

# OLD LANDMARK GONE FROM NORWOOD BRIDGE

## Toll-Gate House Sold, Last of Old-Time Institutions

The last old toll-house of the northwest will no longer exist after Monday. All its romances will be swallowed up in oblivion, when the ancient building will become the property of Sam Carson, the butcher, of Norwood, who will use it as storehouse for meat.

For more than twenty-eight years the old toll-house has stood on the sloping bank of the Red river, at the Winnipeg approach to the Norwood bridge. In 1909, however, when the Norwood bridge was taken over by the cathedral city, the toll was lifted.

The game of wits was in full swing during that time, when scores of passengers endeavored "to skip the tax." But, sad to relate, old Bill MacHenry was very much awake when any young towhead squeezed his wiry form under the window ledge while "Old Bill" was to all appearances snoozing.

The old-timers of St. Boniface remember when the word "Dubuc" exempted the family of that name from any toll. Among the interesting occurrences of that day was the ensuing conversation between the toll-keeper and Sir Joseph. With the lifting of his worn old cap and a deep bow, the toll-keeper addressed Sir Joseph. "How many children are there in your family, sir?" "As far as I can remember," said Sir Joseph, "there must be about twelve." His remark caused an expression of dumb wonderment and bewilderment to settle on the face of "Old Bill," who with a knowing smile and wink said, "I coulda swore that I counted thirty today."

The young cavaliers returning from the city of Winnipeg with their lady loves were often put in youth's embarrassing position when "Old Bill" popped his head out of the window and demanded the usual toll of two cents for each passenger. Vehicles and team were charged the noble sum of from 15 to 20 cents.

But now, with the development of the times, this old relic of ancient practices has sadly passed from the eyes of the world, although the stories of the old house are still written in the minds of those who knew.