

# The St. John Standard

## OUR SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE STANDARD, ST. JOHN, N. B. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1921

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### A PAGE OF NEWS ABOUT THE MARITIME

#### GAUIS STEEVES ARRESTED CHARGED WITH MURDERING WIFE AND FIVE CHILDREN

Sensational Developments at Moncton When Husband and Father of Fire Victims is Taken Into Custody After Burial of Charred Bodies of Tragedy—"I've a Conscience Clear Anyway," Only Remark of Prisoner When Charged With Appalling Deed.

(Continued from page one.)

Steeves himself was the only survivor of the fire according to his own story, being in the barn sixty yards distant feeding his horses when the fire broke out. He alleged that he was first apprised of the fire when he heard his wife calling to him that the house was on fire.

Could Do Nothing.

He returned to the house but found the fire so far advanced that he was unable to get in or do anything to rescue his wife and children. He says he gave the alarm and went up the road meeting John McEliah and his son going to their work in Moncton. When the three arrived at the burning building McEliah says it was then impossible to do anything along the line of rescue work.

Steeves' version of the tragedy and the condition in which the bodies were found in the ruins as well as other things in connection with the fire led those who visited the scene to wonder how such a tragedy could have been wholly an accident.

Three Children Absent.

Three of Steeves' elder children, two sons and a daughter, were away from home at the time. The daughter Clara, about seventeen years old, worked in Moncton and the boys were working in lumber camps in Albert county. The sons, who returned home since the fire, having been telling of troubles that occurred between their father and mother at different times and this added to the feeling that there should be a more searching inquiry into the facts surrounding the mysterious affair than the latest revealed.

What Will Sons Say.

It is understood that the sons have made statements which will be used at the preliminary examination. They stated that on Sunday previous to the fire their mother told them their father had said if he came home and found the boys there he would burn the place down. As he was being taken into the cell tonight the prisoner or said "I've got a clean conscience anyway."

One of the developments in the tragedy today was the removal of internal organs from some of the charred bodies. This was ordered by the attorney general and performed by Dr. R. L. Botsford. The organs, obtained by Dr. Botsford, are to be forwarded to the provincial analyst at St. John. Dr. Botsford was able to procure fairly well preserved organs from four of the bodies.

Funeral of Victims.

Enclosed in one casket the remains of the mother and her five children,

were this afternoon removed from Tuttle's Morgue and conveyed to Lower Coverdale, Albert County where burial was made. As evidence of the intense interest in the tragedy, about 3,000 people from the city and the surrounding country where the catastrophe occurred, gathered at the morgue and stood around the street in the vicinity while the simple but impressive funeral service was conducted by Rev. H. H. Cochran, pastor of the Highfield street Baptist Church, assisted by Rev. S. J. Perry, pastor of the Coverdale street Baptist Churches.

Excitement was intense.

As little knots of people stood here and there discussing the sad tragedy and the deaths in connection with it, the feeling among the spectators was at times most intense especially when the funeral cortege moved away from the morgue with sleighs containing the aged father and mother and brothers and sisters of the dead woman following immediately behind the hearse.

The husband and father of the five victims drove to the cemetery in company with his brother. In the cortege were also a number of neighbors of the Steeves family in Coverdale.

At the grave side the last rites were in charge of Rev. Mr. Cochran.

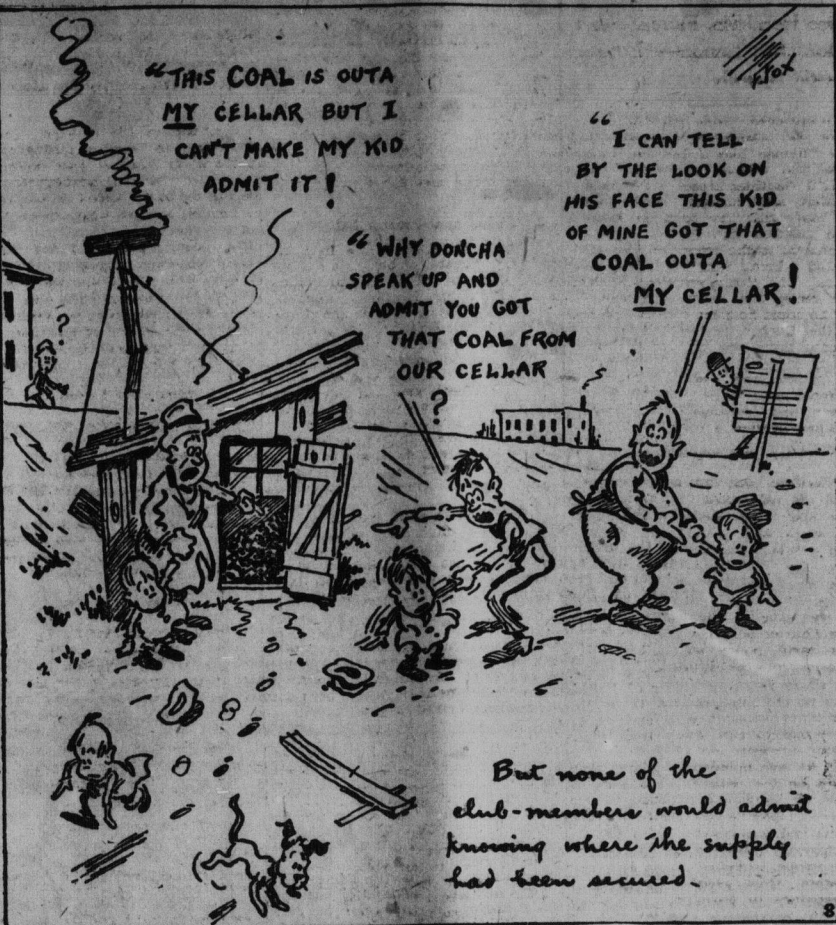
NEW YORK CONVICTS  
ESCAPE FROM AUBURN

Auburn, N. Y., Feb. 17.—It was officially announced in Auburn prison today that Richard Gallagher and John Riddell, convicts from New York city, escaped last night by going over the wall. The men were released at eight o'clock last night and were thought to have gone in hiding, but a rope made of old clothes and cord was found at the south wall, where they got over. The country surrounding Auburn is being searched. Gallagher was serving twenty years for murder, and Riddell was serving six years for robbery.

Word was received at the prison today that Charles Riley, a convict who escaped last fall and was recaptured in Bradford, Pa. last week, had taken poison in jail in Bradford and will die. The woman with whom he had been living in that place committed suicide when she learned he was an escaped convict.

Premier Hughes Hurt

Sydney, N. S. W., Feb. 17.—William Morris Hughes, premier of Australia, was seriously injured today while playing in a departmental cricket match. The injury was to his back.



There was considerable commotion when it was discovered that the club-house contained a good sized stack of coal.

#### Fishery Candidates Are Examined Now

Chatham, N. B., Feb. 17.—The following candidates for the office of Fishery Commissioner, suggested by the death of Hon. Donald Morrison, were examined at the High School, Chatham, Tuesday afternoon: John B. Williston, Newcastle; Murray Anderson, Burnt Church; J. Ken. Brewster, Chatham; Randolph Crocker, Millerton; R. H. Stewart, Richibucto; A. E. O'Leary, Richibucto; Roy Morrison, Newcastle; J. B. Hachey, Bathurst; Nizamthing board—G. H. Harrison, R. A. Logie, Ward Fisher, Chief Inspector, Halifax Eastern Division.

The salary is \$1,500 the first year, with an increase of \$130 a year for three or four years. The office, it is thought, will go to one of the candidates who has had experience in the fish business.

#### ROBERT PUGLEY LEFT BIG ESTATE

Special to The Standard.  
Amherst, Feb. 17.—The will of Robert Pugley provides for the distribution of an estate valued at \$16,000 in the vicinity of \$75,000. Of this \$16,000 is represented in life insurance, of which \$3,000 is payable to his wife and \$4,000 to his daughter Gwen. The only direct legacies are a bequest of \$8,000 to Miss Blanche Moffat, a cousin of the deceased, who has been connected with the firm of Elter & Pugley for a number of years and \$200 to Mrs. Tait, matron of Highland View Hospital. The house, store and business are to be sold, and out of the estate a new home shall be purchased for his daughter, Gwen, at a cost of not more than \$10,000. A maintenance allowance is payable to the widow and the residue of the estate is to be invested and the income paid to his daughter in semi-annual instalments.

MRS. J. H. SMITH DEAD.  
Fredericton, Feb. 17.—At the Homeopathic Hospital, Boston, Mrs. J. H. Smith, of West Somerville, Mass., died recently. She was a daughter of the late John and Sarah Kitchen, Prince William, York Co. She is survived by her husband, two brothers and one sister, Jacob Kitchen, Prince William, and Harry Kitchen, Mrs. George Jordan, of this city. Interment will be made at Salem, Mass.

#### WARRANT FOR ARREST.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 17.—Alex. Carver, colored, arrested last Monday on a charge of holding up the manager of a local butcher shop and later released on \$2,500 bail, failed to put in an appearance when his case was called in the police court this morning, and a warrant for his apprehension was issued.

#### EGGS AND BUTTER DOWN.

Montreal, Feb. 17.—A further drop of ten cents a dozen in the price of eggs occurred at the Bonsecours Market today. They are now selling at 60 cents per dozen. A decline of two cents in the price of dairy butter also went into effect today, bringing the price down to 45 cents a pound.

#### Women's Institute of Corn Hill Entertains

Newtown Institute Were Guests at Enjoyable Function—Pleasing Programme.

Corn Hill, N. B., Feb. 17.—The Women's Institute of this place entertained the members of the Newtown Women's Institute on Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Arthur D. House. After a general cordial reception of the guests the members proceeded with their session. The president, Mrs. Charles Burdock, presided. After song, roll call, and minutes of last meeting read by the secretary, Mrs. C. H. Keith, a short programme was given by visitors and members. A professional contest provided an interesting part of the programme, at which prizes were won by Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Vanning of Newtown, N. B. The house was prettily decorated with Valentine decorations in red and white.

#### Fredericton

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 17.—A Price of Montreal, general manager of eastern lines of the C. P. R., accompanied by J. M. Woodman of St. John, superintendent of the Atlantic division, were in Fredericton on Wednesday night on an official tour. Mr. Price was waited upon by a special committee of the Board of Trade in regard to improved station accommodation here. Two propositions had been advanced, one to have the C. P. R. and C. N. R. unite in the erection and maintenance of a union station, and the other to have the C. P. R. remove its antiquated wooden building and put a modern structure in its place. Mr. Price expressed the opinion that improved facilities certainly were needed, but he said that there were numerous other places on the C. P. R. lines which also were asking for improved station accommodation. He said, also, that there was no prospect of the C. P. R. moving in this matter this year, as building costs still were excessive. He expressed himself as favorable to a union station project. It is feared locally, however, that there would be difficulty in getting the two railways to agree with regard to the management. It is believed that the C. P. R. has in mind improvements in Fredericton within the next few years. The Fredericton Co-operative, Ltd., which has conducted a provision store here for some months, is considering a plan for reorganization and extension of the business. A meeting was held on last Tuesday. It is expected that the scheme will be presented by a special committee within a short time.

#### COURT OF APPEALS.

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 17.—In the Court of Appeals this afternoon the case of Barrett et al versus the Prudential Trust Company et al was concluded. Court considers. When the court opened this afternoon, M. G. Toed, K. C., for the plaintiff, continued his argument. W. B. Wallace, K. C., for the defendant was heard in reply and the court adjourned until to-morrow morning when judgment will be delivered.

#### Former Alderman Of Woodstock Dead

E. L. Hagerman Dies in Toronto at Age of Sixty Years After Brief Illness.

Special to The Standard.  
Woodstock, N. B., Feb. 17.—A telegram received today contained the sad news of the death this morning of E. L. Hagerman in Toronto, aged 60 years. He was a native of Woodstock and lived here until a few years ago when he removed to Toronto. He is survived by the widow, two daughters, Mrs. Roy Carr and Miss Hele. R. N. of Toronto, three brothers, Scott of Mattawamkeag, Dow of Houlton and Ernest of Toronto, besides two sisters, Mrs. Walter Holmes and Mrs. Joseph Milbury, both of Mattawamkeag. He was one of the Woodstock aldermen for some years and was a general favorite and a leader in Masonic activities all his life. He spent a few days here among his friends last May. The burial will take place in Toronto.

#### Big Timber Tract Changes Hands

Allagash Land Co. Buy 85,000 Acres at Head of St. John River.

Bangor, Me., Feb. 17.—Timber land, 85,000 acres in extent, along the St. John, Big Machias, and Allagash rivers in Northeastern Maine, and valued at \$42,000,000 became the property of the Allagash Land Co. of this city today by purchase from H. F. Eaton, of Calais. The transaction gives the company title to all but one township of the former Eaton holdings, 322,000 acres of which on the St. Croix River, were purchased by it a year ago.

#### James Dickson Found Dead In His Bed

Special to The Standard.  
Moncton, N. B., Feb. 17.—The death of James Dickson, a well known resident of Upper Rexton, Kent county, occurred this morning very unexpectedly at the home of his wife, Mrs. Dickson. Mr. Dickson was in his usual good health when he retired Wednesday night, but when members of the family went to call him this morning they found him dead. He was 56 years of age, and had been a resident of Rexton all his life. One son and two daughters survive.

#### ELECTION TRIAL LIKELY TO TAKE AN ENTIRE WEEK

Much Time in Restigouche Case Saved by Counsel Preparing Statement of Facts.

WITNESSES IN LARGE NUMBERS SUMMONED

Petitioner Admits He Signed Papers With Little Knowledge of Statements Therein

Special to The Standard.  
Dalhousie, N. B., Feb. 17.—The Controverted Elections Court presided over by Mr. Justice Barry opened in Dalhousie this morning at 10 o'clock to consider the Testigouche case. The case is attracting much interest and scores of friends of the successful candidates, Henry Dottle and David A. Stewart, have come from all parts of the county to witness the legal battle, besides a very large number of witnesses have been subpoenaed. The first witness called was the secretary, treasurer of Restigouche County, Alex. J. LeBlanc, who filed the voters' lists. Then the petitioner, Fred M. Anderson, was sworn. The only remarkable thing about his testimony was his admission on cross-examination by Hon. J. B. M. Baxter that he signed the petition with practically no personal knowledge of the statements therein related. The Sheriff, Thomas Craig, was sworn but his testimony was interrupted by the counsel on "the sides arranging to go through the election documents and prepare a statement of facts which would avoid many days of tedious testimony. It is thought the trial will not be terminated until next week.

#### Log Need Remaining

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—The report that Sir James Loughheed, minister of the interior, has resigned from the government is denied. "There is not an atom of truth in it," Sir James informed a representative of Canadian Press this afternoon.

#### PILES

Do not suffer another day with itching, bleeding, or troubling Piles. No surgical operation required. Dr. Chase's Ointment will relieve you at once and afford lasting benefit. See a local dealer, or Edmondson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto. Sample box free if you mention this paper and enclose 25c. stamp to pay postage.



The Sportsman  
Smokes  
MILLBANK

10 for 15 cts.  
25 for 35 cts.  
Round tins of 50 for 70 cts.