

# POOR DOCUMENT

## MC 2035

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1920

### CANADIAN DUELS SUBJECT OF PAPER

Six Encounters Described by  
Montarville Boucher de la  
Bruere — Period Between  
1830-37.

(Montreal Gazette.)

The days when flashing steel and blazing pistol were called on to decide the right or wrong of a quarrel were vividly recalled by Montarville Boucher de la Bruere, who read a paper on "Some Canadian Duels, 1830-37," before the Antiquarian and Numismatic Society at their monthly meeting in the Chateau de Rameray last night. The speaker did not attempt in the limited bounds of a short address to summarize all duels on Canadian soil; for, indeed, would be a large subject. He described six duels which occurred between 1830 and 1837, giving details of the origin of the quarrels, the preparations for the fray, the final test of courage, and the results, adding interesting facts regarding principals and seconds.

The first duel mentioned by Mr. de la Bruere was that between two members of the Assembly, Charles Ovide Perreault, deputy for l'Assomption and Charles Clement Sabrevois de Bleury, representative for Richelieu. The first was a son of the famous protomartyr of Quebec, father of lay pedagogy in Canada, and his opponent a scion of the family that has given its name to two seigneuries and an important street of Montreal. The Legislative Assembly of those days was a stormy sea upon which the ship of state was tossed by waves of personal ambition and blown about by gusts of popular opinion. Strong opinions were often expressed strongly, and objected to strongly. It was on one of these occasions that Perreault took exception to something de Bleury said. Fight With Fists.

A chance meeting on the bleak ramparts of Quebec at dead of night gave Perreault his opportunity. "You insulted me," he shouted to de Bleury, "then be on your guard." This first engagement was with bare fists, not naked steel. It seems that de Bleury got the worst of it for the next day his second, a deputy named John Hart, called on Perreault. Perreault appointed his friend, Henry Scott, also a deputy, as his second. Scott and Hart settled the details. The field of honor was the hard snow road of Ancienne Lorette. Cherrier, another deputy, tried to prevent the fight, and persuasive means failing, warrants were issued for the apprehension of the duellists. These warrants were served the day of the duel, but when the bailiffs arrived at the respective rooms of the principals, they found them empty. The sergeant-at-arms of the Assembly, however, undertook to prevent the duel. He started off post-haste with a posse. Unfortunately he took the wrong turning and galloped away from the scene of the fight instead of towards it.

Pistols are the weapons chosen for the duel. It is the middle of January, 1836. The distance of the duellists is, in number of feet, the age of the century. Thirty-six feet apart in the snow two men are facing away from one another. A word, a sharp turn-about, two shots rend the still air; nothing more, no cry of pain, no thud of falling body, no crimson blood to stain the immaculate snow—for here ends the romance of this duel. The rest is a business arrangement of mutual apology.

Some Other Duels.

All the duels of those days were not, however, business arrangements; far from it. In April of the same year the same de Bleury issued another challenge, this time in Montreal. The challenged was Ludger Duvernay, editor of La Minerve. The insult was an article in Duvernay's paper. The meeting took place "outer mont." Duvernay was shot in the right thigh. His second was John MacDonald; de Bleury's second was Edouard Rodier. Both of these seconds profited from the lessons they learnt at this duel, for later we find MacDonald fighting Pierre Edouard LeClaire and Edouard Rodier fighting three officers of the Royals, then quartered in Montreal, one after another. These officers were Lieut. Drmsby, Lieut. Wilson and Cap-



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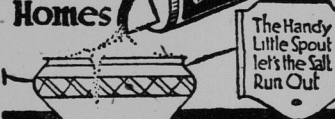
HEARTLESS FIEND  
TORTURES PET CALF,  
LEAVING IT TO DIE

A shocking case of cruelty to a one-year-old calf received the attention of the Toronto police and officers of the Humane Society. The calf from birth had been kept upon part of the Turner estate on the south side of Tyrell avenue, and was the pet of the neighborhood, old and young alike. Frank Johnston, whose mother lives on the property, went out to feed the calf and found it in agony just breathing its last. Its neck had been stabbed and cut from ear to ear and there were ugly knife wounds in both sides.

Neither Mr. Johnston nor his mother are able to give the police any information that would help to locate the individual guilty of the cruelty. So far as they know, they have no enemies, and the calf had not given any trouble.

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS

Most of the street accidents are preventable. They occur because people show too much haste or are indifferent or thoughtless of the rights of others. A pedestrian who crosses a busy



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thoroughfare without glancing to left and right is "looking for trouble." The motorist who violates traffic ordinances designated for the safety of all, places himself and others in jeopardy.

Personal safety is only attained by constant watchfulness. Each member of the community, motorist, street-car meta-

teamster, bicyclist and pedestrian should take care of himself and thought for the other. We all must live and let live.

Haste is becoming a modern habit but we are told "haste makes waste," and so it is when the desire for haste causes an accident. Quite often "the longest way round is the shortest way home." This slogan should be adopted by the pedestrian who dashes diagonally across the roadway. Both the "jaywalker" and the reckless motorist should be jerked up short.

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