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NINTH YEAR. WEDNESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 29, 1888. PRICE ONE CENT.

HOW NEIL MET HIS FATE

THE MURDERER OF GUARD RUTLEDGE EXECUTED AT THE JAIL.

Calm and Sensible—His Last Night—Eggs and Toast for Breakfast—The Instrument of Death—A Large and Well Developed Brain.

At 9 o'clock yesterday morning, in cold yet bright weather, under the gaze of officials and officials' friends, Robert Neil paid in Toronto Jail the last penalty of the law for the murder of Central Prison Guard Rutledge. He never winced a muscle in the last dread scene, and in his dying words disclaimed he ever had any murderous intent and forgave all as he hoped for forgiveness himself.

The new scaffold was an experiment and a success. Instead of the normal "drop" the culprit had a "hoist." All worked well under the supervision of the anonymous hangman. Death was apparently painless and instantaneous. The neck was not dislocated nor were there any revolting incidents. Calmly Neil stood on the platform, calmly he died and in due course was buried immediately beneath where he was executed.

Neil's Last Night on Earth.

When Mr. W. H. Howland, Mr. William Gooderham and Rev. Hugh Johnston left Neil at 9 o'clock on Monday night, he obtained a promise from them that they would be with him in his last moments. On the fly leaf of a Dore Bible Neil had caused to be written his farewell to his six sisters. The letter itself is in the handwriting of Mr. Howland, but it is signed by Neil. It reads:

To my Dear Sisters Jane, Lizzie, Mary, Susie, Annie and Bella, with the love of your affectionate and penitent brother: Do not grieve for me. I have died on a great sinner, but I am trusting in that Saviour whose blood cleansth from all sin. I have truly repented of my sins and I hope to meet you all in the better world. Forgive the wrong that I have done you my profane sisters.

I have had kind Christian friends to visit me in the jail, who have pointed me to Christ. Mr. W. H. Howland, the ex-Mayor, Mr. William Gooderham and Rev. Hugh Johnston. I have asked them to be with me in my last moments, and may God have mercy on my soul.

Your affectionate brother, ROBERT NEIL.

Good bye. Toronto, Feb. 27, 1888.

The Bible will be sent to his sisters in Lurgan.

From 9 o'clock Monday night until 1.30, Neil sat and chatted with his guards, mostly on religious topics. He spent much of the time in prayer, but would sometimes retort to the Central Prison tragedy, and the crime he had committed. "I had nothing against Guard Rutledge," he told Death Watch Wilson. "He never hurt me, but Guards Water and Hartley did treat me bad." He included Warden Massie with the other two, and said the three had treated him like a dog. As for Rutledge he again and again reiterated the assertion that he did not mean to kill him. From 1.30 until 7 o'clock yesterday morning Neil slept soundly, so soundly that John Armstrong, the prisoner who was looking after his wants, had to shake him to get him out of bed.

Eggs and Toast for Breakfast.

"Wake up," said Armstrong, as Neil lazily enquired what was the time. "Seven o'clock," replied Armstrong, and Neil sprang out of bed and fell on his knees. He spent half an hour in prayer, when, after washing, he partook of a breakfast, which Governor Green brought in. It consisted of eggs, tea and toast, but Neil ate but little. He would sit down, swallow a mouthful, rise up again and pace the floor, only to repeat the motions in a minute.

Altogether he swallowed an egg, a slice of toast and a cup of tea. At 8.15 Mr. W. H. Howland, Mr. Wm. Gooderham and Rev. Hugh Johnston of the Carlton-street Methodist Church arrived and remained in prayer with the prisoner until the Sheriff and his assistants marched him to the scaffold.

Witnesses of the Execution.

From 7 o'clock until 9, the time of execution, morbid sightseers began to gather at the jail, admission to which was by tickets issued by Sheriff Mowat. At 7.30 there were fully 50 on hand, and at 8.30 the number was swelled to ninety. Among these anxious to behold the death of Neil were a score of medical students and a dozen of lawyers. The medical men present were Dr. Richardson, the jail physician; Dr. A. Richardson, his assistant; Dr. Oldright, Dr. White, Coroner Duncan, Dr. Atcheson, Dr. Pickering and Dr. Elliott.

It was a subject of not a little remark that so many hotel men should have secured admittance. These were William Clow, Joseph Taylor, Samuel Staunland, Frank Wisner and E. J. Lennox, besides a number of hurrieders. With the exception of the reporters and medical men it was a crowd brought together for the enjoyment of an appetite for the morbid and nothing else.

At 7.15 Inspector Breckenreid and six men marched to the jail from the Wilton-avenue station. They were needed to patrol the outside of the jail wall and keep the small boys and their elders from climbing the brick defences and looking down at the execution. Sheriffs Officer Sherman was stationed at the jail door to take up the tickets, Turnkey T. H. Wilson acting as inner guard. At 8.20 Undertaker McCabe arrived with a coffin, a plain pine affair, painted black.

The Instrument of Death.

When the half-hour struck the visitors were ushered into the northeastern yard, and found themselves in the presence of the scaffold. In the thirty minutes which intervened before the appearance of Neil the death structure was closely examined. It stood about six feet out from the high dividing wall which separates the northern yard into two. It looked a simple enough machine at first glance, not unlike a child's swing, and would have been readily mistaken for such had it not been for the tell-tale rope which dangled from the cross beam. The uprights were stout beams of stout oak. At the side of the more northerly upright swung an iron weight of 500 pounds, kept in place by a smaller strand. This latter connected with the upright by means of a hole drilled through the solid wood. A double knot fastened the halter to the weight, and in this shape the gallows awaited its victim.

As the hour of execution approached a feeling of unrest began to be felt, and watches were consulted to see how many minutes were to elapse before Neil would meet his doom. In order to prevent the crowd pushing in on the officers of justice a temporary fence about three feet high and extending outwardly from the wall about fifty feet had been erected, and no spectator was allowed to come within these bounds.

At last the appearance of County Crown Attorney Badgerow in the yard, leading the march to the gallows, indicated to the waiters that the hour of Neil's death had come and silence fell upon the crowd.

From the Cell to the Scaffold.

The hangman entered the condemned man's cell at 8.45. He carried with him the hempen cord for the purpose of pinioning Neil's arms. The prisoner was not in any way taken aback and patiently submitted to the operation. This was not of an entensive or elaborate character. The new cord was double-fold, passed from arm to arm just above the elbow joint and securely tied sailor-fashion in the middle of the back.

The operation occupied but a few minutes, and then the Sheriff, looking at his watch, said, "The time is up."

The prisoner replied, "I am ready to die," and forthwith the procession, the last on earth for Neil, was formed.

It was of bizarre dimensions, but of awful solemnity, only two walking abreast. First came Sheriff Mowat and Governor Green, followed by ex-Mayor Howland and Mr. William Gooderham, Rev. Hugh Johnston and Dr. Richardson, Dr. Oldright and Evangelist A. C. Galt. Then came the condemned man, supported by Sheriff-officers Wilson and Coo, behind whom were the hangman and prison officials. Emerging through the iron gate the central hall was traversed and, passing the last gate, the procession wended its way down the cold narrow stairway and thence into the yard.

Solemnly they paced, the least anxious of the party being Neil. He was a little pale, but looked healthy; his eyes were not bright, for he had been weeping in the cell, but he wore no downcast look, did not apparently take special notice of anybody or anything, and the first sight which met his eyes on mounting the dozen steps into the yard was the unwearied gallows. This he looked at for a few moments intently but apparently unnerved and unconcerned.

Across the frozen snow the procession, which was the cynosure of all eyes, passed and entered the railed off enclosure. Inspector Breckenreid and his constables were on duty, and with the exception of officials and one or two representative visitors allowed no one to pass the precincts. Neil was at once conducted to the centre of the platform by his custodians, the fatal noose being immediately behind his head. In front of the scaffold his spiritual advisers disposed themselves, the Sheriff and Governor occupying positions close to the man who in the midst of life was so shortly to be in death.

The hangman at once drew the ominous black cap from his pocket, and was advancing to place it on the head of the culprit, when Governor Green asked Neil if he wished to say anything.

In response the murderer said in a low voice which was only imperfectly heard by the spectators:

Neil's Dying Speech.

I am here although I ought not to be here. I would not have been here but for that man at the Central Prison. I never meant to kill that man any more than I wish to kill any man here. They used me up there so bad that I didn't know what I was doing. They used me hard in the broom-shop. They used me there like a brute. It is not my fault that I am here. It is pretty hard to be hanged; but I forgive everyone, and I hope to be forgiven.

Turning to Governor Green, he added, "I do not wish to say anything more." He then paused for a moment, bit his lip and recommenced:

"Mr. Howland, I am much obliged to you for your kindness; also to you, Mr. Gooderham, and to you Mr. Johnston, and to the other man" (nodding in the direction of Mr. Galt, the evangelist), "they have prepared me to meet my God."

Breathless silence followed for a few moments. Then Pastor Johnston commenced in pathetic voice the reading of the Methodist Burial Service, consisting of a dozen Scriptural passages, showing the frailty and mortality of man, the boundless forgiveness and mercy of God, the sin-offering of Christ and the propitiation for the chief of sinners through faith in His blood.

During the recital of these passages the onlookers universally uncovered, the dying man listened intently and the lips of his spiritual advisers moved in fervent prayer.

Praying on the Frozen Ground.

The hangman then adjusted the noose at Neil's neck, when the culprit was heard to complain and the knot was readjusted.

Meanwhile Mr. Johnston and his brethren knelt on the frozen ground and for several minutes the first named poured forth a touching and pathetic extempore prayer for the condemned man "in this moment of his extreme distress." As petition followed petition Neil's lips moved as in response, and the supplication proceeded:

Thou, Merciful Father, seest how his spirit is broken and overwhelmed within him. Thou knowest his temptations and how rough his life has been, the difficulties in his path; how many hands were ready to drag him down. Forgive his sins and where he has been sinned against forgive them. Lord have mercy on his soul! Blessed Saviour, who prayed for Thy murderers, forgive and save this man. By Thine agony and bloody sweat, by Thy cross and burial, by Thy resurrection and ascension have mercy, we pray Thee upon him. Take away the bitterness of death, O Father, into Thy hands we commend his spirit. May he receive mercy and forgiveness through the blood of Jesus!

Neil then said in a clear, firm voice: "May the Lord have mercy on my soul. Good bye." Governor Green and well nigh every one present responded "Amen!"

The Fatal Jerk.

The hangman hereupon adjusted the black cap, and chisel in hand, took his post close to the detaching rope. Then, in clear tones on the frosty air, arose the prayer which is earliest learned and never forgotten in every civilized land: "Our Father Who Art in Heaven." Thus rang out the death-knell of Robert Neil, for the hangman did not proceed further in the well-known prayer than "Deliver us—," when the hangman cut the rope, and Neil was swung into the air and was in the throes of death.

It should be added that before cutting the rope the hangman asked Neil, "Have you any hard feelings against me?" "No, I have not," replied Neil, and it was on receiving this answer that the executioner reached up with his right hand and secured the rope. The executioner whispered a wish to Neil to shake hands and allowed his own to touch Neil's, but met with no responsive clasp.

With a blow of the chisel the executioner cut the check rope, the 500 pound weight struck the ground, and Neil shot up in the air fully four feet, came down again with a jerk, and hung apparently lifeless a foot from the earth. After hanging a second, he made an ineffectual attempt to raise his pinioned arms to his head, his legs gave a slight twitch, and the body lost motion.

The body was allowed to remain hanging for 15 minutes, when Undertaker McCabe appeared with the coffin. The jail officials cut the body down and carried it into the condemned cell, which was in process of being swept and cleaned for Gamble, who dies next Tuesday unless reprieved.

The Executioner.

The executioner did his work mechanically, without any show of nervousness, and looked boldly back at the curious eyes bent upon him. The only disguise he wore was a false moustache and hair dye. His height was fully six feet, and he had the appearance of having been a British soldier. It was said he had had similar experience in the United States and that he hails from Buffalo.

The hangman was standing glancing at the dangling body as The World went over and spoke to him. In a wheezy tone the executioner asked the reporter whether the "business" hadn't gone off well. "This is the ninth execution I have managed," said he, "but I never saw this arrangement until yesterday afternoon. We tested it then with a weight weighing 200 pounds. I have used the leather strap and the old drop but I think this works better than any of them." The reporter asked him where he had learned his trade and he replied that he had been an apprentice with Marwood, the famous English hangman.

The hangman had judging both by his breath and speech, drank something stronger than coffee for breakfast. Indeed when he inserted the chisel in the slit, he hit at it with his hand three times before he struck it. After the execution he returned to his cell and went off into a heavy sleep. One of the jail guards who peeped in at him said to The World that many a man had been arrested who had less liquor in him and was less intoxicated than The Unknown.

The Inquest.

At 10 o'clock, and for nearly two hours after, a jury, composed principally of medical students and entirely of spectators of the execution, sat in the Guard-room of the prison to find out how Neil died. Mr. James Byrne was foreman, and with tolerable equanimity his fourteen brethren went through the tedious proceedings. The tediousness, it may at once be explained, was owing to the necessary time for a post-mortem medical examination. Governor Green's evidence was terse. He duly certified to the reception of Neil, who, he deposed, was in excellent health on admission and had continued so till the time of his execution. His appetite had been uniformly good. To this extent, no more, did Governor Green depose.

Then came a long hiatus, the only proposition to relieve which came from a juror in the pursuit of knowledge, who suggested that he and his friends would like to see the process of the post mortem. He received his quietus when Coroner Dr. Duncan informed him that the suggested course was illegal.

Dr. W. Augustus Richardson, son of the surgeon of the jail, and acting as his deputy, deposed to the results of his post mortem. He should have placed the deceased as 20 years of age. He was firmly built, 5 ft. 7½ in. high, well nourished. His body was free of any marks of violence, save the indentation of the strands of the cord with which he was hanged. He appeared to have died a painless and instantaneous death. The details of the evidence were technical. The eyes were not ejected; the heart congested, but in a healthy state; the lungs much congested, as were also the viscera of the abdomen. There was no extravasation of blood in the brain, nor dislocation of the vertebræ at the neck. The larynx had sustained no injury, and in witness' opinion Neil had died instantaneously from cardiac and pulmonary apoplexy.

The Dead Man's Brain.

At the conclusion of the doctor's evidence he was applauded on the statement that it would afford him pleasure to show the pupils the condition of the brain and other parts of the deceased's body.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased had died from apoplexy caused by hanging in course of law.

The students then repaired to the cell, whence the body had been conveyed, and under the supervision of the doctor, who had sleeves rolled up and capacious apron smeared with human gore, scientifically made some investigations.

The World was present and embraced the opportunity of asking Dr. Richardson how far the post mortem examination supported the "insanity" theory which had been set up in Neil's defence. In reply he stated that the dead man's brain was large and well developed, with no naked-eye appearance of disease or anything tending to weakness of mind.

Notes.

About an hour after Neil's execution two stylishly dressed girls called at the jail and begged hard to be allowed to see the scaffold.

None of the prisoners were allowed to see the execution.

Dr. Oldright, who watched Neil's hanging attentively, says he does not think the man suffered any pain whatever.

Description has occupied a number of persons climbed the high wall and surveyed the scene.

The reporters present numbered a score, and thanked Governor Green for his courtesy and attention.

Mr. Evangelist Galt, who spent a long time with Neil on the afternoon previous to his execution, is convinced that he was sincerely penitent and truly converted. He said he would rather die than go out again and sin.

Ex-Mayor Howland regards the calm demeanor of Neil, not as stolid indifference to death, but as a triumph of divine grace. He still thinks it was wrong to hang him.

NEIL'S MYSTERIOUS HINTS.

What is Thought About Them in Official Circles.

The alleged confessions of Neil are creating considerable speculation in the city. As already stated in The World, Neil had made some rambling statements to the guards employed to watch him. These were carried to Governor Green, who tried hard to get Neil to talk about the matter, but Neil closed his mouth and refused to say another word. Governor Green professed entire ignorance about the pretended confession. As far as he knew Neil had carried the secret, if he had one, with him to the grave.

According to general report, for now the man is dead everybody concerned seems to be as close mouthed as the dead man, Neil stated to Guard Wilson that an old man named John Cochrane, whose body was found in the Bay at the foot of Berkeley-street in 1886, had been murdered for his weekly wage ($8), and the body dumped into the water. He claimed to know the murderer. A few days later he supplemented this semi-confession with another semi-confession of murder.

The name he gave Mr. George D. Morse who had been the victim of foul play. It will be remembered that Mr. Morse's body was found floating in the slip at the foot of Berkeley-street. Neil said that he had been sandbagged and mentioned the murderer's name, accounting for the fact that all the dead man's valuables were found on his person, by stating that after he had been sandbagged he fell into the water before the murderer could grab the body.

These stories were both plausible, and it is puzzling the minds of the jail officials how much credence could be placed in them.

The fear is expressed that Neil evolved all these circumstances out of his own brain, hoping for time to elapse before the gallows, so as to obtain a longer lease of life. This would seem to be the real reason for Neil's statements when it is considered that even when the scaffold stared him in the face he remained silent. It is probable that had he seen the slightest chance of a reprieve he would have been more explicit.

Both Governor Green and Sheriff Mowat deny the existence of any confession. Detective Inspector Stark has received no notification of such a statement from the jail, and looks upon his rambling statement with doubt.

Mr. Charles Morse and his brother John, sons of the late George D. Morse, had a long conference with Governor Green in the jail immediately after the execution, and on leaving declared that as far as they knew there was no foundation for Neil's story.

Gamble's Chances.

During the execution of Neil, John Gamble, sentenced to die next Tuesday for the murder of Lizzie Bray, was terribly excited, and showed great nervousness. He paced up and down his cell for over an hour, and finally threw himself on his bed and wept bitterly. He enquired eagerly of the death watch how Neil stood the ordeal, and drank in with avidity every detail of the execution. Yesterday afternoon he was placed in Neil's cell, where he will remain until either reprieved or executed. Lawyer Murdoch was seen by The World in the afternoon. "I have received no news from Ottawa yet," he said; "but expect it every mail. I think that the Executive refrained from sending a reprieve earlier, so as not to leave any false hopes in the heart of Neil. Should no word come before to-morrow night I will go down to Ottawa again and have another interview with the Minister of Justice."

At the Board of Trade.

Kingston Board of Trade yesterday sent up a deputation headed by President Muckleston to ask the Toronto Board of Trade to give its influence towards getting a dry-dock for Kingston. The Board passed a resolution recommending the scheme to the Dominion Government for favorable consideration.

A resolution approving of Mr. George Kirkpatrick's bill to secure reciprocity between Canada and the States in wrecking matters was also passed.

Martyr Cox Released.

LIMERICK, Feb. 28.—Mr. Cox, M.P., who was sentenced to a month's imprisonment for a speech inciting tenants to conspiracy, was released to-day. A crowd gathered to greet him on his release, and Mr. Cox made a speech denouncing Chief Secretary Balfour and maintaining that the National League was stronger than ever. He was afterwards presented with numerous addresses.

Is It a Demonstration Against France?

PARIS, Feb. 28.—The Gaulois and Figaro assert that the presence of a British squadron in the Gulf of Genoa is owing to the action of Signor Crispi, the Italian Premier and Foreign Minister, who wished to make a demonstration against France.

The Rabbits Must Go.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—Three of M. Pasteur's agents sailed from Naples for New South Wales to-day, taking with them a quantity of cholera microbes with which to inoculate and ultimately exterminate the rabbits in Australia.

The Abyssinians Advancing.

ROME, Feb. 28.—An official despatch from Massowah says King John, with Ras Alula and a large army, is advancing upon the Italians.

THE CAMPAIGN IN HALTON.

HOW THE ANTIS AND THE SCOTT ACT PEOPLE ARE WORKING.

They Adopt Different Plans of Battle—Organization on Both Sides Complete—Criminal Statistics—Numerous Scott Act Meetings—Chances Against the Petition.

MILTON, Feb. 28.—Interest in the Scott Act campaign increases as the polling day draws near. The two parties are working hard but they are conducting the campaign on totally different lines. The Antis hold no public meetings and are designedly doing the still hunt act, which they think is the best policy. Their organization is complete. They have made a house to house canvass and are satisfied to let their exertions rest there. The campaign of 1884 was run on a principle which the Antis do not approve of and which they have decided not to adopt in this contest.

In 1884 E. King Dodds with a number of campaign experts came from Toronto and were let loose over the county. They took the management of affairs from the local men, and it is claimed this policy had much to do with the defeat of the Antis in that year. This year all outside experts have been religiously kept out of the territory. Everything is managed by local men, and the general committee think things look much more promising now than they did previous to the election of 1884. Yesterday was the day for the appointment of scrutineers. The Antis think there is demonstration of a strong organization in the fact that every polling district sent forward a respectable representative to be sworn in as scrutineer. These delegates were for the most part farmers, whereas in 1884 a good many of the scrutineers were exported for the occasion from Toronto. The Antis are much pleased with the manner in which their scrutineers rallied on Monday. Not a single man was wanting and everyone reported his district was ready for the polls.

The Scott Act people are working more on quiet. They depend largely on public meetings but are also working among individual voters. A visit was paid by the reporter to the basement of the Methodist Church, where he found the Scott Act committee busy in their room. The committee consisted of Rev. E. A. Russ, Milton; Rev. W. A. McKay, Woodstock; S. Dice, Milton; Rev. T. A. Moore, Princeton; C. R. Morrow, Milton, Rev. B. B. Keefer, Toronto; John Lark, Oshawa; Rev. Dr. Macdonald, Milton; C. Preston, Esquesing; Geo. Cotteril, Trafalgar; Joshua Harrison and G. Hemstreet, Milton. The committee was just then writing a draft statement compiled from the late prison returns. The paper read as follows:

"The following are extracts from the Ontario Prison Reports for the years 1884 and 1887 are valuable, as showing the great decrease of crime in seventeen counties under the Canada Temperance Act as compared with the returns for the same counties under license. The number of persons sentenced for offences other than selling liquor without license, breaches of bylaws, contempt of court and vagrancy in counties under license in 1884, was 1172, and in 1887 under the Scott Act was 674, showing a decrease of crime under the Scott Act of 498 cases. The following are the number of sentences for similar offences in eleven counties wholly under license for the same years: In 1884 there were 2917 sentences, in 1887, 3199 sentences, or an increase under license of 282 cases. These figures tell their own tale."

The secretary, Mr. Morrow, stated they had received letters from 50 Women's Temperance Unions extending sympathy and praying for success in Halton. Most of the letters stated that special prayer meetings would be held in the respective localities on Thursday, in behalf of the cause in Halton. The Scott Act people have been holding meetings every night for a couple of weeks, sometimes as many as three or eight in the same night. To-night, for instance, the county is covered by the following programme:

Oakville—James Gibson, Lucknow.
Burlington—Rev. John Kutch, Toronto; D. D. Chisholm, Toronto; Rev. D. L. Bretbour, Brantford.
Boyne—Rev. B. B. Keefer, Toronto.
Brookville—F. S. Spence.
St. Ann's—Rev. W. A. McKay, Woodstock.
The Mountain—Rev. T. A. Moore.
Georgetown—Various speakers.

The program for to-night gives a fair indication of how thoroughly the Scott Act people are carrying on their campaign.

The Antis claim that throughout the county withthe statement that 'at eleven assize courts since the Scott Act came into force in Halton the judge has received a pair of white gloves, which never occurred under license." The Antis follow up this statement with a poster headed "A Campaign Lie Exposed," in which it is stated that gloves were not presented on at least six of these eleven occasions. Thereupon is issued a certificate from the hands of the sheriff under the heading "Anti-Scott Act Lies Refuted." The sheriff vouchsafes for the accuracy of the eleven glove presentations under his signature, and there the matter ends. The difference in the figures of the two parties apparently arises from a misconception as to the significance of the term "white gloves." The Antis take it that the ceremony simply means that on such occasions there are no prisoners in jail awaiting trial, although there may be others out on bail. On six occasions it appears there were prisoners out on bail and subsequently brought before the court, and it was probably argued from this that no white gloves could have been given on these occasions. Hence the confusion. The last time Judge Galt was at Milton he was presented with gloves, which he politely received, pro forma, but he afterwards handed them back to the Sheriff, saying he was getting old now and had no occasion to display on his hands the emblems of purity and innocence. Although given back, it is admitted that possession in the gloves passed and that the occasion scores one for "white gloves." The principal point in regard to the criminal statistics appears to be that during the eleven assize courts held under the Scott Act there was one conviction and no sentence passed; while during the eleven preceding courts there were seven convictions for various offences. The Scott Act people seem to have the best of the figures as far as the Assize Court is concerned, and in regard to the County Sessions it is also asserted that for twelve such sessions no criminal sentence has been passed.

It is difficult to make a forecast of what the polls will return on Thursday. The Antis have figures and returns which give them a handsome majority, and they place much confidence in them. But they have placed confidence in their figures before and have been left. It is for this reason that their hopes are mingled with more or less of uncertainty. The Scott Act people do not think they will carry the day by so large a majority as they did in 1884, when they had 180 votes in excess of their opponents, but they feel quite confident of a clear and undisputed victory. If the petition be carried it is the intention of the Scott Act people to oppose it in the courts on two grounds, first, on account of insufficient notice and second, because of an insufficient number of authenticated signatures. Mr. Maclaren has pronounced these objections as legally fatal to the petition.

GEORGETOWN, Feb. 28.—A Scott Act meeting was held to-night in the Town Hall. The building was crowded to the doors and great interest was taken in the proceedings. The meeting was called by the Scott Act people, but two members of the Liberal Temperance Union were allowed to speak. These were Mr. J. G. Mowat and Dr. McMahon. The proceedings opened with prayer and a gospel hymn. Mr. Wm. McLeod, reeve of the village, was in the chair. Mr. Lark of Oshawa opened the fire in a 20 minutes speech against the petition for repeal. He was followed by Dr. McMahon, who supported the Liberal Temperance movement and claimed that alcohol, moderately used, was a food and tended to the wellbeing of the body. Mr. S. H. Blake, who had been announced as the speaker of the evening, was accorded an hour. He handled the liquor question without gloves, just as he handles the devil generally. Mr. J. G. Mowat was allowed forty minutes and Mr. Lark closed the debate. Both sides were well represented in the meeting. The speakers all received a good hearing. To-morrow night the Antis will hold a meeting of their own here, being the first one they have as yet announced. It is expected that Georgetown will give a majority of 50 in favor of the petition.

DISASTROUS FIRE.

A $100,000 Blaze in a New York Hotel and Theatre—Firemen Badly Injured.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—Fire broke out this afternoon on the top floor of the Morton House, over the Union-square Theatre. It burned its way into the theatre which, together with the hotel, was badly damaged, the loss amounting to $100,000.

When the inmates of the hotel were made aware of their danger they rushed pell-mell down stairs, and many of them were badly bruised. Manager J. M. Hill of the Union-square Theatre was in his office in the building, and with him was Treasurer Hall of the Casino. They escaped with difficulty. The clerks in the hotels seized the huge iron safe and rolled it into the street, leaving inflammable articles behind. Everybody got safely into the streets.

When the fire was raging most fiercely the roof of the theatre fell in while numbers of firemen were doing yeoman service by fighting the fire from the interior. The spectators were horrified to hear heartrending screams and in a moment or two those of the firemen who were able rushed from the building. Foreman Forenz, Assistant Foreman Atkins, Firemen Roan, J. Leddy and Frank O'Connor had to be carried out by their comrades, being badly burned and injured by falling timbers. Ambulances carried them to the St. Vincent's and New York hospitals. The driver of one of the St. Vincent's ambulances dashed around the corner of Fourteenth-street and Sixth-avenue with such reckless speed that the axle was broken and the ambulance upset. Two of the injured firemen were flung out and rolled into the gutter. They were picked up and sent to the hospital in a car.

HOME INSTITUTIONS.

Hamilton City Fathers Think They Should Be Patronized—College Federation.

HAMILTON, Feb. 28.—The City Council last night changed the clause in the Waterworks Committee's report recommending the acceptance of James Morrison's (Toronto) tender for brasswork, on the ground that home institutions should be patronized, and gave the contract to the Hamilton Brass Manufacturing Company, although Mr. Morrison's tender was the lowest.

Drs. Burwash, Curran and Potts spoke at a meeting in Centenary Church last night in relation to college federation and its advantages so far as they relate to Victoria College.

There was a meeting in the American Hotel to-night of those interested in experimental boring for natural gas.

Charles Beckerson, George Clark, John Clark and Henry Lewis, the boys who were arrested on suspicion of having in their possession tickets which they knew had been stolen from the Hamilton and Dundas Street Railway office, were allowed to go this morning, there being no evidence against them.

William Watson, the pedlar who was arrested a few days ago on the charge of insanity, was taken home by his friends to Toronto last evening.

James Whitney fell into an ice-hole on the Bay yesterday and broke his leg.

A cool smoking mixture, don't bite tongue, especially made to order. Try it once. 25c. quarter pound. Alive Bollard, 199 Yonge-street. 135

MONTREAL BOY BURGLARS.

Serious Accident to a Child—A Board of Trade Memorial.

MONTREAL, Feb. 28.—Six boy burglars, who broke into Bonsecours Market during Sunday, were to-day sent to the Reformatory for five years, while the seventh was liberated on $200 bail, sentence being suspended.

The price of granulated sugar has been lowered 5c. this week and is now 7c. to consumers and 7 5-16c. to J. A. Mathewson & Co., non-combiners.

While a little girl named Dayneault, 6 years of age, was playing in a room where her brother and two friends were playing a game of cards, one of the players struck the table with his fist when a coal oil lamp, which stood on the table, fell and the bowl breaking off from the foot fell on the child, igniting her dress. The players did their utmost to put out the flames but when they finally succeeded the little girl was burned from head to foot. The child is in a critical condition.

Proceedings were instituted in the Practice Court to-day to interdict Alex. Spence, who recently savagely attacked one of his church members in Galtin delirium tremens. Spence, who is very wealthy, is resisting the proceedings.

At a meeting of the Council of the Board of Trade to-day it was decided to memorialize the Government to increase the weight of the Anti-Fallow Weed Act to one ounce instead of half an ounce, and also to appoint a deputation to wait upon the Dominion Government in connection with deputations from the Hamilton, Toronto and Winnipeg Boards of Trade and ask that the Government be requested to have the tariff vouchsafe for the accuracy of the eleven glove presentations under his signature, and there the matter ends. The difference in the figures of the two parties apparently arises from a misconception as to the significance of the term "white gloves." The principal point in regard to the criminal statistics appears to be that during the eleven assize courts held under the Scott Act there was one conviction and no sentence passed; while during the eleven preceding courts there were seven convictions for various offences. The Scott Act people seem to have the best of the figures as far as the Assize Court is concerned, and in regard to the County Sessions it is also asserted that for twelve such sessions no criminal sentence has been passed.

It is difficult to make a forecast of what the polls will return on Thursday. The Antis have figures and returns which give them a handsome majority, and they place much confidence in them. But they have placed confidence in their figures before and have been left. It is for this reason that their hopes are mingled with more or less of uncertainty. The Scott Act people do not think they will carry the day by so large a majority as they did in 1884, when they had 180 votes in excess of their opponents, but they feel quite confident of a clear and undisputed victory. If the petition be carried it is the intention of the Scott Act people to oppose it in the courts on two grounds, first, on account of insufficient notice and second, because of an insufficient number of authenticated signatures. Mr. Maclaren has pronounced these objections as legally fatal to the petition.

GEORGETOWN, Feb. 28.—A Scott Act meeting was held to-night in the Town Hall. The building was crowded to the doors and great interest was taken in the proceedings. The meeting was called by the Scott Act people, but two members of the Liberal Temperance Union were allowed to speak. These were Mr. J. G. Mowat and Dr. McMahon. The proceedings opened with prayer and a gospel hymn. Mr. Wm. McLeod, reeve of the village, was in the chair. Mr. Lark of Oshawa opened the fire in a 20 minutes speech against the petition for repeal. He was followed by Dr. McMahon, who supported the Liberal Temperance movement and claimed that alcohol, moderately used, was a food and tended to the wellbeing of the body. Mr. S. H. Blake, who had been announced as the speaker of the evening, was accorded an hour. He handled the liquor question without gloves, just as he handles the devil generally. Mr. J. G. Mowat was allowed forty minutes and Mr. Lark closed the debate. Both sides were well represented in the meeting. The speakers all received a good hearing. To-morrow night the Antis will hold a meeting of their own here, being the first one they have as yet announced. It is expected that Georgetown will give a majority of 50 in favor of the petition.

Journals, Ledgers, Cash Books, Day Books, Minute Books, Price Books, Memo Books. Best goods only. Grand & Toy, Leader-lane. 631

Accident in an Organ Factory.

GUELPH, Feb. 28.—Henry Darby, an employe of Bell's organ factory, was engaged yesterday in running a buzz planer, when on reaching over, his hand slipped, the first and second fingers of the right hand coming in contact with the knives of the planer. He was taken to a surgeon, when it was found necessary to amputate the fingers.

Victims of a Crossing Accident.

MONTREAL, Feb. 28.—The two men, Duncan and Smith, who were struck by the cowcatcher of a locomotive at the Wellington-street crossing of the Grand Trunk Railway last evening, are still very low, and are not expected to recover.

The Vallejo Horror.

VALLEJO, Cal., Feb. 28.—Eight of the men killed by the explosion on the steamer Julia yesterday had wives and families, and five more were single. The list of unrecovered bodies is now thought to number eleven. It is supposed that, exclusive of the crew, there were fifty-two passengers on board, making sixty-three in all, and not a single one escaped without injuries.

Three Children Cremated.

FAIRHAVEN, Minn., Feb. 27.—Last night, while a farmer named Miller and his wife were at church, their house was burned down and three children aged 13, 10 and 7, who had been locked in, were cremated. The explosion of a lantern caused the fire.

Fire at Bracefield.

BRUCEFIELD, Feb. 28.—This morning about 1 o'clock the house owned by John Simpson of Bayfield and occupied by J. Gobel was totally destroyed by fire. Most of the household property was saved with great difficulty.

A Murderer Captured.

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—Z. Davis, the young mulatto who assaulted and murdered little Maggie Gough yesterday, was captured to-day at Forest.

Put Back to Port.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The Belgian steamer Hernan, which sailed last Sunday for Antwerp, is returning to port. She has lost her rudder.

Steel From Southern Ore.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 28.—Steel was made here yesterday from Birmingham ore for the first time.

Miss Lida M. Tackrell, the renowned lady whistler; Mrs. and Miss Sage, the refined performers on the musical glasses, and Mr. H. L. Clarke, solo cornetist, will take part in the Canadian Order of Foresters' Concert, March 8th. 2345

It's All S'a!

—It is leap year, and it has just been 1000 years since there was as many S's in the year as we have just now It is a good time for "old bachelors" to ought-S, the girls to reciprocate and not heed-S in buying their house-furnishings, perambulators and everything essential to making home what it should be, at Strathern's, 179 Yonge-street. x

NOT TO BE TINKERED WITH

THE TARIFF WILL BE LET ALONE DURING THIS SESSION.

A Wink to a Blind Horse as Good as a Nod—No Deputations Need Apply—The Liberal Leadership—The Opposition and the Fisheries Treaty.

OTTAWA, Feb. 28.—Sir Charles Tupper made a statement in the House this afternoon which sets at rest ideas that may have been formed that there is to be any "tariff tinkering" during the present session of Parliament. It has been rumored around the lobbies that the Government had made up its mind to let the tariff alone for a time, and Sir Charles told the House in a word that this was correct.

What effect this announcement will have upon movements which have been started in several quarters to fight the modes and operations of various "combines" which are said to exist in Canada remains to be seen. Mr. Clarke Wallace's motion for a select committee is virtually in the direction of enquiring into the operation of what is popularly known as the "sugar combine."

Sir Charles intimated in his remarks that a wink was as good as a nod to a blind horse and that deputations and individuals who anticipated a journey to the Capital to obtain tariff modifications or increases might take a hint and save themselves time and expense. This announcement on the authority of the Minister of Finance will be of considerable interest to the importers and manufacturers of the country.

The Liberal's First Caucus.

The Liberals held their first caucus this forenoon in Room 40, immediately under the big tower. There were about fifty of the seventy-seven followers of Mr. Laurier present. Various matters affecting the interests of the Liberal party were discussed in a two-hours' session but there was positive no discussion or misunderstanding about the leadership. The position of affairs is just this: Mr. Blake is still the leader of the party. Mr. Blake is recruiting his health in Italy. Mr. Laurier is Mr. Blake's first-lieutenant. In Mr. Blake's temporary absence the eminent French colleague leads the party. When Mr. Blake returns he will assume the leadership.

"There is no doubt about this," said a western Liberal to The World after the caucus. "If John were temporarily unhorsed to-morrow Sir Hector Langevin, his first and trusted lieutenant, would certainly lead the party until the general himself returned."

The Fisheries.

The caucus, of course, had a good deal to say about the Fisheries Treaty, and there is a pretty well defined understanding that the Liberals who live in parts of Canada where the coast fisheries are of no direct importance or interest will fall in line with their colleagues from salt water constituencies. Mr. Davies of Prince Edward Island, for instance, will probably have a good deal to say in shaping the course of the Opposition with reference to the treaty.

By-the-bye Mr. Edgar is going to take a prominent hand in this fisheries matter, and he is fortifying himself with data and information about the present laws which regulate imposts on Canadian fishing vessels in our own harbors and bays. Mr. Edgar had a laughable question on the paper, which I telegraphed the other day, and in reply to this the Minister of Marine said:

"Canadian fishing