

GAY STEEVES TELLS STORY OF THE FIRE

Senator Fowler Puts the Prisoner in Witness Box in His Own Behalf.

CLARA DECLARES HE LOVED FAMILY

Frequent Quarrels Are Recalled But She Maintains He Was Good to All.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, May 12.—The trial of O. G. Steeves, who is charged with the murder of his wife, resumed at 10 o'clock this morning in the Supreme Court, at Hopewell Cape.

Clara, daughter of the accused, was among the spectators, seated in the gallery. She was accompanied by her mother-in-law and father-in-law. Curtis Steeves was then called to the stand to conclude his cross-examination.

Son Tells of House.

He told of being home on Sunday previous to the fire. Clara was then hung under the stairway. He told how the room upstairs was divided. He believed any of the family might have got through the window. This window and the opening to the stairway leading from upstairs could be near one another, but believed that the smoke which would interfere with the family getting to the stairway might also interfere with family reaching the window.

Once in Trouble.

Witness admitted having got in trouble once and of being in jail, and of his father securing a lawyer for his defence.

When he saw father at the fire first he had on a fur coat. Later when he saw his father he had on a vest and under coat, collar and tie. He had often seen his father "sleep downstairs when he (the witness) was at home. He had occasionally seen his father sleep with his collar and tie on.

Flat Irons Thrown.

Mr. Rand—The stairs started near the front door and were within a few feet of the door. There was a bed in the upper floor running parallel with Mr. Jones' house. The side of that bed from the opening of stairway would be, he believed, about 3 or 4 feet distant. He had seen his mother throw flat irons and believed that his mother and father were both to blame, one as much as the other. He explained, which hung on the stairway, were made of cretonne. The window in the back of the house would be five or six feet from the bed in the back ground.

Orley Steeves, a brother of the former witness, was called to the stand. He told the court he was in his eighteenth year. In the last three or four years he had been working. On the Saturday night before the fire he was at home, but did not remember whether his sister Clara was home or not. He believed she was home most of the week before. She came back early that week and stayed a day or two and then left. His father left home on the same day in the afternoon after Clara had gone. He was driving his own horse and taking along Clara's trunk. His father did not come home Wednesday night, he believed, but came home Thursday night. His father returned that night about 7 o'clock. On Friday morning he then went back to the woods. His father was then home.

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PRISON SYSTEM DECLARED CRUEL

Commission Urges Many Reforms Including Separate Prisons for Women.

Kingston, Ont., May 12.—The report of the committee appointed several months ago by the Hon. C. J. Doherty, minister of justice, to inquire into the penitentiary system of Canada and to advise as to the result of their enquiry relative to such amendments of the Penitentiary Act, and the revision of the penitentiary regulations as in its judgment seems necessary, was made public today. The main recommendations are payment to convicts for work done for the purpose of the Dominion Government; abolition of period of confinement in cells, particularly over the week end or public holidays; the issue of tobacco to the extent of two ounces weekly; segregation of women in separate penitentiaries.

Old System Cruel.

Discussing general principles the report urges the complete elimination of ideas of vengeance, but merely on humanitarian grounds but solely because of its stupidity, and on grounds of common sense.

In trying to show that there is no danger that the proposed reforms will produce a penal system too "soft," the commissioners declare "the members of the committee would not, be they undertaking the investigation, have believed that the penitentiary system could have been as needlessly cruel as it in fact is." The report is signed by Colonel O. M. Bigham, of Ottawa, chairman; W. F. Nickle, Kingston, and P. M. Dwyer, Ottawa.

ALLIES STOP PLAN TO OCCUPY RUHR.

Düsseldorf, May 12.—General Degoutte, commanding the Allied forces on the Rhine, arrived here this morning from Mayence and immediately ordered the preparations for the occupation of the Ruhr to cease. It was remarked among the military officers, however, that the order said "the operation has been postponed," and not entirely abandoned.

McMASTER "FAKE" LETTER ORDERED OUT OF HANSARD

Speaker Declares Countenance Might Lead to Grave House Abuses.

PRECEDENT FOR USE IN FUTURE

Careful to Add, However, That Liberal Declared It Imaginary.

Ottawa, May 12.—Andrew McMaster's unique product, an imaginary letter supposed to have been written by Hon. C. C. Balfour to Hon. F. B. McCurdy and paraphrasing the real letter of Hon. R. W. Wignmore to the French Purchasing Commission soliciting business for a private firm, was ordered to be stricken from Hansard by the Speaker at the opening of the House today. The Speaker stated that a point of order had been raised at the time, but not decided. On careful consideration he had concluded that if it were to be regarded as a precedent it might lead to a grave breach of the rules.

Sees Grave Dangers

The matter contained in the letter was capable of an interpretation prejudicial by direct assertion. Moreover, it contained what might lead to reprisals affecting the decorum of the House.

"I have instructed that this letter be not printed in the revised Hansard. In justice to the member for Bromfield I wish to say that he specifically referred to the letter as 'imaginary.' I am sure he had no ulterior motives." Mr. Murphy, the Speaker said his ruling was a precedent only so far as it related to any similar incident in the future.

James Robb, chief Liberal whip, rose on a question of privilege to protest against a reference in yesterday's debate to Quebec members as "sheep." Mr. Speaker ruled that the term had been used as a metaphor in what seemed a wholly unobjectionable way. Mr. Robb did not press his protest.

Demands Federal Aid For Upkeep

Good Roads Are to be Maintained.

Halifax, N. S., May 12.—A resolution calling on the Federal Government to consider the important question of maintenance of roads throughout the country and suggesting that no funds should be allocated to highways at all unless some provision was made for their maintenance and some responsibility admitted in that matter, was passed at the afternoon session of the good roads convention on motion of A. Duchastel, city manager, of Outremont, Que. In his address, Mr. Duchastel especially emphasized the necessity for provision for maintenance in any successful good roads programme.

The subject of a paper by Mr. Lucas Allen, consulting engineer of Belleville, Ont., was the road contractor, his difficulties and his risks. Mr. Allen reviewed the contractor's methods of doing business.

Pays His Fine But Protects The Boy

Judge Lindsay Will Not Betray Confidence of a Child to Court.

Denver, Colo., May 12.—Bon B. Lindsay, Judge of Denver's juvenile court, announced today he would pay a fine of \$500 and costs assessed against him following his conviction on charges of contempt of court. Judge Lindsay's action will end a five year controversy.

He was adjudged in contempt by Judge Perry, of the district court in 1915. Judge Lindsay had refused to divulge what Nest Wright, a 14 year old juvenile court ward, had told him about murder of the lad's father. The boy's mother was tried for the murder and acquitted.

Judge Lindsay refused to obey the court's order because he said if he testified he would be "betraying the confidence of a child."

FARMER PARTY IS FLAYED AT McADAM RALLY

Senator Robertson and R. B. Hanson Discuss Policies of Three Parties.

SENATOR CLAIMS LABOR LEADERSHIP

Class Legislation Aim of Agrarians Declares York-Sunbury Candidate.

Special to The Standard. Moncton, N. B., May 12.—Senator Robertson, the minister of labor and R. B. Hanson, the Government candidate in the York-Sunbury by-election were the speakers at a political meeting held here this evening.

Senator Robertson stated that he was not talking because of party affiliations, but because of the policy of the government was in the best interests of Canada and the workingman.

He came East not to support Mr. Hanson, but as a friend of the railwayman. The government had been criticized and some of its policies had been unpopular, but the criticism had come from political enemies, who did not recognize that patriotism should come before politics. Even its political enemies will not accuse the present government of misappropriation of funds during the war.

Government's Strength.

The present government was elected on a platform of which only three planks referred to the conduct of the war; all the remaining planks had reference to reconstruction problems. The feeling through Canada, notwithstanding what professional politicians may say, is that a government which could give the problems of war so successfully is fit to solve those of reconstruction. He felt sure the returned men, because of the generous support given to them during the war, would recognize the value of the present government and give it their support.

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BANKERS OPPOSE ALL CHECKS ON FOREIGN TRADE

To Limit Imports Means to Hurt the Export Trade.

PROTEST AGAINST ALL RESTRICTIONS

Many Would Repeal Fifty Per Cent. Levy on All German Goods.

London, May 12.—A manifesto signed by a score of leading bankers was published here today protesting against any legislative or administrative measures tending to check the free exchange of goods with foreign countries, and declaring the policy of trying to exclude foreign commodities to be a mistaken one.

"We cannot limit imports without limiting our export trade and striking a grave blow at world-wide commerce on which this kingdom principally depends," the manifesto says.

Expressing the opinion that all government controls, licenses and tariffs can only retard improvement in continental exchanges and prevent the natural recovery of trade, the manifesto concludes:

"We desire to enter a respectful protest against every restrictive regulation of trade which tends to diminish the resources of the state."

Aimed At Government

The manifesto is most aimed at the present government's trade policy as exemplified by two resolutions passed in the House of Commons yesterday, although resolutions were not mentioned in the manifesto and also at public expenditure, which the manifesto says: "Threatens to cripple the country's resources and impair its credit abroad."

The document in protesting against trade barriers, declares:

"We have to build up the markets we need by encouraging the continental nations to export to us, for it is only by exports that they can re-establish their credits and provide funds for the payment of their debts."

The banking community is said to be in favor of repealing the 50 per cent. levy on German exports, which, according to an official statement made in parliament yesterday, only produced in the first five weeks nine thousand pounds, and in the opinion of the business community will act as a great hindrance to trade with Germany, driving it into the hands of neutrals.

FIRES IN QUEBEC.

Quebec, May 12.—The department of lands and forests was advised today that forest fires had broken out at Lake Chat and Lac-Benoite, in the St. Maurice region and were extending. Reports from other sections are to the effect that the situation is well under control.

World News Today

CANADA

Gay Steeves, accused of killing his wife, tells story of family life in his own defence.

Senator Robertson and R. B. Hanson deliver addresses at McAdam, N. B., in the York-Sunbury by-election.

D. D. McKenzie, M. P., wants Cape Breton coal used on the U. S. R. R. even if it costs more than American.

Halifax consul saves two women from fire, but is badly burned himself.

Sydney constable active in "dry" raiding is threatened with death.

UNITED STATES

Troops have been called to West Virginia, where deadly miners' war has broken out.

Nearly 40,000 pulp men on strike in United States, Canada and Newfoundland.

BRITISH ISLES

Three killed and a dozen hurt in bomb attack on Dublin.

Many Sinn Fein women will be candidates in the Irish elections.

NEARLY 40,000 PAPER MAKERS ARE ON STRIKE

Canada, United States and Newfoundland in Wage Scale Battle Now.

NO CONFERENCES BETWEEN PARTIES

"Looks Like Long Endurance Test" is View of Union Head.

Albany, N. Y., May 12.—Approximately 40,000 men in all branches of the paper making industry are now on strike in the United States, Canada and Newfoundland, it is estimated by Jeremiah T. Carey, president of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers, one of the organizations which has called its membership for a ten per cent. increase in wages.

Of this number from 10,000 to 12,000 are members of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mills Workers, with headquarters at Hudson Falls, N. Y.

President Carey said today that no further conferences between representatives of the unions and of the employers were in immediate prospect. "It looks as though we had settled down to a test of endurance," he added.

HELD FOR DEATH OF HIS BROTHER

Girl Swears Prisoner Declared He Would Get His Gun and Kill Him.

Montreal, May 12.—A coroner's jury today rendered a verdict holding Erick Tasse criminally responsible for the death of his brother, Hormidas, who died in the Notre Dame Hospital last Tuesday as a result of injuries received in a fight at Sixteen Island Lake on Sunday, May 1, when a rifle in the hands of the elder brother exploded, mortally wounding the younger brother.

Blanche Paquette, a young girl of sixteen, in the employ of the accused, testified at the inquest today. She stated that she had heard Rogee, say to his brother, "you are my wife's lover. I will get my knife and gun and kill you."

These words were alleged to have been uttered just prior to the shooting. She also described how her employer had returned home very drunk on Saturday afternoon. At about 7 o'clock the younger brother arrived, and at the request of Rogee's wife he undressed him and put him to bed. Shortly after this, she said, the intoxicated man got up and, entering his wife's room, he found his brother seated on the end of his wife's bed. It was then that he threatened to kill him.

The tragedy, stated the witness, occurred immediately afterwards.

TODAY

IMPERIAL—Shirley Mason in "The Girl of My Heart."

OPERA HOUSE—Fred Whitfour, the phonograph singer and four other acts.

CONSUL MAKES BRAVE RESCUE FROM WINDOW

American Official, at Halifax, Former U. S. Captain, Saves Two Ladies.

BADLY SCORCHED IN THE ENDEAVOR

Girl's Hair Singed from Head in Fierce Burst of Flame.

Halifax, May 12.—Conducting an aged invalid and her daughter through a narrow smoke-filled hall, and holding them clear of smoke and flames on a second story window sill until firemen raised ladders and carried them to safety, John W. O'Brien, United States assistant consul-general and formerly captain in the United States army, effected the rescue here this afternoon of Mrs. Francis Lahey and Mrs. McMillan Josey, from a small wooden structure wedged between two seven story buildings in the business section of Halifax.

Girl's Hair Singed.

Fire broke out so suddenly in the fancy goods store of H. H. Marshall on the ground floor of the building that one of the clerks had her hair singed as she rushed through the front door. Mr. O'Brien, who had rooms on the second floor, discovered that the building was on fire, rushed to the apartment occupied by Mrs. Lahey and Mrs. Josey and brought them to safety. After relinquishing his charges to the care of the firemen, Mr. O'Brien stepped coolly out of the window to the ladder and an open-mouthed crowd of after-noon shoppers followed him out of a cloud of smoke and flame with his clothes bedraggled and scorched, but otherwise uninjured.

Rebel Women to Be Candidates in Irish Fight

At Least Seven Prominent Sinn Fein Women Certain of Nomination.

MISS MACSWINEY ONE OF NUMBER

Three Killed, Fourteen Hurt in Riots in and Near Dublin.

Dublin, May 12.—Unless the unexpected happens tomorrow, the date for the nomination of candidates for seats in the southern parliament, will be no contest, and apparently no one except persons in favor of the Republican movement will be nominated.

Five women will be nominated for the southern parliament, and two for the northern parliament. Mrs. Clarke, widow of one of the signatories of the Republican proclamation during Easter week, 1916, and Mrs. Pears, mother of Patrick Pearse, who commanded the Dublin Republicans on that occasion, will stand with the Countess Georgina Markievicz for Dublin seats, while Mrs. Mary MacSwiney and Mrs. Kate O'Callaghan, widow of the mayor of Limerick, will run respectively in Cork and Limerick.

In Ulster, Mrs. Chichester, whose husband commanded a battalion of the Ulster division in the war, will be a candidate for Londonderry, and Alderman Mrs. McMorris, widow of a former Lord mayor of Belfast, will make a contest for a Belfast seat.

Three Are Killed

Three Republicans were shot dead today and several wounded in a fight which followed a police ambush near Listowel. There were no casualties among the police.

Fourteen Injured

Fourteen civilians were injured, some of them seriously, by the explosion of a bomb thrown at a ferry loaded with auxiliaries in Grafton street this evening.

The explosion created a panic, and pedestrians fled from the thoroughfare. It is said auxiliaries retreated from firing on the members of the attacking party.

Made Escape Under Fire of Guards

Sensational Getaway from Boston Jail of Prisoner Who Jumped Eight Feet.

Boston, May 12.—Victor F. Nelson, a state prison convict, who under fire of a guard last night gained his liberty, one of the most audacious flights recalled by prison officials, had apparently made good his escape today. Nelson's feat was remarkable, the warden said, involving a dash under the eyes of an armed guard from a line of convicts, a climb over a window grating to a coping 20 feet above and from there, with scant foot hold, a leap 8 feet under fire to another wall, from which he dropped to a nearby roof.

WANTS C. N. R. TO BUY COAL IN DOMINION

D. D. McKenzie Would Secure It Even if Costs Above U. S. Product.

THINKS EXPERTS ARE ABLE TO FIX PRICE

Hon. Mr. Guthrie Declares Canadian Defence is Lowest in the World.

Ottawa, May 12.—Naval and military expenditures of the government were defended in the House of Commons today when Hon. Hugh Guthrie, minister of militia, participated in the budget debate. Mr. Guthrie, who represented Canada at the financial conference held under the auspices of Nations at Brussels last summer, quoted statistics to show that Canada's expenditures were lower than any other country in the world. In fact, Mr. Guthrie's view, they were so low as to make other countries look rather ridiculous. On a basis of population estimated at 8,000,000 people, the per capita expenditure for defence, including that for militia, navy and air force, was only \$1.89. The percentage of annual revenue to be devoted to defence purposes this year was 3.5 per cent.

TROOPS CALLED TO QUELL RIOT IN W. VIRGINIA

Four Towns Under Fire from Striking Coal Miners and Several Killed.

ATTACK PLANNED BY RADICAL WORKERS

Terror Reigns in All Towns in Mining Area Where Trouble is Feared.

Williamson, W. Va., May 12.—Guerrilla warfare, with all odds apparently favoring the forces opposing the state, was being waged tonight in the mountains of the strike-torn Mingo County coal field. Beginning soon after dawn this morning, at the little mining town of Mersimac, four miles up the Tug River from this city, a fusillade of shots was poured from the mountain side successively into Mersimac, Rawl, Sprigg and Matawan, W. Va., and McHenry, Ky. All available state police and deputy sheriffs centered in Williamson were rushed to the scene by train and automobile, but according to reports they had been unable at a late hour to check the shooting.

Rumors of Killings

Harry C. Staton, a state prohibition officer and merchant at Spigg was killed by a bullet from the mountains, D. G. Phillips and a young man named Calvert, employees of the White Star Coal Company, commissary at Mersimac, were seriously wounded. Rumors of other killings and wounded men have been received at headquarters at the state police here, but up to a late hour had not been confirmed.

"Today's outbreak, the worst since the Molewan battle of last May in which ten persons were killed, including the Mayor, had all the appearance of a pre-arranged attack. The towns visited with the hail of lead are all within seven miles of each other and lie in a narrow valley on the banks of the Tug River which separates West Virginia from Kentucky. The firing today and tonight, came from the mountains on both sides of the river, according to state police.

Troops Are Called

Charleston, W. Va., May 12.—Governor Morgan tonight responded to the request of county officials of Mingo County and asked the war department for Federal troops to restore order in Mingo County.

County officials of Mingo, in requesting Governor Morgan to ask for troops said that they were unable to cope with the situation.

A statement from the Governor's office tonight declared that "the greatest number of the firing came from the Kentucky side."

UNION SEAMEN REFUSE TO SAIL

Declare They Will Not Take "Aquitania" to Sea With "Blacklegs."

London, May 13.—Joseph Cotter, president of the Seafarers' Union, stated today that the sailors and firemen would refuse to sail Saturday on the Aquitania with "black leg" volunteers. (He was referring to the office staff of the Cunard Line in Liverpool, which, according to announcement, had volunteered to replace the striking stewards, cooks and butchers of the steamer). At the office of the Cunard Line here it was said this afternoon nothing to bear out Cotter's statement had been heard, and as far as the line officials knew the Aquitania would sail Saturday.

Col. Cy Peck To Lead Bisley Team

After Rifle Competition is Over He Will Re-Visit the Battle Areas.

Ottawa, May 12.—Col. C. W. Peck, V. C., M. P., who will command the Canadian Bisley team in England this year, will leave Ontario regiment, London, as adjutant. Col. Peck is still Colonel of the Sixteenth Canadian Scottish Battalion, with which he won the most coveted of all military honors. One of the shots in the Bisley team is Major L. Richardson, also a veteran of the 16th Battalion.

Has Bisley Record.

Major Richardson has made a record at previous Bisley meets. The team will leave from Montreal on the Metagama, June 16. After ten days' practice in England, the competitions will cover two weeks. Col. Peck hopes then to visit France. He will make a special point of inspecting the burial grounds over the entire Canadian Corps line in which lie so many men of the 16th.

London May Not Collect Fifty Per Cent.

Nation May Content Itself With a Twenty-Five Per Cent. Tax on Germans.

London, May 12.—A Berlin despatch to Reuters Limited says that while the British government will retain the act empowering a levy of 50 per cent on German exports, the levy bill will virtually be suspended in favor of the collection of the 25 per cent tax prescribed in the ultimatum to Germany. It is pointed out in London that the above mentioned act does not stipulate the precise percentage to be collected, which is left to the discretion of the government; hence this act can easily be accommodated to new circumstances.