

GETS SENTENCE OF FIFTEEN YEARS

Man Who Badly Injured Little Girl in Toronto With Hatchet.

The Times a few days ago told the story of eight-year-old Agnes Connacher, who was beaten with a hatchet in her mother's home. The Toronto Mail and Empire says:—

"James J. Keeney, who was found guilty by a jury in the assizes on Tuesday of attempting to murder eight-year-old Agnes Connacher, in her home, 405½ Yonge street, on November 23, appeared before Chief Justice Sir Wm. Mulock yesterday for sentence and was given fifteen years in Kingston penitentiary. The defence advanced the plea of insanity at the trial and also stated that Keeney's nerve-wrecked condition as a result of war service was aggravated by heavy drinking on the day on which he made the attack on the child."

"In addressing the prisoner, Chief Justice Mulock said that the evidence as to Keeney's actions on the day of the crime, both before and after the attack, showed that he was fully aware of what he was doing, and that they were due to passion following a heavy drinking bout and a loss in gambling."

"In his judgment Sir William Mulock said, in part:—

"These things on your part show conclusively that your conduct was not that of a man who was incapable of knowing what he was doing, but that under the influence of drink and because of the loss of your money in gambling, you yielded to passion. It is probable that you returned to Mrs. Connacher's apartment with the hatchet, intending to kill her because she had refused to lend you the \$20, but that, she being absent, you vented your passion upon her little girl."

"Evil passions aroused by drink and gambling are no excuse for crime. If it is true that the club mentioned is an organization to which soldiers or others under the influence of drink may resort and indulge in gambling, the matter should have the attention of the proper authorities."

"IDOL DANCER" AT THE QUEEN SQUARE

The experiment tried by the management of the Queen Square Theatre last Wednesday and Thursday, when they brought the first of a series of better productions to St. John, was so successful with the showing of "Don't Ever Marry" that for the Wednesday and Thursday change of this week they obtained the D. W. Griffith production "The Idol Dancer."

It is a film that D. W. Griffith and his players were working on when the entire company was blown to sea in a disabled yacht, and reported missing for several days. This happened late last summer, and caused a good deal of anxiety.

The Smith Sea Island scenes, were filmed in the beautiful Bermuda Islands, possibly the most beautiful spot over which the British flag lies. It is a vivid

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and thrilling drama of the strange life of the South Sea Islanders, those who have seen "Broken Blossoms" will remember the characterization of Richard Barthelmess, who, as

the beachcomber, scores a distinct success. Clarine Seymour, a daughter of the maritime provinces, is the "Idol Dancer," and a prettier girl or a more talented dancer has seldom graced the screen. Crichton Hale, who many came to love for his heroic actions in serials, has an important role. The cast includes, among others, George McQuarrie and Kate Bruce.

The picture was personally directed by D. W. Griffith, who is responsible for "The Birth of a Nation," "Hearts of the World," and "Intolerance." And D. W. Griffith, acknowledged as the greatest camera man in the world, is responsible for some beautiful and interesting scenic effects. The picture has had its premier at the Strand Theatre, New York, just previous to the end of last year, and broke all house records, and has been breaking house records ever since, wherever it has been shown.

SIR DOUGLAS IS AGAIN PRESIDENT

The annual meeting of the Horticultural Association was held yesterday afternoon in the board of trade rooms, when officers were elected and reports for last year received. R. B. Emerson, vice-president, was in the chair and a considerable amount of routine business was transacted. The officers, who were all re-elected, are as follows: President, Sir Douglas Hazen; vice-presidents, R. B. Emerson and Joseph Allison; secretary, A. B. D. Gandy; honorary treasurer, Judge J. J. Armstrong. All the committees remain the same as last year.

In the matter of a monument which the girls of the Rockwood Comfort Association wish to erect, it was decided to refer the matter to a committee. The monument will take the form of an ornamental gate. The matter of the ice cutting privilege also was referred to a committee with power to act.

RURAL CREDITS WOULD KEEP BOYS ON FARMS

Hon. Manning Doherty Expresses Hope For Future.

Hamilton, Feb. 16. — Hon. Manning Doherty, minister of agriculture of Ontario, addressing a gathering of fruit

growers at Windsor, Ontario, expressed confidence that the rural credits system would go carried into effect whether the banks co-operated or not. Good as Ontario's banking system was, he said, it was not adapted to the needs of the farmer.

They were obliged to keep their assets in liquid form, the minister said, and to do this they could not meet the needs of the farmer, because the latter seldom had tangible assets. "If the banks want to co-operate with us we'll co-operate with them," the minister said, but in any case the rural credits system would go on.

Mr. Doherty claimed that rural credits would result in boys staying on the farms, and would serve to stabilize and develop rural life as nothing else would.

HIGH INFANTILE DEATH RATE IN BUDAPEST

Paris, Jan. 30. — (A. B. by mail.) — A startling increase in the number of deaths of children in Budapest in the last year is shown by official reports of the Budapest Health Department received here.

The figures of 1914, which showed that the number of births exceeded the deaths by 208,000, were approximately reversed in 1920. Forty-five per cent. of the deaths were of children under seven years old, while thirty-seven per cent. were of children from the homes of the poorest people.

"This proves," the Health Department states, "that infant mortality in Hungary is due chiefly to miserable conditions in general and particularly to underfeeding."

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