"IN FREEDOM'S CAUSE."

# Evening Telegram

ERDER, - - - Proprietor
JAMES, - - - - - - Editor

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THURSDAY, May 4, 1922.

## Reduce Both Ways.

On every hand to-day is heard a demand for a reduction of taxation. This is not a new cry. For ages the lieges have ever been requesting that taxes be cut down to suit their purses, but perhaps never before, in the history of Newfoundland at least, has there been an era when the people were so heavily burdened as in the years of the administration of the present Government. Notwithstanding that the Prime Minister in his pre-election manifesto animadverted severely on the tariff of 1919 and previous years, and made promises that he would have it adjusted so that the load of payment would be shifted to the shoulders of those who were in a position to pay, he is the man—or his is the Government—responsible for piling on the weight of both taxation and expenditure, until to-day Newfoundland is expected to raise a revenue equal to one-half of her exports, in order to cope with the carnival of extravagance indulged in by the party in power. Millions have been squandered and millions will yet be squandered if the Government is allowed to pursue its financial course, a course leading to the precipice of ruin, over which the country must inevitably plunge, unless a check is placed upon expenditure. Despite warnings, despite advice, despite popular protest, despite precedents, the Government gaily carries on and apparently will not heed the signs. They will not decrease taxation, they will not reduce expenditure, and yet they can do both if only they apply a little business acumen and develop a knowledge of the situation which the Colony faces. The present rate of taxes can be lowered by spending less money, and there are large avenues through which disbursements on public account pass that could be closed, without loss to the public service or detracting from the efficiency of its officials. Business must be freed from the paralyzing and exasperating tariff restrictions imposed upon it. Some encouragement must be given if trade is to continue as in the past. The man upon whom the crushing weight of a high tariff directly falls is the fishermen. As conditions are to-day in Newfoundland the fishermen are the only producers of wealth that returns to the country. Therefore they in effect are the sole earners, for the whole fabric of commerce is built upon their labors. Remove the fishermen and to what other industry can the Colony turn? Economy in all branches of the public service and in the administration of Government is the bounden duty of the men comprising the Government. Tax burdens should be distributed with the greatest possible equity among all classes of the people, always keeping in mind the purpose to impose the large share on those best able to pay. That is the first axiom in economies. No Government can continue solvent so long as they persist in the policy of "robbing Peter to pay Paul." It is poor business to raise a loan for the purpose of paying off a previous loan, yet that is just what the Government of Newfoundland have been doing, all the while playing a "confidence game" with the people. A dangerous pastime, but one which will work until the public discovers it, and then there will be a withdrawal of confidence. And the public have discovered the duplicity of their rulers. Hence the popular demand for a more equitable adjustment of revenue and expenditure. Having made known their desires the people are but waiting to see if their suggestion of reduction both ways will be accepted. If not then there will be a deluge of protest, accompanied by action that will sweep away for all time those who oppose the righteous sentiments of the population. The writing is on the wall. The Government's Belshazzar feast will soon be brought to a close.

## A Fine Point of Law.

### WAS SCHR. LETTIE B. ILLEGALLY APPREHENDED?

Was S.S. Daisy under commission from the Customs and on Revenue Protection Service, guilty of an act of piracy when Customs Commissioner J. H. Dee, boarded and seized schooner Lettie B. upon the high seas a few days ago, confiscated cargo of said vessel without due trial of the master, and brought same to St. John's lodging it in the bonded warehouse set apart for such deposits? That is the question raised by the Government organ—The Advocate—yesterday. It also forms the subject of a query, signed "Mariner" in **Telegram.** The schooner in question, it is alleged, was six or more miles from land, and was therefore outside the territorial jurisdiction of Newfoundland, consequently if the exact position of the vessel can be proven by those on board, the act of boarding and seizure was ultra vires on the part of the Commissioner of Customs, and a nice technical point of law is thereby involved. The Customs Act of Newfoundland is very specific on this point. Section 21 reads:—"In the case of every vessel bound for any seaport or place in this Colony from any port out of this Colony, the Collector or proper officer of such port may cause such vessel to be boarded by an officer of Customs, detailed by him for such purpose **at any place within three marine miles of the anchorage ground,** and such officer may demand from the master or purser of such vessel a correct copy of the Report Inwards intended by such master or purser to be presented at the Custom House on arrival."

Section 119 of the same act reads: "If any vessel is found hovering in British waters, within one league (three miles) of the coasts or shores of this Colony, any officer of Customs may go on board and enter into such vessel, and stay on board such vessel while she remains within the limits of the Colony, or within one league (three miles) thereof."

It will be noticed that particular emphasis is laid on the distance from shore, viz. three miles. Beyond that the Colony has no jurisdiction, therefore the seizure of the Lettie B. is contrary to both the spirit and letter of the Customs Act, and the master of the Daisy may possibly have to answer to a charge if not of piracy, at least of illegal seizure. It will be interesting to note the procedure which will apply in the event of the master of the Lettie B. making a protest. The affair will then assume international dimensions.

The most popular shades in Silk Hosiery in New York this season are Lark and Camel. Both these shades were placed on sale at BISHOP'S Showroom to-day for only Two-Sixty per pair.

## McMurdo's Store News.

THURSDAY, May 4.

In changeable, backward weather it is often wise to take a tonic, to ward off the results caused by severe and sudden changes of weather and temperature. For this purpose one of the best, undoubtedly, is McMurdo's Nutritive Hypophosphites, which has stood the test of many years use, and has been found unsurpassed for the purpose. Those who take Nututive Hypoposphites are much less subject to colds, coughs, and chills, eat better, sleep better, and are in better spirits than those who have not fortified themselves. Two sizes, 50c. and $1.00 a bottle.

See the splendid costumes in "The Chimes" and if you can, notice the wigs.

# THREE MURDERS COMMITTED and a FOURTH ATTEMPTED

## Chinese Slayer Turns Gun on Himself--Most Sensational Crime in History of Newfoundland--Is Last Night's Tragedy the Beginning of a Local Tong War?--Particulars of the Crime as Gleaned by Our Reporters--Murderer Still Alive, Makes Statement.

Three Chinamen were murdered in their laundry on Murray Street last night. Two others are in hospital dangerously wounded, but are likely to recover. The dead are:

**Hong Lon,** proprietor of the Murray Street laundry, who has been in the country for several years. Aged about 28.

**Hong Kam Hi,** who has also been in St. John's for seven or eight years. He is nearly 34 years old.

**So Hi Kai,** who has been two years in the city. His age is about 30 years.

The wounded are:

**Hong Wing,** who worked in Hop Wah's laundry, Casev St.

**Wo Fen King,** who is held responsible for the shooting.

Both these men are expected to live, although their condition is still precarious.

The motive for the crime still remains a mystery and the only theory that can be advanced is that it was the result either of a tong or clan feud, or a grievance which Wo Fen King had nourished against his victime. There are several aspects of the case which are baffling to the police. Inspector General Hutchings and Mr. McCarthy, J.P., obtained a statement from the murderer this morning but this has not been divulged.

### THE MURDER.

It is presumed that Wo Fen King entered the Murray Street laundry, armed with a .38 calibre revolver, and shot the three inmates before an outcry could be raised. It is believed that Hong Lon was the first to be shot and that he dropped in a semi-unconscious state, from which he recovered sufficiently to permit him to struggle forty feet up the hill towards Parade Street before he succumbed. This would be after the murderer had left the laundry.

### SHOT AT CLOSE QUARTERS.

Hong Kam Hi was shot through the heart and fell on his back, his head hanging over on the left side and his knees doubled up. After shooting Hong Lon and Hong Kam Hi, the murderer rushed through an alleyway on the left and, turning to the right, entered a tiny wash room where he discovered So Ho Kai ironing curtains. The intended victim turned and was shot in the side at such close quarters that his apron was blackened with powder. He turned and fell in a crumpled heap, with one arm hanging in a clothes basket and his head on the outside.

### FIRED FOUR SHOTS.

Rushing from the place, Wo Fen King hurried to Casey Street, a considerable distance away, and entered that thoroughfare by a maze of side streets. In his mad course he must have reloaded his revolver, which contains five chambers. He entered Hop Wah's laundry and found three Chniamen there. Singleing out Hop Wing, who turned to salute him, Wo Fen King fired two shots at him, one of which entered near the jugular vein, the other piercing his ear. The murderer's next action was most amazing, for he turned and fired one shot directly in front of him and another to the right and then left the laundry.

### ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

He now turned down Barron Street, a narrow lane leading into New Gower Street, and directly opposite the Casey Street laundry. Here he stopped and turned the revolver on himself. The flash was seen by Mr. Frank Martret, who also saw Wo Fen King stumble and then proceed on his way down the street. After shooting himself he evidently ejected the empty shells and slipped the revolver in his overcoat pocket. Coming out on New Gower Street he ran to Jim Gay's laundry, but those inside were frightened and would not let him in. He fell exhausted, with blood flowing from his mouth, and was picked up groaning and hurried to Dr. Roberts' surgery.

### THE CRIME DISCOVERED.

The crime was discovered by Sergt. Nugent, who was superintending the watch in the Murray Street section of the city. He was informed that a drunken man was lying on the sidewalk near Parade Street, and on examination he found that the man was a Chinaman and that he was dead. He hurriedly sent for assistance and had the dead man carried into the laundry. Entering it himself, he was confronted with the dead body of Hong Kam Hi, stretched on his back with his feet pointing towards the door. So Ho Kai was discovered in the wash room in the position already described. Through the courtesy of the police authorities a Telegram reporter was permitted to see the laundry this morning. Beyond blood stains on the floor of the outer apartment, nothing was disturbed and everything pointed to the victims being taken by surprise.

### POLICE TAKE CHARGE.

Inspector General Hutchings and Superintendent O'Neil, accompanied by other members of the force, quickly arrived on the scene and a hasty search was made for clues. Two constables were left in charge of the laundry after all possible evidence had been obtained. A few minutes later the startling news came that there had been more shooting, and upon hurrying to the Casey Street laundry, news of the remainder of the tragedy was gleaned. Hong Wing, the wounded man, was upstairs in Hop Wah's laundry, waiting for medical aid.

### TAKEN TO HOSPITAL.

Dr. Roberts was not at home when the self-injured murderer was brought to his surgery, but assistance was rendered by Dr. J. N. Macdonald, and Dr. Anderson was also quickly on the scene. The ambulance was summoned and both murderer and victim was placed in it, and accompanied by Constable Pike were driven to the General Hospital. At the Hospital, Hong Wing was immediately operated upon and the bullet was extracted. A search of Wo Fen King's clothing revealed a revolver in an overcoat pocket and five cartridges were found in another pocket.

### THE MURDERER.

Wo Fen King is a native of Canton and has been in this country almost twelve months. He is a brother-in-law of Hong Kam Hi, who is among the dead. Wo Fen King was with the Chinese Labour Battalion in France, and after returning to Canton, came out to Newfoundland. Last night he endeavored to explain the shooting but his broken utterances could not be understood. Part of what he seemed to imply was that he placed the blame for the murders upon Hong Lon, the proprietor of the Murray Street laundry. He was also understood to say that he had been poorly paid by Hong Lon, for whom he worked, and that he found it impossible to live in any degree of comfort.

### AFRAID OF HANGING

While at the Hospital, a nurse heard the self-wounded murderer say something to the effect that he was afraid he would be hung to-day, and that he would like to die. From this, it appears that he was fully conscious of the terrible crime he had committed. His statement made this morning to Inspector General Hutchings and Mr. McCarthy, J.P., has not been made public.

### THE MOTIVE.

Unless the motive of the crime has been divulged in the statement made by Wo Fen King this morning, it will probably never be laid bare. Several theories have been advanced, but there are points against all. One greatly favored is that the murderer was of a different Tong or clan than his victims and that the crime was the culmination of a feud. It is believed that he is of a different Tong from his victims, but lived with them because of his brother-in-law. Another theory is based on the garbled statement made by Wo while undergoing medical attendance. This was to the effect that he had been badly treated by those whom he shot. Here the question arises, why did he single out Hong Wing in Casey Street and not trouble about the others? The final theory is that of insanity, but there seems to be little evidence to support this. Kim Lee, the well-known proprietor of the Dominion Cafe, could give no explanation of the motive for the tragedy. He knew very little about Wo Fen King. George Dean, the proprietor of the Casey Sreet laundry, was also mystified by the occurrence.

### THE RANDOM SHOTS.

Among the mysteries connected with the crime, is that of the random shots fired after the wounding of Hong Wing. Nothing has yet been advanced to explain this. Three empty shells were found by a police constable in Barron Street this morning, in the spot where the murderer shot himself. The revolver is a nickel plated one and is of a well known make. How long it was in the possession of Wo Fen King is unknown.

### THE POST MORTEM.

The bodies of the murdered men were conveyed last night to the Morgue where they were seen by a Telegram reporter to-day. Their faces did not show any expressions of surprise or fear, proving that they could not have realized what was happening, so quickly were their deaths accomplished. Doctors Anderson and Grieve conducted a post mortem examination this morning. Hong Lon was found to have been shot through the heart, and the bullet was found lodged near the heart. The bullet which killed Hong Kam Hi penetrated his heart and, coming out, lodged in the spine. So Ho Kai was shot through the right side, the bullet passing through his liver and out on the left.

The funerals will take place to-morrow and the arrangements are in the hands of Undertaker Martin.

## Rosalind in Port.

### DENSE FOG OUTSIDE.

S.S. Rosalind, Capt. Mitchell, arrived in port at 6 a.m. to-day from Halifax and New York. The ship reports a dense fog all yesterday which made progress slow. Last night a strong N.E., wind was encountered which added to the difficulties of navagation. The ship brought a small freight and the following passengers:—

Miss E. Joy, Mrs. J. Squires, Miss Mary Squires, John Squires, P. J. Power, Mrs. P. Power, Abe Abraham, Mrs. H. J. Riley, Miss A. Riley, Mrs. M. Young, Miss Marian Young, J. Lamusse, G. Balonnie, W. J. Siteman, Mrs. Siteman, Miss Siteman, Rev. Dr. Fenwick, W. K. Cave, John Morrey, Mrs. J. Morrey, Miss M. O'Leary, F. Chalmers, J. Benson, Mrs. Benson, G. Wight, Mrs. Wight, C. F. Horwood, M. Power, Miss G. Gittleson, D. Gittleson, B. Miller, W. P. Hogan, Andrew Campbell, W. Clarke, L. A. Drew, Miss H. S. Peters, and 8 in second class.

## Velocipedes for Fire Rangers.

### THE LATEST MODE OF CARRIAGE.

A shipment of some eight railroad trolleys or velocipedes arrived by the last Sachem to the order of the Minister of Agriculture and Mines. The machines which were manufactured by the Fairbanks Morse Machine Co., are being sent to Hall's Bay and are presumably for the use of fire rangers. The machines are worked by hand and have three wheels, and are supposed to be operated by one man.

Minard's Liniment for Burns, etc.

## Our Local Peppys

### HIS DIARY.

May 3rd.—Up late, being wearied with my last night's debauch, and in great pain from a stiffness of my limbs. Long at the office, where much work. I wait upon Mr. Anderson at his home, and am told divers things which I did not know, but pleased me mightily to learn. I meet Mr. Povy, and he tells me how there do be rumours how Sir R. Bond will not come to town, but he will not believe them. I to the Board of Trade, and hold discourse with Mr. Church and Mr. Baird of last night's Ball. Home and see my wife doing her hair, which is off so much that I am troubled at it. At night, to the Feildian meeting where I am made of the Executive. So home, and a sad, snowy tempestuous night, such as I never thought to see in May. Come a phone call from Mr. Goodland to tell me how there do be three Chinamen slain in a brawl, and two like to die. A strange occurrence, and one that will cause a great sensation, I think. To read awhile in "Punch," and so to bed.

**"The Chimes" are wonderful. Enjoy them to-night.**

## Unemployed Meet.

### ANOTHER DEMAND FOR WORK.

A meeting of the unemployed opened at the Star Hall at 3 o'clock this afternoon. There was a large number of men present. The purpose of the meeting was to call the attention of the Government to the fact that quite a number of men find themselves in a precarious position without prospect of getting work. It is stated that of the eight or nine hundred men who were given employment during the winter, less than 400 were fishermen and the rest comprise laborers, clerks and tradesmen, amongst the latter being engineers, firemen and coopers.

**"The Chimes" will ring for two nights more only.**

## Drowned While Seal Hunting.

### BODY RECOVERED.

The Deputy Minister of Justice received the following message this morning from P. J. Bryan, J.P. Tilting, Fogo District:—"A young man named Lambert Burke fell overboard from a gunning punt here to-day and was drowned. His body was recovered." It is presumed that the man was out hunting seals when the accident occurred.

**The Matinee will be on Saturday.**

**NOTE OF THANKS.—The Ladies' of the Dorcas Society wish to express their sincere thanks to Messrs. O'Neil and Coady of the Majestic Theatre, for the very generous donation representing part profits from performances during Lent.—** may4,1i

## From Cape Race.

Special to Evening Telegram.

CAPE RACE, To-day.

Wind North, fresh, weather dull preceded by snow last night; the steamer Rosalind passed in at 11.40 p.m. yesterday; nothing sighted to-day; Bar. 29.95; Ther. 40.

## Floral Tributes to the Departed.

Nothing so nice as Flowers in time of sorrow. We can supply Wreaths and Crosses on short notice, and guarantee satisfaction. We will endeavour to meet the humblest purse. "Say it with Flowers."

VALLEY NURSERIES,
Phone 124. Tessler Brothers. Box 394. St. John's.

### MARRIED.

On April 30th, at St. Patrick's Church, by the Rev. Dr. Kitchen, Norah M. Carey, to J. J. Caul.

### DIED.

This morning, at 7.30, after a short illness, Mary McDonald, Housekeeper of the late Monsignor St. John. Funeral on Saturday at 2 p.m. from the residence of Matthew J. Murphy, junction of Pleasant St. and Mundy Pond Road. R.I.P.

Suddenly at Ayr, Scotland, on April 12th, Thomas McClinton, aged 14. The deceased was the son of James and Jean McClinton and beloved brother of Mrs. B. H. Bastow (nee Jessie McClinton) residing in this city.

At the General Hospital yesterday morning, after a long and painful illness, Jeremiah Byrne, (Fire Constable) aged 50 years. Left to mourn his sad death are a wife, one daughter, three sisters in St. John's, and one brother, Peter, residing in Pennsylvania. Funeral to-morrow, at 2.30 p. m., from his late residence, 40 Colonial Street.—R.I.P.

**NOTE OF THANKS.**—I wish to thank Doctors Cowperthwaite, Macpherson and Wilson, Nurses Pittman, Tucker, Parsons, Stevenson and Moore; also Rev. Canon Field and Rev. Moulton and friends who were so kind to me while at the General Hospital during my illness.—ELIZA HAMMOND.—advt.

MINARD'S LINIMENT FOR DISTEMPER.

(Under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor and of His Grace the Archbishop.)

THE CELEBRATED COMIC OPERA

## "The Chimes of Normandy"

WILL BE PRODUCED AT THE CASINO

## To-Night

by the pupils and ex-pupils of St. Patrick's and Holy Cross Schools.

Conductor:—PROFESSOR HUTTON.

Tickets $1.00, 75c., 50c., 40c., 20c., at Royal Stationery, 180 Water Street. may2,4i

## Fresh Local Killed Meats.

## Pork, Beef and Veal.

We have just received car

## Choice Cattle

and offer special low prices for Friday and Saturday.

Positively—No frozen meat at our Store.

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## Fishery Salt!

## 3500 Tons Cadiz Salt

to arrive about 10th May.

This is the only steamer cargo of Cadiz Salt in transit, and buyers desiring this quality are recommended to book their order promptly.

Apply to

JOB BROTHERS & CO., Limited
may4,,5,8,10

## APPLES, ONIONS, ORANGES.

WINESAP APPLES, 138's
"SUNKIST" ORANGES.
EGYPTIAN ONIONS.
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P. E. I. POTATOES.
LOCAL POTATOES.
At Lowest Prices.

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'Phone 264

CLEANING THE SHIP.—Yesterday afternoon the cattle on S.S. Oxonian were removed from the ship and herded in one of the Furness Withy Co.'s large sheds. The work of cleaning up the ship is proceeding and a large number of hands in the country are engaged in carting away the manure, of which there are some hundreds of tons.

**Have You Contributed to The War Memorial Fund**