

The Evening Times-Star

SECOND SECTION

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PAGES ELEVEN TO TWENTY

ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1923

TWENTY PAGES

Proving of Will Reveals Marriage Secret Kept 37 Years

DIVORCE IS FOLLOWED BY SUICIDE

Poison is Means Employed in Sensational Case in Glasgow.

DECIDES QUICKLY

Cultured Foreigner, on Day Following Court Decree, Ends Life.

Glasgow, Dec. 12.—With a poison bottle near his hand, Peter Smirnoff, a Russian, was discovered dead at his office desk here. The tragedy was enacted in a large confectionery establishment, of which he was a managing director. His death comes as a sensational sequel to a divorce suit, and occurred on the day following the granting of a decree. The man was last seen alive the previous night, and on arriving at his office in the morning he opened his desk and drank the contents of a phial. The unfortunate man had had an amazing and tragic career. A highly cultured Russian, with many languages at his command, he was one of the intellectuals expelled from Russia as undesirable when the Bolsheviks assumed the reins of government. Coming to Glasgow, he found an outlet for his linguistic gifts by the acceptance of an appointment as a teacher of languages in a college. His pupils embraced people of varied classes of society and age. One day the daughter of a wealthy city merchant, who received tuition in French, appeared to have been captivated by the handsome and cultured alien, and her attachment was reciprocated. A marriage was concluded, and some time after the man obtained an appointment in the P. & O. He later associated with another young woman, and becoming less attentive to his domestic obligations, according to the evidence, he appeared to have gone off for week-end to a seaside resort on the Clyde, and was easy reach by rail of the city. The landlady one day found a note-book left behind by him. This contained his city address-book, and was forwarded by her to the wife's friends. The discovery of his infidelity was then made. Divorce proceedings were taken by the wife, and judgment was pronounced in her favor. Next morning followed the dreadfully pathetic termination of his career. His body was found by members of the staff of the establishment, who were aware of the grievous troubles with which he was burdened.

HYDRO REPORT IS UNDER FIRE

Commissioner Thornton Criticizes Statement at City Hall Meeting

Commissioner Thornton this morning sharply criticized the report of the Civic Hydro Commission placed before the council on Monday. He said he would like more definite information as to the results of the investigation, and said that some of the amount of expenditure authorized had been placed at \$471,000 while it was given in this report as \$447,000. There must surely be some mistake there, he said. He said it was impossible to tell from the report whether the amount of cash received was really being added or for the entire time which the commission had been doing business. It also showed, he said, that only about 50 per cent. of the amount due had been collected and failed to state how much current had been taken from the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission. He would also, like some information in regard to reports that there was a discrimination in rates. Commissioners Bullock and Wigmore urged the adoption of a standard style of report for each month. Mayor Fisher said it looked as though the report was incomplete so far as the amount of expenditure authorized was concerned. He undertook to secure information on the points raised.

Ten Give Blood; Fail to Save Life

Montreal, Dec. 12.—Although ten men gave quantity of their blood in an attempt to save the life of William Machado, aged 40, their fellow worker in a local restaurant, the man died in the hospital yesterday from the effects of a scalding suffered while he was at work on November 27.

Mayoralty Vote In Vancouver Close

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 13.—Alderman W. R. Owen was elected Mayor of Vancouver yesterday by a majority of 48 votes over his runner-up, L. D. Taylor, who polled 5,013 votes to Mr. Owen's 5,066. A recount probably will be demanded. The third candidate, Ald. Pettipiece, was considerably behind his opponents.

Planning



The United States Navy is planning an Arctic Exploration Expedition. It is intended to sail the Shenandoah, the giant airship, the North Pole. Left to right the men are: Commander W. R. Purling, Lieut. Com. R. A. Bartlett, Gilbert Grosvenor, of the National Geographic Society, Denby, and Rear Admiral W. A. Moffett, chief of naval aviation.

Passion Players Arrive In New York To Work For Their Beloved Pageant

Will Exhibit and Sell Wood Carvings, Potteries and Toys to Earn Money to Perpetuate Play—Refused \$1,750,000 for Motion Picture Rights.

New York, Dec. 12.—Eleven of the simple folk of Oberammergau in the Tyrolean Alps, actors on the historic Passion Play given each decade in Bavarian village, came to the U. S. yesterday on the steamer Reliance to earn money for the salvation of their beloved pageant. At their head was the gentle-eyed Christus of their play, Anton Lang, slight, unassuming and soft spoken. Others in the party who are principals of the pageant included the venerable Andreas Lang, Sr., who sustains the role of Peter; his son, Andreas, Jr., the Matthew of the play; Guido Mayer, who plays Judas; Joseph Albrecht, the Apostle James; and Emmanuel Lang, brother of Andreas, Sr., and fellow paragon for American motion picture concerns. "It would have been desecration," Anton Lang explained simply.

Husband and Wife Are Suffocated

New York, Dec. 12.—Joseph Johnson and his wife were suffocated in their furnished room at 260 East 140th street after a gas stove had consumed all of the oxygen. Their bodies were found by a patrolman at the Alexander avenue station after the owner of the house, Mrs. Alice Geigel, had smelled gas.

Lord Alfred Douglas Is Found Guilty

London, Dec. 13.—Lord Alfred Douglas, son of the late Marquis of Queensbury, was found guilty by a jury in Old Bailey today of criminal libel upon Winston Spencer Churchill, former first lord of the admiralty, by his publication of the statement that Mr. Churchill issued a false communication after the Battle of Jutland for the purpose of influencing the stock markets. Lord Alfred was sentenced to six months in prison, at the expiration of which time he must find a surety to keep the peace, particularly toward Mr. Churchill. Failing to find surety, he must undergo another six months imprisonment.

German Unemployed Storm Steel Works

Bochum, Dec. 13.—Unemployed metal workers of the Bombacher Huette Steel Company, normally employing between 5,000 and 6,000 men, stormed and occupied the entire plant yesterday in protest against the employers' policy of locking out the men refusing to work a ten hour day.

Bootleg Drink Has Another Victim

John Murphy, who was found at midnight on a Bronx sidewalk, died in a hospital. Thomas Torpy, his friend, who lay unconscious beside him, is not expected to live. In Torpy's coat pocket the police found a bottle containing a dark red fluid, the greater part of which proved to be wood alcohol.

PERSONALS

G. G. Murdoch returned yesterday afternoon from a business trip in upper Canada. Mrs. A. C. W. Martin returned to the city yesterday after spending six weeks in Brantford, Ont., the guest of her mother, Mrs. F. R. Bosely. Dr. J. Clarence Webster, of Shelburne, is in the city. Mr. and Mrs. Maurice A. Thompson returned on Tuesday from New York. Mrs. J. E. Allingham, of West St. John, spent last week at McAdam Junction and on Friday and Saturday she had as her guests, Mrs. Laura Cheesman and Mrs. George Morrison, also of West St. John. They returned to their home on Saturday. Miss Pauline Purcell, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Purcell, of Prospect street, Fairville, had her tonsils removed at the General Public Hospital on Wednesday and is now at her home doing nicely. Walter Evans, of Boston, who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Durand, of Fairville, has returned to his home. Miss Pearl Bannister, of Shelburne, who has been visiting her brother, Melvin, at Lancaster, has returned home. Mrs. Guy Q. Dowling has returned to Montreal from St. John, where she spent a week the guest of Mr. and Mrs. T. Q. Dowling. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Nell of Montreal will spend Christmas in Hamilton with Mrs. Nell's sister, Miss Cresser, Miss Cresser who is at present visiting Mrs. Nell, will return home on Monday next. Hon. Dr. J. H. King and Mrs. King will leave Ottawa this week for Victoria, B. C., where they will remain for Christmas. Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCrossin, of Moore street, left last evening to visit Mrs. McCrossin's sister, Mrs. J. S. Puhke, Milwaukee, Wis. Mrs. A. C. W. Martin returned to the city yesterday after spending six weeks in Brantford, Ont., the guest of her mother, Mrs. F. R. Bosely. In his personal column, the Montreal Star says that W. C. Brown, Inspector of Taxation, inland Revenue Dept., St. John was in the city on a business trip, and that C. M. Whippley, W. A. Roberts and H. M. Pettis, of St. John, were registered at the American Hotel. Stanley E. Elkin returned to the city today from Montreal where he had been on a business trip. A. C. Currie, local representative of the Dominion Shipping Co. Ltd., returned to the city today from Boston. Royden Thompson returned home today from Montreal where he was on a business trip. E. A. Schofield left this afternoon for Moncton in connection with the orphanage fund drive.

EXCHANGE OF PROPERTIES IS TALKED OVER

The reasons why they had recommended that the city make an exchange of the C. P. R. wharf and sheds, West St. John, with the No. 6 extension were set forth yesterday afternoon at a conference between the members of the transportation committee of the Board of Trade and the members of the City Council. H. C. Schofield said the committee had considered the matter very fully and they felt the proposed exchange of the C. P. R. wharf and sheds for No. 6 extension was a good proposition as it did away with the control and the friction from overlapping at No. 6 berth. The C. P. R. wharf was useless at present as an ocean berth and the Government would extend the present freight-proof warehouse or build a new one no obstacle should be placed in the way. Mayor Fisher said the Government was not asking for the exchange and Mr. Knight said this made no difference if the port was benefited. Commissioner Bullock said that if this was the only obstacle he could get the Government to make a request for the transfer. The Mayor contended this would hinder the future extension of No. 1 berth and Mr. Ledingham pointed out that before No. 1 berth could be extended the Government would have to be straightened out. Mr. Nagle asked if the city would extend No. 1 berth and it was said that they would not. Then why not accept the offer to trade, said Mr. Nagle. Commissioner Frink said he did not propose to give away any more land until he saw something done in the way of providing facilities. Commissioner Wigmore said he was in favor of the exchange provided there could be a proviso made in the deed that certain development work would be carried out at once.

14 Surgeons Have Part In Operation

Portland, Me., Dec. 13.—Injured while wrestling with a companion at the Y. M. C. A., Samuel Fink, 22, of Portland is in critical condition at the Maine General Hospital, where an operation was performed that pressure on his spinal cord might be relieved. The operation, which is considered unusual and dangerous, was performed by four surgeons who consulted ten others, taken from the high ranks of the local physicians, and consisted of making an incision in Fink's back so the spinal pressure could be lessened.

Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths, 50 cents

CITY HALL ACCOMMODATION IS AGAIN A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION

Boulder Matter, Indiantown Rink and Other Subjects Taken Up.

The City Council this morning had a session for the chamberlain's department, authorized the purchase of two trucks for the water and sewerage department and the opening of a skating rink on the Mill Pond, Indiantown. The council also discussed the matter of the supply of line material, transformers and wire for the civic distribution system and received the report of the acting city electrician on the matter of the interference in Elliott Row and Carmarthen street. Mayor Fisher read a letter from S. O. Roberts stating that he had been advised from Ottawa that the protest of His Worship against the boulder in Market Square was to be taken into consideration and he hoped to be in St. John this week to hear his reasons for objecting to this stone. Commissioner Thornton said he thought this boulder was about as good as could be secured. It was decided to have the Mayor call a meeting of the Historic Site and Monuments Committee when Mr. Roberts arrived. Navy Island Claim A claim of F. Lamereux for \$450, said to be due the estate of A. Lamereux for the building of a retaining wall on Navy Island, was taken up by G. N. Hatfield, who was acting city engineer at the time, reported that he had looked the situation over at that time and found the retaining wall was needed. Mr. Lamereux had agreed to erect the wall if the city assisted and he, Hatfield, recommended that \$100 be allowed toward the cost of the wall. This had been accepted by Mr. Lamereux and the then commissioner had agreed to put this vote through council. The matter was laid over until Monday for a written report from Mr. Hatfield. Indiantown Rink Commissioner Thornton was given permission to make the necessary arrangements to have the skating rink on the mill pond at Indiantown for the winter opened as usual.

Grand Holiday Season Opens at AMDUR'S

Great Range and Wide Choice of Xmas Gifts Offered

NEW GOODS at **Amdur's** LATEST STYLES

Ladies' P. O. Sweaters All Wool	Pure white Camel Royal Pearl	New Stock Received Monday	\$3.98
Ladies' V-Neck Sweaters in All Wool, shawl collars. \$4.95			
LADIES' CARDIGAN SWEATERS \$2.95			
Woolen Mufflers 49c, 65c, 98c, \$1.25, \$1.50			
Silk and Wool Mufflers \$1.98			
Camel Hair Mufflers			
Ladies' Silk and Wool Hose, Pair 79c			
Ladies' Heather Hose, Pair 49c			
Fine stock of Handkerchiefs, Garters, Braces, etc. Just unpacked.			
Men's Knitted Silk Ties 39c	Men's Silk and Wool Sox Pair 59c	Men's Fleece-lined Combinations \$1.35	
Men's White, Pure Wool P. O. Sweaters \$3.98			
Men's Heather Worsted Sox, Reg. 75c value. PAIR 39c			
Men's Cashmere Sox			
Men's Heather Work Sox			

Amdur's, Ltd.

No. 1 King Square

WAS ALMOST 95 YEARS OF AGE

Mrs. Marceline Noel Passes Away at Her Home in Randolph.

Mrs. Marceline Noel, widow of John Noel, and one of the oldest residents of Lancaster, passed away yesterday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Oliver McGrath, Randolph. She had lived until January 14th she would have been 95 years of age. She is survived by two sons, Theophilus of Westmorland county and Joseph of this city, and by seven daughters—Mrs. John Arsenau, Mrs. Mary Roberts and Mrs. John Downey, of Amherst; Mrs. M. DeForest, of Pleasant Point, and Mrs. Charles Robichaud, Mrs. Louis LeBlanc and Mrs. Oliver McGrath, of Randolph. The funeral will take place on Friday afternoon from the residence of Mrs. McGrath. The family will have the sympathy of many friends in their bereavement.

SINGAPORE BASE PLAN LIKELY DIES

British Government Announces That Visit of Earl of Cavan Has Been Cancelled.

London, Dec. 13.—A sign of the political times is seen in the Government's announcement that it is desirable "in the present circumstances," to cancel the proposed visit of the Earl of Cavan to the general staff, to Singapore and the dominions. This is interpreted as recognition by the Government that its scheme to spend \$2,500,000 on a naval base at Singapore is not likely to materialize in view of the effect of the election on its political fortunes. The Singapore proposal has been hotly opposed by Liberals and Laborites, and it is known that should either come into power the project would be dropped. THE BANK CLEARINGS. St. John bank clearings for the present week amounted to \$2,226,901, according to a statement issued yesterday by the St. John Clearing House Association. During the corresponding week last year the total was \$3,154,870 and in 1921, \$2,789,840. The clearings in Halifax this week totalled \$2,893,684.

MASTERMAN HAS ESTATE OF \$770,000

Was Married to Housekeeper, Mrs. Brown; No One Told.

SHE IS NOW 82

Bequest of \$50,000 and Two Houses Made to Her.

London, Dec. 13.—The proving of his will has revealed the long-kept marriage of Cleveland Masterman, a well known resident of South Shields. Mr. Masterman left an estate worth \$770,000. Among his bequests was \$50,000 and two houses to Martha Mary Ann Brown, described by testator as his housekeeper. It now transpires that "Mrs. Brown" was actually Mr. Masterman's wife, being married to him 37 years ago. She is 82 years old. The union, which was a happy one, was kept a secret by them up to within a few hours of Mr. Masterman's death. Mrs. Brown was a widow when she undertook to manage the records of Mr. Masterman in Flavia Terrace, South Shields, 40 years ago. She was accompanied by her niece, Annie Rebecca Turner, who is also a beneficiary under the will to the extent of \$2,500. The secret marriage took place at the registry office, Carlisle, on May 4, 1886. The only witness present being the bride's niece. Mr. Masterman always spoke of his wife as his housekeeper. She was, however, his constant companion. She was always called "Mrs. Brown." An Old Family. The Mastermans, of whom the testator is a descendant, are an old North country family, whose records are traced back to Matthew Masterman, who died in affluence on June 22, 1663. Cleveland Masterman was a man of culture and benevolence. Passionately fond of travel, he visited all parts of the world. His hobby was yachting, but he was devoted to golf, and was a familiar figure on the links until he was over his 70th birthday. He was made a magistrate 20 years ago, but he never took his seat on the bench.

SHIPPING

PORT OF ST. JOHN.
Arrived December 13.
Schr. Gertrude Parsons, 341, Morris from Cheveria, N. S.
Schr. Marion G. Douglas, 449, Pettis from Hillsboro.
Coastwise—Stmr. Grace Hankinson, 55, Powell for Weymouth; Stmr. G. Holm, 123, Blenkhorn, from Wolfville.
Cleared December 13.
Schr. Gertrude Parsons, 341, Morris for New Haven.
Schr. Marion G. Douglas, 449, Pettis for New Haven.
Coastwise—Stmr. Grace Hankinson, 55, Powell for Weymouth; S. S. Prince Arthur, 422, Crosby, for Digby.
MARINER NOTES.
The schooner Gertrude Parsons arrived here this morning for harbor. She is en route from Cheveria, N. S., to New Haven with a cargo of sugar.
The schooner Marion G. Douglas also arrived in for harbor this morning. She is bound from Hillsboro for New Haven with a cargo of plaster.
The schooner now at the Pettling's wharf taking on a part cargo of grain from the C. N. R. elevator. She will sail for Weymouth or tomorrow for St. John to complete loading general cargo.
The Fanad Head sailed from Belfast on December 11 for this port with general cargo.
The Kenbarr Head arrived at Belfast on December 11 from Liverpool. It is probable she will be placed in the St. John service.
The Canadian Explorer is due here next week from Antwerp with general cargo.
The Canadian Victor is due to sail tomorrow for Cardiff and Swansea with general cargo.
Lundies to land 270 head of cattle, which are being shipped through this port.
The Canadian Squatter sailed from Demerara on December 9 for this port with a cargo of sugar.
The Manchester Brigade sailed from Manchester last Monday for St. John direct with general cargo.
The S. S. Arnold Maersk is due to sail this afternoon or evening with potatoes and general cargo for Havana.
The Royal Mail Steam Packet liner Chalcour is scheduled to sail from Bermuda tomorrow for this port with passengers, mail and general cargo.
The Royal Mail Steam Packet liner Chalcour is scheduled to sail from Demerara today for this port via West India ports.
S. S. Fittaburg will sail from Halifax tomorrow for Cherebourg and Southampton.
S. S. Canada is due to sail from Halifax on December 15 for Liverpool.
The Anchor Donalson liner Colum sailed from Glasgow on last Saturday for New York.
The Cunard liner Berengaria sailed from Southampton yesterday for New York.
BURIED TODAY.
The funeral of Miss Lillian O'Brien took place this morning from her late residence, 48 Sherif street, to St. Peter's Church, where requiem high mass was celebrated by Rev. J. Cloran C. S. R. Interment was in the new Catholic cemetery and relatives acted as pall bearers. A large number of spiritual and floral offerings were received, among which were a wreath from Mr. and Mrs. Barcolli, a cross from Fred Foley, a wreath from Mr. and Mrs. Percy Warren, and a wreath from Mr. and Mrs. J. Lyons.
The funeral of John Harding was held this afternoon on the arrival of the Boston train, to Cedar Hill. Service was conducted by Rev. H. E. Thomas.