

New Facts Disclosed At Mrs. Whiteside Inquest

SAYS LADDER WAS SHIFTED IN ABSENCE

Brother of Dead Woman Gives New Evidence Before Coroner.

DEAD SOME TIME

Pathologist Tells Result of His Post-Mortem Examination.

The inquiry into the death of Mrs. Clara Whiteside, who was murdered in her home at East St. John, and whose body was found on Christmas evening, was continued in the Court House, Germain street, last evening before Coroner Horace A. Porter and jury. The court room and hallway were jammed with a large crowd of interested spectators. So eager was the crowd to get in that when the door of the hall leading to the court room was opened a large pane of glass was broken. Seven witnesses had been examined when the court adjourned at 11 o'clock to resume this evening at 7.30 o'clock. James P. Gorman, the mulatto who is being held by the detectives, was returned to his cell after giving his testimony, and may be released this morning. New and striking evidence was given by some of the witnesses.

Says Ladder Shifted.
Dewitt Cairns, brother of the murdered woman, said that there had been a small step ladder lying on the top of the kitchen trap door on Christmas night when he entered the house. He said that it was not in that position on the day previous when he looked through the window of the kitchen. Further he said that on Christmas night there was a basin three-quarters full of water on the kitchen floor. This water was not frozen, while in the hall, only a few yards away from the basin, the body of his sister was frozen.

John P. Gorman, mulatto, testified as to his movements about the house, and left the city on Dec. 18 and went to work in a lumber camp at Swan Creek. He was on the thirteenth that he gave the dog to Mrs. Whiteside. They parted on friendly terms, and he left the city at 4.40 in the afternoon. Detective Herbert Kirkpatrick told about visiting Swan Creek lumber camp where he checked up the time sheets held by the camp foreman; also that held by William Allen, who operated the camp, and who resided in Fredericton. He also interviewed other men at the camp and learned that Gorman arrived at Swan Creek on Dec. 18 and remained there until the 27th, when he left for St. John. Ian McLaughlin and William Richards, employees for the St. John Dry Dock & Shipbuilding Co., Ltd., gave evidence of being at the Whiteside house on Dec. 17 for three-quarters of an hour between noon and 1 o'clock, that they did not see Mrs. Whiteside, and got no response when they rapped on her front door.

Dead Some Time.
Dr. H. L. Abramson, who performed the autopsy on the body of Mrs. Whiteside, showed by his evidence that the head had been broken in at four different places, that fracture of the skull and brain was the cause of death. He could not tell from the condition of the body how long the woman had been dead owing to the body being frozen, but from an examination of the intestines it was shown that she had been dead for some time.

Constable Osmon.
Provincial Constable Osmon testified that it was about noon on Dec. 17 that he last saw Mrs. Whiteside alive, and at that time she was at the front of her house feeding some dogs.

Dewitt Cairns.
Dewitt Cairns, 260 Duke street, brother of Mrs. Whiteside, was the first witness called. He testified that he last saw Mrs. Whiteside alive on Dec. 11. That was the last communication of which he had with her. He did not know of her being seen by any member of the family since that date. "On Saturday, Dec. 22," he said, "my sister, Mrs. Emerson, telephoned to me and asked me if I had seen Clara lately. I said, 'no,' and Mrs. Emerson said that she felt kind of nervous. She had usually dropped in to the city."

(Witness said he told Mrs. Emerson that he would go out the next day.)

Invents Dredge to Seek Sea Treasure

Los Angeles, Dec. 31.—The refusal of the sailing ships to surrender to the shallow depths may be defeated if the dredge invented by De Vito of Los Angeles materializes. De Vito has invented a device, which really nothing except a gigantic dredge, which he states will restore 80 per cent of the now sunken ships to the service.

NEWSBOYS ATTEND Y. M. C. A. BANQUET

Company of 225 Enjoys Wide Variety of Entertainment.

The days of real sport were admirably demonstrated last night when the newsboys enjoyed their annual treat at the Y. M. C. A. It was a "howling success" from start to finish and there was not a moment of time at which the boys were not enjoying themselves. The program was arranged for their entertainment. First there were clown stunts and the boys were enthusiastic participants in the good fun. Next came an exhibition of tumbling and then the pleasing contest, which caused hilarious times. The pit, which was an incidental on young Ritchie's way to victory, hardly knew what had befallen it before it vanished suddenly out of existence. Young Ritchie has a skin of dyed hue and he is "some te-cater." Three reels of motion pictures rounded out the entertainment program.

The ladies assisting were—Mrs. F. A. Dykeman, Mrs. J. Pendrigh, Mrs. R. E. Plumptre, Mrs. H. F. Fritts, Mrs. G. B. Taylor, Mrs. Holly Lingley, Mrs. G. B. Lingley, Mrs. John McKinnon, Mrs. J. S. Frost, Mrs. D. E. Willie, Mrs. R. M. Fowler, Mrs. J. A. Kennedy and the Misses M. McColligan, J. Milligan and Alice Lacey.

ANOTHER INDUSTRY FOR EAST ST. JOHN

Local Company to Compound Lubricating Oils—Have Big Contract

The Canadian Independent Oil Company, Ltd., of St. John, has closed a contract to supply lubricating oils of all kinds to all Canadian Pacific steamships plying to all Atlantic ports. This is said to be the biggest contract for marine lubricating oils ever closed in Canada. The company means a new industry for the city, for its compounding plant will be located at East St. John.

Better Doctor Needed.
This time the financial sinking-ship into which Germaine has fallen is no feat. —Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Doomed Men Welcome Lethal Execution as End of Terror Suspense in Death House

He does not die a death of shame on a day of dark days. Nor have a noose about his neck. Nor a cloth about his face. Nor drop feet foremost through the floor. Into an empty space.

Carson City, Nev.—Grotesque joy rules the death house of the state penitentiary here. For at last, after almost a year of suspense, three men bound by walls of doom know they are to die. Sentenced as first execution experiments under Nevada's newly legislated lethal gas chamber enactment, fates of the trio have been repeatedly postponed by judicial interference.

Now, constitutionality of the death decreed for them has just been upheld by the United States Supreme Court. Glad End Is Near. So it will be only a little while before Thomas Russell, Hughie Sing and Gee Jon are led into the hermetically sealed chamber of concrete with its cold windows standing so forbiddingly in the prison yard.

Six witnesses permitted by law, will watch through the glass. Death will come silently. It will come quickly. And for that the condemned men are glad.

Hope of escape long since has left them. Months of terror waiting for the end has shot their hair white. Soon the agony of suspense will be over. For they know definitely now how they are to die and when.

Wife's oriental stolidity Hughie Sing and Gee Jon sigh relief. Russell, their Mexican compatriot in death is equally composed and as "some te-cater."

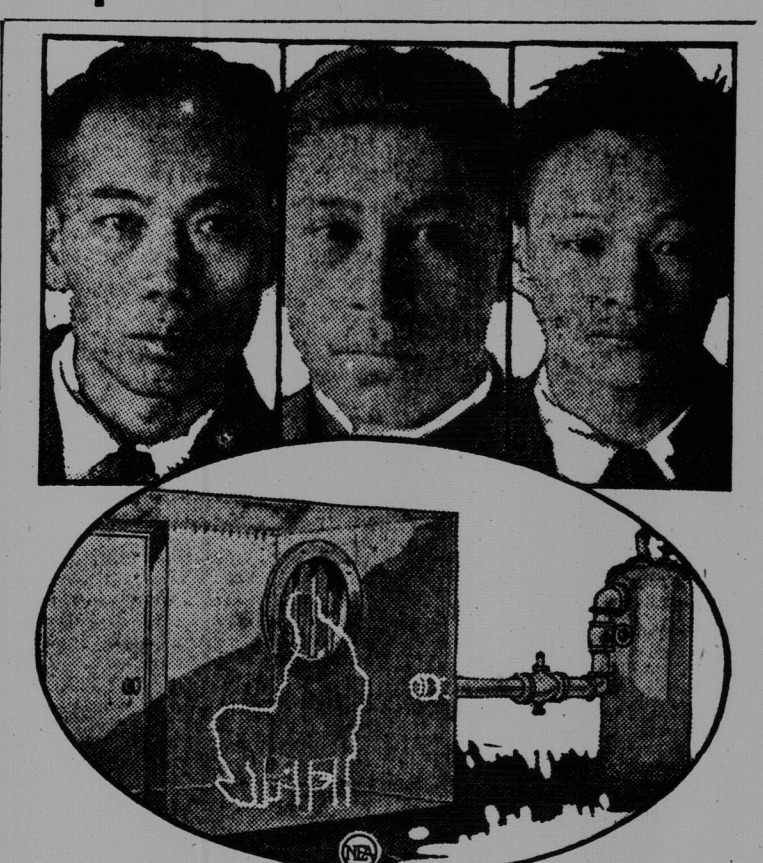
State to Rush Life Insurance.
The attention of Hon. Dr. W. F. Roberts having been called to the condition of a returned soldier, resident in the province, suffering from a serious illness, a public health nurse was sent to the relief of the family. Other cases of this kind are being dealt with that material assistance and treatment are provided.

Wisconsin Plans Campaign to Increase Policies to Million and Half.

Madison, Wis., Jan. 3.—(United Press).—With a campaign of advertising which is expected to double the present list of policy-holders, Wisconsin is going into the insurance business on a whole new scale.

Aged Halifax Ex-City Collector is Sentenced to Dorchester Prison.
Halifax, Jan. 3.—Robert S. Theakston, ex-city collector convicted of the embezzlement of city funds totalling \$20,000, was sentenced to two years in Dorchester prison by Mr. Justice Melish in the Supreme Court today.

Prepares Hospital Estimates.
The Board of Commissioners of the General Hospital had a lengthy session last evening to prepare the estimates for the coming year. The estimates are to be presented at the meeting of the finance committee of the Municipal Council at its meeting next week. M. E. Ager, the president, was in the chair.



Left to right: Gee Jon, Thomas Russell and Hughie Sing, with artist's conception of the lethal chamber in which they have been sentenced to die, drawn from accurate description.

aged with horror wondering how Nevada would kill them should the gas chamber be denied its prey. Today in the prison preparations are being made to set the lethal machinery in motion.

Three wires are being affixed to the valve which will loose the deadly vapor into the little concrete chamber. At a given signal when the day of death comes the wires will be pulled simultaneously.

But only one will open the controlling jet. This will prevent anyone from turning on the gas. Nevada amended its law governing capital punishment, adopting lethal execution instead of hanging, at suggestions from state legislators who had seen service in France and witnessed effects of poison gas on the battle front.

IS GIVEN TWO YEARS.
Fredericton, Jan. 2.—In the Chancery court today, before Sir J. D. Hazen, the case of Simon Ayers, a resident of Fort Fairfield, Maine, seeking a declaration for the restoration to him of farming property, near Andover, at present occupied by his wife, Levia Ayers, was commenced.

The plaintiff claims that the property is held by his wife in trust for him and his children, and that he was forced to vacate the house by his wife, who, he says, ordered him to be placed, threatening to poison him if he did not. The plaintiff sets up that the property was bought for some \$300 and deeded to his wife under a verbal agreement that it was to be held in trust. Since the purchase of the property, he claims to have erected a building on the farm, to have increased the property value to approximately \$4,000. A man named Baker, residing with his wife, is also alleged to have been implicated in the acts which forced him to vacate his home. W. P. Jones, K. C., appeared for the plaintiff.

The defence claims that the property was not conveyed in trust and that the defendant secured an interest in the property through a part of the purchase price paid by her and her sons. A general denial of the claims of the plaintiff is also set forth in the defence in which it is stated that the plaintiff left home against the wishes of the defendant. The present value of the property is also disputed, the defence claiming that an old building had been repaired and not a new one built, as would appear from the plaintiff's statement of fact. R. B. Hanson, K. C., is appearing for the defence. Baker is named as a boarder, being a neighboring farmer.

SENTENCE SUSPENDED.
Thomas Anderson appeared in the police court yesterday, charged with indecent exposure and insolent girls. He pleaded not guilty. Several witnesses were heard during the morning and afternoon, both for prosecution and defence. After reviewing the case, Magistrate Henderson decided to give the benefit of the doubt to the accused and allowed him to go on suspended sentence.

YALE KEY IS FOUND.
A Yale key found in Charlotte street on Tuesday, was handed to Deputy Sheriff Clifford Armstrong, who will be kind to turn it over to its owner.

COMMUNISM IN GERMANY DEAD

One Woman Tries to Stir Berlin, But Effort Is Vain.

Berlin, Jan. 2.—(United Press).—The Communist movement in Germany is, to all intents and purposes, dead, said old Tula Khanum, widow of the Pollock Rip Lightship, shot and killed his wife and then turned his pistol on himself. He died before the arrival of a physician. Warner was 60 years of age. Neighbors said he had periods of despondency.

EAGER FOR COURSE IN GARAGE WORK.
The first classes in the special course for garage workers were held yesterday. The course, which is being held in St. John under the auspices of the Auto-motive section of the Retail Merchants Association and with the endorsement of the New Brunswick Automobile Association, is being conducted by the Provincial Vocational Educational Department. W. B. Main is in charge. The complete figures for the enrollment were not available yesterday as applications were still coming in and many were coming through the Fredericton office of the department.

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THE HAMBURG RIOTS.
The Hamburg riots, costing quite a few lives, were held yesterday afternoon at the United Garage in Duke street with Murdoch MacKay, of the United Air Company, as instructor. Mr. MacKay will give the instruction during the first week and the remainder of the course John Olive, of this city, will be the instructor.

W. B. Main is to have charge of the automotive electricity classes and will have an assistant to help him. The motor mechanics classes will also commence this morning and they will be held in the Fred White garage in the Marsh road with Mr. White as instructor.

TO THE SOCIAL SERVICE COUNCIL.
The Duke of Rothesay Chapter of the I. O. E. at its meeting yesterday afternoon decided to assume responsibility for its share in the luncheon to be given by the I. O. E. for the Social Service Council of Canada at its annual meeting in St. John this month. The chapter met at the home of Mrs. W. S. Allison, Rothesay, with Mrs. John McIntyre, the regent, in the chair. Reports were given of the Christmas cheer which had been sent to the Norton King's County Municipal Home at Christmas. The good things which the chapter provided included four or five turkeys, a goose, 25 pounds of candy and a large quantity of fruit. An account was also given of the presentation of the picture "Sir Galahad" to the Rothesay Collegiate School immediately building. The committee of the chapter had netted \$41. Miss Pitcher, the chapter's member of the League of Nations Society, gave her report and the nominations for officers to be elected at the next meeting were handed in.

HON. DR. PUGLEY IMPROVING.
Rev. George B. Macdonald, pastor of Victoria street Baptist church, received a telegram on New Year's Day from his sister, Mrs. William Pugsley, Ottawa, and later a letter containing the good news that Hon. Dr. Pugsley will be able to leave St. Luke's Hospital in about a week. Dr. Pugsley has been ill for several weeks and was operated on twice. His many friends here and all over Canada will be happy to hear that Dr. Pugsley is gaining strength so rapidly.

LADIES' ASSOCIATION MEETS.
Mrs. William Ward, the vice-president, was in the chair at the meeting of the Ladies' Association of St. John Baptist parish which was held last evening. Following the presentation of reports some plans were made for the High Tea next month and the remainder of the evening was spent in social enjoyment.

HEALTH BUDGET READY.
At a special meeting in the Health Centre last night the programme for the annual meeting on Jan. 11 was drawn up and the drafting of the budget for the coming year was completed. The annual meeting is to be held in two sessions, with a business session in the afternoon, and a public meeting in the evening.

Kills Wife at New Year Dinner

South Yarmouth, N. H., Jan. 2.—As his family was about to sit down to New Year's dinner, yesterday, Frederick Warner, formerly chief engineer of the Pollock Rip Lightship, shot and killed his wife and then turned his pistol on himself. He died before the arrival of a physician. Warner was 60 years of age. Neighbors said he had periods of despondency.

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GIRL FREED; MAN HELD AT BEAR RIVER

Bertha Potter, 22, Prisoner in Lent's House for Five Years.

TIP COMES FROM U. S.

Girl Becomes Hysterical on Being Released—Her Windows Sealed.

Halifax, Jan. 2.—Bertha Potter, an attractive woman of 22, walked out into the sunshine today for the first time in five years and told the authorities that she had lived that entire period in a potential dungeon a virtual prisoner in the hands of William Lent, 62, in the centre of the town of Bear River, Digby County, 150 miles from here. The story of the girl's life, her incarceration and her ultimate release coincident with the arrest of the man in the case on a charge of seduction, bears all the marks of fiction but has been vouched for by special agents sent out by Hon. W. J. O'Hearn, Attorney-General for Nova Scotia.

Her Disappearance.
Bertha was taken from an almshouse at the age of three and given a home by Mrs. Potter, of Bear River, who also gave her her name. She lived with Mrs. Potter till when she went out to work in a nearby village where she remained a year, leaving her occupation in February, 1918, to live with William Lent in Bear River. Lent was living alone, having been separated from his wife who lives in Massachusetts.

The girl was seen in and around Lent's place until 1918 when she suddenly passed out of sight. Various rumors of her fate were at first, but she was finally forgotten. Two weeks ago a letter was received by a prominent man in the city, from a man in the United States. In it the writer stated that in 1917 he had seen a woman, who he believed was Bertha Potter, in the company of William Lent. He said the girl had explained that her clothes were being kept by the man, and that she was being detained against her will. No explanation was given regarding the delay in releasing the information to the authorities. The letter was passed to the sheriff of the county who sent Attorney-General O'Hearn at Halifax.

Force Way into House.
The Attorney-General sent a special agent, accompanied by a police woman, to Bear River to conduct an investigation. The officers went to Lent's house and after some difficulty forced their way inside. They asked the man what he knew of Bertha Potter and he replied: "I have not done away with her."

Pressed for further information he finally called out the girl's name and she walked out of the adjoining room. She was neatly dressed and appeared in the best of health. It was noticed that the girl kept her hands clasped in front of her, and she explained that for five years she had not been outside the doors of the house. She was placed in the room and directly opposite the main hotel of the town.

Once out of the house the girl became hysterical. She was placed in the care of the police woman and the man was arrested charged with seduction. He admitted that the girl had been with him during the time mentioned and that he was not married to her. He will be given a preliminary hearing Friday.

CHRISTMAS TREE AT TRINITY.
So very many small people were present at the Christmas tree for the primary department of Trinity Sunday school yesterday afternoon that a new record was established and the school room was scarcely able to contain the children, their mothers, and the workers in charge, as well as the interested visitors who wished to see the children. The afternoon was one of genuine delight. They played many group games and enjoyed a wonderful supper. The sparkling Christmas tree was stripped of its heavy burden of gifts and there was a present for each little person there. Miss Ray Cawley, superintendent of the primary department, was in charge of the entertainment and it was one of the most successful in the history of the Sunday school.

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