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DAILY HERALD.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1905.

A PROPER MOVE.

The governing body of St. Ann's Church has shown wisdom in abandoning the old rectory on George St. as a place of residence for their clergymen. The building has few modern appointments, and the rectory of St. Ann's is entitled to better quarters, and more convenient to the church.

The advisability of procuring a new manse for the pastor of St. Paul's church has also received some thought from the trustees, and it is probable that not much time will elapse before a practical move is made in that direction. The present manse has outlived its usefulness as a residence for the clergymen, and it is hardly likely an attempt will be made to repair it beyond some slight improvements to make it inhabitable until a new residence can be erected.

It is hardly fair to expect clergymen to put up with premises that have long since become back numbers in the way of comfort and conveniences, and the congregations owe it to themselves and to their pastors to give the latter good comfortable homes. St. Paul's manse has not even a bath room, and in winter it is difficult to keep it warm with present appliances, and now that the congregation has freed itself from debt, it is in order for the trustee board to take up the matter of providing a new residence for the pastor.

LONG IN POWER.

With the passing of the Balfour Tory-Unionist government in England, attention is called to the fact that that party has been in power since 1886, a period of nineteen years, with the exception of the short reign of the Gladstone-Rosebery Administration of 1892-1895, which was overthrown in 1895. It has held office longer than the average term of Governments in England. Mr. Balfour became Premier in 1902 upon the voluntary retirement of Lord Salisbury at the close of the war in South Africa. Since 1855 the following Premiers have been in control:

Feb. 10, 1855—Palmerston.
Feb. 26, 1858—Derby.
June 18, 1859—Palmerston.
Nov. 6, 1865—Russell.
July 6, 1866—Derby.
Feb. 27, 1868—B. Disraeli.
Dec. 9, 1868—W. E. Gladstone.
Feb. 21, 1874—B. Disraeli.
June 24, 1880—W. E. Gladstone.
June 24, 1885—Salisbury.
Feb. 6, 1886—W. E. Gladstone.
Aug. 3, 1886—Salisbury.
Aug. 18, 1892—W. E. Gladstone.
March 3, 1894—Rosebery.
June 2, 1895—Salisbury.
July 12, 1902—A. J. Balfour. Mr. Balfour has led the House of Commons for a longer period than any member since William Pitt was Premier, and sat in the Commons.

The nineteen years power of the Tory-Unionist government is beaten in two provinces of Canada. Since 1882 a Liberal government has ruled Nova Scotia, and since 1883 there has been no change of government, only reconstruction in New Brunswick. The people know a good thing when they have it, and hold tenaciously to it.

An Ottawa despatch makes this gratifying announcement, repeating I. C. R. finances:—"The financial improvement of the Intercolonial continues, as a consequence of the reforms which have been introduced into its operation. The first two months of the year produced deficits of thirty and seventy thousand dollars each. In September the tide had turned and a surplus of \$34,659 was shown. October produced another surplus, the amount on the right side of the ledger being \$18,814. It is expected this surplus record will be continued for each succeeding month, unless an unusually severe winter increases operating expenses abnormally."

Sarah Bernhardt, the French actress, has given her opinion of Canadians, which is not flattering. Canadians have also their opinion of her, but it would not be gallant to publicly express it. In the meantime it will be recalled that the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Montreal thought it well to warn his people against witnessing the plays which Bernhardt put on the boards at Montreal. The actress' insult, however, was no excuse for mobbing her as was done at Quebec. Silent contempt for her crazy observations would have been better.

PRESTON AND CAMP.

Held Responsible for the Death of Edith Clarke at St. John.

WRITTEN ANTE-MORTEM STATEMENT BY DECEASED PRODUCED IN THE CORONER'S COURT CREATED SENSATION.

"We, the jury empanelled to inquire into the cause of the death of the late Edith Floyd Clarke, find that the said Edith Floyd Clarke, died on Wednesday, Nov. 22nd, at her home No. 69 Adelaide road, St. John, as the result of blood poisoning, caused by an abortion, which, according to the testimony of the deceased, as given by physicians and nurses, was the result of an operation performed by Edward A. Preston, of St. John, N. B., for abortion, and we are of the opinion that Howard D. Camp was a party to the transaction."

After a hearing replete with sensational evidence, the coroner's jury returned the above verdict in the inquest concerning the death of Edith A. Clarke at St. John.

The coroner in thanking the jury for their services, said that he believed their verdict was in complete accord with public opinion, and justified by the evidence.

The inquiry which began on Monday evening, with Coroner Berryman presiding was concluded Wednesday night. There were no new witnesses called, but Dr. Roberts, Dr. Scammell and Mrs. Robert Clarke, stepmother of the dead girl, were put on the stand again, and some new and rather sensational facts elicited.

Dr. Scammell read a statement signed by the deceased Miss Clarke, in which she accused Howard D. Camp of being responsible for her condition, and related particulars of an attempt made by herself to get out of her trouble, but which she stated proved ineffectual.

Dr. Scammell swore that the statement was secured from Miss Clarke previous to the performance of the operation by Dr. Roberts and himself, and was obtained solely for the purpose of protecting themselves in the event of the girl's death. At the time it was secured they had no idea that any medical man had been improperly connected with the case.

His evidence in this particular was corroborated by Dr. Roberts, in whose presence Miss Clarke signed the statement after it had been read over to her.

On Monday the doctors further questioned Miss Clarke and asked her if she had been attended by any other doctor.

Miss Clarke's reply was that Dr. Preston had attended her, and used an instrument on her, and received \$25 for the operation. At the same time she stated that her friend Mr. Camp, had brought her the bottle of ergot.

Mrs. Clark stated Wednesday evening that Edith was out on Saturday evening, but she did not know whether she was accompanied or not. She also stated that Howard Camp called to see Edith on Monday evening, and left a parcel for her, which contained a small bottle of medicine and a note. Mrs. Clarke said that Dr. Preston's name appeared on the label, which, however, she did not look at until the following day.

In consequence of a telegram received from Solicitor General Jones Judge Ritchie has fixed Friday morning as the time for the preliminary examination of Dr. Preston and Howard Camp. It is understood that the crown will be represented at the hearing by the solicitor general.

The Evidence.

Mrs. Robert Clarke, recalled: My step-daughter as a rule, was out nearly every evening when she was in good health. I remember that it was on the 15th of November that Dr. Roberts first visited Edith.

"Did Howard Camp call on Monday, the 13th?"

"He did. It was about half-past seven in the evening. He did not see Edith that evening as she was in bed. He left a small parcel for her. A small bottle of medicine and a note were in the parcel. The note was in an envelope. I read the label on the bottle a day later. Burpee Brown was the name of the druggist on the label."

The witness thought the bottle shown her was the one Mr. Camp left for Edith.

"On Monday Edith wanted to get up, but I persuaded her to remain in bed. Edith went out on Saturday evening. I do not know whether she was alone or not."

Dr. Scammell said: "I had a conversation with Miss Clarke as a result of the information I received from Dr. Roberts of her condition. I put this conversation in writing and I read it over to Miss Clarke and she signed it. I have the original paper. It was signed in the presence of Dr. Roberts. The deceased admitted that it was correct."

The statement signed by Miss Clarke and written by Dr. Scammell was then read by the witness to the court. In it the deceased stated that Howard Camp was responsible for her condition. She also described in detail an ineffectual attempt which she made to bring on a miscarriage.

Dr. Scammell said he got the statement on Sunday morning, the 10th of November, before the operation. "I knew that the young lady was seriously ill, and unmarried, and I therefore questioned her as to when she had done anything to bring on a miscarriage, and who was responsible for her condition."

"My object in getting this statement was not for the purpose of prosecuting anyone, but to protect Dr. Roberts and myself in the event of the girl's death. That was our only object at the time we secured the statement."

"We considered this statement as a private matter between ourselves, and did not produce it on Monday because we thought in view of the other evidence it was not necessary. "Did she admit that the statement was correct before she signed it?" asked the coroner.

The witness replied in the affirmative.

I went out into the adjoining room and wrote it out. I then took it into the room occupied by Miss Clarke and she signed it. It was about half an hour after I had the conversation with Miss Clarke that I wrote it out and got her to sign it, after reading it over to her.

Dr. Roberts, recalled, said: "I was present when Edith Clarke made the statement which Dr. Scammell has just read."

On being shown the statement, he identified it as the one that he had seen Miss Clarke sign.

"The statement was secured for the purpose of protecting Dr. Scammell and myself in case anything happened to the girl. At the time it was secured we did not suspect that any other physician had been improperly connected with the case."

The Coroner's Address.

Cor. Berryman, at this stage said the case for the crown was closed, and, in summing up the evidence, said in part:

"As the coroner in this particular instance, it is my duty, to call your attention to some features of the case."

According to the evidence Howard Camp and the deceased were keeping company and intended to be married. Dr. Roberts was called in to attend Miss Clarke on Nov. 15th, by Miss Reynolds, acting for Mrs. Clarke. Dr. Roberts said that the patient had complained of a chill. He took her temperature, and it was very high, and he gave her what was apparently the right treatment for the symptoms as they presented themselves. On Thursday he saw the young woman again, but he had not been informed of her true condition. On Friday her condition was about the same, but on Saturday Miss Reynolds and Mrs. Clarke went to Dr. Roberts again and told him of new symptoms. With this knowledge in his possession he visited Miss Clarke again, and found that the young woman had had a miscarriage, and there was, to his mind, only one chance to save her life.

He called Dr. Scammell to assist him in performing an operation to remove the effects of the miscarriage, and telling the latter of the circumstances surrounding the case, and also taking the precaution to engage two nurses. The deceased could not have caused an abortion with the implements she said she used.

On Monday, the day following the operation, Dr. Scammell, Dr. Roberts and the nurses were in the patient's room, and there was no better. The physicians, knowing the girl had been in the condition, felt it their duty to inquire who was the man who procured the abortion. They told her that she was very sick and likely to die. In the presence of three reliable witnesses and in the fear of death, the girl said:

"Dr. Preston passed an instrument on me."

"Dr. Preston received \$25 for the operation."

The deceased's statement is that a certain medical man passed an instrument on her and she also said that the half ounce bottle of ergot introduced in evidence, was brought there by Howard Camp. The chief of police got the bottle and asked for the original prescription, which is headed Dr. Edward A. Preston, and gives his telephone number and address, and the directions. The same doctor who the deceased says passed the instrument on her prescribed the drug that goes with such cases, and she got the preparation from the man who she blamed for her trouble.

"In this matter I am the custodian of the law, and have no desire to convict any individual or to shield any one."

Dr. Berryman said this was the most important case that had come before him during the eighteen years that he had been coroner. It was important that these horrible practices, which were a disgrace to the medical profession, and a blot to the fair name of St. John, should be stopped. He wanted the jury to answer:

"When did Edith Clarke die?"

"How did she meet her death?"

"By what means was her death caused?"



The coroner said he did not know how, from the evidence, the jury could fail to connect certain persons with the case, and he thought it had been clearly shown that there had been collusion between Dr. Preston and Howard Camp to produce an abortion on Edith Clarke.

"The eyes of the whole Dominion are upon you, and await your verdict with the same expectancy that they did that in the case at Boston recently, where a physician was tried in a similar case, only not as a principal."

"I leave the case in your hands, confident that your verdict will be a wise one."

The jury retired at 8.45 and after deliberating for one hour and thirty-five minutes, returned the verdict above.

The Boston Herald's excellent report of Hon. H. R. Emmerson's eloquent and instructive speech before the Canadian Club of that city, is reproduced in another part of this paper and will repay careful perusal. The Herald's account says Mr. Emmerson was given a very hearty reception by the distinguished audience, and made many friends during his brief stay at the Hub.

St. Andrew's Beacon.—Mr. Hubbard, who has lately been appointed organizer of the local opposition forces, is only taking up another branch of the "short horn" industry. We shall await with no little trepidation his efforts to "dehorn" Premier Tweedie and place Mr. Hazen at the head of the government herd.

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