

HAD ROBERTSON TWO WIVES? TORONTO WOMAN SAYS HE HAD

Came From Toronto With Her Two Children and It Is Alleged Made Startling Statements.

A SEQUEL TO THE BOILER EXPLOSION AT NEWBURY

When a London Fireman on the Grand Trunk Railway Was Killed—Legal Tangle Is Likely To Result—Case Laid Before Local Lawyers.

Did Fireman John Robertson, of London, who was killed in a boiler explosion on the Grand Trunk Railroad on the 30th of October, live a double life?

A tall, handsome woman, in black, calling herself his legitimate wife, it is alleged, claims that he did.

The woman calling herself Mrs. Robertson, came to this city from Toronto several days ago, and has since, it is said, but without apparent success, endeavored to interest local lawyers in her behalf.

It is alleged that this woman claims to have been married to Robertson a number of years ago, and to have had two children by him.

The story goes on to say that Robertson made a custom of stopping with her for a week at a time.

The excuses he is alleged to have made to his wife in this city, whose unfortunate death shortly after that of her husband will be recalled, were, that he was attending to business for his union in Toronto.

APPARENTLY A HAPPY COUPLE.

The Robertsons lived at 424 Ontario street, and were apparently as happy a couple as ever lived.

On the morning of the 30th of October, Robertson started out on his engine. At Newbury the boiler exploded.

That night he was taken to Victoria Hospital, and never regained consciousness. He was terribly burned about the body, and but little hope was held out for his recovery. He died a few hours after the accident.

The devotion of the Mrs. Robertson, of London, was pathetic. From the time he first entered the hospital until the moment of his death, she never left his bedside, and her grief was said to have been pitiful.

Her mother, Mrs. Williamson, of Watford, came to London immediately, and strove to comfort her bereaved daughter with but little success.

Eventually, however, the daughter seemed to become somewhat reconciled to her terrible misfortune.

DEATH OF MRS. ROBERTSON.

The second terrible affair occurred on a Friday, Nov. 15. Mother and daughter had been eating supper and the daughter arose from the table apparently in good health and spirits.

Retiring to her room, however, she fell to the floor in terrible pain, and died shortly afterward in convulsions.

Death was at first said to have been due from ptomaine, but the fact remained that the mother was not ill as a result of having eaten from the same can. The coroner was very reticent regarding the matter.

LOCAL LAWYER APPROACHED.

A well-known local lawyer, who has been approached by the woman from Toronto, who claims to be Mr. Robertson's first wife, stated today that he did not think her claim for damages against the G. T. R. would hold good in a court of law for the reason that to all appearances Robertson had not been supporting her, even admitting that her claims were what she represented them to be.

People who knew the late Mr. Robertson say that he was apparently the most devoted of husbands, and they scout the story of the Toronto woman.

However, she still persists that she is the legal widow of the deceased, and approached another local attorney this morning. It is not known whether he will take up the matter or not.

A PECULIAR CASE.

It is argued now that if a marriage ceremony was ever gone through between the Toronto woman and the late John Robertson, even though performed after the marriage with the Watford lady, the death of the latter now establishes the right of the Toronto woman.

It is said that Robertson only carried about \$240 insurance, but that the alleged Toronto widow thinks she can make the Grand Trunk Railway provide for the maintenance of herself and her two children.

Agent's Mind Shattered By Illness Pathetic Ending of Popular Official

Late Robert Diggon, of Glencoe, Had Been Suffering From Insomnia.

Robert Diggon, C. P. R. station agent at Glencoe, who committed suicide yesterday afternoon by shooting himself with a 22-caliber rifle, lived but a few minutes, and never regained consciousness after firing the fatal shot. He is survived by a widow, and one son, aged 18, and daughter, aged 15 years.

The unfortunate man has been suffering from a nervous breakdown for some years. He was formerly agent at Milton, but his health was so poor that he asked for removal from Milton, and was sent to Glencoe, where it would be quieter.

Of late he has suffered much from insomnia, and his condition has been so serious that he took a holiday a short time ago.

He returned to work about two weeks ago and since that time he had not been at all well.

Asked for Cars.

Yesterday he asked the C. P. R. offices here for six freight cars to move some hay to London. The company could not supply the cars and the agent became very morose. He went into his own room shortly after 2 o'clock, and while a freight train was going through the yard, he shot himself in the base of the skull behind the ear.

Shot Was Fatal.

Shortly after Mr. Diggon was missed and his family made a search for him. He was found lying in his room with life all but gone. He died shortly before 3 o'clock.

Dr. Walker, the coroner, was summoned, but decided that an inquest was not necessary.

Diggon was about 58 years of age. He had been in the employ of the C. P. R. for many years. He was well known among the employees. He had been in Glencoe about four years, coming from Milton, where he was stationed a long time.

Arrangements have not yet been made for the funeral.

Local Dealer Says Duty Is All Right

Speaking of the action of the Woodstock Library Board in passing a resolution characterizing as a mistake the increase in the postage rates on American periodicals, a well-known local stationer today said, that the Government never took an action more calculated to benefit Canadian business and Canadian people than when it put up the duty on American publications.

The object of the Government was, of course, to increase the reading of British magazines. In this it has

succeeded in London, at least, for the sale has increased tenfold.

And, strange to say, the American trade has dropped off but little.

The stationer benefits chiefly by the new regime, for the reason that he can bring in large quantities of American magazines by express and sell them at 50 cents cheaper a year than the publisher can mail them to subscribers for.

"I have compared both classes of

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Some Hot Shot for the Opposition From the Minister of Finance

The Hon. Mr. Fielding Gives the Opposition Leaders Terrific Rocking.

Ottawa, Dec. 3.—The outstanding features of today's contributions to the debate on the address were the raking counter-attack on the Opposition, delivered by Hon. W. S. Fielding, and the somewhat unusual course adopted on behalf of the Opposition by Mr. Cockshutt, who, after a distinctly pessimistic speech, moved an amendment to the address. The speech of the Minister of Finance, which occupied an hour and three-quarters, while aggressive throughout, was happily phrased, and was illumined by flashes of genuine humor and telling repartee. Its effectiveness was indicated by the fact that Mr. Borden was on his feet at least a score of times protesting and explaining, but every time he rose he simply afforded Mr. Fielding another opportunity to score. While the Minister of Finance covered a wide field, his remarks were well connected and always to the point, and his handling of the financial situation was marked, as is usual with him, by lucidity and force. The manner in which

he turned the tables on Messrs. Borden and Foster in dealing with their criticisms of recent cabinet appointments was keenly relished by the Liberal members, and kept them constantly laughing and cheering. He severely rated the leader of the Opposition for his attempt to make capital out of the supposed reduction in the French treaty of the duties on champagne and alcoholic liquors, pointing out that the reductions mentioned in the treaty were those of the old treaty, and were there, he presumed, because Mr. Foster was a prohibitionist. This led him to a sally which convulsed the House when he remarked that he might use the old phrase that fools ventured in where angels feared to tread. Truth, however, would not permit him to call Mr. Borden a fool, nor would it allow him to describe Mr. Foster as an angel. Mr. Miller, of South Grey, who is one of the most shrewd debaters in Parliament, followed Mr. Cockshutt.

Hon. W. S. Fielding, replying to Mr. Perley, said a member of the civil service commission had assured him the commission expected to have its report ready before the Christmas vacation.

Hon. Mr. Fielding was greeted with cheers as he rose to continue the debate on the address. After a reference

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Close Call for Hamilton Road Family Almost Asphyxiated While Asleep

Mr. James Farmer and Six Other Persons Have a Narrow Escape.

Mr. James Farmer, together with his wife and four children, and his mother-in-law, Mrs. A. Rimmell, had a very close call from being asphyxiated at their home, 121 Hamilton road, last night.

The family retired to bed as usual, and after fixing the fire for the night, Mr. Farmer followed them.

About midnight he was awakened by his mother-in-law, Mrs. Rimmell, and at once noticed that the house was filled with coal gas.

Dr. Cline states that she will recover.

It is said that the cause of the gas escaping was that a passing street car shook the stovepipe from the hole in the chimney, and instead of going out, all the gas escaped into the house.

County Councilors Will Run Again Mr. Angus Beattie Alone Will Quit

At the End of the Year—All the Members Interviewed by The Advertiser Today.

County Councilor Thomas Turnbull, of Lobo, takes exception to the statement published in a local paper to the effect that he will not be a candidate for council honors next election.

"I have not committed myself one way or the other," said he to The Advertiser this morning, "and I don't know where they got the authority to credit me with making any such statement."

The only county councilor who will positively drop out at the conclusion of the present term is Mr. Angus Beattie, of Westminster.

Some of the others, however, are doubtful as to whether they will run again.

What They Say.

A canvass was made of the councilors this morning by The Advertiser, with the following result:

S. Gillis, Ailsa Craig—You bet, I'll run.

J. C. Knapton, Parkhill—Count on your Uncle Dudley to be at the post when the gong sounds.

C. W. Hawkshaw, Lucan—Me drop out? Not while there are arguments in council to get into.

Wm. Rowlands, Westminster—I'm there.

W. Hill, Strathroy—On deck, as usual.

R. Toohill, Metcalfe—As long as I give satisfaction I am willing to be a candidate.

N. Graham, Glencoe—Possibly.

D. Graham, Mossa—Who can tell what one may do several weeks hence?

T. Hunter, Dorchester—Johnny on the job, always.

J. Smith, Dorchester—There are so many Smiths that when one gets a public office he should keep it.

L. Maggart, Ekfrid—Always ready for battle.

C. Rush, Newbury—When Newbury gets all that it is entitled to, I will drop out, but not before.

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Inspector Hughes, of Toronto, had a scheme not long ago by which the health of the children of the public schools was to be looked after by the teachers.

He was in favor of instituting classes by which the teachers could be instructed how to examine children's eyes, teeth, ears, etc., and report on their efficiency. Diseases could also be detected by them. In other words, the teacher was to be health inspector of the school as well as teacher. Dr. Sheard, medical health officer, was also in favor of it. It has not been carried out as yet, but it is probable that it will be. Hamilton has a trained nurse who does this work for the city.

Inspector Here.

London has not had any inspection of any sort until lately, when Truant Officer Weir, of the department, has been pressed into service. He is on his rounds making an inspection at the instance of Inspector Edwards, and has covered nearly all the ground in the minor schools. So far he has met with little disease, as far as can be learned, although Mr. Weir himself could not be located by The Advertiser.

FIRST PAYMENT OF NEW SUBSIDY

The Dominion Government Hands Ontario a Check for \$394,742.40.

Toronto, Dec. 3.—The Provincial treasurer has received a check for \$394,742.40 from the Dominion Government, as the first payment of the Provincial subsidy under the new act. The total subsidy, which the Province will receive will be \$2,128,772.08, as compared with \$1,339,287.28.

HOW BLACKMAILING WAS WORKED

Methods Used By Labatt and Their Detection—Trying to Get Him Out On Bail.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Dec. 4.—Efforts are being made today by the friends of Mr. J. R. Labatt, arrested for sending blackmailing letters to Hon. H. R. Emmerson, to get him out on bail. It is understood that Labatt has made a confession to Commissioner Sherwood, of the Dominion Police. Seen today Mr. Emmerson said that he had nothing to do with the prosecution. As soon as he got the letters, three in all, he handed them over to Mr. Sherwood. That was all that he knew about it. Labatt was well connected, and much sympathy is expressed here for the family, who live in Prescott, Ont.

How Scheme Was Worked.

One scheme employed by Labatt was finally responsible for his detection. Labatt was in the habit of requesting his victims to deposit money to his credit at some outside bank, giving, of course, an assumed name. He then would write the bank in question, asking the manager to forward him the deposit book, at the same time sending the bank copies of his pseudo signature.

Recently, it is alleged, he followed the usual method in regard to a Toronto bank. The letter asking the bank to forward the book, was posted in Aylmer, Que., and the book was to be sent to them at the Hull post-office. The victim "tipped off" the detectives and a watch was kept on the Hull office. Several times a boy called but as there were no letters he went away.

Finally a drop package was placed in the box, and when the youth called and took it out, he was followed. Labatt was arrested as the boy handed him the package.

Used the Telephone.

It is said, however, that he successfully worked other cases more cleverly. He wrote letters requesting sums of money to be placed in Ottawa banks to the credit of assumed names, and asking that personal advertisements be put in local papers stating where it was.

He sent to Toronto hotels a wire with cash for its dispatch to the bank mentioned asking if they had received the deposit. He then wired the Toronto hotel to re-wire the answer to an Ottawa hotel.

Labatt then called the Ottawa hotel up on some phone asking if the message had been received by wire for the name he had taken. If it had been he asked that it be opened and read to him. Having learned the contents of the wire he vanished without having appeared personally in the transaction if it was unsafe.

If his scheme had worked well he knew that the way was clear to obtain the deposit through the mails by a means of transfer to an outside bank.

CASHIER SHOTS HIMSELF

Gladwyn Cobban, Former Athlete, Lies at Death's Door in Montreal.

Montreal, Dec. 3.—Gladwyn Cobban, cashier of the C. P. R., shot himself in the temple with a revolver at the Windsor street offices this afternoon. He was removed to the General Hospital, where he is likely to die.

The act was committed in one of the lavatories of the building. Cobban was a prominent member of the Montreal A. A. and a few years ago was well known as a football player.

THE WEATHER.

TOMORROW—FAIR.

FORECASTS.

Toronto, Dec. 4—8 a.m. Today—Moderate northerly winds; fair and cold.

Thursday—Variable winds; fair; not much change in temperature.

Friday—Milder.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations. 8 a.m. Min. Weather.

Calgary 30 30 Fair

Winnipeg 16 22 Fair

Port Arthur 4 2 Cloudy

Parry Sound 6 4 Cloudy

Toronto 10 8 Snow

Ottawa 10 8 Fair

Montreal 6 6 Fair

Quebec 12 10 Snow

Father Point 16 14 Cloudy

The sign — indicates below zero.

In the above table records the temperature at 8 o'clock this morning, and the second column records the minimum temperatures during the 24 hours previous.

WEATHER NOTES.

A disturbance situated near Nantucket indicates stormy conditions for the Maritime Provinces. Another marked disturbance covering the northwestern portion of the continent is accompanied by very mild weather. In Ontario and Quebec low temperatures prevail generally.

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: London, 22-26; Victoria, 44-56; Vancouver, 40-47; Edmonton, 22-46; Battleford, 12-34; Calgary, 24-30; Winnipeg, 10-14; Port Arthur, 12-16; Parry Sound, 4-16; Niumidian, 18-22; Ottawa, 8-15; Montreal, 12-20; Quebec, 10-18; St. John, 16-25; Halifax, 26-30.

LONDON ELECTRIC CO. WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH CITY.

Regarding the Sale of the Local Plant or the Matter of Distribution of Niagara Power for London—

Mr. C. B. Hunt Writes City Clerk.

Another phase developed in the

Niagara power situation, when a letter was received yesterday by City Clerk Baker from Mr. C. B. Hunt, manager of the London Electric Company.

Mr. Hunt goes over the situation as it affects his company.

Will Talk Distribution.

One of the most important features of the letter is that Mr. Hunt declares that the company is perfectly willing to talk business with the city regarding the distribution of the power over the company's wires. Of course, the details of this matter have not been worked out, nor can they be for some time, but the company is willing to make reasonable terms with the city. Mr. Hunt says, for the distribution of Niagara power.

If satisfactory terms can be made, the city would be saved the expenditure of a great sum of money, and would still have cheap power available for power and light purposes, and in addition obtain a share of profits.

Mr. Hunt's letter is given in full below:

The Communication.

"S. Baker, Esq., City Clerk:

"Dear Sir,—In answer to your inquiry for the terms upon which this company would sell:

"1. The whole electric plant, including powerhouse, machinery, poles, wires, etc.

"2. The plant for transmission of electric power and light through the city streets, poles, wires, etc., without the power plant.

"I am instructed to say that as the council of the city of London has decided to submit the bylaw to the ratepayers in January next, and is, therefore, not in a position to discuss seriously any proposal from this company until after the vote has been taken, we do not think it is an opportune time to submit a proposal; but, we are in every way willing to deal fairly with the city of London, whether the bylaw carries or not.

"The company will be quite prepared to negotiate with the city council at any time it may be disposed to enter into negotiations with the company for the purchase of its plant, or for the distribution of Niagara power throughout the city over its wires.

"(Signed) C. B. HUNT.
"Manager the London Electric Company, Limited."

London Man Did Not Shoot Officer Chicago Story Greatly Exaggerated

Hugh McKay, of This City, Is Merely Held by Authorities—The Facts.

Mrs. Hugh McKay, of 359 Piccadilly street, denies the wild rumors which were circulated around town yesterday, that her son, Hugh McKay, was arrested in Chicago for shooting a police officer.

Mrs. McKay has received word that her son has been arrested, but believes that he is not directly implicated in the burglary charges for which three young men, named Nicholas Simmons, John Burke and Hugh McKay, were taken into custody in Chicago.

Mrs. McKay denies absolutely that her son was ever addicted to the use of morphine.

A dispatch from Chicago states that Hugh McKay was only arrested on suspicion of having been concerned in the affair, as he was with the other two men at the time that the police arrested them in the street.

Young McKay has always borne a most excellent character, and his friends confidently expect that at the trial he will be honorably dismissed.

The affair in which the young men were implicated occurred on Sunday morning, when Police Constable O'Keefe attempted to arrest Burke and Simmons for acting in a suspicious manner on Erie street, near Ninety-first street, Chicago.

Simmons, it is stated, drew a revolver and shot the officer through the left hand. This is believed to be the most serious part of the affair.

Those who know young Hugh McKay best laugh at the stories which have been going around.

HIGHEST CATTLE HONOR CANADA'S

Chicago, Dec. 4.—Canada has captured the crowning honor of the International Live Stock Exposition, defeating the United States breeders on their own ground. The grand champion in the steer class goes to a Canadian exhibitor. Roan King, a

shorthorn calf, selected as the best of the huge herds of cattle assembled at the stockyards, is owned by Mr. Jas. Leach of Greenbank, Ont., weighs 1,078 pounds and was fed on a diet of peas and hay instead of the corn, which is the staple diet of American fancy kind.

Ten Degrees Above Zero Coldest Yet

Last night was the first real winter night of the season. It was so cold that many people thought the temperature had fallen below zero, when, as a matter of fact, the lowest temperature recorded at the local observatory during the night was 15.5 above, and the highest 27 above zero.

The lowest temperature recorded

this morning was at 8 o'clock, when 10 degrees above were registered.

Thus far the winter has been a very easy one, and everybody, the coalman excepted, is greatly pleased.

A year ago at this time there was plenty of snow, but at present the streets of London are bare and frozen hard.

Indian Stories Greatly Exaggerated

Mr. Ward Sutherland has just returned from a year's trip around the world. He left London, went across to California, thence to Honolulu, from there to China, and then to Malaya, Ceylon, India, Gibraltar, England, and finally home to Canada.

"We enjoyed our trip very much," he told The Advertiser this morning. "We spent considerable time in India. There is but little unrest there. Agitators try to stir up trouble, but their influence is not widespread, and they have no following. The people of India are as loyal as we are, and there certainly will not be any trouble of city.

any serious nature. We were in India in a very hot time, in May, and did not see it at its best. England's rule has been very beneficent to India, and the natives are not anxious to throw off the yoke.

"Canada is spoken of everywhere, and the people everywhere are making inquiries regarding this country. We are better known than ever before, and we are greeted with favor all over."

Trade conditions he reported as being very satisfactory also. Mr. Sutherland is spending a few days in the city.

The Telegraphers' Strike Referendum

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Toronto, Dec. 4.—Commercial and railroad telegraphers are taking a referendum on a contemplated gigantic strike for a 30 per cent increase and an eight-hour day. The following message reached here this morning:

"Each operator receiving this will write five copies and mail to five operators, who will in turn repeat the act, and mail to L. W. Quick, St. Louis, Mo. This chain letter ends on Jan. 1, 1908, and should be signed but once by each operator. Will you support us, and, if necessary, strike for a 30 per cent increase and an eight-hour day, to begin March 1, 1908? Answer yes or no, and mail to above address."

Canadian Club Luncheon.

The third luncheon of the Canadian Club will be held in the Masonic Temple banquet hall, tomorrow noon, at 12:15 sharp. An address on "Track Elevation," a subject in which Londoners are just at present very much

interested, will be delivered by Mr. John A. Ewan, one of the editors of the Toronto Globe, and who is well known as the famous war correspondent of that journal. Mr. Ewan has given the subject of grade separation much study, and his address will be sure to prove of very much interest.