

SERVED TWENTY YEARS THROUGH A MISTAKE

Then the Murdered Man Turned Up and Petitioned for Partner's Pardon—A Romance of the Southwest

"I don't want to talk about it. I don't see why I should. It isn't going to do anybody any good, and it's only idle curiosity that interests the public in my affairs at all. I don't see that I had a right to change my name if I wanted to when I started life all over again, and I'd thank you if you're putting anything about me in the newspaper not to even mention my name. Good lord, haven't I had enough publicity already?"

The speaker was Rector Williams, aged 52, late of Galveston, Texas, now a guest at the Dominion hotel, awaiting the coming of his partner, Bernard J. Carter, of Seattle, with whom he is going into the Chilcooten country as soon as the spring is a little further advanced, to pick out a location for a stock ranch which Williams for his part has no intention of closing for his present name must be respected—will have the management of.

For approximately twenty years, until the 15th of last month, Rector Williams managed to get along without a name at all, only a number, opposite which in the register of the State prison at El Paso, Texas, appeared the entry:

"Convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to forty years imprisonment."

Half of that long sentence had been served and Rector Williams had long since settled down to the mechanical performance of a convict's routine tasks before it was discovered that he was not guilty of the murder of which he had been convicted—to which he had subsequently confessed—that there had been, in fact no murder committed.

"Sure, I was the most surprised man in the state of Texas," admits Rector Williams. "I thought it was all coming to me and that I had killed him right enough, and so I'm not complaining about those twenty years. They were coming to me in a way."

In the brave old days of the cow-puncher and his reckless, carefree life Fred Remington and Alfred Lewis, Rector Williams and Bernard Carter worked for the same big outfit down on the Panhandle and rode the range together. That was in Crockett and Pecos counties, where they herded the wild-eyed, long-horned steers of the McCormack "Star-in-square" brand.

Later on, along in 1889, they formed a business partnership and owned cattle of their own in West Texas, quarrelling over the low prices of stock on the hoof, the shortage of water, the division of the work of the range and many other such things that partners are bound to serve as an excuse for squabbling.

The last of these quarrels ended in a rough-and-tumble fight in the lonely range house, in the course of which Williams grabbed a knife and plunged it three times into the body of his partner, who fell, apparently dead.

"Sure, I felt bad about it," says Williams, "but I felt mighty sorry that I'd killed him—but more scared. I dragged the body down to the Peers river and threw it in, then returning to clean up the cabin and generally blot out the trail of crime. Suspicion grew rapidly among the neighbor cattlemen, however, and he was arrested, fairly tried, convicted on circumstantial evidence, and would have been hanged for the simple incident of the body not having been found, of which his counsel laid due emphasis.

That the corpse of Carter did not present itself as his reasonable when it is known now that the supposed dead man revived on finding himself in cold water some distance below the range, whither the carcass had borne him undrowned, a Chinaman hauled him out of the river and when he had recovered he billed to the southwest, regarding it as sitting punishment for his partner, that he would have to pay some joint notes then just about due.

It was in the present year that he next heard of Williams, or rather rather his name in a newspaper, among those of a number of Texas convicts who had been pardoned after a prison commission of inquiry.

Becoming interested, his mind went back to the cattle-handling days down on the Texas plains, and for the first time it struck him that his partner might have encountered heavier penalties than in the payment of those old debts of the partnership.

"Well, the poor, poor old soul!" he soliloquized, as the truth of the situation suggested itself, and forthwith he took train for Texas to confirm or slay his suspicion. It was a comparatively simple matter to get admittance to the prison when once the circumstances were explained, and the partners were re-united after twenty years.

"And you ain't dead after all," observed Williams as he grasped the proffered hand. "Well, I be damned! The securing of a pardon upon the application of the presumed deceased was by no means difficult, and the partners came north together.

"I wouldn't have known what to do with myself if Carter hadn't suggested this new deal," says Williams, "I'd been so long in that old prison that I felt like a lost dog outside for a while.

INJURED IN RUNAWAY

W. A. Appleby Thrown From Rig and Rended Unconscious by Striking His Head Against Curb

Hurled from his rig while the horse bolted through the fence in front of the residence of Albert Belanger, 1510 Blanchard street, yesterday morning about 9:30 o'clock, W. A. Appleby, foreman of the M. R. Smith Company, was knocked unconscious and now lies at St. Joseph's Hospital in a serious condition. It was at first feared that he had suffered a fracture of the skull, but retained consciousness late yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Appleby was driving along Pandora avenue and had trilled on near Quadra street to speak to W. J. McKeown. The rig on the bit caught over the shaft and when Mr. Appleby started his horse again the animal became unruly and finally bolted along Pandora avenue turning to the right at Blanchard street, and, swerving crashed through the fence in front of Mr. Belanger's residence. Mr. Appleby, as the horse bolted for the sidewalk, was thrown out, his head striking the concrete curb. He was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in the police car. Dr. Fraser and Dr. Leeder attended him. They have every hope that the injured man will suffer no permanent injury.

THE CREDITS REPORT OF THIS PROVINCE

Battleford Man Believes it the Richest in the Dominion and Will Invest in Local Realty—Charmed With Climate

That Battleford, Sask., where he hails from, is going ahead, but that it hasn't anything on Winnipeg and Vancouver, is the opinion of J. O. Watt, who was at the Empress yesterday. Mr. Watt came to the coast to look over some propositions that had come to his attention. He has inspected several pieces of realty quietly and expects to make some investments before he returns. Mr. Watt would not say just where he intends to buy, but he intimated that some of the prosperous farmers around Battleford thought of taking homes here where real estate is steadily increasing in value and where the climate is the best in the Dominion.

"I have been on the Coast before personally," said Mr. Watt, "but a friend who accompanied me on this trip had never visited this part of the country prior to this trip. Unfortunately, he could not remain in Victoria for any length of time. He had to keep moving towards Seattle on account of business there. But in the brief time he did stay here he was immensely impressed with the beauty of this city. Both of us are taken with the immense possibilities of British Columbia. I have heard it said that British Columbia is the richest province in the Dominion and I am inclined to credit the statement. The prairie country is going ahead in leaps and bounds and will continue to do so, but unless I am a poorer prophet than people give me credit for, in two years will work some wonderful magic in British Columbia."

WESTERN MEAT TRUST

Breeders and Shippers Say it Controls Trade From Winnipeg to Pacific Coast

WINNIPEG, March 18.—Important statements were made at a meeting of stockbreeders and livestock shippers held here yesterday to discuss the so-called meat trust in western Canada. The organization will urge that a public abattoir be established at once in Winnipeg or at Boniface, the provincial government having already voted \$150,000 towards the scheme. The stockmen claimed that a combination controlled both the transportation and the buying ends of the meat trade, and because of this control dictated any terms they liked from the shippers. This combination, they asserted, extends to all parts of the west, and shippers are finding it impossible to do business on the Pacific coast unless they bow to the will of the combination.

It was also said that the combination controlled a number of retail shops in the city where they regulated prices so as to keep anyone else out of the business. As the same combination controlled the wholesale end of the trade they could do as they liked with those who tried to compete with their retail stores. It was charged that the St. Boniface stockyard proposition was tied up on account of trouble in the ranks of the company itself, and the opinion was expressed that some "one man interest" was trying to get full control before the stockyard was constructed.

J. G. Barron, president of the Cattle Breeders' Association, presided, and the discussion criticizing stockyard conditions was participated in by the leading breeders of the province, cattle breeders, sheep and swine breeders, grain growers and livestock shippers. Steve Benson of Neepawa, told of the correspondence with Dr. Rutherford on the subject and also with E. J. Palmer, secretary of the Meats Export, Ltd., who were taking the matter up in Alberta. The Alberta men are trying to improve the chilled meat trade, and they have asked the Dominion government to help them, but as an expenditure of over eight million dollars was necessary no action has as yet been taken. Palmer in his letters suggested that the chilled meat plant be located in Winnipeg, with four provinces and a big plant at Vancouver.

CARACAS, Venezuela, March 18.—The Rev. A. Bally, a missionary of the Christian Missionary Alliance and agent for the American Bible Society, while holding services at Guarema, was attacked by the Catholic population. He escaped uninjured. An Italian convert was thrown into a ditch. The Bibles used at the services were destroyed by the assailants. The Italian minister has asked for an investigation of the incident. The United States minister, Mr. Russell, has also demanded that the foreign office investigate the assault and that reparation be made.

THEY ARE COMING HERE FROM OREGON

J. S. Forsyth States that Many Prosperous Farmers Will Migrate to British Columbia This Year

British Columbia will be the Mecca of scores of prosperous ranchers from Oregon this summer, according to J. S. Forsyth, a young Englishman who has spent the winter at Airile, Ore., and who is now a guest at the Driad, Mr. Forsyth is on his way to Edmonton to look over the country surrounding that city with a view to homesteading or pre-empting. Last summer he worked at Saskatchewan at farming out in the fall he went to Airile, where his brother, T. Forsyth, has been in the logging business for the past three years. Mr. Forsyth expects that his brother will divorce Oregon now too and seek a new home with him in Alberta or British Columbia.

Speaking of Oregon, Mr. Forsyth said that personally he did not care for that state and that his brother "was pretty well fed up with it too." "The weather there in the winter," said Mr. Forsyth, "is very wet and dreary. It rains almost all the time and it is cold too. I do not care for it at all. Then the homestead regulations in Oregon are so ridiculous compared to those of Canada. In Oregon one must put in five years to own eighty acres, while in this country a man can obtain 160 acres in three years and get better land. The farmers of Oregon are getting wise to this and scores of them will come to British Columbia and other Canadian provinces this summer. I have a whole string of addresses to which I have promised to give my opinion of the country.

"Some of the people in Oregon wanted me to go in for dairy farming but after I had looked over the possibilities it didn't appeal to me. It strikes me however that there are fine opportunities for that line of business here in British Columbia. It may be that my brother and I will come back and settle in British Columbia but first we will have a look at the country around Edmonton and perhaps take a run up into the Peace River country."

MANUFACTURES FOR CITY

Campaign of Development League is Likely to Result in Establishment of Industries Here

The campaign organized by the Vancouver Island Development League to induce manufacturers to settle in Victoria and vicinity is already bringing in a number of inquiries. The latest communications received, by that organization is one from Mark Wright, of Chattertown, B. C. He states that he intends removing his furniture and bedding manufactory to Victoria. He is anxious to find the cost of renting a building for the manufacture of wire and stuffed mattresses. He recently has been in the city situated on the outskirts of the town. Another inquiry comes from Irvine Smith of Stanley, Iowa, whose gas-engine manufactory was recently burned out, and who is seeking another location. His firm claims to make the best gasoline engine on the North American continent. He is anxious to know what are the prospects for such an industry here. Both inquiries the fullest information of the island's resources and prospects is being sent.

LLOYD GEORGE ILL

Goes to Brighton for Rest—Friends Fear He is Suffering from Physical Collapse

LONDON, March 18.—Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd George, on the verge of what his friends fear is a physical collapse, left today for Brighton for six weeks' rest. The Chancellor plainly shows the results of the terrific work he has been undergoing in the last six months. "I simply need a brief rest," he said, in talking leave of his friends, but the latter are afraid he is over-sanguine, and the latter are afraid of his condition, but the political situation is still so complicated that it is not believed the Chancellor will submit to so long a period of inactivity as his condition requires.

Turkey Orders Battleships

LONDON, March 18.—Contracts for two battleships and a cruiser, the nucleus of the new Turkish navy, were placed today with the builders at Anwick, Harrow, by the Admiralty. The order represents an expenditure of \$15,000,000.

Big Railroad Deals

NEW YORK, March 18.—The announcement was made this afternoon that the Lake Shore railroad has rejected the Toledo and Ohio Central and Zanesville and Western railroads. The Chesapeake and Ohio has acquired large stock holdings of the Hocking Valley, and the Lake Shore and Chesapeake and Ohio have acquired the Kanawha and Michigan stock owned by the Hocking Valley.

Canadian Bank Clearings

NEW YORK, March 18.—Bradstreet's weekly bank clearings: Montreal, \$39,214,000; increase, 43.9 per cent. Toronto, 25,335,000; increase, 13.3 per cent. Winnipeg, \$13,411,000; increase, 19.6 per cent. Vancouver, \$8,434,000; increase, 90.5 per cent. Ottawa, 2,540,000; increase, 6.1 per cent. Quebec, \$2,221,000; decrease, 12.0 per cent. Calgary, \$3,216,000; increase, 45.5 per cent. Halifax, \$1,725,000; increase, 2.6 per cent. Hamilton, \$2,265,000; increase, 84.7 per cent. St. John, \$1,315,000; increase, 19.7 per cent. Victoria, \$1,678,000; increase, 29.5 per cent. London, \$1,314,000; increase, 16.4 per cent. Edmonton, \$1,057,000; increase, 32.6 per cent. Mrs. G. A. Stewart Potts and daughter are guests of Capt. and Mrs. Clarke, 1180 Summit street.



Visitors From Paris Hold a Daily Reception in Our New Premises

With a cordiality begotten of well-grounded confidence in our splendid Spring Displays, we again invite every lover of artistic Millinery and stylish Costumes to come again today. During the last few days hundreds have favorably criticised our smart and exclusive collection of Pattern Hats. Each one is a distinctive model, produced by the leading artistes of the world.

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Rev. H. R. Grant of Fernie has received a call to Prince Rupert.

Old Courtymen of Salmon Arm held a banquet last week.

Arrangements have been made for an all night telephone service at Trail.

Kootenay is forming a mountaineers' club with headquarters at Nelson.

New Westminster has definitely abandoned the incinerator scheme.

Princeton wants the government to appoint a town nightwatchman.

Golf enthusiasts are forming a club in Kamloops.

There is a big wash-out on the G. N. R. near Myncester.

Mr. F. P. ("Pop") Gouge is at Nanaimo hospital with blood poisoning.

Rossland's aldermen have decided against the proposition to make Sunday store closing compulsory.

Contractor Matly has begun the erection of the new public school at Hazelton.

A. J. Prudhomme has received the contract for the building of the new public school at Prince Rupert.

Mathias, eldest son of the late Chief Joe, has succeeded to the rulership of the Cayland Indian tribe.

New Westminster has decided to add an automobile chemical and hose wagon to its fire department equipment.

Rumor has it that the Postil Rancho at Okanagan Mission has been sold for a sum over the six figure mark.

There is much dissatisfaction in the Okanagan and the Simulameen over the irregularity of coast mail service.

The wedding was celebrated last week at Dr. McEwen's. Hedley and Miss Lillian Smith of Orlia.

The Provincial Teachers' Institute meets in Nelson on the 29th, 30th and 31st instant.

The town of Skidgate will be put on the market in a few weeks. Surveyors are now at work platting out the streets.

Kenneth Croft of Kamloops jumped the gun and was fined \$50 for not having a license with a broken leg.

The Merchants Bank of Canada is opening a branch at Elko with Mr. J. Manning as manager.

The annual meeting of the Yale Central Conservative association was held at Spences Bridge Tuesday evening.

Snowstorms between Princeton and Otter Flat are greatly interfering with construction work on the V. Y. and E. R.

North Vancouver has experienced a sense of shame and awe upon the closing of its real estate offices on Sunday.

Dryburgh, a fisherman who was drowned by falling overboard during the last voyage of the steamer "Kilgobbin" was the son of the late Halibut banks.

Miss Paton, of the staff of the Winnipeg General Hospital, has been appointed matron of the Inland General Hospital at Kamloops.

Arturo Pietro is an trial at Michel for using a knife upon three of his companions during a saloon quarrel a few days ago.

Kurwin Jones a young Welshman, was killed at Summerland last week by the team he was driving striking a telephone pole. Jones' skull was fractured.

Football play is suspected in connection with the death of Edward Hansen, whose body was found floating east of Dibley Island last week. There were several ugly wounds on the body.

Cheap power and a free site are the inducements being offered to secure Nelson city council for the establishment of new industries at Nelson.

Nelson board of trade has passed a resolution thanking the Dominion Government for providing \$100,000 in the estimates for the encouragement of the zinc industry.

Kelowna board of trade has endorsed Cranbrook's action in agitating for an amendment to the Municipal Clauses Act giving a license for \$100 on transient real estate agents.

Simon Ivay, a Coal Creek miner, has received serious injuries by being knocked down and driven over by a loaded team. His hip is injured and his right leg broken.

Rosa Koehn, the four-year-old daughter of a Russian homesteader of Ruskin, was burned to death Monday by a clearing fire reaching her as she lay sleeping in a pile of hay.

The storm was so severe and the snowfall so heavy between Princeton and Otter Flat last week that one stage team required three days to make eight miles of its journey.

The provincial government offered a reward of \$500 for the apprehension of the Coal Creek robber, and three arrests were made within the ensuing 24 hours, proving the truth of the old axiom, it pays to advertise.

Thomas Davis and Fred Talbot, the miners arrested on suspicion of implicating in the Coal Creek robbery, have been clearing a way for the police to whatever to connect them with the crime.

Business is suspended today in Revelstoke where the funeral is being held for the unidentified victims of the Rogers' Pass disaster. A memorial service for the unidentified dead will be held Sunday, in which all the Revelstoke clergy will unite.

The entire section of the Grand Trunk and Pacific between the McLeod river and Tete Jaune Cache, 180 miles will be put under contract this summer by Foley, Welch & Stewart; 75 miles of this stretch in the McLeod district was already been sublet.