and Maines, resulting in the death of one of the combatants, Wm. Maines.

The cause of the affray was an old feud between the families. The parties live very near together, their farms being on opposite sides of the road. Early Monday morning Beamish and two of his sons came out on the road, when they met Maines and his two sons. The conflict was between young Henry Beamish and old Maines. The young man soon overcame his antagonist and was beating him cruelly when Maines' son essayed to rescue his father. This he was prevented from doing by Beamish, senior, who it is said told his son to "give it to the old man." Four doctors were summoned, who found the unfortunate man in an unconscious state and gave it as their opinion that he could not recover. Warrants were thereupon issued by Mr. Kily, reeve, and Mr. Young, J.P., for the arrest of Henry and James Beamish as principals, and James Beamish as accessory. All three were arrested and are now held in custody.

This morning Coroner C. Tait Scott of Wingham, arrived here and proceeded to impanel a jury and to view the body. The investigation proceeded this afternoon. Mr. Dickinson is here to watch the case for the crown, and Mr. Morton for the Beamishes.

HALF RATES NO GOOD.

The Government's Action in the Matter of Canal Tolls Received With Disgust at Montreal.

MONTREAL, May 27.—The statement telegraphed from Ottawa that the government has decided to reduce canal tolls on east bound wheat to one-half the rates for the present season was received here with derision and disgust, and the general opinion expressed on all sides was that this reduction would not prove of the slighest perceptible advantage to the St. Lawrence route. Moreover it is claimed that unless the canal tolls are rescinded at once the prospects of an advantageous competition against the free Erie canal are at an end. A promisent shipper, an ex-president of the board of trade, who is a stanuch supporter of the conservative party, says that if the government did not sweep away all existing tolls he would never cast a vote in their favor again. Other gentlemen considered that the representations of the Montreal board of trade were practically ignored.

THE PROPOSED INVASION.

If there was alarm among the girls of Toronto when they met in the Temperance hall on Saturday night last to protest against the Queen's Own's making so many trips to Brantford under pretence of soldiering, there was consternation on their faces yesterday forenoon when the news reached here that the Lady Dufferin guards had through their adjutant, Miss W., applied to Major Hamilton for a place in the military review during the jubilee week.

The guards are a semi-military corps, whose members are the fashionable maidens of the little city. For some unavoidable reason this corps was unable to participate in the parade at Brantford on Saturday last; but some favored Torontonians, who have seen them at drill, speak well of their discipline, while common phrases are never used to express admiration of the charms of the entire body, from the commanding officer down to the little beauty who carries a small silk flag in front of the regiment.

The advent of such a bevy of attractions for our susceptible bachelors, especially after the impressions created in the little city on Saturday and Sunday last, is, in the eyes of Toronto's fair ones, a calamity to be deplored. At a hastily convened meeting of young ladies of Toronto held in Temperance hall yesterday afternoon, a score or more of resolutions were brought forward, but no definite plan of action was arrived at.

We know what they are after said one girl: They don't want any semi-centenarian military drill; they want the Queen's Own boys and it's only another step in their design. Think of the regiment of 525 men coming home with 17 badges on their hats, the other 508 badges remaining in the possession of Brantford girls as brooch mementoes.

The girl while sweetheart of a Q. O. R. corporal moved to petition Attorney-General Mowat to compel them to mind their own business. If this proves ineffectual then at a meeting to be held on Thursday a scheme will be proposed to raise a maiden corp, 1000 strong, composed of the best-looking girls in Toronto, who will be uniformed and drilled and who will, as a set-off, invite the Dufferin rifles and other corps of volunteers to attend a grand review that they intend to hold. Only Queen's Own men will be excluded.

HOW IT CATCHES THEM.

Sir Tinpot Richard Brazen-shield,
A doughty knight and bold,
Has said some words of Canada
That knock the "pairty" cold.

He says that independence must
Ere long be prov'd and con'd;
Yet strange to say, the Globe does not
Seem of the project fond.

For never a word it says of this,
And never a word of that;
It neither damns nor glorifies;
I wonder what it's at.

The Mail in horror stands aghast
And calls this disaffection;
But who said, then so much the worse
For Brit sher connection!

Sir John stands by, his sails all trimmed,
To catch the passing breeze;
And you may bet it will be cold
When old John A. will freeze.

—*Ja Kasse.*

Steamship Arrivals—May 27.

At Queenstown—Britain.
At Plymouth—Italy.
At Glasgow—Devonia.
At New York—St. Laurent from Havre.

DECIDEDLY COOLER WEATHER.

METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE, TORONTO, May 28, 1 a.m.

Lakes: Fresh to strong northeasterly to northerly winds; fine, decidedly cooler weather

POOR COPY