

The St. John Standard

OUR SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE STANDARD, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1921

PAGE 3

A PAGE OF NEWS ABOUT THE MARITIME

DOCTOR COULD NOT FIND WAY VICTIMS DIED

Bodies in Steeves' Fire So Badly Burned Impossible to Decide What Happened.

ONE WITNESS FOUND REVOLVER IN RUIN

Chocolate Colored Material Found Under Mother's Body Was Human Blood.

(Continued from page 1)
She was speaking to Mr. Steeves that morning and he told her about Beatrice carrying the light (as described in previous evidence).

Often Heard Talking.

Often she had heard loud talking around Steeves' home. It was quite common in recent years and seemed to be increasing. She had heard the accused raise his voice in many of these quarrels and call his wife a "damned liar and damn her soul to hell" and some times heard the voice of Mrs. Steeves. On cross-examination she told Mr. Fowler that she lived there as long as Mr. Steeves. She was not friendly with the family for sometime and they had not visited back and forth in the last few years. She was not jealous of her husband nor was he jealous of her. She never quarrelled with her husband about a letter nor had she threatened to leave. Mr. Fowler asked if he could not be tried apart with a crow bar and she said they could not.

Found a Revolver.

James D. Leblanc told of finding a revolver in the cellar of the Steeves house the afternoon of the fire. He gave it to Inspector Collings. Provincial Constable Gilbert W. Dryden gave evidence in reference to gathering where the body of Mrs. Steeves was said to have laid. This and other stuff occurred at the ruins were given to Dr. Botsford and later sent to Mr. Paddock at St. John. Chief Hutchinson, Inspector Collings and police officer F. P. Murphy also gave evidence in regard to substance taken from the ruins and forwarded to Dr. Paddock.

Doctor's Evidence.

Dr. Botsford testified to holding a post mortem examination on the bodies of Lucy Steeves and three children, Beatrice, Emerson and William Steeves. The bodies, he said, were badly burned and charred. All the skulls were burned off except that of Emerson. It was an utter impossibility to tell the cause of death. The heart of Mrs. Steeves was partly cooked, the liver and lungs were cooked quite hard. He knew Mrs. Steeves and had attended her in her family profession. Under the name of Hazel Steeves, a sister of Lucy Steeves said, I have been at the home of accused. I never saw them actually quarrel. I saw my sister with black eyes last summer and her throat was scratched and her arms bruised.

Told of Quarrels.

Inez Horsman, sister of the late Lucy Steeves said she lived with Mr. and Mrs. Gains Steeves in Moncton one winter for a while. They quarrelled and he drank and broke up the furniture and the stove and I was frightened and took my baby and went away. The night of the day of the fire the accused was at our house and he was talking of the fire.

Hazel Steeves a sister of Lucy Steeves said: I have been at the home of accused. I never saw them actually quarrel. I saw my sister with black eyes last summer and her throat was scratched and her arms bruised.

Son's Story.

The principal witness called by the Crown this afternoon was Curtis Steeves, eldest son of the accused who told in considerable detail of the quarrels between his mother and father.

The house in question was built three years ago. We had a dog at the time of the fire. The lean-to was put up last year. There was a small window up over the lean-to in the main house with three small panes of glass. We used to go in and out there onto the lean-to. The window

SEVENTEEN POUND LOBSTER CAUGHT

East Dover, May 11.—A lobster, measuring three feet "overall," and weighing 17 pounds, was recently captured here by Luke Cohen. It was shipped to the Boston market and coupled a crate by itself. This is said to be the largest crustacean ever taken on that part of the coast, if not on the whole Nova Scotia coast. Lobsters, this year, as a rule, have shown a tendency to bigness, but the East Dover one holds the record so far.

next to the road in the main house was covered with a curtain. There were two curtains, one along the steps right up fastened to the top floor. The other curtain was across at the top of the stairway forming an angle. Two curtains made a bedroom for mother. Father slept up in front of the stairway. The other bed was in the opposite end from mother's bed.

Alleges Morphine Use.

The front door was fastened with some nails driven into it so they could be pulled out easily. A beam of light stood in the middle of the main house. A cook stove stood in the lean-to. There was no finish on the walls upstairs. I used to make the fire when I was at home, and when I was away Beatrice would make it. Father would get up when breakfast was ready. Mother was a strong, good worker; she would out food sometimes. I never saw a light made with wick about the house. I was in the barn the Sunday before the fire; there was no hay there. I saw some straw in one of the stalls—that was used for bedding. Father used to drink some, and he said he took morphine to prevent rheumatism.

Used to Quarrel.

Father used to quarrel with mother quite a bit. I don't think it slackened much. Father used to shave himself with a long razor. Mother went away to work at Uncle Will's during December last. Father stayed home and Clara was there. I saw mother around New Year's. Father got a little store on Albert street about the middle of January. Mother came home after father got the store. I had been working in the round-house, but when mother came home, something had happened which troubled mother. It was mentioned when I was home one week before the fire. Father and mother were there, and mother told father he ought to be ashamed of himself, lying in bed with my sister, Clara. Mother seemed to be pretty mad about it. As a result of what mother said, Clara left and went to Grandmother's, father's mother. Father told Clara she had better go away than stay and fight with mother.

Spoke of Rumors.

I told Clara she ought to be ashamed of herself, and father told me to mind my business. I went away to work in the mill. I was home the Saturday night before the fire; father was not there. I left home to go to the mill the Sunday before the fire, about four o'clock. Mother and father had a row about Clara. Mother was pretty mad about it. I heard father say he was going to run a restaurant and Clara was going with him to help. Mother said she would not go out to the restaurant while Clara was there. The morning of the fire I was at the mill. Young Melish came for me and I got home between 8 and 9 o'clock. The house was about all burned down.

What Father Said.

I went to Moncton. I saw father there in the store having a sale. He said: "Well, boys, poor mother is gone, you must be better boys." He said he got up and made a fire and went to feed the horse. He heard mother call out, "Gay, Gay, the house is afire." That he had run to the house and could not get in the door. He said he called for them to get out on the lean-to roof. He said Hazel had made a light and when she had started to go upstairs maybe she had slipped over and burned her fingers and she had let the light fall and it caught in his paper bag under the stairs. He said Hazel had come home and said she had made a change and wanted him and mother to make up and live better lives and that she had got the Bible and read some to them.

Tells of Threats.

I heard father and mother have a row last summer. He blacked both of mother's eyes and another time he hit mother when she was sitting with the baby on her knee. Another time he told mother he would cut her throat and watch the black blood run. Father told me the next night after the fire that if he was hung we boys would be to blame for it. Cross examined he said: Father told me if we stuck to the truth that was all he would ask. Father was always looking around for work or planning to make some money. Beatrice was father's favorite. She was always with father around home. On Friday mother told me to take the can and get some oil but I forgot the can and I got no oil. I have seen them quarrel and then make it up. I never heard mother tell father she was jealous of him, but she liked him just the same. I saw mother fire the flat iron at

WHENEVER A NEW BOY MOVES INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD THE GANG ALWAYS DOUBLE DARE HIM TO SNEAK UP AND "KISS THAT LITTLE GIRL"



Eleven Ex-Soldiers Graduate From U. N. B.

Several Were Winners of War Medals Including Military Cross and Bar.

Fredericton, N. B., May 11.—Twenty-two degrees in course, in addition to the honorary degrees, which have not yet been fully passed upon by Senate, will be conferred at the annual convocation tomorrow at the University of New Brunswick. The graduating class numbers only sixteen, being reduced to less than half of last year, and being one of the classes that felt the effects of the war the most. Of the sixteen who will graduate three are young ladies and of the thirteen male members all but two are returned soldiers.

Four of the 1921 class will be graduated with the B. A. degree, two with B. Sc. in civil engineering, four with B. Sc. in electrical engineering, and six with B. Sc. in forestry. There will also be six higher degrees conferred, the faculty having made five recommendations for the degree of M. A. in course, and one for M. Sc. in forestry. There will be several honorary degrees, but as yet no official announcement in that regard has been made.

father a couple of times and stove wood a number of times. I saw her hit him with the broom. She had hold of the straw end of it at the time. I heard mother say if Clara would go to work in the Green Lantern she would go with father to help him in the restaurant. Court adjourned till ten tomorrow morning.

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TROOPS FOR NEWCASTLE.

Newcastle, N. B., May 11.—The 1st Bn. Northumberland Regiment, has received orders to be ready to go to camp here from June 23 to July 1. The 12th Brigade, C. P. A., will also be at Newcastle from June 20 to 25 and will afterwards complete training at Petawawa. The Northumberland Regiment will be at peace strength, about 525 men.

CRITICIZES THE "RAINMAKER"

Toronto, May 11.—There is absolutely nothing in it," maintains Sir Frederic Stupart of the Toronto observatory, regarding the experiments of Charles Hatfield, the "rainmaker," who is given credit and \$1,000 for the inch of rain which has fallen during the past ten days over Medicine Hat, Alberta, and thereabouts, where there is ordinarily a drought.

THIRTY PER CENT. CUT IN COTTON WAGES

Manchester, May 11.—The Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers Association has given notice of a reduction of thirty per cent. in wages in the weaving section. Three hundred thousand operatives will be affected. Similar notice has already been given in the spinning section.

Gagetown

Gagetown, May 11.—H. E. Northrup who sustained serious injuries last week while helping to move Coy & Northrup's portable mill at Fox Brothers' lumber camp, in Lanfield, was sufficiently recovered last Friday to leave for his home in Sussex. Mr. Northrup was standing on a ledge about twelve feet above the ground with a peavy in his hand, assisting to move the smoke-stack of the mill, when he stepped on a loose plank and fell backwards striking his head. Two ribs were broken and his back was badly injured. He was unconscious for some time, and as soon as he could be moved, was taken into Gagetown, where he was obliged to remain until the injury to his head would permit him to leave for his home. Mr. Northrup suffered a great deal of pain and was still afflicted with defective vision when he left on Friday.

Fishing is the order of the day just now, and boys, young and old, may be seen taking the roads leading to the Millstream and the Otanobog in search of trout, or sitting on Gagne's wharf enjoying the less strenuous sport of fishing smelt. Smelt have been unusually plentiful here this spring, and many have secured large strings of them. Last spring was the first for several years that smelt have come this far up river. Trout are also very plentiful and this spring some "good ones" have already been brought into town, the Millstream being the favorite fishing ground as yet.

KILLED BY AUTO

New Glasgow, N. S., May 11.—Alex MacDonald, seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex MacDonald, of this town, was killed here this afternoon when on his way home from school; he was struck by an automobile. A verdict of accidental death was returned by the coroner.

Canadian Cottons Earned 16.88 Per Cent.

Last Half of Year Was Hard One on Trade Says President.

Montreal, May 11.—The financial statement of Canadian Cottons, Ltd., for the year to March 31st last, shows earnings equivalent to 16.88 per cent. on the common stock before depreciation and 3.6 per cent. after depreciation allowance of \$290,000. This compares with the record of 32.54 per cent. last year. The profits were \$679,486, against \$1,581,046 in 1919-20. Sales reached \$11,231,102, against \$11,148,438 the previous year. Current assets are \$3,504,435, against current liabilities of \$2,228,379, leaving a net of \$1,276,056, or, including sale of properties amounting to \$1,825,000, \$3,101,055 against \$2,182,475 in 1919-20.

President C. R. Hosmer reports the first half year was favorable, but during the last six months of the year the company was materially affected by the severe and wide depression in business.

Fireman Smothered On Ocean Steamer

North Sydney, N. S., May 11.—The steamer Manchester Exchange, which arrived here this morning from Liverpool, reports that when two days out about seven tons of coal in a cross bunker, slid down, burying a fireman and smothering him to death. He was an Englishman, but his name has not been learned.

The Manchester Exchange left Liverpool on April 28. She will take bunker here and proceed to Montreal to load grain.

HUGE LUMBER FIRE
Sudbury, Ont., May 11.—It is estimated that the loss to the Marquette Lumber Co. by a fire at Laford on Tuesday is about \$50,000. Between 2,000,000 and 4,000,000 feet of lath was destroyed.

ECZEMA
You are not alone in suffering from this skin trouble. It is a common ailment. It is caused by an accumulation of waste matter in the blood. It is cured by the use of the "Eczema Ointment" which is a powerful blood purifier. It is sold by all druggists or by mail from the "Eczema Ointment Co., Ltd., 4, Toronto.

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