

**FIRE AND FROST;
THE MEADOW LEA
TRAGEDY**

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Fire and frost; the Meadow Lea tragedy by R. Dezell

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R. DEZELL

**FIRE AND FROST;
THE MEADOW LEA
TRAGEDY**



MARTHA REID

Fire and Frost

The Meadow Lea Tragedy

Robert BY
R. DEZELL

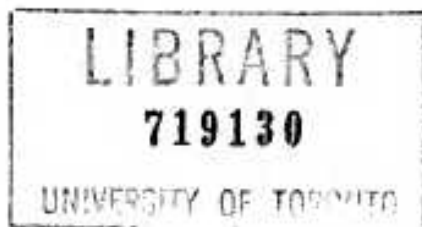
Author of "Lost Track of a Day."



TORONTO
WILLIAM BRIGGS
1907

Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year one thousand nine hundred and seven, by ROBERT DAZELL, at the Department of Agriculture.

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FIRST INKLING OF THE STORY.

MUCH that belongs to the heroic and the thrilling has passed into history in a sense which may not be very creditable to history or complimentary to the historian. The sin of omission is often very evident in the realm of literature and can scarcely be justified by unfavorable considerations which may suggest themselves under the head of competition or constituency.

The sculptor, under a sense of service to man, works away with chisel in hand, upon the rough stone, or marble, or granite, until it glows with expression and life. It is his work, his duty, and his ambition to take things inanimate, whether stone, sand or marble, and make them live.

The artist, likewise, whose mind is in an unusual degree susceptible to impressions from natural objects, conceives the noble purpose of developing a picture that will correspond in the minuteness of every detail with the scenic

beauty of the landscape—or mountain side, it may be—that others through the medium of art may look upon natural beauty and wonders as seen by the artist.

The prophet, also, whose spiritual senses have been awakened by a vision of dry bones, refuses to entertain the doubtful question, "Can these bones live?" and, instead of asking, "Will it pay?" or "Will it prove practicable?" he feels inspired to clothe them with life and the habiliments of the living.

The historian or novelist has just as great a field for service, and should he pass over what should be passed down to posterity as a national heritage, his vision of duty and service must be regarded defective in a degree proportionate with the worthiness of the cause or the grandeur of the opportunity.

The Meadow Lea disaster is an event which might be regarded as one that had passed into history without having been accorded the treatment which this intense tale of suffering, sorrow, and heroism deserved at the hand of the historian.

The early settlers of Manitoba well remember the awful blizzard in March, 1882. With a fair amount of correctness some of them can tell you the main facts of the sad havoc which