

CANADA

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CORONERS' INQUESTS.

It is far from our desire to serve up to our readers a dish of grumbling and fault finding. These are Christmas times, when peace and good will ought to be the rule—in fact, were it a rule rigidly observed from the 1st of January to the 31st of December in each year, mankind would be all the better for it. Scripture tells us that “it must needs be that offences should come, but woe unto that man through whom the offence cometh.” This points to the duty of exposing offences when they do occur.

We have on several occasions complained of the loose manner in which coroner's inquests are conducted in this district. On a recent occasion, a sad occurrence connected with the destruction of valuable life through fire was followed by Coroner's inquiry. This was so thoroughly unsatisfactory as to excite public indignation, and a second searching inquiry had to be gone into before a special jury.

An inquest touching the cause of death of an individual is attended with a certain amount of outlay which has to be borne by the country. That outlay we should be willing to see freely made, provided the Coroner, and his jury render a truthful and reasonable verdict. The object of the Coroner's investigation is to ascertain without doubt the actual cause of death and not a supposed cause. In matters of this kind there should be no speculation, no hasty jumping at a conclusion. A man falls down in the