

40TH YEAR, NO. 449.

LONDON, ONTARIO, TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1903.

WHOLE NO. 16840.

## CAUSE OF JESSE SMITH'S DEATH NOT DETERMINED

Coroner's Jury at Wingham Inquest Could Not Decide If It Resulted From Fall or Foul Play.

### DOCTORS MOSTLY FAVOR THE MURDER HYPOTHESIS

Only One of Medical Witnesses Thought That Injuries Could Have Been Caused by Fall—Money Still Unaccounted For—Verdict Reached Early This Morning.

[From Our Own Reporter.]

"We, the jurors, find that the cause of the death of Selwin Jesse Smith was a fracture of the skull received on the evening of the 3rd of February last on the corner of Minnie and Patrick streets, Wingham. From the evidence laid before the jurors, we are unable to determine whether the injuries causing the death of the said Selwin Jesse Smith were caused by accident or foul play."

Such was the verdict arrived at early this morning by a coroner's jury at Wingham, which was investigating the death of this well-known merchant of Wingham, which occurred on Feb. 15.

#### JESSE SMITH'S DEATH.

A synopsis of the post-mortem examination, as well as a full statement of the case up to that time, was given in The Advertiser when the inquest was first called. Briefly, Mr. Jesse Smith, a prominent business man of Wingham, was found with a fractured skull on the evening of Feb. 15. He had been in the 15th, and it was not until after the funeral that it was decided to have an inquest. The body was exhumed and a post-mortem examination held, after which the inquest was begun.

As stated at the time, the citizens of Wingham were divided in their opinions as to whether the injuries Mr. Smith received were due to accident or foul play. So many leaned to the latter theory that the coroner deemed it advisable to settle matters.

Since the opening of the inquest both theories have been exploited in Wingham, and an Advertiser reporter who went there yesterday found a great difference of opinion, and many conflicting stories. More than one thought that the local police had left action until too late.

#### HAVE NO CLUE.

Detective Greer was there, and consulted again with Chief of Police Vanorman, but they informed The Advertiser that there was no clue to anyone

#### ASKED FOR ALMS.

Mr. William Holmes, one of the jurors, was found, and he was positive of the date that he had been asked for money by a stranger, who, he said, answered the description of Maxwell, as he had heard it, and who, answered the description of the man whom Mr. Tipling had seen. Maxwell is suspected of knocking a man down in Londonboro the other day as well as the one in Seaford. Mr. Holmes said that whoever the stranger was he had asked for Mr. Doyle, and when queried as to where he knew him, said in Goderich.

The same story was told by Mr. Alf Nichol, baker, of Wingham. He, too, had been asked for money and the name of Doyle had been mentioned. Mr. Doyle, who is leaderkeeper at the Bank of Hamilton, said he knew Maxwell in Goderich. The latter had got a quarter from him, but it was during the week before Mr. Smith's mishap. Mr. David Rush, a grocer, also told of being visited by the stranger about this time, whom he refused money. The man was the worse for liquor.

Much the same story was told by Mr. Crawford, at his cigar store, and by Mr. David Densley, manager of the Densley House. The latter stated a man answering the description, who, he understood, was from Goderich, had been seen by him one afternoon, the same evening and the next morning. He was not positive as to the time.

The station agent was also seen, but he could not recall whether any tickets had been sold for Lucknow that Tuesday night. A look in the ticket book showed that two single tickets had been sold for that place some time on the 3rd of February.

It was next learned for a certainty that Maxwell was in Wingham on Thursday and Friday, Jan. 29 and 30. The first night he stayed at the Brunswick House, and the second night he was refused admittance there and was allowed a lodging

## A Score of Persons Burned to Death by Explosion of an Oil Tank Train

The Cars Ran Away, Collided, and Bursting Into Flames Enveloped Hundreds of Spectators, Killing Some Instantly and Slowly Cremating Those Unfortunates Pinned by the Wreckage.

Olean, N. Y., March 10.—A score or more of people were killed and a large number injured by an explosion of oil near here today.

A freight train on the Erie, made up principally of tank cars filled with oil, broke in two north of the city about 9 o'clock. The two sections of the train came together with a crash, and one of the oil tanks was demolished. Fire broke out almost instantly, and the sky was lighted up for miles.

A large crowd of people left this city for the scene of the fire. While they were lined up along the tracks a terrific explosion occurred. The flames communicated with the other tank cars and a second and third explosion followed each other in rapid succession. Sheets of flames shot out in all directions. Scores of persons were caught within the zone of the fire and enveloped in flames. Men and boys ran screaming down the tracks with their clothing burning. Others fell where they stood overcome by the awful sea.

Just how many were killed is not definitely known, as many of the bodies were incinerated. Sydney Fish, a prominent business man, returned from the scene of the fire at midnight. He said: "I was attracted to the scene of the fire about 10 o'clock. When I was within a quarter of a mile of the scene of the accident there was a terrific explosion. Flames shot outwards and upwards for a great distance. I saw several persons who started to run away drop on the

railway tracks, and they never moved again. Others who stood close to the tank cars were hurled through the air for hundreds of feet. The scene was awful. Half a dozen young boys ran down the tracks with their clothing a mass of flames. They resembled human torches. I could hear their agonizing screams distinctly from where I stood. They ran some distance down the track and then threw themselves on the track, groveling in the ditches in their efforts to extinguish the flames. Then they laid still, some dead and others dying. I don't know how many were killed, but I counted 20 bodies before I came away."

Word was at once sent to Olean police headquarters by telephone. Every doctor and ambulance in the city was summoned. Grocery wagons and carriages of all kinds were pressed into service and everything possible was done to bring the wounded without delay to the city hospitals for treatment.

At midnight the first of the wounded arrived at the hospital. They were four young boys. Their injuries were frightful. Great patches of their flesh was burned off and hung in shreds from their bodies.

It was difficult to ascertain the names of a great many of the dead tonight, as their bodies were burned to ashes in the intense heat. A canvass is being made of the city as rapidly as possible to find out the names of persons who are missing. As these missing persons turn up, if they do, their names will be eliminated from the list. A complete list of those who lost their lives will be secured. But this will take time and patience. Besides there is great excitement in the city, and the streets

were thronged with people until long after midnight. Large crowds gathered at the hospital, and the faces of the injured were anxiously scanned as they were carried into the building on stretchers. Heart rending scenes were witnessed when one of the poor blistered bodies was recognized by a father or a mother, and it was with difficulty that the crowd was restrained from invading the operating room. A report from the scene of the accident at 1 o'clock this morning says 22 bodies have been taken from the wreckage. Some of them are burned beyond recognition, only the trunks and heads remaining.

The staff at the hospital was utterly unable to cope with the work, so suddenly thrust upon them. Every doctor in the city was called upon, and three came down from Allegheny to lend their assistance. Every one of them worked like Trojans from midnight until a late hour in the morning, doing everything that could be done to assuage the terrible sufferings of the injured.

The latest estimate of the casualties places the number of dead at 22, and the injured at 45. Some of the injured will die.

The number of dead is known to be at least eighteen, and some estimates place it as high as 25. Over two score others were more or less seriously burned. Some of them will die. It is out of the question to identify any of the bodies recovered.

The following were treated at the city hospital: James McDonald, badly burned, condition serious; Richard McDonald, condition serious; James McDonald, leg and face burned; Walter Jackson, head, back and arms burned; inhaled flames, will probably die.

### KIND WORDS FROM CONTEMPORARIES

[Hamilton Times.] The London Advertiser, 40 years young, is now settled in a new home, fitted with a plant of linotype machines and the latest selections of type, printed on a Duplex press, with-out stereotyping, and looks as typographically perfect as its news and editorial are bright and interesting. Liberalism in London and locality owes much to The Advertiser, and it is gratifying to note these evidences that it is sharing in the good times under Liberal rule. May it go on and prosper!

[Hamilton Spectator.] The London Advertiser has been treating itself to a new, handsome and commodious home and new machinery, and marks the change with a special number, beautifully printed and full of most interesting matter. The Advertiser is a good paper and deserves its success.

[Kingston Whig.] The London Advertiser's success is marked by its removal to a new home and equipment with new machinery. Its special number, signaling this important event, is greatly to its credit. The Advertiser is one of Ontario's brightest and most influential papers, and it merits the great success it has enjoyed.

[Montreal Witness.] The London (Ont.) Advertiser has just moved into its handsome and commodious new offices. On Saturday last a special supplement was issued illustrating the satisfactory progress that has been made by the journal since its first number, a double sheet, 8 inches square, was turned out on Oct. 28, 1853. With improved facilities a number of changes are to be introduced.

[La Patrie, Montreal.] L'Advertiser, de London, Ont., nous est arrivé lundi avec une riche toilette. L'édition de samedi contient vingt pages, dont plusieurs sont illustrées sur papier de luxe. On y trouve la vignette du bel édifice que le confrère anglais vient de faire construire, de même que les vues des divers départements de ses nouveaux ateliers.

Le tout, croyons-nous, est pourvu de matériaux les plus modernes en fait d'imprimerie.

Le London Advertiser compte aujourd'hui quarante années d'existence. Il a débuté bien modestement, mais nous est d'avis qu'il est entré dans une ère de progrès réels. A l'heure actuelle, on peut même le ranger au nombre des grands quotidiens du pays. Sa circulation et son influence augmentent de jour en jour. Au surplus, il est redoublé avec soin et avec talent.

C'est un organe Libéral-Indépendant. Hon. David Mills, juge de la cour suprême, en a déjà été le directeur politique.

La Patrie offre au confrère de la province-voisine, l'occasion de son entrée dans ses nouveaux quartiers, ses meilleurs vœux de prospérité et de succès.

[Sarnia Observer.]

The London Advertiser is now the possessor of new premises, splendidly equipped with all the modern appliances for printing and publishing a city daily. Next October it will be forty years since The Advertiser made its first appearance on the streets of London, as a five-column four-page evening paper. The world has made great progress since then and the

making of newspapers has felt the effects of the improvements created by the discoveries and inventions of the past quarter of a century, more, perhaps, than any other line of business. The contrast between The Advertiser establishment of today, and that of 1853, represents pretty accurately the vast improvements that have been effected in the newspaper world during that period.

[Tilsonburg Liberal.] The London Advertiser is forging steadily ahead. A few weeks ago we noted the great improvement in the appearance of the paper brought about by the donning of a new dress, and this week we extend congratulations upon its removal to a magnificent new home on Dundas street.

In celebration of the event, a handsome twenty-page number was issued, four pages of which were illustrative of the new building, and the various departments of the business. The Advertiser stands in the front rank of our provincial dailies, and we are more than pleased to note these evidences of its prosperity.

[Amherstburg Echo.] The London Advertiser has moved into a large and commodious new home; has a new Cox Duplex press; a new dress; new make-up, and shines brighter than ever. The Advertiser is 40 years old and is today the handsomest and best printed newspaper in Canada and in every way is abreast of the times.

[St. Thomas Times.] The London Advertiser is quite justified in boasting a little over its new building and outfit. The twenty-page illustrated edition of Saturday was certainly handsome in appearance and interesting in matter.

[Watford Guide-Advocate.] The London Advertiser is now issued from its handsome new office on Dundas street. The Advertiser is now equipped with an up-to-date plant in keeping with its importance as one of the leading journals of the Dominion.

[Aylmer Sun.] The London Advertiser has moved into its new home and is proud of it. It commemorated the fact by a twenty-

#### WEATHER BULLETIN

Tuesday, March 10.  
Sun rises, 6:10 a.m. Moon rises, 3:16 p.m.  
Sun sets, 6:16 p.m. Moon sets, 4:36 a.m.

#### Tomorrow: Unsettled.

Rain has fallen today over the greater portion of the Maritime Provinces. Elsewhere in Canada the weather has been fair, with a cold moderating in the Northwest Territories.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: 11 a.m. below -8; Qu'Appelle, 2-8; Winnipeg, 20 below -20; Port Arthur, 15-25; Parry Sound, 25-30; Toronto, 35-45; Ottawa, 30-42; Montreal, 30-40; Quebec, 25-34; Halifax, 40-44.

#### FORECASTS.

Today—Easterly winds; cloudy and mild; rain tonight.

#### Local temperatures: Unsettled and showery.

Temperatures:  
Stations. 8 a.m. 10 a.m. 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m. 10 p.m. Weather.

Calgary..... 2 6 Cloudy  
Winnipeg..... 10 2 Clear  
Parry Sound..... 38 34 Cloudy  
Toronto..... 38 36 Cloudy  
Ottawa..... 38 36 Fair  
Montreal..... 32 30 Clear  
Quebec..... 32 28 Cloudy  
Father Point..... 30 28 Fair

#### WEATHER NOTES.

The outlook is decidedly unsettled for Ontario and Quebec. Cold weather prevails from the Rockies to Manitoba, but it is unlikely to spread eastward at present.

Local temperatures: Monday—Highest, 57°; lowest, 25.5°.

## WILL BRING DOWN A BILL TO RESTRICT LIQUOR TRADE

The Measure Was Foreshadowed in Speech From the Throne at Ontario Legislature.

### MORE AID FOR FARMERS' INSTITUTE TO BE ASKED

Toronto, Ont., March 10.—The first session of the tenth Ontario Legislature was opened this afternoon at 3 o'clock by Chief Justice Moss, his lordship having been previously sworn in as administrator of the province by John J. McGee, clerk of the Privy Council, who arrived this morning from Ottawa to perform the ceremony.

Chief Justice Moss was escorted by a detachment of the Forty-Eighth Highlanders. The speech from the throne was read by the administrator after the house had appointed Mr. W. A. Charlton, M. P., South Norfolk, as speaker, as follows: Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I have much pleasure in welcoming you to your duties as representatives of the people at this the first session of a new Parliament.

In common with all his majesty's subjects, I rejoice in the British Empire, we rejoice at the coronation of Edward VII. as "King of Great Britain and Ireland and His Majesty's Dominions Beyond the Seas," and as loving subjects we sincerely pray that he may long be spared to occupy the throne of his ancestors as the sovereign of a loyal, contented and prosperous people.

On the 18th of December last a conference of provincial premiers and ministers was held in the city of Quebec for the purpose of considering the financial relations of the provinces to the Dominion. The conference, after coming to certain conclusions, adjourned to meet at Ottawa on the 26th day of January, to submit these conclusions to the Dominion Government. A full report of the proceedings will be laid before you.

During the past year a greater area of the arable lands of the province were located by settlers than in any recent year in the history of the crown lands department. The immigration from the United States has been exceptionally large, the arrivals reported to the department in Toronto being nearly double those of any previous year.

Under the legislation providing land grants for military services about six thousand certificates have already been issued. A large number of claims awaiting settlement will be disposed of as soon as their validity is established. The progress which is being made in the leading branches of mining is matter for congratulation. The output last year for the largest and most important of the industry, silver, was 1,000,000 ounces. Special attention is being given to the deposits of nickel, copper and iron ore, which constitute so important a part of the mineral wealth of the province.

The lumber trade continues active, the revenue from crown dues for the past year being the largest in the history of the province.

I am pleased to notice that the past year has been one of exceptional prosperity in every department of agriculture, not the least significant evidence being the improved quality of our dairy produce, bacon, beef and poultry. The thanks of the country are due to the estate of the late Mr. Hart A. Massey for the timely gift of a new library building, and also to Sir William Macdonald for his generosity in providing for a building devoted to domestic science on the campus of the agricultural college. These munificent gifts show the growing interest of influential citizens in agricultural education, and will greatly assist in the work of the college.

The work of farmers' institutes has grown steadily, special fruit institutes, held in the orchards have been very helpful, the women's institutes have increased in numbers, and are so prominent.

Winnipeg, Man., March 10.—At 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon 150 freight handlers and clerks employed in the freight department of the C. P. R. went out on strike. The move was made in response to a telegram from George Estey, of Vancouver, ordering the member of the U. B. R. E. to cease work. The wire was received by William (Gardner) president of the order, at 3 o'clock, and at 3:30 was presented by him at General Superintendent Leonard's office.

Mr. Leonard was ill in bed, and his chief clerk, J. J. Scully, was served with notice to the effect that the men would leave work at 4 o'clock and remain out until the agreement presented to the company at the coast was ratified in Montreal. Mr. Scully made no comment, and at the hour stated the men went out. Some few clerks, including a son of Superintendent Leonard, remained at their posts, but business in the freight sheds is practically at a standstill. The strikers held a largely attended meeting tonight, but beyond reiterating their determination to stand by their brethren at the coast, would make no announcement for publication.

Winnipeg Responds to the Call and 150 Men Go Out.

The Company Has Refused to Recognize the Strikers as a Union.

Vancouver, B. C., March 10.—The strike of the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees is still on. The Canadian Pacific Railway authorities have refused to recognize the strikers as a union, and George Estey, of San Francisco, president of the brotherhood, has called out all the members of the order for 1,500 miles, between here and Winnipeg. The C. P. R. refuse to consider the demands of the strikers, and the latter are not only making it difficult for the C. P. R. to accept business, but are seriously interfering with the business of the province.

Secretary Bell, of the Old Boys' Association, received a telegraphic message from Winnipeg last night, which said: "Five hundred old boys and girls send greetings. We meet tonight." It is understood from other messages received here that more than 700 Old Boys will come to the reunion from Winnipeg this year. The association in the progressive western capital is thoroughly loyal to the old town.

Pope Receives Norfolk.

Rome, March 10.—The Pope today received with great solemnity the Duke of Norfolk and a delegation of British Catholics, who presented the pontiff with greetings and offerings. The Duke read a loyal address, which the Pope answered, expressing his appreciation. The pontiff looked very well, considering his late illness. He said he felt quite himself again.

Wm. Lillie Suffers From Concussion of Spine—Mechanism Went Wrong.

Defective mechanism on an elevator at Wright & Co.'s wholesale hardware was the cause of serious injury to Mr. William Lillie, of Cartwright street, about 10 o'clock this morning. By the slipping of some part of the machinery or cables he was dropped the distance of two stories to the basement. His spine was badly jarred and he sustained bruises and minor injuries.

A quantity of the heavy goods which the firm handles had been loaded onto the elevator by Mr. Lillie, who, getting on with them pulled the cable, that starts the elevator. It went smoothly enough until the second

floor, when it stopped. Mr. Lillie, who was standing on the platform, was thrown forward and fell. He was unable to support himself, and his carriage was called in, in which he was removed to his home on Cartwright street.

He suffered considerably from shock and from concussion of the spine. His physician is of the opinion that he will recover, although it will be a matter of months before he will be able to be out.

Mr. Blanford, manager for Wright & Co., said to The Advertiser this morning that the elevator was new—one that had been put in when their building was put up six months ago—and that it was thought to be perfectly safe.

The legislation of 1897 providing for supervising and regulating the importation of children from the British Isles, has, I am pleased to say, resulted in a more careful selection of children intended for settlement in this province, and in the greater comfort and security from injustice of children for whom homes may be found under the act.

You will be pleased to know that great progress has been made during the year in the development of technical education and manual training in the public and normal schools of the province. The growth of the provincial university shows an increased interest taken in higher education, while the demand for the better training of teachers in public and private schools calls for the extension of the normal school system. You will be asked to consider legislation with regard to these matters.

In view of the great demand for electrical energy for industrial and other uses, it is desirable that the most facility should be offered through municipal control or otherwise, for the utilization to these ends of the water powers of the province. A bill to provide for this object will be laid before you.

The vote polled on the 4th of December last in favor of the liquor act of 1902, though not large enough to bring the act into force, may, nevertheless, be taken as an expression of the electors' further favoring restriction of the liquor traffic. A measure with this object in view will be submitted for your consideration.

Bills will be submitted for the consolidation of the municipal act, and for the revision and amendment of the assessment act.

The reports of the various departments of the public service will be laid before you, including the first report of the commission for the construction of the Temiscaming and Northern Ontario Railway.

The estimates for the current year will, at an early date, be submitted for your approval. They will be found to have been prepared with all the economy consistent with the efficiency of the public service.

I feel assured that your legislative labors during the present session will be characterized by the same care and thoughtful attention as have heretofore marked the work of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

### STRIKE EXTENDS EAST

Winnipeg Responds to the Call and 150 Men Go Out.

The Company Has Refused to Recognize the Strikers as a Union.

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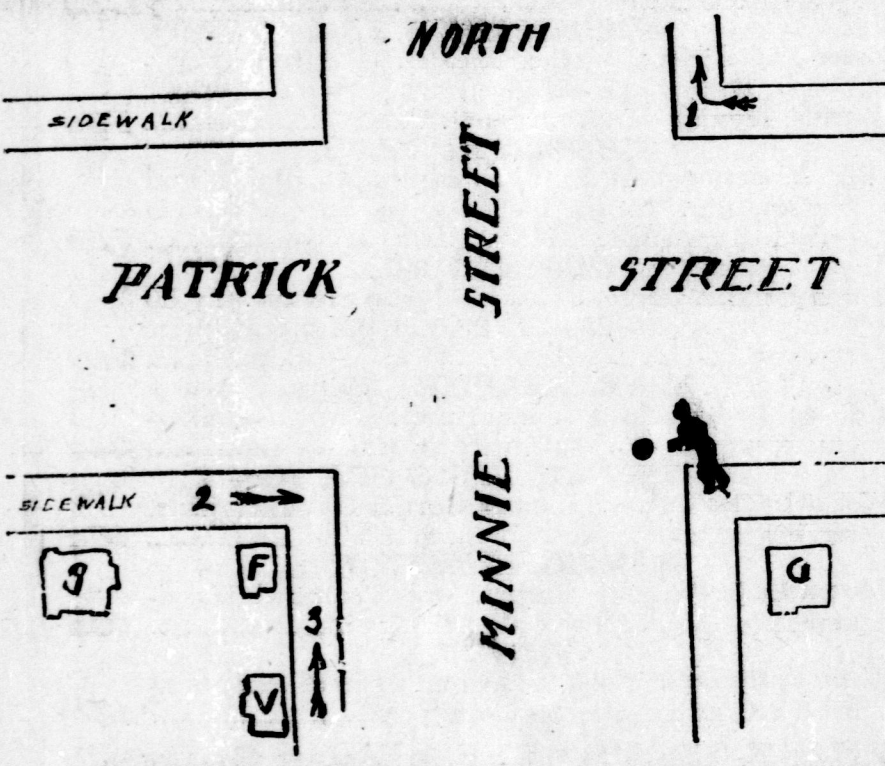
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### ELEVATOR FELL TWO FLOORS; OCCUPANTS SERIOUSLY HURT

story from the bottom was reached, and then, with a sudden start, it took a swift drop to the basement. The force with which the car struck the ground was terrific, it being further impelled by the considerable weight upon it. Some fellow-employees of Mr. Lillie heard the crash caused by the fall, and ran to render him assistance. He was unable to support himself, and his carriage was called in, in which he was removed to his home on Cartwright street.

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Southeast corner of crossing shows post and position of Mr. Smith's body when found. S.—Mr. Smith's house. G.—Mr. Green's house. F.—Mr. Forbes' house. V.—Where Mr. Tipling was 2.—Where Mr. Tipling saw Mr. Smith. 3.—Where Mr. Tipling saw strange man.

who would have committed the murder, if murder it was.

The coroner, Dr. W. B. Fowler, was seen, but he would not offer an opinion of the case.

Mrs. T. and J. S. Chisholm were seen, and they stated that they had learned nothing which should make them alter their opinion, as given before, favoring the murder hypothesis.

Dr. J. S. Chisholm, had been the first doctor called, and had attended the late Mr. Smith until the latter's death. He could not see how a fall could have inflicted the injuries.

Dr. J. S. Chisholm, by many medical men, he said, was that in cases where the speech center was affected the idea that was in the mind last was the first to come out, but whether the fact that Mr. Smith, on recovering from his paralysis, uttered the word murder, the doctor would not say affected the case.

#### MR. TIPLING'S STORY.

The Advertiser man next ran across Mr. Amos Tipling, who at the first sitting of the jury swore to having seen the deceased coming down the street a few minutes before he must have met with the mishap, and at the same time saw a stranger coming along the street crossing. The Smith home was a few doors west of Minnie street, on the south side of Patrick street. Mr. Smith was therefore walking east towards Minnie street, and a stranger was on the west side of Minnie street, going towards Patrick street, while Mr. Tipling was coming up Patrick street from the east, turning at the corner of Minnie street and going north. Mr. Tipling stated that he could not have been more than 30 paces from the stranger, and remembered him as a man about 5 feet 10 inches in height, wearing a long dark overcoat and a slouch hat.

This description tallied with that of a man who had been asking for aim in the town from different people. It was understood that the man who had been seen in town was John Maxwell, of Goderich, the man now in jail for an assault upon Paul Shaver in Seaford on Feb. 11, and a man with police records.

(Continued on Page 3.)