

EPISODES OF THE PAST

LaBelle's Only Regret for His Family.

Fournier's Dark Past and His Faceliousness During the Last Few Days.

It is human nature to hand the dead bouquets of flowers after they have passed from the land of the living and there are none who have been so despicable in life that some one can not be found who is aware of some good traits possessed by the deceased. If they themselves are wholly unredeemable their families will be the recipients of encomiums which might have been theirs, under different conditions, and the offender is generously referred to as the black sheep of the family. Since the execution of La Belle and Fournier quite a number of little incidents pertaining to their former life and connections have appeared which have never been given publicity. A gentleman in the city who is quite well known is well acquainted with La Belle's family, having boarded with them a number of years ago. He was formerly a resident of Montreal and spent a summer at the village of Saint Rose, thirty miles from Montreal, where La Belle's people still reside. In speaking of the family the narrator referred to them as being well to do and highly thought of in their community. Both of La Belle's parents are still living and he also has three sisters and two brothers, one of the former being the wife of a Mr. Leonard, a member of the Dominion parliament. Edward, the eldest of the sons, always lived at home until the Klondike boom swept over the entire country and he became infected with the fever in its most rabid form.

Knowing La Belle so well, the acquaintance of years ago visited him quite frequently during his incarceration and particularly after the sentence of death had been passed. The day before the execution he was with him for an hour or two during which time La Belle spoke freely of his approaching death. He stated that it was inevitable and he was prepared for death. He had but one regret, one idea that troubled him and that worried him constantly. It was the disgrace, the stigma that would be attached to his family as the result of his crime and his ignominious death. He frequently spoke of his mother and of his sisters, of his brother-in-law and the exalted position he occupied and of the ignominy he would suffer from being connected with a murderer whose crime would be expiated on the gallows. He was sorry he had ever left home, remarking that he was happy as long as he was farming about Saint Rose, but since leaving there he had never known a happy hour. He was all right until the Klondike craze struck his little village and then something seemed to impel him to seek his fortune in the north. His father did not want him to leave and it was against his parents' wishes that he decided to join the procession then headed for the Klondike.

Regarding the crime of which he was convicted, he would say nothing beyond remarking that he had told the priest everything and that it was all right and he was prepared to die. He said he deserved his fate and had no ill feelings toward any of those who had been instrumental in effecting his capture and subsequent conviction. That La Belle was sincere in his repentance could not be doubted when it is known that the fact that Fournier persistently refused to see the priest worried him greatly. To his mind he had made his own peace with his Maker and that Fournier should not do likewise was to him incomprehensible. Not that he had any feelings of regard for him, but he could not understand how a man in his position could dare go to his death without first seeking the forgiveness and consolation afforded by his religion. To the very last La Belle refused to write to his people though he was in receipt of many letters from them. He said he did not dare to write to them. If he did he would remember ever after what he had written and the thought of it would so unnerve him he would be helpless on the day of the execution. He maintained silence in order to preserve his nerve.

Of Fournier's past and his connections but little is known beyond the fact that his mother is still living somewhere in eastern Canada. He would never speak of his people and if they were ever referred to by those with whom he would talk he immediately became very angry and would not say another word. He left his home 25 years ago and has been a wanderer on the face of the earth ever since. The police have picked up a portion of his record here and there enough to show that his hands had been steeped in blood long before he ever made his compact with La Belle. He admitted as much to Detective Welsh while they were still good friends and before Fournier became

very angry with him. One day they were speaking of the Murder island affair and Fournier said in his quaint broken English:

"You, Welsh, I tell you something some day. When I tell you about Nevada, Sacramento, California, and Seattle, maybe Chicago, I tell you your eyes stick out like dat," and he rolled his eyes about to indicate the most intense surprise. But the story Welsh forgot for he never got. Soon afterward Fournier became angry with him and ever after he refused to talk of the past. The Nevada affair he referred to, however, is known to the police in a small town in that state a number of years ago the postmaster was killed and the once robbed. Fournier was suspected and placed under arrest. At his trial he was convicted of the robbery and while it was morally certain he had also killed the postmaster evidence to convict him could not be obtained. For the robbery he was sentenced to five years and served his time.

The last day of two Fournier was very facetious and made La Belle the out of many of his heartless jests. Their cells opened on the same corridor and were side by side, only an eight foot cell separating them. They could not see each other, but one could hear the other's voice if they spoke even in an ordinary tone. A few days ago La Belle had a cold and was quite hoarse, coughing considerably. Some need incarnate possessed Fournier for he sang out to his partner in crime, "I say, Monsieur La Belle, I think you got one bad cold, eh? What's de matter with your throat? You feel de rope already? Heh?" The day before the execution he called out to La Belle in a loud voice, "I say, Monsieur La Belle, what luck you think we have in de big stampede tomorrow?"

One man only made a desperate attempt to see the execution-take place and that was Chief Silas. On that eventful morning Silas arose early and rushed in from his tepee at Mooshide in order to see the manner in which the white men punished the grave offenders against the law. He had neglected to procure a pass beforehand and of everyone he would meet he would inquire where the sheriff was. Not being able to locate that official about the barracks he invaded his home and as an Indian was never known to knock at a door when entering a house the first thing the inmates of the sheriff's residence knew the chief was among them. "Where sheriff? Me see white man hang," was his greeting, and when informed he was not at home Silas pointed to the telephone hanging on the wall and said "You talk em dat." "Dat" was talked into but without effect as the sheriff was busily engaged where telephone connection could not be had with him. Not daunted, however, Silas pushed over to the barracks and went in with the crowd to see the execution.

Sheriff Cudahy, of Seattle, who had charge of the Tracey episode, was mailed a pass and will add it to his collection of historical souvenirs.

GUSHER NOT GUSHING

Yesterday's Report of New Outbreak Incorrect.

Acting Dominion Engineer Macpherson stated this morning that he pointed to emphatically deny the yarn published in the News last evening that the gusher on Eldorado had burst out again. He says there has been a small seepage through the gravel for the last ten days, the cause of which is unknown, but an outlet will be made, as soon as the weather permits, to ascertain the cause by taking off the layer of filling above the concrete in the shaft. Mr. Matheson, the contractor, has volunteered his services and the use of what plant may be required to do this work, and has been on the ground ready to begin operations ever since last Monday.

Mr. Macpherson received a telephone message from Mr. Matheson this morning stating that the report referred to was entirely incorrect and that the seepage was no larger now than at any time within the past few days and does not seem to be increasing. A flow of water did come down Eldorado creek yesterday afternoon but this was caused by Antoine Stander cutting a small drain to let out water which had accumulated in one of his old workings.

HOSPITAL NOTES.

Hans Jeppon was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital yesterday evening, from the Forks, suffering from acute rheumatism. Frans Hall, of the Holborn restaurant, is convalescing. He was permitted to take a short walk today. James Smith, whose fingers had to be amputated yesterday, is doing very nicely.

Cause of Stage Fright

An expert claims that stage fright really comes from a disordered stomach. He argues from this fact that persons in Dawson contemplating appearance should be careful of their diet and always buy groceries of Dunham, where they are always sure of getting the purest and best.

CANADA WILL SHARE IN NIAGARA'S POWER

Rival Electric Companies State Their Claims to Participate in Utilising the Force of the Great Cataract.

Toronto, Dec. 28.—For nearly two hours yesterday afternoon the members of the Ontario government listened to the arguments advanced by representatives of rival power companies, in connection with the development of electric power, in progress and projected, at Niagara Falls. The question at issue was the location of the intake power house and tunnel of the new concern promoted by Toronto capitalists, which proposes to locate its power plant at the projecting point within the park immediately below the Dufferin islands bridge. The plans provide for the construction of a wing dam to conduct the water to the intake. The water will be dropped 136 feet on the turbines beneath the power house and after passing the turbines will be conducted through a tunnel by the shortest route beneath the river bed to a point immediately below the falls. The Canadian Niagara Power Co., a rival concern, welcomed competition, but urged that the new company should be bound by not less onerous restrictions than had been imposed upon them ten years ago. They also pleaded for protection in their vested rights, and contended that their supply would be materially interfered with by the wing dam.

The Canadian Niagara Power Co. was represented by Mr. William B. Rankine, vice-president; Mr. Clemens Herschel, consulting hydraulic engineer; Mr. C. E. Smith, resident engineer; A. Monro, Grier, K.C., solicitor and secretary; and Mr. Wallace Nesbitt, K.C., general counsel. The Ontario Power Co. was represented by Mr. A. W. Malby, director; Banker R. Payne, general manager; O. Subr, engineer; and Mr. Miller Lash, solicitor. Mr. Jesse Rothry superintendent, and Mr. T. G. Blackstock, K.C., looked after the interests of the Niagara Falls Park & River Railway Company. The applicants were represented by Lieut.-Col. Pellatt, Mr. Fred Nicholls, Mr. James J. R. Croes, consulting engineer; Mr. Hugh L. Cooper, hydraulic engineer; Mr. Christopher Robinson, K.C.; Mr. H. H. Macrae, solicitor; Mr. Amelius Irving, K.C. watched the proceedings on behalf of the government.

The deputation was received by the premier and Hon. J. M. Gibson, Hon. J. R. Stratton, Hon. Richard Harcourt, Hon. John Dryden, The Queen Victoria Park Niagara Falls Commission was represented by Messrs. J. W. Langmuir, Robert Jeffrey, James Bamfield, Geo. Wilkes and A. W. Campbell. Mr. J. W. Langmuir, chairman of the Park Commission, read a memorandum, stating that Messrs. Macenzie, Pellatt and Nicholls have made an application for a pass-site within the park, together with the right to take sufficient water from the Niagara river and to construct the necessary works for the generation of 100,000 electrical horse power. The commissioners reported that they had carefully examined the plans of the proposed works, and certain amendments and modifications recommended by them in reference to the question of interference with the rights and privileges already granted to other companies to generate power within the park had been accepted by the applicants. They also submitted plans showing the location of the different works. The Ontario Power Company's site is the most southerly location, and therefore cannot be affected by the granting of the application now asked for. It therefore remained to consider the rights and privileges that have been granted to the Canadian Niagara Power Company, which is the one nearest the falls. This location was so well and carefully selected by the engineers of the company, both in respect to depth and volume of water, natural current and other important physical conditions, that its intake of water cannot be interfered with unless the rights granted to the Ontario Power Company and those proposed to be granted to the present applicants are exceeded beyond the limits of their respective agreements. The plans of the Ontario company and of the applicants, as approved by the commissioners, are such that the natural flow into the intake of the Canadian Niagara Power Company will not be diverted or the volume of water injuriously reduced by the withdrawal of water through the operations of the other companies.

In support of this view the opinion was quoted by Mr. James J. R. Croes, one of the most eminent consulting engineers in America, who also stated that the subtraction of 11,200 cubic feet of water per second at the location and in the manner proposed will not appreciably lower the elevation of the water at the intake of the Canadian Niagara Power Company. In view of these facts the commissioners therefore, subject to the approval of the detailed plans and specifications and the execution of a formal agreement containing all necessary provisions and terms and conditions contained in the agreements with the other power companies, reported that they were prepared to recommend the application of Messrs. Macenzie, Pellatt and Nicholls to the favorable consideration of the government.

Mr. Herschel, on behalf of the

MUNICIPAL PROBLEMS

Discussed by a Famous Author

Goldwin Smith Presents His Views Before Canadian Club in Toronto.

Discussion of municipal matters is of interest in Dawson just now when a new city administration is just taking office. Some of the difficulties and problems that are met in other and older communities are well brought forward in an address delivered by Goldwin Smith to a Toronto audience. The following is from a recent issue of the Globe—

Mr. Goldwin Smith addressed the Canadian Club, after the weekly luncheon yesterday, on the subject of "Municipal Government." There was the largest attendance in the history of the club. Mr. Smith spoke briefly and pointedly. "We are making two great mistakes," he said. "We are trying to run the city with a village organization, and trying to treat a business administration as a political one." His solution of the problem was government by a commission.

One great point had been gained by the meeting, said Mr. Smith, in opening, by directing to municipal government the attention of a large body of young men. A few days ago he had been asked to give his impressions of Toronto for the thirty years since he had settled here. The general picture was entirely favorable. The wealth and the signs of wealth had greatly increased, the street traffic that thirty years ago had been very small was now a rush of vehicles of all kinds, a fact much appreciated by rickety old gentlemen.

He did not think, however, that the municipal government had improved during the thirty years. It had rather gone backward. The mayors and councilmen of those days were better than now. The growth of the city had been against improvement.

When he came to Toronto he had settled at Brockton, and they had had an unsatisfactory council. The people had got together and elected better men. That had been easy in a place where everybody knew everybody else, but it was impossible in a large city, where people do not know their neighbors. He thought, to put the question in a brief form, they were making two great mistakes. They were trying to run the city with a village organization, and trying to treat administrative affairs as if they were political. The system had come down from the middle ages, when there were none of the great complicated problems of administration; the water supply was the well, sewage and garbage were thrown into the middle of the street; there was no public lighting; instead of a police force, when trouble arose the whole population turned out under arms. Part of their functions were political, as, for instance, the withstanding of encroachments by the crown, the nobility and the church. City government then was really an oligarchy of leading citizens; now a city was a great administrative area, requiring expert knowledge and training.

The men who ought to be in council, Mr. Smith continued, were too busy. He recalled how some years ago, when the city finances had got into bad shape, a meeting was held in the board of trade building, and it was decided to bring out for mayor a man of tried business capacity. After much urging Mr. Osler was persuaded. He gave his time and money to the work, and was defeated, although three-quarters of the taxpaying electors voted for him. What business, he asked, could succeed if managed by a minority of the stockholders? It was in the nominations that the difficulty arose. The right men were not brought out. He tried to find out every year something about the candidates for council, and he had had to apply to a member of his household who knew more about them than he did. In fact, for some years he had voted his butler's straight ticket—laughter.

There, he continued, was the problem. The system would not work. The business of the city was administrative in the highest degree, and should be entrusted only to experts. Municipal government was the great problem of this continent, and a solution had been found if the people would only adopt it. Some years ago the municipal government of Washington became so bad that even the Republicans, who were in power, decided that something had to be done. A commission was appointed by the president, with the result that the city had made rapid advances, was becoming the social capital of the republic, and, largely because it was not under an elective government, was becoming one of the most desirable places of residence in America. Mr. Smith said he was a Liberal, and in favor of elective government in its place, but where it would

NEW ROADS ALL RIGHT.

Mr. Bertrand Returns From a General Inspection.

Superintendent of Public Works Bertrand returned this morning from a trip of several days to inspect the new winter roads recently constructed. In the course of this he visited all the creeks and found the roads in a generally satisfactory condition. He was particularly pleased with the new road from the left fork of Hunker over the Lombard divide. This he was relieved to find in a very good shape, only about two hundred feet of it being drifted which can easily be kept open by one man. The road down Sulphur to Gold Run was also found in excellent condition.

Two Water Rights.

The gold commissioner today granted two water rights, one to Alex Macdonald to divert water from 30 feet limit of hydraulic reserve on Hunker, to the hill claims 28, 29 and 30, opposite, 120 inches for two years. The other grant was to McWilliam & Johnson, to divert water from Sourdough gulch, a tributary of Bonanza at 67 below, to hill claims lower half of 67 below and the upper half of 69a left limit of lower Dominion; 100 inches for three years.

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not work it only brought discredit upon itself. There was no use in talking about doing away with the ward divisions. The citizens could not combine to bring forward the best men, and if they did the best men would not be elected.

There was now a mania for municipal trading. He thought the municipality should manage the police, the water supply, public lighting, locomotive service, but he did not see why it should want to take trading out of the hands of the regular traders.

"As the earth is round," said the learned professor, "there are no corners on it."

"Think not!" spoke up the listener. "How about the wheat corner, the beet corner and a thousand other corners?"—Chicago News.

Daughter—Oh, mamma, Reggie Montvert is down in the parlor. I know he's going to propose!

Mother—Well, accept him, my dear. I detest the fellow so much that, I intend to be his mother-in-law.

Harvard Lampoon.

WHITE-PASS AND C. P. R.

Latter Is Said to be in Complete Control

Traffic Manager Lee is Really the Agent of the C. P. R. All the Time.

The resignation of J. Francis Lee from the position of traffic manager of the White Pass is old news to us, and also the fact that such resignation revived the rumors that have several times been published during the past two years that the White Pass had passed into the hands of the Canadian Pacific. The Toronto Globe connected the two in a more logical manner than any previous publication on the subject, and in a number of hints that Mr. Lee when he left the service of the Canadian Pacific was really sent by that company to the White Pass to familiarize himself with the details of its management, and that having accomplished this, and the White Pass having gone under the complete control of the Canadian Pacific, he has now returned to that company. This seems to be a logical sequence of events that bears a strong significance. This is what the Globe of December 25th has to say in regard to it.

"Some surprise has been created in railroad circles by the announcement that Mr. J. Francis Lee, who was traffic manager of the White Pass & Yukon Railway, has resigned his position and left the employment of that road altogether. It is generally understood here that the Canadian Pacific, which always had intimate relations with the White Pass & Yukon road, has now obtained complete control of that railway, and will manage it directly from Montreal. No successor has been appointed to Mr. Lee, and the circular that announces his resignation simply directs all communications regarding traffic to be addressed to the traffic department.

"Mr. J. Francis Lee left the service of the Canadian Pacific Railway to accept the position of traffic manager for the White Pass & Yukon. He will be well remembered in Toronto as travelling passenger agent of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific when, about 1883, he was appointed travelling passenger agent for the Canadian Pacific. After holding this position for a number of years, Mr. Lee was promoted to the position of general agent in the passenger department of the Canadian Pacific at Chicago, which position he retained until he went with the White Pass & Yukon Co."

"The taking over of the latter road

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