

Maintain London's Credit By Keeping Down the Taxes

Clarence Topping Held Responsible

Coroner's Jury Returns Verdict In Death of Miss Durston Shot Last Week At Her Boarding House On York Street

WITNESSES TELL STORY OF YOUNG WOMAN'S DEATH

Mr. and Mrs. George Cook and Police Constable Harpur and Dr. Homer Black, Who Performed the Post-Mortem Examination, Testify

"That the deceased Geraldine Durston came to her death by gunshot wounds at the hands of Clarence Topping," was the verdict of the jury impaneled by Dr. J. Cameron Wilson, coroner, to investigate the events which transpired at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Cook, 318 York street, a week ago, when Miss Durston, Topping's former sweetheart, was mortally wounded and Viola McNaughton, a chum of the deceased girl, received wounds in the chest from the effects of which she lies in Victoria Hospital in a precarious condition.

The inquest was held in the police station last night when the circumstances preceding and following the shooting were told in detail and at some length by both Mr. and Mrs. George Cook, Police Constable Harpur, who exchanged shots with Topping at the time of the occurrence, and Dr. Homer Black, the physician who was summoned to attend the wounded young woman.

"The youthful alleged slayer of the girl was present. His appearance was in striking contrast to that presented when he appeared in police court yesterday morning. His hair was neatly brushed and his attitude was anything but dejected. He sat in the prisoner's box unmoved and showed but a casual interest in the testimony. At times his gaze rested on the witness, but for the most part he stared directly ahead of him. His flushed face was the only indication of his inner emotions.

MUCH INTEREST SHOWN
The courtroom was comfortably filled last evening. Precautions were again taken to guard against any undue length by those who filed the seats exhibited keen interest in the evidence and there were many whispered words of sympathy for George Cook, occupant of the prisoner's box, during the taking place. Though recuperating from an attack of nervousness Mr. Cook bore up remarkably well. Occasionally he pushed away the details were told, once he was nearly fainted, but he seemed to take a grip on himself and proceeded with his testimony. Mr. Cook's physician, Dr. Homer Black, remained in the court room while his patient gave evidence, though the testimony of the doctor precluded that of the shell-shocked war veteran.

Mr. Cook commenced by telling of the circumstances leading up to the girls' boarding with him and his wife after their marriage a few months ago.

"On the morning of the shooting he said Miss Durston had seen Topping passing one of the windows on his way to the side door and had gone into his room. Mrs. Cook's bedroom was next door to the kitchen, and he warned his hands by the kitchen stove and then asked where 'Jerry' was (Miss Durston was called Jerry for short).

"The conversation of the night before when the dead girl had come into his and his wife's bedroom after Topping had left, was told by the boarding house master, she said she was afraid of 'Dan,' (meaning Topping) because he had threatened her, Cook said.

"My wife had asked Topping on a previous occasion if he carried a revolver," the witness testified, "and he had denied it, but 'Jerry' told us she had asked Topping to let her search him, which she did. She told us she had felt a revolver and I wanted to notify the police, but she protested.

"There's Dan," were the words Cook said Miss Durston uttered when she saw Topping pass the window early in the morning of the shooting. "The dead girl and Miss McNaughton went into our bedroom when Topping came in and stood beside the trunk until the three entered in low tones. I went up to Topping," said Cook, "and I said, 'Dan, I have nothing against you. As far as I know you are a decent enough fellow, but Jerry doesn't want you. Will you please leave the house?'"

"Topping made no reply, Cook advised, and the witness phoned for the police. Later Constable Harpur arrived and Cook had again spoken to Topping, remarking, "Dan, I'm not asking you to get out. I'm telling you to leave my house and make his way to the kitchen where Constable Harpur had been left standing. He said he had no sense nor had he a decent enough fellow, but he went out followed by a third person after a pause.

"I said to Harpur, 'He's shooting,' and the constable went to the door and I saw Constable Harpur's gun flash and Miss McNaughton come running from nowhere. I understood the line of fire from the constable and when I came back the constable was holding Topping by the wrist. 'I am,' Topping declared. 'Yes, I am.' This conversation took place between Cook and Topping when the latter came to the door. Mrs. Cook, who witnessed her husband's arrest, understood the police, 'I think you better phone for the police. I don't think he's here for any good. Mrs. Cook said she put him alone. 'I went into the bedroom with Jerry and then Miss McNaughton came in.' The wife testified.

"A few minutes later Miss McNaughton went to her own room and later returned. She encountered Topping on her return and he asked her where the door into the bedroom, and addressing 'Jerry' said, 'Now perhaps you can come in the way I heard the door. Jerry said: 'No, we can't, only that I don't want anything more to do with you.' This answer was followed by Mrs. Cook declaring that Topping continued his pleadings." Mrs. Cook said.

THREATENED GIRL.
"He told Jerry 'If you don't come with me I'll put an end to you and myself,'" asserted the witness; said "Dan, where's your pride? You haven't got the backbone of a jellyfish." Then he became afraid of the effect of my words and anxiously awaited the return of my husband.

The shot fired by Constable Harpur and the forth from the gun of Topping were discharged almost simultaneously, according to Mrs. Cook, who had gone to the kitchen by the time that the constable had fired. Miss McNaughton had come to the kitchen and seated herself on a chair. "What's the matter, Viola?" I asked her and she replied that "I'm shot through the chest." Then the wounded girl collapsed on the floor, the witness said. "Frances," if I had thought he'd do anything like that I'd have gone to Watford with him," were among the last words of Miss Durston before she was taken to the hospital, Mrs. Cook declared.

"While the evidence of P. C. Harpur was in effect much the same as that of the preceding witness, he claimed that the first intimation he received that there were more than two persons in the bedroom, when the shots were fired, was when he went into the kitchen and found Miss McNaughton wounded.

"When I heard the first two shots I ran to the door of the bedroom and while I was on the way I heard the third. When I got there I saw the dim outline of two forms, one apparently that of a man and the other of a woman."

"I saw Topping standing in the doorway, looking toward the kitchen, and he had a revolver in his hand. He was smiling and looking at me. He said, 'I'm not asking you to get out. I'm telling you to leave my house and make his way to the kitchen where Constable Harpur had been left standing. He said he had no sense nor had he a decent enough fellow, but he went out followed by a third person after a pause.'

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BABY'S SMILE WINS FREEDOM FOR DADDY

LOUISVILLE, Nov. 30.—A baby's smile to-day proved irresistible to E. B. Dwyer, prosecuting witness against Louis Gower, alleged forger, in the criminal court.

Gower, it was charged, forged Beck's name to a check for \$51.26 and the case was called for trial at 2 o'clock yesterday. Gower's wife and baby were in the courtroom with him.

When the baby kept smiling at him Beck smiled and asked the judge if the indictment could be fled away.

"The only thing preventing its general use at present is the high freight rates charged. Public opinion can, if properly directed, bring about a reduction of these rates, however, and Mr. Stutchbury refuses to take any stock in the statements that coal cannot be transported for less than \$12 per ton.

As a matter of fact, coal can be brought from Alberta to Ontario at \$2 per ton and still allow for a profit to the railroad owners. Three arguments are advanced by Mr. Stutchbury as reasons for more general use of the Western coal in Ontario, and he urges citizens of London to consider these.

First, there is the difficulty of getting coal of regular quality from the United States at a reasonable price. Then, again, he points out that both railroads have a large number of idle cars during three months of the year. More for general use of the Western mines are closed down from February 15 to August 15, thus indicating that they are not taxed to capacity.

Mr. Stutchbury left this city for Woodstock, where he will prosecute a coal dealer for attempting to sell American soft coal as the Alberta product.

FLOODS IN ITALY.
ROME, Nov. 30.—Torrential rains have caused a number of rivers in Northeast Italy, including the Tagliamento and the Isongo, to overflow. Large tracts of country are under water and four bridges have collapsed. In Gradisca the streets were turned into shallow canals, and in Trieste the lower parts of many houses and public buildings were flooded.

TRAVELERS HOLD SOCIAL EVENING

London Council No. 630, U.C.T., Enjoys Euchre and Dance

MEMBERSHIP GROWING

Council In Line For Distinction of Grand Council For Ontario

One of the most successful social events of the season was held last night by the United Commercial Travelers, London Council, No. 630, when the members of the London Council, their wives and sweethearts, gathered at the De Luxe for a delightful luncheon, euchre and dance. About 60 couples sat down to enjoy the dainty refreshments, specially prepared for the occasion, and which were partaken of as one of the friendly competition which makes unqualified success of such events.

Following the luncheon, euchre was the vogue and was indulged in with the friendly competition which makes unqualified success of such events. The grand bouquet prize was awarded to Mrs. G. J. White, while Mrs. J. H. Jones captured the first prize for the men. The booby prize was won by Mrs. S. J. Miller, while Bro. Harry Loney captured the grand bouquet prize. Following the receipt of the prize, Bro. Loney offered the explanation that he had received so many first prizes at recent events that the booby prize was a pleasant and appreciated change. His brother drummers, however, are well aware of the fact, they declared afterward, that Bro. Loney is going with the punch.

The success of last night's pleasant event is attributed to the splendid arrangements made through the efforts of the entertainment committee, which was composed of Fred G. Jones and Russell Archie Haslip, Fred Keister and Gordon Kinney.

London Council, No. 630, U. C. T., is growing rapidly and now boasts a membership of some 400 London drummers. Great praise for this increased membership is due to the untiring efforts of the officers in their endeavors to make the local council one of the best in Ontario. Several subordinate councils have been formed in surrounding cities and London Council, No. 630, is well in line for the distinction of Grand Council for Ontario.

SHOTS BROTHER PLAYING 'SHOW'

Accidental Killing in Home of Detroit Family

VICTIM AGED NINE YEARS

Told Brother To Shoot As He Played Falling in Airplane

Detroit, Nov. 29.—(Special to The Free Press.)—George Drewnosky, 9 years old, was shot through the heart and killed today by his 12-year-old brother, Maci, while the boys were playing "motion pictures" in their home at 624 Reid avenue. They were alone in the house at the time.

Maci said he found the revolver on the floor under the bed in a room occupied by a roomer.

POLICE SEIZE BOOKS AT HOME BANK HEAD OFFICE

To Be Used by Crown in the Prosecution of Directors and Officers

TORONTO, Nov. 30.—Criminal investigation men of the provincial police made a seizure to-day at the head office of the Home Bank of books and papers required by the crown in the prosecution of directors and officials of the defunct institution.

The officers acted upon the authorization of a search warrant issued by the attorney-general's department, under instructions from D. L. McCarthy, K.C., special prosecutor in the Home Bank case. The books in question were records of loans made by the bank to business concerns in which the directors were interested, and also regarding returns made to the finance department at Ottawa, and the minute books of the directors' meetings. The books and papers carried away filled a good-sized automobile.

The unexpected arrival of the police officers occasioned a good deal of excitement among the staff at work in the bank. The seizure was made by Chief Inspector Greer and Inspector Boyd.

BRITAIN ASKS ASSURANCES
Will Seek Such From U. S. Before Concluding Rum Treaty.

LONDON, Nov. 30.—Before the British-American treaty designed to curb illicit liquor traffic in United States, Sir Thomas D'Arcy Waters, then minister, that a quarter of a million dollars had been added to the famous Frost account. He says this was never denied, but reveals the warring explanation the directorate sent the minister. It reads: "No unpaid interest upon the Frost account or other inactive accounts was credited to profits since the 31st of May, 1917." In other words, his allegation is that the directors indicated to the minister that interest had not been added to profits since that date, though no mention is made of what happened before. Mr. MacHaffie also observes that, in his opinion, the depositors have a very strong claim against the Federal Government."

STATE WINNERS IN ST. PATRICK'S FAIR

Russ Meyers Obtains Wall Clock and Donates it to New Mission Hall.

The winners in the many contests conducted in connection with St. Patrick's Fair have been announced, and the successful ones are asked to call for their prizes at St. Peter's Parish Hall.

The wall clock, won by Russ Meyers, was generously donated by him to Fr. Sholly for the Redeemptorist Fathers' new mission house.

The prize winners follow:
TOMBOLO.
First prize—\$10 in gold, won by Helen Baker, Dorchester; No. 750.
Second—Ladies' gold wrist watch, Jack Strangleman, 122 Oak street, city; No. 750.
Third—Piano duet bench, W. Irwin, 320A Dundas street, city; No. 1536.

Fourth—Boys' \$10 suit, Mr. Allen, 1023 Francis street, city; No. 680.
Fifth—Pair of Astoria shoes, Earl Burke, 871 Adelaide street, city; No. 342.
Sixth—Fajr lady's oxford, W. W. Purdon, 124 William street, city; No. 774.
Sevenths—Electric iron, R. Higgins, 4 Heaman Terrace, York street, city; No. 3488.

Eighth—\$10 worth of records, Mrs. M. E. Foster, 286 Hamilton road, city; No. 2121.
Ninth—Lady's gold wrist watch, G. Haines, 82 Glenwood avenue, city; No. 620.
Tenth—Ton of coal, Agnes Dunham, R. R. No. 8, London; No. 2060.

Prizes for selling most books of TomboLO tickets:
First—Gold wrist watch, won by Miss Mary Walsh, of St. Angela's Academy, 1275 York street.
Second—Pearl pendant, won by Dorothy Clifford, of St. Mary's School, who sold 98 books of tickets.
Raffles—J. W. Johnson, 122 Elmwood; No. 1052.
Electric heater—Callista McDonnell, 365 King street; No. 958.

Electric lamp—M. Meahan, 468 Laird street; No. 632.
Two tons of coal—L. Dean, 426 London avenue; No. 3377.
Mink scarf—Mrs. D. Barry, Dorchester; No. 879.
Return trip to Detroit—Mrs. Tina Reagan, Lucan; No. 1239.
Willow tray—Thomas Comiskey, 559 York street.
Canary—J. Campbell, Ontario Hospital; No. 442.

Centerpiece—Mrs. P. Kelleher, 718 Queen's avenue; No. 184.
Painting—Leo Brown, R. R. 2, Wilton Grove; No. 148.
Luncheon set—J. Gorman; No. 219.
Cake from candy booth—Mrs. Rebecca Flynn, 59 Dundas street; No. 173.
Cake from country store—Mrs. Foster, 124 Ezeron street; No. 128.
DOLL'S NAME CONTEST.
Doll's name was "Mary Jane," guessed by Jane Adams, 236 Piccadilly street. Father Sholly, on behalf of those interested in the bazaar, wishes to thank all the non-Roman Catholic friends of St. Patrick's for their many splendid donations.

VOTE
STEWART
ALDERMAN
WARD 2
Lower taxes
STEWART

ONTARIO IS SOLD ON ALBERTA COAL

Only Reduced Freight Rates Hinder Trade.

SAYS TRADE COMMISSIONER

Howard Stutchbury Visitor In the City Yesterday

Ontario is prepared to substitute Alberta coal for the product of American mines just as soon as proper freight rates can be obtained and public opinion can, if properly expressed, bring about the necessary reduction in rates. Such was the opinion expressed by Howard Stutchbury, trade commissioner of the Alberta Government, who was a visitor in London yesterday. Mr. Stutchbury's mission in Ontario is primarily for the purpose of preventing several coal dealers who have been attempting to import American soft coal on the public under the guise of Alberta fuel. While here, however, he purposes spending some time in educating the people of this province to a realization of the value of Alberta fuel as a substitute for the coal now supplied by the United States.

In an interview Mr. Stutchbury stated that the people of Ontario generally are sold on Alberta coal. The

SILENT COP AGAIN CRIPPLED BY AUTO

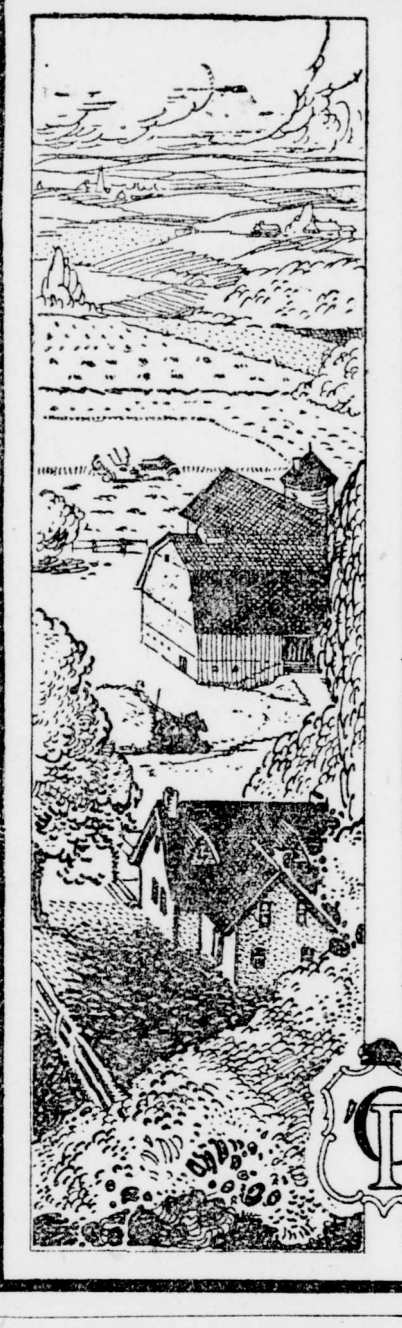
He has been seriously hurt again. Late Thursday night, while resting after a hard day's work in regulating traffic at the corner of Dundas and Richmond streets, the silent policeman was knocked down by an automobile.

Although his standard was bent, glass broken and electrical equipment shattered, the authorities are endeavoring to fix it so it may be in use to-day. The driver of the automobile will pay the cost of repairs.

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