

July 24, 2012

320 – 989 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
M6C 26

Dear Elise,

It's great to hear that your visit to Toronto was fruitful. I hope you had a pleasant visit with your daughter in Montreal.

In reading the Report on Toronto Chinese by Winston Chao I note his assertion that Chinese men were deprived of women and family. Canadian women were never considered as possible mates. There's an emphasis on those Chinese (possibly a minority) who went back to China, married and had a family. The men may not have had that many children overseas but passed persons off as their children called I think "paper children" or something like that.

The racist policy of enacting laws against white women in a Chinese workplace and restrictive Chinese immigration law may be considered a form of genocide. The Chinese population in Canada declined considerably between 1931 and 1955.

Whilst a marriage certificate was generally not refused, Chinese association with white women could be enforced through other means, e.g. the Vagrancy Act and in my case, the Female Refuges Act. (The illegal section of the Act was removed in 1959.) A woman innocent of a charge could be held in jail and declared "suspicious of having a venereal disease."

Enclosed is report by Dr. Don Zarfes, regarding sterilizations in Ontario. The eugenicists were powerful and the Ontario Medical Association and I believe The National Council of Women supported passage of a sterilization act by the federal government. The eugenicists also supported racist policies. Their main target were prostitutes and immoral women whom they accused of spreading venereal disease. There were rumours that a Chinese woman could give birth after six months of pregnancy and that venereal disease in a Chinese man was more virulent.

Much has been said about "men riding the rails" or being in "work camps" during the depression but nothing is said about unemployed women.

You asked me about the marriage ceremony and I said, "It was something that had to be done." I recall saying to Harry, my fiancé, "We'd better get married right away—I could be arrested again—I'm not twenty-one years old yet." (I was 19).

I wish you all the best in a difficult enterprise.

Sincerely,



Velma Demerson

320 – 989 Eglinton Ave. W.
Toronto, ON M6C 2C6

September 13, 2012

Hi Elise,

Received your letter. I am plugging along. The writers group I go to at the library is quite entertaining. The writing is mostly short novels. Some of the editors are English teachers; others are beginners or practicing English. It's informal and we go out for a beer afterwards.

I'm sending you a few pages of Jan Wong's biography. It would appear that the Quebecois did not support the half-breeds, now Metis, but rather followed the English in their class system. Some Chinese also looked down on Canadian women who associated with their countrymen. I don't think that prostitutes generally exploited the Chinese—they would have ostracized themselves.

I made a mistake when I told you my worst experience was when I was ostracized. Suicide is an escape--I got the pills from a doctor beforehand. The worst trauma was when I escaped and went to my mother's house. I thought I might escape from my tormentor. I cried and begged my mother to help me. She said I had to go back, she would tell the doctor not to hurt me anymore. I cried all the way back to the hospital. At the hospital I was put in a wheelchair and wheeled into the basement. I continued to be upset and talked quickly to the nurse who sat beside me. I said, "They're cutting me"...I was given two tiny white pills and went to sleep. My mother's letter was among my Mercer records. A letter to Dr. Guest stated, "Velma is not to go on the table again without anaesthetic."

I presume you are back at work. All the best!

Sincerely,



Velma Demerson

DUCHESS OF ENGLISH STOCK THINKS MUSSOLINI IS GREAT

Approve Theory of Ethiopian Campaign But Expects Good Results

DUCESS'S CHANCE

Italy as a powerful and united nation under the leadership of Mussolini was seen to-day by a member of one of Italy's oldest aristocratic families, also of English ancestry, the Duchess Carafa Andria, who is stopping in Toronto to-day at the King Edward Hotel.

"I must truthfully say I don't approve of the theory of Mussolini's march into Ethiopia," she said. "But I do think it's going to be a good thing for the Ethiopians in the long run. Speaking myself as one who comes from English forefathers, I can say that England has one wonders for the people she has conquered in the past. And Mussolini has a chance to prove in his own way that he can be a tremendous power for good."

The duchess, dressed in a black-and-white gown of ancient design, posed for several photographs and then plunged straight into the two subjects which interest her most—modern Italy and the modern woman. The duchess herself is descendant of Matthew Thornton, signer of the American Declaration of Independence. Her husband, Duke Carafa d'Andria, belongs to a

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)



THINKS IL DUCE GREAT

Duchess Carafa d'Andria, member of Italian aristocracy, also of English ancestry, is visiting Toronto to-day.

CHINESE MARRIAGE OSTRACISM SCORED

Hundreds of White Girls Affected, Presbyterians Told

Special to The Star

Hamilton, June 5.—The Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society hopes to start small hospital units in needy districts, Mrs. W. A. McLennan told the general assembly to-day, adding, "We look with longing eyes on northern Ontario."

"It is a stirring, disturbing fact to know there are hundreds of white women married to Chinese, and who, because of that, are ostracized," the speaker proceeded.

FIND 2 HIT, ROBBED MAN

Struck With Bottle, Lost \$35, Complainant Says

Joe Ivan and Mary Burns were found guilty to-day of assaulting Mike Orsos, and robbing him of \$35. Judge Parker ordered them to appear on June 9 for sentence. Complainant testified that, following disagreement over a card game, he had been struck on the head with a bottle and robbed.

The Kirk in Conclave

By R. E. KNOWLES

Hamilton, June 5.—Two of the saddest men in Hamilton these days, it is said, are Paul and George W. O'Brien, minister of the high church and eminent lawyer. Mr. James Christie, K.O., cousin of the O'Brien family, is the only one of the O'Brien family who is not a member of the high church.

The Toronto presbytery was in Hamilton to-day but new light was cast on the situation. The report of the assembly church, The report of the assembly church, probably the only one of its kind in visiting days.

Historic Presbyterian Church of Hamilton, 100 St. James Street, Hamilton, Ontario.

Agency warmly welcomed. Along the streets and...

CHARGE E. J. GRIFFITHS WITH THEFT OF \$500

John T. Forbes Declares Ex-Controller Hacker Counted Money

E. J. Griffiths, charged with theft of \$500 from John T. Forbes in 1935, and with obtaining same by false pretences, pleaded not guilty before Judge Parker in county criminal court to-day.

Forbes said that receiving a telephone call, after he had answered an advertisement, he went to a home on Euclid Ave. on October 9. Accused said he was going to open a dance hall and skating rink on Bloor St. Forbes swore he was offered a job of "cop" for which he was required to furnish a bond of \$500. "I was to get the money back on April 15," he said.

"On February 4 they told me they couldn't afford to keep me any longer and I left," Forbes related. He told W. R. Wadsworth, his counsel, that when he first met Griffiths, ex-Controller Hacker and his daughter, Mrs. Taylor, were present. "Hacker counted the money," he said.

"Mr. Hacker claimed to be a partner and had some interest in the company," testified James Wilson of F. O. Tidy and Co., trustees and receivers, who looked after the affairs of the company, when it went into liquidation. "Griffiths told me he got \$500 from Mr. Forbes and used it in the building."

MINE MANAGER DIES AS CANOE OVERTURNS

Could Not Swim, Told Companion to Go to Shore

Special to The Star

Mine Centre, Ont., June 5.—A. E. Cooper, manager of the Golden Star mine, was drowned in Shoal Lake, about seven miles south of here, last night. Cooper, together with Clifford Williams of Mine Centre, was starting up the Seine river to obtain mineral samples from the old Cabin mine, located on Wild Fork Lake.

The stream of the Seine, crossing the river was rough and their canoe overturned about one mile from shore. They hung to the canoe for a considerable time and finally Cooper was unable to swim, and Williams that he had better swim to shore as he could not hang on much longer. Williams, however, found Cooper had disappeared.

Mrs. Cooper and the two boys were found by the police at the shore. Mrs. Cooper and the two boys were found by the police at the shore.

...died... the... Grande Arnee... Boulevard... through the garden... their chairs... garden... a very white-haired... powerfully-built man... Lumiere; and this man... ed the cinematograph.

BEAUTIFUL CROW

But They Have Appearance and Trip to Car

10 BELOW 12

There are ten children, twelve years of age, family, ten curly headed, nourished boys and girls within a rod of central.

Beautiful children, fragile flowers, grow places. None are stranger than in the rickety old street which does not single lawn, where family exists.

How anything beautiful children, could be so surroundings is a marriage, ten of them, with boys and the mother.

Can parents love a dren when they are course they can, and month a lady in section of the city off.

(Continued on Page 2)

FROWNS ON P JOINING O.J.

Mayor McBride to-day the wisdom of the movement having identified the Ontario Jockey campaign against bootlegging.

"Only police department in this all the time... If Toronto reverts to theatre censorship it is an "experienced" man for man being as general... This... made no provision... ever."

...the... system now at... will be... headquarters and...

1907 March 28

A CHINAMAN AND A WHITE GIRL WEDDED

Ceremony Took Place After Arrests Last Night—Another Couple to Marry Later.

Following three arrests of three white girls who have been living with Chinamen at 131 Church street for the past three months, a marriage ceremony was performed last night by Robert Brown, missionary to the Chinese, by which Jessie Stock became the wife of Charles Hing.

Jessie Stock, Ida Hoppa, and Jennie Goldbeck were arrested last night at 131 Church street. Jessie and Ida were bailed out by Ching Chu, who expressed the intention of marrying Ida to-day. Following his example, but more deeply impressed with the value of time, Charles Hing hurried his fiancée to Missionary Brown's establishment in Richmond street, where the knot was tied.

In the Police Court to-day the girls were remanded until April 4. Ching



169 YONGE STREET

R. G. BLACKMAN

Chu renewed the hands of Ida Hoppa and Jessie Stock. Jennie Goldbeck was released on her own bail in one surety of \$200.

The wedding last night was witnessed by Ida Hoppa and a friend of the groom, Hon Wou.

"Missionary Brown has to show me his authority for performing a marriage service," said the Chief Inspector, when he learned of the affair, "before I can believe that the ceremony is binding."

Without Alcohol

A Strong To
A Body Build
A Blood Pur
A Great Aid
A Doctor's I
Ayer's Sars
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GIRL AND CHINESE NEIGHBOR ARE ARRESTED AT INQUEST

Coroner's Jury Finds Them Jointly Responsible for Death of Geo. Wang Chow Found Stabbed in Simcoe Street House — Quarreled Over Money

Margaret LaPage, the girl who was found wounded on the floor of the room at 224 Simcoe street where Geo. Wang Chow, alias George Kwong, was found stabbed to death on the evening of March 22, and Fred Low, Chinese occupant of the adjoining room, were last night found by a coroner's jury to be jointly responsible for the death of Chow.

As a result of the verdict, which was reached after four hours of the coroner's inquest, adjourned last week because the girl was unable to give evidence, the man and woman were held under arrest, on nominal charges of vagrancy.

Miss LaPage, who claimed to have gone through a marriage ceremony with the dead Chinese, was taken here to the General hospital last night under supervision, and Low was removed to No. 2 police station.

The jury found, officially "that Geo. Wang Chow died as a result of a stab wound inflicted at 224 Simcoe street on the night of March 22 in the region of the heart, and that Margaret LaPage and Fred Low were jointly responsible for his death.

After nearly two hours of cross-examination by Major Wallace for the crown, based on the signed statement which was obtained of five persons at the hospital on the Sunday following the fatal stabbing, Miss LaPage, still limping from her wounds, which were in the left side, and visibly affected by her ordeal, was kept from the courtroom by Detective-Sergeant Albert Johns.

She was the principal witness in last night's hearing, and her evidence varied considerably from that to which she had affirmed her signature, and denied in almost every detail that of Low.

Other witnesses who gave evidence were Dr. E. R. Frankish, who performed the autopsy on Chow; Dr. Norman J. Barker, of the General hospital, who admitted the girl; Detective-Sergeant Albert Johns and Detective T. Williams.

Low was the first witness called, and he stated that he had had supper with Miss LaPage and Chow on the night of the stabbing, in the latter's room. Following supper, which had been brief, he said that he had gone out to get some cigarettes in light of the fire in his own room. He knew nothing of the tragedy, he declared, until he was later called by the wounded girl to "break in the door" which separated the two rooms.

Contradicts Low's Evidence
Miss LaPage was the next witness called, and almost immediately a conflict in the evidence was apparent. Following testimony as to who had rented the room, how long she had known Chow, and how long she had known Low, she testified that the last named Chinese had had supper with her, and that Chow had been at the Simcoe street house before March 20, stated Major Wallace. "About a month."

"Did you know him before that?" "Yes, I worked for him in a cafe."

She related how she had been married to a man named LaPage twelve years ago, and how, after her marriage to Chow in 1908, she had been charged with him and sent to the House of Good Shepherd. After six months she had secured, through her freedom for a period of eleven months, most of which was spent in Scotland, and had been brought back to the House of Good Shepherd, where she served another three months. Following her release, she had gone to live with the Chinese and had continued to do so for the greater part of the six months which preceded the stabbing.

"Where did you get acquainted with George?" asked the crown, referring to Chow. "At a cafe in College street."

"Was he working there?" "No, I was him there. He was a waiter. I didn't know how long."

"Were you home when Low rented the room next to you?" "No."

"Was he working at the time?" "I don't know."

"You knew him, didn't you, as soon as you saw him?" "Yes, of course. You don't forget a person."

"No," commented Major Wallace, "you wouldn't forget him, not even after ten years."

"Did George know that you knew Fred before he came there?" "Yes, I told him that I had worked for him."

"You knew Fred pretty well, didn't you?" Witness admitted that she had seen on fairly intimate terms with her employer, but said that she had not seen him since she had been sent to the House of Good Shepherd. Fred, it was stated, had been unable to pay his room rent at the Simcoe street house and the victim of the stabbing, whose friend he was, had undertaken to do this for him.

"Fred wasn't working when he came to the house?" "No."

"And you weren't working?" "No, I wasn't working."

"Did he work right up to the day that he died?" "No, he quit about a week before."

Alteration Over Money
The altercation which had ended in the death of Chow, Miss LaPage stated, had started over money. "He had been in the habit of paying her his pay and she claimed that he had failed to pay the rent when money which she had returned to him. The rent, which was \$2 a month, was overdue, and he had given her \$5 to make a payment on March 22."

"Did you handle all the accounts?" "Yes."

Her Chinese husband, according to her story, had been "very good" to her, and whenever he wanted anything, he had come in her for the money.

The first serious conflict between the evidence which she gave on the stand last night and that contained in her signed statement came when she was questioned as to her movements at the afternoon preceding the stabbing of Chow. In her statement, she had declared that she and Chow played cards all Saturday afternoon till about 1:30. On the stand, she related that she had gone to visit a girl friend at two o'clock and did not return until five.

These signed statements were made

on the day immediately after the trouble," declared the crown. "Do you expect us to believe that you are telling us now, after seven weeks?" "Thought of it afterwards. I wanted to change it."

"Why didn't you? The detective who you seven or eight times at the hospital?" "He didn't ask me about it."

Fred Low had been in her room one of nine o'clock in the evening, she admitted, for the purpose of stopping a fight between herself and Chow. On that occasion, she had wanted to go out but the man had refused. She had threatened to jump out of the window, she said, and had broken two panes of glass, but without accomplishing her purpose.

Her answers to questions were marked by considerable evasion throughout the cross-examination. The evidence, altogether, was of such a conflicting nature that Governor Dr. J. Crawford was moved to remark in addressing the jury that "under supervision, and Fred Low was removed to No. 2 police station."

On the night of the fatality, she related, she and her Chinese husband were sitting at the table and had been eating Chinese whiskey each. She was very sure that the meal had been eaten by herself and Chow, with an Irish party present, although detectives swore that they had found three places set at the table and that there had been three whiskey glasses.

Afterwards, she and Chow had become entangled in an argument over money, and the latter had risen from the bed, gone over to the stove and returned with the knife, with which he was alleged to have stabbed her twice through the left thigh, and then to

have plucked himself through the heart, according to her signed statement. But her evidence on the last part of the affair had not even the man after he got up, that she did not see him stab her, but that she felt the pain and became immediately unconscious, realizing nothing more until she was revived, and herself upon the floor and the man upon the bed.

She indicated, despite the most rigid questioning, that she had not seen the Chinese get the knife, had not seen it in his hand, and did not see him after he was supposed to have stabbed her. Although the light was on in the room, her explanation was that she had kept her head over her eyes.

Called for Help
When she regained consciousness, she said in the witness stand, she had called to Chow for help, then called to Low, and feeling that the motionless form on the bed might strike her, had crawled from the room through the adjoining room to the hallway, because she was unable to reach the door of the room in which she was wounded. There, she said, she was met by Low, and told him to run for the police.

"Didn't you know that George was dead?" "I don't see him now, did you?" "I don't see him now, did you?"

When the knife which had been found by the doctor in the room, was produced as an exhibit, the witness professed to be unable to identify it. She admitted that it was "resembling like" a knife which had been in the room, but she couldn't be more sure.

It was not long after this, the crown going over and over the same ground, carefully checking her answers, that the girl broke down, saying that she had told all she knew, and insisting that she had told the truth. Wearing a wedding ring, she applied a handkerchief to her eyes with her left hand, and in a few minutes, during which Major Wallace suspended his examination, she had regained control of herself.

Low, when he was recalled to the stand, although he had heard the evidence given by Miss LaPage, gave

the same version of events as he had previously given.

Dr. Norman J. Barker gave brief medical evidence, stating that the blade of the knife which had wounded the girl had passed twice through her left thigh, wounding also the right leg on one of the wounds.

Asked if it would be possible for her to be self-defense, he replied that "it would take quite a blow." He declined to answer a question as to whether or not a woman would be regarded as making a mistake by wounds of the nature of those suffered by Miss LaPage.

Three Places Set
Detective L. Williams, who examined the body of Chow, described the position in which he found it, and said that the galls on the bed were scarcely disarranged, as one would expect to find them if a struggle had taken place. He gave evidence as to the finding of three places set at the table, and three liquor glasses. He

had found, also, a light-colored liquid which "resembled something like alcohol."

The body of Chow, according to Williams, and also to Coroner Dr. Crawford, Dr. M. R. Frankish and Detective Sergeant Johns, appeared as if it had not moved after receiving the fatal thrust. It was quite possible, Dr. Frankish said, that the girl would become unconscious after being wounded.

Examination of Chow's wound had indicated that the blow must have been received while he was in a standing or sitting position and also that the blade must have penetrated its full length.

Following the charge by Dr. Crawford, the jury deliberated only three-quarters of an hour before bringing in their verdict.

THE MEXINE BREED

Man—Just talk. A strange man tried to kiss me."

Man—What? He must have been a strange man."

Who wants to cook in Spring?

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Bringing all the family
Food-delight and health



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