

SONET

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# INMATE OF ASYLUM KILLS WIFE AND SELF

## Free To Come and Go As He Liked Made Threats, But Was Considered Very Gentle.

**SUPT. CLARK of the asylum:** "Of course the man was allowed to visit his home at any time. He was a very gentle old man, and showed very little anxiety all the time he was here. It may be true that the asylum authorities were notified that he had made threats, but nobody dreamed of his doing anything like that."

### Asylum Authorities Regarded Gustave Merkt as a Gentle Old Man, Fit to Be Released.

## RELATIVES REPORTED HE HAD MADE THREATS

An inmate of an asylum, confined there because his family had fears for their safety because of him, yet apparently allowed to come and go from the Queen-street institution for the insane as he pleased—that was the condition of affairs concerning Gustave Merkt which yesterday afternoon in his shooting and killing his wife, and then himself at the Merkt home, 10 Robert-street.

Merkt was 65 years of age, his wife, a cripple, was ten years his junior. The weapon, a .38 calibre revolver, is believed to have been purchased yesterday morning, and the alarm, given conclusively showing the murderer's demented condition, was dated the 28th, would indicate that the crime was premeditated.

Two bullets took effect in the woman's head, and she was found lying in a pool of blood in the little sunlit summer kitchen of her home, while the man also twice shot himself in the chest in the drawing room, still clutching the weapon, it and the hand that held it bathed in blood.

The feature of the case occupying the attention of Coroner W. A. Young, who will open an inquest at McGill's undertaking rooms in College-street, at 10 o'clock this evening, is the responsibility of the authorities of the Queen-street asylum in allowing a man, criminally insane, to come and go from that place as he pleased.

**Daughter's Story Discovers.** According to the story of Henry King Clarke, a night telegraph operator, a boarder in the Merkt home, who was asleep in his room, he was awakened in rapid succession at 11:55 yesterday morning. Boys were in the habit of playing with a gun, and he thought nothing of it. He heard a shot, and heard two more. Then he rose, shaved and dressed himself and went down stairs, and a daughter of the dead couple, who works as a waitress in the kitchen, found her mother dead.

"My God, has father been home?" she cried to Clarke, who then turned to the drawing-room. There they found the man's body. Clarke rushed to the street and called a doctor, and the fainting and hysterical girl was carried to the house of a neighbor.

Dr. W. E. Ferguson, 24 College-st., and the police were summoned. The woman lay on her face with a bullet wound on either side of the head. One of the powder marks was found on the forehead, and another on the cheek. A wound of exit showed beneath the left eye and a bullet was found beneath the body. Another bullet, which had struck the plaster wall, was found in the back kitchen, was picked up in the middle of the kitchen floor.

The drawing-room search revealed a hole in a rear wall, and a bullet, which was found embedded in a window casing outside. There were two wounds on the right side of the man's head, under the left eye. Another bullet could be felt under the skin of the left temple. The wounds of entry were surrounded by powder marks. In the revolver were found four empty shells and one undischarged, and there were more loaded shells in the pocket.

**Left Blackguarding Note.** In the vest pocket, neatly written in ink, was found a note. This was the last cowardly blow at the man and his faithful wife. It read: "To the public and the press: This is the end of 37 years and five months of married life with an insulting, drunken, false and swindling woman. Hell can't be any worse. My last wish is that my body be cremated."

**Had Feared a Tragedy.** T. C. Robinette, K.C., who acted as counsel for the family at the time that Merkt was committed, said last night: "He was in police court May 16. At that time the son-in-law and the daughters saw me and explained for some time he had threatened to kill himself and his wife. Upon a hearing they declared that they were in fear of him, and that he should be committed."

# The Toronto World

FOURTEEN PAGES—TUESDAY MORNING AUGUST 30 1910.—FOURTEEN PAGES.

OFFICES FOR RENT

Wellington & Scott—\$15 up. H. H. WILLIAMS & CO., 24 Victoria Street, Toronto.

30TH YEAR.

## J.-P. SLIPPED IN AND MISSED WELCOME

### Got Off the Train at Parkdale as a "Short Cut," Not Knowing of the Reception Awaiting Him at the Union Station.

Because he hadn't been informed of the reception awaiting him at the Union Station and having taken the advice of a fellow passenger that Parkdale station was more convenient to his Roedeale destination—which it wasn't—Lieut.-Gen. Sir Robert Baden-Powell, hero of Mafeking, unintentionally disappointed several distinguished personages, a guard of honor of 300 boy scouts, and a big representation of the general public that had gathered to greet him.

"I wanted to see the slums of the west end anyway," said the eminent soldier, "but I must say they were happy and prosperous looking slums."

"Did you drive over from the Parkdale station?" he was asked at E. B. Oeler's residence when the newspaper men called upon him.

"I rode part of the way and walked the rest," he replied. "I had to walk a few workmen in the morning."

The disappointed ones at the Union on the arrival of the C.P.R. train, which was nearly 2 1/2 hours late, were Mayor Geary, Ald. Maguire, chairman of the reception committee, and W. McCauland, representing the city; K. McNaught, M.L.A., and ex-Mayor Oliver, representing the exhibition board; J. F. Mackay, president of the Canadian Club; T. C. Irving, J. Castell Hopkins and F. G. Oeler, son of E. B. Oeler.

Three hundred scouts were lined up from the entrance thru the rotunda to the train platform in command of Scout Master E. J. Britton, McKee, Assistant Commissioner, H. G. Hammond, and Brigade Adjutant J. K. Slaker. However on the arrival of the train the Toronto boys escorted their touring fifteen British comrades in arms to the exhibition grounds by way of the old fort. Squads from Halifax, Esquimau, Nanapanee and Whistler were also in line.

**A Girl Among Them.** One of the most interesting features about the boys was a young girl about 15 years of age, a bright and well dressed in khaki short skirt and waist with hat similar to that of the boys, accompanied the Brampton detachment as a girl guide. She has only been out from England for a few months.

To-day the scouts will assemble at Trinity College grounds and march via Queen-street and Dufferin-street to the exhibition grounds, where they will remain for an hour and then have lunch. After lunch they will be reviewed in front of the grand

**Denounces Masonry**  
R. C. Bishop of Joliette Will Excommunicate Members.

**Blind Woman's Sad Vigil**  
Waits Patiently for Dead Husband to Awake From Sleep.

**Constable's Hard Trip**  
Travels 300 Miles Thru Wilderness With Lunatic.

**Woman's Hip Fractured.**  
Miss Martha Stewart, 45 years, 62 St. George-st., fell from a moving Wincheater car at Carlton and Yonge-streets at 10 o'clock yesterday. Her right hip was fractured. Dr. Hastings was called and she was removed to her home in J. A. Humphrey's private ambulance.

**Girl's Sudden Death.**  
WOODSTOCK, Aug. 29.—(Special.)—Miss Marjorie Shoebottom, aged 17, arose at 5 o'clock this morning and rushed into her mother's room gasped and dropped dead. She had previously been in good health. Heart trouble caused her death. Deceased was one of Woodstock's popular young ladies.

## A GIRL "BOY SCOUT"



Who is in the city with the Brampton detachment of boy scouts. She is a splendid type of the outdoor-loving English girl, and she is as good as any of the scouts, she is by no means tomboyish.

## SHOULD UNITE C.P. TO SHORTEN POLICE SHOULD FOR WATERWAY HALIFAX ROUTE REGULATE BAY

### Premier Laurier's Reply to International Delegation Regarding Columbia River.

**NELSON, B.C., Aug. 29.—(Special.)**—Representative of the Boards of Trade of Revelstoke, Nelson and Portland, Oregon, met Sir Wilfrid Laurier this morning to discuss the question of the improvement of the Columbia River, between West Robson and the international boundary. The Americans were present on the invitation of the local board to inform the premier of the extent of the work done on river in the State of Washington. Exact information regarding the extent of the work which would be required on the part of the Canadian Government was not available.

The entire stream, from its source at Lake Windermere to the ocean, is about 750 miles long, and the portion affected by the present proposition is 150 miles. No estimate is available of the cost of the proposed work. Chamberlain, Washington State, said that seventeen millions had been spent on river improvement in United States, and also the river was carrying the commerce of the state, it had resulted in lowering freight rates to an amount each year in excess of the cost of the work. Under the circumstances, it was doubtful if Portland would benefit by the Canadian expenditure.

Sir Wilfrid intimated that he was not convinced that the opening of the Columbia River to navigation would have a tendency to lower freight rates on lines running east and west. He favored the undertaking, since it opened a new channel of commerce between the United States and Canada, and would be another bond to bind the two countries together. He would consider, not the smaller question of the improvement of the short stretch of river between West Robson and the boundary, but the much larger one of the improvement of the whole river from Lake Windermere. Engineers will be sent out and an estimate made of the cost of the entire undertaking.

Sir Wilfrid also said: "This work could be done in two ways. The two countries might proceed independently, each doing work on its own side of the boundary, or on the other hand, they might get together and act in concert."

The latter plan the premier thought to be much better. The schemes might ultimately be dealt with by the international waterways commission.

**Will Hurry the Work**  
Toronto-Ottawa C. N. R. Line Ready a Year Hence

**OTTAWA, Aug. 29.—(Special.)**—It is stated that, as a consequence of the purchase of the Bay of Quinte Railway of the Canadian Northern, the construction of the Ottawa end of the Toronto-Ottawa line will be commenced at an early date.

This will mean that the Canadian Northern line between Toronto and Ottawa will be completed several months earlier than was anticipated, and that the road will be in operation not later than the fall of 1911.

**Want Channel to Docks**  
Harbor Commissioners Ask Dr. Pugsley for Aid.

A representation of the Toronto Harbor Board yesterday waited on Hon. Mr. Pugsley, federal minister of public works, who is at the King Edward Hotel, and asked that the government defray the cost of dredging a 16 foot channel from deep water in the bay to the proposed freight docks that the city plans to have on Ashbridge's Bay property. The channel would also serve the big docks which the National Iron Works will build. It is estimated that the cost of the dredging may reach about \$75,000.

James A. McKay of the Burroughs Adding Machine Co., who formerly lived at 44 Dundonald-street, city, was drowned at Portland, Me., while getting into a boat.

## ALL IS READY NOW

### With Rough Edges Made Smooth FOR FAIR'S OPENING

#### Exhibition Program for To-day

**INAUGURATION DAY.**  
8.00 a.m.—Gates open.  
1 to 2 p.m.—Grenadier Guards' Band, main grand stand. Popular program.  
2.30 p.m.—Opening ceremonies in front of grand stand.  
3 p.m.—Review of Boy Scouts by General Baden-Powell.  
3.30 p.m.—Trotting races: 1, station trot; 2, road race trotters.  
4 to 5.30 p.m.—Grand concert by Grenadier Guards' Band, selected program.  
5 p.m.—Blowing up ship on waterfront.  
7 p.m.—Vaudeville.  
8 p.m.—Tattoo and British army quadrille.  
9 p.m.—Naval review at Spit-head.  
10 to 10.15 p.m.—Closing display of fireworks.

#### Baden-Powell Will Press the Button at 2.30 and Then Review Army of Boy Scouts.

#### THOUSANDS WERE ON GROUNDS YESTERDAY

When Lieut.-Gen. Sir Robert Baden-Powell presses the magic button at 2.30 p.m. to-day, and the shrill siren whistlings and rumbling of machinery tell of industrial life awakened, it will mean that the Canadian National Exhibition has entered upon the 25th year of its existence.

To be strictly accurate, it should be added that the great annual exposition known as the Toronto Exhibition until a few years ago, also for some considerably longer period it had taken on a national character, but there are individuals who do not claim to be more far-sighted than other folk who predict that within a generation the exhibition will have developed into a permanent world's fair. Anyway, it's with us again, and for the next two weeks there will be many strangers within the gates and much legal tender in circulation.

The inaugural ceremonies this year will take place in front of the grand stand, an innovation which will please the public, for the auditorium of the dairy building is a cozy affair, giving little accommodation to the thousands who attend the official opening. Then will follow the review of the 2500 boy scouts and the public will be free to wander over the 280 acres of grounds, from the model military camp on the west to the home of the "Made in Canada" brand of exhibits and the products of field, forest and mine, not to mention the gentler arts. Then, at night, there is the grandstand performance, with its many features, but strong as usual in military and musical effects, with the Grenadier Guards' Band from London, England, participating. And the public are not likely to forget that this splendid band is to give two concerts on the grand plaza during the afternoon.

Many disappointed. The directors' luncheon in the administration building at 1 p.m. will have Sir Robert as its specially distinguished guest. He will be seated by the grounds by Honorary President W. K. McNaught and Second Vice-President J. S. Oliver will perform a like duty for the British Empire. President George Gooderham, M.L.A., will be in the chair, and the gathering promises to be a notable one, but speeches will be short. The review of the Grenadier Guards will be over. Yesterday was called "Opening Day." The term was appropriate in having regard to the operation on big passenger cases and consignments of all kinds, but did an injustice to the exhibition itself. It was in reality a day of general preparation and there were corners in the buildings which might be termed finished products, but exhibitors worked hard last night, and by noon to-day a marvelous transformation is promised.

The great majority of persons who attend the exhibition are aware of the fact that the exhibition butters do not emerge from the chrysalis until inauguration day, but everybody is not so well posted, and a regrettable feature yesterday was that, of the thousands of people who strolled thru the grounds, there were a number of United States visitors who had evidently expected to find things in the way of who, to put it mildly, expressed disappointment. They were mostly tourists who had booked tickets in border cities such as Buffalo, Rochester and Niagara Falls, N.Y., and who had decided to alter their plans so as to spend a day in Toronto.

A number of the buildings were not open to the public at all, including the art gallery and applied art building. The superintendent said there was a stream of would-be sightseers all day long. Their homes were in widely scattered states of the Union and in most cases they were unable to stay longer than the day.

**Rehearsal Last Night**  
A rehearsal of the military tattoo was held in front of the grandstand last night and viewed by an interested gathering of about 1000 spectators. Before handing over admission money, it was impressed upon them that a simple rehearsal with no pyrotechnics was in prospect. The management were not eager to invite sightseers, but the public were especially anxious to hear the Grenadier Guards' band and were not disappointed. The Guardsmen, in rich scarlet and gold lace, marched into the arena playing the "British Grenadiers" and the applause was generous.

The public also had an opportunity

**Hats by Henry Heath.**  
If England holds one thing above all others in the world, it is hats. The English hat sells on Broadway and Fifth-avenue, New York, for twice the price asked for the same hat in Canada. This is especially true of those made by Henry Heath of London, England, who has been forced by the large demand in the United States to open a store on Fifth-avenue. The Heath hat is one worn by King George and the aristocrats of Europe. The Dimsen Company, 140 York-st., are sole Canadian agents for the hats that in Canada, and announce to-day that new shipment, including the latest Derby, Beaver, Alpines and Silks, has arrived. These hats sell in Canada because of the tariff at half what the New York dealer asks for them.

**REPORTERS BARRED**  
Cardinal Vannutelli Will Not Be Interviewed.

**MONTREAL, Aug. 29.—(Special.)**—It is given out to-night, officially that Cardinal Vannutelli, the papal legate to the congress, will not be interviewed during his sojourn in the city. His excellency has especially asked that no reporter be allowed to board the Lady Grey, which will bring the church dignitary up the river. Mr. Pugsley leaves to-morrow evening for Rimouski, where he will meet the cardinal legate.

**Should Unite C.P. to Shorten Halifax Route**  
Premier Laurier's Reply to International Delegation Regarding Columbia River.

**MONTREAL, Aug. 29.—(Special.)**—There is a strong opinion prevailing here that the Canadian Pacific, after spending large sums in the west, will now turn attention to the lower provinces, and that they have fully decided to make Halifax the winter port for mails and passengers.

The company will bring Halifax within 16 hours of Montreal, appears to have been decided upon, the only question being as to how Montreal and Halifax harbor can be reached by such rapid train service.