

was carrying a long parcel wrapped in brown paper; that an elongated scratch on the inside of a cardboard box found in his room appeared to have been made by the front sight of the murder weapon, and that some brown paper and some corrugated paper tubing, also found in his room, still retained when seized the shape of the rifle barrel and had evidently been used to wrap it.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty but recommended mercy, and the accused was sentenced to be hanged on July 10, 1945, at Prince Albert, Sask., gaol; this sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment in Saskatchewan Penitentiary.

In addressing the jury, Crown and defence counsel both referred to the capable manner in which the investigation had been conducted and the impressive comportment of the police on the witness stand.

Mr. Justice Bigelow also commended the investigators and paid special tribute to the R.C.M.P. crime detection laboratory staff, remarking on the excellent way they had given their evidence and prepared the exhibits. He added that the methods used far surpassed those of former years when this kind of work was performed by private agencies which could be hired by either side.

"I would just like to say a word about the work of the police investigation", His Lordship said. "I want to add my tribute to the experts of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their great achievements in that respect in the last few years. It is not for so many years that the courts have had the assistance of such evidence that they can produce now from the laboratory in Regina. It is only a few years ago that we used to have handwriting experts who were conducting private offices and you could hire them to come to give evidence the same as you could any doctor or anybody else, to give opinion evidence. Well, that kind of evidence was not very satisfactory and I must voice my pleasure at seeing such capable evidence as we have had before us in this court. That handwriting expert who gave evidence here was

certainly a satisfactory witness, and gave his evidence as such a convincing witness that I don't think you will have any doubt about it. He gave you 23 different reasons why that questioned signature was like the other signatures in the statement. And the same for the other experts. It is very satisfactory to know that we have in this province a laboratory in Regina in the police barracks capable of doing such capable work, not only in the finger-prints, blood stains, the firearms and the plaster casts, but of all that evidence which is very, very helpful. All that evidence is very helpful and reliable as it is and I am sure it will help you gentlemen to a very considerable extent.

"I quite agree with counsel in their remarks that the police have done some excellent work in rounding up and collecting all possible evidence to present to you, and I would add my tribute to what counsel said of them in that respect. The police had no knowledge of this crime at all until four o'clock that afternoon. They were investigating then the car. They had nothing to start with to investigate. They knew that a man had been killed, that's all. Well, by the next evening they had some men rounded up who had been driving into Melfort. You can take yourself for instance. Put yourself in the same position. Supposing you were to go out today and try to find out who passed over that road, No. 3 highway, yesterday. Where would you begin? And what a difficult job you would have! They were fortunate of course in coming on two cars . . . coming in from this cement bee incident. Two cars of people then. But outside of that they got two other people who passed over that road at the very critical time, and it must have taken some very clever searching to find them. There was McKee and that commercial traveller for the Imperial Tobacco Company; they passed over the road within the very critical time.

"Now the bullets: There were two pellets found, one stuck in the blanket congealed in blood and one on the front cushion of the car. There were also two live bullets found on the side of the road near the place of the tragedy and also an expended cartridge case. The conclusion of the expert in firearms is that both of these bullets had been fired from one and the same