

# The Chatham Daily Planet.

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CHATHAM, ONT., MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 1905

NO. 196

## Cotton Blankets

250 pairs of Flannelette Blankets, cream and grey with neat pink and blue borders, extra fine soft finish, good weight, full double bed size, very special value, at per pair (see East Window)

\$1.00

## Bedspreads

A third shipment in four weeks. Again we are prepared for the demand for our famous 98c. Bedspread. We did not like to promise to have them again, but after a little dickering we managed to secure a third lot to offer at the same old price. White Honey Comb Spreads, fine soft finish, hemmed at the ends, recommended for washing and wearing, regular value \$1.25 each, on sale very special at

98 Cents

## New Comforters

We saw these Comforters being made so that we are prepared to personally vouch for the absolute cleanliness of the filling. That is a very important factor in a Comforter. Absolutely odorless. The colorings and designs of the sateen and silkoline coverings are the neatest and prettiest we have ever had. The sizes are 60 in. x 72 in.; 72 in. x 72 in., and 66 in. x 72 in. The prices are:

\$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3, \$3.25

## Hosiery

Now is a good time to buy hosiery. Lots of time left yet to wear cotton hose for girls, boys and ladies. Odd lines are laid out on our counters, clearing at very low prices in Tans and Blacks.

## THOS. STONE & SON

CARPETS AND WALL PAPERS

## A CLEAN-UP

## BARGAIN SALE

25 per cent. reduction on all Baby Carriages, Co-Carts, Refrigerators, Blue Flame Oil Stoves, Hammocks, Lawn Mowers.

They must go; we want the room. Come and get a bargain.

WESTMAN BROS. Big Hardware

## THE ARK

## Our Annual Cut Sale

On all Summer Goods during the remainder of this month. Everything must be cleaned out to make room for stoves.

REFRIGERATORS—Canadian and American Make

ICE CREAM FREEZERS—White Mountain—the best made

OIL, GAS AND GASOLINE STOVES—Can. & Amer. make

LAWN MOWERS—High, medium and low wheel.

HAMMOCKS—Palmer's full size and assorted colors

FISHING TACKLE—Jointed and Long Rods, Line, Hooks, etc

Everything marked down in plain figures. To buy now is to save money for you.

Phone 159

H. MACAULAY

NOW IS THE TIME TO ADVERTISE

## GIRL MEETS TERRIBLE FATE, BURNED TO DEATH IN HOME

Was Preparing Noontide Meal for Brother and Applied Kerosene to Fire—Flames Caught Clothing and Before Help Arrived it Was Too Late

Started by the sound of an explosion and dazed at beholding his sister standing before him, wrapped in a sheet of flame, her screams filling his ears, Robert Smith dashed from the house to summon assistance. When he returned only a moaning, incinerated form, prostrate in a corner, was all that remained of her. Such, in short, is the history of one of the most horrible holocausts in the annals of Chatham.

The tragedy occurred at noon today. Twenty-two year old Bertha Smith, the victim, was preparing the mid-day meal for herself and her brother Robert, the only members of the family. She adopted the fatal method of using kerosene for the purpose of lighting the fire, with the result mentioned. In some manner—just how cannot be ascertained, as she was alone in the back kitchen when the accident occurred—the kerosene can caught fire and exploded, throwing the burning oil all over the unfortunate girl.

Blazing she rushed into the next room where her brother was seated, the flames, whipped by the breeze, curling their cruel tongues around her. All the while she uttered agonized shrieks.

Completely unimpaired by the sight the brother lost his presence of mind and ran from the house to summon assistance. Several of the neighbors and passersby, hearing screams, dashed into the house and one rang in the alarm.

One of the first to enter the house was David Lee. The burning girl was then standing behind a door in the room in which her brother left her, her clothes burned completely off and the smell of burning flesh permeating the air. Just as he entered she slipped to the floor, moaning pitifully, incinerated almost beyond recognition.

Seeing the necessity for immediate medical aid, Mr. Lee ran up the street to a nearby telephone and called Dr. Bell. Impressing a passing butcher cart Mr. Lee lashed the horses towards the meet the doctor. When the two returned to the scene of the tragedy, however, the unfortunate girl was beyond all human aid.

In the meantime the fire department had arrived and she had been carried from the house and laid on the grass, where she expired, without uttering an intelligible word, surrounded by the firemen and her neighbors.

The scene of the cremation is near the corner of King and Duke streets, almost the extreme easterly end of King street. The house is a small four-roomed one, with a shed, in which the unfortunate girl was working. The building was only slightly damaged by the flames.

In conversation with her brother, Robert Smith, he repeated, substantially, what has been stated concerning the accident. "What did you do when you saw her in flames?" he was asked by a Planet reporter.

"Why, I ran outside to call somebody and ring for the fire department. Why didn't you snatch up some bed clothes, wrap her in them, and endeavor to save her life?" he was asked.

A blank look was the only reply. This, perhaps, accounts for the tragedy. He does not appear to be a suitable person to be confronted with an emergency. If, instead of rushing outside he had stayed at the side of his burning sister and made some attempt to extinguish the flames, she might have been only burned—seriously perhaps—but her life might have been saved.

Herbert Riddling was the one who rang in the fire alarm. Rushing back to the house he found it filled with smoke and the nauseous smell of burning flesh. Across the room he distinguished a moaning, tossing heap, the charred frame of the girl. "One or two others were in the house when I arrived and had thrown water on the flames, causing the smoke," said he.

The coal oil can had the top of it completely blown off and had holes blown in the body of it. The stove, however, was hardly damaged. A very soon the word had leaped from mouth to mouth and a large crowd had collected on the scene of the cremation. Within a half hour almost everybody on the street knew of the occurrence, such is the astonishing rate at which word is passed from mouth to mouth.

As soon as she had expired the young girl was carried from her death bed on the grass into the house and placed in the front room, which was soon filled with a crowd of the morbidly curious. Covered with a sheet she lay almost in front of the open widow, outside of which was collected men, women and children—the latter crowding around undaunted by the fearsome sight. Here she lay until removed to the morgue.

Coroner J. L. Bray investigated the occurrence and decided no inquest was necessary, finding that only the deceased girl was to blame.

## GOOD SHOW

Stetson's Uncle Tom's Cabin Promises to be a Superior Production

The Grand Opera House will open this evening with Stetson's excellent production of that ever popular play, Uncle Tom's Cabin.

This production is said to be one of the best on the road and no expense or trouble has been spared by the management to complete a presentation distinctly pleasing to the public.

The scenic effects are out of the ordinary. The personnel of the company has been selected with great care and a uniformly good entertainment may be anticipated.

## SURE WINNER

Frank Babcock of London Says that the Chatham Lacrosse Team Should Land up on Top in the Game this Afternoon.

Frank Babcock, of London, formerly of this city, is spending the day calling on his many Chatham friends. Frank was manager, Captain, etc., of the Tecumseh lacrosse team last year and naturally when you think of him you think of lacrosse, so it is not difficult to strike the conclusion that he is here to-day to see the Brantford-Chatham game.

"Chatham is a good town," he said to The Planet, "and it is quite easy to see that the place is certainly booming. I notice quite an improvement since I left, although," he added, with a smile, "I hope that my leaving is not directly responsible for the improvement."

"Chatham's record in lacrosse this season reminds me of the succession of victories we had last year. The team is a sure winner and should fare well in the game with Brantford this afternoon."

## NEW J. P.'S

Commissioner for the Appointments in East Kent will be Issued in a Few Days.

Phil. H. Bowyer, M. P. P., the esteemed representative for East Kent, is registered at the Hotel Rankin to-day. This is Ridgetown's civic holiday and many of her citizens are Maple City visitors.

Chatting with The Planet Mr. Bowyer spoke enthusiastically of his town and its good people and the development and progress going on.

Asked concerning the appointment of Justices of the peace in East Kent Mr. Bowyer said the appointments in East Kent had all been made and approved and would doubtless be gazetted within a few days. Seventeen of the former J. P.'s have been reappointed, and others had declined reappointment.

## POLICE COURT

The young lad who pleaded guilty of stealing and was remanded for a week for sentence, came up at the police court this morning. After giving him a severe lecture Judge Houston allowed him to go on suspended sentence.

Chief Holmes and officer Tom Groves picked out the wheel for the policemen this morning. It was purchased at Westman's. Mr. Groves says it will take some time for him to break it in before it will be safe for Henry Darr to ride it.

Bert Koehler, of Blenheim, was arrested by Tom Groves on Saturday and was taken to Blenheim yesterday where he will be called upon to answer to a charge of theft. Koehler sold a dog for \$2 and came to Chatham. The dog, according to Koehler, followed him to Chatham, while the purchaser claims that Koehler stole the dog after he sold it.

Chief Holmes thinks if Koehler wants to steal dogs he should come to Chatham. There are a number he might take and nothing would be said would be said about it by the police who would be glad to get rid of them.

Nell—He always seems so interested in what he is talking about. Well—Naturally. He is generally talking about himself.

## OPERA HOUSE SEASON OPENS

Excellent Menu Provided by Manager Brisco for Ensuing Winter

Many Improvements Made—New Heating System to be Installed

The season which opens at the Grand Opera House to-day promises to be the best in the history of this play house.

To begin with, the theatre has been put in first class condition, Manager F. H. Brisco has done everything in his power to make the edifice assume a metropolitan appearance. His efforts towards beautifying and making the house more comfortable include the installation of steam heating, the overhauling of the lighting service, the re-decorating of the stage and drop curtains, and the acquisition of new carpets.

Patrons have had the complaint to make that the theatre was cold. This arose through no fault of the management, but from the impossibility of adequately heating the place under the old conditions. Just as soon, however, as an opportunity offered of equipping the building with more satisfactory heating apparatus, Manager Brisco showed his desire to please by installing steam heat. A great deal depends, also, on the lighting of a play house, in order to give the necessary scenic effects on the stage, as well as to light the body of the house. The complete overhauling of the lighting system of the theatre puts Manager Brisco in a position to do both satisfactorily. That the best is none too good for his patrons is shown by the fact that he brought an expert scenic artist, F. H. Harris, from Chicago, to do the stage decorating.

A great desideratum in every theatre is the fire equipment. Chathamites will be surprised to learn that, in this respect, the local house is reported by the Property Committee of the City Council who, visited Detroit to be in better shape than the theatres of that place. A large and secure four foot escape runs from the top gallery and first gallery to the ground. The landings are six feet in width. In addition to this there are the regular exits from each part of the house, the rear stairway and the stage exit. Moreover, there is a fire alarm box on the stage, ready to summon the department instantly. In the meantime two streams of water could be thrown from standpipes on the stage. In fact patrons have nothing, whatever, to fear from fire.

And, then, the menu Manager Brisco offers is a very variegated and tempting one, indeed. His aim has been to please all classes of his patrons. Light musical operas, the melodrama and tragedy are all represented. It is a far call from Faust to Uncle Tom's Cabin, yet both appear. Of course the bookings are not all completed, but those already received include—

Aug. 21—Uncle Tom's Cabin.  
Aug. 29—The Girl from Kays.  
Week of Sept 4th—Parade (musical extravaganza).  
Sept. 8—Faust.  
Sept. 12—Peck's Bad Boy.  
Sept. 15—The Wayward Son.  
Sept. 18—The Isle of Bing Bong.  
Sept. 22—Florodora.  
Sept. 25—The Isle of Spice.  
Sept. 27—Down by the Sea.  
Oct. 5—On the Bridge at Midnight.  
Oct. 16—Deserted at the Altar.  
Oct. 25—Joseph Murphy.  
Oct. 30—Elsie Janis in the "Little Duchess."  
Nov. 7—Gorton's Minstrels.  
Nov. 15—Rose Coughlin in "The Duke of Killarney."  
Nov. 30-Dec. 1st—Pollard Opera Co.  
March 5—Pretty Peggy.  
April 20—When Knighthood was in Flower.

May 21—Way Down East.  
May 21—Sherlock Holmes.  
May 14—The Holy City.  
A perusal of this list of attractions, including some of the very latest and best productions, such as "The Girl from Kays" and "The Isle of Bing Bong," such well known thespians as Elsie Janis, Rose Coughlin and Joseph Murphy ought to whet the appetite of local playgoers and induce them to give Manager Brisco the patronage his enterprise so richly deserves.

## STONE FELL

While engaged excavating on the new sewer being constructed on the Market a stone fell on the shoulder of Fred Smith, one of the workmen.

The stone was one of which the old cobble-stone pavement on the market was constructed. The force of the impact broke Mr. Smith's collarbone and he was removed to the nearby offices of Drs. Rutherford and Rutherford, where the injured member was attended to.

## FOR ONE YEAR

Before his honor Judge Dowlin, at the court house this morning Roy Green, of Ridgetown, was convicted of assault upon Mrs. Dickson, of the same town, and sentenced to one year in Central Prison. Crown Attorney Smith appeared for the prosecution and O. L. Lewis defended.

## BACK

Combs of every kind and quality; every shade and grade; an endless assortment just arrived and marked at low prices, also Side Combs and Hair Pins in Bone and Celluloid, we have our stock now complete for fall. If you need anything in this line, call early and get your best choice

## RATS!

in all shades and grades for the hair, also real Hair Pads. In fact anything necessary for dressing the hair can be secured from us. Come to our store and get the newest and best

## SULMAN'S BEEHIVE

King and Sixth Sts

## Salvador

A Lager Beer specially noted for its agreeable flavor and excellent tonic properties.

## The Favorite Beverage for Table Use...

REINHARDT & CO.,  
Brewers, Toronto

## Taylor & McKay

AGENTS.

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For the Best

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