

The Semi-Weekly Telegraph

VOL. XLVI.

ST. JOHN N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1907.

NO. 52

THAW BACKS UP WIFE'S STORY

Issues Statement Declaring Her Evidence True in Every Respect

Scores Jerome for Ungentlemanly Conduct in Examining Her—Says Her Natural Goodness is Beyond District Attorney's Comprehension—Dr. Evans Still of Opinion That Prisoner was Insane Before and at Time of Killing Stanford White.

New York, Feb. 28.—Harry K. Thaw... an extremely dull session of his trial in the supreme court today by giving out to newspaper men a brief statement in which he accused District Attorney Jerome of having made unprofessional remarks in court, asserting that his wife's testimony was absolute truth and in conclusion declared that Mrs. Thaw's natural and real goodness was above the comprehension of the prosecuting officer.

Thaw's Statement. "With chances millions to one against her after the catastrophe in 1901, it is wonderful that Mrs. H. K. Thaw prevailed in the cross-examination against the prosecution backed by blacklegs. Her testimony was absolute truth. Our evidence was of conversations. The cross-examination has proved the exact facts under oath.

Thaw began the preparation of this statement yesterday. One of the newspaper tables adjoining the table occupied by his counsel, and a reporter sitting near the defendant read over the latter's shoulder the two opening paragraphs. When the newspapers appeared yesterday with the extracts from his statement printed in display type, Thaw was much chagrined. Today in court he took the reporter to task. He said he had not intended making the statement public until the end of the trial. He further asserted that many mistakes appeared in the portion of the statement which was published and added that he might make a correction later.

Wouldn't Trust Reporters. Last night in his cell in the Tombs Thaw completed his statement and today, after he had spoken to the reporter who had looked over his shoulder, he handed the original draft to another reporter whom he has known for many weeks and in whom he had implicit confidence. He also handed the newspaper man a brown envelope. "Seal the statement up in this envelope," said Thaw, "and write your name across the flap. I am going to have some typewritten copies made and when they are completed I want you to compare them with the original and if they are all right they will be given out."

Clifford Hartridge, of Thaw's counsel, and Mr. Delmas declared later they had no knowledge of the statement having been prepared or given out. Jerome Aiming at Lunacy Commission. Dr. Britton D. Evans, the alienist, was in the witness chair all of today undergoing cross-examination at the hands of District Attorney Jerome. The prosecutor said before adjournment that he would probably keep Dr. Evans on the stand throughout tomorrow. This means that the cross-examination of Dr. Wagner, another alienist, will not be reached until next week and makes indefinite the time when the defense will rest.

Dr. Evans and Mr. Jerome spent the entire day in going over eight letters written by Thaw and calling out of them excerpts on which Dr. Evans based his expressed belief that they were written by a person unsound of mind. "Do you mean an insane person?" asked Mr. Jerome. "Yes," replied the witness, "but not in the sense that the person might always remain insane."

The above was the essence of the day's work. Mr. Jerome seemed as interested as the expert in searching out the phrases in the letters which might be construed as the writings of an insane man, and for the first time the jurors were permitted thoroughly to examine photographic copies of the letters. As the witness and the prosecutor pored tediously over the documents, the jurors were enabled to follow them closely. The district attorney apparently wanted the letters to be thoroughly scrutinized and understood by the jury.

His attitude in this direction again led to the circulation of rumors that he intends to pave the way if possible for a commission in lunacy. FOUR OF MINISTER'S FAMILY KILLED BY DYNAMITE. Rev. Mr. Tittle, Wife, Baby and Former's Father the Victims—Had Explosive Stored in House.

Carmi, Ill., Feb. 28.—By an explosion of dynamite today Rev. J. B. Tittle, his father, his wife and baby were killed, and two children of the family were fatally injured. Mr. Tittle, who was a Baptist minister, had the dynamite in his house expecting to use the explosive in blowing out stumps. The residence was totally destroyed.

RED CROSS AID FOR CHINESE STARVING \$100,000 Has Already Been Forwarded, But Death and Destitution Are Increasing. Washington, Feb. 28.—The American National Red Cross forwarded by cable to China today for the relief of the famine sufferers of that country \$65,000. Of this remittance \$50,000 is advanced by the Christian Herald.

PROHIBITION BILL INTRODUCED IN NOVA SCOTIA HOUSE

Measure Largely Copied from P. E. Island Act—It May Carry. (Special to The Telegraph.) Halifax, N. S., Feb. 28.—The much discussed prohibition bill was introduced today in the legislature by Mr. Armstrong, of Yarmouth.

The bill, which is very drastic in its provisions, is said to be largely a copy of the P. E. Island act. While introduced as a private member's bill, its provisions entailing, as they do, a provincial expenditure, must have the support of the government before it can be effective.

STIFF SENTENCES ON HAMILTON GAMBLERS. (Special to The Telegraph.) Hamilton, Ont., Feb. 28.—The police magistrate gave a section of the sporting fraternity a jolt this morning, by sending Harry Daniels, Wm. Buckingham and J. Hickey to jail for two months and imposed a fine of \$10, in default of payment of which they will have to spend three months longer in jail. All three pleaded guilty to a charge of running gambling houses, raided Sunday morning. Fifty-four men arrested at the time were discharged, no evidence being offered against them.

Want Tan Bark Embargo Lifted. Toronto, Feb. 28.—(Spec)—A deputation of lumbermen and settlers from Parry Sound and other districts waited on Hon. Mr. Cochrane this morning and urged the abrogation of the embargo on tan bark which has been maintained since 1899.

Want Tan Bark Embargo Lifted. Toronto, Feb. 28.—(Spec)—A deputation of lumbermen and settlers from Parry Sound and other districts waited on Hon. Mr. Cochrane this morning and urged the abrogation of the embargo on tan bark which has been maintained since 1899.

SCENES AT HARRIMAN INQUIRY



ALEX GIBSON CRITICALLY ILL

New Brunswick Lumber King Stricken Down With Pneumonia

HAS FIGHTING CHANCE Patient Slightly Improved Last Night But His Great Age is a Handicap—Two Aldermanic Candidates Appear—Shift in Bank Managers.

(Special to The Telegraph.) Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 28.—Alexander Gibson, the lumber and cotton king of New Brunswick, is seriously ill at his home in Marysville from an attack of pneumonia. He has not been enjoying his usual good health for several days, in consequence of the Tuesday grippe, and going out on Tuesday against his physician's advice, he contracted pneumonia.

As Mr. Gibson is in his eighty-seventh year it is feared that he will not be able to survive his present illness. Dr. Fisher remained with him the greater part of last night and this morning Dr. Atterton was called in consultation. They regard the patient's condition as quite critical.

This evening Mr. Gibson is reported to be improved by Dr. Fisher, who thinks that if no complications set in he has a chance for recovery. Rev. A. W. Mason, of St. Andrew's, delivered an interesting lecture before the Fredericton Teachers' Association this evening on a Canadian Humorist, John E. Page occupied the chair.

Subscriptions to the cathedral organ fund now amount to \$5,500. Harry C. Jewett is announced as an aldermanic candidate for Queens ward. D. J. Stockford talks of entering the field as an aldermanic candidate for Wellington ward.

The executive of the Union of Municipalities has been summoned to meet in this city previous to the time that the legislature takes up the bill to amend the charter of the New Brunswick Telephone Company, Ltd. The Union will undoubtedly oppose the bill in its present shape, which is understood the Union will ask for a number of amendments to the bill, including one which will put in reference to the matter of rates and questions which arise when a community desires a telephone line in the hands of a commission or else the government, feeling that the people must be protected against any change in the shape of a monopoly.

L. R. Hayward, a Normal school student, is suffering from the result of a football basket ball game, having had the misfortune to break his left arm and sprain quite badly his right wrist. Mr. Hayward, whose home is in Westmorland county, is a member of the senior class at the Normal school.

At the United Baptist parsonage at Marysville, Bert Peterson and Miss Lavinia Robinson, daughter of Policeman Duncan Robinson, of Marysville, were united in marriage. The ceremony was performed by Rev. H. H. Ferguson. C. M. Manning, manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia branch here, has been transferred to London (Ont.) Mr. Benson, son-in-law of Premier Tweedie, will succeed Mr. Manning. Robert Rosborough, of this city, who opened the branch at London, goes to New Glasgow. Mr. Manning, who is a son-in-law of General Manley McLeod, has been here five years.

BRUTAL OTTAWA HOCKEY PLAYERS LET OFF EASY. Montreal, Feb. 28.—(Special)—All Smith and "Baldy" Spittal, two members of the Ottawa hockey club, were fined \$20 each and costs in the court of special sessions for assault. The charges were laid following the game of Feb. 27, in which the Ottawa men used brutal tactics. The victims of the brutality were Hod Stuart and Cecil Littleford, both of whom were carried off the ice unconscious after they had been knocked down by blows on the head. Both Ottawa players were also compelled to furnish bonds to keep the peace for a year.

Spittal is the player who was with Amherst several years ago, appearing under the name of Smith.

BROTHERS TELL WHY THEY KILLED SISTER'S HUSBAND OF AN HOUR

Culpepper, Va., Feb. 28.—To avenge the wrong done his sister, Phillip Strother, one of the defendants on trial for the murder of his brother-in-law, William Bywaters, today admitted on the witness stand that while he had not anticipated trouble, he "shot to kill" when Bywaters attempted to desert his "bride of an hour."

The knowledge of his sister's betrayal, James A. Strother, the other defendant declared, caused him to feel like a crazy man, and when Bywaters attempted to leave the house he determined to bring her betrayer "to a reckoning." Four witnesses, two brothers, a sister and an uncle of Mrs. Bywaters, testified at today's session.

In its cross-examination, the prosecution was unable to shake Mrs. Gaines' testimony for the defense. There was a pathetic scene in the court room when James A. Strother told of the promise he made his mother on her death bed, "to protect and defend the honor of his sister Viola," the witness breaking down and sobbing. The effect on the jury was apparent.

There is some anxiety over the possibility of the trial coming to a halt on account of the illness of the mother of one of the jurors, C. O. Keller, of Woodstock. It was stated here this afternoon that Mrs. Keller is at the point of death, and that her son is anxious to return immediately to his home.

\$100,000 Utica Fire. Utica, N. Y., Feb. 28.—A fire which broke out in the Mosher block in Blocker street this afternoon, called out the entire department. Four business firms suffered a heavy loss. They are the Standard Brass Works, the B. & C. Electrical works, the A. H. Williams Drug Co., and the J. E. Hodge Wallpaper and paint house. The loss will be in the thousands.

ANOTHER FLYER WRECKED; ONE DEAD AND MANY INJURED. B. and O. Express Goes Over Embankment and Whole Train Burns Up. Connelville, Pa., Feb. 28.—Baltimore & Ohio train No. 49, west-bound, being eighteen minutes late and running forty miles an hour, was wrecked tonight near Indian Creek, seven miles east of here. The entire train, consisting of a combination smoking and baggage car, two day coaches and the private car of Robert J. Finney, superintendent of the Pittsburgh division of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, left the rails and, after running for 200 feet along the ties, was thrown into a ditch at the foot of a mountain, where the wreckage was completely burned.

The engine was killed, the fireman fatally injured, and the baggage master, express messenger, conductor and six passengers were seriously injured. About thirty passengers were more or less cut and bruised. The dead: William Irwin, Pittsburg, engineer, caught under the wrecked engine and burned to death before the passenger car was derailed. The injured: T. R. Frederick, Pittsburg, fireman.

DOMINION STEEL COMPANY TO CUT WAGES TEN PER CENT. Sydney, N. S., Feb. 28.—Dominion Iron and Steel Company have notified the men employed in the blooming mill, rod mill and open hearth furnace of a cut in wages. The cut will average about ten per cent. There is a good deal of dissatisfaction at the announcement and several of the best men have signified their intention of leaving. For the past few months the company have been steadily losing good employees. The mill men, who are getting a bonus of 25 cents a ton, will now get only 10 cents a ton.

SCHEME FOR OLD AGE ANNUITIES

Wage Earner, After 39 Years Paying, Could Draw \$120 Per Annum

Sir Richard Cartwright Unfolds a Plan in Senate to Keep a Man After Sixty Years of Age from the Alms House—Start at 21 and Pay Half a Day's Pay a Week into Government Fund and Take it Easy Later On.

(Special to The Telegraph.) Ottawa, Feb. 28.—Sir Richard Cartwright in the senate today said that the matter of old age pensions was of no small importance. He had received a good deal of attention in Great Britain and in other colonies, and he had no doubt would engage much attention in Canada. In Canada there was little chance that any frugal and industrious man could not acquire a competence for his age, if given a fair opportunity.

There had been distress among the wage earners in Canada but the land now enjoyed great prosperity and the present might be regarded as a very good time for Canadian wage earners to make provision for other times, which might unfortunately come. Sir Richard said he did not believe in old age pensions for Canada, but thought the wage earner should be given an opportunity at a reasonable cost of obtaining an annuity guaranteed by the state for his years of age. He said that Canada could at an infinitesimal expense afford wage earners the opportunity of buying a competence in the form of an annuity.

Absolute Safety. To make any scheme of old age annuities a success three things were necessary. In the first place it should be absolutely safe, and therefore should be insured in the classes it desires to reach. There should be absolute assurance that no depositor could lose any of his savings. In the second place, to ensure success, there must be absolute freedom from any forfeiture. No scheme was of much use to a working man if on ceasing his pay for a time he should lose what he had put in.

What a Man Would Get. Sir Richard said he had secured careful actuarial calculations and the results were rather surprising. He had ascertained that allowing an interest rate of three and a half per cent and three-quarter per cent with the present average wage and the present average duration of life in Canada, this result could be obtained, with little or no cost to the state: Any man by paying the earnings of an hour and a half a day, or half a day a week and beginning at the age of 21 years, could be assured, at the age of 60 years, of an annuity of \$120 a year, and if he were willing to forego the annuity until he was 65 years of age he could be paid an annuity then of \$200.

Sir Richard said the mode of payment would have to be made easy, and he would have the funds separated and held by commissioners for this service. While chiefly intended for wage earners, annuities would be also available and of benefit to farmers and all other classes. Hon. G. W. Ross intimated that he would continue the debate on some future occasion.

BRITAIN'S NAVAL PLANS HANG FIRE

Depends on Hague Conference Whether Programme is Carried Out. GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN OFFICE 20 YEARS. Formerly Active in Business and a Leading Citizen of the Capital—Leaves Behind the Record of a Good Life.

(Special to The Telegraph.) London, Feb. 28.—A statement of the naval estimates for 1907-8 presented to parliament tonight, introduces quite a novel feature, inasmuch as it makes the construction of battleships during the coming year dependent in a measure upon the decisions reached at the next peace conference at the Hague. Thus the new construction, estimated at \$40,500,000, against \$46,175,000 for 1906-7, will, says Lord Tweedmouth, first lord of the admiralty, include two or, unless an understanding between the naval powers is reached at the Hague conference, three large armored vessels of the Dreadnought type.

One fast unarmored cruiser, five torpedo boat destroyers, twelve torpedo boats and twelve submarines also are provided for. On April 1 there will be under construction five battleships, seven armored cruisers, eight torpedo boat destroyers, seven torpedo boats and twelve submarines. The estimates for the year show a total reduction of 1,000 men and \$5,675,000 compared to 1906-7.

Lord Tweedmouth commented upon the striking improvement in the gunnery of the fleet, compared to last year. The average of hits was practically doubled, and the improvement was general throughout the fleet and not confined to a picked selection of crack ships. He mentions also the highly satisfactory performances of the battleship Dreadnought, and the greater efficiency that has resulted from the system of nucleus crews. He said the fleet at home will continue to combine, for war purposes, under the orders of the commander of the Channel fleet, in other words, Lord Beresford; while the Channel, Atlantic and "home" fleets will carry out their periodic manoeuvres together under his command.

This presumably meets Lord Beresford's objection that practically all vessels of the destroyer class had been taken from the Channel squadron for the "home" fleet, as Lord Beresford is now in virtual command of both fleets. No Opposition to Solicitor-General. Three Rivers, Feb. 28.—(Special)—Hon. Jacques Bureau, solicitor-general, is elected by acclamation.

DEATH OF AUDITOR GENERAL BEEK. Passed Away in Fredericton at an Early Hour Friday Morning. Formerly Active in Business and a Leading Citizen of the Capital—Leaves Behind the Record of a Good Life. (Special to The Telegraph.) Fredericton, March 1.—Auditor General James S. Beek died at his residence here at 1.30 o'clock this morning.

Mr. Beek was ninety-two years of age and for three months he had been suffering from mental trouble and general breakdown. Towards the last he did not recognize his friends. For twenty years Auditor-General Beek was in the service of the province and until last December was remarkably healthy and vigorous, being able to discharge his duties to that time. Since December 1 he had been in failing health. James S. Beek was born in Cork, Ireland, twenty years ago and came to this country with his parents when a boy of ten years. He landed in St. John but all his life. He entered mercantile life and became a great force in the capital and was much interested in civic politics. For some years he served as alderman and was also mayor. On the occasion of the visit of King Edward—then Prince of Wales—to Fredericton, Mr. Beek was chief executive and read an address of welcome to the prince. In 1887 he was appointed auditor-general of the province and filled that position worthily for twenty years, retiring last December, when he was superannuated. He was always interested in everything that tended for the uplifting of the city, and was a strong advocate of temperance, each year he was elected an officer of the local branch of the Bible Society. For some time he acted as justice of the peace. About three years ago he was awarded the distinction of an imperial service order. Auditor-General Beek was married three times. His first wife was Miss Barber, his third wife, who died about ten years ago, was a daughter of the late Hon. John A. Partlow, of St. John. One daughter, Miss Carter, survives. GREAT INCREASE IN CUSTOMS RECEIPTS. Ottawa, Feb. 28.—(Special)—The customs receipts of the dominion for the eight months of the fiscal year ended today show a revenue of \$34,552,381, or an increase of nearly \$5,000,000 over the same time last year. The revenue for the month of February was \$4,207,732, or an increase of \$870,000.