

## THE STORY OF A BEAT

HOW A NEW YORK NEWSPAPER SECURED A BIG SCOOP.

Five Hundred Dollars Was Paid For a Copy of the Testimony in the Credit Mobilier Investigation—A Scoop.

Back in the seventies, the newspaper boys called them "beats," but nowadays they are known as "scoops." A "scoop" is a story of some importance published exclusively in one newspaper—a good piece of news that no other paper has managed to get hold of. The reporter who turns in many scoops during the year is looked favorably on by his city and managing editors and, if he writes fairly good English, has a splendid chance for promotion. The newspaper editor who gets the scoops is a man who has an eye for news, and it is that kind of a man who eventually sits in the managing editor's chair and looks after the destiny of the paper.

In the good old days before the Associated Press service, when every paper had its own correspondents throughout the world, scoops of an international character were more numerous than they are at present. Now, with news agency and special correspondents in every city in the world, it is difficult for a paper to obtain a really big exclusive piece of news.

One of the most famous beats of the old time days was the exclusive publication by the New York Tribune of the full report of the Credit Mobilier committee, with all the testimony verbatim. Although reporters had been admitted to the sessions of the committee and the papers had published summaries of the proceedings and testimony from day to day during the long and painful investigation, the testimony in full had never been printed. People evinced a great interest to read the entire testimony. They wanted to be able to judge for themselves how far the prominent statesmen involved were actually implicated. Great public curiosity was also shown regarding the report of the committee.

When the chairman, Judge Poland of Vermont, a very dignified, white haired old gentleman, who always wore a blue swallowtail coat with brass buttons, presented the report to the house, all of the boys in the press gallery made an immediate rush to the clerk's office to get hold of the document and read as much of it as possible over the wires that evening.

The Washington correspondents of the Tribune were then Z. L. White, Homer G. Ramsdell and E. V. Smalley.

Mr. Smalley had been assigned to follow the daily work of the Credit Mobilier committee and had received orders to get that report, cost what it may. How well the correspondent followed out his orders was shown by the fact that within ten minutes after the report had been deposited with the clerk Mr. Smalley had a copy of it under his arm and was rushing down Pennsylvania avenue to the telegraph station on the corner of Fourteenth street. There Mr. White was holding three New York wires by sending a lot of stuff, most of which was never intended for publication. The miscellaneous stuff, however, served as an effective means of preventing any of the Tribune's rivals capturing the wires beforehand.

Next morning the Tribune came out with five pages of type, comprising the full report of the committee. It was at that time the longest special ever sent to any newspaper and has seldom been equaled since.

The Tribune's contemporaries were naturally disgruntled at the beat and at once queried their Washington representatives for an explanation. They were never able to fathom the mystery, and this is probably the first time the riddle has been solved.

Mr. Smalley had arranged with the official reporter of the house for a complete copy of the investigation. The copy was made secretly from the official reporter's notes, copied as the investigation progressed and handed to the Tribune man when Judge Poland made his report to the house. The price paid for the copy was \$500.

The other correspondents were only able to get in a very meager synopsis that night, as the Tribune's report clogged the wires.

A most sensational scoop appeared in a Pacific coast daily some years ago. It was the suicide of a reporter on the paper and was written by himself. He had been complaining of ill health for some time and one Sunday asked for a day off, which was given him.

Next morning, a little after 2 o'clock, a messenger boy handed the city editor a large, thick envelope. When opened, it was found to contain a graphic description of the reporter's suicide, even describing the position he lay in when "discovered by the horror-stricken newspaper men."

Accompanying the story was a short note which read: "This is a scoop. You will find all details correct. Don't report to police until too late for the other papers to get it. So long. Yours,

"P. S.—Pretty good story, isn't it?" Two reporters were immediately dispatched to the young man's room and after breaking in the door found him lying on the floor with a bullet in his heart. The paper was plucked the result of the investigation and next morning came out with a "double decker" on the front page.

It was a scoop, too, the police being notified five minutes after the paper had gone to press.

**Marble Heart.**

"Madam," said the tramp to the farmer's wife, "have you any objection to my lying down in one of your fence corners and dying?"

"No objection at all," replied the lady. "Over to that corner you will find a lot of straw."

"I wouldn't dare to lie on your straw, madam," said the tramp. "I'm so hungry that I'd be sure to wake up and find myself eating it."

"We have plenty more," said the farmer's wife pleasantly, as she closed the door.

**Lights and Shadows.**

"Sometimes," said the single woman of acknowledged years, "I regret that I never married, and again I am glad of it. It is hard to decide, though, whether the pleasure of being one's own boss is outweighed by the absence of some one to be boss of or not."

Tallahassee, the former bedecked capital city of Florida, boasts that it is the only American city founded by a member of the immediate family of Napoleon Bonaparte. Colonel Charles Louis Napoleon Achille Ma.

## TUFFERVILLE

Changeable weather. Dr. C. Shaw is at his practice again and will be found at his office day and night. John Connelley, of Merlin, is the guest of John Burns.

George Powers was laid to rest at Wallingburg cemetery on the 16th. Mrs. Twiddle passed away at her residence on Thursday, the 17th inst. at 4 o'clock. The funeral services were held at Zion and the remains laid to rest Sunday at Dresden cemetery.

J. S. Baker returned last week from a visit to Detroit and other places. John Wilcox is around after a week's sickness.

Mr. Grant and James Smuck returned from London last week.

Mr. Clark has gone to Toronto for the winter again.

Amos Caras has a fine m. l. drill and a tire upserter and will be prepared to do business more fully.

Walter Atkins returned from a visit at Somers and points north.

Our grain merchant is busy loading oats for New York.

Miss Maggies is taking music lessons at Chatham convent.

Quarterly board was held at Zion Church Monday afternoon to settle some important questions.

## DEATH OF MRS. JONES.

The death occurred in Cleveland on Saturday, the 12th inst., of Jane, wife of F. G. Jones, Wellington street east, city, at the age of 73 years, 5 months and 27 days.

Deceased was born in Lebanon, Ohio, July 16, 1827, came to Canada in 1853 and resided continuously in Chatham. At the time of her death she was visiting her daughter, Mrs. A. Crawford. Deceased was well known in Chatham, being a member of the United Daughters and B. M. K. Church. She leaves a loving husband, five sons and four daughters to mourn their loss. The remains were brought here Monday and laid to rest Wednesday at 2 o'clock, the funeral taking place from her late residence Wellington street to the B. M. K. Church, thence to Maple Leaf cemetery.

The pall-bearers were: J. Scott, L. Brady, S. Dennis, John Taylor, John Cooper, and Hy. Jacobs. Rev. J. C. Richards officiating minister. The family of the late Mrs. F. G. Jones desired to thank Mrs. Nichols, the United Daughters, Mrs. M. V. Gales, of this city; and Mrs. Hackett, of Cleveland, for their floral tributes to the deceased. They also wish to thank the friends and neighbors for the sympathy shown them in their sad bereavement.

## SANK SWIFTLY, NEARING END.

Our Late Beloved Queen Grew Much Weaker During the Afternoon.

At Four Her Son Published the First Official Preparation for the Sad News.

The Planet's brief cablegrams received during the noon hour and early afternoon heralded the approach of the dread messenger; finally received at this office at 1.15, and officially confirmed at 1.57.

As its prelude came the following: London, Jan. 22—4.35 p. m.—A bulletin just posted at the Mansion House reads as follows:—

Osborne, 4 p. m.—My painful duty obliges me to inform you that the life of our beloved Queen is in the greatest danger.

ALBERT EDWARD.

is intended to nourish and sustain us, but it must be digested and assimilated before it can do this. In other words, the nourishment contained in food must be separated by the digestive organs from the waste materials and must be carried by the blood to all parts of the body. We believe the reason for the great benefit which so many people derive from Hood's Sarsaparilla lies in the fact that this medicine gives good digestion and makes pure, rich blood. It restores the functions of those organs which convert food into nourishment that gives strength to nerves and muscles. It also cures dyspepsia, scrofula, salt rheum, boils, sores, pimples and eruptions, catarrh, rheumatism and all diseases that have their origin in impure blood.

The great amount of design work done at the Victoria Avenue Green House is sufficient proof of the excellence of the work. Nothing but the best at the lowest prices. Telephone No. 181.

## A PLEASANT ENTERTAINMENT.

The Concert Rendered Under the First Presbyterian Ladies' Aid Society.

A very pleasant and enjoyable concert was presented in the First Presbyterian Church last evening under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society. The program was under the direction of Mrs. John Cooper and was an exceedingly fine one. The choir was occupied by ex-Ald. Fred Stone. The program, each number of which was keenly enjoyable, was as follows:—

## PROGRAM.

Hymn—All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name.

Invocation.

Lead Kindly Light (unaccompanied) Shelley—Choir.

Solo, O. Divine Redeemer, Gounod—Miss Ada Ross.

Chorus, How Long Wilt Thou Forget Me? Carl Puelliger—Mr. H. Davis and choir.

Solo, Night of Nights, Vandewater—Mrs. Alice James.

Quartet, Crossing the Bar, Arthur Foote—Mrs. John Cooper, Miss Ada Ross, W. H. and R. L. Brackin.

Solo, Selected—Miss Jessie Taylor. God Save the Queen.

The attendance at the entertainment was not large, but the ladies realized some \$20.

At the conclusion the Ladies' Aid Society courteously invited the choir to a generous repast they had provided.

## GOING TO TILBURY.

The Chatham Hockey team will visit Tilbury to-night to try conclusions with the Rangers, of that town. The position formerly played by S. Mercier will be played by E. Cook, Mr. Mercier being too ill to take part.

The team is as follows:—Goal—R. Cook. Point—S. J. Courtney.

Cover Point—M. S. Fraser. Forward—Patterson, Larmer, Elliott and Hicklin.

Goal—R. Cook. Tilbury has played against London, Stratford and Sarnia, in the O. H. H. western series.

New ideas in American Collars every week at The 2 T's.



Our Queen Passed Away

VICTORIA

(Special to THE PLANET.)

Covens, Isle of Wight, Tuesday, Jan. 22—Her Majesty passed away at 6.55 to-day.

Osborne is in deepest mourning.

By virtue of the British constitution Edward VII. now reigns.



EDWARD VII

Long Live The King!

**Private Funds To Loan AT 5 PER CENT.**

ON EASY TERMS. Apply to Wilson, Kerr & Pike, Barristers, 5th St., Chatham.

**A. M. FLEMING A-R-T-I-S-T**

STUDIO, SMITH BLOCK OFF. MARKET NEAR BARRICKS

**Children Cry for CASTORIA.**

**Wood's Phosphorine.**

The Great English Remedy. Sold and recommended by all druggists in Canada. Only reliable medicine discovered. Its use is guaranteed to cure all forms of Sexual Weakness, all effects of abuse or excess, Mental Worry, Nervousness, loss of sleep, Opium or Stimulant habit, on receipt of price, one package \$1.00, six, \$5.00. One will please, rest and cure. Samples free to any address. The Wood Company, Windsor, Ont.

Wood's Phosphorine is sold in Chatham by all druggists.

T. &amp; D. MANUFACTURING RETAILERS T. &amp; D.

## Hats and Furnishings

A good many people are finding out that this is the place to buy Clothing and Thornton & Douglas's Clothing is the best.

But that's not all. We want as many to find out where's the best place for Hats and Furnishings. We do no better on Clothing than on everything else. You can judge the store by these things as well as anything.

—Hats, —Neckwear, —Caps, —Underwear, —Shirts, —Night Shirts, —Collars, —Suspenders

## Thornton &amp; Douglas.

Dr. A.W. Thornton : : : : Dentist

D. D. S. Toronto University. Office—First Door East of Standard Bank Telephone 164

## LOCAL BRIEFS

No police court this morning.

Mrs. S. D. Martin is quite ill.

Wm. Keith, of Tilbury, is in the city.

E. Grandbois, Chatham street, is indisposed.

J. N. McCoy, of Wallaceburg, in a Chatham visitor.

R. E. Hammett, Head street, is in Thamesville on business.

There are ten prisoners at present in Castle Mercer.

A. S. Huff, of Dover, Centre, was in the city yesterday.

Ald. Geo. G. Taylor is in Blenheim to-day on business.

Mrs. Arthur Wilson will visit friends in Leamington to-morrow.

The Amethyst Club will hold their next hop on Thursday evening.

Mrs. Frank Tschirhardt, Raleigh St., is seriously indisposed.

John Sherman, of Kent Bridge, was a Chatham visitor yesterday.

E. J. Downey, C. P. R. station agent, is laid up with a gripe.

Light hopes are entertained for the recovery of Chas. Grant, Head street.

There is no change to-day in the condition of Mrs. E. J. Forsythe.

Miss T. Wilson, Head street, has returned from an extensive visit in Mt. Clemens.

W. J. Hayward, inspector of weights and measures, London, is in the city to-day.

The annual meeting of the First Presbyterian Church congregation will be held to-night.

Mrs. Adaire, of Blenheim, is seriously ill at the residence of her mother, King street.

Judge Houston will sit at county court on Thursday, when adjourned cases will be brought up.

Master Willie Burrows, Victoria avenue, is suffering from an attack of la gripe.

Another social will be given on Thursday evening by the Young Men's Catholic Club.

Inspector Colles is busy among some of the young teachers in the vicinity of Blenheim this week.

The Prince Edward House is undergoing extensive repairs being newly painted and papered throughout.

E. J. Forsythe's choral class will meet in Christ Church school hall this evening at 8 p. m.

Henry Filby, of Harwich, sold his thoroughbred Durham bull to parties, in Toronto.

The benedictines of Wallaceburg, are making arrangements for a big ball in the near future.

Forty of the "Old Boys" of Trinity College school, Port Hope, served in the war in South Africa.

A number of friends of Claude and Miss Maud Bragg, tendered them with a surprise party last night. A splendid evening was spent by all present.

Every farmer should read the ad. of Geo. Stephens & Co. in this issue, about binder twine. See it among the advertisements.

Robert W. Kerr, of Milton, Dakota, brother of the late Mrs. Garner, is visiting old friends in Chatham. Mr. Kerr sees many changes in the Maple city, since he resided here some fourteen years ago.

Wm. Waldern, in the employ of Coltart & Wilson, ran a needle in the palm of his hand yesterday, while attending to his duties. The wound is very painful and will lay him up for a few days.

The Standard Computing Scale Co., of Detroit, have had their scales admitted into Canada and will make Windsor their distributing point. This is four U. S. scale companies that make Windsor their distributing point for Canada.

We must have at once a number of reliable persons and families in this locality to work for us whole or spare time. Good wages paid. No canvassing. Write for position to-day. People's Syndicate, Dept. A, 130 Yonge street, Toronto.

A number of Hebrew families who have been living in the old Magnolia Hotel, Queen street, have removed to Detroit. For some two or three years these Hebrews have been scouring the country buying all the old iron, rags and bones that could be found. Evidently the supply must be running short hence their exit to Uncle Sam's territory.

At 2.15 this afternoon the fire department were called to Box 25, where a pile of cornstalks were burned on the property of A. McGregor, Stanley Ave.

Thos. Marshall, Walkerville, Asst. Gen. Passenger Agt. of the Lake Erie, was in the city last evening en route to inspect the extension of the line between Ridgeway and Dutton, over which it is expected soon to do business.

A. N. Wesley, convicted before Magistrate Macdougall, of Wallaceburg, on the charge of practicing medicine illegally, was brought to Chatham jail yesterday. His sentence is for one month.

Benj. Brooks, of Sharpsville, Ind., formerly of this city, had a serious accident befall him a short time ago. He was loading ore and by some means had a bucket of it thrown on him, which fractured his skull and left him unconscious for three days. Mr. Brooks' son, who lives in Appin, has left to bring him home.

Under direction of Supt. Jones, the waterworks pipe, that crosses Thames at Adelaide St., was lowered to-day. The bunk on the south side of the river has been washed away, leaving the pipe exposed.

It feared that in the spring freshets the floating drift wood might catch in the pipe and carry it away.

It may be of interest to those who have preferred claims against the defunct Banner Printing Co., for wages to know that A. C. Naff, the liquidator, has notified certain of the claimants that a settlement will be made before the end of February.

The adjourned meeting of the Kent Fair Association will be held at the Harriman Hall at 8 p. m., to-morrow, to consider the report of the committee upon the suggestion of the Attorney-General for law reform. The committee consists of Messrs. Douglas, Wilson & Walker.

A meeting of representatives from the various counties throughout the Province will be held to discuss the matter at Osgoode Hall on Friday, the 25th inst., at 11 a. m.

## CHRIST CHURCH S. S.

The annual meeting of the officers and teachers of Christ Church S. S. was held in the school room last evening. There were present Mrs. McKinnon and Misses Kingston, Knight, Dennis, Hyrassin, E. Barrassin, Nangle, Wigzell, McCosh and Rispin, and Messrs. Willoughby, Shackleton, Weir, Forsythe, Smith, Brisco and Dr. R. V. Bray.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved of.

The New Century Teachers' Monthly was ordered for the teachers, the Illustrated Picture Pool for the infant class, also the usual Sunday school papers and literature.

Mrs. Shackleton reported that ten volumes of the teachers' library had been received and would be placed during the week. It was decided to have a short program on the night the mite boxes are opened and the prizes distributed. It was further decided that all scholars attending 48 or more Sundays during the present year would be given prizes, graduating in value according to attendance.

The Ladies' Auxiliary Society was granted \$5.

The following officers were elected for 1917:—

Supt.—Dr. R. V. Bray.

Asst. Supt.—Rev. R. McCosh.

Treas.—J. C. Weir.

Secy.—Ed. Cosgrove.

Asst. Secs.—Fred Brisco and Fred Hill.

Organists—Miss Edna Dennis.

Choir Leader—E. J. Forsythe.

Librarian—H. W. Smith.

The matter of assistant superintendent was left in abeyance for the present.

## A CIVIL HOLIDAY.

On learning the news of Her Majesty's demise, Mayor Geo. W. Sullivan informed The Planet that a civic holiday would be declared to observe the day of the regal obsequies, although a national holiday is probable.

## A DEBATE.

The Y. P. Society of Christ church held their regular meeting last evening with a large attendance. The subject of the evening was a debate, "Resolved that the goodness of the county lay in the city is greater than that of the city lay in the country." The affirmative was ably supported by Gordon McCosh and Fred Hall, while the negative was defended by Dr. R. V. Bray and Harry Pritchard. The judges, J. W. Shackleton, decided in favor of the affirmative.