ESTABLISHED

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The Advance

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Incinerating Crime

To the Editor of The Advance.

DEAR SIR,—It has been a favorite custom with burglars to "fire" the premises they have looted, thus covering up their tracks; and if we may believe the evidence of our detective force, nine-tenths of our fires are of incendiary origin, the object being to mislead investigation.

The recent fire in the Parliament buildings at Ottawa has aroused suspicion in the public mind indicative of the belief that "there's something rotten in the State of Denmark," and that the destruction of the public records was the most facile method of throwing dust in the eyes of the Public Accounts Committee at the coming session of Parliament.

Facts are things that winna ding,
Nor daurna be disputit.

First—When Laurier & Co. took office last July, one million and a quarter dollars were required for immediate use, and instead they borrowed nine millions. A friend inquired of virtuous Tarte why they borrowed in excess of requirements? He coolly replied that "it was goot to haf some monies on hand." The bye-elections have been carried by bribery with government money. North Grey, at our own door, furnishes an illustration of shameless debauchery of which the political annals of our county have no similar record, except in the bye-election of March, 1861, when the Grits of that day spent one hundred thousand dollars in this county to defeat Hon. J. C. Morrison, Solicitor-General in the Cartier-Macdonald government. For proof of this, read Hon. Wm. Macdougald's speech in the House, 1863, which no Grit had the temerity to contradict, Macdougald being one of the Grit spouters on the occasion, in 1861, and editor-in-chief of the Toronto Globe at the same period.

To resume: On or about the months of March and April, 1891, Honore Mercier (mercifully translated to a more congenial clime) with the aid of Pacaud and others of the Quebec Legislature, borrowed half a million dollars on the credit of the said province, for the use and benefit of Wilfrid Laurier in the then approaching Dominion elections, upon the distinct understanding that he, Laurier, should repay said sum, with interest, out of the Dominion treasury, which he hoped to reach in '91. That sum was not paid eight months ago, for, about that time judgment was renewed against Pacaud for one hundred thousand of the foregoing amount. Laurier is now in full control of the treasury at Ottawa, and, as our Grit friends will coincide with me that Laurier is an honorable man, he will reimburse the Quebec treasury, even if it should be at the expense of Ontario and the rest of the Dominion.

Second—Many persons have pointed out to me the undeniable fact that the fire originated immediately above Mr. Tarte's private office, between the ceiling and the flooring of the store room above; that Mr. Tarte left the office locked between two and three hours earlier on that afternoon than was his usual custom; that when apprised of the fire he at once assumed a mock air of hysterical indignation against tobacco smokers, as being the authors of the calamity. No doubt he knew. Does Tarte smoke tobacco?

Third—The tried and efficient servants whose duty it was to keep the hydrants ready for every emergency were dismissed and ignorant Johnny Crapeaus installed in their stead. When the fire engines arrived on the ground every hydrant was frozen a solid mass of ice, and a full half hour was lost before the hose could be connected with the city hydrants. This was a piece of carefully planned, subtle engineering, and worthy a higher position in a congenial circle than the Public Works affords—for Tarte is an honorable man.

Fourth—The plans and specifications of the Canada Pacific railway were completed early in the summer of 1873, and tenders for the construction of the work were solicited by the Macdonald government, and, owing to the slanders raised by the Grit party in connection therewith, the Macdonald administration resigned, and the Mackenzie-Laurier coterie took their place. Three weeks afterward smoke was discovered issuing from the architect's room, which was locked, and the clerk in charge could not be found. The door resisted all pressure which could be brought to bear upon it, and before a crow-bar was brought and the door opened the railway specifications were destroyed, while all the other documents in the same room were untouched. Let us take a page of contemporary history: Jay Gould, of New Yoak, was the principal promoter of the Yankee Northern Pacific railway; but, with the prospect of the Canadian Pacific railway looming up in the near future, investors in Jay Gould stock became alarmed. His road had reached Omaha in a half-finished condition, with no funds to push it further—he had got to the end of his tether. The banking house of McCullough & Co. of London, Eng., with which he had been associated, cut him adrift, knowing that bankruptcy was inevitable. At the period when Mackenzie, Laurier & Co. took office Northern Pacific bonds stood on the New York stock exchange at 57, with no takers. On the morning succeeding the destruction of our railway specifications the New York World made the following significant remark: "The burning of the specifications, etc., has thrown a wet blanket on the building of the Canadian Pacific railway during the next twenty years." On the same day Northern Pacific bonds went up to 68, and in a few days to 89. It cost Canada four and a half million dollars to make a second survey; but the delay made Jay Gould a millionaire at our expense.

The foregoing coincidences are current topics of conversation throughout the farming community, and the conclusions arrived at by them are decidedly unfavorable to Laurier, Tarte & Co. Laurier, as I have pointed out to them, kept himself outside the law in the Quebec steal; but a cranky old Scotchman, who was present, said that although he had kept himself clear of the law he was equally guilty, in a moral sense, with the rest of the thieves, but I know the old man's liver is out of order, and he requires a blue pill. Notwithstanding all these proofs, Laurier and Tarte are honorable men—of their class.

Respectfully, S. L. M. LUKE

Feb. 22nd, 1897.

A Horrible Murder

A County Grey Family Murdered in North Dakota

Despatches from Bismarck, N. D., give particulars of the murder of an entire family by some unknown fiend. The members of this family all removed from this district about five years ago, Thos. Spicer being at one time a blacksmith in Dundalk. Following is the despatch:

Bismarck, N. D., Feb. 19.—The horrible discovery of the murder of six persons was made yesterday near Winona, on the Missouri River, 30 miles below Bismarck. The slaughter occurred at the farmhouse of Rev. Thomas Spicer. The affair is shrouded in mystery. It is believed that Indians may have been the murderers, although there is nothing to substantiate the theory other than that a number of them are said to have been seen loitering about the neighborhood.

The dead are: Mrs. William Rouse, twin boys of Mrs. Rouse, Mrs. Waldron, the Rev. Thomas Spicer and Mrs. Thos. Spicer.

John Spicer, a well known farmer, was driving out for a load of wood yesterday and while passing the house of his brother Thomas, a mile and a half from where he lived, he called to the occupants, as was his custom. He received no reply, and after shouting several times he alighted from the wagon and knocked at the door. There was no response, and he pushed the door open.

He was horrified to find Mrs. William Waldron, the mother of Mrs. Spicer, lying dead upon the floor. Her skull had been crushed and blood was streaming from the wound. In the next room he found Mrs. William Rouse, the daughter of Mrs Spicer, and Mrs. Rouse's twin baby boys, about a year and a half old, lying dead the on lounge. Mrs. Rouse had been struck twice in the back of the head with the heavy oak ledge of the dining table, and the children were killed, evidently, by blows from the same weapon.

In the barn John Spicer found the body of Mrs. Thomas Spicer, his sister-in-law. There was a deep hole in her head and a gash in her chin, evidently produced by an axe.

John Spicer returned to Winona, and a large band of citizens, led by the Deputy County Coronor, accompanied him to the scene of the murder. The search was continued, and the body of Thomas Spicer was found in a cowshed horribly mutilated. The entire family had been murdered, with the exception of two daughters of Mr. and Mrs Spicer, who chanced to be away from home at that time.

A Coroner's jury was immediately impanelled and the work of searching for a clue was begun. Just opposit Winona is Fort Yates, where there are several companies of United States troops, and they will lend their assistance in running down the criminals.

Spicer was a quiet man, with no enemies so far as known, and no cause for the deed can be found. He was a Methodist preacher. He and his wife were about 52 years of age. Mrs. Waldron was about 80 years old, and Mrs. Rouse about 22. All were highly respected.

Thomas Spices was born in England, and came over to this country at the age of 3 years, and settled in Ontario, near Toronto. He was taught the trade of blacksmith, his father's trade, and subsequently married Miss Waldron of Egerton, Ont. He then settled in Dundalk, Ont. Five years ago Thos Spicer went to North Dakota and opened a blacksmith shop near Winona. He then changed his mind and sold the shop to his elder brother, John, who was already established there. He then bought a farm and became a local Methodist preacher. Hence the prefix "Rev." John Spicer, the father of the Winona victim, is a resident at a country place in Ontario, and the address is as follows: "John Spicer, Robb P. O., Ont."

Kimberley.

From our own correspondent.

The farmers in this vicinity have been busily engaged hauling poles, logs and wood to different points, till within the last few days. But on account of the lack of sleighing they have had to come to a halt. They are, however, only awaiting another fall of "the beautiful snow" to renew operations, and our weather prophet says we are to have it sure.

On Monday of this week Mr. Rehill had his farm stock and implements sold by public auction. Mostly everything was sold at a fair figure.

A large number of the Kimberley people attended the entertainment given under the auspices of the Orangemen of Eugenia. They reported the entertainment as not being up to those of previous years.

The special sermons which are being conducted by Rev. Mr. Balfour have been very successful. Large crowds have been attending them and already there are over seventy converts.

We are glad to know that Mr. John Stewart, who was so badly injured a couple of weeks ago, is recovering very rapidly.

Mr. T. Taylor of Mt. Zion was a caller in our village last Friday.

The Messrs. Curtes of Meaford spent Sunday in the village, the guests of Mrs. Rear.

Miss Jennie Knott went to Owen Sound Tuesday to attend the wedding of her friend, Miss M. Breadner.

Miss Maud McQuilkin is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Scott.

WE WANT AGENTS to handle established trade in this county. Canadian stock guaranteed to live. Permanent position, whole or part time. Liberal terms. You can make ten dollars a week or better with us, for every week you work. No experience necessary.

Brown Brothers Company,
Continental Nurseries, TORONTO, ONT
15 Mch.

Tenders Wanted

Sealed tenders for the erection of a school house for section 15, Artemesia. Plans and specifications may be seen at R. & A. Neilson's store, Proton, after the 9th of Feb. and up to 12 o'clock a. m. on Feb. 20th. Lowest tenders or no tender necessarily accepted. Address

Secretary School Board,
Proton Station.

FARM TO RENT

Good farm to rent, two miles from Flesherton. Apply to JOHN WRIGHT, Jr.

Cook's Cotton Root Compound

Is the only safe, reliable monthly medicine on which ladies can depend in the *hour and time of need.*

Is prepared in two degrees of strength.

No. 1 for ordinary cases is by far the best dollar medicine known—sold by druggists, one Dollar per box.

No. 2 for special cases—10 degrees stronger—sold by druggists. One box, Three Dollars; two boxes, Five Dollars.

No. 1, or No. 2, mailed on receipt of price and two 3-cent stamps.

The Cook Company,
Windsor, Ontario.

Sold in Flesherton and everywhere in Canada by all responsible druggists.

M. Richardson & Co

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

for - - -

FEBRUARY BUYERS ! ! ! !

Stock-Taking Stock-Taking

Before our annual Stock-Taking we have decided to reduce our winter stock to the west possible limit, and to this end have CUT PRICES right down on all winter goods to clear. We don't intend to carry these lines over to next season —THEY MUST GO, and at these figures will go quickly.

SEASONABLE GOODS AT BARGAIN PRICES

MEN'S WEAR . .

Full Cloth Pants, regular $1.75 selling	$1.25
Corduroy Vest, regular $1 75 selling (fashionable goods)	1.25
Astrakhan Caps, regular 55c selling	.39
Hare Seal Caps, regular $1.50 selling	1 10
Beaver Oppossum Caps, regular $3.00 selling	2.25
Lined Overshoes, regular $1.50 selling	1.25
Heavy All-wool Drawers (a special drive) regular 75c selling	.49
Heavy Flannelettes Shirts, regular 65c selling	.50
Unlaundered White Shirts, regular 55c selling	.35
Heavy Suspenders, regular 15c selling	.10
Heavy All-wool Arctic Sox	.29
Heavy All-wool Sox	.15
Lined Kid Driving Gloves, regular 75c selling	.45

WOMEN'S WEAR

Felt Overshoes, regular $1.50 selling	$ .95
Felt Boots (foxed) regular $1 75 selling	1.50
Lined Rubbers, regular 55c selling	40
Cardigan Rubbers, regular $1.50 selling	1.20
Misses' Cardigan Rubbers, regular $1 25 selling	1.00
Lined Kid Gloves, regular $1.25 selling	.63
Lined Kid Mitts, regular $1.00 selling	.50

☞ WOOL SHAWLS. All colors, different sizes, at bargain prices to clear.

WINTER Dress Goods

36-inch Double Fold Dress Goods, regular 16c selling	$ .12½
40-inch Double Fold Dress Goods, regular 20c selling	.15
42-inch Double Fold Dress Goods, regular 30c selling	.22

☞ All WINTER DRESS GOODS at clearing prices.

MANTLES

We have sold Winter Mantles this week as low as $1.00 each.

We have some yet that cost us $5, $6 and $7 each, all selling at one price now

. . $2.95

HARDWARE DEPARTMENT

Next to Nothing

Is what we are clearing off several lines of Goods at during Stock Taking.

Peerless Metal Polish for silver, brass or tin, worth 15 cents, for.....10 cents

Stone's Genuine Lanterns, to clear at 35c, worth 50 cents.

Carving Knife and Fork, worth 35 and 50 cents, for.....25c a pair

Asbestos Sad Iron Stands, worth 15 cents, for..... 8 cents

Michigan Axes, cheap at 75 cents, for.....60 cents

Cake Plate Handles, regular price 10 cents, for.....5 cents

50-cent Rodger Bread Knives for.....26 cents

Soup Plates, any pattern, worth $1 a dozen, for.....5 cents each

Knife Board and box of Polish, worth 25 cents, for.....15 cents

No. 9 Pot Covers, special, at.....5 cents each

A LOT OF Fancy Tea Pots at 10 cents. Gravy Pitchers at 10 cents and Clothes Brushes at 10 cents still left.

PURSES, POCKETBOOKS, HAIR BRUSHES and SPECTACLES SPECIAL BARGAINS

COME TO US for anything you want in any line and we will give you it right.

M. Richardson & Co