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SECRECY SURROUNDS RARE PICTURE FIND

Canvas of Sir Thomas More—If Expert Opinion Proves its Value, Painting will be Hung in British Royal Academy.

Montreal, Sept. 19.—Secrecy and mystery surrounds the picture supposed to be a portrait of Sir Thomas More by Albert Durer which was unearthed in Ontario by Mr. Purves Carter. The picture which was yesterday reported to be hanging at the Sacred Heart Convent was not there today, having been removed by those in authority. Mr. Carter could not be found to give a more detailed explanation of his find.

The picture which is small in size about twelve inches by twenty is painted on a wooden panel, upon the back of which it is stated documents authenticating its authorship were found. The value of the find is apparently unquestioned by the ecclesiastical authorities, who have taken possession of the picture, and will not risk anyone looking at it for fear that it might be taken away. As soon as the cleaning has been completed it is said that they hope to have it hung in the British Royal Academy.

What convinces those who have seen it that it is a portrait of the beheaded Chancellor of King Henry VII, is that in feature and likeness it is very like a portrait of the gentleman painted by Holbein, only that in the case of the present find it is stated that the expression is far sweeter.

The story of the find is still very incomplete. Mr. Carter it appears was doing some cleaning and restoration work at St. John, N.B., for Bishop Casey, when a family at Sarnia wrote him of the old picture they had in their possession. He immediately left for Ontario with the result that the panel partially cleaned revealed what Mr. Carter is inclined to believe is one of the greatest artistic discoveries of the present century and in this he is correct if expert opinion bears out his contention. The picture was viewed by several prominent priests during the past week, and when Bishop Casey left

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own the panel was taken from the Sacred Heart Convent and the ecclesiastical authorities have not thus far given out any information as to its whereabouts. It is understood that they intend if possible to have it hung at the British Royal Academy.

The discoverer of the picture who is an expert at cleaning and restoring pictures, has been having phenomenally good fortune during his search throughout Canada and during his trip to the Lower Provinces, has succeeded in unearthing what he believes are very valuable pictures. At Laval Seminary in Quebec some good examples by the old masters were found, the same thing occurred in Halifax and also in St. John. In Montreal artistic circles opinion has been divided as to the authenticity

he attributes to the works, but as far as is known no discovery has been considered of sufficient importance to call in the judgment of a body of experts.

THE TRANSCONTINENTAL

St. John Globe: Mr. L. P. Farris, of White's Cove, Commissioner of Police on the National Transcontinental in New Brunswick, is in the city. Speaking of conditions on the road, he said that the duties of the police were becoming less arduous on account of so many men being laid off as the work nears completion. So far they have not made any reductions in their staff, but will soon do so. Mr. Farris said that the Corbett and Floesch contract would be finished before the end of the month and this would complete the line from Moncton to Chipman.

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