

CANADIAN GIRL TRIES SUICIDE

Is Saved From Jump Into Thames in London by Policeman

Issued Check Before Remittance From Canada Arrived; Feared Police.

LONDON, Oct. 3.—Haunted by a charge of fraud which hung over her head, the young wife of a doctor living in London contemplated taking her life by jumping into the Thames, but her intention was frustrated by the vigilance of a policeman patrolling the Embankment. Having spent an unhappy night among homeless outcasts in a church crypt, she determined to disappear from her social circle, and obtained a situation as a nurse-general. Her name is Mrs. Vera Macpherson Whitcomb, and her home is in Church street, Chelsea.

The charge had reference to a cheque given to a butcher.

HER PRIVATE INCOME. "I have had a private income of \$5,000 a year since I was 21 years of age," Mr. Whitcomb declared, "and this is derived from Canadian sources, my grandfather having been one of the pioneers in the development of that Dominion. I was born in Canada, and, as a young girl, was sent to Italy, and afterwards to England for my education. During the war I was a nurse in France, and my husband is a doctor. The first I heard of this cheque business was when I returned home from the theatre one night and was told that two detective officers had called in my absence. I immediately associated their visit with a cheque for \$100 which I had given to a butcher, and which had not been met, because my remittance had not arrived, although I had expected it would have been paid in. I at once went to the tradesman and paid the \$100 in Treasury notes.

REDEEMED CHECK. "The bank, not realizing the seriousness of the position, posted the remittance in the meantime, but a warrant had been issued against me for obtaining money by false pretences, which was, of course, absurd. The detectives called again, and I was taken to the nearest police station, where my fingerprints were taken, and afterwards I was driven to the police court in a taxi. My solicitor was out of town and I could not get in touch with him. I was remained on my own recognisance, another solicitor appearing for me, and as I could not pay his fees at the time, I had visions of Holloway and determined to take my life. Accordingly I left my house, as I thought, for ever, and wrote letters indicating that I would commit suicide. That night, although I had money on me, I walked the Embankment, watching my opportunity to jump into the river. A policeman kept observation on my movements, suspecting my intention, perhaps, and I could not shake him off.

NIGHT IN CHURCH. "I spent the night in the crypt at St. Martin-in-the-Fields along with other homeless beings. Next day I took train

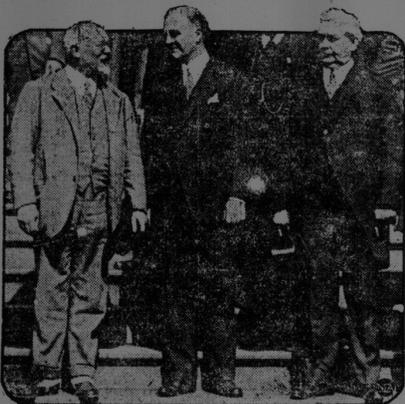


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NEW YORK GREETS FOREIGN DELEGATES



New York City gave its official welcome to delegates to the coming Interparliamentary Conference when Baron Theodor Adelsward of Sweden, president of the council of the Interparliamentary Union, was received at city hall by Mayor John F. Hylan. Photo shows Baron Adelsward on the left, Mayor Hylan in the centre and Police Commissioner Richard Knight on the right.

to Hanwell and answered an advertisement for a nurse-general. I was engaged, and remained in the situation 12 days, when I saw an appeal to me in the ' agony ' column of a morning paper to return home as my adopted boy was unprovided for. It concluded: ' Nothing to be afraid of. I am devotedly attached to the boy, and considered provision had been made for him; but I came back, reported myself at the police station and was taken to the court, and the charge was withdrawn. I apologized for all the trouble I had given the authorities, and so the matter ended. What stung me to the quick, however, was the suggestion that I had attempted to commit fraud, and I am glad that I have been cleared of that accusation.

21-POUND MUSHROOM SERVED AT FEAST

Was 5 Feet, 1 Inch Through Thickest Part; Picked Near Buffalo.

BUFFALO, Oct. 3.—Walter Hayes, young society man, invited a party of friends to a royal feast. The chief dish was a mushroom of the puffball variety, weighing 21 pounds and measuring 5 feet 1 inch through the thickest part. The fungi was picked near Mr. Hayes' summer home at Pleasant Beach, on the North Shore about fifteen miles from Buffalo.

Mr. Hayes believes the puffball was the largest ever found in these parts. He points to a description of the fungi in a Standard dictionary, which says that "the giant puffball has been known to attain a diameter of 5 feet." The one plucked by Mr. Hayes beats this by an inch. The dictionary also adds: "It is edible when young." Mr. Hayes' prize was yours.

COMMISSIONER TELLS OF HUGE LOSSES

(Continued from Page 9) senseless payment of human life which Canada annually makes to fire?

LESS THAN ONE-TENTH. Now, the question arises as to whether there are in operation immutable laws which place this unending contribution of life and property beyond the pale of human control. In European countries the fire loss per capita averages less than one-tenth of the loss in Canada. In 1924, the total loss in Great Britain with forty million people was only \$37,200,000, as compared with \$45,900,000 in Canada. Regarding climatic conditions and the less inflammable construction to be found in Europe, analysis of the origin of fires indicates that personal carelessness is the paramount cause of Canada's burden of loss. Eighty per cent. of our outbreaks of fire could be averted and the waste which they entail avoided.

CORRECTIVE MEASURES.

If, then, it lies within our power as a nation measurably to reduce this purposeless loss of life and property, why not set about it? It will require both individual and collective effort. Carefulness must be made ingrained instinct. We must correct those conditions in our own premises which breed fire—the rubbish heap, the thoughtlessly disposed match or cigarette, the defective chimney or flue, the oily rags, the open fire left unattended. Fires from these and a hundred other elementary causes are quite avoidable. Their prevention involves only the application of common sense, the exercise of ordinary vigilance. Collectively, we should press for the introduction of better building fire prevention codes, for the more efficient equipment of public fire departments and for the regular inspection of buildings by local fire organizations. No municipal investment will pay larger dividends.

Most important of all, in the long run, we must make it our business to see that the children, the coming men and women of Canada, are brought up to recognize fire and its dangers. In every school in the Dominion fire prevention should form part of the instruction in practical citizenship. No excuse can be advanced for maintaining an attitude of indifference towards a problem that has called forth a direct message from His Excellency, the Governor-General of Canada. No amount of legislative tax evades our personal responsibility to Canada to the matter of the fire loss prevention. The people must be educated in the idea that fires are not accidents, but that they are due to acts or omissions of individuals whose negligence imposes a burden upon the nation at large. The object of the Fire Prevention Week will only be attained if its observation be made a clarion call to a clearer perception of the obligations and duties of responsible Canadian citizenship.

FAMOUS YACHT TO MAKE TOUR OF THE WORLD

Trip From London to New Zealand Expected to Take Ten Months

WHITE HEATHER I. HAD COMPETED AT COWES

Forty Feet Cut From Mainmast and Mizzenmast Added to Vessel

LONDON, Oct. 3.—White Heather I, the famous racing cutter, which has competed with the King's Britannia at Cowes many times, is to leave England for good. She has been bought by Major S. L. Glenister, who, with his wife, Princess Shihadeh-Palaeologos of Greece, is about to make a world tour.

"It is not a rum-running expedition," said Major Glenister, "it is a pleasure trip. We are taking in stores and ballast now, and hope to be away early next month. We are going to Gibraltar, and then across to the West Indies, then through the Panama Canal and round the lesser known South Sea Islands before we touch New Zealand. After that we shall either come right back or 'carry on' round the world. It will take us 10 months to reach New Zealand."

White Heather I. is only 151 tons, but Major Glenister ridiculed the idea that she was small. "With four picked hands from wind-jammers," he said, "and some help from my passengers, I can take her anywhere."

The lofty tapering mainmast has had 40 feet cut from its length, and a mizzenmast has been added. White Heather I. is no longer a graceful racing cutter, but a businesslike looking 'ketch'.

Major Glenister would describe himself as a soldier of fortune. He has taken part in six wars and three revolutions, and looks on his coming expedition as a most mild diversion. When it is completed he will take the yacht to Havana, where he lives, and use her in his film business.

The total cost of the trip including the purchase price, will be \$70,000.

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STARVED RECLUSE LEAVES \$30,000

Earl of Dalhousie and Brother Share Fortune Found Scattered Through House.

LONDON, Oct. 3.—The Earl of Dalhousie and his brother, the Hon. Patrick William Maule Ramsay, have inherited over \$30,000, the hoarded fortune of Miss Agnes Ramsay Clarke, who died at Gravesend Infirmary last June, after being found starving in her house in Gravesend.

Miss Clarke, who lived alone, was 70 years of age, and on her death money of ancient date was found everywhere on bill spikes, in meat dishes and coal scuttles, and bank-notes hung from pegs in the kitchen cupboards. The woman had denied herself of food and clothing, and even her cats were starving.

Miss Clarke's mother, who died in 1897, was a German named Leishman, at one time of Wurtemberg. At her death she was described as the widow of Captain Alexander Clarke, of the Indian army, who held some appointment in the East. Miss Clarke had stated that her mother had been governess to the ex-Kaiser and his brothers and sisters, and that she herself had been a playmate of the ex-Emperor. Her savings were understood to be from a quarterly allowance made to the mother by the Keeper of the German Royal Prison.

\$5 MORE RECEIVED FOR THE CAR FUND

The Telegraph-Journal yesterday received \$5 as the contribution of the Helping Hand Sewing Circle of Cambridge Narrows for the River Glade sanatorium car fund. This will be forwarded to River Glade. Any further contributions to the fund are to be sent directly to the Tuberculous Veterans' Association at River Glade.

WOMAN HANGS SELF AT FREDERICTON

Mrs. Charles F. Clowes is Suicide Victim; Had Been in Poor Health.

FREDERICTON, Oct. 2.—Mrs. Charles F. Clowes, resident of Charlotte street here, took her own life by hanging today.

Her husband discovered the body on his return to his home tonight after being away on his business throughout the day. When he turned on the electric light, he was horrified to see his wife's body hanging in a doorway. It appeared that death had taken place several hours previously.

Mrs. Clowes had been in poor health and subject to fits of depression and melancholia is believed to have caused her act. As far as could be judged Mrs. Clowes had tied a line to the knob of the door and passed it over the top of the door and after fastening the other end around her neck while she

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HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

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