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J. S. GEE, - NEWRY.

COMMUNICATIONS.

We wish it distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

School Section No. 5.

To the Editor of THE EEE.

DEAR SIR:—Kindly allow me space in your valuable paper to reply to a letter dated Oct. 21st, and signed Ratepayer, condemning the action of two of our trustees for passing a resolution that the services of our teacher, W. G. Morrison, would not be required after the close of this year. As a ratepayer of section No. 5 I fail to see how the trustees could have acted otherwise, if acting purely in the interests of the school and section, generally. I just wish to state that the writer of that article, in referring in such flattering terms of Mr. Morrison's good qualities as a teacher, is thoroughly mistaken, and is not expressing the sentiments of the ratepayers at large. I have been given to understand that the majority of the trustees had sufficient knowledge of the imperfections of Mr. Morrison as a teacher to justify them in discharging him, but not wishing to be brought into any controversy they hoped he would take a gentle hint and resign. But, he insisted on being re-engaged, whether or no, for another year. The trustees very wisely thought different and passed a motion stating that his services would not be required after this year. I just wish to state in conclusion that the writer of this article is prepared to prove to the satisfaction of any unprejudiced committee that Mr. Morrison's actions have not been to advance the interests of the school committed to his care, but through illegal actions and stubbornness he has driven some of our children to another section. I submit these facts that the public may see that Mr. Morrison is not the man Ratepayer represented him to be, and also that our trustees were not actuated by party feelings or jealousy, but acted in a conscientious manner.

Yours very truly,

ANOTHER RATEPAYER.

Elma, Oct. 31, 1890.

WOODSTOCK JAIL ECHOES.

The Woodstock Sentinel-Review asked Birchall last Friday through an official what he had to say about the alleged writings of his in The Globe. He said they were pure fabrications, except the copy of the letter to Benwell's father.

A few of the school boys attending the Orono public school, the other day, conceived the idea that it would be the proper thing to go through the hanging of Birchall, and accordingly an unwilling victim was secured in the person of one of their playmates. The victim's hands and feet were tied, a black cap put on, and his neck made fast in a noose of the bell rope. The deputy criminal was forthwith swung off his feet, and there would have been a very tragic tale to tell, had not one of the aiders and abettors of the hanging come to his right mind and cut the rope in the nick of time.

In reply to a query, The Budget, an insurance paper, says had Benwell's life been insured, there could be no reasonable doubt that the claim would have been paid, as he neither committed suicide nor died by the hand of justice. Birchall, on the other hand, assuming that his sentence will be carried out, dies by the hand of justice and his policy, did he possess one, would be forfeited, that is, if it were an ordinary one. A special or unconditional policy might cover even a felon's doom.

Mrs. Birchall has issued the following appeal in behalf of her husband:

COMMERCIAL HOTEL, 21 Oct., 1890.

DEAR SIR:—May I ask you to sign the accompanying petition for the commutation of my husband's sentence. I shall be indeed deeply and truly grateful if you will help me to save him from the terrible doom which awaits him.

Yours truly,

FLORENCE BIRCHALL.

About two hundred persons, it is said, have signed the petition in Wood-

"Rex Birchall's Career, or the Mystery of the Blenheim Swamp," will begin on Nov. 4th in the Fireside Weekly, published in Toronto. This story has been written by a capable Canadian novelist and will be found to be interesting.

In Truth of October 9 Mr. Labouchere deals sharply, apropos of the Birchall trial, with which he calls the Canadian and American farm-pupil swindle. He says Birchall's stratagems were not a whit more transparent than those by which hundreds of English lads have been robbed, if not of their lives, at least of everything else; and makes this promise:—

"Whether the fate of Mr. Benwell will at last teach the lesson which I have so long been endeavoring to instill into English fathers and guardians is more than I can tell. If, however, it does not, I shall at once agitate for a legislative enquiry into this traffic, for in that event there will be good ground for regarding the farm pupil business as nothing more than a convenient medium for the removal of the 'not wanted children' (as Mr. Waugh calls them) of the middle and upper classes, with a certainty of no inconvenient enquiries to follow."

Other English newspapers suggest that all persons acting as emigration and employment agents should be licensed by the Colonial Governments so that English parents may know that they are dealing with respectable men.

Thursday night Birchall pinned a card to the coat of Guard McGee as he was leaving the gaol. On the card was a delicate suggestion about the price of rotten eggs. McGee didn't see it till he got home. He concluded he had seen enough of the prisoner and resigned. Young Perry, son of the Deputy-Sheriff, has his place.

Rev. T. W. Jolliffe, Bowmanville, stated from his pulpit Sunday evening, Oct. 20, that he had received a letter through the postoffice requesting him to state publicly his views on the future of Birchall and Benwell. His opinion summarised was to the effect that no special favors would be granted by Providence to either. Benwell had reached years of maturity and responsibility, and if he was not prepared to die at the time of his assassination, he would have to take his chances with other sinners. From his experience with two condemned criminals, one in Brampton and one in Kingston, he had very little faith in the professed repentance of murderers, believing that the fear of death rather than genuine repentance for the terrible sin committed actuated them. He does not think many murderers will be found in heaven.

A lengthy letter has been received at the justice department, Oct. 20, from Oswald Birchall praying crown clemency on the ground that, while admitting Reginald Birchall's rascality, he is satisfied that he did not murder Benwell. His brother advances the theory that the condemned man and his victim had a quarrel and ended by strangling with one another, the result being the death of Benwell. Oswald Birchall in his petition says he would have come to Canada, but was very ill and under medical treatment.

A letter was received in Toronto, Tuesday, Oct. 20, from Rev. Oswald Birchall, of Ruscot Rectory, Lechlade, Gloucestershire, England, a half brother of the murderer. The letter mentions several family matters, and like the petition that the rev. gentleman sent to the Governor-General at Ottawa, he thinks he is not guilty. The letter states that he does not see how the man awaiting his doom at Woodstock is called "John Reginald Birchall." His only given name is Reginald, and however John became associated with the name he is at a loss to understand.

Birchall's mother lives at No. 7 Hawthorn Grove, Heaton Moor, Stockport, in Cheshire. He has a full sister also living in England, but not with her mother.

"The feeling of the whole family," says the letter, "can better be understood than described." Up to the time of the trial many of Birchall's friends and relatives thought he would certainly be acquitted, as his letters to England were of the most encouraging kind.

Mr. Stevenson, his father-in-law, however, was very doubtful on this point, so much so that before he left Canada for England, and after making careful enquiry into the case, he expressed himself freely as to the prisoner's guilt. The story that was published some time ago that "Birchall, by his systematic lying, was enabled to throw his father in law off the scent as to his real station in life," seemed to be only imagination. It is now known that Mr. Stevenson was extremely suspicious of his new son-in-law from the start, even before he eloped with his daughter Florence, and that he predicted a disgraceful end, but probably not so startling a one as ever he is destined to enjoy. Not long ago Mr. Stevenson wrote a letter to a gentleman in Toronto, who was connected with the crown case, in which he said: "I am not at all surprised with the result; in fact I felt it coming from the start. But I am terribly sorrowful over my poor daughter's position. It will indeed be a great load for her to bear. They (Mrs. Birchall and Mrs. West-Jones) will, I trust, soon be back with us in England."

Charles Benwell left last Tuesday, 28th inst., for New York en route to England. A few of the friends he made while here went to the station to bid him God-speed. In conversation with a reporter, Mr. Benwell said he had not allowed himself, through the death of his brother, to form a prejudicial opinion of Canada. He said he thought this was a fine country and he had the kindest feelings towards the people of Woodstock and the Dominion, and especially T. C. Patteson. On being asked if he intended to take the boots that were found on his brother's horse with him, he replied no, that he was quite sure they never belonged to his brother. They were almost worn out and totally unfit for such weather.

Birchall has not much faith in the petition now being circulated praying for a commutation of his sentence, although, since his devoted wife made a personal appeal to the citizens for help, the list of signatures has been increased to respectable dimensions. Birchall has not given up all hopes of a reprieve, but in case the petition fails he is remembering a few friends about town with presents. He had three beautiful rings made and presented them, one to his ex-guard, Entwhistle, another to S. G. McKay, his lawyer, and the third one is for Mrs. West-Jones. They are suitably inscribed. The same jeweller is making two gold lockets for Birchall. He is to have one with a lock of his wife's hair, and should he be executed he will carry this to his grave on Nov. 14th. His wife will wear the other locket with her husband's photo, and a lock of his hair. Birchall is well pleased with his new guard, George Perry is a young man of pleasing address and his manner seems quite pleasing to the prisoner.

Huron County Notes.

Robt. Wray, foreman in J. Ferguson's backwash shop, Auburn, had the misfortune to get his ankle dislocated in a scuffle with some of the boys.

Miss Richardson has tendered her resignation as teacher in the Brussels Public school, the same to come into effect at the close of 1890.

On Tuesday evening Chas. Payne, of Goderich, had the misfortune to fall through a grating on the sidewalk on Hamilton street, and break three ribs.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Little, of the 4th line of Morris, have gone to Michigan. They made the journey in a covered wagon, camping wherever night came upon them.

AN ADMIRER.—The other day Jor. A. Clark, Clinton, packed in the orchard of James Reynolds, Hullet, a barrel of beautiful northern spy apples, that were expressly intended for the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, London, England.

Mrs. C. Sage, of Walton, and her daughter, Miss Annie Sage, the talented musician and musical glass performers are now on a professional tour through the United States, and their many home friends will be pleased to learn that they are meeting with great success and receiving many plaudits from the American people.

Hugh Ross, of McKillop, has made a fortunate strike in Denver, Colorado. While residing there, two years ago, he purchased some lots in the outskirts of the city. He sold these lots a few days ago, clearing over a thousand dollars on the transaction. He still has other property in the city which he expects will realize him even better.

One day last week a colt belonging to Samuel Stanlake, of Stephen, by some means broke its neck. It appears that Mr. Stanlake had purchased the colt at the sale of H. Collins and placed it in a box stall, there to remain until morning, and when Mr. Collins entered the stable in the morning to his surprise he found the colt dead, with its neck broken.

The Methodist and Presbyterian Sabbath schools of Senforth will be represented at the Provincial Convention to be held in Brantford this week. Those appointed to attend from Methodist school are Messrs. Harry and Bright, and Misses Copp and Willis. Wm. M. Gray will also attend, he being a member of the Executive Committee.

A SMART OLD LADY.—We are informed that the silk patched quilt which took the 2nd prize at the recent show in Exeter, was the work of Mrs. Dinnin, of Lumley, in the township of Usborne. This quilt was composed of one thousand blocks and the whole quilt contained five thousand and fifty patches, all over-seamed. The quilt was much admired by all who saw it and when we consider that the work was all done during last year by a lady who is now seventy-six years of age, the interest in it will be much heightened. Mrs. Dinnin seems to be an expert at this kind of work and to delight in it, as of recent years she has exhibited several such quilts. We hope she may be long spared to wield her facile needle and that she will be able to make and exhibit many more such samples of her skill and handy-work.

BIG MURPHIES.—This should be a pleasant year for all those who are fond of that most useful and delicious tuber known as the Canadian potato, as the crop seems to be a particularly abundant one, and satisfactory both as regards quality and quantity, while owing to scarcity in other parts, prices here are very good. From time to time we have given the weights and dimensions of immense potatoes, and the supply is not nearly exhausted yet. John McLean, of the 11th con. of Tuckersmith, has sent us in a couple of very fine ones of the Late Rose variety. One of these weighs 2 lbs and the other 2½ lbs, and they are nice and smooth and thoroughly sound. Mr. McLean says these are a fair sample of his whole crop, which will give a very large yield. D. J. Bruxer, of Dublin, beats these. He has a monster which weighs 3½ lbs, and he picked out 40 from a small pile which together weighed 65 lbs, and the yield seems to almost equal the size, as he dug 30 bags, being the product of one bag of seed. W. J. Allen, of the 4th con. of Hibbert, also has a very large yield. He had scarcely half an acre under crop, and he harvested over 112 bushels of very fine potatoes. These examples would seem to indicate that the Irishmen of the Huron district will fare a good deal better this coming winter than will their brethren in the Green Isle, where, it is said, the crop is a disastrous failure. But, if we were to judge the nationality of people by their love for the potato, we would be compelled to say that the world is populated largely by Irish. They make a good, wholesome meal for people of all nationalities, and there is scarcely any article of food which would be more missed. Expositor.

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