

THREE MURDERERS TO BE HANGED ON APRIL 10

Crown Prosecutor Weeps As Death Sentences Passed

THREE MEN SENTENCED TO BE HANGED; OFFICIALS SID MURRELL, WILLIAMS AND TOPPING PLANNING GIVEN EXTREME PENALTY FOR MURDER FOR BETTER LIGHTING

Three Men Are Sentenced To-
gether, in Seventeen Minutes,
Amid Dead Silence.

EXECUTION APRIL 10

Murrell Remains Defiant, But
Williams and Topping Are
Subdued.

HOPE FOR TOPPING

Judge Indicates Clemency For
Topping—None For Murrell
or Williams.

Three murderers, Sidney Murrell,
"Slim" Williams and Clarence Topping
were all sentenced to hang on
April 10.

The three young men, whose com-
bined ages total but 74 years were
sentenced one after the other by Mr.
Justice Lennox, presiding judge at
the winter assizes shortly after 10
o'clock this morning. Fourteen min-
utes from the time the judge started
to speak, the last man received the
death sentence.

No hope was held out by his Lord-
ship for either Murrell or Williams,
but Topping was told that his case
was not as hopeless as the others.

No Place Designated.

The place of hanging was not de-
signated by the court, but the unani-
mous belief in official circles is that
the men will meet death on a scaf-
fold built in the yard of the Mid-
dlesex county jail.

Murrell and Williams were hand-
cuffed together by a bright heavy
steel chain. Topping occupied his old
seat at the left of the prisoners' box
which was built to hold three per-
sons only. He also was handcuffed.
Murrell, the first to be sentenced
met the death sentence with a great
show of bravado; Williams, who
came second, showed no emotion and
neither did Topping, who was much
the weakest-looking man of the trio.

Dead Silence Prevailed.

Relatives of Murrell were in court
and took the judge's sentence in a
philosophical manner. There was no
screaming or weeping. Dead silence
prevailed in the courtroom from 10
when T. J. Rigney, K.C., crown pro-
secutor, moved for sentence of the
court on the prisoners, until 10:17
when Topping learned his fate.

At 10:02 a.m. Justice Lennox look-
ed at the crown attorney and nod-
ded his head. Mr. Rigney rose to his
feet.

"I move for the sentence of the
court on the three prisoners, Mur-
rell, Williams and Topping," said the
attorney.

"Mr. Donahue, have you anything
to say," said His Lordship, looking
at the counsel for two of the pris-
oners.

"No, my lord."

Looking at the prisoners, His Lord-
ship asked if Williams and Murrell
were handcuffed together.

"Yes, my lord, replied Sidney Mur-
rell.

The two men then stood up in the
box.

Murrell Came First.

"Sidney Ernest Murrell," said His
Lordship, addressing the first pris-
oner. "You have been guilty of one
of the most serious offences that the
law knows.

"It is never free from pain and em-
barassment to sentence a fellow-
being to death, but it is a measure
of protection afforded by law to so-
ciety. Your career has been a bad
one, and you have not made any
less by going into the box and swear-
ing what is not true. Have you any-
thing to say why the sentence of the
court should not be passed upon you?"

"Not a thing," replied Murrell.

"I have no doubt as to the justice
of the sentence," said His Lordship.
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"You will be hanged by the neck until you are dead"



SENTENCED TO BE HANGED FOR MURDER.

These three men were sentenced to be hanged
by Mr. Justice Lennox this morning. Their fate
creates a situation unparalleled in the criminal
history of Western Ontario. Only nine other per-
sons have received such sentence in Middlesex
County in more than half a century. From left

to right the convicted murderers are: Clarence
Topping, found guilty at midnight last night of
the murder of Geraldine Durston; Sidney Mur-
rell, declared guilty last Tuesday of murdering
Russell Campbell, and Henry Jack "Slim"
Williams, who received a similar verdict on Wed-
nesday night.



TWELVE IN MIDDLESEX GIVEN DEATH SENTENCE

Phoebe Campbell, London-
Born Murderess, Hanged
in 1872.

POPULACE GATHERED

Death Sentence of Thomas
Jones Carried Out Before
Crowds.

When the sentence of death was
imposed on Sidney Murrell, Henry
Jack "Slim" Williams and Clarence
Topping this morning they were the
seventh persons to be sentenced to
death in the county of Middlesex.

Never before in the history of this
province, so far as is known, have
three men, one of whom had no con-
nection with crimes committed by
the other two, been sentenced to the
gallows all together within the short
space of a few minutes.

The only city-born murderer
to pay the supreme penalty was
Phoebe Campbell, the husband-
killer, whose execution was wit-
nessed by thousands in the summer
of 1872.

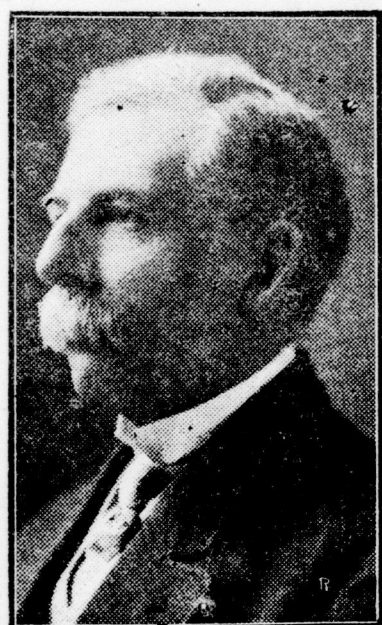
Tracing the history of capital
crimes in London for a period ex-
tending over 55 years reveals that
this city has had more than its
share of sensational murders, one of
which was accounted the most diabol-
ical and fiendish incidents in
provincial criminal history.

The first hanging was that of
Thomas Jones on Dec. 15, 1868 which
was witnessed by the entire popu-
lace, executions in the early days
being public. Cyrus Pritchard paid
the penalty on Dec. 28, 1871, after
he had spent his Christmas day in
the local jail crying out in anguish
for a reprieve. The year following
Phoebe Campbell went to her death
in the last execution in which the
body was jerked into the air by
the release of a 400 pound weight.

Murdered Husband.
The murder of her husband by
Mrs. Campbell was one of the most
sensational episodes of that time.
Infatuated with another she did
away with the man she married five
years previously and temporarily
disappeared with her lover. A long
trial in which Phoebe Campbell was
acquitted of the crime ensued. To
the last she pleaded innocence, out
of the web of evidence was so closely
woven as to make her denials futile.

On June 20, 1872, Mrs. Campbell
was hanged. For two days people
had been coming into the city from
the countryside and as far as Ham-
ilton, Sarnia and Windsor, to wit-
ness the hanging. They climbed trees
and stood on the tops of houses to
see the event. The old King street
bridge was crowded with visitors
anxious to get a glimpse of the mur-
deress.

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"MURDER OR NOTHING."
Three times Justice Lennox seen
above has made this charge to the
jury during the last week and three
times has the verdict been "guilty."
His Lordship pronounced three death
sentences this morning.

TREATED FAIRLY, THINKS SWANSON

Judge Lennox Is Complimented
—Counsel Showed Excellent
Judgment and Fairness.

D. A. G. Swanson, counsel for
Topping, in a short interview this
morning, stated the prosecution of
Topping by Mr. Rigney had been
conducted with the utmost consid-
eration and fairness alike to the pris-
oner and the crown. He expressed
the opinion that he couldn't have ex-
pected more co-operation from the
crown than he had received during
the trial.

Mr. Justice Lennox is receiving
praise on all sides for the speedy
and efficient manner in which all
three murder trials were conducted.
In the opinion of the crowd that
thronged the court room, the sum-
ming up of all cases by His Lord-
ship was brilliant, concise and con-
clusive.

Crown Prosecutor T. J. Rigney
brought out the evidence in the three
trials clearly and quickly, confining
his examination of witnesses to the
salient facts.

Suggestion of Mayor Is Being
Considered by Utilities Com-
mission and Engineer Near.

INCREASE OF \$10,000

Two Systems of Street Illumi-
nation Will Be Tested Before
Action Is Taken.

The matter of improving the city's
street lighting, requested by the
mayor, with a suggested increased
expenditure of \$10,000 annually, is
receiving the attention of the public
utilities commission and the city en-
gineer.

In discussing the matter at the
annual meeting of the commission it
was unanimously agreed that the
mayor's suggestion was a good one,
and that London's streets, especially
in the downtown district, are inade-
quately lighted.

The danger of motor accidents
was increased, it was agreed, by the
unsatisfactory lighting of these
streets, the danger being greatest
during a rain and when the pave-
ments are wet.

When asked for a proposal which
would tend to correct the matter, E.
V. Buchanan stated that he was
unprepared to give a decided answer
and said that he wanted to test two
different systems for the lighting of
streets. These two systems represent
the opinions of two distinct
schools of electrical engineers, and
rather than accept the opinion of
either school, he asked permission to
try them out in a small way.

It is now proposed that the block on
Queen's avenue, from Clarence to
Wellington, be used as an example
of the system known as uniform diffu-
sion, or in plain terms, one light per
post, while a block of Waterloo will
be used to show the effect of in-
termittent lighting. This calls for a light
on every other post, but a much more
powerful light.

The advantage of this system is
claimed to be the fact that with the
brighter light and the intervening
shadow, a car can always be seen, or
a pedestrian for that matter, as a sil-
houette, and that the glare of in-
termittent lights will not interfere so much with
the visibility of the street or the diffi-
culty of seeing an object quickly.

Neither Mr. Buchanan or Engineer
Near will hazard an opinion of the value
of either system until they have been
tried out as a comparison and their
values noted.



COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENSE.

On the left is J. M. Donahue, who defended Murrell and Williams. On
the right is D. A. G. Swanson, counsel for Topping. The verdicts went
against them in each case.



Three Manacled Prisoners Stand Motionless In Box As Death Sentence Passed

Crown Prosecutor Breaks Down
As Murderers Await Their
Fate.

MURRELL SMILES

Topping Continues To Stare at
Floor On Hearing
Words.

Sidney Murrell, Henry "Slim" Wil-
liams and Clarence Topping heard
the sentence of death imposed on
them between 10:04 and 10:18 this
morning.

But for a distorted smile on Mur-
rell's face, one would imagine they
were hearing an interesting lecture
instead of words that spelt their
doom.

While Crown Prosecutor T. J.
Rigney shed tears Murrell and Wil-
liams, manacled together in the pris-
oners' box, heard the death sentence
with inscrutable faces. Topping,
whether assumed or natural, was
pitifully apathetic. His expression,
sitting beside his contemporaries in
crime, never changed.

Murrell turned a ghastly yellow
tinge as the full realization of Mr.
Justice Lennox's words came to him.

Five minutes before the three had
entered the court room in custody
chatting together and smiling at
times, Murrell carried the spirit of
bravado with him to the last, rais-
ing two fingers in enigmatical greet-
ings.

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Suicide Mania Hits Austria

Associated Press Despatch.
Vienna, Feb. 9.—The Austrian
capital is suffering from a grow-
ing epidemic of suicides, most of
which are attributed to the wide-
spread unemployment. The cli-
max was reached on Thursday
when eleven persons took their
own lives during the 24 hours.

MAYOR RETURNS FROM CHICAGO

Declares He Is "All Set" To
Face Busy Week Ahead of
Him in Council.

The mayor returned to London late
last night invigorated and refreshed
after his sojourn in the windy city
of Chicago. He says he is "all set"
to face the busy week ahead of him
in the council. There are meetings
of the various committees every day
next week and on some days two or
three.

The two standing committees have
to set their estimates, and there is
a great deal of civic business to be
finished next week in order to get
the city away to a flying start for
the year.

Unemployment has to be dealt with
and this is particularly a matter in
which the mayor is interested. He
says that the total amount set aside
by the city for relief work is \$75,-
000 and not \$35,000 as some people
have suggested. The latter sum is
merely put down in the estimates to
cope with "emergency" relief.
He adds: "It is better to spend the
money that way than on soup
kitchens."

POPULAR MANUFACTURER DIES IN CLINTON TODAY

William Doherty, well-known Can-
adian manufacturer and founder of
the Clinton Piano Company, died this
morning at his home in Clinton, fol-
lowing a brief illness. He was 84
years of age.

Last Sunday Mr. Doherty suffered
a paralytic stroke, and during the
week his condition became weaker.

The funeral will be held on Mon-
day from Wesley Church, Clinton.

ALBERTA TOWN IS REPORTED ON FIRE

Canadian Press Despatch.
Calgary, Feb. 9.—At four o'clock
this morning the town of Nanton,
28 miles south of Calgary, was on
fire. Nine stores and places of resi-
dence had been razed by the blaze
and the Calgary fire brigade was
speeding south on a special trail.

GERMANS SLOWLY REGAIN TRADE WITH CANADIAN

Associated Press Despatch.
London, Feb. 9.—Signs of the re-
vival of trade between Germany and
Canada are indicated here. Several
German firms have inquired recently
at Canadian agencies in London as
to whether the Dominion can supply
at competitive prices canned and
dried fruits which are now purchased
elsewhere by the German houses. The
matter is being taken up with lead-
ing Canadian packers and shippers.

DIBSDALE'S FATHER IS DISTRESSED BY RUMORS

Feels Keenly Story That His
Son Is at Liberty on
Parole.

ASKS ONLY JUSTICE

Declares Emphatically That He
Has No Intention of Aiding
Son.

Albert Dibsdale, father of Gordon
Dibsdale, who was sent to the On-
tario Reformatory at Guelph follow-
ing the murder of Christina Near
two years ago, resents the report
appearing in the Free Press that his
son may have been paroled from
that institution.

The story in the local newspaper
was to the effect that young Dib-
sdale was believed to be at large. The
Advertiser got in touch with C. F.
Neelands, superintendent of the On-
tario Reformatory last night and
the latter denied there was any
foundation for the local report.
Dibsdale, he said, was still in the
institution.

Mr. Dibsdale gave the following
statement in connection with the
report:

"I feel that it is an injustice to
myself and to the department of jus-
tice as well to publish such an item.
Why did they not ask me about the
rumors. Would have told them what
was right and what was wrong. I
have never used my influence to
have my son paroled or aided in any
way. Justice is all I want."
"I feel the death of Miss Near as
keenly as if she were my own child,
and I feel that a great injustice has
been done to myself, my relatives,
and the relatives of Miss Near."

Mr. Dibsdale states that he hears
from his son regularly as he is al-
lowed to write one letter each week.
The statement from Mr. Neelands
appears on an inside page of this
issue.

KITCHENER'S MAYOR INVITES COUNCILS

Municipalities Asked To Come
to Meeting on Town Plan-
ning Subjects.

The meeting of town planning ex-
perts and all municipal officers in-
terested in this work in Kitchener in
Feb. 15 is planned to show the vari-
ous municipalities in Western Ontario
just what town planning is and what
it requires. The legislation required
by the cities of the province before
they can go ahead with any town-
planning scheme. The city of Kitch-
ener has moved further in the di-
rection of town planning than any other
city in Ontario, and now its civic
plans are held up for lack of the
necessary provincial legislation. The
executive of the Planning As-
sociation feels that greater interest
on the part of the different munici-
palities would result in bringing
pressure to bear on Toronto and in
gaining the legislation sought to
make town planning an active force
for betterment in Ontario. Mayor
Breiphauf of Kitchener has issued
an invitation to all city councils in
Western Ontario to attend the meet-
ing.

THE WEATHER
FORECASTS.
Mostly fair and milder today and
Sunday; local snow flurries tonight.
Pressure is high over the northern
Rocky Mountain states and the eastern
portion of the continent, with a shallow
trough of low from the Rainy River
district to southwest states. The
weather has been fair and cold from
Ontario eastward, and comparatively
mild in the Western Provinces.

Stations.	High	Low	Weather
Victoria	48	38	Clear
Calgary	34	8	Clear
Winnipeg	26	14	Cloudy
Port Arthur	16	10	Snow
S. S. Marie	14	4	Cloudy
Quebec	12	2	Clear
Toronto	22	4	Clear
Kingston	16	0	Clear
Ottawa	22	8	Clear
Montreal	12	2	Clear
St. John	22	0	Clear
Halifax	22	0	Clear

(-) Below zero.
LOCAL TEMPERATURES.
The highest and lowest tempera-
tures recorded in London during the
24 hours previous to 8 o'clock last
night were: Highest, 20; lowest, 12.
The official temperatures for the
12 hours previous to 8 a.m. today
were: Highest, 17; lowest, 7.
Barometric Readings.
Friday—8 p.m.—29.66.
Today—8 a.m.—29.54.

Topping Verdict Amuses Two Melbourne Bandits

"Misery loves company."

That possibly would be the best
and most charitable way to express
the actions of Sidney Murrell and
"Slim" Williams, when they were
told by jail officials at midnight that
Clarence Topping had been found
guilty of murder.

Both Murrell and Williams laughed
when they heard the news. Murrell
thought it was a great joke, and said
so. It also appeared to Williams as
being rather laughable, and his voice
soon joined that of Murrell's.

Topping seemed to be in a daze.
He heard the demonstration of both
Melbourne murderers, but gave no
sign of anger or sorrow.

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