

The Benwell Murder.

Notes of Interest Regarding the Birchall Trial.

Maps and photographs will play an important part in the trial. Mr. Osler was the crown lawyer that prosecuted the rebel life.

Geo. Hay, of the G. T. R. is an important witness. Both sides promise a warm battle when Detectives Bluet and Murray are put in the box.

Judge Macmahon was the leading counsel for the prisoners in the celebrated Biddulph murder case. Messrs. Finkle, McMullen assisted by Detective Bluet, are working up the defence in great shape.

Where are Geo. Baker, Wm. Buck and Caldwell, who were at one time suspected of having something to do with it?

County Attorney F. R. Ball is a very busy man just now. Besides preparing for the great trial, he has all the other crown cases to attend to.

Miss Alice Smith, who was at Niagara, has been brought back by the crown and left in charge of her grandfather, Mr. Hayward, at Eastwood, until the Birchall trial opens.

Birchall will be indicated for the murder of F. C. Benwell in the manner: John Reginald Birchall. Many of the papers have been spelling the name "Birchell," which is a mistake.

Birchall spends his time in prison very patiently, and seems confident that his innocence will be established. He spends the most of his time reading, writing and drawing, decorating his cell with the latter.

Detective Bluet, who has worked on the defence, has followed his profession for 25 years. He received his early training on the police force in London, Eng., and has since worked on some of the greatest cases in England and America.

Dr. S. Joy, of Tilsonburg, has been retained by the prosecution in the case of Birchall, on trial for the Benwell murder, to give evidence concerning gun shot wounds with special reference to the possibility of a man's causing his own death by shooting himself through the back of the head.

The big Chicago and New York dailies are sending their lightning chalk artists to sketch important persons and events. Chalk artists are the men who furnish newspapers with pictures of events that happen sometimes only an hour or two before the paper is printed, to the wonder of the reader, who do not understand how it is done.

Some brilliant legal work is looked for from Mr. Blackstock (for Birchall) and Mr. Osler for the Crown. The long holidays are over, and both should be fresh for the fray. Mr. Osler comes here smarting from the defeat administered to him and the G. T. R. in the St. George suits by Mr. Blackstock, and will try to redeem his laurels.

The crown does not intend to bring up the indictment found against Mrs. Birchall for being "an accessory to the crime after the fact," and, therefore, if she appears in court at all—as it is likely she will—she will not be present as a prisoner, but merely as a spectator.

The trial of the husband will not commence, in all probability, before Monday 22nd inst., as the case must go before the grand jury.

Scott & Martindale, of Galt, have received instructions from the friends of the unfortunate young Benwell to manufacture a stone to mark his grave at Princeton. The stone is to be of Sutherland Falls (Vt.) marble, and will lie on a sandstone foundation. The dimensions are 5 feet 11 1/2 inches in length and 1 foot 6 1/2 inches in height above the foundation, which latter will be 1 foot above the surface; it will thus be seen that the stone is intended to entirely cover the grave. Before the stone is laid a foundation of brick or stone will be laid six feet deep and an arch built over the coffin. The work has to be completed by Oct. 8.

Improving Farm Property.

Farm property has always a general tendency to depreciate in value as it is not kept up to a maximum production by advanced systems of farming. This has been strikingly exemplified in some of the older States of the American Union. In Maine and Vermont much of the agricultural land has been so far drained of its fertility that it is practically valueless. Well drained soil is in good till, irrespective of seasons, generally brings forth an average crop, and land now is being valued according to its stock of fertility. If it depreciates in value it is because the fertility is drained, and that buildings and fences are out of repair. No doubt during the last few years the low prices of products have suspended many farm improvements, and have even caused much greater economy in keeping up appearances. But farm improvements pay, whether in keeping up fertility, in having good buildings and fences, or in improving the appearance by shrubbery and gardens. There has been really no depreciation in property in this country where the farms have been well kept, and in good condition. The present prosperous harvest will add to the price of farm property. The era of depression is apparently passing by. Farmers are generally feeling and writing with more hope, though there are many

places where the season has not proven as favorable as it promised early in the spring. The fact that grain prices are considerably better is at least encouraging. If the farmer, by reason of local bad crops this year, is not able to get all the advantages he ought from better prices, he can hope for better success next time. Now the question for the farmer to consider is, in what way he should direct his efforts. In this point the most obvious advice is the best. What the farmer wants is larger crops—"making two blades of grass grow where only one grew before"—at lessened cost. This gives him more money, and with money all other improvements may follow as fast as he chooses. Fertilizers, underdraining and improved stock are the improvements that pay, always taking care to cultivate no more land than can be managed in the best way. Farmers now with the good crop and advanced prices are on the way to increased prosperity, and with this follows the welfare of the whole community.

Jesus our Teacher.

The following paper done of the teachers of the Presbyterian S. S., Atwood, was read at the monthly meeting held in their school room Thursday evening, Sep. 11.—Dear fellow teachers, our God-man, Substitute and Redeemer, and our very life, who loved as never man loved, who spoke as never man spoke, who lived as never man lived, and who at last gave up his life all for the good of others, I feel myself utterly unable rightly to place Him before you as I would wish to do. If we are to be efficient teachers of the youth in our Sabbath School, we must have Jesus before us as our ideal teacher. When the Old Testament prophets spoke they professed their words of warning and admonition with a "Thus saith the Lord," our Saviour, His with "Verily I say unto you." Thus we see Him as the great I Am, by whom the prophets spoke. And like the prophets of the Old and the Apostles of the New Testament we are to speak through and in His name to the young committed to our charge. Let us closely study His own teachings and example that our schools may take knowledge of us that we have been with Him, and thus influence for good will accompany our instructions. How wise was Jesus in giving counsel to those seeking advice. As in the cases of Nicodemus, who came to Him for instruction, He tells him that he "must be born again," to the rich young man He says "give up who asked what shall we do that we may work the works of God, He says "This is the work of God that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent." How necessary, how wise to answer those who sought to entangle him in his speech. How careful for the interests of his disciples, and how often we find Him alone with God in prayer. When He who was God in man needed communion and help of His Father, how much more do we need that help. And how cheering is His promise, "ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find. He also reasons thus for our encouragement: "If ye being evil give good gifts to your children how much more will your Heavenly Father give His Holy Spirit to them that ask it." When we realize that our dear Saviour values souls so highly and has saved us and allowed us to be co-workers with Him how earnest should we be in trying to follow in His footsteps and leading our scholars to Him. Let us ask of Him wisdom to know His truth and that we may be wise in winning souls, and we have His own promise, "Lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world."

Early Frosts in Manitoba.

Mr. McTavish, an old Hudson Bay Company's officer, has been discussing the question of frost in certain localities in Manitoba and the Territories, through the Quebec Chronicle. He favored belts of trees as windbreaks, although at the same time admitting that he knew of cases of failure as a protection against frost. A correspondent of the Toronto Week takes up Mr. McTavish's letter, and we quote the material portion of what he writes:—"He associates frost effects with the low levels of the rivers; but it seems to me he has missed the main point, and one with which every observant farmer might familiarize himself easily enough, and that is, that the frost settles where the land is not properly drained. The rule is about as universal as any application in practical agriculture. The evaporation on the moist levels, of course of a low steam or mist out of the surface water inevitably abstracting the heat from all neighboring masses. If we would raise the temperature of the cultivated soil in the fall season, we have to get rid of all superabundant moisture. For this, we must drain the soil effectually, and attend in the first place to the outfall of the rivers. For it will be a weak and futile struggle for the farmer to drain his own land, the watercourse being impeded lower down and throwing back upon him the aqueous enemy he has been battling with. Cold surfaces are all ready for frost attacks, and levels shaded by trees are always cool. At the same time tree-belts may ward off the frost winds and no doubt do so."

ANNIVERSARY

Another Milestone Successfully Passed.

INTERESTING PLATFORM ADDRESSES.

Another successful anniversary has passed and gone, one more year of Christian labor brought to a successful close. Sunday morning the good people of Atwood and vicinity, irrespective of their religious differences, turned in with their Methodist friends and helped to commemorate another anniversary in the history of Methodism in this place. In accordance with announcement Rev. J. Livingstone, of Listowel, occupied the pulpit morning and evening, taking the last three verses of the 48th Psalm. In speaking of Zion (Jerusalem) from a geographical and historical point of interest he portrayed the great Bible characters, Elisha, Ezekiel, Isaiah, David and Our Saviour, who, in different ages, were inseparably connected with the history of that oriental place of worship. Mr. Livingstone possesses the rare faculty of vividly portraying human character, like the artist with the dash of his brush across the canvas first delineates the leading characteristics of the portrait, leaving the beautiful blending of colors and minor details of the painting to the finishing process. Another element in Mr. Livingstone's success as a preacher or platform orator is his perfect command of the English language which, together with his earnestness, makes him a power behind the sacred desk and on the dais. The church was filled to its capacity

SUNDAY EVENING

with a congregation representative of the various denominations in the village. The rev. gentleman preached from those beautiful words of the Lord's Prayer: "Our Father which art in heaven." He appropriately illustrated his text by way of analogy—the earthly father—which brought the great Father of the universe within the grasp and sympathy of every member of his congregation. The earthly father toiled early and late to make (1) Provision for his little ones from impending danger, even at the sacrifice of his own life. Here the speaker related a very touching incident in a French prison, in which the father cheerfully sacrificed his own life in order that his boy's life might be spared. The (2) Education of his children was a matter of momentous importance, as well as their right (3) Training for all the duties of life, religious and otherwise.

MONDAY EVENING

a successful tea meeting was held in the church shed. After the hungry throng had partaken heartily of the abundance of edibles placed at their disposal an intellectual treat was in store, consisting of addresses from Revs. Smith, of Henfray; Dack and Henderson, of Atwood. They were short, pithy, and brim full of practical suggestions along the lines of Christian effort in the church, Sabbath School and every day life. We regret that our space forbids us giving even a synopsis of the speeches.

THE CHOR

fulfilled their part of the program in a manner that did credit to themselves and their pains-taking leader, Mr. Fox. The quartette, "Just as I am," by Mr. and Mrs. Currie, Miss Levan and John McBain, was well received. The bass solo, by J. H. McBain, elicited hearty applause. Mr. McBain has grand compass of voice, and enters into sympathy with the words of the music, which is essential in the true rendition of all music, especially sacred music. The choir was composed of the following voices:—Mrs. D. Rogers, Mrs. Geo. Currie, Misses Annie and Ida Parker, Challenge, Hamilton, Levan, Bristol and Messrs. Fox, leader; Wilson Currie, Albert, J. H. and John D. Rogers, the pastor of the church, Rev. chairman in his usual happy style.

TUESDAY EVENING

the children held forth, and succeeded in stowing away an ample supply of sandwiches, pies, cakes, etc., after which they repaired to the church where a suitable program was carried out, consisting of choruses by the children and pleasing addresses by Revs. Henderson and Eccleston. The net proceeds of the services on Sunday, tea meeting and children's tea amounted to something over \$100.

NOTES.

Beautiful floral decorations adorned the table Monday evening, which reflected credit on the taste of the ladies.

The church has been improved of late by painting, frosting the windows and papering the walls with blocked oak paper.

The doing away with the old worn-out stereotyped custom of moving about a dozen votes of thanks to those who contribute to the success of such gatherings is a move in the right direction.

The conduct of certain young men (?) at the back of the church during the last meeting Monday evening was anything but creditable, and it is to be hoped that they will learn to behave themselves in a seemly manner at future meetings and not make a public show of their ignorance.

Town Talk.

FALL has fairly begun. THE fall fair season is upon us. AREN'T the days getting short? THE schools are now running full time.

THE trains are late this week owing to the fairs.

THE St. Marys Argus has reached its fifteenth year. Just the age for kissing.

NONE of the cheese from Elma secured a prize at the Industrial Fair. Only one prize for cheese came to Perth.

SEVEN carloads of flax seed have been shipped from the Atwood mill up to date, the sale of which netted \$3,500. Over \$250 per week is being paid out in wages.

THE anniversary services and tea meeting in connection with the Presbyterian church will be held on Sunday and Monday, Sept. 28th and 29th. Particulars next week.

MISS McPHERSON and Miss Matheson, of Goderich; Miss McCann and Miss Burns, of London, and John McBain and sister, of Brussels, spent Sunday at the residence of John Pelton.

J. S. GEE'S fall announcement will no doubt be carefully perused by our readers. Mr. Gee has just returned from Toronto where he purchased a large and select stock of fall and winter goods.

MANY complaints are made of the prevalence of juvenile fruit thieves. The paternal taws or the maternal slipper is the best remedy for the malady. Let either be applied hot just after the culprit retires.

C. M. FRENCH, L. D. S., of Brampton, formerly teacher of the school on the 8th con. Elma, paid his Atwood friends a flying visit last Tuesday. Mr. French organized the Atwood Band some years ago. We are pleased to learn that he has worked up a good practice in Peel's county town.

ON Wednesday Wm. Danbrook, 10th con. Elma, brought into this office three mammoth potatoes, one of them, an Early Rose, weighing one pound and ten ounces; the other two are of the Beauty of Hebron variety and weigh, respectively, two pounds and one ounce, and one pound and fourteen ounces. Who can beat this?

THOSE of our readers purchasing goods from merchants whose advertisements appear in these columns will do us a favor by mentioning that you read their advertisement in THE BEE. This will not inconvenience you any, but will more readily convince merchants that their money is not being thrown away foolishly in printer's ink.

THE Listowel woolen mills' advt. appears on page 8 of this issue. Mr. Brook, the proprietor, is making a big clearing sale for the next 40 days. At this time of the year people are thinking and winter clothing, and by calling at the mill when in Listowel you will see a splendid line of full cloths, tweeds, Southdown stockings yarns and pure wool bed blankets that will meet your requirements exactly and at astonishingly low prices.

12TH CON.—Quite a sensation was caused here Wednesday by the report that two tramps had taken possession of the school and turned teacher and scholars out. Word was sent to Newry and through the section, and soon "traves" began to arrive armed to the teeth with axe handles, clubs, etc., in order to vanquish the would be tramps, but on their arrival quietness reigned, supreme and the Newry "Constable" felt like going around the school and kicking himself. A tableau ensued.

THE CATTLE-BUYER'S SONG.—Tell me not in mournful numbers, cattle trading's full of gloom; for the man's a chump who says so, and he cannot die too soon. There's a steer, there's a heifer, and their grave is but their goal; dust they are and dust returneth when the salesman gets his roll. But joyment and not sorrow be our destined end or way; if you have no cattle, buy, buy a yearling steer each day. Lives of cattle kings remind us we can win immortal fame; let us leave the cranks behind us and we'll get there all the same. In the world's broad field of us make the dry bones rattle, let us make the old chumps sore.

ANONYMOUS.—The Canadian Presbyterian referring to the anonymous letter writer and the trouble he may bring on newspaper publishers says: In every community there are a number of cowardly miscreants who wish to gratify their spite by attacking anonymously those against whom they have a grudge. Why should any decent journalist be expected or asked to give his columns for such a vile purpose? Why should a newspaper be made the medium through which ruffians attack each other? Why drag a publisher who cares nothing about a quarrel—who probably hates it as much as any man in the community—why drag him into suit for a quarrel not his own? Publishers are often themselves to blame. Many of them are willing to give space to any anonymous scamp who is too cowardly to put his name to his libellous effusions.

COMMUNICATIONS.

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

A Pointer.

To the Editor of THE BEE.

DEAR SIR:—As your columns are open to the ventilation and discussion of most matters affecting the advancement or improvement of township matters permit me to call the attention of the Council to the road from Newry for a quarter of a mile toward Donegal. Ever since spring it has been bad and a light rain fills it with mud holes. A few loads of gravel or even dirt at the present time would very much improve it. Can not this be done before the fall rains? Allow me to say that I fully endorse your views as expressed in a recent editorial respecting the necessity of observing the sanitary regulations in the village of Atwood.

ELMA.

Atwood, Sept. 16th, 1890.

A Word to the Wise is Sufficient.

To the Editor of THE BEE.

DEAR SIR:—As a person who desires the safety of travellers and any individual driving over the roads of our township I might ask our township fathers to direct their attention to the bridges and culverts on some of our roads upon which there is much traffic. During the past few days there have been some accidents happened to horses passing over some of these, whereby if the law was made it a dear job for the township. Now what ratepayer would not much rather see their money spent satisfactorily in repairing these than to foot a bill of damages, or more for what might be termed carelessness on the part of some of our Council. It is not our wish to blame the Council individually, as it is composed of some fine councilmen as ever sat at a Board, nor do we wish to point out the exact spots for then it would soon appear who the careless party is; but we wish to see our roads so that they can be travelled on in safety. Now our conclusion it is we as ratepayers who are paying out this money expended so let it be expended quickly and in a manner that will convince us that our bridges and culverts are safe. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for your valuable space, I remain,

Atwood, Sept. 16th, 1890.

SILENCE.

Trowbridge.

Mrs. Oswald Andrews, from Manitoba, is visiting friends here.

Rev. T. W. Cosens, of Alma, spent a few days at his parental home last week.

Quite a number of our citizens are away attending the Toronto Exhibition this week.

Messrs. W. F. and J. Mann arrived Saturday from Neepawa, Man. Both gentlemen are looking hale and hearty.

J. H. McBain, of Atwood, occupied the pulpit in the Methodist church last Sabbath evening. Mr. McBain preached a very interesting and instructive sermon. The church was well filled with eager listeners.

Rev. Mr. Crane and wife have been visiting friends here this last week. The people would no doubt be pleased to see the couple as Mr. Crane was pastor of the Methodist church here about twenty-eight years ago.

On Wednesday evening of last week about fifty members of this division of Sons of Temperance, from Ethel, paid a visit to the lodge of Good Templars of this place. A very pleasant time was spent, as unity existed between the two lodges. The order was excellent and a splendid program was well rendered by members of both lodges. Before they separated a lunch was provided which all seemed to enjoy.

AN OLD SETTLER GONE.—We regret exceedingly to announce the death of George Code, one of the first settlers in this neighborhood. Mr. Code, although poorly for some time, was not until a week before his death confined to the house. He departed this life last Friday. On Sunday afternoon his many friends and acquaintances for miles around clustered and paid their last respects and his remains were followed to their last resting place in the Atwood cemetery by a lengthy procession.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

Anthracite coal is \$9 to \$9.25 per ton in Winnipeg.

A respectable farmer, named James Buchanan, who came to Toronto on Monday to see the exhibition, was suffocated by gas in Mrs. Bond's, 142 York street. He blew out the gas.

The recent French duels have brought out an appeal from Jules Simon, who calls upon his countrymen to abandon the absurd custom of duelling.

The London Standard says a more outrageous enactment than the meat inspection law passed by the U. S. Congress was never framed in a civilized country.

The Sultan of Sokoto, who rules over 12,000,000 people in West Africa, has presented Queen Victoria with a magnificent lion. The animal has arrived at Liverpool and will probably be taken care of at the "Zoo."