

HUNDRED AND SIXTY CHILDREN PERISH.

Little Children Caught Like Rats in a Trap and Burned to Death.

Fire Drill Was of No Avail--Agonizing Sights and Heroic Deeds.

Cleveland, O., despatch: Pinned in narrow hallways, jammed up against doors that only opened inward, between one hundred and sixty and one hundred and seventy school children in the suburb of North Collinwood to-day were killed by fire and smoke or beneath the grinding heels of their panic-stricken playmates.

The awful tragedy occurred this morning in the public school of North Collinwood, ten miles east of this city. At 10 o'clock to-night one hundred and sixty-five corpses were in the morgue at Collinwood, six children were still unaccounted for, and all the hospitals and houses for two miles around contained numbers of children, some fatally and many less seriously injured. All of the victims were between the ages of six and fourteen years.

Only Eighty Escaped Unhurt.

The school contained between three hundred and ten and three hundred and twenty-five pupils, and of this entire number only about eighty are known to have left the building unhurt. It will be several days before the actual number of killed is known, as the ruins may still contain other bodies, and the list of fatalities may be increased by a number of deaths among the children who are now lying in the hospitals in a precarious condition. The school house was of brick, two stories and an attic in height. The number of pupils was more than normally large, and the smaller children had been placed in the upper part of the building. There were two stairways, one leading to a door in the front and the other to a door in the rear. Both of these doors opened inward, and it is claimed the rear door was locked as well.

Flames Barred the Way.

When the flames were discovered the teachers, who throughout seem to have acted with courage and self-possession and to have struggled heroically for the safety of their pupils, marshalled the little ones into a column for the fire drill, which they had often practiced. Unfortunately the line of march in its exercise had always led to the front door, and the children had not been trained to seek any other exit. The fire to-day came from a furnace situated directly under this part of the building. When the children reached the foot of the stairs they found the flames close upon them, and so swift a rush was made for the door that in an instant a tightly-packed mass was piled up against it.

Pushed Into the Flames.

From that moment none of those who were upon any portion of the first flight of stairs had a chance for their lives. The children at the foot of the stairs attempted to fight their way back to the floor above, while those who were coming down found themselves mercilessly pushed back into the flames below. In an instant there was a frightful panic, with two hundred of the pupils fighting for their lives. Most of those who were killed died here. The greater part of those who escaped managed to turn back and reached the fire escape and the windows in the rear.

What happened at the foot of that first flight of stairs will never be known, for all of those who were caught in that fury of fire perished. After the flames had died away, however, a huge heap of little bodies, burned by the fire, and trampled into shapeless masses, told the tale as well as anyone needed to know it.

Were the Doors Locked?

Various and unconfirmed statements are made as to the cause of the fire, and also as to whether the doors of the building were locked at the front entrance, while but one door of the rear entry was unfastened. The janitor, Fritz Herter, himself bereaved of three children, says the doors were open, according to the usual routine, at the time of the fire. He was in the hallway, and the little ones went to their death totally unable to evade the flames.

The village fire department had only two engines, and neither was at all effective. Burning through the cross supports of the first floor, the flames passed upward until all three floors crashed in a smoldering pile into the basement. Within three hours from its commencement the fire had burned itself out, and the work of rescuing the bodies was begun by firemen and men from the shops of the Lake Shore Railroad.

The Janitor's Story.

Janitor Herter could remember little of what happened after the fire started. "I was sleeping in the basement," he said, "when I looked up and saw a wisp of smoke curling out from beneath the iron stairway. I ran so the fire alarm and pulled the gong that sounded throughout the building. Then I ran first to the front and then to the rear doors. I don't remember what happened next, except that I saw the children running down through them screaming. Some fell at the rear entrance and others stumbled over them. I saw my little Helen among them. I tried to pull her out, but the flames drove me back. I had to leave my little child to die." Herter was badly burned about the head.

Teacher Lost Her Life.

Miss Catharine Weiler, one of the nine teachers in the school, lost her life in a vain effort to marshal the pupils of her class and lead them to safety. She died in the crush at the rear door. Her room was on the second floor, and when the fire alarm sounded she marched her pupils out to the hall, thinking it was only a fire drill. There the truth dawned upon both teacher and pupils, and all control was lost. The children in their frenzy plunged into the struggling mass ahead of them. Miss Weiler attempted to stem the rush, but went down under it, and her body was found an hour later, under a high pile of those of her pupils. Miss Weiler formerly lived in Detroit, and was educated in Toledo. Miss Fisk, another teacher, was taken out alive, but she cannot live.

rear door. Her room was on the second floor, and when the fire alarm sounded she marched her pupils out to the hall, thinking it was only a fire drill. There the truth dawned upon both teacher and pupils, and all control was lost. The children in their frenzy plunged into the struggling mass ahead of them. Miss Weiler attempted to stem the rush, but went down under it, and her body was found an hour later, under a high pile of those of her pupils. Miss Weiler formerly lived in Detroit, and was educated in Toledo. Miss Fisk, another teacher, was taken out alive, but she cannot live.

Recovering the Bodies.

The gruesome task of taking out the pieces and bits of human remains was one of horror. A line of rescuers was formed, backed by half a dozen ambulances. As the bodies were entangled with the debris they were passed along to the stretchers and thence loaded in the ambulance. Meticulously covered with blankets, the pitiful sights were veiled from the crowd of curious gathered about the entrance to the structure. As fast as a load was obtained it was driven away to the morgue.

At the temporary morgue in the Lake Shore shops the scene was an indescribably sad one, as fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters passed up and down the lines formed by the hundred and sixty corpses. Identification was made only by means of clothing or trinkets. The fire had swept away nearly all semblance of human features in the majority of instances. The first identification was made by the mother of Nell and Tommy Thompson, aged six and nine years old, respectively. The hands and arms had been burned from both bodies, but the mother recognized the shoes on her children's feet. And so the disheartening work went on, accentuated now and then by a piercing shriek or plaintive moan as a loved one was recognized by clothing or token, such as a ring or necklace.

A Mother's Heroism.

About the burned schoolhouse there are but few residences. In one of these Mrs. Clark Spring lived. Her little boy, Alton, aged seven years, was a pupil in the second grade. When the fire started the mother ran over to the school and arrived when the first floor was a mass of flames. At a window on that floor she saw the face of her boy. He recognized her and pleaded for help. Rushing across the street, Mrs. Spring secured a step-ladder and placed it against the window. Climbing up, she reached for her boy. She caught him by the hair. It burned off in her hand and she fell back into the flames.

Couldn't Open the Door.

The statement that the back door of the building was locked was made by Walter C. Kelly, the editor of the sporting department of the Cleveland Leader, two of whose children were killed. As soon as the alarm was given Mrs. Kelly ran from her home, which is not far from the school house, to the burning building.

"The front portion of the structure was a mass of flames and, fronted by the screams of the fighting and dying children which reached them from the death trap at the foot of the first flight of stairs and behind that closed door, Mrs. Kelly ran to the rear, hoping to find an entrance there and save her children. She was joined by a man whose name is not known, and the two of them tugged and pulled frantically at the door. They were unable to move it in the slightest, and there was nothing at hand by which they could hope to break it down. In utter despair of saving any of the children, they turned their attention to the windows, and by smashing some of these they managed to save a few of the pupils.

Pulled His Child to Pieces.

Tearful scenes were enacted around the burning school house. Fathers and mothers raved, cursed or prayed. Many tried to break through the crowd, and some got far enough to dash towards the flaming doorway. One man in overalls and jumpers was resisted by force. Explaining in broken English that his "kinder" were in the building, he struggled desperately with the three men who held him. Finally they threw him to the ground and sat on him, forcing his great form down in the ankle-deep mud.

A man named Dorn, who arrived upon the scene early, when the children were crowded in the front door, discovered his little girl among the mass of injured and crushed. He caught the girl by the hands and in his frantic efforts to save her pulled her arms from her body.

Worked to Rescue His Daughter.

Among the hundreds of frantic parents who reached the building shortly after the front door had caved in and disclosed to the horrostricken crowd the awful scene within was Wallace Prentiss. Just in front of him, as he pressed up to the building, he saw his own ten-year-old daughter, helpless in the crush, badly burned and trampled upon, but still alive. The fire was close upon her, and if she could not be saved at once she could not be saved at all. Upon Prentiss to help her, and with all his strength sought to tear her from the weight that was pressing her down and from the flames which were creeping close. Although he worked with the desperation of despair, his strength was unequal to the task. He fought on until

his clothing was partly burned from him and the skin of his face and hands were scorched black. Other men attempted to induce him to move, but he refused until he saw that his girl was dead, and that he could not save her life by sacrificing his own. He then withdrew from the school house and although so seriously injured that he may die, lingered about the place for several hours, refusing to go to a hospital or to seek medical attention.

Cellar Filled With Corpses.

The flames spread with such terrific rapidity that within thirty minutes from the time the fire was discovered the school was nothing but blackened walls surrounding a cellar filled with corpses and debris.

The firemen dashed into the blazing wreckage, and with rakes, forks, shovels and their bare hands worked in the most frantic manner with the hope of saving a few more lives. They were unsuccessful, for none was taken alive from the ruins after the floors collapsed. Fragments of incriminated limbs, skulls and bones were met most at every turn, and these things were piled together in a little heap at one side of the building.

Construction of Buildings an Outrage.

County Coroner Burke immediately after the fire said: "The construction of the school house was an outrage. The hallways were narrow, and there was practically but one mode of exit. The children were caught like rats in a trap." The school building was supposed to be modern. The school children had been given fire drills and were thought to be in training for just such an emergency. When the crucial moment arrived, however, the drill was forgotten. The building was completely destroyed, only the outside brick walls remaining standing.

Cleveland, O., March 6.—Twenty-four

hours after the disaster which swept into externally approximately one-third of the school children of North Collinwood, the death toll numbers 161. Of these 131 had been identified at the Lake Shore Morgue, while 30 bodies remain there in the condition of mutilation, beyond the chance of recognition. The work of digging in the ruins of the school house in further search for remains of children still missing, began with the break of dawn. Dawn found mothers and fathers waiting about the fire-ravaged building after having spent the night in an effort to find their children's remains at the extemporized morgue. But little was brought forth during the day that would satisfy their longings, and it is believed to-night that all the bodies that can be removed from the ruins have been taken out.

Burial of the Dead is the Burden Now

confronting those in authority in the little village. Arrangements for the funerals of the victims were discussed to-night at a meeting attended by the Mayor of Collinwood, members of the Board of Education, the clergy and the undertakers. The idea of having a public funeral of all the dead has been abandoned, though it is probable that where it can be done, bodies will be grouped in one church. The work of removing the identified bodies to their former homes is being completed and the undertakers set to work to prepare for the interments to-morrow.

In the homes of the afflicted citizens of the village the modern gravity were sustained by the presence of visiting nurses and women who volunteered to lead such comfort as lay within their power.

The appointment of a relief committee by the Collinwood Board of Trade and Town Council to-day, also is designed to care for the bodies of the unidentified dead as well as assisting the bereaved parents. Should any parent desire to undertake the interment of one of the recognizable bodies of human flesh and bones, believing it may be his or her child, they will be permitted to do so.

The remainder of the bodies will be laid side by side in the cemetery. In an effort to fix the cause and responsibility for the heinous tragedy, various investigations were set under way to-day. Coroner Burke issued subpoenas for the seven surviving teachers of the school. The inquest was begun this morning, when a number of witnesses were examined without, however, developing any testimony that was beyond mere opinion.

An investigation conducted by the Collinwood School Board, which lasted far into the night, at which a number of survivors of the disaster and their stories, brought forth these facts: That one of the inner doors at the west entrance of the school was closed and fastened while children were being piled up against it in the passage; wing partitions in the vestibule narrowed the exit by at least three feet; the flames came first from a closet below the stairway at the east entrance; the closet contained lime and sawdust; three little girls had been found hiding in play in the closet earlier in the morning; there was but one fire escape and it was never taught as part of the fire drill.

Survivors among the teachers estimate that only two or three minutes passed from the time of the alarm until all escape was cut off. The building was a fair sample of the kind of school construction in use in small towns. The halls and stairways were enclosed between interior brick walls, forming a huge fire, through which the flames shot up with great rapidity.

On the question, much discussed, whether the doors opened inward or outward, Fire Marshal Broeton and Feigenbaum examined the doorways to-day and stated later that they were convinced that they opened outward. Whether they were locked they have not been able to determine. They have testimony on both sides. The janitor still insists that the doors were open.

The board of education of the city of Cleveland to-night ordered all city schools closed to-morrow and that flags be half-masted on all buildings. While thoroughly sympathizing with the misfortunes of the village of Collinwood in her time of trial, the board desires to have corrected an impression that it in any way connected with responsibility for the school management of Collinwood. Neither has the city government any authority, Collinwood, while recently voting annexation to Cleveland, is a municipal entity, having its own governmental functions of its own kind.

FRUIT MEN IN SESSION.

Niagara Peninsula the Garden of the World,

Declares Mr. Hale, the United States Peach Man.

British Columbia Commissioner Was Present Yesterday.

A Grimby special despatch: The fruit growers of the Western Peninsula followed Mr. H. J. Hale to St. Catharines yesterday afternoon, and augmented by the eastern men, gave both him and Mr. Farnsworth a most hearty welcome to the Garden City. Before leaving Grimby this morning they were given a drive out among the snow-covered vineyards and orchards, and expressed their satisfaction at the outlook, and the palatial homes of the owners.

The convention in the city was held yesterday and to-day in the Elks' Hall. Mr. Bunting, in opening the meeting, said that the association were endeavoring to get the express companies to give them more uniformity of rates and better transportation facilities. This schedule has already been outlined. It is absolutely necessary that steps to this effect be taken at the earliest date, as the fruit industry is going ahead by leaps and bounds.

Mr. Farnsworth spoke on the San Jose scale, as far as the State of Ohio goes. We have it in abundance, said Mr. Farnsworth, and he believed it was a blessing in disguise for the professional growers, but for the average farmer a scourge. His reason for saying this was that it was going to drive the small farmer out of the business. The scale cannot be eradicated, but there are remedies to hold it in check. There is not a county in the State that is not suffering from the scale. A few years ago men destroyed their trees by applying a remedy, but they have since learned that the fire-ravaged building after having spent the night in an effort to find their children's remains at the extemporized morgue. But little was brought forth during the day that would satisfy their longings, and it is believed to-night that all the bodies that can be removed from the ruins have been taken out.

At this juncture the president called Mr. M. Bunnell, British Columbia's fruit commissioner to Great Britain, and a former Grantham man, to the platform. In a few words he told of the success of British Columbia's exhibit at the great horticultural show in London, and spoke of the miserable looking stuff from Ontario, and Nova Scotia, due he said, to faulty packing.

Mr. Hale thought the possibilities of the Peninsula were boundless. He had been through the district several times, but had never seen the like of its advancement. "You have the grandest fruit belt in the world," he said. "At the present rate the population is flowing into your country, it will only be a short time before you will be unable to supply the demand. Here in this California of Canada, you have the decided advantage of getting the people going and coming. As I can see into the future, your wonderful possibilities of soil and climate, your growing of more and more fruit, the question of shipping, is a most important one. There is no use putting fruit into refrigerator cars until that fruit has first been cooled. Cooling stations should be built at all central points. In an effort to fix the cause and responsibility for the heinous tragedy, various investigations were set under way to-day. Coroner Burke issued subpoenas for the seven surviving teachers of the school. The inquest was begun this morning, when a number of witnesses were examined without, however, developing any testimony that was beyond mere opinion.

HIS NEW DUTIES.

GEN. OTTER TO BECOME CHIEF OF STAFF.

Offer of the Command at Aldershot Refused—Gen. Lake Will Fill the Position of Inspector-General Temporarily, and Report on All Military Units.

Ottawa, March 9.—Brigadier-General Otter has declined the offer of the Imperial War Office to take command of the fifth infantry brigade at Aldershot from May 1 next, and will instead come to the headquarters staff at Ottawa, where his ability and experience in military matters will be made advantageously available for the benefit of the militia of Canada.

Major-General Lake's term of command in Canada as Chief of Staff expires in November next. During his tenure of the position he has inaugurated many reforms in connection with the militia service and the department is now organized on a well-thought-out and adequate basis. It is understood that for the last six months or so of his time in this country General Lake will be given the position of Inspector-General, with a view of his making a thorough inspection of all the military units in the service, offering criticisms as to the defects in carrying out the system he has established, making suggestions as to possible improvements, etc. The position of Inspector-General is now vacant, owing to the death of Brigadier-General Vidal.

General Otter will, according to the proposed plan, become Chief-of-Staff in succession to Major-General Lake, thus realizing what has long been contemplated—namely, the appointment of a Canadian to the chief command of the militia forces of the Dominion.

WRONG MAN.

A TORONTO WOMAN'S MISTAKE AT DETROIT.

Mrs. Walpole Had Man of Same Name as Her Husband Arrested, Charged Him With Non-Support—Wanted Warrant Charging Bigamy.

Detroit, Mich., March 9.—Eight years ago Thomas Edward Walpole married in Ontario, and three years ago deserted his wife in Toronto, taking with him their baby boy. Mrs. Walpole trailed him over a large part of Ontario, and then, suspecting that he was in Detroit, came here two weeks ago. She learned, by accident, of an Edward Walpole on the west side of the city, and without attempting to see him or verify her suspicion with the Police Court and secured a warrant charging Walpole with non-support.

WIFE'S LAWYER FLAYS M'KEE.

TWENTY-SIX CHARGES OF CRUELTY BROUGHT IN DIVORCE SUIT.

Barriester Says Husband Made Woman Eat Sardines as Meal—Threats to Kill Alleged—Wore Socks a Month.

Paris, March 9.—The Hart-McKee divorce case began to-day. Maître Barbois, counsel for Mrs. McKee, outlined the case he said he is prepared to prove in her demand for a divorce. After describing the couple's position and lives in America, he said McKee proposed marriage a few days after the divorce. He then compelled his wife to spend \$300 to settle the divorce case of his first wife, the attorney declared.

McKee posed as a rich man, and promised to allow his wife \$25,000 yearly for dress, Barbois continued. "He said she need not wear her gloves twice. After the marriage McKee's first care was to get \$20,000 allowed for his wife's child by her former husband, Mr. Tevis, doubled. He then compelled his wife to write to her father and withdraw her money, \$450,000, from a trust company, so that McKee might manage it. Soon after the marriage the couple went to Monte Carlo, where McKee gambled and lost heavily. Mrs. McKee never played.

"McKee abused his wife and threatened her with a revolver. He threatened to commit suicide if she did not give him all her fortune. She gave him \$25,000." Mr. Barbois made twenty-six charges of cruelty against McKee, the last being that he had tried to suborn witnesses to swear she was intimate with a chauffeur. He was always jealous of his stepson, Hugh, frightening him with a revolver, and pinching his arms until the blood came, the attorney said. At Paris he refused to allow his wife to take her meals in the modest hotel where they were staying, and sent a servant to buy sardines for her, saying the hotel prices were too dear, charged the lawyer.

McKee's other characteristics, according to Barbois, included spending the day in a pajama costume. He wore socks for a month, the lawyer said. McKee spent most of his time writing articles for New York papers signed "Fifi" and "Clarice," asserted Barbois. He sold his wife's jewels. For a ring which cost \$5,000 he took \$25. Thirty-two malds left his wife's service owing to his insults.

Mrs. McKee began divorce proceedings in August and McKee has brought a cross suit. Mr. Barbois concluded with an unprintable description of McKee, in which he brought charges that McKee used paint on his lips and dyed his eyebrows. Maître Labori will give McKee's side of the case on March 11.

TRACED STEPS OVER SNOW.

THE TRACKERS GAVE EVIDENCE AGAINST MABEL ALLEN.

Did Girl Commit Arson?—Jacob Hopkins Admits the Girl Had a Motive—Mother of Accused Girl Says Mabel Was at Home in Bed on Night of the Fire.

Toronto despatch: Mabel Allen, the eighteen-year-old Mount Albert girl, who is charged with having set fire to the barn of Jacob Hopkins, a neighboring farmer, on the night of the 14th of February last, came before his Honor Judge Winchester and a jury for her trial yesterday. The girl, who was quietly dressed in a blue skirt and white cotton waist, did not appear to be at all weighed down by her position, and frequently cast inquiring glances around the court. The evidence of Jacob Hopkins and several of the men who accompanied him in following up the fire to the house of the girl was heard, and when at 5 o'clock the court adjourned, his Honor permitted the accused girl to leave the court with her father, accepting the bail of the girl and that of a neighbor named Thomas Johnston for \$1,000 each.

A noticeable feature of the morning's hearing was that Crown Attorney Drayton did not attempt to bring out from Hopkins' statements any evidence as to motive. Asked at the outset of his cross-examination by the girl's counsel whether there was any motive for Mabel Allen setting fire to the barns, Hopkins said "No." Mr. Fitch, however, drew out from Hopkins the statements that he had had guilty relations with the girl during her residence under his roof, and then had incurred her anger by suggesting that she should marry a man named Burt Green.

Jacob Hopkins was the first witness. He told of waking up early on the morning of February 14 and finding his barn ablaze. Looking to the westward, he saw footprints. They were fresh marks, and were apparently made by a woman. He followed up the tracks and found they led to Mabel Allen's home, five miles away.

His Relations With the Girl.

Hopkins said the reason why he concluded it was Mabel who had fired his barn was because they had been friendly. He denied that he had ever promised the girl marriage, and said the talk of marriage was all done by the girl. Mr. Fitch then examined the witness on certain letters he had written to the prisoner in which he asked her to come and live with him "until death do us part," and told her that it would be her own fault if she did not become his wife.

What is your own age?" inquired Mr. Fitch.

Witness at first refused to answer, and when pressed said he was forty-eight years old. He acknowledged meeting the girl a letter enclosing a matrimonial "ad," and advised her to get married to the advertiser, and Mabel was angry at the suggestion. Hopkins placed all the blame for the relations which existed between him and the girl upon the girl's shoulders, saying that it was upon her suggestion that they lived together.

Had Been Frequent Quarrels.

Mrs. Hopkins, the aged mother of Jacob Hopkins, was called as a witness by the Crown. She told of the girl's coming to work at the house and said she never had any good opinion of the girl. Mabel frequently quarrelled with herself and her son, and made violent threats. On different occasions she threw a knife, a poker and a frying pan at Jacob, and again she threatened to burn the barns. It was this latter threat which made her think that Mabel had caused the fire at the barns, although at the time she did not attach much importance to it, and Mabel said she only said it in a fit of temper.

Once she found Mabel Allen had some

aggravation in a bottle in her possession, and she got it from her and made her grandson bury it. Mrs. Allen, the mother of the accused girl, who was called by the defence out of her turn, said that on the night of the fire Mabel slept at home upstairs, and it would have been impossible for her to get up in the night and leave the house without making a noise, as the floor boards were loose.

Said She Would Kill a Man.

John Warren, a farmer, who resides between the houses of the Hopkins and the Allens, said he examined the tracks in the snow on his lands at 9 o'clock on the morning after the fire. It looked like a woman's tracks. Minnie Moore, a little nine-year-old girl in whose home Mabel was employed, said that she was told by Mabel on the Sunday before the fire that she was in a hurry to get home because she was going to kill a man or burn his barns. Her sister Maggie wanted to know who the man was, and Mabel wouldn't tell, but said it was a man whose hair was turning grey. The little girl was cross-examined at considerable length without her testimony being broken.

Bert Kay, who saw the fire at the

barn and was attracted thither, said that he had heard Hopkins' evidence and agreed with most of it. He admitted there was nothing in the track to distinguish whether it was a boy's or a girl's. Norman Kay, who accompanied his brother Bert to the fire, corroborated his evidence.

THE TRACKERS GAVE EVIDENCE AGAINST MABEL ALLEN.

Did Girl Commit Arson?—Jacob Hopkins Admits the Girl Had a Motive—Mother of Accused Girl Says Mabel Was at Home in Bed on Night of the Fire.

Toronto despatch: Mabel Allen, the eighteen-year-old Mount Albert girl, who is charged with having set fire to the barn of Jacob Hopkins, a neighboring farmer, on the night of the 14th of February last, came before his Honor Judge Winchester and a jury for her trial yesterday. The girl, who was quietly dressed in a blue skirt and white cotton waist, did not appear to be at all weighed down by her position, and frequently cast inquiring glances around the court. The evidence of Jacob Hopkins and several of the men who accompanied him in following up the fire to the house of the girl was heard, and when at 5 o'clock the court adjourned, his Honor permitted the accused girl to leave the court with her father, accepting the bail of the girl and that of a neighbor named Thomas Johnston for \$1,000 each.

A noticeable feature of the morning's hearing was that Crown Attorney Drayton did not attempt to bring out from Hopkins' statements any evidence as to motive. Asked at the outset of his cross-examination by the girl's counsel whether there was any motive for Mabel Allen setting fire to the barns, Hopkins said "No." Mr. Fitch, however, drew out from Hopkins the statements that he had had guilty relations with the girl during her residence under his roof, and then had incurred her anger by suggesting that she should marry a man named Burt Green.

Jacob Hopkins was the first witness. He told of waking up early on the morning of February 14 and finding his barn ablaze. Looking to the westward, he saw footprints. They were fresh marks, and were apparently made by a woman. He followed up the tracks and found they led to Mabel Allen's home, five miles away.

His Relations With the Girl.

Hopkins said the reason why he concluded it was Mabel who had fired his barn was because they had been friendly. He denied that he had ever promised the girl marriage, and said the talk of marriage was all done by the girl. Mr. Fitch then examined the witness on certain letters he had written to the prisoner in which he asked her to come and live with him "until death do us part," and told her that it would be her own fault if she did not become his wife.

What is your own age?" inquired Mr. Fitch.

Witness at first refused to answer, and when pressed said he was forty-eight years old. He acknowledged meeting the girl a letter enclosing a matrimonial "ad," and advised her to get married to the advertiser, and Mabel was angry at the suggestion. Hopkins placed all the blame for the relations which existed between him and the girl upon the girl's shoulders, saying that it was upon her suggestion that they lived together.

Had Been Frequent Quarrels.

Mrs. Hopkins, the aged mother of Jacob Hopkins, was called as a witness by the Crown. She told of the girl's coming to work at the house and said she never had any good opinion of the girl. Mabel frequently quarrelled with herself and her son, and made violent threats. On different occasions she threw a knife, a poker and a frying pan at Jacob, and again she threatened to burn the barns. It was this latter threat which made her think that Mabel had caused the fire at the barns, although at the time she did not attach much importance to it, and Mabel said she only said it in a fit of temper.

Once she found Mabel Allen had some

aggravation in a bottle in her possession, and she got it from her and made her grandson bury it. Mrs. Allen, the mother of the accused girl, who was called by the defence out of her turn, said that on the night of the fire Mabel slept at home upstairs, and it would have been impossible for her to get up in the night and leave the house without making a noise, as the floor boards were loose.

Said She Would Kill a Man.

John Warren, a farmer, who resides between the houses of the Hopkins and the Allens, said he examined the tracks in the snow on his lands at 9 o'clock on the morning after the fire. It looked like a woman's tracks. Minnie Moore, a little nine-year-old girl in whose home Mabel was employed, said that she was told by Mabel on the Sunday before the fire that she was in a hurry to get home because she was going to kill a man or burn his barns. Her sister Maggie wanted to know who the man was, and Mabel wouldn't tell, but said it was a man whose hair was turning grey. The little girl was cross-examined at considerable length without her testimony being broken.

Bert Kay, who saw the fire at the

barn and was attracted thither, said that he had heard Hopkins' evidence and agreed with most of it. He admitted there was nothing in the track to distinguish whether it was a boy's or a girl's. Norman Kay, who accompanied his brother Bert to the fire, corroborated his evidence.

THE SAILOR PRINCE.

Will Fly Admiral's Pennant for First Time on Trip to Canada.

London, March 9.—The Prince of Wales, who was promoted to Admiral's rank in 1907, will hoist his pennant for the first time during his visit to Canada. There is some indication to make the Dreadnought the flagship of the special squadron.

Sir Gilbert Parker will ask Mr. Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer, if the Government is considering the desirability of making a contribution to the tercentenary fund.

T
H
I
S
O
R
I
G
I
N
A
L
D
O
C
U
M
E
N
T

I
S
I
N
V
E
R
Y

P
O
O
R

C
O
N
D
I
T
I
O
N