

BOSTON POLICE COURT.

LARSEN REPORTS SOME OF HIS EXPERIENCES IN THEM.

He Finds that Humor is a Characteristic of Magistrates There as Well as Here—The Probation System and How It Does a Large Amount of Good.

Boston, Nov. 5.—Police magistrates in all parts of the continent have a weakness for getting off jokes at the expense of people who come before them.

Humphrey Gilbert one old time magistrate of St. John had a keen sense of humor and gave readers of our local papers some choice entertainment on days when there was no news. B. Lester Peters, who was as dignified a man as ever sat on a bench anywhere, also had this weakness, and many a time when reporters were half asleep while the evidence in a tiresome case was being put in he would size up a witness, and lead him on until his answers to the questions were of a decidedly amusing character.

Mr. Peters enjoyed a joke, but aside from a twitching of the lips he never allowed the dignity of the court to be impaired. He had the happy faculty of bringing out the funny business of what was looked upon as a very serious matter, in a way that precluded any stopping over, as it were, but enlivened the proceedings and made the case worth printing.

The present police magistrate, Mr. Ritchie, as everyone knows, takes a joke and will have it, so that the St. John police court has always been a fertile field for good newspaper stories.

Without doubt the greatest and most famous judge in this respect was the late justice Duffy of New York, and he has had his imitators all over the country.

Imitators

It is hardly fair to say that as anyone who has had any police court experience can readily understand how judges fall into this habit of looking at the humorous side of life. They can't help it. The police court is as different from other courts of justice as a variety show is compared to a Henry Irving production.

Here they have all sorts and conditions of men, women and children—all in a box and anxious to get out of it the easiest way possible; offering the most remarkable excuses, telling the most plausible, or most improbable stories. Men and women who are their own lawyers, questioning the witnesses who testify against them, and nine times out of ten telling the judge a story he has heard every day for a year.

The victims of the police court in the main, are of peculiar make-up. If this were not they would not be there. That expression of injured innocence is all prevailing, and the judge with experience who sees beneath the surface, often gives judgment, and imposes sentences in a way, which to the ordinary mind is surprising—sometimes apparently unjust, and unwarranted, or again, lenient past all understanding.

With this knowledge of human nature which develops a keen sense of the ridiculous, the magistrate is prone to go even further than is absolutely necessary.

There are seven or eight judges of the municipal court in Boston, all of whom sit in the big building on Pemberton Square, and hold two criminal sessions on the same time every day. With one or two exceptions, all of these have a keen sense of humor, and gratify it to a greater or less extent.

Judge Hardy is the best story maker of the seven. He is a dignified looking man, with a stern countenance, and deliberateness of speech which seems to expect of those who come before him. He is sarcastic, sometimes to the extent of being cruel, especially when he demands direct answers to direct questions.

He does not spare the police, and when a new man from one of the suburban stations—where officers do not have the experience of those in the city proper—come before him he is apt to be extremely cynical if they make a slip-up in presenting their cases.

I was in court a few days ago, when an officer from a Back Bay station—about a mile and a half from the courthouse—had a larceny case before him. It was the first case he had had of more importance than an ordinary drunk, and when he began to put on his witnesses the judge asked where the stolen property was.

"It's at the station," said the officer.

"Why, didn't you bring it here?"

"Because I understood the prisoner was going to plead guilty."

"Well he hasn't pleaded guilty."

"I know your honor, but I might run to the station and get it necessary."

"How long do you think it would take you to run down to the station?" asked the judge, with emphasis on the "run."

The officer saw the slip he had made, but the judge continued the case until the afternoon, so that he could "run" down to the station and get the stolen articles.

Another day an elderly lady and her daughter were both witnesses in a case, and the former could not restrain herself from talking rapidly when answering the questions put to her, despite the fact that the judge had told her several times to go slowly.

When the daughter took the stand, she also started off at a rapid rate, when the judge interrupted her.

"Don't talk so fast," he said, "we want

to try this case slowly. You see you are talking after your mother.

And so it goes on day after day.

When the vast amount of business transacted by these judges is considered, remembrance of faces and former cases is remarkable. In the first session of the Municipal court, today, for instance there were 107 drunks besides those before the court for other offences.

Every one of these cases was investigated before the prisoners were brought into court, and in these respects Massachusetts, and particularly Boston, has a system different from and far ahead of any on the American continent.

There are seven probation officers, one of whom is a woman, and they have a constant watch over petty offenders. When a man or woman is arrested for drunkenness, for instance they visit them in their cell in the toms, learn their name and address, and look up the prisoner's record. They start out at 6 o'clock in the morning and look up all the addresses given and find out all about the prisoners. When each name is called, the probation officer makes his report on it. First offenders are discharged. Their names are recorded, however, for future reference. If the officers find that a man does not treat his family right they take him in hand; he is placed on probation and ordered to report to the court at a certain time, and if he does not carry out the promises he made, he will be sent to prison. In cases where the man does not give his wife sufficient to support the family, the probation officers make an arrangement by which she gets a certain sum from his employer, and the man has either to submit to such an arrangement or stand the chances of serving a sentence.

The probation officers accomplish reforms in many ways similar to this, and the extent of their work may be imagined, when I say they have from 600 to 700 people under their care all the time. The police also have an eye on these probationers.

The greatest recommendation a man coming before the Municipal court can have is that he works every day. The judges have no use for idlers and seem to think they may as well spend their time on the Island as anywhere else.

But in Boston a man has every chance in the world to do what is right, so far as the police court judges are concerned.

R. G. LARSEN.

FEVERS PREVALENT.

MUCH SICKNESS AND MANY DEATHS REPORTED.

Important Suggestions as to How Their Ravages May be Checked.

Fevers are unusually prevalent this fall, a great many cases both of slow and typhoid fever being reported in every locality.

Typhoid fever is an infectious disease, and is generally caused by impure water or bad sewerage. It is of course more apt to attack persons in a physically weak condition, and is in such cases doubly dangerous. Slow fever is the result of a greatly debilitated condition of the system.

Obviously the first thing to do is to take sanitary precautions, in regard to securing pure water, and in the cities perfect sewerage. This concerns the citizens as a body. But the individual needs also to observe the rules of health. The best safeguard against the ravages of fever is to have the system get, as we say, "run down," and one falls an easy prey to fever. We see it all around us in the apparently strong men and women who are stricken down.

Are you in a state of perfect health? If not you may be the next victim of the fever. There is no time to lose. Neighbors right around you have found the means of renewed health and vigor in this use of Hawker's nerve and stomach tonic. It will restore your system also to its old time condition and give you strength to defy the fevers that lurk about us awaiting a victim. Hawker's nerve and stomach tonic is a great blood and flesh builder and invigorator of nerve and brain. It imparts new energy to the organs of the body enabling them to perform their functions perfectly. It is sold by all druggists and dealers at 50 cts. per bottle or six bottles for \$2.50 and is manufactured only by the Hawker Medicine Co. (Ltd) St. John, N. B., and New York City.

Was a Born Inventor.

In a recent issue of the Buffalo Commercial, John K. Chapin, now of Buffalo, gives some reminiscences of Walter Hunt, who in the opinion of many, including Mr. Chapin, was the real inventor of the sewing machine. "Let me close," he says, "with an anecdote of his talent in the line of invention. He came into my office on Nassau street one day looking quite downhearted, and to my inquiry, 'What's the matter, Mr. Hunt?' he replied, 'I owe you \$15, don't I, Chapin?' Well I've not got a cent in the world, and don't know where to get one. Upon my assurance that it did not matter he said: 'Yes; but I don't know where to get a meal of victuals.' After walking the floor for a few minutes in a brown study he suddenly exclaimed, 'I have it. I'll be in this afternoon and pay you.' He went to his shop, took a piece of brass wire, about eight inches long, sharpened at one end, turned a coil in the center and a loop on the other end, bent it over and made the admirable shielded pin now in common use: took it down into Green street, sold the right for \$400 cash, came in before 4 o'clock, and paid me my \$15, saying, 'There, Chapin, make out the papers for that at once, and your money is ready for you.'

The proprietors of the great wheel at Earl's Court, London, are drawing \$15,000 a day.

FREED FROM A BONDAGE.

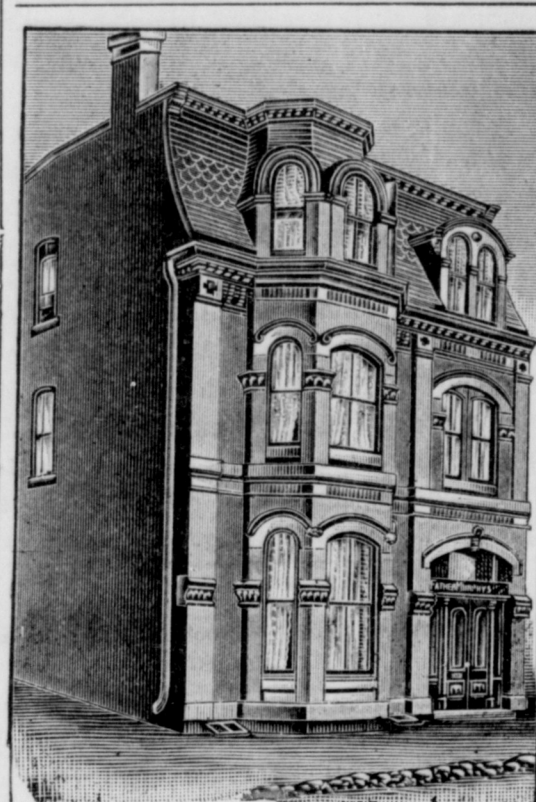
THOUSANDS RESCUED FROM THE DRINK AND DRUG HABIT.

What the Murphy Gold Cure Has Done in the Maritime Provinces—The Institute in St. John and Its Facilities for the Care of All Classes of Patients.

About forty thousand persons in Canada have taken the Murphy Gold Cure treatment for morphia, and dipsomania, and of these about one thousand have been treated at the Institutes in Halifax and St. John.

These are the figures given by Mr. J. L. Hayden, manager of the Institute in this city, and he claims that in ninety-five per cent of these cases there has been a permanent cure of the drug or liquor habit. It is a great record, and one can easily understand that the Murphy Cure comes to stay in every city where it is established. It is now recognized as a permanent institution in St. John, and has finally become settled in quarters which are in every way adapted to the carrying on of its useful work.

These are in the large and well equipped brick building, generally spoken of as the Cowan house, at the eastern end of Hazen street. The choice of locality is excellent. The premises, while convenient to the business centre of the city, are in a neigh-



borhood which wears the appearance of genteel seclusion, which is the more marked from the surroundings of the carefully kept private grounds of several well known citizens who reside in this vicinity. Prior to its present occupancy, the building was a private residence, thoroughly built in the modern style with every regard to cheerfulness and comfort. The rooms are large, well lighted, and with a wide range of view from the windows; the halls are of generous size, the stairways wide and easy of ascent, while the large rooms and high ceilings ensure an abundance of air at all seasons, and are the direct contradiction of the close, stuffy apartments so often found even in dwellings with many pretensions to style in architecture. The whole interior, from the tastefully furnished reception room, with its piano, works of art and other attractive belongings, to the smallest of the bedrooms, is suggestive of home life rather than of an institution where patients are received to be cured of that most grievous and degrading disease, the mania for stimulants which derange the mind, wreck the body and imperil the immortal soul.

Manager Hayden, who has been in charge for several months, is very enthusiastic in his work, and as he is a good talker, one has no difficulty in finding out just what the Murphy cure means, as well as what it has done and is doing. In conversation with a representative of PROGRESS, the other day, he gave some information which will interest many who may have had this or that erroneous idea of the institution, its system of cure and its results.

"In the first place" said he, "the institution in St. John has been making rapid advances for the last three or four months. People are beginning to know it better than they did and to have a true conception of the way in which the work is carried on. They have seen the satisfactory results in the cases which have been treated, and we are in receipt of many letters speaking in the warmest terms of the good we have accomplished. I want it understood that our work makes no distinction of class or creed, but is for the good of humanity. It is not under the auspices of any church. We do not ask who or what a patient is. All who come here are accorded equal kindness and consideration whether they be rich or poor. They are received on an equal footing, but, of course, can consult their own tastes as to the matter of association after they come here. Our facilities are such that a person can have perfect seclusion if he so desires and be treated in absolute privacy. In the case of ladies—for we have some of them—there are female attendants and surroundings which ensure every comfort."

"There has been an impression, Mr. Hayden," that there has been a large percentage of relapses from this case. What are the facts?"

"It is not the case, but I am glad you have mentioned it, so that I can explain. There have been relapses in patients from all institutions of this character, and many from other places have been confounded with patients from this institution. If a man has taken a cure and given way to his habits again, there is very likely to be an idea that he has been treated at the Murphy Cure, when we have, in truth,

never heard of him. Out of the one thousand who have been treated by us in the Maritime Provinces since July, 1892 ninety-five per cent have been permanently cured. One relapse out of a large number of cures hurts the effect of all. We have not to consider the exceptional instances, but what the average results have been, and I assert that ninety-five per cent is a large average. Where there have been relapses they have been of men in low social condition, without ambition to do better and of deficient mental organization. The gold cure can do much, but it cannot cure if a man is weak in his brain or degraded in his moral status. In such cases we have to contend not only against surroundings and associations, but against antagonistic physical and mental conditions. We cannot hope for much in such cases, but where we can build upon moral stamina and ordinary brain power a permanent cure can be effected."

"Can any bad effects to the system result from the cure? That is, does the treatment ever prove worse than the disease it has cured?"

"On the contrary, it is a wonderful benefit to the physical and mental system. We do not treat a patient merely for the specific trouble, but we build up the whole system, and restore the man to such a condition of health as he has never known while he addicted to his habit. We make a new man of him, and if he is advanced in years he becomes rejuvenated and enjoys life as he has not enjoyed it for years in the past. Men who have taken this treatment say that they never before felt so full of life and energy. One part of our treatment is the giving of a tonic which repairs the waste that has been going on, and this has a surprising effect which is of permanent benefit."

"But it has been said that men who have relapsed into drinking habits have been seriously affected in their physical system. Some of them have nearly died. Was this the result of the cure?"

"Not of the Murphy Cure. When a man is cured his system is as if he had never taken liquor, and if he does resort to it to gain, through folly or wilfulness, it becomes a poison to the system. When a man begins to drink, in the first instance, he takes liquor in small quantities, increasing them as his system becomes accustomed to it. But when he has taken a cure and goes to drinking again, his old instincts return, he takes very large quantities and the result is a fearful shock to the system. The best effect of the Murphy Cure on the system is the fact that out of the thousand treated in St. John and Halifax there has not been one death, nor has there in all Canada been a death in one of our institutions, or in any way traceable to the effects of the treatment. On the other hand, thousands of men in all ranks of life have been rescued from premature death, and restored to their proper places in the busy world. It is needless to say that those who would have been mere objects of society, have found the trifling cost of the cure repaid to them a hundredfold, while thousands of sad and sorrowing women have been made happy, and the skeleton in the closet in thousands of homes has been relegated to oblivion forever."

That the Murphy Cure has done and is doing a great and noble work is evident to all who have had any acquaintance with the evils caused by liquor and drugs in this part of Canada. It is an institution which not only sets a man on the path to a better life, but it puts him in such a condition of mind and body that he will stay there if he has true manhood in his nature. It places him where he was before he acquired the habit, save that he has the additional safeguard of experience and a realization that intoxicating stimulants are to be shunned as poison. The Cure has freed him from bondage and given him strength to maintain his freedom."

Extract from Judge's Report, Chicago Columbian Exposition, 1893.

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