

Briton Urges Coal Gas To Replace Hanging

English authorities are discussing the advisability of employing coal gas for the execution of criminals instead of hanging, the present method. Inspired by the popular horror over a recent hanging, Earl Russell suggested before the Medical Society, a group of physicians, lawyers, and criminologists, that it would be more humane if coal gas was introduced into the cell of the condemned man while he was sleeping. The current number of "Lancet" the leading British medical journal devotes several columns to the discussion of this question by leading authorities, and general opinion is opposed to the change.

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CORRESPONDENCE

To the Tax Payers of Northumberland County.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I take this opportunity of addressing a few remarks to you, as interested parties, with reference to one or two subjects upon which I deem it my duty to speak. Taking first the report of the Grand Jury at the October Term in reference to the County Jail, I wish to say, in company with Councilors Dennis Doyle, W. Harriman, Joseph McKnight and Lawrence Doyle, I visited the Jail on the 16th inst. in order to investigate conditions. We found everything neat and clean. For purposes of clarity, however, I propose dealing with the Grand Juror's report, section by section.

The first section of the report mentions the fact that the centre cell facing the main entrance is very dark. Also stating that the plumbing is in a leaky condition, water being found on the floor. When at the jail on the 6th inst. we found the plumbing in good condition, and were informed by the jailor that any water found on the floor must have been thrown there by the inmates of the cell. The cell is undoubtedly dark as it was intended to be when constructed. This cell is known as the "Dark Cell" and intended for refractory prisoners.

Section two, "All cells on the Northern side are not equipped with locks, and have neither coats nor blankets," say the Jurors.

They forget to mention, however, that the door at the end of the corridor is equipped with a lock, and when closed shuts off all exit from this part of the building. Coats and blankets are furnished when required. Blankets are sent to the laundry when not in use.

Section Three—"The cells on the Southern side are in a dilapidated and disgraceful condition. The plaster is off the ceiling of several of the cells. In the corridor the plaster on the ceiling is also falling off and water is dripping down through the ceiling. Several of the coats are in a broken condition, and are not fit for human beings to sleep on."

This whole section of the report is grossly misleading to the public. The cells are in neither a dilapidated nor disgraceful condition. Some coats, which were broken by the horse-play of prisoners, are stored in one or two of the cells as the most convenient place. Some plaster has fallen off the ceiling, but no water is dripping through. Human beings are not required to sleep on anything unfit for that purpose.

Section Four of the Juror's report says—"In the main, the plaster on the walls and ceiling is falling off the walls. In the debtor's cells upstairs the wainscoting and floors are in bad condition. In one cell the wainscoting had been removed and bricks removed from the wall, and prisoners had escaped. The bricks have been replaced but the wainscoting has been only temporarily replaced."

The foregoing section is only partly correct. No plaster has fallen off the walls of the main entrance and only a few patches of wall paper—the paper should all be removed. The floors upstairs are of

spruce and of course show the effects of use; but are serviceable for some time yet. The wainscoting for a yard or two along one wall is in need of a few nails. The episode of the prisoners escape is ancient history, having happened some years ago.

Section Five of the report, which is the last, is as follows: "There is not any drinking water in any of the cells except the corridors and prisoners locked in the cells cannot procure water unless given by the jailor."

The water system is as it always was. No prisoner need suffer for lack of drinking water as receptacles for a supply are obtainable on request. How many jail or lock-up cells are equipped with water taps, may I ask?

Now, taken as a whole, the report of the Grand Jurors strikes one as showing lack of due consideration, and actuated by a desire to find fault. We councillors who visited the jail were informed by the jailor that conditions were the same as at the time the Grand Jury visited "the building" with the exception that on account of the number of inmates, things were more or less untidy when the Jurors called.

As far as sanitation is concerned the public need have no fears. We found everything clean, the ventilation good, the atmosphere excellent. Let me say further in this connection that it is the business of the people's representatives in the County Council to see to the maintenance of the jail. Every session of the Council a committee is appointed to visit the building, while throughout the year the public works committee attend to the jail as well as to other County property. Any and all reasonable requirements are supplied on requisition of the jailor. At the same time it is the duty of the Councilors to have regard to the financial condition of the County by keeping expenditure as low as possible consistent with the proper administration of the business of the municipality.

With reference to expenditure, and incidentally to taxes, I wish to present another matter in reference to which I think it might be well to inform the general public of the County. I refer now to the depreciation of one Edwards, who stole a very valuable automobile in the state of Maine last summer and made his way to Newcastle.

The people of the County will remember something of the excitement caused by Edwards—how he bowed over police officers' constabulary and anything in the way of his mad dash for freedom when arrested in the town of Newcastle. When the efforts of Mr. Doran, however, who was assisted by Mr. Winters and Mr. Hopkins, the foreign automobile was recovered; but the bandit escaped.

It will be interesting to the public to know that every cent of the expenditure in connection with the attempted arrest of Edwards and the successful recovery of the stolen auto has been charged to the County and paid by the County. As a member of the finance committee I had to do with the passing of the bill the other day. I, along with the other members of the committee, objected vigorously to paying the amount, claiming that the greater part of the bill was properly chargeable to Mr. Hobson of Woodland, Maine, the owner of the car. We were informed that Mr. Hobson was quite willing to pay his share of the expenses but he was advised by one of our young lawyers (who, by the way, appears in the picture for the first time after the automobile was recovered from Edwards) to pay nothing as the County should bear all the expenses. None of the councillors, of course, knew anything of this transaction until a few days ago. But the bill of over \$240.00 had to be paid. We were informed by Mr. Doran, that he objected to giving up the car until Hobson paid up, but the lawyer in the case obtained an order of release from the attorney general of the Province, the present Justice Byrne. The owner of the car departed with his property for the United States and Northumberland pays the bill. Comment on the activities and attitude of the legal gentleman is unnecessary.

The foregoing will no doubt appear to the ordinary citizen as an extraordinary piece of business; but it will serve to show where some at least of the taxes go. I may say, however, that the finance committee has instructed Secy. Teed to bill Mr. Hobson with the amounts which we think he should pay, appealing to his sense of justice. Our chances of recovering any part of the amount are small.

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for publishing this letter, which is written at the request of several of the County Councilors—I am,

Yours very truly,
H. J. GILL, Wardens Northumberland County, N.B., Nov. 7th, 1924

Annual Meeting of St. Andrew's W. A.

Held Thursday Afternoon, November 6—Election of Officers

The annual meeting of the Women's Auxiliary, St. Andrew's branch, Newcastle, was held at the rectory on Thursday afternoon, November 6th, president, Mrs. W. J. Bate presiding.

Very satisfactory reports by the different officers were read and accepted and funds voted on for the various needs. After short discussions the election of officers took place for the coming year as follows:

President—Mrs. W. J. Bate.

First Vice-Pres.—Mrs. Walter Morell.

Second Vice-Pres.—Mrs. H. H. Ritchie.

Recording Sec.—Mrs. Fraser Harris.

Corresponding Sec.—Mrs. S. Mullin.

Dorcas Sec.—Mrs. J. W. Davidson.

Treasurer—Mrs. Charles Sargeant.

Junior Superintendant—Mrs. Ivan Chapman.

Supt. of Little Helpers—Mrs. H. H. Ritchie.

It was with great regret that the resignation of Mrs. Walter Morell was received, as she has been the faithful secretary of the Babies Branch for the past fifteen years and she has rendered loyal, loving service to the work of the W. A.

Following is her report:

REPORT OF NEWCASTLE & NELSON "LITTLE HELPERS"

In submitting this report, I beg to state that my books show a decrease in membership, through the removal of several "Little Helpers" from the parish, and others having reached the age limit of ten years. Five new little members have been added to the list, making a total of 85, as against 97 last year. The mile box returns amount to \$37.10, \$5.64 less than last year. As the time, since our last annual meeting has been so short, this on the whole is very satisfactory. As I am new

resigning from this branch of the W. A., the work is being taken over by Mrs. H. H. Ritchie who I feel assured will make it in every way successful. Following is the financial statement.

NELSON	
Harold & Herman Wheaton	.50
Ruth Jarvis	1.00
John Burchill	1.60
Allan McKenzie	1.00
Dorothy Croft	3.00
Melvin McLaughlan	.50
Alfred McLaughlan	.50
Herbert & Gladys Drillen	1.00
Althea & Celina Vye	.75
Ruby & Lillian McKenzie	.50
Edith & Florence Pilkington	1.00
Bessie & Janie Astles	.50
Stanley & Mildred Goodfellow	1.05
Catherine, Florence & Ian Houston	1.00
Total for Nelson	\$12.80

NEWCASTLE	
Myrtle Benson	1.00
Kitchener Craik	1.00
Florence Kethro	.50
Kenneth Sisson	1.00
Edith Gough	.40
Kathleen Mullin	.50
Ivy, Mary, Marjorie & Phyllis Hogbin	1.00
George and William Pell	1.00
Betty & Wendell Ritchie	3.25
David Fraser Ritchie	2.00
Arthur Malmberg	.50
Elsie, Arthur & Grace Maltby	.75
Billie & Lionel Teed	1.36
Isobel & Randolph Miller	1.00
Eldon Gray	.38
Lornetta, Edith & Stickney Harris	.75
Jean Ucles	1.00
Margaret & Dickie Gough	.50
Norma & Jean MacCullum	2.15
Lawrence & Billie Tozer	1.00
Rilma & Muriel Tracy	.25
Horace & Fred Morell	2.00
Lillie, Annie & Edith Maltby	1.00
Total for Newcastle & Nelson	\$24.30

Respectfully submitted,

ANNIE E. MORELL.

At the close of the meeting refreshments were served.

Has No Connection With Fraser Co.'s Being Wound Up

Fraser Pulp & Lumber has no connection with Fraser Companies. Recently Fraser Pulp & Lumber Co. which although it is owned by the same shareholders as Fraser Companies Ltd. has no connection with that company, sold its large timber holdings in the Province of Nova Scotia for several millions. Fraser Pulp & Lumber having sold its properties, is now being wound up, and its assets are being distributed among its shareholders as it has ceased to be an operating company.

Fraser Pulp & Lumber, however, should not in any way be confused with Fraser Companies Ltd., which latter company is doing one of the largest pulp and lumber businesses in Eastern Canada, and this year is extending its operations considerably, including the construction of a new mill on the Quispamsis.

Thirty-One Cows From Two Herds Slaughtered

Following the government inspection of dairy herds in the western end of Westmorland county and the final condemnation of reactors to the tuberculin test 31 cows were slaughtered, at Little River on Wednesday. A large number of farmers of the surrounding district were present out of curiosity to see what results would be shown in the post-mortem examinations, included among the party being a number of women.

It is stated that in every case examined, well-marked lesions were found and in some cases they were found to be extensively affected with tuberculosis. The owners of the cattle slaughtered, when they saw the results of the disease were well pleased with the results of the test and their only regret was that they had not applied for the test years earlier, before the herds became so badly infected. The majority of the farmers who witnessed the slaughter and examined the case afterwards, set about forthwith to apply for the test as soon as they can comply with the regulations.

The reactors slaughtered, came from two herds and but for the compensation awarded, their loss to the owners would have been heavy. They were from herds supplying the city of St. John with milk and in addition to the compensation awarded them, the owners will also have the return for the sale of the hides, and other by-products, altogether they will be amply reimbursed for the loss of their cattle.

The general public need not become uneasy for fear that meat of the slaughtered animals be put on the market as all the meat passed fit for food was used for fox meat while the remainder was buried.

Wembley Fair Will Continue Next Season

Stanley Baldwin's declaration that the government is determined to open the great Wembley Exhibition again next year has had an immediate effect in reviving interest in the fair and its future. Major Toimie has stated that he is still waiting for word from Ottawa but that he has already started his plans to make the second exhibition far more representative of Canada than was last year's. He says that he expects that Canada's participation next year will be greater than this year's.



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