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These have just arrived and all the ladies who have seen them are in love with them. They are sold in dress-lengths only, and the prices are most reasonable for these desirable, high-quality goods. NEW PRINTS and COTTON GOODS are attracting much attention, both for the quality in them and the price on them.

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MURDER TRIAL IN VICTORIA COUNTY

Almon Crombie of Crombie Settlement
Charged With Killing His
Twelve-Year-Old Son

INSANITY WAS PROVED

Andover, Mar. 5.—(Special to The Observer)—In the Crombie murder case the jury has returned a verdict of not guilty on the ground of insanity at the time of the act. Crombie was remanded to jail to await the pleasure of the Lieut. Governor.

Andover, March 7.—The supreme court opened here this morning. Chief Justice McKeown presiding. The court first considered the case of the King vs. Almon Crombie, charged with the murder of his twelve-year-old son in October last. The scene of the alleged crime is in the Bluebell district, near Plaster Rock, at the northern end of the county. It is understood the defence of temporary insanity will be raised.

Crombie is subject to epileptic fits and it is the theory of the defence that while in one of these fits he shot his son. Peter J. Hughes, of Fredericton, is appointed for the prosecution and Wm. W. P. Jones, K. C., on behalf of the accused. The crown called as its first witness William McKee, who lived near Crombie at Crombie Settlement. The witness told of the wife of the accused and a Mr. Donovan going to his home late at night on Oct. 1 last. The witness went to the house of Crombie that same night and found him behind the wood door. Crombie asked the witness if he was a friend or foe. McKee testified that at that time Crombie had a barrel of a gun over his shoulder but the stock of the gun was missing. Crombie said he had been in a big fight and there had been people shooting at him through the window. He also said there were some men under the bed and that they had killed his boy. Witness looked under the bed but there was no one there. McKee asked Crombie to go out of the house with him, but Crombie would not go until he had shot out his window.

On going out of doors the accused appeared to be very much excited and expected an attack from all quarters. He looked behind every stump near the house. On the way down the road they met Arthur Donovan and Crombie asked, "who is that?" Donovan said, "Arthur Donovan from Chicago." Crombie then said, "That is one of them," and ran down the road. On arriving at the witness' home Crombie asked for a pen and paper and wrote, "Arthur Donovan killed me for my wife." Crombie said he was going to die and asked witness to take him to the doctor. They hitched up and started for a doctor at Plaster Rock. After going about two miles Crombie jumped out of the wagon and ran into the woods. He was not seen until next day. Witness then went back to the home of the accused and found the boy on the floor with his skull crushed in. The next morning he went to look for Crombie and found him in the woods, only partly dressed, and running around a small tree and singing. He was in his bare feet and snow on the ground.

The evidence of Arthur Donovan, of Chicago, who was visiting at the home of Crombie the day of the tragedy, taken at the preliminary examination, was read to the jury. He testified that he was reading a newspaper on the night in question when Crombie charged him with putting poison in his medicine. Crombie went in a bedroom and coming out pointed a rifle at the witness. Donovan ran out of the house. He saw a light broken and heard Crombie smashing the stove.

Dr. Joseph Coffin, told of treating Crombie as far back as 1916 for fits and said he had epilepsy. The doctor said that he considered all epileptics potentially dangerous and that an epileptic patient is insane at certain intervals. The witness said that from his knowledge of the accused if he struck his boy and killed him he was insane at the time.

Hon. Mr. Jones then opened the case on behalf of the defence. The first witness called was Mrs. Annie Crombie, wife of the defendant.

She said that about seven years ago a tree fell on her husband's head and injured him. After being hurt he seemed stupid and lazy. In May, 1917, he had his first epileptic fit. It was during the night and he was unconscious for some time. The next fit was three months later. During the last two years Crombie had a fit almost every other week. The week of the tragedy Crombie did not sleep well and talked foolishly and was very nervous. After supper on the night of the tragedy he played the mouth organ and then accused Mr. Donovan of

"monkeying" with his medicine. He then pointed a gun at Mr. Donovan. Witness ran out of the house and looked in the window and saw Crombie hit the lamp with the gun and then all was darkness. From the time the accused was hurt on the head by the tree until his first fit he complained of headaches.

Almon Crombie then took the stand in his own behalf and said that during the week before the tragedy he had been feeling sick and was worse on Saturday. On Saturday he remembered after supper helping the children with their lessons—playing on the harmonica. That was all he remembered until he was in jail at Andover two or three days after the tragedy. This ended the case for the defence. Counsel will address the jury to-morrow morning.

FIRST BIG THAW BRINGS A FLOOD

The first thaw of the winter followed a few days spring-like weather and culminated in a heavy easterly rainstorm during Tuesday night. The portion of the town on the easterly side of the railway tracks awoke yesterday morning to find itself pretty completely inundated. The flood was caused by the suddenly melting snow on the highland back of the town and is a phenomenon not at all uncommon. On Feb. 24, 1916, an exactly similar disaster occurred.

Yesterday the store of J. T. O. Carr, the Windsor hotel, the bank building and several other places were flooded with water to a depth of several inches, and the street for a time was impassable.

The sewerage down Burt's hill was insufficient to carry the water, indeed so great was its volume that no practical system of sewerage could have saved the situation. The southern portion of the flat, which suffered heavily six years ago, got off very well this time as the new sewer there afforded drainage that relieved the flood to an appreciable extent.

There was a washout in the main street near Harry Lipssett's house, but it was repaired before daylight. There was no other damage to the streets.

The C. P. R. had its troubles with numerous washouts, the principle ones being at Pool and Beechwood. The morning train from Aroostook was several hours late but the express trains were not detained.

COUNCIL DISCUSSES

At the regular monthly meeting of the Town Council on Monday evening Mayor Kelley presided and all the aldermen were in their places.

Ald. Hagerman for the finance committee reported that the warrant for 1922 taxes had been placed in the assessor's hands. The sum asked for is \$1000 less than last year.

The question of lighting the streets was quite fully discussed. Frank Sopley, owner of the electric plant, said that he could at the present time supply current for 10 lights. A committee was appointed to deal with the matter of not only lights for the streets but for the bridge as well. The latter question will be taken up with the Minister of Public Works and an attempt made to bring about a division of the expense between the town and the government.

PRODUCE PRICES

There is no improvement in the potato market and a survey of the whole situation indicates that the supply of potatoes in the country is far greater than any possible demand for them. The price today is 75c to \$1.00. Unfortunately there is little market for starch and the factory here is not likely to be operated.

Hay is still firm at \$24 and \$25, and oats at 55 cents are very good prices indeed. Butter is today 30 cents and eggs 40 cents.

OLD 67th HAS ANNUAL DINNER

Officers Meet at Edmundston For Enjoyable Function—A Plan For a Stronger Military Organization—Edmundston's Ambitions Described

(Telegraph correspondence)

Edmundston, N. B., March 2.—The officers of 1st Battalion, Carleton Light Infantry, held their annual dinner at the Windsor Hotel Monday evening, and it was one of the most successful functions ever held in Edmundston. Officers from Carleton, Victoria and Madawaska counties were present, including Lieut. Col. L. L. Kennedy, D. C. 1st Battalion C.I.L., Major J. J. Hall, second in command, Major Lockary, chaplain, Capt. Raymond, adjutant, Capt. H. Fleming, paymaster, Capt. Curry, dental officer, Capt. O. M. Moore, Major C. M. Rideout, O. C. B. Co., Capt. A. R. Rice, Capt. B. Manser, Lieut. Roy Moore, Signalling officer, and Lieut. Kelly. The guests were Capt. Aaron Lawton, of the reserve, Capt. M. E. Ames, D. C. Edmundston Machine Gun Co., Lieut. G. A. Dunbar, Lieut. Ames-Pickard, Rev. N. Franchetti, Rev. John Hardwick, Hon. J. E. Michaud, M. P. P., J. W. Hall and W. R. Bejey.

Major Rideout, on whose invitation the officers came to Edmundston for the annual function, acted as toastmaster, introducing the speakers in a witty and pleasing manner. The first toast, to "the King," was honored by singing the National Anthem. The clergy was responded to by Major. Father Lockary, Rev. Franchetti and (Continued on 4th page)

THE REVIVAL WAS GOOD

The special services that have been held during the past few weeks, by Fred W. Foster, "the farmer evangelist," in the Methodist church, have been concluded and the preacher has gone to Lower Brighton to pursue his labors. The Hardian congregation declares that all members have been encouraged and strengthened and filled with determination to "fight the good fight," while a number of others who previously claimed no intimate knowledge of God have chosen to walk in His way.

REVIVAL SERVICES AT SIMONDS

On Sunday afternoon at 2:30 the subject for the sermon by Rev. J. F. Whitman at the Advent Christian Church at Middle Simonds will be "Shall we know our friends in the other world?" and on Sunday evening at 7:30 will be "The Sovereign Challenge of the Sovereign God." The series of meetings which commenced last week have been well attended and much interest is shown in them. They will continue throughout this and next week.

SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY

Tomorrow at 11 a.m. Litany and special prayers for the parish will be said at Holy Trinity; and at the evening service the subject for the sermon will be "The Challenge of the Cross."

On Sunday morning at 11 "The Departure of the Prodigal Son" will be the topic of the sermon, and in the evening the rector will discourse upon the subject "Elijah in the Wilderness." Sunday school this day at 1:45.

CHURCH SERVICE FOR K. of P.

Brighton Lodge Knights of Pythias will have their annual religious service on Sunday afternoon at 2:30. All the members are requested to meet at Castle Hall at two o'clock. From there the lodge will march to Holy Trinity church where Rev. W. P. Haigh will deliver a sermon appropriate to the occasion. The general public is invited to attend the service.

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