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THE FIRST WOMAN.

Mrs. Martha M. Place Electrocuted Yesterday.

She Was Put to Death for the Murder of Her Step-daughter.

The Scene at Sing Sing Prison Yesterday Morning When She Was Led to Her Death Chair.

SING SING, N. Y., March 20.—Mrs. Martha M. Place, who killed her step-daughter at her home in Brooklyn on February 7, 1898, was electrocuted in Sing Sing prison this morning, the first woman to die in the chair in this state. Mrs. Place went to her death impassive and calm, with no more than a murmured prayer. With her when she entered the death chamber was the warden, an armed man, and several heavily armed men. Rev. Dr. Cole of Yonkers, an old friend and pastor, a woman physician, one of the matrons of the prison, and two keepers.

Mrs. Place was dressed in black, a gown that she made to wear at her new trial, or, as she first thought, to her freedom. She seemed to tower above the warden, who kept her arm tightly within his, and one arm around her to support her. Her light gray hair was brushed smoothly back from her forehead; her hands held a small prayer book. Her eyes were closed and her head bowed. As she sat down her lips moved again in prayer and she said: "God help me."

The two women who followed her closely were Mrs. M. J. Deane and Dr. Irvine, with an attendant who stepped out of the view of the witnesses seated around the chamber. It was but a moment's work to bare the leg and attach the electrode, the prison matron drawing her skirts out in front of the chair. The second electrode was clamped on the second arm in an instant. Mrs. Place never stirred. Her aged pastor walked quietly away. He could not bear to look at her. Quicker than it has ever been before, the straps across the face were buckled on, the pad drawn over the eyes; the matron turned on the lever thrown down.

The women attendants pressed close up against the chair. One could hardly see a movement of the body. It grew rigid, the fingers gripped the palms, the prayer-book in the woman's left hand slipped across the wrist and slipped partly out. Her muscles relaxed. Her mouth, small, with thin lips, merely lightened, seemed as though in quiet content, there was no pain, no suffering, no scene of any kind.

The woman in the death chamber seemed strangely out of her element, woman-physician was bright looking, sharp in her movements, rapid in what she did. But her dress was what gave the scene a strange aspect. She wore a grey dress and a huge hat with pronounced crimson trimmings. She bowed and examined the electrode and examined the heart. With the prison matron she stood directly in front of Mrs. Place and watched her face as she died. Both were affected, but performed their duties well.

At exactly 11:01 State Electrician Davis gave the shock. It was a voltage of 1,700, about the usual strength, and was continued for four seconds. Then it was lowered to 200 and maintained for fifty-two seconds. When the current was shut off, Dr. Irvine, the prison physician, felt her neck, where there was a slight pulsation of the arteries. But the woman was dead, and those physicians who saw the electrocution and examined the body afterwards gave it as their opinion that death had been instantaneous. After a brief interval a second shock was given. Those who stood around did not even hear a respiratory moan, but a little froth oozed from the lips. The voltage was the same as in the first shock and again lasted four seconds. It was gradually diminished to 200, and when the current was shut off the body sank back quietly into the chair; the lower limbs had stiffened somewhat; there was hardly a mark where the electrodes had been. There the woman lay, her face just as she had walked into the death house, impassive, calm, with simply tightly drawn lips. The body remained in the chair until after the witnesses had fled out of the chamber, when it was removed to the autopsy table, where the autopsy was conducted behind closed doors, no one being permitted to be present except the operating surgeons, Dr. Irvine, Dr. McKenna and Dr. Dennis Griffin. The report will be issued and not made public at present.

Later in the day the body was taken to an undertaking establishment and embalmed. It was shipped tonight to New Jersey. The precaution regarding the autopsy report was taken merely because of the intense interest aroused regarding the rarity of Mrs. Place; indeed those who have been with Mrs. Place from beginning to end say that Mrs. Place was a perfectly sane woman. She was prepared for her death early this morning by Rev. Dr. Cole, and she said to him: "I will meet my death bravely. I will put my trust in God." She was ready when the warden visited her at 10 o'clock. She had said good-bye to Mrs. Sage, who had been kind to her, with tears in her eyes, and to her attendants, and there was not a word spoken during the death march. It was from the top floor of the old hospital building, in the eastern part of the yard, a distance of five or six hundred feet to the chamber. The party descended two flights of stairs, passed through the dismantled wards of the old hospital, through many rooms, and, last of all, through the dimly lighted corridor that led within the cells of murderers' row were draped with curtains, so there was not one person to look at the woman on the gloomy journey to the chair.

After it was over Warden Sage said the whole affair was even more satisfactory than he had hoped for. There is no denying that the warden had feared a break-down at a scene.

PARLIAMENT.

The Debate on the Address Commenced Yesterday.

Mr. Bell of East Prince Made a Mistake in Speaking Too Long.

Sir Charles Tupper Makes a Most Effective Reply to Address From Throne.

OTTAWA, March 20.—The debate on the address was commenced this afternoon by Mr. Bell, the new member for East Prince. He is very deliberate speaker, and had some good material, but made a mistake of speaking too long. He dealt at considerable length on the prosperity of the country, claiming that it was twenty times as great as during the conservative regime. Immigration from abroad had increased in volume 30 per cent under the present government, while the exodus to the United States had entirely ceased. Referring to Washington negotiations, he said our commissioners had made an honest, earnest and persistent effort to settle the differences existing between the two countries. They had laid down the principle, "We want to settle all our differences or none." He firmly believed that a fair agreement would be reached on the several matters. Doubtless some would say to the Canadian commissioners, "You have carried loss at the table." (Conservative laughter.) Some people even thought our commissioners would have slammed the door in the face of the Americans, and come home. He did not agree with that view. Every-thing pointed to a successful issue of the negotiations.

CASTILIAN WRECK.

Examination Into Cause of Disaster Commenced.

The First Officer Describes Course Steered All Through.

At One O'clock the Sounding Was Not Correct According to the Chart.

HALIFAX, N. S., March 20.—The examination into the loss of the Castilian was commenced this morning at 10 o'clock before Commander the Hon. Capt. Douglas, Capt. J. E. Murphy, Richard Stroud, Esq., a man who was on the lookout in the crow's nest, testified to seeing something white off the starboard bow at 3:33 a. m., which he reported by calling to the bridge, but got no answer, as it turned out he was mistaken. He it, too, William Hays, the quartermaster, who was steering at the time of the accident, testified as to the course given him.

Duncan McAffer, the first officer, who was in charge of the watch, described the course steered and detailed all the circumstances up to the striking. He had been on the Allan line for thirty years, and for fifteen years had sailed the same passage made this trip. During the winter considered the course a perfectly safe one. He considered the accident due to a north-westerly set of the current beyond what was laid down. The second and fourth officers and carpenter also testified.

The most important point so far made is that when the first sounding was taken at 1 a. m. the ship had run 125 miles and the sounding showed 62 fathoms which was not the sounding they should have had, according to the chart, if they had been on their correct course. The ship ran full speed from that time till she struck at 3:40 a. m.

The court resumes tomorrow, when the captain will be heard.

THE BRITISH COMMONS.

The Shooting of One Simpson at Manila by American Troops.

LONDON, March 20.—In the house of commons today the Hon. Philip James Stanhope, liberal president of the National Reform union asked if her majesty's government had received a report of the lamentable occurrence at Manila when a British subject named Simpson had unfortunately been killed, whether the government was aware that Simpson's family was financially dependent upon him, and whether the government would endeavor to obtain pecuniary compensation for his family by friendly representations to the government of the United States.

The parliamentary secretary of the foreign office, Right Hon. William, Sir John Broderick, replied that the matter depended upon details of the case which could not be received before April and that with insufficient information on the subject it was useless to make representations to the United States government for compensation. Simpson was conspired with by the British government and was accidentally shot during the course of a military operation. He was looking out of a window, he was killed, and owing to his white clothing was taken for a Filipino.

FOUR MEN KILLED.

MONTREAL, March 20.—Four men were recently killed here today by the fall of a scaffolding erected inside a large chimney for repairs. Men had just entered the place at the time. The killed were Louis Robson, Henry Delorme, George Duchamp and Archie Stewart. The fifth man, Xavier Tupper, was dug out seriously injured after being four hours under the debris.

READ THE WEEKLY SUN.

Ministerial and opposition caucuses will be held on Wednesday.

THE SENATE. In the senate today, Bowell characterized the proposed re-distribution as unjustifiable and unconstitutional. By law the government would have to bring down such a measure two years hence, but there was no call for it now. NOTES. Chief Justice Meak of the Micmac Indians is in the city to interview the government regarding certain boundary disputes in which the Micmacs are interested. Sir Charles Tupper will ask for copies of the communications received from Chamberlain approving of Lord Aberdeen's attitude regarding appointments made by conservatives just before they went out of office. A commission is being authorized to have Canadian grown tobacco manufactured in all factories in the Dominion.

Mr. Casgrain will ask for particulars of the conference which Laurier and Tard had with the Hon. Macdonald at Quebec in reference to an expression of opinion by the legislature on senate reform. Mr. Casgrain will also ask if there has been any correspondence since last session with the pope, or any member of the sacred college in reference to the Manitoba school question, and whether the Roman Catholic minority in Manitoba has accepted the Laurier-Greenway school settlement. Mr. Charlton will introduce his time-honored measure, the seduction bill. Representatives of the Dominion Letter Carriers' Association are coming to Ottawa to ask increased pay. The Dominion Alliance will thresh out the prohibition issue here on Wednesday.

A private steam yacht is to be built for the use of ministers. Private yachts are greatly in vogue by ministers when travelling on railways. Mr. Foster will ask for a return of all liquor licenses granted for the Yukon; of all persons appointed to office in the Yukon; of the number of licenses issued over the I. C. R. since August last, 1897; of the issue of postage stamps, etc., since Jan. 1, 1899; also for particulars of persons employed by Canada in connection with the joint high commission.

DISEASED CATTLE.

Shall Not be Killed in St. John Slaughter Houses.

Such Was the Decision of Commissioners Re-affirmed at Yesterday Afternoon's Meeting.

A special meeting of the slaughter house commissioners was held on Tuesday afternoon, in the absence of President Day, Commissioner Gleason occupied the chair. There were present only two other commissioners, Messrs. Frink and Galloway. The chairman explained that the meeting was called to consider the bill they intended presenting to the legislature, asking for power to license an abattoir in the city, the site to be approved by the Common Council. The secretary read a copy of the old bill and the amendments thereto, suggested when the bill was before a committee of the house last session. Commissioner Frink said that a strong objection was taken to the "buildings erected or to be erected." All they wanted was power to license one building, not more. He thought that it should read "one building within the limits of the city for the purpose of an abattoir."

The chairman and Commissioner Galloway favored this idea. Commissioner Frink moved that the commissioners ask for legislation to permit the "licensing of an abattoir within the limits of the city, the site to be subject to the approval of the council." This was unanimously carried with the understanding that the matter be placed in the hands of the recorder to print in proper form.

Commissioner Frink said there were three cattle in Carleton, which had been sent there for shipment, and being diseased, had been quarantined. Under the act the disease was a contagious one. An attempt is being made to remove the animals and have them killed and the meat sold for consumption. He had corresponded with the chief veterinary inspector at Montreal, Dr. McEachran, explaining to him that the board of slaughter house commissioners have in the past refused to allow such animals to be killed in licensed houses, and in reply had received a letter from that gentleman. A portion of that letter Dr. Frink read. Dr. McEachran after referring to the action of the commissioners, gave it as his opinion that the disease was not dangerous so long as confined to the jaw. Dr. Frink said that Mr. McEachran was a man of wide experience and recognized as an authority both on this continent and in Europe, and his opinion that the meat from such animals was wholesome as long as the disease was confined to the head, and the internal organs not affected, would necessarily be accepted by all. The doctor stated in his letter that in Montreal such animals were killed in the abattoirs and if only the jaw was affected the meat was put on the market. If the disease extended to the internal organs the carcass was condemned. The chairman thanked Dr. Frink for the information and wanted to leave the matter with him and the inspector, but after some discussion it was thought best, in view of their previous action, to refuse to allow such affected animals to be butchered in the licensed houses.

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IS THE NAME OF THE SOAP that has peculiar qualities for washing clothes and is good for all uses. HIGHEST IN QUALITY.

NOVA SCOTIA NURSE

Saved Frances Leland at the Windsor Hotel, Fire.

Carried Her Patient Through a Corridor and Down Four Stories—Heroic Miss Troup of Pictou.

NEW YORK, March 18.—Proprietor Leland and his wife were in the hotel. His wife and his daughter Helen were killed. Miss Frances Leland, oldest daughter of Proprietor Leland, was rescued from the burning building by her nurse, Miss Frances Troup, who, in the escape, carried her patient through a narrow corridor filled with smoke and down a fire escape, five stories to the street. Miss Leland had been in the hotel for some time and when the fire broke out was in her room in room 55 on the fifth floor. Miss Leland's illness is a very serious one and she had been in the hospital for some time. She was carried down the fire escape and half carried her along the corridor in front of their room to a carriage. A number of women with a ladder rushed up the wall of this building and found Miss Leland in the room. Miss Leland's condition is very serious.

Miss Troup, who has been in the service of the Leland family for many years, was the first to see the fire. She rushed to the door and found the room filled with smoke. She carried Miss Leland down the fire escape and found her in the street. Miss Leland's condition is very serious.

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