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MANASSAS, VA., THURSDAY, AUG. 3, 1911.

THE BEATTIE TRAGEDY

MYSTERY enshrouding the sensational Beattie tragedy, in Richmond so far is impenetrable baffling detectives in their efforts to establish a positive motive for the crime. That Beattie is guilty of slaying his beautiful young wife that he might be free to mate with an amny is the firm belief of many who have carefully read of the developments. They point to "the other woman" as the motive, and in their deductions hold that Beattie himself either killed his wife or that he employed an assassin. So strong is the web of circumstantial evidence woven around Beattie that it is almost beyond power to break down. Alone with her husband in a lonely spot in an unfrequented road the young woman was slain. The husband declares the deed was committed by a highwayman, but he is unable to assign a motive. That a weapon had been purchased for the young husband shortly before the tragedy and that he had a liaison with another woman are reports arising from the investigation.

The eternal triangle, symbol of a human problem old as the race, has no corollary save grief. Its terms are written in tears, shattered lives, broken homes, death. And always it is "the other one," the third actor in the drama, that is the medium through whom operate the forces of sorrow and destruction. Always there is a sacrifice either of happiness or of life, conditions identical as misery is living death. Mrs. Beattie was slain. By whose hand none but the guilty can tell. Perverse fate usually wills that a good woman, most often a wife, is the victim. In a jail cell, Beattie now is branded with accusations while in another cell close by, his reputed affinity apparently unmoved by the tragic denouement of their alleged illicit alliance, carelessly whiles away the hours until she shall reveal in court the precise status of their asserted relations. This woman may be more sinned against than sinning, as she claims, but it is true that she represents a type at variance with domestic ideals, and therefore dangerous to weak worldlings of the kind Beattie has proved himself to be.

Here, then, are the elements of the Richmond night-road tragedy. Who has enacted the role of slayer? Upon whom shall the brand of guilt be placed? Time alone will tell.

STREET IMPROVEMENTS

VISIBLE evidence of the value of the Civic League to this community is presented in the street improvements. The League has not wasted any time in getting down to business. There has been neither elaborate detail of organization, nor outbursts of patriotic oratory. Really, the League has not had time. There is work to do and the League was organized for results. We were promised an abatement of the dust nuisance, and behold! the streets are being oiled. Citizens, through instrumentality of the League secured from establishments contributions amounting to \$85 for the purchase of oil. A demonstration of the dust-laying properties of oil had been given on Battle street, W. C. Wagener donating the two barrels of material used. The Town Council has agreed to defray the expense of covering the streets in the business district with the oil bought by subscription. Property owners in the residential section are urged to follow the example of the business men and abolish the dust by the use of oil on the streets.

Relief from the dust nuisance, which has been a source of great discomfort and a menace to health, is eagerly welcomed. The cost is nominal and should not be taken into consideration in view of the great benefits derived. Necessarily, the first oiling is the heaviest, but the experience of other towns adopting the plan is that the process need not be repeated until the expiration of eighteen months and thereafter once every two years. The dust packs hard and the street becomes smooth, resilient and noiseless as though paved with asphalt. Best of all, it is dustless!

With this blessing granted the League now plans the placing of receptacles on the corners in the business district for the reception of litter and trash that otherwise would be scattered in the streets. It is an excellent plan and is before the Street Committee of the Town Council for adoption. Ten receptacles would be placed on the street corners at the expense of the Town. The business houses would install their own receptacles.

These are examples of the work the Civic Improvement League is accomplishing. Other aims of the League are: to improve the schools and the Town library; more facilities for improving and maintaining sanitary conditions in the Town; improvement of the railway station; parking the Court House grounds; securing ground for a Town Park; co-operating with the Daughters of the Confederacy in improving the cemetery and for other work; assistance in securing water works and electric lights. What more comprehensive or desirable improvements could be planned for a community? Manassas needs every one of them. They can be secured by co-operation with the Civic Improvement League, an organization that does very little talking but a great deal of effective work. And that is what brings results.

THE POST SIDESTEPS

George C. Round, chairman of the executive committee of the Manassas national jubilee committee, is in receipt of a letter from H. A. Strong, of Erie, Pa., in reply to a letter sent by him, seeking to establish the identity of Union Veteran Maddox, of Erie, who was quoted in press telegrams sent out under an Erie date line, as criticizing the hospitaling of Southern women toward Union veterans, who attended the Manassas jubilee.

Mr. Strong, who is a prominent attorney of Erie, says there is no such man in the town. There is no James E. Maddox in the city directory, nor is he known to any of the G. A. R. posts of Erie. Mr. Strong went further in his search for Maddox, and looked over the roster of the Pennsylvania soldiers' and sailors' home of Erie, Maddox's name does not appear there. According to the records, none of the Erie G. A. R. posts, nor the home, sent a delegation to the Manassas celebration. It is suggested that possibly Maddox was a member of some other G. A. R. post in the North.—Washington Post, July 29, 1911.

How a great newspaper like The Washington Post can ignore an appeal for justice is past understanding. In the light of developments in that Erie insult we can but form but one conclusion—that while The Post may be great in name its ideals are microscopic. There is no newspaper, however powerful, if it is an institution of the people, as they all pretend, that has any right to permit malicious persecution of good people, just that a representative of that newspaper may work out revenge because citizens of Manassas gave him a well deserved rebuke for his impudence at the Peace-Jubilee. He threatened to "scorch" Manassas and The Post published his falsehood. It is not difficult to understand how a newspaper may be imposed upon by an unscrupulous reporter. But it is difficult to understand, why after discovering that it has misrepresented facts to the great injury of good people that a newspaper is not willing, even eager, to make amends by a formal denial. The Post is not above making an apology. A libel suit against The Post is being discussed, and to say the least, it would give the affair the publicity that it appears impossible to secure otherwise.

Witness the effort of The Post to merge the identity of a traducer with all the Grand Army of the Republic, when investigation disclosed the fact that there is no such person as "James E. Maddox" in Erie. The Post insults the Grand Army of the Republic as well as the people of the South. The example of journalistic sidestepping was not given editorial prominence, but hidden in an obscure place in the paper.

APPRECIATION

In this age of commercialism, with most men concerned solely in their own struggle with utter disregard for their fellows, appreciation is a quality so rare that its existence is often doubted by those to whom it is due. Ambition or greed has atrophied the attribute which with esteemed recognition would compensate for that which has been bestowed. The paralytic influence of indifference is communicable, a fact that often is not recognized until too late to revive the sentiment that has been permitted to wither and die. There is no justification for undue praise but there is a right, and a right to demand, the encouragement, that is the greatest reward of effort for another. The man who sacrifices upon a cold altar wrongs himself, and that he should suffer is the penalty of self-immolation. To steal from one's self is as great, if not a greater crime, than to rob another. The selfish, who lack appreciation, take that which does not belong to them. A man's highest duty is to himself as a human being.

THE HORSE SHOW

THE success of the Manassas Horse Show is a matter of congratulation to the people of Prince William County as well as the management. The Horse Show is a Prince William County institution, and citizens justly are proud of its development. The exhibition this year was the finest the Association has ever offered, and was pronounced by experts to be the best this season south of Madison Square, New York City. Small wonder the people of Prince William County are proud of the Manassas Horse Show.

PARAGRAPHS

AT last! Relief from the dust nuisance.
THAT Erie "interview" is too coy for belief.
THERE is one kind of open crop that the drought will not destroy.
PEOPLE down in this section are not hitching to The Washington Post.
THE uppers will be lower, if reports from the Pullman Company are true.
THAT convention of jewelers in Richmond ought to be rather a brilliant affair.
Is it to be wondered that the Indiana woman who spoke forty-five languages died unmarried?
PLANTY of rain throughout the country is prophesied by the Weather Bureau. Prepare for prolonged drought!
A CROP anomaly is presented in reports of heavy yields in the acid farming sections, and almost total failure in the rain belt.

SECOND

Annual Tournament

Jumping Contest and Races

Friday, Aug. 4th

10.00 A. M.

HAYMARKET, VA.

Admission 15 Cents Children 10 Cents

Lunch Served on Grounds

POST ENTRIES C. W. KEYSER, Thoroughfare, Va. Committeeman

Why You Should Bank With The National Bank of Manassas

FIRST—The shareholders are nearly all home people. Their interest and yours are mutual. The Bank's profits remain right here and is spent in your midst for the upbuilding of our Town and community.

SECOND—Its business is covered with conservatism. Speculation plays no part in its conduct. It fosters and encourages home enterprises.

3 per cent paid on deposits
Safety Boxes for Rent

CONNER'S MARKET

Fresh and Salt Meats, Staple and Fancy Groceries, &c.

CASH OR 30 DAYS—Owing to the long standing credit I have been doing I am compelled to cut my credit to 30 days and sell goods Cheap for Cash.

Just Received

One Car Marvel Flour
One Car Best White Corn
One Car No. 2 White Clipped Oats
One Car Bran and Middlings

Anheuser-Busch Dried Brewers Grain

This has twice the feeding value of Bran and costs less. Excellent for horse or dairy feed. Protein 22 to 28 per cent. Fat 8 to 8 per cent.

STERLING STOCK FEED

Composed of Corn, Oats, Barley and Cotton Seed Meal ground in proper proportion.

Special Prices on Salt in 50, 100 or 140-pound Sacks

The Best Meal at the Lowest Price

Beet Pulp, Cotton Seed Meal, Calf Meal, Chick Feed, Grit, Stock and Poultry Powders always in stock

STISF CTION GUAR NTEED

C. M. Larkin & Co.

Manassas, Virginia.