

BROODING SILENCE HARBORS TRAGEDY

Passion Unleashed Blamed for
Awful Crime of Ste. Ver-
onique—Scene of the Mur-
der.

(Montreal Gazette.)
The brooding silences of the great
northland have engendered some of the
greatest tragedies which have startled
the country from time to time. The
struggle for existence by its very in-
tensity develops a contempt for pain, an
indifference to suffering, and a resig-
nation to death as the basic elements of
some characters which are bred in the
rigid North. The rocky fastnesses of
the mountains dominate the mind, and
in the soul of the Northman are formed
similar fastnesses which sharpen cer-
tain faculties and limit others. These

There are several ways

of using "commonplace tea", but the cheapest
and best way is to "Junk It", then you will
readily realize what it has cost you and
determine to never again use any but

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fastnesses of the soul are like the ranges
and valleys of the mountain country;
the view is limited in most directions,
but here and there are vales and passes
allowing an eye its liberty to escape and
run wild in the distance, bounding from
point to point in the vista, dwelling on
a mountain top, or reaching beyond to
the cloud that symbolizes the unattain-
able. Such is the soul of the Northman,
the heir to those qualities of fearles-
ness and courage, strength and endur-

ance, which typified the couragers de
bois of two hundred years ago.

The mind of the Northman works
along primal lines. He is born of wo-
man, but his mind is bred by Mother
Nature. The veneer of civilization has
spread thus far. True, the coat is thin,
but it is thick enough to lead him to
hide his emotions, his loves and hatreds.
Through the almost interminable win-
ter, however, when the barren land, as-
sumes its snowy mantle, when the pier-
cing northeast wind sweeps over dreary
panes of frozen lakes and ice-bound
mountains, when the very rays of the
sun seem frozen, then does the North
claim dominion over the soul of man,
playing on his emotions as a musician
on his harp, stretching the strings till
they sound the call of passion, mounting
the scale of love or hatred till a soul-
string snaps!

The Neighbors' Theory.

This is one of the theories offered by
people of the North to explain the ter-
rible crime of which Orlas Riopel now
stands accused, the murder under revol-
ving circumstances of Marie Christina de
Grappre, wife of Oscar Clermont. Neigh-
bors aver that Riopel developed an un-
bounded passion for the unfortunate wo-
man, and that her death followed the

expression by herself of scorn for the
attentions of her neighbor.

What is definitely known is that the
tongue of scandal wagged loose through
the parish over the attention of Orlas
Riopel to Christina Clermont. Oscar
Clermont is a lumberman spending his
summers and autumns cutting wood,
and his winters and springs, carting
and driving logs, returning home at rare
intervals. His wife and her son Alfred
lived alone in a miserable little log cabin
about a mile from Ste. Veronique Church.
The road from the church runs up to
within two hundred feet of the door,
turning sharply to the left to lead past
the property of Riopel. The latter's
house is about the same distance from
the road as his neighbor's, the distance
between the two houses being about two
or three hundred yards.

A quarter of a mile further on is the
house of a Frenchman named Fochet,
and further still is the log cabin of a
French-Canadian named Gagnon. These
four houses are the only ones between
the church and the hamlet three miles
away, where A. Sanscartier operates a
small sawmill, and whither the victim
Clermont was taken after the tragedy.

The rumors concerning Riopel and
his neighbor finally reached the ears of
the parish priest, who, according to his
parishioners, investigated the matter and
tried to put an end to scandal. A point-
ed sermon is said to have been preach-
ed in the early fall. The sequel is said
to have occurred ten or fifteen days be-
fore the tragedy, when the cure was
making his annual visit of the parish.
Riopel, as a notable of the vicinity of
the church, was usually given the pri-
vilege of driving the priest through the
parish. At each house he entered with
the cure or waited at the door. This
year, however, he did not follow the
priest up the slope which leads from the
road to Clermont's house. The cure
mounted alone and was greeted at the
door by Mrs. Clermont. It is alleged
that she called to Riopel to come up
on her own threshold she is said to have
complained to the cure of the attentions
which she claimed Riopel was forcing
upon her. She asked the clergyman to
put an end to her neighbor's importun-
ing. The next development was the
murder of Mrs. Clermont, the assault
on her son, and the burning of her
house.

Scene of Murder.

An examination of the scene of the
murder bears out the boy's relation of
his horrible experiences. Nothing but a
heap of ruins remains of the one-story,
two-room log cabin, with its summer
kitchen attached. Like most of the
pioneers' cabins of the north, the Cle-
mont dwelling was very small, barely
twelve by twenty feet. Only the earth
foundations of the walls remain to show
the site of the cabin. A hole in the
centre, four feet square, shows where the
cellar was. A large double-decker stove
crumpled and twisted by intense heat,
as well as the remains of a spring bed,
is dumb evidence that the Clermont
family was a trifle better off than most
families of the north.

One can trace the boy's actions by
following his tracks through the snow,
first to the outhouse and then to the
stables. Up till last Friday, no snow
had fallen since before November 24.
On the walls and ceiling of the outhouse
are large splashes of blood, while the
door is marked in red where his fingers
fumbled with the catch. The trail to
the stable is marked by frozen pools of
blood where the unfortunate boy stumbled
led or fell. The stable door is also
splashed with blood, while the stall on
the left of the door is streaked with red.
The straw in the manger is blood-stain-
ed and clotted.

DISCUSSED PLANS FOR EXHIBIT OF BOY SCOUT WORK

At a meeting held last evening at
Scout headquarters in Princess street,
Guy L. Short, district commissioner,
spoke on the advisability of holding a
large demonstration of boy scout work
early in February at the armory. A vote
was taken and it was unanimously
decided to hold such an event. Various
phases of scout work will be demon-
strated, including bridge building, club
swinging and rescue work. It is hoped
also to have a model camp in which an
imitation of the life of a scout in camp
for an entire day will be given in about
half an hour. A committee was ap-
pointed for carrying out arrangements
for the exhibition. This committee was
composed of two representatives from
each scout troop. It is expected that
more than 250 scouts will take part in
the exhibition and it is hoped that the
result will be an increase in the interest,
not only of other boys, but also of many
adults. Representatives of boys' present
from Knox, St. Paul's, St. Andrew's,
Stone, Centenary, St. Jude's, St. Luke's,
Mission, Trinity and Victoria street
Baptist scout troops.

ENTHRONEMENT OF N. B. ARCHBISHOP

Edmonton, Alta., Dec. 8.—The Most
Rev. Dr. Henry J. O'Leary, late of Prince
Edward Island, today was formally in-
stalled as archbishop of the Roman Catho-
lic diocese of Edmonton in St. Joseph's
church. More than a hundred clergy of
the diocese with others from other parts
of the province were present, and a large
concourse of citizens filled the church to
capacity.

Archbishop O'Leary is a native of Rex-
ton. He has relatives in St. John.



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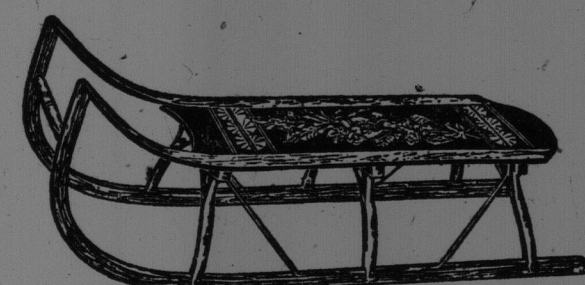
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