Four Desperate Criminals Beat Guards Into Submission

Continued From Page 1.

Brown had not lifted his foot more than a few inches off the floor of the coach when Jones and Kelly pounced upon the guards. A heavy blow over the forehead stunned the assistant warden, knocking him senseless for a few seconds. Half a dozen Macedonians, who were sitting just behind the desperadoes, made a dash for the rear door. This gave the convicts three or four more seconds time, as they blocked the entrance of the Toronto officers.

Officers Got Busy.

Detective Miller rushed in and felled Brown with a blow on the chin, while Detective Sockett looked after Bonar. In a few seconds Policeman Hunt had the Mecum Brothers at bay in the far corner of the coach. He struck Bert a blow over the head with his baton, and Charles received several blows on the wrists. Blood rushed freely from Bert's wound, but his fighting spirit was not subdued, and with a vigorous effort the two men tried in vain to reach the others, who were completely overcome by the officers.

The train had gone only a few yards when the trouble started and was quickly brought to a standstill. Little time was lost and just eight minutes after schedule time the flyer pulled out of the station with the four convicts, the three guards and the two detectives, Hunt having jumped off the train as it passed the eastern entrance of the station. The rest of the journey was made without event.

The Wrong Time.

Had Brown's motion not been taken for the signal to make the break, they would doubtless have overpowered the three guards. The signal was to have been given as the train passed Bay or Yonge-street. Kelly was to ask for a cigaret and as the guard leaned forward to give it to him Brown and Bonar were to jump on his neck. Then Bonar was to hold his man while Brown reached for the revolver in the guard's hip pocket.

While the four men were manacled, two and two, with the best western handcuffs, they had considerable liberty with their hands. The cuffs were held together with four iron links. These were to go around the guard's neck while his revolver was taken from his hip, but their action was a little too early in the journey and the arrival of the Toronto officers put an end to their attempt.

"We intended to be either free by noon or else be dead men," said Brown as the party sped on their way to the gray walls of Kingston. "That signal put us all out. I no more meant the fellows to jump then than I meant to fly. All I wanted to do was to make sure that they no longer thought that I was yellow; that was why I got my legs free so quickly. But we will make it yet."

From the train to the "pen" the convicts were conveyed in an open sleigh. This would have been a good opportunity to have made a second attempt to escape, but the sight of the extra constables put an end to such ideas and finally the men from the western penitentiary were safely landed behind the stone walls of the strongest prison in the Dominion.

A Bad Record.

The American record of the Mecum brothers is summed up in a letter from Warden Barr of the Animosa reformatory. He says that Charles Mecum, alias Frank Jones, was rescued from that prison on August 11, 1911, by his brother Bert. He was serving a 5-year sentence there under the name of Charles B. Smitch, being mitted on October 19, 1910, for stealing horses. He had served a previous term of two years for shopbreaking and a term at Wapun penitentiary. Bert Mecum, alias Harry Kelly, served two terms at Jefferson City for manslaughter and jail breaking. Bert was discharged from Jefferson City in March, 1911. In aiding his brother to escape from Animosa prison Bert shot down and seriously wounded the guard at that prison.

Almost prophetic is a foot note to a picture of the two brothers which appears in the March issue of the World Wide Magazine. This was written while the brothers were still at Stony Mountain and with no thought of their removal to Kingston. It says: "The mysterians are now safe behind prison bars, but they have boasted that no jail can hold them, and so desperate are they that the authorities are not quite su erabout it themselves."

"Rapping" Conversation.

While in the Court-sty station, where they spent Monday night before their attempt to escape, the brothers, who were confined in separate cells, kept up a continuous conversation, which they rapped out on the bars of their cells. Another talent in this direction f counted in the magazine article. There it tells haw the brothers fooled the guards at the Annacosa Reformatory b ymaintaining a perfectly innocent conversation which served as a blind for their real purpose of discoursing on their hand with the deaf and dumb language.

The Handling of Thugs.

It is evident from the occurrence at the Union Station yesterday morning that the guards who were sent in charge of the prisoners had neither the ability nor the training necessary for the job. Whoever is responsible for their selection should be severely censured. It is only by a lucky chance and owing to the presence of the Toronto police that the convicts did not escape and once more become a menace to society.

The belief appears to exist in certain police circles in this country that the idea of criminals really doing anything dangerous or really killing anybody is rather a laughable one, and that events of this kind belong only in the pages of blood and thunder fiction. Toronto, however, has had, besides this recent occurrence, two other cases in which hardened criminals have put our police at defiance, namely: the Rice-Rutledge affair, and the one in which the negro barricaded himself with several revolvers in a house on Broadview-avenue, and kept the police at bay for hours.

The World believes in the modern theory of handling criminals, but there are occasions when drastic action should be taken, such as are employed in the States in cases of this kind. Had the men concerned in yesterday's outrage been shot dead by the police during the scuffle, it would have been quite justifiable as a measure necessary for the protection of society.

There should be a certain portion of the police force specially armed and trained for handling men of this kind, and they should not hesitate to do their duty when necessary.

KEEWATIN ISSUE SPLITS RANKS OF LIBERALS

Continued From Page 1.

quet, Guildbault, Barette and Bellemare for the amendment.

Mondou Was Impatient.

When the boundaries bill was called for third reading, the premier moved to return it to committee to amend the description of the boundaries and to strike out clause 7, which guaranteed the rights of the Hudson Bay Company's rights as superfluous. When the bill was again reported A. A. Mondou (Yamaska) was straining at the leash with an amendment, but J. J. Hughes (Kings, P.E.I.) got in ahead of him with a plea for compensation of Prince Edward Island in regard to subsidy in view of the grant to Manitoba in lieu of public lands.

Then Mr. Mondou got his chance, and moved to refer the bill back to committee in order to add the following section: "Section 22 of the Manitoba Act, 1870 (33 Vic. cap. 3) shall apply to the territory added to the province under the provisions of this act, with the substitution for paragraph 1 of said section 22 of the following paragraph."

"Rights" of Minorities.

"Nothing in any such law shall prejudicially affect any right or privilege with respect to denominational or separate schools which any class of persons have, at the date of the passing of this act, by law or practice, in the territory added to the province under the provisions of this act."

Mr. Mondou spoke very briefly in French.

He had had the intention, he said, of obtaining an expression of opinion in committee the other day on his amendment, but circumstances preventing this, he desired to accomplish his end at the present stage.

Lamarche Renews Attack.

P. E. Lamarche (Nicolet) speaking in French, declared that the principle contended for in the present amendment was not a new one. Section 3 of the British North America Act declared that where boundaries were extended the Dominion had the right to interfere with the sovereign rights of a province.

The proposed clause was simply an ordinary legal provision for the protection of the rights of the minority in the portion of the territory of Keewatin added to Manitoba under the present bill.

A. A. MacDonald, Liberal member for Pictou, declared that Mr. Mondou's amendment was superfluous. If section 22 of the B.N.A. Act were in effect in the territory of Keewatin there was no need of saying it should apply. He asked the minister of justice for his opinion.

Doherty's Judicial View.

Hon. C. J. Doherty concurred in Mr. MacDonald's contention. Of course, if rights did not exist in this territory susceptible of being maintained, no good purpose would be served by the enactment of the proposed clause. It was not susceptible of doubt, he said, that the section of the Manitoba act (the amended B.N.A. Act) which created and governed the Manitoba of today, would govern the Manitoba that should be. He had the fullest sympathy with the sentiment which stood behind the gentlemen who thought it their duty to move this amendment. Rights were sacred, whether of a province or of an individual. It was not good policy, however, to raise an outcry against an alleged attack on rights, without ascertaining whether these rights existed or not.

Can't Discuss Abstract Rights.

He believed it the natural right of every man to have his children educated in the way he desired. They were not there, however, to discuss abstract rights. The question before them was a pure question of law.

"We have to find the answer to it," he declared, "not in the inspiration of our sentiment, but in the pages of the statute book."

Mr. Doherty then reviewed the constitutional history of the question. The statute of 1905, he pointed out, repealed both the Northwest Territories Act and the Keewatin Act. No subsequent legislation affecting the territory in regard to education having been passed, no school rights existed.

"If a constitution is in force which gives the right to the existence of separate schools," said Mr. Doherty, "that right ought to be protected. I cannot find where that constitution is."

E. Proulx (Prescott): "Have you seen the opinion of Mr. Cahan of Montreal?" (Mr. Cahon spoke at the Bourassa meeting Saturday night.)

Can't Scare Doherty.

Mr. Doherty: "I have and I differ from it. The very existence of lawyers is based on the fact that they differ. I shall not be frightened away from the doing of my duty by eminent lawyers who express any opinion, and still less by lawyers who edit daily pepers, write from the press gallery or speak from the public platform."

William Chisholm (Antigonish) asked whether, even if there were no separate schools in Keewatin, they had not the right to them.

"If there had been a commissioner-in-council in Keewatin," Mr. Doherty answered," there would have been that right, but no commissioner-in-council had ever been constituted."

The Keewatin Act had provided for the detachment of portions of that territory and the annexation of them to other provinces by order-in-council, but no provision for the annexation of the whole territory for the abolition of Keewatin. That required an act of parliament. But the late government had tried to do, by taking two bites at the cherry, what they could not do by one. They annexed a portion of Keewatin to the Northwest Territories; then they annexed the rest. He did not think this constitutional.

Ordinances Never in Force.

The argument of those who contended for school rights in Keewatin was that the education ordinances of the Northwest Territory came into effect in Keewatin by these annexations. But the education ordinances had never been in force in Keewatin. They had manifestly never been in force in the rest of the territories.

To the promoters of the present agitation, he said: "It is not wise to be crying 'wolf, wolf' all the time unless you are sure the wolf is there."

There was perfect protection for any rights actually existing in the annexed territory in the constitution of Manitoba. It was not their way, however, to induce Manitoba to deal generously with the minority to tell them they must.

Taunted Laurierites.

D.A. Lesperance (Montmagny) taunted the Liberals with remaining within the lines of Torres Vedras instead of declaring their position. He would vote against the amendment, but he did not wish his vote to be interpreted as a denial of minority rights. The amendment was superfluous, and he had entire confidence that Manitoba would do the right thing.

J. H. Rainville (Chambly-Vercheres) declared: "We are not called on today to give a constitution to Keewatin, but to annex Keewatin to a province which already has a constitution. We could not in any way touch the constitution of Manitoba."

Says Ontario Would Revolt.

"Would Ontario accept the extension of its boundaries," Mr. Rainville asked, "with any clause limiting its constitution? Would Quebec accept Ungava with a clause forbidding the code Napoleon, with a provision for establishing non-sectarion schools? I answer no. Then we should treat Manitoba as we would treat Ontario or Quebec."

He had all confidence that Premier Roblin of Manitoba, who had fought during 25 years of his life for separate schools, would do justice to the minority.

Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux the other day, said Mr. Rainville, had paid a high tribute to his leader. He had said that on one occasion Laurier had prevented civil war. Perhaps that was the reason they were so quiet on the other side to-day on the school question. But were they always so quiet? Before the election of June, 1896, Quebec Liberals had signed letters declaring that, if Laurier did not settle the Manitoba school question according to the amendment of the bishops during his first session, they would resign.

Football Tactics.

The late government had always made a football of public questions, and to-day it was another football game. They were preparing to go to Quebec and say that they refused to support the present amendment because it was included in that of the right hon. leader of the opposition.

"If you leave two doors open," declared Mr. Rainville to the great delight of the Conservative benches, "one for the east and one for the west, one for Protestants and one for Catholics, one for imperialists and one for autonomy, it will be bad for some one. The draft will pass and it may hurt you. It will be bad for the young chickens—(laughter)—and the old cocks, too." (Hilarious laughter and prolonged applause.)

Louis Coderre (Hochelaga) declared that he would vote with the government.

Sir Wilfrid's Defence.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that, altho he believed that Manitoba should receive an extension of her boundaries, he had thought it his duty to oppose the passage of the bill for reasons which he had given in a former speech.

Conservative speakers had characterized his amendment as a political device. The present was, however, not an occasion for political strategy. The prime minister had raised troubles of which he had not dreamed in his philosophy. For instance, the provinces other than Manitoba would not be satisfied until there was a complete rearrangement of all the subsidies. Manitoba was getting financial terms for which there was no excuse, and, on the other hand, Manitoba instead of getting its lands, was seeing them given to another province.

Saskatchewan, which had been denied an extension of territory by the late administration, now came forward asking access to Hudson Bay. "And," Sir Wilfrid argued, "if access was given to Ontario, why should it not be given to Saskatchewan?"

Not Permanently in Hiding.

In response to a suggestion by the Speaker that the discussion should be confined to the amendment, Sir Wilfrid went on to say that if, on the school question, he had remained within the lines of Torres Vedras, it was not with any intention of remaining there permanently. (Laughter.)

He had not deemed it advisable earlier to enter a debate which was at that time confined to the government side of the house.

"So far as I am concerned," continued the leader of the opposition, "I approach the question at this moment not in my capacity as the leader of a party, but as an individual. My attitude on this question is well known; it has been well known for sixteen years. I stand to-day, in 1912, on the same ground and on the same platform as in 1897. I would not then interfere with the autonomy of Manitoba; I will not now, in opposition, interfere with the autonomy of that province.

"As to the amendment, I say it is beyond doubt that if my hon. friend wished to maintain in the new constitution of Manitoba the legislation of 1875, he could not have adopted a more ineffective method. That amendment would not in any way add to the rights or privileges of the minority in the new territories and is already contained in the Manitoba Act."

Playing Politics in Quebec.

The leader of the opposition agreed that the question was one of law, but he said it had been made in the Province of Quebec a political issue. For fifteen years it had been urged by Conservatives that the settlement of the Manitoba school question reached in 1897 was not a settlement at all and that the first thing a Conservative government would do would be to restore the system of separate schools, which existed in Manitoba prior to 1890.

The policy upon which he had fought the election of 1896, Sir Wilfrid said, was that, clashing of interests in a country like Canada could only be dealt with by compromise, by conciliation, and by prevailing on all parties to sacrifice something if necessary in order to have peace and amity in the land. That policy the Liberal party had adopted in dealing with the question of Asiatic immigration, and with the difficulties arising out of the autonomy bills in 1905.

He said that he had been denounced for the settlement of the Manitoba school question in 1897, and that now the very men who had denounced him were declaring that the question had been settled once and for all by their predecessors in office. Had some of the ministers taken the view they now took the result would have been different in Quebec on Sept. 21.

"Shams and Snares."

Amid laughter, Sir Wilfrid announced that he had not regretted the defeat of his government, save for the sake of the party and the country. He regretted it still less now because one could see the measure of the men who had been returned to office and could realize that the pre-election pledges of the Quebec members of the cabinet had been shams and snares to be disavowed as soon as office was attained.

Sir Wilfrid said that the country had gained by the removal of the school question from the field of agitation. He contended that the settlement of 1897 in no way conravened the judgment of the privy council.

The privy council never ordered, and the representatives of the minority in Manitaoba never asked, the complete restoraion of the separae school system, which existed in that province prior to 1890.

Put Onus on Manitoba.

Proceeding to speak upon the remedial bill of 1896, Sir Wilfrid sated that its defeat lay in the fact that it asked the Manitoba Government to do more than it had power to do. As to the settlement in 1897, he did not say it was the best thing for the minority, but it was much better than the remedial bill.

In citing the law of 1875, he said that the rights of the minority under that statute were not constitutional; they were only the result of a pact. The statute of 1875 was a mere endorsement of parliament and could be changed and modified by parliament as it saw fit.

The ex-prime minister said that the government did not believe in compromise. With them it was everything or nothing, and the result was nothing. If Mr. Robin, as had been stated by the postmaster-general, was well disposed, compromise could have been sought. But, no doubt, Messrs. Monk and Pelletier (at least he would give them credit for it) had struggled with their colleagues to have something for the minority incorporated in the bill in order to save their good name in Quebec.

After a brilliant peroration on the beauty of peace, Sir Wilfrid stated that he would never raise his hand to stir up discord and for that reason he would vote against the amendment.

Monk Hits Back.

Hon. F. D. Monk declared that he could not let Sir Wilfrid's challenge go unanswered. The leader of the opposition did not know when he retired within the lines of Torres Vedras that he would be chased out of those lines. It was interesting, therefore, to see how he would act. His sortie from the lines had been coupled with a good deal of gliding and sliding.

Sir Wilfrid had been a "laudator temporis acti," and very faithful to the motto, "Pride goeth before a fall, and a haughty spirit before destruction." "My hon. friend has fallen into a pit this evening."

One instance of his self-laudation," said Mr. Monk, had been when he said that a transcontinental railway would be built across Canada for $13,000,000; another was when he said he stood on the rock of constitution. Someone on this side of the house beckoned him and he jumped down from the rock with the alacrity of a panther.

A "Shameless Sacrifice."

In 1896 he had concluded an ex parte settlement of the Manitoba school question with Premier Greenway, in which he shamelessly sacrificed the rights he was bound to protect, and was so ashamed of it that when he brought it down in the house his signature was not attachedto it. This after all his talk about conciliation.

Mr. Monk declared that he, himself, had never discussed that question in the Province of Quebec since 1897.

"We have not that habit yet," said Mr. Monk, in reference to Sir Wilfrid's self-laudation. "We have been subjected to a great deal of obliquy in that matter; it has not put me in a resigning mood. Even the worm will turn, and I must say that I never felt more bolted and riveted to my office than now.

"As a matter of policy, at the present juncture, I can conceive of nothing more [illegible] we wish to pro[illegible] to insist on impossible claims." [illegible] a cord among all the members of the cabinet he declared, [illegible] Conservative applause. [illegible] he hoped they had heard the end of the controversy.

Mr. Nickle's bill respecting Queen's University and incorporating Queen's Theological College were read a third time and passed.

Goes to Paris Pulpit.

MONTREAL, March 12.—Rev. John Rushton Heyworth of Calvary Church, has accepted a call to Paris, (Ont.) Congregational Church, and will leave April 1.

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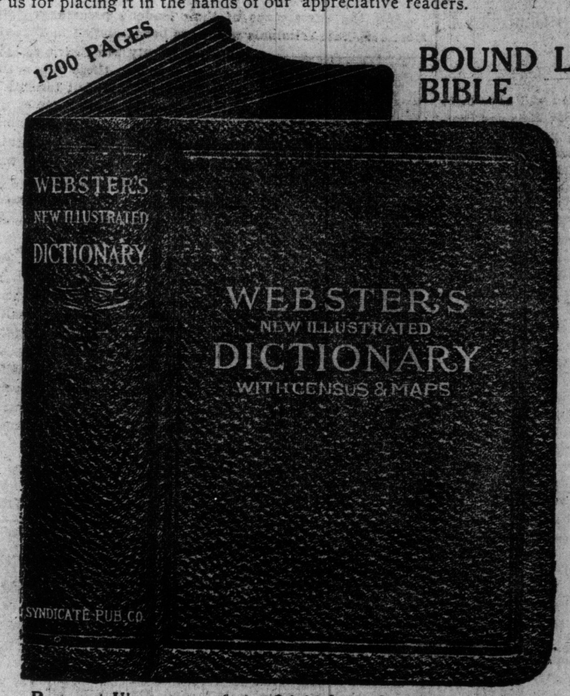

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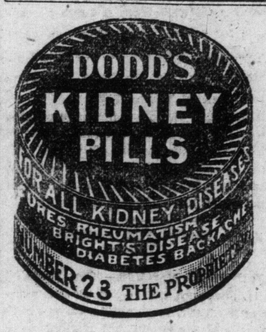

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