

LATE VICTORIAN'S ROMANTIC STORY

IDENTITY REVEALED THROUGH HIS DECEASE

Charles Gee, Who Died Here, Was Long Lost Half Brother of Captain Mellon.

A strange case has come to light through the death in this city about ten days ago of Chas. Palmer Gee, who, a few weeks prior to his death, took up his residence in Victoria.

The late Mr. Gee, as will be remembered, came here in shattered health from Alberta, and his acquaintance in this city was a very limited one. He was, however, a prominent member of the Masonic order, having been past master, and held other high offices with that fraternity. When he died the order took charge of the obsequies, and paid the honors to departed brethren usual to the A. F. & A. M.

The announcement of Mr. Gee's death appearing in the Times came to the notice of Capt. Mellon, surveyor for French Lloyds, of the city of Vancouver, and caused that gentleman to institute inquiries regarding the identity of the deceased.

The reason for the unusual interest displayed by Capt. Mellon lay in the fact that he had a half-brother named Gee, from whom he had not heard for seven years, and whom he had long since given up as dead. The announcement in the Times gave London, as Mr. Gee's birthplace, but as Weymouth, England, was the last city in which Capt. Mellon's half-brother had resided before he lost track of him, that gentleman wired to Victoria, asking that inquiry be made of the widow, as to whether the deceased had ever lived in that city.

This inquiry, presented by a Times man, establishing a doubt in the mind of the two men were half-brothers, that each had given the other up as dead for the better part of a quarter of a century, and that one had died within a few miles of the other, without the knowledge of either.

The late Mr. Gee, according to his widow, had talked frequently and fondly of the half-brother, whose name she cannot absolutely recall, but which resembled Mellon. He had told his wife that this half-brother, who was older than himself, was a sea captain, and that not having heard from him for many, many years he (Mr. Gee) had concluded he had helped to swell the "price of admittance" of the British people, and had been lost at sea.

Mr. Gee, on the other hand, had led a more or less nomadic life. His mother was an actress, and among his earliest recollections are those of being led by the hand to rehearsals in the world's metropolises carrying the music and scores used by his mother in the performances. Reaching man's estate, the same historical bent developed, and he had been against this city in the commercial and other causes, and that such bent had come by a united effort on the part of all trades and business men through an acute and aggressive association. A discussion was raised as to whether or not the stimulating of the present local trade by the younger blood would not be more desirable than forming a new institution, but a feeling prevailed that it would be a waste of time in trying to obtain such results.

The deceased was married in Yeoville, Dorsetshire, England, and finally came to Alberta, whence he moved to Victoria a few weeks ago. He had become shattered in health and reduced in circumstances, and on his arrival here took up his residence over Jones' cigar store on Douglas street, where his widow and small family still reside.

PETITION AGAINST PRIOR.

Last of Preliminary Objections Has Been Dismissed—Efforts to Have Case Tried Early.

The last of the twenty preliminary objections filed in the election petition against the Hon. E. G. Prior was argued before Mr. Justice Martin Thursday, and was struck out, as were the preceding nineteen objections. Col. Prior therefore fails in his effort to have the petition dismissed on technical grounds, his motion being dismissed with costs.

A. P. Luxton argued the objections on behalf of Col. Prior, T. M. Miller opposing him. The petitioners will now endeavor to have the case set down for trial as soon as possible.

Full Court. Judgment was reserved on the appeal in Centre Star vs. Rossland, which was finished Thursday afternoon.

A. E. McPhillips, K. C., moved in the Full court this morning for leave to appeal to the Privy Council from the judgment of the Full court in Oppenheimer vs. Spelling. P. P. Davis, K. C., opposed the motion, which was dismissed with costs.

As announced in the Times, the Full court Thursday laid down a rule that no more than one counsel may be heard on each side in interlocutory appeals. But when the case of Wilson vs. Crow's Nest Coal Company, an interlocutory appeal from a refusal of an application for writs, was called this morning, E. V. McNeill, K. C., counsel for the appellants, asked leave for his assistants, counsel, E. P. Davis, K. C., to be heard on the above-mentioned rule, to be heard with him. Leave was granted, the rule being amended by its breach as soon as possible. This appeal is still being argued by the plaintiff.

The only application heard in Chambers on Friday, by Mr. Justice Martin, was for an extension of time for the execution of accounts in Anderson vs. Bell, which was granted. A. P. R. is the applicant.

County Court. Trial of McGregor et al vs. Bale, on a claim for damages concerning the tug Sadie, was finished before the Chief

Justice on Thursday, judgment being awarded the plaintiffs for \$100.70 and costs. A. T. Belyea, K. C., for plaintiffs, E. Higgins, contra.

In Jones vs. McMillan, tried before Mr. Justice Martin on Friday, plaintiff obtained judgment for \$47 and costs. J. M. Bradburn for plaintiff, L. Bond, contra.

OFFICERS INSTALLED. Ceremonies in Connection With Courts Cariboo and Victoria West Held Friday Night.

In the A. O. U. W. hall Friday evening public installation ceremonies were held in connection with Courts Cariboo and Victoria West, Independent Order of Foresters, M. J. Graham, of Vancouver, high secretary, assisted by Rev. J. Irvine, of Vancouver, supreme marshal, and H. Marymont, supreme conductor, conducted the ceremonies. The officers installed were: Court Cariboo, No. 743—C. R. King, court deputy; W. J. Prevost, junior past chief ranger; E. L. MacEachern, chief ranger; G. P. Kelley, vice chief ranger; Jos. Gibbs, physician; Wm. Brunsden, orator; recording secretary; T. Le Messurier, financial secretary; C. B. Devallie, treasurer; E. Bransden, senior woodward; C. E. Ish, junior woodward; E. H. Neelands, senior beadle; D. Dewar, junior beadle.

Court Victoria West, No. 4188—Thos. Redding, court deputy; C. W. Kirk, junior past chief ranger; G. B. Colby, chief ranger; F. Kroeger, vice chief ranger; C. E. Foote, physician; J. Collins, orator; Geo. Adams, recording secretary; Beaumont Boggs, financial secretary; H. Lawrie, treasurer; W. English, senior woodward; J. Gray, junior woodward; H. Gray, senior beadle; S. Lawrie, junior beadle.

After the ceremonies the remainder of the evening was spent in a social manner. Refreshments were served, and the following programme was rendered: Address, Rev. J. Irvine, supreme court orator; H. P. Mowbray, M. P., address, Rev. E. S. Rowe; song, A. G. Wells; recitation, Grace Le Messurier; address, M. J. Graham, high secretary, Vancouver; recitation, A. Sempie; song, G. F. Watson; recitation, Master Le Messurier.

COMPANY ORGANIZED. Col. Volynarsky's Mission to America Carried Out for Development of Siberia.

Victorians who last year were concerned in the scheme of Col. Volynarsky, were in progress for the purpose of a local vessel to carry an expedition to Siberia, will learn with considerable interest that the project then on the tapis has been carried through by a company which the Colonel was instrumental in organizing. It is known as the Northwestern Siberian Company, and is operated under special charter from His Majesty the Emperor of Russia, signed July 22nd, 1902. Col. Volynarsky is chairman of the board of directors, and M. Matunich, managing director in America; and John Rose is manager in America and Siberia, with offices in Seattle, Wash. The company holds a concession for exploring and trading development of an area of 200,000 square miles, comprising that section of North Eastern Siberia bordering on Behring Sea and the Arctic Ocean.

The steamer Manuac has already made one trip in the interests of the company, and will make another in the spring, when it is expected there will be quite an exodus from the Sound to the new gold fields.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. Business Men Will Organize—Committee Appointed to Draft Constitution.

An informal meeting of over thirty business men was held Tuesday night to consider the advantages to be derived and advisability of forming a chamber of commerce in this city. It was pointed out that there were against this city in the commercial and other causes, and that such bent had come by a united effort on the part of all trades and business men through an acute and aggressive association. A discussion was raised as to whether or not the stimulating of the present local trade by the younger blood would not be more desirable than forming a new institution, but a feeling prevailed that it would be a waste of time in trying to obtain such results.

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POULTRY SHOW EARLY NEXT MONTH

ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR COMING EVENT

Local Firms Deal Liberally With the Association in Granting Many Special Prizes.

The Victoria Poultry and Pet Stock Association is arranging for a grand exhibition in this city to be held from February 4th to February 7th. The prize list is a complete one, including every variety of fowl as well as canaries and rabbits. Goops will be provided for all birds except pigeons, cage birds, turkeys, geese and pet stock. The association will care for and feed all exhibits during the days of the show.

In making entries exhibitors must use the form provided, and specify the class and section number in which they are entered. All birds must be provided with leg bands showing the number of bird. These bands will be provided by the secretary, G. D. Christie, at 5 cents each. An entrance fee of 25 cents for each entry is to be charged.

In addition to the special prizes offered by the association, there are about one hundred other divisions in which the association offer their regular prizes. These are \$1 for first and \$50 cents for second for the best cock, pouter, hen and pullet, and \$2 for first and \$1 for second for exhibition pens consisting of one male and four females of each variety.

The special prizes offered are as follows: President's Cup, value \$50—Presented by H. E. Levy to the person exhibiting the largest number of birds scoring over 800 points, bred and raised by the exhibitor (birds bought or raised from bought eggs cannot be included). The cup to be won three times before becoming the property of the exhibitor.

As a meeting of the local board of directors of the B. C. Permanent Loan & Savings Company, held on Thursday, the following members were present: President N. Shakespeare, Vice-President Ald. Goodacre, Hon. Senator Macdonald, Capt. Wm. Grant, Angus McKeown, Samuel Johns, Dr. Ernest Hall, E. W. Langlois, president and manager of the company, who is spending a few days in the city, was also present, together with T. W. Martindale, Thos. Le Messurier and W. D. Cranston, city representatives of the company.

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To Subscribers.

SETTLEMENT OF THE BRIDGE SUITS

SUMS RECEIVED BY RESPECTIVE CLAIMANTS

Long Standing Legislation Now Terminated—Charges Against the Corporation Now Discharged.

It will be of general interest to Victorians to know that the moneys paid by the city in settlement of various claims arising out of the Point Ellice bridge disaster of May 20th, 1896, aggregate the sum of \$112,500. These moneys, according to mutual agreement between the different claimants interested, was apportioned by A. E. DeBeck, the arbitrator, and have in detail never heretofore appeared in print. The bridge suits, as the cases of these claimants come to be known, engaged in the courts for years and were very strongly contested. They were placed in the hands of D. G. McNeill, of Vancouver, and before adjudication a test case was tried before the privy council, resulting in a decision being given in the plaintiffs' favor, fixing responsibility for the dread disaster on the city. This involved a heavy liability on the corporation and to meet it a by-law to raise the necessary funds with which to pay off the claims and cover the legal expenses incurred was placed before the electors. The by-law passed and the sum available has been divided as follows:

Agnes Fair \$18,000
William Henry Tupper 16,000
Jane Talbot 8,000
John McLeod 5,000
John Armstrong 5,000
Flora W. Goodacre 4,000
Edward Hooper 4,000
E. C. Shepherd 4,000
Charles S. Pearson 3,000
Gina A. Bowser 3,000
William A. Robertson 3,000
Alberta Adams 2,500
David L. Ballard 2,000
Matthias Eschelt 2,000
Henry Smith 2,000
Edward L. Post 2,000
Edward L. Nathan 1,800
Is. W. Murray 1,800
James Jackson 1,800
William Slater 1,800
G. G. Berger 1,400
John A. Trout 1,400
Wm. Heatherbell 1,400
Geo. H. Woodhouse 1,400
Ed. D. Campbell 1,400
Wm. P. Fullerton 1,000
Wm. J. Crail 1,000
Thomas Harman 700
Lizzie Besford 500
W. M. Tippins and wife 500
Only Jane Woodcock 400
Cathrin A. Bossi 400
J. H. Adams 400

DIRECTORS' MEETING. B. C. Permanent Loan & Savings Company Find Business in Satisfactory Condition.

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The Paterson Shoe Co. Ltd.

Boots and Shoes, Rubber Boots, Etc.

We are the largest exclusive dealers in Boots and Shoes in the province, and carry complete stocks of every description of Boots and Shoes, Rubbers, Rubber Boots, etc., etc., in each of our five large stores. Miners' Footwear a Specialty. Letter orders promptly and carefully filled. Write for Catalogue to

The Paterson Shoe Co. Ltd. VICTORIA, B. C. Branch Stores: Vancouver, B.C.; Nanaimo, B.C.

CANADIAN, BRITISH AND AMERICAN

Flannelettes, Gingham, Sateens, Cotton Dress Goods

And other staple lines for Spring Samples forwarded on application. Letter orders promptly executed.

J. PIERCY & CO., WHOLESALE DRY GOODS, VICTORIA, B. C.

Saturday's Bargain.

OGILVIE'S HUNGARIAN FLOUR \$1.20

Dixie H. Ross & Co., CASH GROCERS.

Tyee Copper Co. SMELTING WORKS AT LADYSMITH

Prepared to purchase ores as from August 1st. Convenient to E. & N. or Sea. GLEERMONT LIVINGSTON, MANAGER.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sabbath School Children of First Presbyterian Church Entertained.

On Friday the annual treat to the pupils of the Sunday school of First Presbyterian church was given. Tea was served to a large number of children in the lecture room, after which a programme was carried out in the auditorium of the church, where a large number of parents and friends assembled. Prizes were presented for school work during the year. This general assembly's diploma for memorizing the Scripture selections of the general assembly was awarded to Nora Wilson, Ada Schaefer and Margaret McKillican. Nora Wilson was also awarded the general assembly's diploma for perfect recitation of the whole of the Shorter Catechism.

The superintendent, J. Meston, who has been associated with the school for over twenty years, was presented by the parents, teachers and pupils with a beautiful complete set, leather bound, of Mathew Henry's Commentary, accompanied with an address appreciative of Mr. Meston's work. Mr. Best concluded one of the most successful entertainments of the school by giving nearly a hundred magic lantern views of great variety and beauty.

The school has now connected with it a normal class for Scripture study to prepare teachers for better work in teaching in the Sabbath school. The class is under the management of Rev. J. McCoy, M. A., principal of the British Columbia Ladies' College, one of the best teachers in the province, and meets one evening a week.

RAW SILK ENTERED.

Shipment Which Arrived on the Empress Has Reached Its Destination.