

# St. John Standard

OUR SECOND FRONT PAGE

THE STANDARD, ST. JOHN, N. B. TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1921

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## A PAGE OF NEWS ABOUT THE MARITIME

### CLARA STEEVES NOT CALLED; MAGISTRATE WILL GIVE HIS DECISION IN TRAGEDY TODAY

Provincial Analyst Finds No Trace of Poison in Burned Organs of the Bodies He Examined—Blood Stains Are Discovered But He is Unable to Swear That They Were of Human Origin.

Special to The Standard  
Moncton, N. B., Feb. 25.—The preliminary hearing in the case of the King vs. O. G. Steeves charged with the murder of his wife and five children on the morning of February 19, came to a sudden conclusion this afternoon about 4:30 o'clock when the Crown prosecutor, Jas. C. Sherren, announced to Magistrate John W. Gaskin, before whom the hearing has been conducted, that no more witnesses would be called.

The evidence of Miss Clara Steeves, daughter of the accused, who was arrested in Regina as a material witness on the information of her grandfather, Joseph Steeves, was not taken as was expected. Mr. Sherren stated that as the counsel for the defence had been in conversation with her that day he did not wish to call her as a witness for the Crown.

Urged a Dismissal  
After counsel for the defence, Jas. Friel, K.C., asked for the dismissal of the accused, Mr. Sherren claimed that the circumstances of the case were of sufficient strength to warrant the sending of the accused up for trial. Magistrate Gaskin, after conferring with H. Lester Smith, clerk of the peace for Albert county, announced that he wanted to look carefully into the evidence and adjourned the hearing until nine o'clock Tuesday morning when a decision in the case will be given.

Crowd Bigger Than Ever  
Owing to the fact that it was expected Clara Steeves would be called to give evidence during the day, the throng of spectators attending the hearing was much larger than on any previous day. Not only was the Union Hall, where the hearing was held, jammed to its utmost capacity, but several hundreds were unable to gain admittance to the hearing. The hearing was adjourned for lunch. Counsel for the Crown hinted that Clara Steeves would be called next, and asked that the evidence given by her be heard behind closed doors. Magistrate Gaskin concurred and announced that when the hearing was resumed at one o'clock, no one would be admitted.

Behind Closed Doors  
This order was carried out, but after hearing further evidence of Curtis Steeves, son of the accused, who was recalled, Mr. Sherren announced that the Crown would not place Clara Steeves on the stand. Mr. Friel urged that this witness be called owing to the fact that she had been arrested as a material witness. Mr. Sherren contended that he had not had Clara Steeves arrested, the action being taken on the strength of a warrant sworn out by her grandfather, Joseph Steeves, of Moncton.

Magistrate Gaskin declined to call Clara Steeves on his own responsibility.

Analyst's Statement  
Great interest was shown in the evidence of Dr. M. V. Padlock, Provincial Government analyst, who came from St. John to give evidence with regard to the condition of the vital organs of a number of the victims, and also regarding a small quantity of supposed dried blood found in the ruins. The witness swore the sample sent him was blood, but whether it was that of a human being or not he would not say. He was positive there was no trace of poison to be found in any of the organs submitted for his examination. Other witnesses called were Lawrence Ayres, Dr. R. L. Botsford, Chief of Police Hutchinson, Police Officer Mac-

Donald, and Constable Walter Chappell, so-called. He stated he was with Mr. Drayton at the ruins of the fire. He noticed a patch about half the size of his hand and other small pieces around.

Pieces of Clothing  
This was on a Thursday morning after the fire. He picked this up and gave it to Constable Drayton. This lay directly under the first body—that body supposed to be Mrs. Steeves. He found some clothing there and thought they bore the same stains. He gave the clothing to Mr. Drayton.

Provincial Constable Drayton told of the fire; of his being handed some stuff of a reddish color by Mr. Chappell. This he delivered to Chief Hutchinson. Since that time he looked over the site for other things. He observed other reddish earth at the site. A piece of mattress, he stated, is now in the hands of Chief Hutchinson.

Provincial Analyst  
Provincial Analyst Myles V. Padlock of St. John, was the next witness. He stated that he got four jars and a small bottle from Dr. R. L. Botsford. He made an examination of the bottles—one marked organs of Mrs. Steeves, contained the heart and liver. He examined both organs, but found nothing there. He believed that after a body was heated no trace would be left as the result of death by certain poisonings. If death was from strychnine, blood in the heart would be all dark—something like death by drowning. He believed death was not due to morphine. In the case of the Steeves fire he stated he could not say that there was external effusion. As far as his examination went, there was no poisoning. In the other parcel he tested, that of the package of reddish earth sent him, he found this to be blood. He could not swear as to this being human blood.

Son's Sensational Story  
In the afternoon Curtis Steeves was recalled by the Crown. He stated he heard his mother accuse his father of wrong relations with Clara. This, he said, was about two weeks before Christmas. His mother also accused his father of being too friendly with a Moncton girl. He heard his mother on one occasion state she would leave her father on account of his being too friendly with the girls mentioned. He heard Clara state once she would pack up. There was an argument about

two weeks before Christmas between his mother, he said, and Clara as the result of his mother's accusations. Clara, he said, left and went to his grandmother's. He stated his father told Clara it would be better to leave and if she had no money he would find a way to get it.

Result of Post-Mortem  
Dr. R. L. Botsford, of Moncton, stated that he was instructed to make a post-mortem examination on six bodies. He went to the morgue and performed a post-mortem on four, Mrs. Steeves, Beatrice, Emerson and Weidner. It removed from four bodies the organs which could be removed. Part of the skull was on one; the rest were headless. It would be impossible to tell of any abrasions on them. They were charred. The limbs were burned off—shapeless masses. He also sent a dark brown substance to be examined for blood. Witness stated that he could not determine death by the condition of the bodies.

In the cross-examination he said he knew the body of Mrs. Lucy Steeves by its bulk and from the undertaker, I saw no real blood in the heart. Some of the intestines I removed. Some were burned, some not. I removed some of them, those that I could. The legs were burned off. They were black, charred stumps. There was no blood in legs. Sudden asphyxia will fill the heart, and there is more possibility of blood effusion. In the other bodies there were no heads, no lungs, no blood. He believed the post-mortem would not be very illuminative as to the cause of death, but that the bodies went through a hot fire. Jars in which the organs had been placed were sterilized.

To Mr. Sherren—"It would be practically impossible to have an external effusion of blood in those bodies."

He believed if they had been hit with an axe, one could not tell of an external effusion of blood, as the bodies were so badly burned and carbonized.

The Reddish Powder  
Chief of Police Hutchinson told of being instructed by the Attorney General to look into the case. A parcel was brought to him by Provincial Constable Drayton. It contained something which looked like a reddish powder mixed with ashes, which he sent to Dr. R. L. Botsford.

Little Tuttle, owner, stated he was called to the site of the ruins of the Steeves home, where he aided in removing bodies of the six deceased. He placed the six bodies in one casket. His saw no blood, he stated, but found a body (he thought Mrs. Steeves), blood had stained the cloth in the bottom of the casket.

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Rare Presence of mind of the Anti-Prohibitionist.

Hated by Father.  
The witness stated he thought his father hated him. The witness told of his father hitting his mother one time while she was sitting in a rocking chair. His father, he said, at that time choked his mother. The little children heard the racket, witness said and cried. He heard no threats at or about that time. The accused he alleged then went to the barn saying "he had a good mind to leave her so she couldn't get off the chair." About two weeks before the fire, the witness said, Clara ceased going home. To Mr. Friel the witness stated that the quarrels between his mother and the accused were not on account of women. Sometimes they were on account of booze. On the morning after the fire, the witness stated, he purchased a pair of trousers for his father. He could not say his father was drunk at the time he threatened to beat his mother's eyes out. At the time of the threat of his father to cut his mother's throat, the witness stated his father was drunk. On the Saturday previous to the fire, he stated, he said, had made some cakes, puffs, etc. to take out to the restaurant. He believed that his father said he would send Clara to the States so as to stop Clara from fighting with his mother.

Mother Made Threats.  
He heard his mother at one time

threaten to burn the house down. He did not think she would, no more than his father. He heard his mother again threaten to take the children away from home. His father, he said, was good to him until recently. A fight arose over his not cutting wood on the accused's wood lot. His father was also cross at him for not bringing any money home. Sometimes, witness said, his mother could take care of herself. He saw her throw a stick of wood at the accused. He did not see her knock accused down and jump on him.

FLOODS IN HALIFAX  
Halifax, N. S., Feb. 25.—A heavy wind and rain storm swept over the city tonight and the streets on the lower section of the city were turned into rivers of water. During the height of the storm there was one vivid flash of lightning and a crash of thunder.

FIFTY-FIFTY.  
The cots at the central police station were kept on an even keel last night, with two drunks located in one suite and two protectionists in another.

### Mrs. S. S. Burpee Is Dead At Edmundston

Edmundston, N. B., Feb. 25.—The death of Mrs. Janet Burpee, widow of Samuel S. Burpee, from pneumonia, took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Lawson, with whom she resided for several years. She was in her eighty-sixth year, and survived her husband about seven years. Until one week ago she enjoyed remarkably good health and had full control of her faculties and daily performed many household duties. On Thursday she was taken with a severe cold of her and death followed.

She is survived by two sons, Charles W. Burpee, McAdam Junction, N. B., and Samuel E. Burpee, of this place; and four daughters, Mrs. F. K. Holmes, Sanguville, Maine; Mrs. Tyler C. Burpee, Sheffield, N. B.; Mrs. Aaron Lawson and Mrs. Frank S. Maudsley, of this town. There are eleven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. George Mitchell of Kenwick Ridge, N. B., and William Mitchell of Souris, Manitoba, are brothers, and Mrs. Mary Ann McKee, of Trip Settlement, N. B., and Mrs. Fannie Christy of Walker, Wisconsin, are surviving sisters. The late Hon. James Mitchell one time premier of the province, was a brother.

Mrs. Burpee was the eldest child of the late William Mitchell and was born at Scotch Settlement, York county. Her mother died in 1885 at the age of 93. She came to Edmundston in the year 1877 upon the completion of the New Brunswick Railway, her husband being the first station agent of the road here, retiring in the year 1888.

Asking Information  
About N. B. Railways  
T. W. Caldwell, M. P., Complain, Too, of Cutting off Fredericton-Centreville.

Ottawa, Feb. 25.—T. W. Caldwell, (Carleton-Victoria) is asking what guarantee the Dominion Government of the province of New Brunswick that there would be an adequate train service maintained on the St. John and Quebec Railway, when the Dominion entered an agreement with the Province to operate the road.

Mr. Caldwell complains that the passenger service on the Fredericton-Centreville section has been cut to a tri-weekly service, which, he says, is altogether inadequate to accommodate the traffic.

### Liberal Party Chief Arrives from Ottawa to Consult With Local Leaders Regarding York-Sunbury

Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 25.—Andrew Hayden of Ottawa, general secretary of the Liberal party of Canada, arrived in the city of C. P. R. at noon today for a conference with the executive of the Liberal party of York-Sunbury in connection with the coming by-election in this constituency to fill the vacancy in parliament caused by the death of the late Col. Harry F. M. Loom.

Mr. Hayden was met upon arrival by Nelson W. Brown, candidate of the Liberals in the last general election, and was driven to the Queen Hotel. He will meet the executive when he is expected to express the wishes of the party's national organization and listen to what the local leaders of the party have to say.

It is understood the visit of Mr. Hayden is the sequel to a message which was sent to Ottawa from here stating that the Liberal executive here were opposed to placing a Liberal candidate in the field in this by-election and preferred to have no action taken until the general elections take place.

HALIFAX APPLE SHIPMENTS  
Halifax, N. S., Feb. 25.—Apple shipments from Halifax for February totaled 107,000 barrels. The shipments from this port this season so far total 536,606. This is double the quantity shipped last year.

## OLIVEINE EMULSION

The pure drugs and oils used in preparing OLIVEINE EMULSION have been about the last commodities of trade to be affected by lower prices. For instance, the best Quinine comes from Peru, South America; and the highest grade Cod Liver Oil comes from the Lofoden Islands, off the coast of Norway. All the other ingredients are of the same high standard, and until now it has been impossible to lower the price of OLIVEINE EMULSION without lowering the quality.

But just lately, prices have fallen, and we are now able to prepare OLIVEINE EMULSION according to the original prescription and sell it at the old price of \$1 a bottle.

If you have a stubborn cough or cold that has bothered you for months—if you are not eating or sleeping well—if you are bothered with Nervousness, Dyspepsia or Indigestion—if the blood is thin and you are all run-down—get OLIVEINE EMULSION, the great health restorer. Now, only \$1 a bottle.

Sold by druggists and general stores  
FRASIER, THORNTON & CO. LIMITED, Cookshire, Que.

### BEWARE OF BRONCHITIS.

Bronchitis is generally caused by affecting a cold, or exposure to wet and inclement weather. It begins with a tightness across the chest, difficulty in breathing, and a wheezing sound comes from the lungs. There is a raising of phlegm, especially the first thing in the morning. This is at first white, but later becomes a greenish or yellowish color and is occasionally streaked with blood.

On the first sign of bronchitis you should check it immediately by using Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup, thereby prevent it becoming chronic, and perhaps developing into some more serious lung trouble.

Mrs. Bruce Culham, Sheffield, Ont., writes:—In December, 1919, I was very sick with bronchitis, and had to stay in the house all winter. One day I saw Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup advertised, so I got a small bottle, which helped me very much. I then got a 6c. size, and it completely relieved me. I cannot praise Dr. Wood's enough for what it did. Two of my neighbors are now using it for colds.

Don't accept a substitute for Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup; the genuine is put up in a yellow wrapper; three pine trees the trade mark, price 35c and 6c.; manufactured only by The T. J. Patterson Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

### EXPOSURE ACHEs — RHEUMATIC PAINS

Sloan's Liniment, kept handy, takes the fight out of them.

SLIPPING around in the wet and then—the dreaded rheumatic twinge! But not for long when Sloan's Liniment is put on the joint.

Pains, strains, sprains—how soon this old family friend penetrates without rubbing and helps drive 'em away! And how clean, too—no mess, no bother, no stained skin or clogged pores. Muscles limber up, lumbago, sciatica, neuralgia, backache are promptly relieved. Keep a bottle handy. Get one today if you've run out of Sloan's Liniment, it's so warming.

All druggists—35c, 70c, \$1.40. The largest bottle holds six times as much as the smallest.

**Sloan's Liniment** (Pain-Exterminator)  
Made in Canada.