

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1906

STRANGE ACCIDENT THAT LED TO DREYFUS' VINDICATION

Letter to Friend Unearthed In Time

Comparison With the Famous "Bordereau" Showed
Latter to Be a Forgery, Broker Who Had Dealings With
Esterhazy Recognized That the Document Was in His
Handwriting, and This Led to Zola and Picquart's
Strenuous Efforts Which Freed the Devil's Island Prisoner
from a Living Death.

Paris, July 14.—As a fitting episode to the acquittal of Alfred Dreyfus, M. Philip Banaux-Vareille today gave to the Associated Press a remarkable story of how he first discovered positive proof of Dreyfus' innocence and the guilt of Major Count Esterhazy, a story heretofore known to only a few intimates, including Dreyfus, who said during a recent dinner here that while the establishment of his innocence was attributed to many causes, that Banaux-Vareille's discovery of the main document on which the prosecution relied was a forgery was the real cause of the triumph of justice.

"Yes," said Banaux-Vareille, "a document among those old records was the basis of the whole Dreyfus agitation and was instrumental in his final acquittal. Dreyfus and I entered the Polytechnic school together in 1878. I recall his very characteristic Jewish look which was rather unimpressive, but he was a good fellow and a companionable student. There we parted on our graduation, he going into the army and I becoming a government engineer. We seldom came together after that but once, changing to meet him on the Avenue Montaigne, we chatted about a project which I was directing for the development of the French Congo.

"Later Dreyfus wrote to me, asking for information about the project, for the purpose of writing a geographical study upon the French possessions in Africa. Through an oversight the letter remained unanswered. It was some years later that Dreyfus was arrested and convicted before a secret court martial. I first thought he was a victim of the prevailing anti-Semitism but the conviction proved to establish his guilt.

Found Old Letter.
"When my brother spoke of the 'Bordereau,' the document on which Dreyfus was convicted, an idea crossed my mind, that I might compare the document with something written by Dreyfus during our school days at the Polytechnic school. I finally found the old, unanswered letter in which Dreyfus asked for information relative to the Congo."

M. Banaux-Vareille then showed the correspondent of the Associated Press a letter, written on note paper, in a delicate handwriting in which Dreyfus asked his old school friend to give him information about the Congo, for a geographical study. By the side of this letter, M. Banaux-Vareille placed the photograph of the Bordereau which he still possesses. "I began a careful comparison of the Bordereau and Dreyfus' Congo letter," he continued, "the first glance gave me the impression that they were in the same handwriting. But suddenly I observed something which caused me profound astonishment. In Dreyfus' letter to me the words having a double S were written with a long S and a short 'S' second, whereas in the Bordereau it was just the reverse. The short 'S' first and the long 'S' second, I myself write a double 'S' with a long 'S' first. I tried to reverse the letters but found it was impossible. It was like a right handed man trying to write with his left hand.

Bordereau Forged.
"My brother made an extended comparison of the Bordereau and the letter and reached the same conclusion, namely, that the handwriting in the letter was not that of the Bordereau. Together we realized this discovery, we felt as though an earthquake had struck us.

"From the appearance of that photograph of the Bordereau dates almost everything known as the Dreyfus affair. Every thing of importance which followed was in consequence of that discovery and publication of the photograph of the Bordereau. But the three capital consequences were:

"First, the Dreyfus family were enabled to see the mysterious and only proof of which Dreyfus was convicted and they were thus enabled to make comparisons establishing the innocence of Dreyfus.

Discovered the Forger.
"Second, the appearance of the photograph of the Bordereau dates almost everything known as the Dreyfus affair. Every thing of importance which followed was in consequence of that discovery and publication of the photograph of the Bordereau. But the three capital consequences were:

"Third, the appearance of the photograph of the Bordereau permitted Colonel Picquart, head of the intelligence department, to break his silence and become the most powerful witness in establishing the innocence of Dreyfus.

"All the facts which so agitated the world for years were simply the results of three essential facts following the appearance of the photograph of the Bordereau, which would not have occurred if I had not forgotten to answer the letter Dreyfus wrote to me about the Congo. Once that letter answered I would have torn his letter to pieces, the photograph of the Bordereau would not have appeared in the Matin and Dreyfus would have died in shame on Devil's Island."

Story of Dreyfus' Degradation.

Alfred Dreyfus, destined to be the central figure of one of the most stirring dramas of modern times, which ended on Thursday in his exoneration, was born in the little town of Mulhouse, Alsace, in 1859. His parents were Hebrews.

Young Dreyfus studied in 1874 at the Chapelle College and at St. Barbe. He entered the Ecole Polytechnique in 1876 and was later a pupil of the School of Applied Gunners. As a second lieutenant he served in the Thirty-second regiment at Le Mans and was subsequently assigned to the Fourth Mounted Battery in Paris. He received a commission in 1880 as a captain in the Twenty-first regiment of artillery. After a thorough preparation in the staff officers' college, from which he was graduated among the first ten of his class, Captain Dreyfus was appointed to the general staff.

He was overcome by astonishment when he was summoned to appear before his superiors on October 15, 1894, under the pretext that he was wanted for the usual general inspection. He was taken to the study of General de Bessieres, where were present several officers, including the notorious Commandant du Paty de Clam. The room had been especially fitted up with mirrors for the non-dramatic purpose of permitting the officials and wit-

nesses to study the facial expression of the already condemned captain of artillery, Commandant du Paty de Clam requested Dreyfus to write a letter which he dictated.

"Ah! Your hands tremble," said the commandant.

"My fingers are cold," replied the captain.

"Be careful!" responded the commandant. "This is serious," and then suddenly changing his manner, he seized the assistant officer by the arm, exclaiming:

"In the name of the law I arrest you. You are accused of high treason."

This was the beginning of the "Affaire Dreyfus" as far as the knowledge of the one who appeared in the title role was concerned.

All the structure of fraud and imposture was built upon a few torn bits of paper alleged to have been found in the overcoat of a military attaché connected with the German embassy, Colonel Schwartzkoppen. Color to the story of the finding of this document is lent by the fact that it was the custom of the secret agents of the various governments to bribe servants to deliver to them the contents of the waste baskets, and to look around for any unconsidered rubbish. Sardon built a play on one scrap of paper, and the drama of the "Affaire Dreyfus" was grouped about torn and crumpled fragments.

The note or memorandum was supposed to have been written to the German colonel by a French spy. It later took the name of the Bordereau, a title under which it played a never-to-be-forgotten part in French history. It comprised about two hundred words, and referred to the training by the writer of certain military information. It alluded to the mounting of one hundred and twenty guns, to modifications in the formation of artillery, to a note relative to Madagascar and again to an artillery manual. It closed with a reference to manoeuvres.

It was taken for granted that the person who had written the Bordereau was a Hebrew, and as Captain Dreyfus was the only one of his race on the general staff the military clique pointed out that he indeed must be the man. The feeling was not concealed by the cabal that came about when they should prevent Hebrews from attaining any higher rank in the army, and the anti-Semitic interests were counted upon to sustain the charges made against Dreyfus.

Events moved swiftly from that time. The artillery officer was questioned in prison, while his wife, although not informed as to the charges which had been made against her husband, was plied with interrogations. Hints were given to her of the fate of "the man with the Iron Mask" and she was informed that unless she told all that she could hardly hope to find her husband from drifting. Their house was searched, under the direction of Commandant du Paty de Clam, and although nothing was found in it that very fact was taken by this officer as proof that Dreyfus was guilty. He reasoned that a traitor would naturally conceal all evidences of his crime, and that as nothing of the kind was found in the house, the incriminating nature was found in the captain's house that therefore he must be a traitor.

All the proceedings connected with the first trial of Captain Dreyfus occupied a month. The trial was held behind closed doors, despite all the protests of the count and friends of the prisoner. The famous and infamous Bordereau figured in the evidence, but it was reinforced by a secret document, a dossier, which was substantially a forgery. The most remarkable feature of the trial was the steady violation of the rules of common justice could have been derived from this, for the contents of the dossier were not known even to the counsel for the defense.

This document, which supplemented the meagre evidence which the clique of officers had been able to gather was, as its writer, Colonel Henry, later confessed, a forgery.

Indeed, in subsequent proceedings other instruments in writing, letters and the like, appeared as though in answer to the demand that certain persons in the army must be vindicated as against Dreyfus at any cost. The officers who sat on the court martial, fearing to displease their superiors, destroyed the dossier in evidence. Handwriting experts delivered homilies, all based on the conviction that Dreyfus must have been the man, not because of the evidence of the dossier, but because it resembled his style of penmanship. The court of Dec. 23, 1894, condemned Captain Alfred Dreyfus to life imprisonment in a fortress.

To make the punishment of Captain Dreyfus the more severe, a special law was passed which made it possible to have his name on the list of the names of the names of French Guiana, known as Devil's Island.

His exile was preceded by the ceremony of his degradation, which, as far as its dramatic effect was concerned, had all the trappings of an execution. Captain Dreyfus, on the morning of Jan. 5, 1895, was marched to the centre of a square in full view of 5,000 of his comrades. He was in full uniform, and in his hand he held his naked sword, which had been filed in the centre so that the two parts barely held together. The gull face and the frog which adorned his uniform had been removed and then restored by means of a few hasty threads. The adjutant read the verdict in a sonorous voice, and then the commanding general stepped forward.

"Dreyfus," said he, "you are unworthy to carry arms in the name of the people of France. We degrade you."

Here the adjutant took away the sword from the condemned officer, and with a flourish broke it over his knee. He also ripped away the gold lace from the uniform and threw it on the ground.

"Vive la France!" cried Captain Dreyfus. "I have degraded an innocent man. I swear that I am innocent."

His words were drowned out by the roll of drums. When taken past a delegation of those who had been his brother officers he raised his hand and said in an impressive voice:

"Tall the whole of France that I am innocent. I declare that I am innocent."

The words burned in his thought for the five long years which he spent beneath a tropical sky on a barren rock. In that terrible exile he knew nothing of the fact that his friends and his wife were doing all that they could to accomplish his release. His prison was a small stone cottage within a short distance of the sea, where

day and night he was guarded by one of the garrison of six soldiers. Here in seclusion, in silence and in loneliness he lived, "the man who was," and although on several occasions he might have availed himself of an opportunity to commit suicide, he persisted in his determination to live and to clear his name for the sake of his wife and children.

The record of these years of suffering was preserved in a diary which was subsequently incorporated in his book entitled "Five Years of My Life." He had to cook his own food and attend to all his wants. At times the ration, which consisted of dried fruits principally, was barely fit to eat. His guards did not speak to him, and for months he never opened his mouth. It was as though he lived away in silence. The only recreations he had were reading and writing.

Thursday Night's Storm Did Damage
in Several Places—Ludlow
Nase Struck Dead at Orange Celebration.

Thursday night's electric storm was responsible for at least one death and a number of serious accidents, besides destroying considerable property.

Ludlow Nase, of Nerepis station, was struck by the lightning while participating in the 12th, of July festivities, in the Orange Hall, at Welsford. Death was practically instantaneous as the unfortunate man was heard to groan three times after the shock and then was still for all time.

Frank Lingley, a baggage man on the C. P. R. suburban train was an eye witness to the affair. Speaking Friday he said he had never seen such a storm in his life. The peals of thunder were terrific and the lightning flashes almost continuous. Mr. Lingley with a friend entered the hall a few minutes before the accident, they being just left their train after the run from this city. Mr. Lingley was washing his hands preparatory to entering into the festivities and thirty feet from the front door, followed by a vivid flash of lightning and then the cries of the frightened people in the hall, as the bolt tore through the building and struck dead one of their number and dazed or burned others. Mr. Nase was seated in the ante-room of the hall, reclining on one arm when the fatal bolt passed through the front door and struck Mr. Nase in the breast, leaving a livid mark. The stricken man was heard to moan slightly and then was dead.

Within a short time after the accident the body had turned black, evidently being seared through.

The storm taken Friday to Nerepis where Nase had lived with his aged father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nase. The blow comes as a great shock to his parents, as he was only 30 years of age and supported the family, tending to the extensive farming operations in the summer and lumbering in the winter.

Mr. Nase was 29 years and 8 months old and was a widower. His wife was the daughter of Leander Lingley and died soon after they were married. T. W. C. Nase is an uncle, and D. H. Nase, of C. Nase is a distant connection.

There were a number of narrow escapes of other people in the hall. A young lady who was standing about thirty feet from the spot where Mr. Nase was sitting was partly paralyzed by the shock and had to be carried home.

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TUFTS CASE GROWS MORE INTERESTING

Counsel Present Reasons for
Contentions of Both Sides;
The Evidence.

The hearing in the matter of the application of Leonard B. Tufts to set aside a warrant issued against him under the name of E. Humphreys, of Petitoctiac, was continued Friday before Justice Landry.

In the morning the examination of Mr. Tufts was resumed. He said his liabilities were about \$29,000, of which about \$26,000 was due the Bank of New Brunswick.

Mr. Teed, on behalf of Mr. Humphreys, in his cross-examination, endeavored to bring out the items of the liabilities, but was ruled out on the ground of irrelevancy, on objection from Mr. Curvey.

The items of the assets of Mr. Tufts were, however, gone into. Among them were 600,000 feet of lumber at Middleland, Kings county, and Gosden; 1,300,000 feet at Springhill and Oromocto; three or four wagons; debts due among them being \$4,000 from W. Whitmore & Sons. Mr. Tufts estimated his assets at about \$29,000, about sufficient to meet his liabilities.

Mr. Curvey, Mr. Tufts said his visit to Amherst on June 18, 19 and 20 was to transact business and not to abscond or conceal himself. He had a branch office at Amherst. Some drafts were overdue there but he was endeavoring to have them carried over, hoping finally to make satisfactory arrangements. On account of illness in his family he returned from Amherst to Hampton on June 21.

E. T. C. Knowles, the next witness, said he was Mr. Tufts' solicitor. He told him that on June 21 Tufts was not in Amherst, but was at his home in Kingston. On that same day the warrant was issued. Mr. Knowles was under the impression that he gave A. H. Huntington that information in the forenoon of that day before the warrant was issued, although he would not swear he did not give it in the afternoon.

Joe Humphreys, the petitioning creditor, gave evidence as to his business with Mr. Tufts. He said the latter owed him about \$4,000, the amount of acceptance for lumber sold Tufts.

Afternoon Proceedings.

In the afternoon the cross-examination of Mr. Humphreys was concluded, and Arthur MacDonald, manager of the Bank of New Brunswick, was examined as to the hypotheses made by Tufts to the bank.

Mr. Curvey then stated his grounds for the present application to set aside the warrant issued against Tufts, and that he did not depart from the province with intent to defraud his creditors or to conceal himself; 2nd, that he did not conceal himself, but that even if what he did could be construed to be a concealment it was not for the purpose of defrauding; 3rd, that the affidavits upon which the warrant was obtained were not in themselves sufficient.

Mr. Teed then proceeded with his argument, contending that the affidavits were sufficient and that Mr. Tufts did depart with intent to defraud his creditors. Mr. Tufts knew, he said, that both Mr. Willis and Mr. Humphreys were to have been here on the day on which he left the city, and yet he took the late train for Amherst apparently for the very purpose of avoiding them. He deposed in Sheriff Ritchie's affidavit, he could, when he called first at Mr. Tufts' office, obtain no information concerning Tufts' whereabouts but that later he was told by John Ward, the bookkeeper, that Tufts was at Hampton, and still later by Miss Sproule, the stenographer, that he was in Boston; and these clerks, Mr. Teed contended, must have been instructed to misinform.

Tufts' evident attempt to avoid arrest, said Mr. Teed, was an attempt to defraud his creditors within the meaning of the act. He going by a late train, which is usually all these things tended to show that he intended to conceal himself for the purpose of defrauding his creditors. Mr. Teed held that as the affidavits were sworn, Tufts was an absconding debtor within the meaning of the act.

Mr. Curvey contended that Humphreys' action in obtaining a warrant against Mr. Tufts' property just because two drafts had been dishonored by Tufts, when the latter had, according to Humphreys' own admission, always been prompt in honoring drafts, was harsh and unjustified.

Tufts, said Mr. Curvey, could not in any way be called an absconding debtor; he took no property with him as most absconding debtors had been known to do, and he did away with none illegally by leaving. There was nothing in his actions which showed any intention on his part to defraud. On the contrary, as soon as he got his brother-in-law's telegram to come home because of the illness of his wife, he came and the fact that the telegram mentioned the fact that the warrant was out Mr. Curvey took to be an additional argument in favor of Mr. Tufts' bona fide intentions.

His honor announced that, as the matter was of considerable importance, he would take time to consider. The question of Tufts' intent, his honor remarked, was the stumbling block.

Narrows Notes.
Narrows, Queens Co., July 18.—Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hughes and children, of Lynn (Mass.), are spending a month's vacation with Mrs. Hughes' parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Belyea, at the Narrows.

The steamer Springfield arrived at the Narrows about 8 o'clock on Sunday morning with about 70 passengers, and started on her return trip at 10 p. m.

E. C. McKim, of Lynn (Mass.), is spending his vacation at the home of his mother, Mrs. Mary J. McKim, at the Narrows.

Mrs. Annie M. Hughes, of Boston, is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. S. J. Blizard, at the Narrows.

Talmage Belyea, of the dredge New Brunswick, spent Sunday here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Belyea.

The Rev. J. Perry preached to a large congregation on Sunday evening.

Billsville Items.
Billsville, July 14.—A severe electrical storm swept this section of the country early Friday morning. Not only heavy rain but large hail stones fell, which damaged the tender crops considerably. Lightning struck in several places but no serious damage has been reported.

Wm. Kingston is very ill with typhoid fever.

The C. of E. held a strawberry festival and picnic on Thursday evening in the Agricultural Hall. Proceeds \$41.

Another!
Now that Miss Krupp is being married off, a younger sister, worth \$12,500,000, announces her engagement. Just to think, hardly any one knew there were any more at home like Bertha.—Ex.

S. P. C. A. CASE

Shipment of Lambs Down River
Caused Police Court Complaint.

An S. P. C. A. case, which arose out of a shipment of lambs on the steamer Hampton, was heard in the police court yesterday afternoon. Last Wednesday Secretary Wetmore's attention was called to the fact that five lambs had arrived in the city from Hampton confined in a box two feet by six.

The freight purported to be sent by R. G. D. Ship, and was consigned to Joseph Courtright. With the idea of fixing the responsibility in the matter, Captain Day, of the steamer, was summoned to the police court yesterday. He explained to Judge Ritchie that he personally had no supervision over the freight. Judge Ritchie excused him, but cautioned him to inspect the punnet to inspect all shipments of live stock in future, to see what condition they were in.

Havelock Items.
Havelock, July 16.—Yesterday there were sixteen more candidates baptized by Pastor Geo. Howard.

Levon Keith, of St. John, spent Sunday in Havelock. He returned this morning.

Robt. W. McKenzie, of Steeves Settlement, recently had a family gathering. His sons, William, of Moncton; Benjamin, of Steeves Settlement; John and Early, of Sackville; Sandy, of St. John, with their wives (except John, who is not married) were present, also Manley, Percy, Peter and the two daughters, at home.

Mrs. William Steeves little girl recently met with a severe accident. The cow tossed her up by her horns and as she fell her arm was broken. Dr. Price set the broken limb.

Henry Lewis has been holding a series of meetings in Havelock recently and as a result five of the candidates baptized by Pastor Howard were from his services.

Miss Nina O'Neill, of Moncton, is visiting friends and relatives here.

Nellie Alward arrived home Saturday after visiting friends in Moncton.