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London, Tuesday, Sept. 30.

BIRCHALL FOUND GUILTY.

After a trial lasting a week and a day, and interesting more people in Canada than probably any similar investigation has interested, John Reginald Birchall has been found guilty of the murder of Charles Benwell. Everyone who has followed the evidence must acknowledge that the verdict is a just one.

The facts, as brought out in the testimony, are briefly these: Birchall arranged with Benwell and Polly to come to Canada and be partners with him in his alleged farm and horse-dealing transactions. They were unknown to each other when they met on shipboard at Liverpool early in February last. Birchall did what he could to keep them unacquainted. He had lied to them both, and he had therefore good reasons for trying to prevent them from comparing experiences.

Birchall had obtained £170 from Polly by admitting him into a bogus partnership, and £500 from Benwell, father of the other young man, by promising to pay Birchall £500 for a partnership for his son if the latter was satisfied with the bargain from personal inspection. Birchall had to do something to avoid detection. Polly he found to be suspicious, and little wonder, for it was pretty evident to him that there was crookedness somewhere. So, when the three, with Mrs. Birchall, arrived at Buffalo, the prisoner lured Benwell away to see his wonderful farm at Niagara Falls, with stables lighted by electricity, he said. Instead of going there, however, Birchall bought two tickets for Eastwood, and induced his companion to walk to the swamp, and to his death. When he returned to Eastwood, he was alone and for nearly two weeks after that eventful Feb. 17 no one seems to have suspected the reason why. True, Birchall and his victim were seen on the road leading to the swamp, and a number of persons saw and spoke to the prisoner on his way back to Niagara Falls. But the same witnesses who observed the two men did not see Birchall when he came back alone, and it was only after the discovery of the victim's body, and the subsequent accidental finding of his cigar case, that the clue was afforded which led to the identification of Birchall as the companion of the man found murdered in the swamp.

Birchall had taken what he believed to be good care to hide his victim's crime. In an unsuspecting moment, he lured him into the swamp, shot him down in his tracks and then cut his name from every portion of his clothing, and emptied his pockets of their contents. By some means or other—as if a Providential dispensation—the cigar case was dropped on the ground, and was picked up several days after the discovery of the body, and after almost every hope of identifying it had been given up.

Meanwhile Birchall had resolved to carry on his scheme for deceiving and robbing his victim's father. He sent Polly on a wild goose chase to New York city to look for Benwell's baggage, having first told him that Benwell had not taken kindly to his farm, and had gone on to London to look for one for himself. Then, two days after the murder he wrote the infamous letter to Col. Benwell, announcing that his son had been kidnapped into partnership, that he was fully satisfied with the outlook, that the business was so large the correspondence would in future be written by typewriter, and that his son would write explaining all in a few days. The scheme undoubtedly was to send a typewritten letter to Col. Benwell with the forged signature of his son attached, and thus induce that gentleman to send the £500, to obtain possession of which the murder was undoubtedly committed.

When it was reported that the cigar-case had been found, Birchall at once went to Princeton and identified the body, maintaining that innocent-looking demeanor which has characterized him ever since. He was interviewed by the officers of the law, however, and his concocted story of Benwell's disappearance was doubted. Link after link of the chain of circumstantial evidence connecting him with the dreadful crime was speedily forged. Of the subsequent proceedings and Birchall's remarkable conduct before and during the trial, our readers have been fully apprised.

Mr. Oiler conducted the prosecution with ability and moderation. He strengthened the case for the Crown by judiciously handling the witnesses. Mr. Blackstock, the leading counsel for the prisoner, whether through ill health or an overpowering consciousness that he had a poor case, was too reticent in his treatment of the witnesses, and his cruel badgering of one girl dress to the jury was his best effort. He put the case for the prisoner as strongly as possible, but it was at best weak, and a contrary result could scarcely have been expected.

Canadian generally are to be congratulated on the promptitude with which justice has been done in this case, which has excited interest throughout the world. It must be satisfying to them to know that while nothing has been left undone to bring the guilty to book, and to vindicate the good name of the Province and of the county of Oxford, not one of the actors in the dread tragedy was a Canadian. The Oxford swamp was only the accidental theater of the terrible occurrence.

This class of crime does not prevail to any extent in the Dominion, and we are glad of it. Yet the career and fate of the young man now lying under sentence of death in Woodstock jail, convey a moral which all, but especially young men starting out in life, may lay to heart and profit by. Here was a well-educated man, a graduate of Oxford University, a son of reputable parents, who had every opportunity to make a fair start in life, and to earn a good living for himself and family. He possessed undoubted talents, and was clever in many ways. But he early conceived the idea that it was undignified to work for a living, and that true enjoyment of life consisted in exaggerating one's own importance, and in masquerading under false colors—as for example, when he posed in Woodstock as "Lord Somerset." It is natural that a man who allows his ideas of the aims of life to become so perverted should begin to believe that the world owes him a living without working for it. That was Birchall's belief. He resolved to leave honest labor to others and to live by his wits, and his downward career to the gallows has been swift and sure. The lesson cannot be too strongly impressed upon the rising generation that the moment a man attempts, by crooked means, to get something for nothing, to get wealth without earning it, he has entered on a perilous path.

TORTUOUS TACTICS.

The Mitchell Recorder asserts that the conversion of Sir John Macdonald to the principles of free trade would be quicker than the conversion of Saul of Tarsus if once he could be assured that the mass of the consumers were determined no longer to be controlled by the combines from which the Tory Cabinet now receives its strength. That may be so. Meanwhile, no sane man believes that a conversion of that sort is genuine, or likely to be lived up to for a day after the next election, if "party exigencies" demanded the pursuit of a different course. The probability is that the Tory leadership will go into the next election squinting with one eye towards the monopolists who provide them with election funds, and whispering, "Fear not; we will harm you not at all."

With the other eye, they will wink to the guilds among the consumers, and with hand on heart protest that they are for reciprocity every time, only the wicked Yankees persist in refusing it. It will be a repetition of the anti-election performance of 1878, when Sir John Macdonald telegraphed to his lieutenant in New Brunswick that it was not the intention of the Conservatives to raise the duties—that all they intended to do, if returned to power, was to readjust the taxes without increasing them. He belied that promise, as we all know to our cost; he will belie the promises made now if he gets a chance.

A Government cannot be the humble servant of the combines and of the people at one and the same time.

Never was Canada in greater need of independent rulers than now.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

—Mr. Justice Patterson has been appointed to inquire into the alleged eccentricities of Judge Upper, of Haldimand.

—Hon. John Carling arrived in the city at noon today. His visit, so soon after he declined to come to the Western Fair, because official business pressed him hard, is an exciting comment. It need surprise no one to learn that the present pilgrimage has something further to do with pipe-laying for the next general election.

—It is a relief to most of us to find the Birchall trial ended. Thanks to the discovery of shorthand and its admirable adaptability to the taking of evidence, the length of the trial has been reduced to a mere iota of the time that would have been necessary in the old days, when the record of the evidence was taken in longhand, with a slowness that must have often led to frustration. It is safe to say that but for shorthand, the trial, instead of occupying a week and a day, would have taken a month and a day. And yet once in a while objection is raised to the moderate fees of the shorthanders.

—If Birchall pays the penalty of his atrocious crime with his life—and there is no reason for believing that his sentence will be commuted—he will be the second person hanged by legal process in Oxford. This is certainly not a bad record for so large a county. On Dec. 10, 1892, a blind man named Thomas Cook was hanged for the murder of his wife. The execution was bungled, the victim being literally decapitated. No one has been hanged since then, though several persons have been tried for murder, and in 1874 Timothy Topping was sentenced to be hanged for the murder of his wife and four children. The sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. He died in prison. The last great trial for murder was in 1879, when George McCabe and Thomas Bowers were charged with poisoning Annie McCabe, wife of the former. The jury disagreed, and when the case again came up in 1880, Judge Galt dismissed it.

—The Chicago speculator who offers to manage a company to manufacture aluminum from clay, by a process "unknown to books," and at a cost of only a few cents a pound, may not have a great deal of foundation for his assurances, but it is certain that this most useful metal is getting cheaper. The Cowles Electric Smelting and Aluminum Company, of Cleveland,

the largest manufacturers of the metal in the world, has been selling aluminum in small lots for \$2.50 per pound. Five years ago, when the company began business, the current price of the metal was \$20 per pound, and its purity was not guaranteed. The first price paid as against the above figure. At \$1 per pound aluminum would become a serious competitor with both nickel and tin. At 50 cents pure aluminum would become a formidable competitor with copper. The change in the price is rendered possible by the discovery of improved methods for producing the metal. This has been almost the invariable experience with regard to the production of the majority of metals. Through scientific research they have been cheapened, and, though, as in the case of steel, attempts have been made by United States politicians to credit the reduction in price to the high taxes paid on the imported article.

—The British Local Government Board, having become alarmed at the prevalence of cholera in Southern Spain, has issued regulations providing that until Dec. 31 next no rags from Spain shall be delivered outside ship, except for purposes of export, nor landed in any port or place in England or Wales. If any rags shall be delivered outside or landed in contravention of this order they must, unless forthwith exported, be destroyed by the person having control. Bales of rags are largely imported into England from Spain and Italy for the purpose of paper making, while a still larger quantity is transhipped from Liverpool and London to New York, and the present is the busiest season of the trade. New York steamers from Liverpool export several hundred tons. A large quantity of rags is also imported annually into this country, but the trade returns for last year do not show that they come direct from Spain. The shipments are chiefly from Britain, Belgium, France and Germany, but it is possible that, as in the case of imports to the States, the consignments have originally come from Spain. Though we have no apprehensions of a cholera outbreak on this continent this year, it is well for the Government to instruct the quarantine officials to look carefully after imports of this kind. Cholera germs are not easily killed, and may be imported now, to do their deadly work next summer, unless the most thorough precautions are adopted.

OTHER NEWSPAPERS.

AN OLD-WORLD OPINION.

London Canadian.

Mr. Mowat has at last put his Cabinet in order, and, if past experience is any guide, it will probably be found that he has added to its strength.

AND POSTAL CARDS.

Dead men tell no tales, but it's different with dead letters.

MANUFACTURERS NEED WIDE MARKETS.

Ottawa.

The button manufacturers of Berlin and Waterloo want reciprocity, and say that unless it is secured within a short time they will have to move their factories to Buffalo.

Some life clothing manufacturers like Mr. Alexander Gibson, of Howe's Ward and Mr. Jonathan Hodgson, want unrestricted reciprocity in order that they may sell their goods in the United States.

The Quebec shoe manufacturers want reciprocity for the same reason. The New Brunswick time burners say that if their product is excluded from the American market they will have to shut up shop.

It appears that the only manufacturers who are opposed to reciprocity are a few greedy and cowardly financiers—unless we count the manufacturers of Tory campaign literature.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

Frenchmen can properly be called "Knights of the table." They are good judges in all its refinements and delicacies. In order to stimulate the appetite and keep the digestive organs in good order they give pre-eminence to Angostura Bitters. When you try them be sure it is the genuine article, manufactured by Dr. J. G. B. Seigert & Sons.

Rheumatism.

BEING due to the presence of uric acid in the blood, is most effectively cured by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. Be sure you get Ayer's, and no other, and take it till the poisonous acid is thoroughly expelled from the system. We challenge attention to this testimony:—

"About two years ago, after suffering for nearly two years from rheumatic gout, being able to walk only with great difficulty, and having tried various remedies, including mineral waters without relief, I saw by an advertisement in a Chicago paper that a man had been relieved of this distressing complaint, after long suffering, by taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I then decided to make a trial of this medicine, and am pleased to state that it has effected a complete cure. I have since had no return of the disease."—Mrs. R. Irving Dodge, 110 West 122nd st., New York.

"One year ago I was taken ill with inflammatory rheumatism, being confined to my house six months. I came out of the sickness very much debilitated, with no appetite, and my system disordered in every way. I commenced using Ayer's Sarsaparilla and began to improve at once, gaining in strength and soon recovering my usual health. I cannot say too much in praise of this well-known medicine."—Mrs. L. A. Stark, Nashua, N. H.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

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FIREWORKS.

HAND CO. are now open to contract with committees in any part of the country for the purpose of celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Emancipation of the colored people, by the display of fireworks. To the wholesale store trade we offer superior quality of fireworks, and terms on application. Mailing Tubes to order. Address

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A Word to the People. "Truth is Mighty, and will prevail."

THE remarkable effects and most satisfactory results, in every variety of disease arising from IMPURITIES OF THE BLOOD, which are experienced and made manifest from day to day, by those who have taken NORTHPROP & LYMAN'S VEGETABLE DISCOVERY, for complaints which were pronounced incurable, are surprising to all. In many of these cases, the persons say their pain and sufferings cannot be expressed, as in cases of Scrofula, where apparently the whole body was one mass of corruption.

This celebrated medicine will relieve pain, cleanse and purify the blood, and cure such diseases, restoring the patient to perfect health after trying many remedies, and having suffered for years. It is not conclusive proof that if you are a sufferer you can be cured? Why is this medicine performing such great cures? It works in the BLOOD, the Circulating Fluid. It can truly be called the

GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER.

The great source of disease originates in the BLOOD, and no medicine that does not act directly upon it, to purify and renovate, has any just claim upon public attention. When the blood becomes lifeless and stagnant, either from change of weather or of climate, want of exercise, irregular diet, or from any other cause, NORTHPROP & LYMAN'S VEGETABLE DISCOVERY will renew the Blood, carry off the putrid humors, cleanse the stomach, regulate the bowels, and impart a tone of vigor to the whole system.

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The conviction is, in the public mind as well as the medical profession, that the remedies supplied by the VEGETABLE KINGDOM are more safe and more effective in the cure of disease than mineral medicines. The Vegetable Discovery is composed of the juice of most remarkable roots, barks and herbs. It is pleasant to take, and is perfectly safe to give an infant. Allow us to ask you a candid question:—Do you need it? Do not hesitate to try it. You will never regret it. All druggists have it for sale.

Mr. JOHN C. FOX, Olinda, writes:—"Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery is giving good satisfaction. Those who have used it say it has done them

IN ITS WORST FORM.—MISS JULIA A. PILBURN, Toronto, writes:—"I had Dyspepsia in its worst form for over a year, but after taking three bottles of Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery, a perfect cure followed. I take great pleasure in recommending it to anyone suffering from Dyspepsia."

Mr. W. THAYER, Wright, P.Q., had DYSPYPSIA FOR TWENTY YEARS. Tried many remedies and doctors, but got no relief. His appetite was very poor, had a distressing pain in his side and stomach, and gradual wasting away of flesh, when he heard of and immediately commenced taking Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery. The pains have left, and he rejoices in the enjoyment of excellent health; in fact he is quite a new man.

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