

The Bee.

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HARVEST HOME

St. Alban's Church Beautifully Decorated for the occasion.

THE NEW AGRICULTURAL HALL THE SCENE OF FESTIVITY AND MERRIMENT.

The people of Atwood and vicinity are being favored with a series of very successful anniversary gatherings, and that of St. Alban's was by no means in the background, but excelled its rival denominations inasmuch as it combined the usual features of an anniversary service with a grand harvest thanksgiving, beautifying the edifice with rich and rare flowers and the fruits of the harvest. On the right, just in front of the congregation was a motto: "The Lord of the harvest is here," and on the left: "Peace and Plenty reigns," the letters of which were ingeniously worked with wheat heads and bead-work made of mountain ash berries. The mottoes were made by Mrs. S. H. Harding. A beautiful centre bouquet, from Mrs. Featherstone, of Listowel, was greatly admired, and an easel covered with cedar evergreens with an anchor made of mountain ash berries placed in front of the same was the most unique and prettiest thing in connection with the floral decorations and admirably displayed the cultured taste of Mrs. (Dr.) J. R. Hamilton. Suspended above the pulpit was a sycamore literally covered with the choicest flowers, while on either side of the choir loft were sickles covered with silver tinsel, the work on which displayed more than ordinary taste. A net-work of grapes covered the back of the organ and a border of the same surrounded the pulpit, while innumerable bouquets of the rarest and choicest flowers formed a galaxy at the base. The windows were festooned with sparrow-grass, the fine ture and color harmonizing with the surroundings very well. Wreaths, sheaves of wheat, vegetables, etc., tastily arranged on either side and at the rear of the church, with foliage best in each corner and a large castor bean over the stove, added to the beauty and attractiveness of the church.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Rev. E. W. Hughes, of Wingham, formerly incumbent of St. Alban's, preached an appropriate sermon from Matt. 16:16 and 17. He portrayed the harvest scenes in the East, the feast of tabernacles, and the manner of thanksgiving in oriental lands, particularly in Israel. The church was crowded to the doors Sunday evening with a congregation composed of the different religious persuasions in the village. The pale light falling on the oak-stained walls, so much admired by old country people, covered with all manner of fruit, flowers and evergreens, together with the soft strains of a thanksgiving hymn produced a strange feeling of reverential awe and profound admiration. The rev. gentleman preached an earnest, forcible discourse from Rev. 14:15 and 16. Rev. A. Henderson, M. A., assisted in the service.

THE CHOIR

Under the leadership of Miss Parsons, rendered excellent music, that old familiar and beautiful hymn: "One sweetly solemn thought," by Miss Woods, was well received. Miss Woods has a rich, full voice, which she commands with apparent ease. Heraldic singing was much appreciated.

MONDAY EVENING

The agricultural hall was for the first time opened with a harvest festival. Tables were laden with all manner of good things in the exhibit hall, while the intellectual feast was given in the upper storey, which was decorated with trophies of the bountiful harvest kind Providence has just bestowed on our people. The program consisted of music by the Atwood Brass Band, addresses by Revs. Cluff, of Brussels, Dack, of Listowel; Hughes, of Wingham; the chairman, Mr. Eccleston, and selections by the efficient choir of St. John's church, Brussels. The newly-appointed organist, Miss Cale, presided and proved to the satisfaction of musical critics present that she understands the manipulation of the ivories to perfection. H. L. Jackson, a favorite in musical circles, sang a very pretty solo, entitled "The Light-house light." Miss Abraham has a rich, full alto voice, and J. Jones possesses a tenor that, for clearness and penetration, is not easily excelled in more pretentious choirs. Miss Sturdy and Miss Jackson's voices blended nicely together, while Messrs. Pepper and Jackson stayed with the low notes in the several anthems in a manner creditable to themselves. The several addresses sparkled with wit and humor which is always appreciated on such occasions. Mr. Eccleston wandered on the subject of "Courtship and Marriage," while Mr. Dack caught up the same strain and lacerated the tender feelings of THE BEE editor cruelly. Mr. Cluff gave a pointed and timely address on the necessity of more confidence and liberal support to the ministers of the Gospel. He believed that ministers should receive one hundred cents on the dollar finance in a practical, business-like way. Mr. Hughes got off some good things, and his amusing style of delivery pleased the audience immensely. The proceeds netted the very respectable sum of \$95.

THE CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

was held on Tuesday evening, and in addition to the ample provision of good things a program of literary and musical nature was given by the children together with an appropriate address by their pastor, Rev. R. Eccleston. The pains-taking efforts of wardens Irwin and Longmire and the ladies of the congregation is commendable indeed, and the church is richly deserving of the success that has attended their harvest home.

ELMA COUNCIL.

The Court of Revision of the Elma portion of the outlet to the Ellice or Maitland drain was commenced on the 8th Sept. Members all present, but no receipt of telegrams from the Engineer and Solicitor for some of the appellants stating that neither of them could be present until 3 o'clock and asking Court to adjourn till that time, a resolution was passed as follows: Moved by Mr. Lochhead, seconded by Mr. Richmond, that this Court of Revision for hearing appeals against the assessment of By-law No. 265, of the township of Ellice, be now adjourned till three o'clock p.m. Carried. At three o'clock the Engineer and Mr. Mabe, solicitor for Messrs. Coxson & Taylor, arrived and Court of Revision opened up again when the appeals against the assessment were considered and all concerns heard. Moved by Mr. Lochhead, seconded by Mr. Coulter, that all the lots from 30 to 23 inclusive, in the 13th con. of Elma, be struck off the Elma portion of lots that have been assessed under By-law No. 265, of the township of Ellice, for outlet to Ellice drain, those lots being assessed for the deviation of the 4th con. drain and the said proposed deviation abandoned. Carried. Moved by Mr. Lochhead, seconded by Mr. Coulter, that in reference to certain appeals made against the Ellice By-law No. 265 the Reeve be instructed to get reliable legal advice in regard to certain proposed amendments to said B-law, and that this Court now stand adjourned till Friday next, at 10 o'clock a.m. Carried. On Friday afternoon the Court of Revision again met and members all present; minutes of last court read and signed, when after due consideration it was decided to appeal against the assessment of certain lots in the 14th con. and to have those lots in the 14th con. struck off. Carried. Moved by Mr. Lochhead, seconded by Mr. Coulter, that By-laws Nos. 265 and 273, appointing an arbitrator for the assessment of the Elma By-law No. 273 (appeal made by Mornington) and also Ellice By-law No. 265 as now read a third time be finally passed. Carried. John McMillan, M. P., is the arbitrator appointed. On the 8th inst., when Court of Revision adjourned Council met for general business. Minutes of last meeting read and signed. Moved by Mr. Coulter, seconded by Mr. Lochhead, that orders be issued for payment of the following accounts:—G. Langford \$8.40, gravel; J. Mann \$4.10, gravel; C. Barr, \$10.80, gravel; S. McCourt \$1, culvert; T. Lineham \$8.40, A. Farrell \$8, gravel; W. Medd \$10, gravel; H. Wilson \$3.60, gravel; R. Roe \$1.80, gravel; M. Grimm \$4.40, gravel and culvert township line Ellice and Mornington; J. Keith \$5.20, gravel; G. Steve \$9.50, gravel; W. Dewar \$0c., gravel, and W. Peet \$2.20, gravel. Carried. On Sept. 12th Council also met for general business. Minutes of last meeting read and signed. Moved by Mr. Coulter, seconded by Mr. Lochhead, that orders be issued for payment of the following accounts:—W. Medd \$14.10, gravel; H. Wilson \$3, gravel; S. Love \$0c., repairing culvert and \$4 covering bridge con. 10; C. Queeneyser \$39.75, lumber for bridge, and J. Priest \$4.50, covering bridge con. 10. Carried.

T. FULLARTON, Clerk.

Listowel.

Our fall fair was held last week. The stock exhibit was good, but in manufacture there was a poor display. Nearly every day last week from 20 to 40 teams may be seen at one time at Hay Bros.' mill here, unloading barley. Business is reviving among the merchants of all classes after a rather quiet summer trade. The new organ for Knox church has arrived and is being built into its place. It will, when completed be probably the finest organ in the county. The contract of gravelling, from Wes. and Coulter's gate on the 5th line, Mornington, was awarded to James Moorehead which is a guarantee that the job will be well done. The town football club, after a very close and exciting match defeated the High School club by two goals to one on Wednesday afternoon of last week. L. Lillieco captained the town team and Joe Ward the High School team. A second match will be played very shortly. HURON AND ONTARIO RY. CO.—A meeting of the provincial directors of this company was held in Clinton recently, called for the purpose of considering a proposition from a Toronto gentleman to take over the charter and construct the road from Hamilton to Goderich via Listowel. We understand that the provincial directors are disposed to accept the proposition upon a satisfactory guarantee of the road being built and operated by an independent company, which appears to be the scheme proposed. Mr. Brierley of this town was one of the directors present at the meeting.

The Benwell Murder.

Notes of Interest Regarding the Birchall Trial.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21.

To-morrow morning J. Reginald Birchall will be placed on trial for the murder of Frederick C. Benwell. Judging from the number of newspaper reporters already quartered in the town the story of the crime of Blenheim swamp is as much a sensation to-day as it was in the month of February last, when America and Europe rang with theories and discoveries connected with it. Even now, on the eve of the trial, theorizing has not ceased. Every scrap of gossip having to do with any of the people mentioned, one way or another, with the Benwell murder is canvassed and made most of. Nothing else is talked of in Woodstock, and to indicate the excitement of public feeling outside mentioned that the Sheriff Perry is inundated with telegraphic requests from all quarters for admission to the court house while the trial is in progress. The Sheriff has quite enough to do to satisfy the demands of the newspapers, and it must be said that he has provided adequate as possibly could be expected. A limited number of admission tickets have been issued to the general public, but others will not take no for an answer, and keep on importuning. Public curiosity will, however, be fully satisfied in the newspaper reports. The telegraph companies have made elaborate preparations for the anticipated pressure and their crack operators are on the ground. The press of the United States and England, fearing a blockade in Woodstock, have made additional arrangements for partial service from Niagara Falls, Toronto and elsewhere. The lawyers both for the prosecution and defence are not idle even on the Sabbath, and inside the doors of their hotel apartments the click of the typewriter is heard all day long. The principal witnesses also are on hand.

Hundreds of people drove out to Blenheim swamp to-day. The features of the locality are, however, entirely changed from what they were on the day when Benwell's body was found in the thicket there. A great number of trees and acres of the underbrush have been cut and carried away. There is a thriving trade done in furniture and walking sticks made from the timber cut in the swamp. All the detectives are working hard. They have visited Blenheim swamp repeatedly during the past two days, making calculations that are now of consideration when every detail of the evidence is being finally tested.

Some doubt was expressed late to-night about the case going on to-morrow without a hitch. From all present appearances, however, no difficulty will arise. B. B. Osler went down to Toronto, but will be here in the morning. The court opens at 11. Mr. Justice MacMahon is in town, and Deputy Attorney-General Cartwright has been working all day and all night getting the evidence in shape.

There will be some record breaking reportorial feats performed during the trial. The building is not the best in the world for hearing. It is full of echoes, and in order to avoid the possibility of any mistake occurring Nelson Butcher, the official court reporter, had the precautionary measure taken of placing a thick carpet of sawdust inside and outside the railing.

Among the American newspaper representatives up for the trial are Mr. Tyler of the New York Evening Sun, and Mr. Blake, of the New York World.

MONDAY, SEPT. 22.

The great Birchall-Benwell murder case opened to-day, and the first part of the evidence leading to the clearing up of the great Blenheim swamp mystery was presented before an intelligent and, as it is believed, unprejudiced jury. The court was not crowded, but was well filled, largely by witnesses and members of the jury panel. Birchall walked solemnly and quietly to the dock, closely scrutinized by every eye in the house. The people saw simply a good-looking young man dressed with unusual care; a shade of additional pallor on the face the eyes being the only signs manifest about him of his being under any excitement. The shadow of an uneasy smile flitted across his face as the deputy sheriff opened the door of the box and motioned him to his place. He sat down at once, and it was then found to the disappointment of many who desired to look at him that only the upper portion of his head could be seen above the top rail of the box. A few seconds after the prisoner had taken his place the solicitor, S. G. McKay, stepped over. There was a wait of about fifteen minutes, during which several ladies entered. Mrs. Birchall and her sister, Mrs. West-Jones, were not present. They remained indoors. Mrs. Birchall is by no means improved in her nervous condition by the knowledge that the day of the trial had at last come. The lawyers were early in their places, and had all prepared to proceed at the appointed time. Promptly at 11 o'clock Judge MacMahon, who had entered the hall a few minutes before, came in and took his place on the bench. All in the court rose in the customary manner to

receive him, save the prisoner, who looked about him as he saw the people rise, but seemed to decide that it was his place to do nothing without orders, and so remained seated. Court Crier McKay opened the court after the usual form and at once the case was called. The court clerk rose with indictment in hand, and looking to the box called out the prisoner's name. Birchall at once rose and the indictment was read indicting him by the name of John Reginald Birchall for the murder of Frederick Cornwallis Benwell. "How say you, John Reginald Birchall?" asked the clerk. "Guilty or not?" "The prisoner's reply was clear and distinct, 'Not guilty.'" "Are you ready for your trial?" asked the clerk. Birchall looked toward the table where the lawyers on his side were assembled.

Mr. Blackstock rose. "I am here for the prisoner, my Lord," said he, "and we are ready to proceed." There was considerable difficulty in empanelling a jury suitable to Mr. Blackstock, the defence. However, he accepted the following jurors:—Albert Clark. The oath was administered to Mr. Clark in the usual form as follows:—"You shall well and truly try and true deliverance make between our Sovereign Lady the Queen and the prisoner at the bar, whom you shall have in charge, and a true deliverance make according to the evidence. So help you God." After the oath had been administered the remainder of the jury were duly empanelled as follows:—Robert Murray, Albert McCann, Joseph Longfield, Geo. Christopher, J. D. Smith, Augustus Bushel, Donald Murray, Daniel McLean, A. S. McKay, James McKay, John McKay.

After the jury had been empanelled Mr. Blackstock asked that the Crown witnesses should be directed to withdraw from within hearing of the court during the opening address of the learned counsel for the Crown. Mr. Osler had no objection to offer, and his Lordship gave directions in accordance with his request.

It was precisely a quarter to twelve o'clock when Mr. Osler rose to open the case for the Crown. The hum of voices and the movement to and fro that invariably attends the swearing in of the jury subsided. The prisoner sat down and the panels of his box effectually screened him from view. A solemn stillness pervaded the court as Mr. Osler in slow, measured tones commenced his address. Step by step he led the jury through the intricate maze of circumstances upon which the theory of the prosecution is built. In deadly eloquence and in logical sequence—and the large audience that filled the courtroom hung with breathless interest on every word he uttered.

The Crown had something over 70 witnesses to examine. Some of them will be very short. Most of them speak to but one incident, and do not think there will be more than one, or perhaps two, witnesses whose examination will occupy long time.

William McDonald was the first witness called. A ripple of excitement passed over the large audience as the Crown called out the name of D. R. Pelly, who was the next and last witness examined to-day.

Court then adjourned.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 23.

Birchall rose with the lark this morning and took his usual matutinal exercise after eating a hearty breakfast. About 9:30 o'clock the carriage that was to convey him to the court room was in attendance. He was in the dock before the audience had assembled in any considerable numbers and before the long array of counsel had taken their seats in front of the extemporised bench.

Mrs. Birchall and Mrs. West-Jones were amongst the audience and occupied seats to the left of the prisoner's dock—almost four feet from where Birchall was sitting. Mrs. Birchall wore a Mrs. West-Jones a robe of a lighter hue and woolen texture. Both wore close-fitting, dark bonnets, and Mrs. Birchall was veiled, not, however, so heavily as to conceal her features or to hide her anxious, careworn look.

The counsel were all in their places when Mr. Justice MacMahon took his seat on the bench at 10 o'clock. D. R. Pelly, whose evidence in chief had not been concluded on the opening day, was again under the examination of Mr. Osler.

Mr. Blackstock began his cross-examination by asking Mr. Pelly's age and the extent of his travels. "I am 25 1/2 years of age," said Mr. Pelly, "and the 3 or 4 years that have passed since I have left the university I have spent in travel."

"Where have you been?" asked Mr. Osler. "I have been to a good many places," the witness replied. Etc., etc.

Mr. Osler re-examined the witness. There was a ripple of excitement in court when Charles Benwell, brother of the deceased, was called. He said:

My brother's name was Frederick Cornwallis; he was the eldest son, being about 24 years of age, and about a year and a half older than myself. He was in New Zealand for almost two years, and had been back from there about 2 years when he came to Canada. He had been looking out for occupation,

My brother was of perfectly temperate and sober habits and his method of life regular. He was shorter than I by about two inches. His hair was somewhat lighter than mine (the witness' hair is coal black), but I would call it dark. He was clean shaven. I left England on the fourth of this month. Etc., etc.

Wm. M. Davis, civil engineer and Provincial land surveyor, was the next witness called and his examination occupied nearly two hours time. It was in a measure technical, relating to the measurements and the process by which they were accomplished. Etc., etc.

While this witness was being examined Birchall eyed him keenly, and when Mr. Blackstock rose for the cross-examination Mrs. Birchall, who was sitting only a few feet to the left of her husband, seemed rather uneasy. The feeling, however, gradually disappeared as the counsel for the defence extracted with great difficulty admissions from the witness which occasionally seemed to put a more favorable phase upon the prisoner's case.

In the afternoon the attendance was even larger than at the morning sitting, and a greater crowd was hanging round the doors seeking vainly for admission, but eagerly canvassing every scrap of news that could be gathered from anyone who had been listening to the testimony.

The first witness called was Capt. J. Ross, who made the measurement of the distance between the swamp and the railway station with Mr. Davis. He described, in answer to Deputy Attorney-General Cartwright, the road they measured, and pointed out on a plan in Mr. Cartwright's hands the route leading to and from the swamp—the way the prisoner and Benwell were believed to have taken after leaving the Governor's road to the swamp and the way back again from the swamp to the road and thence to the station. Down almost to the minutest detail his evidence was corroborative of the testimony of the last witness, with whom he compared watches as the measurements were made. Etc., etc.

Patrick McGuire, who resides at Blenheim, at lot 23, close to this swamp, examined by County Crown Attorney Ball, declared that he knew this swamp pretty well. Etc., etc.

Joseph Elveridge, who lives at lot 15, in the second concession, was the next witness. He was called to describe the finding of the body. He stated in answer to County Crown Attorney Ball that he was on the Horsey farm on the 21st February last. He went there to cut wood for himself and Mr. Horsey. He remembered the day of the week—it was Saturday. Etc., etc.

Geo. Elveridge, brother of the last witness, was then called. He corroborated his brother's evidence in the main. He thought they were about fifteen yards from the body when they first saw it. Etc., etc.

William Crosby, the magistrate who was called upon by the Elveridge brothers when they found the body, was next called to the witness stand. He explained with greater particularity than any previous witness the position of the body and condition of the clothes as he saw them. He illustrated to the jury—men exactly the attitude the body occupied, showing that it rested upon a pile of fallen mass of saplings, the right leg resting upon a sapling, and the left crossing it underneath, and the head resting upon the ice and frozen in. Etc., etc.

The prisoner listened to the testimony of this witness as it was elicited by Mr. Osler with a more intense degree of interest than he evinced at any former period of the case. No shadow of a smile played on his features and he motioned once or twice to his legal adviser.

John Gregg, the sexton of Prince's cemetery was next examined by Mr. Osler. He said he remembered the funeral of the man who was found in the swamp. He had charge of the grave and was present when the prisoner came to the cemetery, and when the body was exhumed Mr. Sewartz gave him the order, and altogether the body was exhumed 4 times. Etc., etc.

At the close of this witness' cross-examination the court rose. A tremendous crowd had congregated in front of the Town Hall. When the audience was dispersing everybody was anxious to get a glimpse of Birchall as he was escorted to his carriage and driven off. He smiled and nodded to a few friends as he was driven towards the goal.

(CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.)

Additional Local Items.

Miss DENNISON, of Toronto, formerly of Deseronto, Hastings Co., made us a friendly call Wednesday. Miss Denison has a sister living in Listowel.

On account of large additions in other lines I wish to reduce my stock of wall paper and any one purchasing and mentioning having seen this notice will have a discount of 25 per cent.—M. E. NEADS.

SOME of our readers have mistaken the house and lot A. Campbell offers for sale in this paper for the house and shop in which he resides. The property for sale is situated opposite the old tannery property. Mr. Campbell has no notion of disposing of his harness shop and house in connection therewith.