

FOUR

THE STAR, ST. JOHN N. B. TUESDAY, MAY 4 1909

THE ST. JOHN STAR is published by THE SUN PRINTING COMPANY, (LTD.), at St. John, New Brunswick, every afternoon (except Sunday) at \$3.00 a year.

TELEPHONE:—
BUSINESS OFFICE, 25.
EDITORIAL AND NEWS DEPT., 117.

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THE DEATH PENALTY.

Two men died at dawn this morning at Andover, Seppelt and Aroha having been executed by the commission of one of the most serious crimes against society. The death penalty is a subject which has been the subject of much discussion, but it is unfortunate that among some there still exists a strong suspicion that others were more or less concerned in the affair. Reasonably enough the crown declined to accept the unsupported testimony of confessed murderers and confederates given in the hope of involving others in their punishment, yet it is to be regretted that a more searching effort was not made with the object of throwing the fullest possible light on the incident. But the public mind from the knowledge of the facts is now closed, and may be forgotten.

New Brunswick has during the past five years suffered from as many murders as in the previous generation. These crimes have been in no way connected, nor have the motives prompting them been traceable to any one human passion. Although murder has been too frequent occurrence in recent years, it does not necessarily follow that life is held less sacred or that men are more prone to crime. There have been circumstances attending all these late cases which disprove the theory that a wave of crime is sweeping over the province.

THE DISGUSTING FEATURE of the administration of justice, and one which is abhorrent to everyone, is the repeated presence of Radcliffe. When Sheriff Tibbitts stated that he himself would carry out the sentence of the court in the Green case a feeling of relief was experienced that Radcliffe would not inflict his ruffianly personality on the province. But Mr. Tibbitts did not hold to his original plan and this undesirable individual has been to the front again. Perhaps in a moment of weakness the officer of the law should desire to avoid an unpleasant duty, but surely if all efforts were to look upon executions in the proper light, to regard them seriously as a part of their sworn duty, and to perform them with shrinking whenever occasions arise, there would be no more sentiment against those conducting executions than there now is against the men who lock prisoners in jail. And Canada would be freed from the disgraceful spectacle of a professional hangman, a disreputable character, rushing from one end of the country to the other, bargaining for the number of dollars he is to receive for his work on the gallows.

HERE, AND IN BRITAIN.

Conditions almost exactly similar to those which prompted the recent salary grab at Fredericton have been found to exist in Britain. There is no noticeable, however, a difference in the treatment provided. The British premier a few days ago announced that it was the intention of the government to place of Board of Trade and the Local Government Board on substantially the same footing in point of status and emolument with the secretaryship of state. But Mr. Churchill, president of the Board of Trade, insisted that there should be no increase in the bill provision that the increase in salary should not apply to the present holder of that office. He declined absolutely to receive any greater remuneration than is now granted. This decision, the premier pointed out, was in accordance with the best traditions of public life.

It is not recorded that, when Mr. Hazen introduced his bill providing increases for the surveyor general and the commissioner of public works, either of these gentlemen made any serious objection. On the contrary they were so delighted with the idea of transferring more public money to their own pockets that the prospect left them speechless.

A NEW TREATY.

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"Now, tell me," said the inspector, "who was the mother of our great Scottish hero, Robert Bruce?" He pointed to the top boy, then round the class. There was no answer. Then at last the heart of the teacher of that class leapt with joy. The boy who was standing at the very front had held up his hand.

"Well, my boy," said the inspector, encouragingly, "who was she?"

"Please, sir, Mrs. Bruce."

A religious worker, while visiting a western town, gave a "Talk for Men," during the course of which he expressed his conviction that no young man should visit any place to which he would not feel justified in taking down and leaving the door open.

"Is there any young man present who thinks one may safely disregard this wise rule?" asked the speaker.

Whereupon a youth in the rear of the hall arose and shouted in a stentorian voice:

"Yes, sir, I do."

"And what, sir," demanded the angry and sultry speaker, "is the place which you yourself would think of visiting to which you could not take your sister?"

"The barber shop," replied the youth.

"Does your wife ever ask you advice about anything?" asked the impatient relative.

"Certainly," answered Mr. Meekton. "She frequently consults me as to whether her hat is on straight."

"Mrs. Pugsley doesn't seem to like Mr. Pinkley,"

"No, sir, I can't forgive her."

"Why, what was the trouble?"

"Mrs. Pinkley had a remarkably good cook. Mrs. Pugsley coaxed her to leave Mrs. Pinkley. Then Mrs. Pinkley got a still better cook."

Her clear eyes shone, her pretty face was flushed, and advancing to the edge of the platform, she cried warmly:

"You deny the vote? Yet it is your votes that most of you owe your business success to."

A tired, stoop-shouldered old man nodded assent.

"Certainly," he muttered, "our wives make it absolutely necessary for us to earn more money."

"Pardon me for intruding upon you, sir," said the caller, "but I want to ask you to tell me of anything that will drive away an incipient blot."

"Sir," responded the "answers to queries" man, with a frown, "this is not a bureau of inflammation."

Dr. Walter C. Smith, the popular Boston post-preacher, on one occasion tried to explain to an old lady the meaning of the Scriptural expression, "Take up thy bed and walk," by saying that the bed was simply a mat or rug easily taken up and carried away.

"No, no," replied the lady. "I cannot believe that. The bed was a regular four-poster. There would be no mistake in walking away with a bit of mat or rug on your back."

Blubber-I don't imagine that Gotrox was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

Slosh-No, I dined with him the other evening, and if anything I think it must have been a silver knife.

"Do you approve of the plan of teaching pupils to box?"

"Not unconditionally," replied the country pedagogue, remembering his own husky nineteen-year-olds. "Might be all right, though, if you'd authorize the teachers to carry guns."

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