POOR DOCUMENT

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# SEWAGE BILL PASSES THIRD READING 27 TO 16

## Fredericton Allowed to Dump Sewage into St. John River on Trial for Two Years—Mr. Hazen's Amendment that Matter be Left Over Till Next Session Defeated—Judicature Bill Read a Third Time.

FREDERICTON, April 9.—Fredericton is happy tonight. The legislature by a vote this afternoon of 27 to 16 allows the city to dump its sewage into the river.

It is true that the privilege granted the city is surrounded with certain conditions, but these are not regarded in a serious manner.

Mr. Robinson's amendment to the effect that the city be allowed to use the river for two years, and in the meantime the government examine the water bacteriologically and chemically, and if injury was found the governor in council may prohibit the outlet, is taken nothing more than a blind, as every one is satisfied that if the sewage is once allowed to enter the river and the citizens tap the sewage, that no disturbance can or will be made. When the bill came before the house as amended this evening, it passed unanimously, and it can be taken for granted that Fredericton's position is assured, and that for the next 99 years at least the sewage will go into the river.

The house met at 3 o'clock. On the third reading of the Fredericton sewerage bill, Mr. Hazen said: Before the question is put I intend to move an amendment which I hope will commend itself to the good sense of the members of this house. The bill has already been three times discussed and I do not propose to take up the time of the house at any length. It is evident that there has been a great difference of opinion in regard to it among honorable members, and considering the great importance of the subject I move that the further consideration of the bill be postponed until the next session of the legislature.

Hon. Mr. Hill—I did not intend to speak any more on this subject, but I consider that this proposition is the most absurd that ever I heard of. It asks that the city of Fredericton shall be kept for another year in its present unsanitary condition; that after spending thousands and thousands of dollars on a sewerage system to promote the health of the city, it shall be allowed to lie idle.

Hon. Mr. Robinson then moved the following amendment to the amendment: Moved by Hon. Mr. Robinson, seconded by Mr. Murray: That the order for third reading be rescinded and that the bill be referred back to the committee of the whole house with instructions to so amend it as to permit the city of Fredericton to discharge crude sewage into the St. John river, subject on the following limitation: That upon the expiration of two years from the first day of June next the lieutenant governor in council may by order in council prohibit the city from continuing to discharge crude sewage into the river from and after one year subsequent to the passing of such order in council, to enable the city to provide septic tanks and filtration beds if the lieutenant governor in council should decide to require the same, and also so to amend the bill as to provide that the lieutenant governor in council shall cause bacteriological and chemical tests of the water of the river below the city of Fredericton to be made from time to time with a view to ascertaining what effect the discharge of such sewage matter has upon the potability of the water of the river, and also to provide that it shall be the duty of the lieutenant governor in council to appropriate a sum not exceeding $2,000 for the purpose of sinking test wells at such points in the counties of Sunbury and Queens as the lieutenant governor in council may determine upon the advice of an expert well borer, in order to ascertain whether a suitable and abundant supply of water for domestic purposes can be obtained by the boring of wells."

In moving this amendment I may say that I am of the same opinion as the member for Charlotte. The house has already decided this question and passed a bill, and we should accept the decision of the house, but as there has been doubt as to the effect of this measure it seems it would be advisable that the privilege of putting sewage into the river should be limited while certain tests are being made, and I trust that this will be considered a proper solution of the difficulty.

Hon. Mr. Farris—I think that the amendment moved by the leader of the opposition is a very reasonable one, as it will only delay the bill for the year, during which time the necessary tests can be made, and I am of the opinion that if the sewage once goes into the river it will never be stopped.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—I may say that in the first place I opposed the resolution of the member for York, but that resolution after being warmly debated was carried by a vote of 23 to 19. That I think might be taken as the deliberate expression of a majority of the members of the house. In accordance with the resolution I introduced a bill to give effect to it, and this bill has been carried by the house. If the amendment of the leader of the opposition is voted down we must assume that the house would vote down any similar amendment and that the bill will be carried. In that case where would be the interests of the people of whom the commissioner of agriculture speaks? If this bill is passed it will be the law of the land for all time to come, but considering the great interest involved I feel it my duty to vote for the amendment of the honorable member for Westmorland to limit the time and to enable inquiries to be made as to the effect of the sewage on the river. That I think is the only reasonable and sensible course.

Mr. Carpenter—The premier has stated that the first vote on this matter which was taken the other day expressed the deliberate opinion of the members of this house. I take exception to that statement for I found that a large number of members were pledged to the resolution before it was brought down. It was therefore not a well considered vote, while the second vote on the question was. As far back as 1896 a law was passed giving the people of Fredericton an opportunity to put in a sewerage plant. The question was twice referred to the people of Fredericton, but in both cases they declined to do so. It was not until 1905 that a council was elected that was willing to grapple the situation. They asked for legislation to enable them to put the outlet of the sewers half a mile nearer the inlet than the first bill provided. The bill was passed subject to the approval of the board of health. The board refused permission and their verdict was sustained by the government and therefore I say that this city has nothing to complain of either from the government or the legislature. The effect of this resolution will be to put all the sewerage into the river. I appeal to the fair play of the members on this side of the house as the representatives of a county whose members have supported the government for the past 25 years. When the county of York rejected the greatest leader that the government ever had, it was the county of Queens that took him up and returned him to the house. Is it fair then to sacrifice the interests of the county of Queens for the sake of York? Let no man take you by the throat and try to influence you. Back up your vote and put down this attempt to pollute the river that flows past your doors.

Mr. Ryan—I am against both propositions. Let the question be settled now, either accepting or rejecting the bill. I am opposed to digging wells for the people of Sunbury county at the expense of the government.

Mr. Maxwell—When this resolution was first brought up I thought that a great injustice would be done to Fredericton if after the enormous sums they spent on their sewerage system they would be prevented from putting their sewers into the river, but I have thought since that Fredericton should have accepted the offer of the government to assist in establishing septic tanks for the purification of the sewage. I find also that all down the river there is a great deal of alarm at the effect that this sewage will have on the water and on the ice which is taken out of the river. If any means can be adopted for purifying the sewage without undue expense to Fredericton, it should be tried. The amendment to the amendment ought to be voted down and therefore I will vote for the amendment of the leader of the opposition to postpone this bill for a year.

Mr. Clarke—I have made up my mind to vote for the amendment. I voted for the resolution, but I have since changed my views on the subject in consequence of the great difficulty that surrounds the getting of water to the people down river. I think the amendment should be accepted, because it does no injustice to the city of Fredericton.

Mr. Hazen—If the amendment to the amendment is carried it kills for all time the rights of the people down river. I must censure the conduct of the leader of this house, who no doubt wrote the judgment confirming the action of the Board of Health, and now supports a proposition to put the sewage into the river for at least three years. How does he reconcile this with his former action? This business of limiting the term of placing sewage in the river is simply a pretense.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—I must call the gentleman to order. Instead of discussing the merits of the bill he is making a personal attack on me for political purposes. He is seeking to introduce party politics into a matter with which politics has nothing to do with.

Mr. Speaker—The leader of the opposition is in order if he is speaking to the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. Hazen—The resolution was only supported by a majority of four votes and I submit that in view of the claims of the people down river the bill should be postponed for a year.

Mr. Burgess—Have you lost sight of the interests of the people of all the towns up river?

Mr. Hazen—The proposition to bore wells put forward by the government will not be received with the favor of the people of Sunbury.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—I very much regret that the leader of the opposition should feel himself so much carried away by this question as to make a personal attack on me. If I had chosen to follow his example what strong expressions I might use towards the member for St. John, who spoke in the former debate in such terms of the injury that would be done to Fredericton if not allowed to put its sewage into what he described as this great river, which was intended to bear away the sewage of all the up-river counties, and whom I find now reversing his former views. So also with regard to the change of opinion of the member for Charlotte. But I do not desire to impune the motives of these gentlemen. I have no doubt that they are acting conscientiously. To me it makes no difference what others may think, for I shall discharge my duty according to my honest convictions. No doubt there will be disappointments no matter how the vote may go. The leader of the opposition refers to the judgment of the government. On the appeal from the decision of the Board of Health I recognized, as I do now, that if the people below use river water an injury will be done to them. But today we are obliged to consider this matter from the standpoint of what this house has already done in passing the bill, and if he can limit this privilege and make such test as is proposed in the amendment we shall be lessening the evil and paving the way for beter conditions. It is greatly in the interests of the people all over the province that the city of Fredericton should be in good sanitary condition, for students come here to the University and Normal School by hundreds, and the representatives of the people have also to spend several weeks here every year. We must also consider the rights of the people who live in the up-river counties, for if we prohibit Fredericton from putting its sewage into the river we must expect that the people of this city will obtain an injunction to prevent Woodstock and other towns from draining into the river. I therefore think that the proposition put forward by the member for Westmorland is a reasonable one and should be adopted. We do not propose to bore wells on every man's farm, but merely to make tests in suitable places and if we find that the sewage of Fredericton is endangering the public health, then it can be stopped by order in council. Prof. Starkey in his evidence said that the water now was unfit for use and that it should be boiled. If it is shown that the water is not materially worse than it is at present, then there will be no reason for preventing Fredericton from continuing to put sewage into the river. With regard to the proposal which we made to give the city $2,000 or $3,000 a year to the expense of a purification plant the mayor and other members of the city council represented to us that owing to local conditions the cost of maintaining such a plant would be much greater than Fredericton could afford while it was extremely doubtful whether such a plant could be kept in proper order owing to the severity of the frost.

Mr. Robinson—I do not think that this is an occasion for excitement or hysteria. We should look at this matter with all the calmness of a judge. I am informed that the decision of the board of health was not unanimous and that Dr. Steeves, of Moncton, was opposed to it. We should bear in mind that already one third of the sewage of Fredericton goes into the river and that what this bill will add will have little or no effect on the purity of the water. The towns and villages up river are rapidly growing and if we say to Fredericton you shall not have the same privilege which is enjoyed by every town on the river including Gagetown, they will naturally resort to means to have the privileges of other towns curtailed. The council of the city of Fredericton has agreed to the arrangement now proposed and will stand by it, however it may turn out. It is absurd to say that if this is passed the sewage will go into the river for all time, for no future government will feel itself bound by this decision. The vote was then taken and the Hon. Mr. Robinson's amendment to the amendment carried by the following votes: Yeas: Hon. Robinson, Pugsley, Sweeney, Labillois, Jones and Hill and Messrs. Allen, Whitehead, Copp, Scovil, Murray, Campbell Burden, Barnes, Currie, Lowell, Ruddick, Tweedale, Smith, Burns, Young, Johnson, Lantalum, Burgess, Leger, Clair, Martin.—27.

Nays: Hon. Mr. Farris, Messrs. King Ryan, Carpenter, Gogain, Robertson, Hazen, Flemming, Grimmer, Clarke, Morrissy, Glasier, Maxwell, Poirier, Hartt Morrison.—16.

The house went into committee to consider the judicature bill.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—I have asked for this bill to be recommitted in order that some amendments, chiefly verbal ones, may be made in it. The chief alteration is in sub-section two of section one, which provides that any person to be appointed judge shall be of at least 10 years standing at the bar. I move that this be struck out. The B. N. A. act says that the provincial legislatures have no authority to insist on any particular qualifications for the judges. In some cases this has been done and has gone through, but I do not think it advisable to enact any clause which may be doubtful.

Mr. Hazen—I agree that this clause should be struck out and I question very much whether we have any right to fix the places at which the judges should reside.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—It is important that the legislature should have power to say at what places the judges should sit in chambers, and this is very much along the line of residence. I think myself it is desirable that we should have power to say that certain places should have a judge living there.

Mr. Hazen—I would favor a provision that all the judges live in one town. This is done in Nova Scotia and also in Ontario. They then have oportunities of meeting and conferring together on any subject which may be necessary to consider. I would prefer to retain the clause fixing the age limit rather than to fix on any particular place of residence.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—More than one minister of justice has expressed the view that the local legislature has no power to fix the age limit. The bill was agreed to with these amendments.

Mr. Allen gave notice of inquiry as to the intention of the government to make additions to the legislative library or to provide better accommodations for the numerous and valuable natural history specimens now in this and the departmental building. Also whether it is the intention of the government to obtain from the judicial committee their opinion as to power of the cities, towns and municipalities of this province to impose a tax upon the income of the officials of the federal government having regard to the case of Webb v. Outrim, recently recided before that committee.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—I desire to make a few observations on the subject of the telephone bill as to certain changes which I propose to make in the bill in order that the public may know of the change. The bill as presented provides that in case of a telephone company or a municipality owning telephone systems wishing to make connections with the long-distance service, in case of the refusal of the other company, the governor in council may compel the connection to be made, provided that the system of the company desiring connection is up to the standard of the system of the company with whom the connection is sought and upon such terms as shall be approved by the governor in council. I do not think the house would feel disposed to pass this bill unless the correction is made. The matter is one of great importance.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—Before the bill relating to the Canada Atlantic terminal railway comes before the committee I think very strongly that the promoters should withdraw the pamphlet which they caused to be circulated among the members of this house. This pamphlet sought to build up L'Etang at the expense of St. John. The house no doubt read it and I do not think that any more unjustifiable statement than it contains could be made. St. John is the recognized winter port of Canada, and it is intolerable that gentlemen promoting this bill should go out of their way to slander that port. The house should look on such disparagement and I think the house would be justified in refusing to consider the bill until these unwarrantable statements are withdrawn.

The house then went into committee on the Fredericton Boom Co.'s bill.

Mr. Hazen said:—I asked that this bill should be recommitted for the purpose of adding another section to it. Under the charter of the St. John River Log Driving Co. the directors of the company are not entitled to any fee, but merely to be repaid their travelling and out-of-pocket expenses, but as under the new conditions it may be necessary for them to devote considerable more time to the duties of their office it may be desirable to give the company power to allow them fees. I have therefore drafted another section which has been approved of by the attorney general. This section can only become operative under a by-law which must be consented to by two-thirds of the members of the company and approved by the lieutenant governor in council.

The house took recess at 5.45 p. m.

The house met at 9.30 p. m. and went into committee of the whole on the Presbyterian church bill. Section six of this bill provides that the moderator of the session shall take the chair at all congregational meetings, but that in his absence or refusal to act another chairman may be appointed. The moderator is the minister.

Mr. Murray moved that this section be amended so as to enable the congregation to select any chairman they wished.

The subject was discussed at some length by Messrs. Murray, Robertson, Currie, Morrison, Copp and Fleming. The amendment was defeated and the bill passed in its original form.

On the third reading of the Judicature Act Mr. Hazen said that the act provided for trial judges and three appeal judges. In his opinion there was no necessity for an additional judge, and therefore he would make a motion to that effect for the purpose of placing himself on record. The object of the government in creating another judge was to provide for some political follower.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said—I regret that the leader of the opposition should not take a fair and impartial view of the situation. A court of appeal was necessary for the proper administration of the law. I would repudiate entirely the statement that we wish to provide for some political friend. We desire to strengthen the court. The present chief justice if 76 years old and as he desires to remain on the bench his ability to do work will naturally be lessened with advancing years.

And it must be kept in mind that we are now introducing a new system of judicature. The equity business of the court is constantly increasing and I feel certain that seven judges will not be found too many to do the work.

Mr. Hazen's amendment was then put and lost by a vote of 23 to 9 and the bill was read a third time.

The house went into committee on the consideration of the following bills. The bill relating to the discharge of sewage of the city of Fredericton into the St. John river, which was agreed to with an amendment.

The bill to incorporate the N. B. Telephone Company, which was agreed to with amendment.

The bill relating to the Caraquet Electric and Water Power Co., which was agreed to with amendments.

Also the bill to incorporate the Chatham Hebrew congregation, with an amendment.

Also an act relating to forest fires in the county of Westmorland, with an amendment.

Also the bill relating to the C. P. Backus Electric Light and Power Co., Ltd., with an amendment.

On the bill to incorporate the Canada Atlantic Terminal Railway Co., Mr. Clarke explained that with reference to the pamphlet about which the premier spoke earlier in the day and which was written in somewhat disparaging terms of the city of St. John he desired to say he knew nothing about it and it was not in any way owing to any effort of his that the pamphlet was circulated among the members. With regard to the bill it had been thoroughly considered in committee and he moved that it be agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Pugsley—I notice the omission of the clause in the bill which we usually have had inserted in the railway bills during the last three or four years, that the act should only come into force by a proclamation of the lieutenant governor in council. It is usual too for the promoter to make a deposit of a thousand dollars a mile. I do not think that the matter is very material, but if we depart from our accustomed rule in this case we must do so in the future in other bills. If the application is a bona fide one and the proposed railway has any merit I see no reason why the charter should not be granted.

Progress was reported with leave to sit again.

The telephone bill was explained by Hon. Mr. Pugsley and progress was reported, as was also the Compensation Act.

The house adjourned at 1 a. m.

### BUT LOOK ROUND.

"How are the buckwheat cakes this morning?" asked the landlady.

"Not any too good," replied the grouchy boarder. "They taste flat."

"Taste flat!" snapped the landlady. "They are flat. Do you expect we're going to make them look like cream puffs?"

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# DIGGER INDIANS MOST DEGRADED

## Rev. Dean Harris Writes of Their Habits.

### Fragments of Humanity Sunk to Level of Lowest Animals and Live Untrammeled by Law and Morals.

Rev. Dean Harris writes to The Mail and Empire from lower California as follows:—

From my last letter on this weird and exceptional land I may have left upon the mind of the reader an impression that lower California was, from sea to gulf, a land of gloom, of sterility and of abject aridity. It is all this, and something more, and remains today an awful example of tremendous bouleversment in Miocene times. And yet there are many redeeming features, and an assurance of better times and the possibility of redemption for the gruesome country. For example, there have been discovered on the Gulf coast, large, very large deposits of sulphur, and north of La Paz immense beds of almost pure salt. At and around the Cerabo Islands the pearl fisheries, once so productive, are becoming again promising. In the northern part there is much excellent grazing land, calculated at 900,000 acres, where alfalfa, burr and wild clover, and fields of wild oats four feet long and full of grain thrive. Deep beds of Iuano are found on the St. George Islands on the Pacific coast, where countless sea birds make their rookeries and where there is no fresh water nor any rain for years. Along the shores of the Bay of San Marco they are now quarrying from vast beds the finest alabaster in America. At Todos Santos there are large quarries of white and variegated marble, and in the neighboring mountains great deposits of copper ore containing much silver. At Ensenada the Rothschilds control the mines and have erected large smelters to reduce the ore. I have many times in my letters to The Mail and Empire, had occasion to mention alfalfa grass, and it just now occurs to me, that many of your readers may not know what it is. The plant is most indigenous to North America, but was brought here in seed from Brazil some thirty years ago. Not only in New Mexico, southern California and Arizona, but in western Kansas, Colorado, and western Nebraska, alfalfa has been the salvation of the farmer and cattleman. Give it water and the fecundity of the grass is unequaled; it is a sure fodder crop, and in almost any climate two or three crops may be expected. In the imperial Valley of California, which is now threatened with submersion by the new Saltion Sea, it is said that ranchmen have harvested alfalfa every two months the year round. Its greatest glory is that it is an absolutely sure crop. It never fails; it reproduces itself. It is the reliable friend of the south-western rancher, and has no enemy in the insect world. Alfalfa has been a valuable help, and of almost indispensable assistance in the reclaiming of the arid lands of the south-west. Without it the Pacific and inter-mountain States and Territories could never have become agriculturally prosperous.

### CITIES OF THE SOUTH.

Lower California has two capitals—Ensenada, on the north Pacific Coast, and La Paz, far down on the gulf. The tremendous barriers of mountain and desert between the two coasts and the distance by water around Cape San Lucas have made two capitals a necessity. La Paz, at the head of a fine, deep bay of the same name, has a population of about 3,000, all Mexicans. It is a town of one broad, straight street, with whitewashed houses of stone one storey high, tree shaded, verandahed, and jalousied. The Tropic of Cancer cuts through the Valley of San Jose to the south. The town and the land around it for many miles are a dream of joy. Here the orange groves stretch away on every side for miles, bordered with rows of cocoanut palms, which respond to the slightest touch of breeze, and wave their fan-shaped crowns. In the morning, when the sun is rising beyond the giant mountains, the air of the valley is vibrant with the songs of mocking birds and California magpies of many-hued plumage. Here also in the alluvion depressions arborescent ferns with wine-spreading leaves tower forty feet in the midst of tropical trees, whose branches are festooned with members of the orchid family and flowering parasites of most brilliant hues.

The construction of the Panama Canal will mean much prosperity to the west coast, for a railroad will then be built from Magdalena Bay to San Diego, southern California, connecting with the Southern Pacific for New Orleans, Chicago and the East. The west coast will then probably become a popular health resort, for the climate is unsurpassed, and chalybate and thermal springs are many. Some far-seeing Boston capitalists, anticipating a great future for this section of Lower California, have purchased the Flores estate, four hundred and twenty-seven miles long, and sixteen wide. The purchase includes harbor right on Magdalena Bay, and is the longest coast line owned by any one man or firm in the world.

### A CURIOUS POPULATION.

The population of Lower California is about 25,000, principally Mexicans and half-castes. There are six or seven and some Yaqui and Maya Indians, pearl fishers in the large Bay of Pechilinque.

To me the most interesting and pathetically attractive members of the human race in North America are the melancholy remnants of the early tribes of Lower California withering away in the desert lands and mountain ranges, and now almost extinct. In the history of the human race we have no record of any tribe, clan or family that had fallen so low or had approached so near as it was possible for human beings to the state of offal animals, as the wretched Cochimis or "Digger Indians" of Lower California. The Cochimis, unlike any other family or tribe of American Indians, occupied a distinct position of their own, and, indeed, may have been a distinct people. Shut off from the main land by the Gulf of California to the east, and impassable deserts on the north, they were isolated, it may be for thousands of years, from all communications with other aboriginal tribes, and until the coming of the Spaniards under Otondo in 1683, they knew nothing of the existence of an outside world and its people. Their language and tribal dialects had no affinity with those of the northern or southern nations. It is doubtful, indeed, if they were of the same people for their customs, habits, racial peculiarities and characteristics allied them to the Maori races of the Pacific Islands. Sir William Hunter, in his chapter on the "Non-Aryan Races," describes the Andaman, or "dog-faced man-eaters" of India as a fragment of the human race that had reached the lowest possible depths of hopeless degradation. After the Andamans he classed the "Leaf-wearers" of Wissa. Dr. Kane, the Arctic explorer, thought it was not possible for human beings to fall lower in degeneracy than the fugitive Eskimos, the Ka-Kaaks," whom he met at "Godsend Ledge," where his ship was ice-locked, and where 57 of his dogs went mad from the cold and died. They were foul and filthy, and when he fed them on raw meat and blubber, "each slept after eating, his raw chunk lying beside him on the buffalo skin, and, as he awoke, his first act was to eat and the next to sleep again. They did not lie down, but slumbered away in a sitting position with the head resting on the breast." There savages were compelled by the intense cold to clothe themselves and construct protections, but the "Diggers Indians" roamed completely naked, had no huts of any kind, and indulged in poroniac and sexual indecencies pitiful in their destructive results.

### NOBLE SAVAGE A MYTH.

The 'noble savage" of Dryden and Cooper is all right in poetry and romance, but the real man, when you meet him and know him, is, indeed, a creature to be pitied, against whom the elements have conspired and with whom circumstances have dealt harshly. God deliver us from the man of nature, unrestrained by fear of punishment, unchecked by public opinion, by law, or order, untamed by social amenities, unawed by the gospel of the hereafter! One of the wildest of illusions is this dream of the nobility of the savage. The nearer we come to the man who has no higher law than his own will, nor knows obedience to a higher authority than himself, the nearer we come to finding a savage brute, who eats raw meat, wears no clothes, loves dirt, hates peace, wallows in the filth of unrestrained passion, and kills the weaker man he does not like whenever the temptation comes and the opportunity is present.

The Jesuit missionaries who established sixteen missions in Lower California, beginning in 1696, wrote home from time to time accurate reports of the condition of the tribes and the progress of religion and civilization among them. I will have occasion in another letter to deal with the self-sacrifice and heroism of these saintly men. These "Relations" are, so far as I know, yet in manuscript and to the average man inaccessible. But from the works of Fathers Venegas and Clavigero—standard authorities—we obtain a most melancholy history of the degradation of the "Digger Indians" before the coming of the fathers. In 1729 Father Sigismundo Taravel established the Mission of St. Rose, near the Bay of Palms.

Father Taravel, before volunteering for the California Missions, was a professor in the University of Alcala, Spain, and when he entered the desert and mountain solitudes of lower California was in the prime of his young manhood. He was dowered with exceptional talents, and when commissioned by his superior, Father Echivari, to collect material for the history of the land and its inhabitants he brought to the discharge of his task exceptional industry, unflagging patience and great ability. For twenty-three years he remained in Lower California, Christianizing and instructing the tribes around the Bay of Psalms, and visiting the most remote corners of the peninsula in quest of material for his history. Broken in health he retired to the Jesuit College at Guadalajara, Mexico, where he completed his history in manuscript. From this voluminous manuscript Venegas and Clavigero and lesser writers drew their material for their publications. I have entered upon this digression that you may understand the reliability and accuracy of the information we inherit bearing on the daily life and habits of a people which I believe to have been the most degraded known to history. There are certain disgusting details entering into the social habits and manners of the unhappy and abandoned people that I dare not touch on. Even the barbarous tribes of Sinaloa and Sonora, from their privileged lands and hunting grounds across the gulf, looked down upon the half-starved creatures and held them in detestation, as did the Puritans on the wrecks of humanity that occupied the soil of Massachusetts. The Europeans of Otondos' expedition who, in 1733 attempted to establish a settlement on the peninsula, were astonished at a condition of savagery lower than they had ever heard of and their disgust and horror were so great that they abandoned the intention of settling in the country. Powerless under the awful conditions under which they were compelled to support existence, knowing nothing of cultivation of any kind, doomed to inherit a land afflicted with sterility and where game was scarce, the Cochimis, amid all the tribes of America, were the most wretched. They were a long-haired, wild-looking people, scorched into negro blackness, naked and not ashamed. They uttered a noise like crying to express friendship or joy. They bore only names of common gender which they received while yet in the womb.

### DIGGERS EAT SNAKES.

Without fixed abodes they roam the country in search of food, supporting life on snakes, roasted grass-hoppers, the fruit, in season, of the Cactus, the pithaya and roots dug up along the dried streams and from which custom they were called by the Spaniards "Digger Indians." Their ancestors had almost exterminated the larger game of the peninsula, the deer and antelope, the big horn and ibex. They tracked the flight of buzzards with greedy eyes, and followed to share with them the putrefying bodies of animals dead from diseases or killed by pumas or mountain lions. When animal food was found or captured such as a hare or a jack-rabbit, they attached a small morsel to a cord, and after swallowing drew it out again in a few minutes and passed the half-digested mass to another, who repeated the process. Other articles used as food cannot be described in magazine or newspaper. Yet they were not cannibals, and in abstaining from human flesh formed a striking contrast to the Aztecs, of Mexico City, who relished human flesh, salted and cut up the bodies of prisoners and sold the meat at the public markets. They were a people without law or tribal rules or government of any kind, were most gregarious than social, and in their extremity of hunger stupefied themselves with the fumes of wild tobacco. Otondos' colonists charged them with ignorance, ingratitude, inconstancy and laziness, and said they were the lowest of human beings. The Jesuit fathers wrote more kindly of them, but then we must remember that from the day the Jesuits began their first mission among them the "Digger Indians" became their spiritual children. Morality, decency and honor, of course, were dead long before the coming of the fathers. This was the land and these the people to whom in their awful abandonment and unspeakable degeneracy, the Christian priests brought the Gospel of Salvation and the hope of resurrection in this life and in the life to come.

W. R. H.

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# HUSBAND'S LOVE COOLS AS WIFE GETS FATTER

## Woman Expands So Fast Her Helpmate Departs and She Sues.

PITTSBURG, April 9—Mrs. Myrtle Hunter, of Blair street, fair, fat and forty, was in Quarter Sessions Court yesterday with a pitiful story about losing the love of her husband, George.

"When we were married, your honor," said Mrs. Hunter, who was suing on the ground of non-support, "I had as trim a figure as any young girl you ever saw. But as I began to get older I took on flesh, and as I started to get fat George seemed to lose his love for me. Then he left me altogether, and I believe he went after some girl that wasn't so stout."

Mrs. Hunter told the court that her husband made $1000 a year, and admitted that he gave her $950 of it with which to run the house. The sympathies of the court evidently went to the husband, for he made a decree merely ordering him to pay his wife $4 a week. Mrs. Hunter will lose much money by this decision.

# APARTMENT HOUSE AND CHURCH WILL BE ONE

## Congregation to Worship on Ground Floor and Let the Rest to Lodgers.

PITTSBURG, April 9—The First Congregational Church of Allegheny today announced that it had completed arrangements for the erection of a unique edifice at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Chartiers street, Allegheny.

The new structure will not only be a church, but an apartment house, and the congregation expects to make enough money out of the apartments to pay most of its expenses.

It will be four stories high, the first floor to be occupied as a church, while the other floors will be used as apartments. In the basement will be free baths and reading rooms.

# WOMAN FINDS SPOUSE BY SUING FOR DIVORCE

## After Nine Years' Separation They Meet and Begin Domestic Life Anew.

WORCESTER, Mass., April 9—After an absence of nine years, William Fay, a wealthy Ohian, whose home, his friends say, is now in Marietta, and against whom a divorce libel is pending in Worcester county courts, returned to Fitchburg today, and with his daughter sought his wife, Marietta Fay, of 68 Godard street, effected a rapid reconciliation and next week the whole family start for Ohio to begin domestic life anew.

In August, 1898, Fay left Fitchburg, and his family never heard from him again. His wife supposed him dead. Recently she decided to be legally free, and applied for a divorce, in her libel stating her belief that her spouse was dead, his present whereabouts being unknown.

An old newspaper containing the libel fell into Fay's hands in his Western home, and he arranged to meet his daughter, Mabel, a pretty 18-year-old girl, here yesterday. Explanations and a reconciliation followed.

### CHINESE THREATEN CATHOLICS.

Pekin Syndicate a Danger in the Province of Shan-si—Fights Frequent.

SHANGHAI, April 9—The movement against the Pekin syndicate in the province of Shansi is assuming a violent character. The people of Tai-yuan-fu are of the opinion that the Catholic natives are supporting the syndicate. They are therefore greatly excited and threaten to destroy the churches.

Fights between Christians and pagans are frequent. The Governor has appealed to Pekin for aid in suppressing the disturbances.