The St. John Standard

OUR SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE STANDARD, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1921 PAGE 3

A PAGE OF NEWS ABOUT THE MARITIME

NEVER HEARD ANY THREATS FROM FATHER

Second Son of Gaius Steeves, Held for Family Murder, Tells of Home Life.

FATHER IN GREAT AGONY AT FIRE

Preliminary Hearing in Moncton Tragedy Has Been Postponed Until Wednesday.

(Continued from page 1.)

On the morning of the fire she was awake. She heard a strange moaning or lamentation, perhaps five minutes. She could not locate it then. When she heard "My God, My God, what shall I do," she located it. She got up and saw the accused coming out of Munro's gate. He was walking an ordinary gait. She then went back to dress; the accused came towards her place. She did not hear any one call "fire." By the time she got up and dressed the accused was near her window said 'my poor children are burned up." This was as near as she could recollect of the accused's statements. Mr. Mellish and his son then came along. She did not notice how fast accused went back after seeing Mr. Mellish and his son. She then went to the fire. The house was then all burned. The accused told her at the fire that the occupants were all in the house. He told her he had tried to get into the house but could not on account of smoke or clothes burning. She wasn't, she stated, sure of her answer as to this. Witness had no further conversation with accused about fire ,only of Beatrice having come down stairs and was putting her boots on. Accused told her he did not know how the fire started unless it caught as Beatrice was going back.

Not Trying to Enter.

Cross examined by Mr. Friel the witness stated that accused was at Munro's when she first saw him. She saw Mrs. Munro later—not at fire. As accused came along cried "My God what will I do." She did not see Mr. Steeves endeavor to get into the house and she did not think it then possible to get in. She believed the accused was in great grief. At the fire she was looking on. The two Mellishes and accused were then at the fire. She did not visit the accused, or he her place. She never had, she believed, any quarrel with accused. As for difficulty between Steeves' family and her family she did not know what caused it. Asked if her husband had not made love to Mrs. Steeves and had caused the trouble, she believed this was the cause of part of trouble.

Mr. Friel asked if accused had not given witness' husband orders to stay away from his place.

She believed Gay came home drunk and accused his wife. She had heard this. The accused brought her a letter about her husband. She could not say who wrote it. She had seen a letter, she stated, written about her husband.

The Sons Evidence

Orle Steeves, accused's son, aged 17, was called. He was at home last Sunday a week ago. His father was not then there. There was, he said, quarrelling at home. He could not say of any recent quarrels.

The witness testified that his mother had accused his father and his sister, Clara, of something about being 'too good chums." His sister would be 19 on March 3rd.

Told of Threat

His mother told him when home that his father threatened to burn the house and all that was in it. His mother, he said, told him this last Sunday week.

His father told him, he said, that he was accused by his mother of being drunk when he (accused) said it was morphine. There was a revolver in the house. He never heard of any threats re the revolver. It was in his father's desk locked up. He never saw any shells for it. Within the last six months he could not tell what really happened at the house. He did not hear his mother tell Curtis about his father's threat to burn them up. Curtis was present. Within last three weeks there was trouble, he said, at home.

Never Heard Threat

On cross-examination he stated he never heard his father threaten his mother. He thought that his mother had told him about the threat of his father so that he would get out and work. He did not believe the threat when told so by his mother. Witness stated he never saw any impropriety between his father and sister Clara. His mother, he stated, was jealous of some one. His mother and father quarreled, he said, sometimes two or three times a day and then made up the same number of times. Witness told of his father being a good provider and of using his family well. He believed his father loved his mother. Once in a while they had arguments. There was nothing saved only a few dishes, witness stated, then on the sled. When he was home there was tar-paper in the house upstairs.

Hung Clothes Around

His mother usually washed on Mondays and hung her clothes out to dry. Other times, when the weather was bad she hung the clothes up stairs to dry. The window upstairs over the lean-to was nailed. Most of the clothes of the family hung upstairs. Curtains hung around the stairway. Under the stairway hung bags containing clothes, paper, etc., admittedly he said inflammable stuff.

Joseph Steeves Recalled.

Joseph Steeves, Moncton, the complainant in the case was next called. Mr. Steeves was examined the first day but was stood aside until later. He said he laid the complaint because after he heard the story of the accused he was suspicious. "I had heard of the threat made to burn them all up so I talked with Steeves and told him what I was going to do. My son and I looked for Steeves at the morgue but he was not there. We later found him at Mrs. Crandall's on Albert street. When I told Steeves I was going to start an investigation, he said 'if there is going to be any more trouble I will shoot myself.'

"I said to him 'if you are not guilty it will be all the better for you.' Steeves later agreed with me."

Evidence of Ill-Treatment.

"I saw evidence of ill treatment to my daughter on several occasions. I saw bruises on her face. It was since Christmas that I heard of the threats being made. I heard about the fire about ten o'clock and went in about four in the afternoon. The bodies were still in the cellar. Steeves told me there he got up about 5 o'clock in the morning to go to Moncton. He said he made the fire and Beatrice came down to get the breakfast. Her mother called to her to go back until the house got warmed and he supposed the fire started from the lamp upsetting. I saw the things outside the ruins and asked him about how it was that he could not save any of the family. He replied that the house was too far gone. Many times Lucy (the late Mrs. Steeves) came to me and I gave her money to buy food.

Never Knew of Morphine.

"I know Steeves drank liquor but I don't know about the morphine. I thought he acted queer after the fire for a man who had just gone through the awful experience he had. I employed Edison Peck to investigate the case. The two boys came to my house that night of their own accord and they were not questioned by Mr. Peck or anyone."

Mr. Steeves said his daughter was married to Steeves some 23 years.

"I am good friends with Gay right now," said the witness, "and I don't know what it was came between us. He came to my house so many times full, that I got disgusted. I told him to stay away until he got sober. I cannot say what would make him want to shoot me and I never was told by Steeves not to be seen on the street with any of his daughters. I was never accused of incest in my life and never did commit such an offence. I will swear to that positively."

Hid The Revolver.

Mr. Friel—"Did you help Steeves build his house?"

"I did it to help him out and he paid me afterwards. I had no talk with anyone about Clara. Some time previous to the fire Lucy told me she hid Gay's revolver as she was afraid of her life. "As far as I am concerned," the witness concluded, "I am still friendly with Steeves as I believe he did all his bad deeds when he was drunk."

Charlie Mellish.

Charlie Mellish said he was the son of John Mellish and was at the fire last Tuesday morning. "Steeves sent me to the Jones place for a bag of hay and told me he gave the horse some oats that morning but no hay. I asked Steeves where all the family were and he said 'they are all burned up.' I stayed half an hour but heard no further explanation from Steeves. I was there when the bodies were found and I saw Steeves with his fur coat on and his boots unlaced. The place was near all burned when I got there."

Mrs Joseph Steeves, mother of the dead woman, said she heard about the fire about nine o'clock last Tuesday morning. She said:

"I was at home and a message came to me saying that my daughter and children had been burned up. I said that it could not be for me, but Mr. Cummings who brought the message, said it was. I was terribly shocked and as it was a long way in and I could not walk there I did not go to the fire at all. My daughter always made complaints to me of the treatment she received and the family did also. One day Lucy (Mrs. Steeves) told me Gay had a gun and had stuck it into her face. She was afraid of her life and hid the gun in the ceiling.

Lived in Fear.

I believe she lived in fear of her life all the time. I never knew of her being any other way but in need. I used to give her things every time she came to the house and I also took things to her place. I have always been good friends with Gay. He told me about the fire and said Beatrice made a light that morning and it must have started that way. I have been in the Steeves' house quite often and I know there were white lace curtains on the stairway as I gave them to Lucky myself. Iwas there last August. I have heard little things about Clara and her father but I was never told about them by any of the family. I look upon these stories as hearsay and I don't take any stock in them," the witness declared.

Saw The Bruises.

"I have seen Lucy with bruises on her body and once within the year I saw her two eyes blackened. Lucy told me more than once she was afraid of Gay when he was drunk."

To Mr. Friel, the witness said it was only recently that the late Mrs. Steeves said she was afraid. The witness never saw Steeves drinking heavy of late. "Steeves is friendly with me and I with him as I believe he did his bad work when he was drunk. I still am friendly with Gay in spite of the black eyes," Mrs. Steeves repeated.

Mr. Friel—"Did your husband ever black your eyes?"

"No, he did not. I would like to see him try it."

Myrtle Steeves, sister of the late Mrs. Gaius Steeves, was next called. The witness said her sister Lucy told her about a week before the fire that Gay had put a gun into her face and said he would blow her brains out. "Lucy was living in fear all the time," went on the witness. "She told me if she was found burned up in her bed some night we would know who to blame for it. Last summer she came home with bruises. She never discussed Clara or her affairs with me. I heard Gay said that the fire must have started from the light. I saw my sister with her eyes blackened.

Threat a Week Before

The last witness called was Mrs. Inez Horseman who said she was a sister of the late Mrs. Gaius Steeves. She saw her sister a week before the fire and was told that her life was threatened by Gay. After the fire she saw Steeves and was told Beatrice must have set the fire accidentally. "He told me he was in the barn only about three seconds and I told him that I could not see how the house could burn down that fast.

"I used to board with Gay and my sister when they lived on Robinson street, but I left after Gay came home 'three sheets in the wind' one night and smashed stoves, chairs, tables and doors right and left. It was too hot for me. He was all right when he was sober, but that wasn't very often."

This concluded the evidence for the day.

Mr. Friel asked for bail, saying the whole case was a farce so far. Mr. Sherron held against the granting of bail and His Honor refused the application.

It is reported tonight that a report has been received from the analyist in St. John and that no trace of poison was found in the internal organs taken from the remains of the five victims.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children

In Use For Over 30 Years

Always bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher

Lumber Business Very Discouraging

Fraser Mill at Newcastle Not to Start Until July at the Earliest.

Newcastle, Feb. 21.—At the annual meeting of the North West Boom Company, in Mr. Davidson's office, Newcastle, the former directors and officers were re-elected.

The lumber prospects were looked upon by every one present as very bad. All of the piling grounds are full of lumber, and there is no demand for it at any price. The Fraser mill is not to start till July, some of the others may not run at all. Last year's cut was 40,000,000 and this year's only 17,000,000, and the probability is that part of this will be left on the landings instead of being driven down to the booms. No boom-master was appointed, and the lumber that comes down river may be held there and not rafted. It will be cheaper by far to keep the logs in the boom than to saw them and hold the lumber, as there would be no insurance. Mr. Snowball said he would not start his mill at all unless the price of lumber increased and orders could be got for the lumber. The outlook for all who depend upon the lumber business for a living is very discouraging just now.

PLAYING THEIR OWN GAME; WHY DON'T WE PLAY OURS?

Here is an extract from a pamphlet which has of late been sent broadcast over the United States, part of a manufacturers' campaign to perpetuate the present adverse exchange rate, to boost Yankee industry, and to prevent the normal restoration of British trade. Canadians should resent this policy which works directly against our well-being, by refusing to purchase United States' products so long as Canadian or British goods are available.

AMERICA FIRST!

America drove England out in 1776.
England has come back.
American Factories are closing while
English made goods flood our markets.

DON'T BUY English Cottons, Tweeds, Woolens, etc.
But Keep American Factories Open.

HOUSEWIVES:—See that you help America by NOT BUYING the following British Products:

Lipton's Tea	Stilton Cheese
Ridgeway Tea	Cheddar Cheeses
Tetley's Tea	Cox Gelatine
Coleman's Mustard	Huntley & Palmer Biscuits
Lee & Perrins Sauce	Scotch Shortbread Biscuits
Worcestershire Sauce	Lux
Cottage Brand Sauce	Twinks
Imported English Sauce	Rinso
Cross & Blackwell's Goods	Octagon Laundry Soap
Dundee Marmalade	Lifebuoy Soap
Clover Leaf Soap	Crane's Linen Lawn Paper
Pears Soap	Eton's Highland Linen Paper
William's Shaving Soap	Whiting's Paper
All William's Goods	Allen & Ginter Tobacco
All Colgate's Goods	Garrick Tobacco
Fry's Chocolates and Cocoas	Capstan Navy Cut Tobacco

Don't Use Shell Oil Products.

BE a Real American. Buy American Goods.

Are we going to take this sort of thing without retaliation?

Would Demand Canada's "Liberty"

Irish Judge Sees Danger to the United States in Britain's Control of Dominion.

Chicago, Feb. 21.—"The United States should insist on Great Britain freeing Canada and the West Indies as a basis of negotiations for the settlement of her war debt to this country," was the declaration of Judge Daniel F. Cohalan of New York tonight, in an address at a Washington Day dinner given by the "Committee of One Hundred for an Irish Republic." Great Britain through war preparations in these places, Judge Cohalan declared was preparing for a conflict with the United States.

"The British Empire must be dismembered if the world is to have peace," Judge Cohalan continued.

LIQUOR CASE ADJOURNED.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 21.—The case against Edmund W. McDonald of Vanceboro, Me., charged with stealing liquor from a C. P. R. car enroute from Montreal to St. John was resumed in the police court this afternoon. Inspector Catlow, Detective Liggett, Constable Bailey of McAdam and Constable Bouzan of Montreal were called as witnesses.

They told about the arrest of McDonald at the home of Mrs. Augusta Clarkson at McAdam and of finding three trunks full of Melcher's gin which was the same brand shipped from Montreal to the National Drug Co., St. John. Fifty cases had been shipped and only two arrived in St. John. The case was adjourned until tomorrow morning.

HEAVY SNOW FALL.

Sydney, N. S., Feb. 21.—Eleven inches of snow which has fallen here during the past twelve hours failed to block the Cape Breton sub-division of the Canadian National Railways, where the trains are moving although somewhat behind time. All tram services, however, were shut down tight at noon, the light snow having drifted in spots to a depth of ten or twelve feet. Wire communication has not been interefered with.

TALKS TOWN MANAGEMENT.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Feb. 21.—Fraser Armstrong, Town Manager of Woodstock spoke at a meeting of the Commercial Club which took the form of a six o'clock supper at Washington's restaurant this evening.

Mr. Armstrong discussed the various methods of town and city management and answered a number of questions. After the address a resolution was passed favoring Town Management for Fredericton.

CHOSEN BY HARDING

St. Augustine, Fla., Feb. 21.—Definite announcement that Harry M. Daugherty, of Ohio, has been chosen for the attorney generalship under the coming administration was made here today by President-elect Harding.

John Little Passes Away At Apohaqui

Eighty-Four Years of Age When Death Ended a Very Honorable Career.

Apohaqui, Feb. 21—After a brief illness of pneumonia, the death of John Little occurred this afternoon at three o'clock. By his passing, the village is mourning the loss of its oldest and one of its most highly respected residents.

Mr. Little was in his 84th year and was a son of the late Elspeth and John Little of Head of Millstream, where he was born. He resided on the homestead until ten years ago, when he sold the property there and removed to Port Elgin, Westmorland county. He remained one year in Port Elgin, after which he purchased a residence in this village, where he and his wife have since been honored residents.

He is survived by his wife, who, before her marriage was Mrs. Emily Starkey, one sister, Mrs. Agnes McLean, of Montreal, and one brother, David L., of Apohaqui. There are many remote relatives among the old families of Kings county, his mother belonging to the Murrays of that county.

Mr. Little was a Presbyterian. The funeral will be held on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. Service will be conducted at his late residence by Rev. A. V. Morash, after which the cortege will proceed to the Head of Millstream, where the body will be interred in the family cemetery of the old Little estate. Much sympathy is expressed for the widow, who, too, is ill with pneumonia, but is recovering slowly.

Nova Scotia Hard Hit By Blizzard

Halifax, N .S., Fem. 21.—A snowfall of eight inches, piled at places in huge drifts by a stiff northeaster, demoralized the tramway service in Halifax today, and seriously hampered railway traffic throughout the province. Along the southwestern coast, the snowfall was more than a foot and the drifts paralyzed the service on that section of the C. N. R. for many hours. After a snow plough fought its way from Bridgewater to Halifax, the train from this city started for the south shore five hours behind schedule.

Trains Very Late.

The express for Yarmouth on the Dominion Atlantic Railway was four hours late in departing, and the C. N. R. main line train for St. John and Boston, scheduled to depart at 7.40 this morning, was still at the Halifax station at 1 o'clock this afternoon. Traffic to Sydney has also been seriously affected. Reports from provincial points indicate that the snow storm was general all over Nova Scotia.

Saw Cavicchi Pay Pass Money To Clarke

Edward Casey So Testifies at the Nova Scotia Road Enquiry.

Halifax, N. S., Feb. 21.—Edward Casey, formerly employed by the Bedford Construction Company, in a confidential capacity, testified this morning before the Royal Commission investigating the expenditure of road monies in Nova Scotia that he had seen V. J. Cavacchi, manager of the company, pay money to F. M. Clarke, formerly assistant chief engineer of the provincial highways board. He was not aware of the account or purpose invoiced. He had previously, he said, cashed a check for Cavicchi for $5,000. Casey was the witness who by consent of counsel engaged in the case was allowed to testify, following the summing up of the evidence. He was followed on the witness stand by V. J. Cavicchi, recalled by H. A. Lovitt, representing the Bedford Construction Co.

Two More Deaths In Newfoundland Gale

Fishermen Who Are Missing Are Thought to Have Fallen Through Ice.

St. Johns, Nfld. Feb. 21.—The wild storms which swept the island last week have claimed two more victims. Friday last the justice department received word that Benjamin Joseph Brown and Robert Hamilton, both of Tacks Beach, Placentia Bay, were missing since Friday last. They are believed to have fallen through the ice and drowned. On Saturday a wire was received that the bodies had been found. Both unfortunates were married, and Brown leaves a wife and three children.

Enjoyable Valentine Party At Havelock

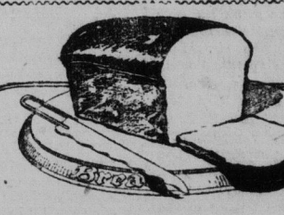
Special to The Standard.

Havelock, N. B., Feb. 21.—A very enjoyable Valentine party was given by Principal I. Newton Fanjoy, assisted by Mrs. E. Garland and Miss Annie Kingston, to the High School students and a few of the young people of the place, in the assembly hall of the Havelock Superior School, on Saturday evening, February 12th. The room was tastefully decorated for the occasion and a carefully prepared programme, consisting of games and other amusements, was carried out, each bearing on the nature of the party.

Some goods pay more profit than others. Usually, the poorer the quality the greater the profit.

The grocer pays more for Red Rose than for other teas—and he sells it at a less profit.

When you buy Red Rose you buy the best.



Better than before the War

Western Canada this year has yielded wheat which in quality has never been beaten.

"ROBIN HOOD"

Family Patent Flour is milled at Moose Jaw—in the midst of the finest wheat belt in the world—from only the very best selected hard spring wheat.

Ask your grocer—he has it in all standard sized packages.

Robin Hood Flour

"Well worth the slight extra cost"