

The Daily Herald.

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COULTHARD BUILDING - - CARLETON STREET

WIFE DESERTION

Peculiarly Distressing Case is Revealed at
St. John

ST. JOHN, Dec. 17.—(Special)—A particularly distressing case of wife desertion came to light today, when it was learned that James M. Montgomery, caretaker of the 62nd Battalion Officers' club, and storeman for the Canadian Rubber company of Montreal, had been absent from the city for the past eight weeks, leaving his wife, formerly Miss Baird, of this city, and four small children to get along as best they could.

His wife believes Montgomery, who is an Englishman, went to Halifax, and from there to England.

She thinks it would be impossible for him to return to St. John, and says there is another woman in the case.

It is learned today that when Montgomery left home there was not a loaf of bread and hardly any coal in the house.

Since then the children have had little to eat. The eldest child is seven years and youngest ten months.

ELECTION TRIAL ECHO

London, Ont., Council After Hot Debate
Turned Down Municipal Election Official

LONDON, ONT., Dec. 17.—(Special)—There was great excitement last night in the London city council. L. A. Jones, manufacturer, who figured in the recent election trial in Toronto, having confessed to holding envelopes in the notorious London election, had been appointed by the city clerk as deputy returning officer for the municipal elections.

The Mayor received about twenty-five written objections from voters in the polling sub-division, and asked that Mr. Jones' name be struck from the list.

The debate that followed was hot enough to melt the snows of winter, and about midnight, on a straight party vote of 7 to 5, the name of Mr. Jones was struck off.

MINING HORROR

Sixty Men Killed in Alabama Colliery
Explosion

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., December 17.—Advices last night from Yolande indicate that about sixty men met death in an explosion in the mines at that place early yesterday. The work of recovery is slow, and while hundreds of miners from adjacent mining camps are present to assist, it is thought that all of the dead cannot be taken out before tomorrow. Only twelve bodies had been recovered up to dark. Fewer than 100 men were in the mine.

The cause of the explosion has not been officially determined. The mine has been pronounced free from gas by state inspectors, and it is supposed that the explosion was caused by dust. For two hours after the explosion it was impossible to venture even near the mouth of the mine, so hot was the air that rushed out.

The explosion was below the second right sub-entry. The mines go down something like 1,500 feet. The force of the explosion was made known outside by the dust and timbers that were blown out in great quantities, destroying small buildings nearby and landing some distance away. There was a great heat near the shaft at

ter the explosion.

Officers of the mining company immediately took steps to recover the men inside. The fans were started, and other means were employed to eliminate the bad air. Within an hour fourteen men had crawled out of the mine, and their description of the interior conditions was terrible. Several of these men were severely burned.

Yolande mine is a few miles from Virginia City, where a similar explosion occurred about two years ago when 111 people were killed. Yolande is thirty-five miles south of Birmingham. The Yolande Coal and Coke Company, owners of the mine, is headed by Dr. G. B. Crowe, of Birmingham.

The Yolande mines were among the model collieries of the Birmingham region. Non-union men were employed exclusively, but everything possible had been done to insure the contentment of employees. Yolande is situated on a beautiful hill, and all the houses are painted white, with green trimmings, giving it an air of picturesqueness and healthfulness unusual in mining quarters.

THE HOCKEY LEAGUE

May be Opposition to St. John
Marathons Becoming Members of
Provincial Organization

MONCTON, Dec. 17.—(Special)—Application for admission to New Brunswick Hockey League of the St. John Marathons, may meet with opposition at the annual meeting of the league, to be held in St. John on Thursday.

The Marathons not only are not members of the M. P. A. A. A., but have arranged themselves in opposition to that body.

It is understood that President Lithgow of the M. P. A. A. A., is being consulted in reference to the advisability of allowing the Marathons to enter the league.

Joseph Bourque will be one of Moncton's representatives at the meeting, and the other has not been decided on.

Sometimes plenty of good bread and butter seem to be all that is required to convert a pessimist into an optimist.

RAILWAY MEN HEARD

C. P. R. and Grand Trunk State
Objections to Proposed Legislation

OTTAWA, Dec. 17.—(Special)—The head officials of the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk railways waited on the Minister of Railways today, and had a conference with him regard to the proposed railway legislation.

The railways are strongly opposed to Mr. MacLean's reciprocal demurrage when they cannot supply cars in the same way that the shippers have to pay for holding up cars.

They are also opposed to the two-cent a mile part of the bill.

THE STOCK MARKET

MONTREAL, P. Q., December 17.—(Special)—The stock market was dull and easier today.

The most active issues were: Soo Common 76½; Nipissing 6½; Montreal Power 84; Bell Telephone 120; Toronto Railway 94½; Montreal Street Ry. 171; Nova Scotia Steel 55.

THE SCHOOL TROUBLE

Trustees Find Mr. Wilson's Charges Against
Charlotte Street School Principal
Partially Sustained

BOARD WARNS TEACHERS AGAINST USE OF HASTY
AND IRRITATING LANGUAGE TO PUPILS

The Board of School trustees met last evening and adopted a report from the committee appointed to deal with the charges preferred by Mr. T. Amos Wilson against Miss Thompson, principal of the Charlotte street school. Dr. Atherton presided and all the other members were present with the exception of Mr. J. W. Spurdin, who is absent from the city.

SUB COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The following report was submitted by Sheriff Sterling on behalf of the committee.

To the Board of School Trustees of Fredericton:

Your committee appointed to consider certain charges against the principal of the Charlotte Street school, beg to submit the following report:

The charges referred to were made by Mr. T. A. Wilson and were as follows:

1.—"That Miss Thompson on Monday the 18th of November made the statement to Harry Wilson, my son, a pupil of the seventh grade that if he remained in the school sixteen years she would have nothing to do with or bother her head about him."

2.—Miss Thompson also stated to Harry Wilson that if his parents and not know enough to teach him better manners, she would."

3.—On the next Wednesday, Miss Thompson kept Harry in after school, accused him of lying to his parents and her, and punished and beat him in an improper and unreasonable manner."

Your committee in dealing directly with these charges find that Miss Thompson in her typewritten statement laid before the board on the 9th inst., referring to charges No. 1, states that what she said was, "That were he in my grade for sixteen years I would not take the same interest in him."

While there is a material difference in the meaning of the language charged, and that Miss Thompson admits having used, yet not more so than might fairly be expected from two persons, considerably excited repeating a statement one of them had made.

In regard to the second charge, "That if his parents did not know enough to teach him better manners she would," Harry Wilson states that he and the teacher were alone together when she applied this language to him personally. Miss Thompson states that on the Monday morning referred to she questioned Harry Wilson at recess, and whether she then made the remark charged or not is not very material as three pupils in her school questioned by the secretary, all agree that they had heard her apply it personally to Harry Wilson.

In regard to the 3rd and most important charge, that "On the next Wednesday Miss Thompson kept Harry in after school, accused him of lying to his parents about her, and punished and beat him in a most improper manner," Miss Thompson in her written statement says, "On detaining him to inflict the punishment I was so aggravated by his insolence that besides chastising him in the ordinary way, I hit him twice with the flat part of the ruler over the knuckles, and I regret having done that."

"I regret the occurrence of the incident but I feel that the boy was deserving of punishment."

Your committee agrees with Miss Thompson and believes that the boy did deserve punishment.

In reviewing the statements made and evidence offered in connection with the regrettable affair your committee are of the opinion that Mr. Wilson's charges are in a measure sustained. Miss Thompson was in a measure misled in regard to the actual charges made by Mr. Wilson. It was officially communicated to her that she was charged with "having called the boy and his parents dull and stupid." There is no such statement in Mr. Wilson's charges, and Mrs. Wilson's evidence was to the effect that Harry did not make any such statement to his parents. Miss Thompson having been led to believe that he had made this statement insisted that he was untruthful, and the boy's strenuous denial naturally increased her indignation.

Other and very important questions of deep interest to the schools and the public developed in connection with this investigation.

ORIGIN OF THE TROUBLE.

This difficulty commenced in this way. On Saturday, the 16th of November, two boys, one of them was Harry Wilson, were driving up George street on a bread wagon. Miss

Thompson and her sister were crossing George street on their way to Carleton street. One of the boys on the wagon, afterwards ascertained to be Gerald Carten, called out an insulting nickname. Miss Thompson reported the matter to his teacher and subsequently the boy admitted the offence and apologized for his rudeness.

Miss Thompson questioned Harry Wilson on Monday morning in regard to the incident. Harry denied positively that he had heard such a remark made. Gerald Carten's confession and apology proves that it was made, and it is certainly difficult to explain how a boy sitting on the wagon seat beside him could have failed to hear the remark.

Your committee learns for the first time, and with deep regret that the practice is not infrequent and is growing, of some boys calling out nicknames to teachers on the street. Such conduct is most reprehensible, and your committee feels that the board will approve of the recommendation that any boys attending the public schools (it is hoped and believed that the number is very small) who may have been guilty of such unworthy conduct as speaking or acting disrespectfully to teachers on the streets, be warned against a repetition of this offence, and any teacher so treated is invited to report the case to the board without delay and the board will use every means in its power to stamp out this evil.

WARNING TO TEACHERS.

Another evil that exists, it is feared, to a considerable extent in our schools, is the habit some teachers have of reproving pupils in hasty and irritating language for any real or supposed shortcomings on their part. Such treatment must have a most injurious effect on the habits and temper of the pupils. Teachers must be very careful to guard against offending in this way as the board will not hesitate to mark with strong disapproval any cases brought to its notice.

The question of corporal punishment in the schools is a most important one. Your committee believes the number of cases arises in which whipping the pupil is the best mode of procedure is very small, and suggests that the board should insist on teachers strictly observing the excellent rules laid down for discipline by the Board of Education in regulation 23 (7), and the foot note thereto.

In closing this report your committee wishes to place on record its appreciation of Miss Thompson's superior abilities as a teacher and the excellent work she has done and is now doing as principal of the Charlotte street school.

A. A. STERLING,
HARIE R. CLARK,
JOHN J. WEDDALL,

Committee
Board room, Dec. 16th 1907.

After a general discussion the report was unanimously adopted by the board.

A letter was read from Lieutenant-Governor Tweedie stating that owing to illness he would not be able to attend the closing exercises here on Friday.

The proposal submitted by Rev. Canon Cowie in respect to the Madras school, was briefly discussed and referred to a committee composed of Messrs. Kitchen, Sterling and Sharky to make enquiries and report at the next meeting.

THREE YEARS PRISON

For Woman Who Shot to Kill Her
Husband

MACLEOD, ALTA., Dec. 17.—(Special)—Mrs. Fetterman, found guilty of shooting her husband with intent to kill, was sentenced yesterday by Judge Scott to three years' imprisonment.

Her husband pleaded for her, but the judge said the crime was a most unnatural one.

WINTER APPLES.

Just received at G. T. Whelpley's a large stock of fancy No. 1 Bishop Pippin, Ontario Northern Spy, and Baldwin Apples. dc1161