

The Midnight Guest

By FRED M. WHITE

Author of "The Crimson Blind," "The Corner House," etc.

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(Continued.)

"But you know now," the coroner went on, "that the main cable leading to the meter was cut. That being so, somebody must have been in the house at the same time as yourself. What I want to get at is that—the murderer was deliberately waiting for his victim. He had no quarrel with you, and his idea was to get you out of the way. That appears to be obvious."

"It is obvious enough to me," Ravenspur replied. "I came to that conclusion directly Inspector Dallas pointed out to me that the main cable had been deliberately cut. But you see I suspected nothing else for me to do but to abandon my task directly the light went out. I am afraid that I can tell you nothing more."

"The deceased was a great friend of yours?" the coroner asked. "I presume you know a great deal about his habits. Was he not of all the sort of man to make enemies?"

"The last man in the world," the witness said emphatically. "My friend was both upright and straightforward. Indeed I regarded him as a man incapable of a mean action."

One or two desultory questions followed, and then Lord Ravenspur sat down. To a certain extent his evidence had been dramatic enough, but, at the same time, he had not said a single word likely to throw any light on the mystery. The audience thrilled and bent forward eagerly as Mrs. Delahay stood up to give her evidence. She was just as deadly pale, just as calm and set, as she had been when she called upon Ravenspur in Park Lane with the dreadful news. She gave her evidence slowly and distinctly, speaking more like an automaton than a creature of flesh and blood. She told how she had become alarmed at her husband's prolonged absence, how she had gone down to Fitzjohn Square to see if anything had happened, and how the police had come to her assistance. But more than that she could not say, more than that she did not know. So far as she knew her husband had always been cheerful. She had never heard him say an evil word of any one. She had still a bride. Altogether she had known her husband for a little over three years. She was older than her husband, she proceeded to say. The coroner asked her age.

"I am forty-three," she said calmly. "Really," the coroner murmured politely, "I should not have taken you to be so much. I don't wish to ask you anything likely to cause you pain, but don't occur to you that your husband might not rather strange that he should leave you at midnight and take an hour and a half in reaching a house to which he might have walked in ten minutes?"

"I don't think so," Mrs. Delahay said. "My husband was one of the most open of men. In fact, he was too fond of leaving his letters and private papers about. And as to the rest, he might have met a friend. He might have gone to one of his clubs."

"If I may be allowed to interrupt a moment," Inspector Dallas said, "I may say that we have utterly failed to trace Mr. Delahay's movements from the time he left the Grand Hotel till he reached Fitzjohn Square. Not one of his friends appears to have seen him on the night in question."

"That is rather unfortunate," the coroner murmured. "I am sorry to have troubled you so far. You may sit down now."

With something which might have been a sigh of relief Mrs. Delahay resumed her seat close to the table. Then Inspector Dallas put forward a witness who gave the name of John Stevens. He looked like a broken-down professional man in his greasy, shabby frockcoat and dingy linen. His watery eye glanced nervously over the court. The red tinge on his cheeks spoke quite plainly of the cause of his downfall. He proceeded to give his evidence so incoherently that the coroner had to reprimand him sharply once or twice.

"I can't hear half you say," that official irritably. "I think you said your name was John Stevens. What can you tell us about this case? Did you know Mr. Delahay?"

"I knew him quite well, sir," the witness said. "I have seen him scores of times when I have been watching in Fitzjohn Square."

"What do you mean by watching there?"

"Well, sir, you see, I am a private inquiry agent. I work for one of the large firms of detectives, getting up evidence and that kind of thing. For months past it has been my duty to keep my eye on a certain house in the Square, especially at night. In that way I have got to know most of the inhabitants by sight, and also I have got to know a good deal about their habits."

"You are a professional spy, then?" the coroner asked.

"Well, sir, if you like to put it like that," the witness said humbly. "On the night of the murder about a quarter past one, I was in the Square gardens watching through the railings at the corner of John Street. I could see perfectly well what was going on because there is a large electric arc light where John Street and the Square adjoin. As I said, it was just about a quarter past one, because I looked at my watch to see what the time was. It was nearly time for me to leave, as my instructions—"

The witness broke off abruptly, and glanced about the room with the air of a man who has recognised an acquaintance whom he had not expected to see. His rambling attentions were recalled by the coroner in a few sharp words.

"I am sure I beg your pardon. As I said, I was waiting there till my time was up, and I saw Mr. Delahay come round the corner. He stood there just a moment. As far as I could gather he seemed to be troubled about something. I was too far off to hear what he was

saying, but it seemed to me—"

"Companion! That is the first we have heard of that. Was the companion a man or a woman, might I ask?"

"Oh, dear no, sir; he was talking to his companion."

"That is the first we have heard of that. Was the companion a man or a woman, might I ask?"

"It was a lady, sir. She was a tall woman dressed in black. They stood opposite me for five or six minutes talking very earnestly together. Then Mr. Delahay turned away from the woman and went into the house. The woman seemed to hesitate a few moments, then she followed, and I saw her go into the house after Mr. Delahay. But she will be able to tell you all about it herself."

"But that is absolutely impossible," the coroner cried. "Don't you know that lady is Mr. Delahay's wife?"

(To be continued.)

A TONIC FOR THE STOMACH

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The old-fashioned methods of treating stomach diseases are being discarded. The trouble with the old-fashioned methods was that when the treatment was stopped the trouble returned in an aggravated form. The modern method of treating indigestion, catarrh of the stomach or chronic gastritis, is to tone up the stomach and proceed to do their normal work. Every step toward recovery is a step gained, not to be lost again. The recovery of the appetite, the disappearance of pain, the absence of gas—all are steps on the road to health that those who have tried the tonic treatment remember distinctly.

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TAX COLLECTORS TO GET BUSY NOW

Delinquents Must Pay Up Promptly or They Will be in Jail

The chamberlain has appointed the four additional marshals authorized by the treasury board at the recent meeting and they were sworn in yesterday. The new men are R. S. Sheraton, who will have charge of collections in part of Prince ward; Robert Crawford, who will collect in Lansdowne ward; John Stephenson, who will look after Victoria ward, and A. E. Hart, additional, for Carleton. The seven old marshals have been re-appointed:—William Smith to Guys and Brooks wards; R. J. Coughlan, to Kings and Queens wards; H. S. French, to Dufferin ward; John Bond, to Wellington ward; George A. Blair, to Prince ward; David Morrow, to Lorne and Stanley wards, and John Weatherhead, to Sydney and Dukes wards.

By some method of calculation, the key to which is apparently a mystery, the Star in an editorial on Thursday figured out that, had the new method of paying the city marshals been in force last year the seven men who made the collections would have earned \$18,000 instead of \$3,716.95 which they received or an increase of \$14,283.05. As a matter of fact that change from 5 per cent. commission to 2 per cent. with a premium of \$1 and 40 cents costs on each paper collected would have resulted in an increase of \$735.45. These figures were confirmed in the chamberlain's office yesterday on an official remarking when he was shown the Star's amazing total that he only hoped they would earn it.

The marshals themselves do not view the new arrangement altogether favorably. There are also indications that the delinquent taxpayer will not find his path in future strewn with roses. As one marshal remarked yesterday, "this new system means a dollar a man, and every one who does not pay now, no matter who he is, goes to jail. We'll show 'em." It looks as though the appeals committee would have a busy year.



THE BANDED SAILOR.

No hat is more becoming to the youthful face than the plain ribbon-banded sailor of medium-height crown and wide brim, and nothing is less attractive on a woman who has passed her first youth. It is the severity of its shaping which is trying to all but youth. This year it is best in the white and light-colored straws, coarse effects and fine milans, with bandings of gaily hued silk ribbon, or the colored elastic bands, which can be changed frequently.

MONGTON STREET RAILWAY CHARTER CAUSE OF FIGHT

Municipalities and Corporations Committee Heard Delegation Yesterday in Regard to It—Old Company That Abandoned the Field Wants Rights Restored.

Fredericton, N. B., May 22.—The house met at 3.15 p. m.

Hon. Mr. Hazen submitted the report of the law committee; Hon. Mr. McLeod, of the standing rules committee; Mr. Clark, of the municipalities and Mr. Slipp of the corporations. This latter report recommended that as the application for Paper Co. had been withdrawn, the fee be returned.

The time for introducing private bills was extended till Tuesday next.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy, answering Mr. Sweeney's enquiry as to the list of road superintendents for Carleton County, submitted the list.

Hon. Mr. Grimmer replying to Mr. Sweeney, said it was not the intention of the government to introduce legislation to reduce the license fee on moose, caribou and other game.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy, answering Mr. LaBillois, said the government was not aware that the steamer was not plying between Miguasha, P. Q., Dalhousie and Campbellton. The chief commissioner had not been notified that the proprietor of the steamer Florence was reluctant about undertaking the service. The estimate for steam navigation this year included the \$600 generally granted for the service. The owners of the steamer had been notified that they were to receive 10 per cent. of the Dominion and provincial payments had spent considerable money on wharves for this service. The government was also aware that last fall the wharf at Dalhousie for the Restigouche River service.

The government was considering the matter as to whether the title in the wharf generally known as the Dalhousie Ferry wharf should be vested in the Dominion.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy, replying to Mr. Sweeney, in the absence of Mr. Copp, said that Winslow Milner and James Smith had been appointed superintendents for the parish of Sackville, and Morley Turner, Arthur Snowden and Clarence Hicks, for the parish of Westmorland, on April 25, 1908, and they were to receive 10 per cent. commission on the amount of expenditure.

Mr. Sprout gave notice of enquiry as to the amount of probate court fees collected in the County of Kings in 1906 and 1907.

Mr. Smith gave notice of enquiry as to the duties and salaries of J. Strachan and M. Ring, whose names appear on the payroll of the provincial hospital.

Mr. McKeown introduced a bill to further empower the city of St. John to supply water to St. John East. On the second reading it was read a second time.

Dr. Bourque introduced a bill authorizing the county of Kent to make temporary loans.

Hon. Mr. McLeod introduced bills to incorporate Alexandra Lodge, No. 33, E. F. & A. M., to incorporate Hiram Lodge, F. & A. M., and to provide for a police commission for the city of Fredericton. These several bills were read a second time.

Mr. Woods introduced a bill respecting life and accident insurance. Hon. Dr. Landry introduced a bill to provide for an agricultural commission. Both above bills were read a second time.

Mr. LaBillois gave notice of motion for all correspondence and orders in connection with the dismissal of J. B. Gogain as sheriff of Kent county.

The house went into committee, Mr. McLachlan in the chair, to reconsider the act to enable the City of Fredericton to add the Hart Boot & Shoe Co. The act was agreed to as amended and the house concurred. The house went into committee on bills regarding compulsory education and the town incorporations act. Those bills were agreed to as amended and the house concurred.

Hon. Mr. Hazen moved that fees for Northern Pulp and Paper Co.'s bill be refunded. The house went into committee, Mr. Sprout in the chair, to consider bills relating to the valuation of the county of Sunbury, relating to less paid to coroners and relating to the will of the late John

Harkins. These bills were agreed to and concurred in by the house.

Mr. LaBillois gave notice of enquiry as to why John S. Basset was removed from the liquor license commission of Restigouche.

The house went into committee on supply. Items for public wharves, \$8,000, and public buildings, \$20,000, were passed. Mr. LaBillois enquired if anything was to be done regarding properly lighting the legislative buildings.

Hon. Mr. Morrissy said it was certainly thought that a proper lighting system was installed. The government were looking into the matter and would provide either acetylene gas or electricity.

There was, he said, a small plant already in the building providing acetylene to the reporters' room, put in as an experiment by a company.

Mr. Hazen said he was informed that acetylene gas could be furnished more cheaply than any other light.

Mr. McKeown thought electric light was the most suitable.

Mr. LaBillois called the attention of the house to the draft which is coming down over the gallery, and striking the opposition members, and thought it should be remedied.

Hon. Mr. Hazen reminded him that for nine long years he had called the attention of the government to that inconvenience, but it had never been attended to.

The item, surveys and inspections, \$8,000, was voted. Mr. Sweeney thought this item should be considerably increased, especially if the provisions of the Domain act were to be carried out. It was desirable that they should be carried out this year.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said to carry out the provisions of the Domain act would take a large amount of money, and it was not the intention of the government to take action this year. They hoped, however, to have a policy in regard to the public domain, to lay before the house at the next session.

The item, tourist association, \$2,500 was voted.

Mr. Sweeney thought it would be more in the interests of the province generally, to have one tourist association with headquarters in Fredericton. It was felt in the outlying parts of the province that the St. John and Fredericton got all or most of the benefit of this grant. It might be well to couple this work with that of the crown land department, where a great deal of tourist and sportsmen's matters had to be dealt with.

Hon. Mr. Hazen said it was possible a consolidation of interests might be advisable. He was not informed very much upon the railway thing by the Fredericton Association, but he knew the St. John

Association, which received a large measure of aid from the city of St. John, and from private citizens, was doing splendid work, not only for the city of St. John and the St. John River, but also for the whole province. The advertising which it distributed in large quantities, described all parts of the province and tourists coming as a result of this work, did not remain in the city, but simply passed through to various country and seaside resorts.

Hon. Mr. Maxwell endorsed what Mr. Hazen had said in regard to the good work done by the St. John Association. The item, portraits of Governors, \$625, was voted.

Hon. Mr. Hazen, referring to this item thought it was a wise provision to have portraits of not only all the governors, but also other men who were prominent in the history and public life of the country. He would like to see paintings of the Hon. George E. King, Hon. Charles Fisher and Hon. A. G. Blair, hung on these walls. Mr. McKeown thought there should be a painting of Governor Boyd added to the collection.

Mr. Pinder said the collections surely would not be complete without Mr. Pugsley's portrait. He had taken more money out of the revenues of the province than any one else and should not soon be forgotten.

Mr. Sweeney endorsed Mr. Pinder's remarks. The item, prohibition commission, \$1,842.42, was voted. The item, unforeseen expenses, \$3,000, was voted.

Hon. Mr. Flemming referring to the last item said that the two auditors who had been employed, and the auditor now examining the crown land accounts, would have to be paid out of this sum.

Supply was made the order of the day for Wednesday.

House adjourned at 6 p. m. till Tuesday next.

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PLAYS AND PLAYERS

AT THE NICKEL

Today's programme for the children at the Nickel is of such a character that it will please the very youngest. It is chiefly a comedy bill and a good clean unexceptional one, something the most exacting parent would have his or her little one

DeWitt Cairns. The leading film is a farce depicting the adventures of a Weary Willie who found a letter of introduction belonging to Lord Dunraven and used it. The scenes in and about the great city of Chicago in this picture are highly educational. Most school children have read Lord Tennyson's beautiful story "Dora," which is printed in one of the school Royal Readers; well, this too is to be shown in pictures, as well as a comedy entitled "The Music Teacher." Besides all this there will be the Chelsea fire views and



DeWitt Cairns.

dividend of, say 6 per cent, to the stockholders, to pay over the balance of the annual profits to the city council in return for the franchise.

Mr. Summer rather demurred to this, but subsequently said the company might be willing to do so after they had provided for a dividend of 10 per cent.

W. B. Chandler, on behalf of the city, said that the city council represented the citizens as a whole and in taking the course they were doing they were simply following out the policy of protecting the citizens' interests for their convenience and not for the object particularly of making money. It had been contended that section 84 of the joint stock companies act did not apply to the old company. If it did apply, then by reason of non-use the company's charter was at an end. The company had not been in operation for more than three years and in 1897 they ceased to operate the road altogether and in 1900 an act was passed requiring them to remove the rails from the street. This was done and nothing more had been heard of the company for the last eight years.

All the rails had been sold and the power house also and the company did not now own one dollar's worth of property in Moncton. It was quite competent for the city, under the circumstances, to come in and ask for power to construct a street railway themselves. If the old company had wished to recommence business they should have gone to the council and said so and they could come to some arrangement with them. As far as the council were concerned they did not particularly want to construct the railway themselves, all they desired was to control the franchise. When they had got this it would be within the power of the company or any one else to apply to the council for liberty to use it.

Mr. Clarke asked Mr. Chandler if he had considered the matter from an equitable standpoint. The company had gone into the business years ago and in consequence of the time not being opportune

AMHEIST AMATEURS COMING

The Emerald Dramatic Club, of Amherst, will present Kathleem Mavourneen in the Opera House on May 27. Miss Florence Terrio is leading lady and is spoken of as one of the cleverest amateurs seen in the maritime provinces. An Amherst paper says: "Miss Florence Terrio as Mavourneen made a sweet, pretty young Irish lass and her acting was superb, possessing an artistic finish and a clear enunciation. She completely captivated the hearts of the large audience."

two songs; a great big show for a trifling price in a large well-ventilated auditorium. On Monday, the holiday, the Nickel will have a remarkably fine show and will commence at 10 o'clock in the morning and continue until 10.30 in the evening, twelve hours and a half of wholesome, new and up-to-date entertainment. DeWitt Cairns, who will return from Boston today after a winter's absence, will commence his second engagement with the Nickel in Thos. A. Allen's strongly emotional ballad "My Heart Beats For You Alone," and Miss Wren will be heard in the tuneful bit of sentiment "Sweetheart Days." No matter what engagements people have on Monday they will have time enough to see this excellent show; extra ushers and no crushes.

AT THE PALACE

An exceptionally fine bill is being presented at the Palace theatre (formerly City Hall, Carleton) today. Harrison and Moffatt will be seen in their greatest comedy success, "Tommy Atkins." This is positively the last chance to see this couple in this city. Four excellent motion pictures are being shown in "A House to Let," "The Drunken Statue," "The Explosive Call" and "The Farmer's Daughter." The first three are comedies, while the last one is a sterling drama full of excitement. Miss Margaret Lee is making a big hit in her rendering of "Spring-time Dear."

the business had not been a success and it appeared to him that now that the city had increased in size and population and a street railway might be made to pay it would be nothing more than fair to give the old company a chance of recouping themselves.

Ald. Riley followed Mr. Chandler urging that the city council, as the representatives of the people, were the proper persons to have control of a franchise of that sort as having no pecuniary interests to serve they would be guided only in the best interests and for the convenience of the people.

Mr. Clarke agreed with all that Mr. Riley had said but he thought the company had certain vested rights which should be respected. If the committee should conclude that the charter had lapsed then he saw no objection to the council's application.

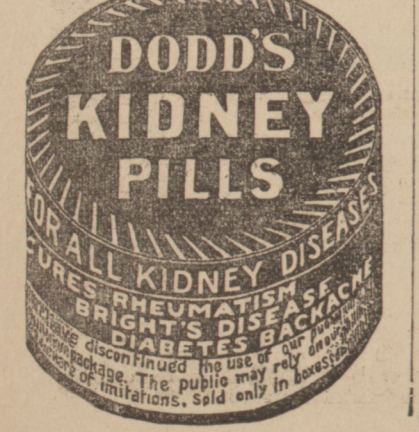
Ald. Riley said the old company contended they had not forfeited their charter.

Hon. Mr. McLeod said he quite agreed. He did not think they had.

G. A. Harris, who appeared on behalf of the Westmorland Power Company's bill, said it was not necessary for him to say as much as he had intended, inasmuch as since he had been in Fredericton they had amended their bill so that it should not apply to the city of Moncton but he had to ask the committee that any bill authorizing the city to construct a railway should be compelled to confine its operations to the city of Moncton.

Dr. Murray said that the people promoting the power company's bill were substantial people who would be prepared to put down a deposit of \$5,000 as a guarantee and have the railway in working order within three years from the date of authority being given them to commence. Such deposit to be forfeited and charter returned in case they did not carry out their undertaking, which they were prepared at once to commence.

Mr. Borden replied shortly and the committee adjourned until Wednesday.



DODD'S KIDNEY PILLS

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SORE MOUTH
SORE TONGUE
SORE GUMS
SORE LIPS
SORE CHEEKS
SORE CHIN
SORE NECK
SORE SHOULDERS
SORE ELBOWS
SORE WRISTS
SORE HANDS
SORE FEET
SORE TOES
SORE NAILS
SORE SKIN
SORE HAIR
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