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SOME STRANGE STORIES

ARE TOLD BY WITNESSES IN THE DUTCHER MURDER CASE.

Damaging Evidence by a Female Witness Calls for a Denial of her Statements from Sullivan's Family—Little Maggie Dutcher's Health is Improving.

The Dutcher murder drags its slow length along, and even the regular weekly adjournment seems to intensify the interest taken in the case by the public, and last Friday when the preliminary examination was resumed, the court room was well filled with eager spectators.

The chief witness—little Maggie Dutcher upon whose evidence so much depends, is almost entirely restored to health, having been able to take short walks in the open air during the past few days, and showing every sign of returning vigor, both mental, and physical but as she is still nervous, and excitable, Dr. Ross does not consider her in a fit state to face the trying ordeal of the witness stand, and is by no means certain that she will be able to give evidence during the coming week. After the great shock, cruel and terrible illness this poor child has suffered from, it is of vital importance both as regards her own health, and the case with which she is so intimately connected that her strength should not be over-taxed in any way. It is also a necessity that the injured brain should be allowed as long a rest as possible, in order that the child's memory may be restored, and her mind perfectly clear, before she is called upon to tell her story.

Meanwhile some interesting testimony has been given and the witnesses have labored valiantly to show the public the extent to which two people can differ from each other and both from the truth. Even the most charitably disposed person in the world cannot fail to be impressed with the amount of false swearing which must have been done since it is impossible that two witnesses who swear positively to diametrically opposite statements, can both be telling the truth. One is prepared for slight discrepancies between the different stories since no two individuals ever describe an occurrence in just the same way; but when it comes to the flimsy test of contradictions, one can scarcely believe it entirely the result of accident. Indeed so far as experience goes, this case stands alone so far, in the extraordinary amount of perjury which seems to have been committed. For instance—Peter Carroll of detective fame is prepared to swear and to bring two other witnesses who will do the same, that Mrs. Jane Green made a certain statement in their presence, and in the course of a lengthy letter in the 'Daily Times' devoted almost exclusively to convincing people of his own worth, and the unusual probity of his life, Carroll incidentally repeats the assertion, and adds that Mrs. Green will swear to the statement she made to him, when she is next called upon to give evidence.

In the face of the gallant "Peachy's" confidently expressed opinion Mrs. Green not only writes to the "Times" herself denying all that Carroll says, but she also feels that in defence of her character she needs a larger audience than the Times can command; so she also writes a letter to "PROGRESS" which not only places Carroll in a worse light than ever, but turns a lurid glare upon his two companions at the time, and makes the whole affair look unpleasantly like a conspiracy.

It is only necessary to refer very briefly to Mrs. Green's latest letter, as readers of "PROGRESS" are familiar with it by this time; but it is what she says is true, and there seems reason for doubting her word, these three men went to a poor woman's house, deliberately tried to make her swear to a falsehood; two of them, the redoubtable Carroll and Mr. George P. Thomas a barrister of Moncton, united in persuading her that "Peachy" was a Mr. White, a local member for Sussex, and acting attorney general, during the illness of Mr. Mitchell and that the Queen had sent him to her house to inquire about the matter. Under the cloak of this authority, they told her that if she would swear to seeing John Sullivan in the Dutcher house on the night of September 10th, she would be treated fairly. Mrs. Green charitably adds, in partial extenuation of Carroll's conduct that he was not in a condition to converse intelligently with anyone, at the time, but he must be a generous soul too, when he is a little "how-come-ye-so" because he offered Mrs. Green a drink out of a bottle he carried, in order to seal the bargain.

In spite of Mr. Thomas' assurance that all his friend said was true, and even of Her Gracious Majesty's deep interest in the Dutcher tragedy, Mrs. Green declined to do as she was asked, and the question which naturally arises in the speculative mind, is how Carroll came to be able to assert as positively as he did in his letter, that Mrs. Green would swear to seeing a man carrying a light past Mrs. Dutcher's window on the night of the murder? Probably the disciple of "law and order" contemplated calling on Mrs. Green again, and trusted

that his powers of persuasion would be more successful on the next occasion. It really begins to look decidedly awkward for Messrs. Thomas and Carroll, unless they can succeed in disproving Mrs. Green's statement, and it would be well for young Dutcher, if he would be more particular as to his associates; he will be getting himself talked about if he is not very careful!

Meanwhile, not to be behind hand, in keeping themselves before the public, the friends of the prisoner seem to have been doing a little uncertain swearing, and some letter writing for the press, amongst themselves. Miss Ardina Howell, a friend of the Sullivan family was called to the witness stand on Saturday, and under oath she made the damaging statement that Daniel Sullivan senior, father of the prisoner had called to see her, and asked her to swear that she met John Sullivan on Thursday night, the night of the tragedy, and also on the night after at a time in the evening which would conclusively prove an alibi for the prisoner; adding that his daughter Lucy would swear to it, and she might as well. She was to swear that she met Sullivan on Thursday night, at about the time the train from Memramcook reached Moncton. The girl naturally refused to sacrifice her own character in order to help her friends, and stated instead that she had met Sullivan on Friday evening on Main street, walking with his sister, and had turned and walked a short distance with them. That in the course of conversation John Sullivan asked her if she had heard about the fire at the Dutcher house, and on her response that she could hardly believe it, he answered that it was true enough as he came from there that morning. The witness said that Daniel Sullivan senior went to see her a second time, at her home at Calhoun's mills at the end of October, and again urged her to swear that she met his son John on Thursday evening. Miss Howell also stated in her evidence that Lucy Sullivan had said in her presence, and that of her brother's counsel Mr. Smith, that she intended to swear to the meeting, whether Miss Howell did or not.

This sounds like very direct and fearless evidence, but Sullivan senior comes out in a letter in Monday's 'Daily Times,' and says that Miss Howell's evidence was wickedly false, and that she manufactured her statement of his attempt to make her commit perjury, out of old cloth. It is to be presumed Mr. Sullivan means whole cloth, but that is a mere matter of detail. He says no greater falsehood was ever sworn to in any court in this county, and that he himself heard Miss Howell tell Mr. Smith that she was confident it was on Thursday, instead of Friday that she met his son; and that she spoke entirely of her own accord, and without being asked.

All this is very confusing to the seeker after truth, and the only thing which seems quite clear is the fact that someone has been telling a story, but to decide who it is, would require a much more luminous mind than the average mortal possesses.

The rest of the evidence given last week was comparatively important, and the appearance of Maggie Dutcher on the witness stand, is anxiously looked forward to.

BOTH YOUNG AND BOTH FOOLISH.

Two Young Men Freeze Each Other on Account of an Acquaintance.

An interesting story is told in connection with a special prayer meeting held during the week in one of the city churches. The young people of that particular parish have recently manifested a burning interest in all religious matters and the prayer meetings have been largely attended. Some of the "boys" of the parish did not attend the meetings but were on deck outside the church just the same so as to escort their respective best girls home. One evening recently two young men went to the church and waited for one particular young lady for whom they both felt a particular regard. The night was chilly and as neither of them wore overcoats the period of waiting was not the most enjoyable in the world. Finally the girl appeared and both young men at once went to see her home. Then came the crisis. Each claimed for her favor thought he was best entitled to be her own escort and as neither would withdraw, a fistic collision was imminent. The young lady meanwhile was in a dilemma, if she turned to speak to Jack, Jim had a word to say and if any attention was lavished on Jim, Jack at once endeavored to engage her attention in lively conversation. The young lady had no decided preference for either of her would be Romeo and it was a clear case of "could be happy with either were 'tother dear charmer away etc." At any rate she had a double escort as neither of the boys would give up their quarry.

When the parental residence was reached the girl's mother who happened to be standing outside the door was greatly surprised to see "her dear child" sandwiched between her two friends. She was at once marched into the house and the two boys have not spoken since.

Chairs Re-sewed, One, Split, Perforated Duval, 17 Waterloo.

PROVIDENCE STILL HERE

SO DIRECTOR SMITH ASSURES THE COMMON COUNCIL

When Explaining Why He Did Not Remove the Crib Work—Why Mr. Brown Was Not Appointed—Mr. Thompson is a Favorite.

Seventy thousand dollars spent at Sand Point and nothing to show for it yet! Nothing above water at any rate save the barks and the unfinished warehouse. What was upon the surface when PROGRESS appeared last week has vanished at this writing and according to Director Smith "by an act of Providence."

It is well for the council to be assured through the medium of its director of public works, that Providence has not deserted them altogether. So long as Providence lingers in the vicinity of Sand Point there will be a source to blame and an excuse for the neglect of incompetent and obstinate officials.

The council has been meeting pretty often this week and the aldermen have talked a good deal within and out of doors. Nothing definite has been arrived at though steps to a conclusion have been taken. The C. P. R. is still a subject of much uncertainty to the mayor and council. That astute corporation has given a verbal promise to pay \$50,000 upon the performance of certain work but there is no written guarantee and some of the aldermen are afraid that under the present circumstances there may be an inclination to back out. Others in view of the additional expense on account of the accident and the new style of wharf to be built think the assistance might be increased to \$75,000 instead of \$50,000.

In the meantime Manager Timmerman says nothing, not even at the disposition of the city to walk past him and deal direct with the authorities in Montreal. That does not bother him for well he knows that they must come to him in the end. Such suggestions as these at the council board are not wise. So long as a big corporation has an authorized and trusted representative in the city, negotiations must be carried on through him and this fact should be borne in mind by the council. Now that body is looking for some definite assurance from the railway and until it is given Sand point improvements are practically at a stand still.

No, for the Freeport is still working night and day and still drawing that \$600 for that time. The more mud that goes into the channel the better for her owners. According to the figures of the chamberlain Thursday about \$35,000 has been spent for dredging and scows already. A tidy sum truly and one that is bound to grow into much larger one if the present system is continued.

The demand for the contractor among the citizens is general. As taxpayers they are tired of the city carrying on its own work under such direction as it has had. The feeling has grown that a few aldermen and persons closely connected with the council are so eager for the patronage connected with the construction that they do not wish to relinquish this power. But there are enough of honest, straightforward men in the council to stop this sort of work if they will do so, and if they do not exercise the power they have the citizens will have a word to say in the spring. The city has fathered many mistakes of its officials—let the work go to a contractor now and city officials prevented from making blunders by relieving them of work which they know nothing about.

According to the chamberlain's figures the city has spent \$100,000 lacking some \$400. Nearly \$30,000 of this is accounted for by the expropriation of lands and 35,000 more by dredging and scows. Then there has been \$11,650 for labor but it is not stated whether this includes the services of the Canadian Pacific for hauling gravel for filling in. For the purchase of piles and driving them about \$9,000 has been spent and then that red pine and hemlock that PROGRESS spoke about last week cost nearly \$3,000. It may be that the cost for the sunken pile driver is included but it not nearly \$3,000 more must be added to the total. Something more than \$6,000 has been spent for lumber but who sold it has not been stated yet. Part of it was tendered for at any rate.

One thing is certain the man who saw that the lumber that went into the Connelly wharf was good, the man who looked after the city's interests when that structure was built is not now in the same position. Mr. Thompson is the man now and Walter Brown is not in it this time. He came within sight of it though and would have been appointed but when the motion was about to be made to appoint an overseer the board of works, through its chief official, suggested that it was too early for such a step. But before the council met again Mr. Thompson was appointed. No one knows who appointed him. The advisory board has been blamed but a member of the advisory board says that he did not know who appointed him unless it was at a meeting which he did not attend.

But the fact was that Mr. Brown left a record behind him of discarding lumber that was not up to the standard and he was not wanted.

Mr. Thompson on the contrary seems to be favored. When he tendered for the T warehouse his figures were \$775 higher than Mr. D. W. Clark's but in spite of that Director Smith wanted him to get the job and suggested that this be done but he was opposed vigorously and Mr. Clark, complying with the request of the council as to time had the contract awarded him. But Thompson was remembered all the same at a later stage.

But the people are tired now—tired of the tactics and antics of Director, or as some call him, Dictator Smith, tired of the waste, the needless expense, the ignorance displayed in the construction of the improvements. The people are willing to pay for good work but they are watching the council closely and the continuation of such blundering extravagance as has been witnessed within the week will be remembered and punished in the end.

Mayor Robertson must not think all the people are fools. There is an old saying to the effect "that you can fool some of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." So when he says that the loss by the recent accidents and mistakes is not more than \$15,000 he should bear this little saying in mind.

PRESIDENT BURNS WASN'T THERE.

The Meeting of the Ship Laborers Union was not Exciting.

It was expected that Thursday night's meeting of the Ship Laborers Union would be a lively one; but those expectations fell flat. It turned out to be just an ordinary coming together of the laborers for the election of officers and to discuss winter port matters.

When President Thos. Burns was absent a little over a week ago for utterances at a common council meeting called to consider the import labor question, he and his friends threatened to get even and it was thought they would try to do it Thursday night, but Burns did not even attend the meeting. Some of his friends were there but they realized that they were such a small minority that they simply sat back and said nothing in the union.

There is a certain clique over which Mr. Burns rules and the night he was forced to retire from the presidential chair they were at the meeting in force. They fought hard to have him retained but Secretary Killen had generalised the Burns party and won the day.

Mr. Richard Kelly, who was vice-president is now the presiding official and it is said that there is not a supporter of Burns among the officers. The men who are now in office are all firm believers in the union by laws and it is safe to predict that they will adhere to them strongly should any emergencies arise this winter.

ANOTHER GENEROUS OFFER.

The Woman who Lost her Sewing Machine has Much Sympathy.

When an article appeared in PROGRESS two or three weeks ago regarding a poor woman in the South end who had been deprived of her means of livelihood by the seizure for a small debt, of her sewing machine, there was a very evident wish on the part of several well known business men to do something that would in a measure, atone for the harshness with which the woman had been treated. Mr. Rogers of the Singer sewing machine company came promptly forward and tendered his sympathy in a very practical manner by the offer of a sewing machine and now to PROGRESS comes another from Mr. H. F. Coombs of the S. H. Sewing machine who writes PROGRESS this week as follows: "I was much interested in your article of the 7th. There is a S. H. Sewing machine at my house and two at Gerow's belonging to me; if the poor woman referred to is not already supplied with a machine send her word that she can have either of these free; as I have met some of these human sharks I can sympathize with the woman you refer to."

New Fields and Pastures Green.

There are sad hearts in the city now for John Callahan McCarthy, the West end poet has left us. He has gone to rest his poetic body on a farm and it is doubtful if our citizen's cents can ever again purchase a sample of his works for two cents. John is rich now and will devote all his time to basking in the sun, and growing produce. He recently sold his property at Carleton for \$500 and with a portion of that amount he has purchased a farm. He had considerable money in the old sock which hung in a secluded corner in his residence and he don't care how the world moves on. He once wrote these lines:

I've traveled in England, I've traveled in France, I've traveled all over the B g United States,

And now he can add

"I'm now where the grass grows green.

John's friends will wish him every kind of prosperity and those who were unkind enough to shun him when he tried to sell a poem will at least hope that he may find farming a congenial occupation.

A MASHER QUENCHED.

WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN WILL NOT OGLE LADIES AGAIN

In a Hurry—He was Pointed out to an Angry Father and Apologies Were in Order at once—Other Mashers Who are Also in This City.

St. John is unfortunate in having a class of young and old men who devote all their spare time to insulting ladies. The young men are probably given to this class of amusement but there are many who engage in it whose age, if divided, would allow the privilege of casting a ballot at an election and complaints have frequently been made to PROGRESS about these persons and the time seems to have arrived when some definite action should be taken. The police are the ones to act and as they have frequently had their attention called to cases where ladies have been insulted on the streets, they should not hesitate to bring the offenders before the police magistrate.

One young man who has made himself very obnoxious in the streets for some time past narrowly escaped a trouncing from an angry father this week. The young man by name McLaughlin—who came to the city quite recently and engaged in the liquor business near the waterfront, with his brother is a masher. He is not a phenomenally successful masher but he has clung faithfully to the street corners and smiled at every girl who looked his way. He is a blonde with curly hair and a carefully cultivated mustache. He is not a handsome man but he thinks he is and that is how he got into trouble.

He saw a young lady on one of the principal streets a few evenings ago and immediately started in to make her acquaintance. He didn't seek an introduction but suggested to her that it was a fine evening. The young lady didn't respond but the masher was persistent and succeeded before he saw that his efforts were useless in so wounding the young lady's feelings that she told her father of the affair when she went home. Her father is a prominent merchant and has a reputation of being able to accumulate a stock of temper that must find an outlet even if someone has to suffer.

He couldn't from the description his daughter gave, ascertain the person who insulted her was but she promised to point him out sometime.

The time came sooner than expected and the young man would have given all his worldly belongings to have been somewhere else.

It was in the Opera House on Monday evening that the young lady saw him and told her father. The old gentleman's blood went up to fever heat, he restrained himself until the close of the performance. Then he started for the door and caught the young man by the arm and requested a few moments private conversation with him. What happened for a few minutes was not heard by those standing around but the result was that the young man apologized to the elderly gentleman's daughter and stood a tongue thrashing that should have the effect of making him more careful in the future. The affair would have come before the police magistrate but for the unpleasant notoriety that it would have occasioned the lady's family.

This is only one of the cases that have recently been told to PROGRESS and it is not so serious as others that have occurred. One lady was followed the other night by a well known young clerk from King street to her home and the fellow even went so far as to try to force his way into the hallway of her house. Fortunately for himself he got out of sight before the lady's male relatives reached the street or he would have received a sound thrashing.

One old gentleman whose office is on Prince William street is among the crowd of mashers who have become such a nuisance in the city. He particularly devotes his time to the unlighted streets and has grown so offensive that these portions of the city are shunned by ladies who once passed through them. Another most objectionable creature is a young fellow of about 20, who has chosen the head of King street, Charlotte and Union as his district. There are many others whose names doubtless will shortly adorn the report books in the central police station.

Since the Curlew Bell agitation the number of young girls on the street has seemingly, very materially increased. Hundreds of them are to be seen about town nightly and lately one or two hastily arranged marriages have taken place. In one case the bride was not quite fourteen years of age while the groom was about twenty-two. It is quite a common thing now to see girls of ten and boys of the same age or a little more loitering about King and Canterbury streets. The police have been putting a stop to this and have sent several of these children home to their parents.

R.v. Father Gaynor of St. John the baptist church at Lower Cove was made aware of this state of affairs a short time

ago and at a recent service in the church spoke quite plainly to the parents in the congregation. He told of the evils children who were allowed to be about the streets at night, were exposed to and strongly advised the parents to keep their boys and girls at home. He hoped that clergymen of other denominations would look the matter up and that fathers and mothers would, in future, pay more attention to the moral welfare of their children.

THE TONNAGE WAS NOT PAID.

And in Consequence the Inspector Sought Other Fields.

The proposed new wharf at Sand Point with all its varied adventures and experiences of the past week or two, is not the only matter under the supervision of the official known as Chairman of the Board of Works that calls for remark upon the manner in which that official discharges some of the duties of his position.

Among the numerous subjects with which Poo-Bah-like he had to deal is the matter of the management of the ferries. There is a subordinate officer, it is true, who is designated superintendent of ferries but this officer's duty is somewhat clerical in recent days. The practice that has been in vogue respecting the management of the steamers of the ferry has been varilike somewhat but the general rule observed has been to have repairs made and a general overhauling and cleaning up of the boat done while the other boat remains in commission. This work is done during the winter generally and it is not infrequently continued into the spring and summer months. These repairs and renovations must be extensive and ought to be very thorough when the time thus occupied is considered. In a very accident, however, should happen to the steamer that is in commission while the repairs are being made on the other it would be a very awkward occurrence, only in less degree than the landslide. Happily for all who use the ferry, this rarely happens. These works are carried on under the direction of the chairman referred to, and he is fairly entitled to the credit of instituting the fifty cents charge for a bundle of tickets for children—although he and other civic officers, policemen etc. who draw good pay pass over the ferry without charge—also the blowing the whistle before the steamer starts out of the dock—less innovations he is entitled, to the credit of, such as they are. But the latest instance of efficiency on the part of a story told about the steamer now lying in Rodney slip and on which the repairs are supposed to be completed. The story goes that all repairs being made, a message was sent to the steamboat inspector asking his presence at Rodney Slip to test the boilers of the steamer before she was put on the route. A fire was lighted on board the boat, water was in the boilers and she had steam up. The inspector put in an appearance and when he made a few necessary preliminary inquiries, lo and behold! it was found that the tonnage dues on the boat had not been paid. The story goes that this being indispensable to an inspection, the steamboat inspector sought other fields. It is said he went in the direction of Prince Edward Island and the good ship Ouagougu must remain out of commission until he returns.

THE WAR OF SAUSAGE PRICES.

What Mr. Thomas Has to Say About The Competition.

The 'Sausage war' is exciting a good deal of attention. The element of competition has proved an important one this season and some of the manufacturers have lost their heads, in their eagerness to outstrip each other in getting at the lowest possible price.

Among those who have gone on in the even tenor of their way is Mr. Thomas Dean of the country market whose sausages are considered as good as any, at any time. PROGRESS inquired of Mr. Dean the cause of the war upon prices and the cause of the drop from ten to five cents. His reply was that the stock that was used could be utilized for no other purpose and that it was a question of throwing the waste away or putting it into sausages. The other materials used in the manufacture can be bought in large quantities. This refers to prepared seasoning which is made up of no one knows what and sold for about ten cents per pound. Then there is a so called sausage preparation which is largely used by our dealers here as it is guaranteed to absorb two or three times as much water as flour. "I do not use any of these preparations" said Mr. Dean "I buy what sage and savory I want from the most reliable grower near Boston I know, Mr. Williamson whom I pay forty cents a pound for it and my white pepper comes from Jardine & Co or T. B. Barker & Son. The cut in prices has not affected my trade materially. Of course there are different kind of buyers; some want the best, some want the cheapest and do not inquire into quality but in spite of this I mean to go on as I began, to make the best goods and get a fair price for them. Reliable goods always win in the end."