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WAS DUMB FOR YEARS

The Strange Man of Bedminster Passes Away—Had Refused to Speak for Over Thirty Years

SOMERVILLE, N. J. July 13.—Silas Hoffman, the strange man of Bedminster, who kept his bed while apparently in perfect health and refused to speak for 31 years, is dead.

He passed away last night without breaking the silence which he had preserved for so long a time but just before he died he made an effort to speak to his devoted sister, Mrs. Margaret Lane, who cared for him in his lonely habitation, throughout his eccentric career. It was too late, however; the years of silence had deprived him altogether of his power of articulation.

Hoffman's strange conduct had made him a subject of comment among the country people of Bedminster township for so many years that he had ceased to be an object of curiosity to his neighbors who were inclined to shield him from the public gaze, and even now are attempting to keep his death a secret, out of fear that it would cause a curious crowd to gather there from the country-side.

His funeral will be held on Thursday from the house where he died. He was 67 years old. Whether he was insane was never determined although he had been examined by a score of physicians with a view to finding out his mental condition. His eternal silence and his blank smile baffled all alienists, and physicians had often said he could not be declared insane as his condition was apparently normal.

Hoffman was one of the five sons of a prosperous farmer of Bedminster township. The other four are living and are prominent in the agricultural and business life of Somerset county.

Hoffman spent his early life, like his brothers, on his father's farm. At the age of thirty he possessed a farm, and was the owner of a spanking team of grey horses of which he was very proud. He was fond of society and was known all around as a gay young man.

Misfortune overtook him. He lost his farm and his pet team of horses had to be sacrificed. Inconsolable he went to bed and turned his face to the wall and for a long time refused either to speak or eat. Food was left on a table near his bed, and when he was nearly starving he arose one night from his bed and ate and took a stroll out of doors.

He continued to arise each night thereafter and eat and take a walk, until one night when he slipped on the ice and broke his arm. After that accident he never rose from his bed or passed out of the door.

In all these years he was cared for like an infant by his widow sister, Mrs. Margaret Lane, out of her scanty income, and \$3 a week which she received for his maintenance from Bedminster township.

Physicians have been expecting to see Hoffman die for the last decade from sheer inactivity. His vitality for a number of years has been so low that at times his heart almost failed to beat, and for several days before his death the attending physician was unable to detect any pulse.

CONSPIRACY

Farmers' Bank After Farmer, Nestleton Manager.

Lindsay, Ont., July 23.—W. R. Travers, of Toronto, general manager of the Farmers' Bank, has had the facts of an alleged conspiracy between Crown Attorney Devlin. As a result proceedings will be taken against A. E. McGill, former manager of the Farmers' Bank here; J. J. Fleury, clerk in the same bank, and J. L. Coulton, until recently manager of the Nestleton branch of the same bank.

It appears that last June McGill resigned and the same day a branch of the Home Bank was opened here next door to the Farmers' Bank, the clerks going with him. Immediately a large number of cheques, aggregating thousands of dollars, were presented to the Farmers' Bank for payment, and as fast as the money was withdrawn it was deposited in the Home Bank next door. Mr. Travers put a private detective to work. The result of the investigation is said to show that the depositors who withdrew their deposits to the extent of \$60,000 and all most caused a run on the bank, were in every instance influenced to do so by misrepresentation and misstatements by Mr. McGill.

THE WORLD'S WHEAT

Reports Indicate Big Increases in Continental Yields.

OTTAWA, July 23.—A cablegram from the International Agricultural Institute, Rome, gives the yield of wheat crop estimated on July 1st, as follows:

Italy, 185,496,530 bushels, compared with 155,711,230 bushels last year. Hungary, 202,096,455 bushels, as compared with 125,363,287 last year; British India, 358,151,465 bushels, as compared with 234,314,778 last year; Roumania, 131,001,750 bushels, compared with 59,043,045 last year. Japan winter wheat, 20,779,715 bushels last year.

WESTMINSTER UNBEATABLE

Regina, Toronto and Now Montreal Fail to Lift the Coveted Minto Cup—The Royals Have Them All Beat

Vancouver, B. C., July 23.—Merely a picture of the Minto Cup will Manager Findley and his defeated and disheartened Montreal lacrosse team carry with them when on Monday evening they leave for their old home town. But with that photograph copy of the emblem which they sought to lift, goes a bag of gold to cheer them on their way. Nine is the sum total of their efforts this afternoon and a week ago to attach the Minto silverware, while 23 goals is the proud record of the fast Royals. With the score of ten to four of last week the champions encouraged by that lead of six, made it thirteen to five in the game today. It was a slow and disappointing contest for the New Westminster boys so outclassed the challengers that the latter were at times made mere infants in the game.

It was devoid of any remarkable features. The attendance of seven thousand made the total for the two games over eighteen thousand, where in lies the little bag of gold for the visitors. The teams were the same in all positions as last Saturday.

Westminster made a lightning start, scoring two goals in sixty seconds. At the end of the first quarter the Salmon Bellies had scored five to their opponents' two. The second quarter saw the wild and woolly Westerners put on another five while the thorough yamned Montrealsers could only pierce the defence once. The last quarter was marked by very low work.

Conditions were even better for lacrosse than last week. Friday night's rain had laid the dust and made the turf firmer, while clouds tempered the hot midsummer sun. The Montreal fielders did not seem to have any speed at all and the Salmon Bellies ran rings around them. Every time the world-be champions stopped the ball they lost it right away in a hurry and the play was all Westminster.

The play became slower than ever in the second quarter and even the lightning Westminster home appeared to be affected by the hazy methods of their opponents. Wintemute missed a shot. Tommy Gifford picked out the good, Grumpy Spring hit the post and Galbrath stopped a hot one from "Roberts. Then Harry Scott went down and play ceased for a while. He received a bad ankle from the injury he received last Saturday and retired, Laydon taking his place. When Montreal secured the ball it took its time in getting up the slow gait and playing rag. Westminster broke away and Grumpy Spring secured the ball. He turned and hit the goal-keeper in the pad and Montreal got the rubber only to lose it immediately. Andy Hamilton was given five minutes for checking too hard. The red shirts persisted, but the time-keeper's bell rang before Cliff Spring found the net and the goal did not count. In this quarter's play Montreal did not have a chance and the brand of lacrosse was much slower than any seen in the British Columbia league this season. The challengers appeared to be working without any heart and their passing was the limit.

Too Good a Time.

In fact the Montreals did not have any speed left after their week's good time in Vancouver, and it was just a question of how big the score would be. Apparently the Royals were out to run up a big tally and went in at every chance. Montreal had only three or four shots on Gray in the quarter.

The Easterners started one more rush from the face off, but Flush was not the name of it. The Montreals moved as they had all made a score. When they did open up they lost the ball. The thermometer of play was going down every minute. Westminster's rush which ended in a wide shot against the monotonous, but the earnest entreaties of Coach Chaucer Elliott could not make the challengers live up.

Half-time came with the score 8 to 0, and the spectators ready to quit at any time.

Big Diamond.

New York, July 22.—A report has reached Maiden Lane from Johannesburg, South Africa, of the finding of another large diamond in the Premier Mine. The gem is said to weigh more than 191 karats, and is described as a pure white stone. It is absolutely flawless and measuring two inches long by about three-fourths of an inch thick. It tapers in breadth from one-fourth of an inch to the smallest end, and is valued at \$150,000 uncut. The Premier mine became world famous in January, 1905, when the Cullinan diamond was discovered. The gem, the largest ever found, weighed 3,032 karats in the rough. It was cut into smaller stones and presented to King Edward VIII by the Transvaal Government. The latest large diamond work the Premier mine has done is to be taken from the Premier Mine probably will rank also among the world's famous gems.

Cow Attacked Veterinary.

Brandon, July 18.—Dr. S. A. Cox, a well known Brandon veterinary surgeon, and his assistant were badly injured here on Saturday while treating a Jersey cow, the property of ex-Mayor Hill. While the veterinarians were at work the cow became enraged and in its frenzy knocked down the doctor and his assistant and trampled both of them, with the result that men are badly bruised and they sustained very severe cuts on their faces and arms.

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ROOSEVELT'S OPINION

On Prize Fighting—Believes in Boxing But Opposes Prize Fighting—Fights are Demoralizing & Getting Worse

The following editorial, signed by Theodore Roosevelt, appears in the current issue of The Outlook:

"I have always been fond of boxing, and have always believed in it as a vigorous manly pastime, one of those pastimes which have a distinct moral and physical value, because they encourage such essential virtues as courage, hardihood, endurance and self-control. Until within a few years I used to box a good deal myself, and when I was young several times took part in contests of a public or semi-public nature—generally, I am bound to say, with success.

"I think boxing is a sport which should be encouraged among boys and young men generally. I have been glad to help it so far as I could in the army and navy, where, I believe it has been an excellent thing for the enlisted men.

"When I was police commissioner (of New York) I was much struck by a statement made to me by Jacob Riis to the effect that the establishment of boxing clubs in many of the poorer districts had resulted in good in rather unexpected ways; that, in fact, it had not only given the vigorous young fellows who otherwise would join 'gangs' a legitimate outlet for their activities, but had also markedly reduced the number of affairs in which the knife was used. The spirit produced by the boxing had told against knife-fighting, and distinctly discouraged unfair play.

"Therefore, from every standpoint I believe in the encouragement of boxing as a sport. Moreover, boxing as a profession has its good side also. Among the men who have had a regard for I have really valued I could name a number of professional boxers, including several ring champions. The men to whom I refer I found square decent men who showed themselves good citizens when their good citizenship was tested.

"I approved of the movement which in this state, at the time that I was police commissioner, resulted in the enactment of a law permitting contests between professional boxers, under conditions which were used to safeguard the sport, and which have resulted sooner or later in the suppression of the prize ring.

"I saw several of these public boxing contests, in which the intent of the law was carried out in good faith. Nevertheless, even under this law abuses crept in, and finally one or two fights occurred where the surrounding circumstances were so scandalous that when I was governor I was obliged to advocate, and finally to secure the repeal of the law under which such contests took place, feeling convinced that the law, as then existing, was not for the benefit of the state, that under it almost all that made prize fighting objectionable and demoralizing had gradually been revived.

"Now, this was my experience, the experience of a man who, so far from being prejudiced against boxing, was and is a warm advocate of it, and who, at the outset, had not the slightest prejudice against professional boxing—that is, boxing for purposes of money—and whose friends numbered among his friends many men who were professional prizefighters and had fought for money prizes.

"I am sure that what has happened in New York will happen in the nation at large, and that prize-fighting will be, as it ought to be, stopped in every state of the union. Since it was stopped in New York the conditions surrounding the ring have grown worse and not better. The money prizes fought for the enormous sum of \$250,000,000 in travelling expenses and purchasing more than \$100,000,000 worth of goods a year in foreign countries, most of which is brought in absolutely free, through every article so purchased and brought in ought to pay duty. There is no reason why purchases of any kind by travellers should be exempt from duty any more than similar purchases at home. Those who spend our earnings in foreign lands should not escape taxation more than those who stay at home.

Shipping Interests Suffer.

These heavy items of expenditure are only part of a very large sum that includes heavy ocean freight bills, which, according to the Congressional committees estimate amount to more than \$200,000,000 a year, which goes to foreign ship owners, backed up and protected by their governments, while our political policy in that respect is controlled by political partisanship and journalism that has created a public sentiment destructive to our shipping interests.

Other Sources of Drainage.

An additional item of very large size is the interest and dividends on stocks and bonds held in Europe, the latter amounting now to more than \$4,000,000,000, on which we are paying not less than five per cent on a discounted face value of those securities, that probably brings this interest closer to 6 per cent. At 5 this interest would make over \$200,000,000. Still another item of considerable size is the drain-

TROUBLE COMING

An American Financier Predicts Money Trouble in U.S.—Claims Europe is Draining That Country of Its Wealth

Thomas Barlow Walker, of Minneapolis, who is known throughout the northwest as the "white pine king," who is visiting New York, predicts a business crisis not more than four years off. It may come within two years, or even one, he says, if the Democrats are successful throughout the country in the fall elections. It could be stayed off entirely, Mr. Walker asserts, if Americans would take to spending their money at home instead of giving Europe and other continents a surplus in one way or another of three quarters of a billion dollars a year over what we get from them.

Had Studied Subject.

Mr. Walker says that he has studied the subject thoroughly and that his figures are accurate and his conclusions will prove correct unless his warning is needed. He says he fore saw the panic of 1873, and got out of business absolutely in time to save his fortune. He saw the panic coming in 1893 and was able to stand from under it in time, and again in 1907, he was lying low and was not hurt.

In a Position to Know.

Out in his country Mr. Walker is said by many to be nearly as rich as John D. Rockefeller. He admits that he is one of the biggest individual operators in timber and lumber in the world, and besides big interests in Minnesota he owns 500,000 acres of timber in California, mostly white and sugar pine. Some time ago the editor of The Minneapolis Times described him as a "captain of industry, philanthropist, patron of art, scholar, scientist, literateur, municipal expert, civil engineer, forestry expert, lecturer, preacher, student of economics, traveler, lumberman and financier."

Public Not Awake.

"From personal investigations and discussions with newspapers and magazines and personal interviews with individuals," said Mr. Walker yesterday "it was found that the general public did not appreciate the serious damage to our country because of ever-increasing European travel, and that it would be very difficult to change the current of the extravagant waste that this entails. I have studied the situation carefully, and this waste is appalling.

Do Not Realize Seriousness.

"People do not yet realize how little value they get from European travel in proportion to the sacrifice of a comparatively large sum of money and of property interests, but they fail to take into consideration the equally serious if not more serious disadvantage which will come from the drainage of the resources of this country into this one item and which threatens now coming into another panic, with long continued depression, and hardships, hard fare and hard times.

Danger from Tariff.

"A summary of present conditions as to our dealings with Europe would show any person of common intelligence that the industries, the trade and commerce of this country cannot long stand the enormous drain that is now coming upon us much more heavily through the agency of reduced tariffs, which created foreign balances against us, instead of the former \$500,000,000 or \$600,000,000 in our favor. According to the government reports we are now importing more goods than we are exporting. We must take into consideration the fact that the imports are undervalued to the extent of at least \$300,000,000 below what we actually pay for them.

European Shopping.

Our people travelling in Europe are expending more than \$250,000,000 in travelling expenses and purchasing more than \$100,000,000 worth of goods a year in foreign countries, most of which is brought in absolutely free, through every article so purchased and brought in ought to pay duty. There is no reason why purchases of any kind by travellers should be exempt from duty any more than similar purchases at home. Those who spend our earnings in foreign lands should not escape taxation more than those who stay at home.

To Make North Passage.

Ottawa, July 23.—Capt. J. F. Bernier, of the Steamer Arctic, has set out on his trip to the far north with the intention of making the northwest passage. He has sent from Oulcan Bay to the department of marine and fisheries a programme of his proposed voyage which is as follows:

From Oulcan Bay he will sail for Albert Harbor, Ponds Inlet, from here he proceeds to Beechy Island. The next place of call will be Dealy Island, next Winter Harbor, and from there he will go to Herschel Island. Capt. Bernier intimates that if he reaches Herschel Island without any accident he will proceed direct from there to Victoria, B. C.

Three Drown at Ottawa.

Ottawa, July 23.—John Turner, aged 21, one of Earl Grey's servants, who arrived here from England on Friday, was drowned while bathing in the Ottawa river Saturday. He had been engaged at assistant steward at Government House. He had no relations in this country. His body was recovered today.

Ernest R. Sedler, chore boy on the steamer Duchess of York, was also drowned while bathing. He was nineteen years of age, and had been out from England only three weeks. Telephone Lajoie, of Hull, fell out

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NO RACING.

New York State Puts the Ban on Big Race Meets.

NEW YORK, July 24.—There will be no racing around Gotham after September 1. While no official announcement has been made of this fact it is well established that the magnates will wind up the season on the day that the directors' liability law becomes effective. That this is a foregone conclusion may be judged when it is known that Phil J. Dwyer, president of the Gravesend and Aqueduct tracks has advised starter Mars Cassidy to seek other fields after September 1.

When Mr. Dwyer was interrogated about the matter at the Empire City course he practically admitted that the races would wind up the season after the running of the turfity.

"We have not decided about the future," said Mr. Dwyer, "but intend to hold a meeting during August and discuss affairs. The outcome is problematical."

At the same time he acknowledged that the future for this year was pretty blue. "This does not mean that the racing interests intend to give up the sport without a battle. They intend to make a test case of the new law and have the courts decide just where they stand. They claim that the present statute is ambiguous. According to the wording they are to be held responsible for any knowledge of a wager, oral, or otherwise, that is made on the grounds where they are officials. Rather than take a chance of being hauled up as violators they will wait and see what the courts say as to their responsibility.

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of a boat on Maches Lake while fishing and was drowned.