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POST OFFICE BOX 2349

TELEPHONES :

MELROSE 450 AND 451



MONTREAL, Sept. 6th, 1921

Dear Sir Edmund;

I now send you the evidence in the case in which your brother was so much interested when it was brought to his attention on his trip on the Manitoba & North Western Line, in 1886.

These papers are as follows;

Copy of an article which appeared in the Shoal Lake newspaper, of the issue immediately following the event, and the following affidavits:

H.J. Coffin, Conductor of the train.

Wm. Crooker, Brakesman, who broke open the door of the lavatory.

Chas. A. McLennan, Foreman of Tank Construction, who rode back and found the child lying at the foot of the seven foot embankment.

Dr. Oliver, who attended Mrs. Langley.

James Higham, Section Foreman, into the care of whose wife the mother and child were placed.

Chas. E. Hamilton, at one time Attorney General of the Province of Manitoba, who was a passenger



on the train.

I may also add that the present Sir Donald Mann was a passenger on the same train.

It may perhaps add to the interest of the story if I give you a short recital of this very unusual and very interesting occurrence: -

On the morning on which this event happened, I was informed by the Train Despatcher that the passenger train, which had only then left the terminal about half an hour, was twenty minutes late, and on enquiry was given as an explanation the circumstances which are vouched for by the foregoing affidavits.

I at once gave instructions for Doctor Oliver, of Shoal Lake, the nearest station, to be sent up to Kelloe to attend to this poor woman, and we took care of her until she was able to resume her journey to her mother's home at Ossawa, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Ry. On her arrival at Ossawa she received a message from her father, who had heard of this happening, and who had formed the impression that his daughter had tried to make away with her unborn child, threatening her with violence if she should approach his home. She then telegraphed me to know what she should do.

I wired her to come back to Portage-la-Prairie



and we would still take care of her. She did this, and we saw that she was properly cared for until she was in a position to re-join her brother, who lived half way, and later on, her husband at Fort Pelly.

A few days after the birth of the child, and whilst Mrs. Langley was still in charge of the section foreman's wife at Kelloe, you and some friends, including your brother, Dr. Osler, made a trip over the Manitoba & North Western Line, as you were all interested in that district.

The story of this unusual experience was related to Dr. Osler, and he expressed a great desire to see the principals. Accordingly the train on which he was travelling was stopped at Kelloe, and he got off and saw the woman and child, and expressed strongly his opinion that it would be a very important case in medical jurisprudence. I understand he later wrote an article in the leading medical journals of the United States describing this incident, and then, as a result of much criticism, he wrote me to procure him evidence to support his statements. After some difficulty I found the various persons who had, in one way or another, been concerned in the matter, and sent him the affidavits, copies of which are now enclosed.

In addition to the affidavits, I have in my possession several original letters from the parents of the



child, which, although perhaps unnecessary, fully confirm the details of what has been given in this narrative. I have also a photograph of the child taken at about three years old.

There was a certain humorous conclusion to this whole matter in that the mother, appreciating my efforts to provide for her comfort, and for her return to her home, begged, and finally insisted upon my naming the child. I endeavored for some time to escape this responsibility, but at last, in response to her very urgent appeal, and being in a humorous frame of mind, I replied - "Very well, name the child (who is a girl) Winnifred Clare" - thinking that the name was rather a pretty one, and that the initials had a certain reference to the manner of her appearance on earth!!

I may add further that after this crime was accomplished I had fears for some time that the father might realize it, and express a desire for vengeance.

This then is the story, and I hope I have given you all you require.

I was very sorry to hear through your son that you have been ill, and I sincerely trust that you are well on the high road to good health again.

With kindest regards, I am, dear Sir Edmund,

Yours very faithfully,

Sir Edmund Osler.,  
Toronto, Ont.

*Walter Baker*