

When The Dominion of Canada Was Young

(Continued from page four)

All unconscious of what had transpired in the galleries above, McGee proceeded with his speech, concluding with these words: "The single object of Confederation from the beginning has been to consolidate the extent of British America with the utmost regard to the independent powers and privileges of each Province, and I, sir, who have been and am its earnest advocate, speak here, not as the representative of any race or of any Province, but as thoroughly and emphatically a Canadian ready and bound to recognize the claims of any of my Canadian fellow-subjects from the farthest east to the farthest west, equally with those of my nearest neighbor, or the friend who proposed me on the hustings."

These noble words were his last public utterance. He left the House shortly after two o'clock in the morning and proceeded down the central walk across Parliament Square to Metcalfe St. The full moon in the western sky shining upon the light new-fallen snow made it almost as bright as day. McGee was accompanied by Robert McFarlane, M.P. At the corner of Metcalfe and Parks Streets they parted, and went opposite ways to their respective lodgings. When they said "Good night" McGee was but one block distant from Mrs. Trotter's boarding house, corner of O'Connor and Sparks Streets, where he lived during the session. A moment after taking leave of McFarlane a messenger of the House passed and said, "Good night, Mr. McGee." He answered cheerfully, "Rather say good morning, for it is morning now." These were his last words. He was smoking a cigar and carried a walking stick under his arm. He reached the door of his lodgings and had inserted his latchkey preparatory to entering, when the lurking assassin shot him from behind, and in an instant he fell to the ground dead.

Only too sure had been the murderer's aim. The shot roused the inmates, including some members who had returned a few minutes earlier. They were horror-stricken with the sight that met their gaze. There lay the well-known form, prostrate and dead. The tall, grey hat was still on his head, while far down the street the snow was crimsoned with his blood. His latchkey was in the lock, and close behind it in the door was the bullet that had crashed through his brain. Horror and indignation filled the land when the deed was known. The press of Canada groaned with sorrow, while its teeming pages, bright with tears, bore eloquent testimony to the merits of the dead statesman. When Parliament assembled on the following day, leading men on both sides, amid a breathless silence, paid their tributes to his memory in words that were choked with tears and sobs. They made haste to provide for the stricken wife and daughters.

There followed an inquest conducted by Coroner Van Cortlandt. The funeral was a great and mournful state pageant in Ottawa and Montreal, whither his body was conveyed for interment. In brief space rewards were offered for the arrest and conviction of the murderer—offered by the Dominion Government, the Ontario Government, the city of Ottawa and of Montreal. There were many who believed that the death of all the members of the Government had been plotted, and extra precautions were taken for their safety. Whalen's suspicious conduct in the Commons gallery as related by Storr led to his prompt arrest. In his bed a revolver was found concealed, all the chambers being loaded but one, and that newly discharged. The weapon was of the same calibre as the fatal bullet.

In due time the trial came on, the presiding Judge being Chief Justice W. B. Richards, with O'Reilly, K.C., of Kingston, leading the prosecution, and John Hillyard Cameron and an array of other counsel for the defence. The trial had some sensational features. One witness for the Crown, a French-Canadian, swore that he saw the deed committed. He was, he said, passing on the opposite side of the street at the moment, saw Whalen fire the shot and McGee fall. He told his story quite circumstantially. According to his story, Whalen, when he fired the shot, sprang away and plunged violently against a telegraph post near by, cried out "Jesus!" and fled. But this witness did not get the reward. He broke badly on cross-examination. Why had he not instantly given the alarm? He was afraid, he said. And he persisted that McGee's hat was black. Other witnesses made a chain of circumstantial evidence which convinced the jury, and their verdict was "guilty."

When asked if he had anything to say before the death sentence was passed upon him, Whalen arose and began an impassioned speech, protesting that he was innocent and had not had a fair trial. Then he launched forth into a fluent but heated arraignment of the Imperial Government, which had incarcerated so many of his countrymen "in British hells among the living damned." The Judge sternly commanded him to stop, which he did. He was told that he would have been heard with patience so long as he had anything to say in his own defence, or as to the fairness of the trial; that here we had nothing to do with the wrongs of Ireland; that in Canada all men were equal before the law, and that his trial had been fair and his defence most ably conducted. The Judge then pronounced the sentence of death.

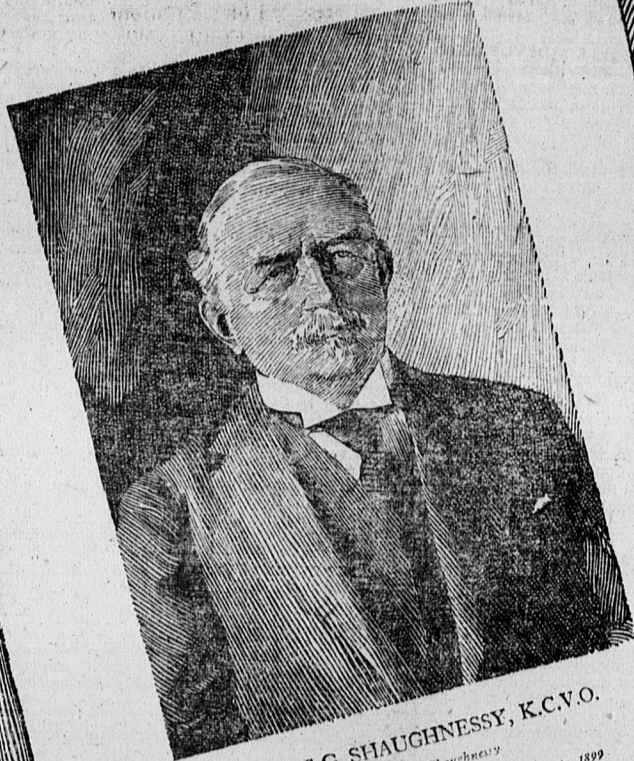
A legal contest followed in Toronto, but it failed to invalidate the proceedings of the trial court. Pending these proceedings, Whalen was kept in jail closely guarded against a possible Fenian rescue. Day and night sentries kept watch at the four corners of the jail yard, calling the hours—"ten o'clock and all's well." At last the fatal day came, and Whalen was hanged with a great multitude in view of the gallows. He did not protest his innocence, but apparently would have addressed the crowd if his spiritual adviser had permitted. As it was he stepped to the front, raised his voice and shouted, "God save Ireland!" then added in a lower tone, "God save my soul." He then took his place on the hinged platform, the black cap was drawn, and almost instantly the supporting cord was cut and he went down to his death.

When I returned home from the execution I met my landlord, who lived next door. He was in the act of removing two loaded revolvers from his pockets. I inquired the reason for so peaceful a man going armed. "There were two hundred of us there in the crowd equally well fixed," he said. It was feared there might be an attempt to rescue Whalen at the last moment.

(To be continued.)

- DONALDSTON SCHOOL**
Honour Roll for April.
Grade J.—1, Dorothy Best, 2, Elizabeth MacDonald.
Grade IX.—1, Tillie Court.
Grade VIII.—1, Annie Stewart; 2, Claire Bowlan; 3, Raymond Rowe.
Grade VII.—1, Willie Ellis; 2, Cecil Ellis; 3, Edith Court and Frances Morris, equal.
Grade V.—1, Johnnie Ellis; 2, Bertrude Arling; 3, Ray Court.
- Grade IV, Senior—1, Evelyn Morris; 2, Joseph Arling.
Grade IV, Junior—1, Herbie Mullen; 2, Leo Dougan; 3, Kline Court.
Grade III.—1, Alfred Arling.
Grade II Senior—1, Frankie Dougan; 2, Bruce Ellis.
Grade II Junior—1, Eric Ellis; 2, Tommy Dougan; 3, Alden Ellis.
Perfect Attendance—Frances Morris, Frankie Dougan, Kline Court, Tommy Dougan.

1867-1927
DIAMOND JUBILEE SERIES



THOMAS G. SHAUGHNESSY, K.C.V.O.
First Baron Shaughnessy
Born 1833
Elected third President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, 1899
Retired 1901; K.C.V.O., 1907
Ratified to the Peerage, 1916
Died, 1923

PAGES FROM CANADIAN HISTORY

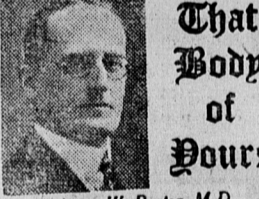
It is in the best interests of the road and the country? That was the yardstick with which Thomas Shaughnessy measured every proposition. If the answer was "No," neither fear nor favor could move him. Before he succeeded Sir William Van Horne as President, to Shaughnessy fell the task of organizing and supervising the enormous purchases of the Company. In that day, some men looked upon such a position as a legitimate path to easy riches. Not Shaughnessy. Duty first, last and always was the standard he had set for himself. Lord Shaughnessy carried the same policy to the President's chair. He organized an intricate network of branch lines, collecting traffic and feeding it to the great main road. He inaugurated the Canadian Pacific's Atlantic fleet, operated freighters that carried the Company's house flag and the name of Canada to the ports of the seven seas. But never a step was taken that had not some definite benefit to the road and to the country directly in view. Lord Shaughnessy would brook no privately controlled subsidiaries, waxing fat at the parent organization's expense. Steamships, telegraphs, grain elevators, lands and even sleeping and dining cars—all were integral parts of one system, pooling their earnings in one central treasury. Through this husbanding of the Company's resources, the financial power necessary to carry out immense campaigns of colonization and industrial promotion was assembled. Through such far-sighted management the Company has paid its way, distributed well-earned profits to its thousands of shareholders, carried great plans to successful completion without call on the public funds of Canada. [8]

CANADIAN PACIFIC

IT SPANS THE WORLD

The Public Forum

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.



By James W. Barlon, M.D.

FOR TOURISTS

Sir,—We are having numerous inquiries for boarding places. These are from nice people who prefer private houses. For example today we have an inquiry from a man, his wife and child. The wife and child would like a nice beach with bathing, not too cold. The husband wants fishing. Comfortable beds, plain food, well cooked and well served is all they require. Let us hear from a family who can supply this.

I am, Sir, etc.
A. E. ARSENAULT,
Pres. Pub. Ass'n.

SYMPATHY FELT

Sir, The Patriot states that the Premier's speech at the first Conservative meeting "lacked conviction," and adds "We deeply sympathize with him." Evidently the editor knows how it is himself! The Patriot's opinion is, however, I believe, a wrong one. The Premier seemed to me to be deeply in earnest and fully convinced that his policy will promote temperance and morality better than the Prohibition Liquor Law. The rounds of applause by which the points in his argument were greeted showed that his audience agreed with him.

I am, Sir, etc.
A LISTENER
May 5, 1927.

WATCHING HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

I speak frequently about the mistake our overweight folks make in drinking so much water. It not only increases weight but increases blood pressure also. Now this doesn't mean that we shouldn't drink plenty of water. Most of us should drink a quart a day besides what we drink at meal times. And similarly in regard to blood pressure. I speak often about the mistake folks make in worrying about high blood pressure when it is just a temporary condition. That as a matter of fact low blood pressure is frequently more serious because it means a lowered condition of the vital forces of the body. And yet high blood pressure should always be investigated because it is, or is not, a temporary condition.

A frequent cause of high blood pressure is due to overeating, and to the poisons that are absorbed from waste matter in intestine. Also attacks of "colds," of influenza, of tonsillitis and so forth, all send the blood pressure up, because Nature wants it up to help fight the attack. Now these attacks sending up the blood pressure from time to time cannot but have a bad effect upon the lining of the blood vessel. This means hardened blood vessels, and as blood can't go through hard non-elastic vessels as easily as through soft elastic ones, you get a true high blood pressure. What is my point? That if your blood pressure is

Canadian Missionaries Have Been Released

(Canadian Press)
HONG KONG, China, May 4.—Mrs. Morris H. Slichter, widow of the China Inland Mission worker, the Rev. Morris Slichter of Toronto, her five year old son John, and Miss Mary Craig, Medical Missionary of Philadelphia, all of whom were held by bandits, have been released and are now at Yunnan, capital of the province of Yunnan, says a wireless message from that city today. The release of the prisoners was negotiated by the Rev. Allen Oim, who made a hazardous journey into the interior of the bandit area for that purpose. The party arrived at Yunnan on April 30th. The body of Mr. Slichter and that of his eight year old daughter, both of whom were bayoneted by the bandits, were taken to Yunnan for burial.

LYNDALE SCHOOL

- Grade IX—1 Montie MacDonald.
- Grade VIII—1 Ella MacLeod.
- Alfred Bruce.
- Grade VI—1 Reginald MacLeod.
- Carlyle Bruce.
- Grade V—1 Annie MacKenzie.
- Mabel Bruce.
- Grade IV—1 Pearl Hicken.
- Wendell MacLeod.
- Grade II—1 Louise MacKenzie.
- Atwood Bruce.
- Grade I—1 Hector MacLeod.
- Perfect Attendance—Wendell MacLeod.
- Highest average—Pear Hicken, 90 percent.
- Chester MacPherson, teacher.

There are Two Sides To the Temperance Question

And There Are Quite As Good Temperance People On One Side As On The Other

On the one side there are those extreme idealists who have sufficiently elastic faith to expect that they can get in a period of good times from the Present Liberal Leader and the candidates supporting him (a comparatively small proportion of whom are recognized as total abstainers) better enforcement of the Prohibition Law than they had in a period of hard times under such a real Prohibitionist as Hon. J. H. Bell.

And on the other side are those more practical temperance people, thousands of whom have never tasted liquor in any form, who recognize that liquor selling is held amongst us and on an increasing scale, and that it has been here under all Prohibition Laws and under all Governments, Liberal and Conservatives. And who recognize further that the Prohibition Law has developed in its train insidious evils which are developing at an increasing rate in the form of bootlegging, perjury, home brewing, smuggling and a lessening respect for law generally.

These latter believe that it is time for something better, time for another step forward. If there is to be improvement in temperance conditions there must be a new law—a law which will command a substantial majority of the people and will have the Government solidly behind its enforcement.

These practical temperance people see in Premier Stewart's proposals an honest attempt to greatly improve the evil conditions which is here today—an honest attempt to deal with the situation which is here, in a sensible way—in a way that gives promise of real and outstanding success.

It is not to be expected that the two classes will look at things in the same way. But it is unfortunate that some of the impractical temperance idealists are allowing themselves to be led by political manipulators whose object is not so much the promotion of better temperance conditions but rather the promotion of Liberal party candidates by insidious propaganda and underhand methods which are not by some people always easily seen through.