

North River, P. E. Island.
Jan. 13th 1890.

Dear Sir W.^m Dawson. —

I beg you
to excuse me for not acknow-
ledging the receipt of the copy
of the "Hand-book of Cana-
dian Geology," which you so
kindly sent me, previous to
this! The "Hand-book" is a
delightful compendium of our
present knowledge of Canadian
geology. The "First-Part" on
"General Geology" is concise, clear,
practical, and right up to the

times. The Appenix is valuable to beginners, and also to those of us who have always a good deal to begin over again.

I wish you many Happy New Years.

Truly Yours.

Francis Bain.

guardian of camp 20, and in that capacity appointed a committee to try Cronin. Beggs says he was not present at any of the meetings of the trial committee, and knows nothing of the evidence introduced against the murdered man. Beggs was also the chief centre of the inner circle of camp 20, and in that capacity presided at the meeting at which the trial committee reported, finding Cronin guilty of being a traitor and a spy. Five men were to decide on the manner and extent of the punishment at a time, place, and in a manner to be arranged by themselves.

Thirteen members were present, including Beggs, and all were sworn enemies of the murdered man. Thirteen square strips of white paper were cut up and on five pieces were written numbers one to five. The remaining eight were left blank. The ballots were passed around and the members who received the printed slips were elected to name and inflict the punishment.

No one except the five men knew who the executioners were. Beggs picked a blank ballot and all he did was to announce that the five men chosen would meet together at a certain place and time. Beggs admits the Clan-na-Gael unwritten law regarding the punishment to be inflicted on traitors was generally the death penalty, but the nature of the punishment was not specified in the constitution, nor was it obligatory on any member to inflict the death penalty.

James Flannigan, formerly a member of camp No. 20, corroborates Captain Thomas F. O'Connor's story about the trial committee. Early in February, shortly after Le Caron had testified before the Parnell commission, was the time of the meeting of camp No. 20. Junior Guardian Andrew Dugan charged that Dr. Cronin was an intimate friend of Le Caron, and, like him, was a spy. In fact, he charged that the doctors were spies and traitors. Captain O'Connor defended Cronin, and said the only reason he was denounced was because he had accused a leading member of espionage. Beggs took a hand in the row and said Cronin was a traitor, whereupon Dan Coughlin moved that an investigation committee be appointed, the motion being seconded by saloon keeper Dan Murphy. It was the night of May 3rd that Andrew Fey, who was an enemy of Dr. Cronin, asked if the secret committee had reported and was told that it had. The next night Cronin was murdered. It is believed a written report was made on the subject but nothing is known as to this.

Beggs had nothing more to do with the removal of Cronin after the meeting. He has furnished the State Attorney with a list of the thirteen members present, and says Coughlan, Sullivan and Burke were among the number. He cannot give the names of the five executioners, because he does not know who were chosen to do the work.

Just before the case against the Cronin conspirators is given to the jury, the State Attorney will ask that the case against Senior Guardian John F. Beggs be not prosecuted, and the defendant allowed to go free. This will be done in return for valuable information by Beggs to the State. The Senior Guardian has told all he knows about the conspiracy, and though his information has been of great benefit to the State, it shows that he is guiltless of the crime with which he is now charged. Beggs will not take the witness stand for the State.

Telegraphic Odds and Ends.

A BUDGET OF GENERAL NEWS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

OTTAWA, Oct. 23.—A compendium of regulation regarding the inspection of boilers and machinery has been compiled under the direction of the Minister of Marine, which, it is understood, will greatly facilitate inspections, especially as regards English-made machinery, which has hitherto been subject to a very roundabout and unsatisfactory routine.

VIENNA, Oct. 23.—The papers of this city applaud Emperor William's speech opening the Reichstag, and declare it furnishes evidence of the peaceful tendency of Germany and her allies. The *Frederic* *blatt* says the additional German armaments caused by the military preparations of her neighbors, guarantee the peace of the world afresh. The united strength of the allies constitutes the strongest bulwark of peace which has been made more secure by the personal meetings between the Emperor William and other rulers.

MONTREAL, Oct. 23.—Very heavy frost here last night and ice of considerable thickness formed on still water. The frost appears to have been the heaviest since...

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

OCTOBER 25, 1889.

The Tylodendron.

It is now more than twenty years since, with a youthful companion, we spent the afternoon of a summer day on the breezy shores of St. Peter's Island. We were no geologist then, but there was the same charm in the wild rocky shore, and the sunlit wave, and the breeze, and the foam that there is to-day, and with keen delight we explored the treasures of rock and reef. Among other things we picked up what appeared to be the fossilized stem of some plant, washed out of the brown, rocky escarpment, at whose foot it lay. We carried it home as a boyish treasure, and added it to our store of unaccountable things in the attic. Here we paid it many a visit, examining it over and over, vainly endeavoring to understand its character. We read much on geological subjects, but the books threw no light on this peculiar specimen. At length a bright idea struck us. We took our specimen down from its dingy lair, and made a clear and accurate drawing of it, and sent the drawing to the great Professor (now Sir William) Dawson. He suggested that it might be the limb of an ancient pine tree. And there the matter rested for years. In the meantime, this class of fossil was being diligently studied in the extensive Permian fields of Europe by the indefatigable Weiss and others, who discovered that it generally represented only the pith of coniferous trees. When Sir William became acquainted with this fact, he wrote to me to search for more perfect specimens of Tylodendron (for such the fossil was now called) on the Island. Accordingly, during the present summer, I devoted some time to this object.

At Gallas Point, Tylodendra are found as small cylindrical shafts of brown flint, an inch and a half in diameter, their surfaces sculptured with regular interrupted ridges. Usually these are seen knocking about the grey sand beach; but in a fresh rock-slide from the cliff, I found one enclosed in the mass of a large fossilized trunk, showing that it was but the enormous pith of a good sized tree. After this discovery I visited the brown cliffs on the southern shore of St. Peter's Island. At the eastern point where the waves have worn the rock into broad shelving terraces, the prostrate, branching trunks of fossil trees are seen imbedded in the rocky floor. From an acquaintance with the wood of Tylodendron, we can identify them as such; and here I had an opportunity of observing both the external appearance of the stems and the general mode of growth of the trees. On towards the lighthouse the massive grey beds are all streaked and patched with purple, where the organic acids have deposited manganic and iron oxides. These patches are often very hard, and fragments of purple rock pave the beach out to low water mark. In this breccia are seen endless fragments of the stems, limbs, and twigs of Tylodendra. But they are only fragments—chips and splinters from the ruthless axes of time. It was among these splinters that I found the foliage of the ancient tree. A nice specimen it was—a twig with a number of pinnate leaves attached, all enclosed in an iron clay nodule. By splitting open some grey beds, beautifully preserved twigs were exposed showing clearly the bases to which the leaves were attached, and the circular marking, where the fruit was borne. Here also was discovered the fruit, consisting of a globular capsule containing four angular seeds. These were in such a state of preservation, that when first disturbed they rolled out of their shell perfect in form as the brown nuts gathered from among the autumn leaves of our wood lands.

It was a long hunt. Twenty years of waiting, studying and searching. But now the ancient beauty stood before us in all its perfection, a real treasure of forest loveliness restored from the wrecks of a long-lost creation. A majestic trunk, several feet in diameter, clothed with a ridged and furrowed bark, raised aloft far extending arms that ramified by simple forking. The younger branches were covered with large leaf-cushions and ridges which supported the decurrent footstalks of large pinnate leaves. These clothed the whole majestic dome of the tree with the graceful folds of a rich and peculiar drapery which made it the most elegant conifer of the ancient Permian forest.

B.

L. Bann
July 1918