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DAILY HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1905

A MUCH LAMENTED DEATH.

Sorrow will be universal in this community at the death of Rev. Dr. Roberts, and indeed wherever that much esteemed Christian gentleman was known.

Few men in this or any other place got so close to the hearts of the people as Canon Roberts. He had a genial greeting for all, a heart overflowing with the milk of human kindness. He loved humanity and sympathized with all its ills. He was a true exemplar of the gentle spirit of the Master whom he so faithfully served, and whose precepts guided him throughout his long and useful life.

The church loses a strong man, a wise counsellor, a faithful worker in the death of Canon Roberts, the community in which he was born reared and spent the greater part of his life mourns a citizen of the best type, the country counts one less among its patriotic sons, and the members of his family gather around the bier of one who was in very truth an affectionate, indulgent husband and parent, the idol of his household now gone to join the great family above.

The sorrow that a community feels in the loss of such a man as Canon Roberts is best expressed in the hushed voice, the quiet tear drop which mark the communication of the sad intelligence from mouth to mouth. The blow has fallen suddenly, unexpectedly, and for that reason is all the more crushing. The revered faithful servant of Christ literally dropped in the harness of Christian effort.

He was in his pulpit Sunday morning when weakened by the threatened attack and should have been in his bed, but we who knew the man, his deep religious convictions, his pride in the service of his Master, realize that he would welcome the call to service in Heaven at short notice if it must come, rather than that he should languish for weeks or months on a sick bed, with his powers weakened and himself unable to do his work.

It was not only when Canon Roberts was proclaiming the holy truth from his pulpit, instructing the children in the Sunday school, or administering consolation to the dying, that he was rendering faithful and untiring service to his Master. The aroma of religion was about him at all times, in his greeting to his friends in the street, in the social circle, and in all public assemblies in which he appeared. He was an everyday Christian whose faith was evidenced in his works, and men pointed to him as one who embodied in himself the patient, loving spirit of Him who now welcomes the faithful pastor to the glories of the home beyond.

The life of such a man as Canon Roberts was in itself, divorced entirely from his active efforts on behalf of religion and humanity a great moulding influence, leading his fellows to a brighter and higher conception of the things which make for eternal salvation.

To the bereaved family The Herald offers its tenderest and sincerest sympathies. They may feel assured that deep, unspeakable sorrow prevails at the loss they sustained in the death of the now sainted Canon Roberts, and the prayer of all will be that they may be upheld by the strong hand of the Great Comforter in the hour of their severe trial.

THE MASK THROWN OFF.

The Moncton Transcript after denying that it advocates any particular route through New Brunswick for the Transcontinental railway, still harps on the great possibilities of the lands lying along the Central route, which it hopes will be contributory to the development of Moncton. The Transcript has thrown off its mask entirely and appears as the open advocate the Central route, enjoying the distinction of being the only New Brunswick newspaper pursuing that course. Here is what it says in its Tuesday's issue:

"What New Brunswick needs is that the railway shall if it be the most direct and cheapest in construction, pursue the central route and develop the large central districts of the province; which contain some of the finest agricultural sections in eastern Canada. In the in-

terests of New Brunswick the opportunity is now here to colonize and develop the centre of the province; and it would be suicidal policy to repeat the folly of running all the railways along the frontier fringes of the provinces and for all time undevelop the heart of the province."

This view suits Halifax and Nova Scotia admirably, and the people of that city and province will welcome the assistance of so able an advocate as the Transcript, while in New Brunswick regret will be felt that one of the leading provincial newspapers, favors a policy that would prove a great injustice to the greater part of the country.

The Telegraph publishes a report from Ottawa that the resignation of Sir William Mulock, as postmaster general, member of the cabinet and of parliament, will be announced within forty-eight hours, adding that he will accept a seat on the Ontario bench. This may be true, and if true it is regrettable, but we shall wait for the official announcement, because we remember that the Telegraph confidently announced almost daily about this time last year that Mr. Blair would take the stump in forty-eight hours for the Tories.

Dramatic scenes marked the formal Union of the Baptist and Free Baptist churches last night at St. John, and all denominations will rejoice that these bodies have buried all doctrinal differences and form a strong body of action Christian workers. The honor of being elected first moderator of the United Baptists of New Brunswick has fallen to Rev. Dr. McLeod of this city, as a well deserved recognition of his labors to accomplish the Union.

The Moncton Transcript is entirely astray and needlessly offensive when it intimates that the Herald is made the vehicle of one of the Transcontinental railway engineers to wreak revenge against a superior officer. The Herald in discussing the question of routes has expressed its own opinions, and has had no communication with any engineer, on the subject, so that the Transcript's insinuation is entirely uncalled for and without foundation.

Mr. Stephen Tobin, a former mayor of Halifax, and who represented that constituency in the House of Commons for some years as a conservative, is dead at Montreal where he made for the Home for Incurables.

BITS OF NEWS.

Items of Interest Culled from Our Exchanges and Other Sources.

S. Fred Nixon, speaker of the New York State Assembly, died at his home at Westfield, N. J., Tuesday.

Gavin L. Stairs of Selma, Hants County, brother of the late John F. Stairs of Halifax, and Randall McDougall of Selma, believe that they have struck a rich deposit of oil on the latter's farm at Selma, Hants County. It was discovered in an old well, and as fast as the well is bailed out it fills up with a mixture of water and petroleum.

William Edmonds, 21 years of age, was crushed to death Saturday morning at the British Columbia soap works, Victoria, B. C. He was adjusting a bolt to the shaft, when his clothes were caught, and was battered to death between the pulley and the ceiling. His parents, who were divorced some years ago, met for the first time since at the side of their dying son.

The five year old son of Samuel Verner, South Street, Halifax, while playing with matches in the yard at the rear of the house Tuesday morning, set his clothing on fire. A man passing, hearing the child's cries, ran to the yard and with his mother sought to extinguish the flames, but before this could be done the fire had done its deadly work, and two hours later death ensued.

The secretary of state has been notified that through the mediation of the British foreign office two Canadian sailors, Grant, of Victoria (B. C.), and Findlay, of Pictou (N. S.), have been set free from the Russian prison at Medved. They belonged to the crew of a Japanese sealing vessel, captured and sunk by Russian men-of-war last year. As soon as the Canadian government learned of their case, it applied to the British foreign office for their release, which has now been happily granted.

John Smith, who was sentenced to two years in Dorchester penitentiary on the charge of breaking and entering into A. G. Blair's summer residence at Sand Cove, was given his liberty and arrived at St. John as a ticket-of-leave man Monday. He says he worked side by side with Frank Higgins, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of Willie Doherty in Rockwood Park. He says Higgins has told him several times that it was he who murdered Doherty. Higgins, he says, expects to get out on a ticket-of-leave in about five years' time.

The interests of the province of New Brunswick are involved in a case which will be argued at Ottawa on Tuesday before Hon. R. W. Scott, the

secretary of state, the point at issue being the powers of the local legislature. The Grand Falls Power Company, Ltd., incorporated last spring by the local house, will apply to have the name of the Company incorporated at Ottawa changed on the ground that the name has already been adopted by the applicants. The Company incorporated at Ottawa intend, it is said, to give notice to cancel the rights of the New Brunswick Company, claiming that the act of the local legislature was ultra vires. Hon. A. G. Blair, K. C.; H. H. McLean, K. C.; Premier Tweedie and A. P. Barnhill, K. C., are engaged in the proceedings.

W. F. M. S. CONVENTION.

Presbyterian Women of the Maritime Provinces in Session at St. John.

St. John, Oct. 11.—(Special.)—The W. F. M. S. convention of the Maritime Provinces opened this morning with 200 delegates in attendance.

The morning's work was mostly of routine, the appointing of committees and hearing the reports of the work of the different branches.

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the W. F. M. S. of the Presbyterian Church, eastern section, opened last evening in St. Andrew's church, St. John. About 200 delegates arrived yesterday and are being entertained by the members of the local churches. This body of delegates includes representatives from almost every Presbyterian congregation in the maritime provinces. The delegates were met at the train and boats by a committee appointed for the purpose.

At 7.30 in the evening the board of management held a meeting to draw up the docket for the session. Following this meeting a reception was held in the school room of St. Andrew's for the visiting members.

One representative from each of the religious denominations in the city was invited. These included the Rev. Canon Richardson, Rev. Dr. Gates, Rev. Mr. Pritchard, Rev. G. M. Campbell.

The local Presbyterian ministers, Rev. David Lang, Rev. Dr. Fotheringham, Rev. A. A. Graham, Rev. H. R. Read, Rev. A. H. Foster and Rev. A. M. Hill were also present. An informal programme, consisting chiefly of musical selections, was carried out.

The reception committee was composed of Mrs. Dr. Fotheringham and Mrs. E. A. Smith.

The convention will last until Thursday evening. One of the principal questions to be discussed at this session, and one which will be followed with much interest by many people throughout the Maritime Provinces is whether or not the constitution of the organization shall be changed. The section in dispute held in the contributions must be used for home mission purposes. The change proposed is to enable the societies to include foreign missions in their contributions. It is believed that the Halifax delegates are prepared to vote in a body against any change in the constitution.

SNAKES IN THE WINE.

Montreal, Oct. 9.—The long suspected affinity between the wine and the serpent was proved in a startling manner at the customs house here this morning. An officer, who had been testing several carboys of port wine from China, reported that he had discovered snakes in the wine, and, as he had not been in the habit of "seeing things," his statement received credence. Returning to the wine with other officers, he showed how, in testing, in the contents of one of the carboys, he had seen a snake in the wine, and so the vessel was opened for inspection. To the astonishment of all, the remains of several snakes and a lizard were found in the bottom, dressed in such a manner as to indicate that they had been placed there for a purpose. The snakes were taken to the city hall, and the Chief Food Inspector drew a sample of wine to test its properties. The consignment was addressed to a local Chinese merchant, and when an inquiry was made about the snakes all that could be learned from that source was, "Muchee good; cure sole headache; got leunatism, eatce some snake."



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The startling discovery was made late Tuesday at Pittsburg, Pa., that the Adams Express Co. had been victimized to the extent of \$100,000, supposedly through the speculations of an employee named Cunliffe, who has fled.

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