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3 Years /943 For Indian

Convicted of manslaughter when he appeared before a King's Bench jury in Regina last week, Pte. Eddie Stonechild, 25-year-old Indian with the Canadian Army, was sentenced Tuesday morning to three years with hard labor in Saskatchewan penitentiary, Prince Albert.

Stonechild was originally charged with the murder in Regina on or about Aug. 8 of Evelyn Severwright, 16, an Indian of the Kamsack district. Her death followed by a few hours a beating administered by Stonechild on the night of Aug. 7. The jury reduced the charge to one of manslaughter and urged that leniency be shown when sentence was imposed.

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"In view of the recommendation for leniency, I am only sentencing you to three years," said Mr. Justice Donald Maclean when imposing sentence Tuesday morning. "As you know, you are guilty of a very serious charge and could be sentenced to life imprisonment. You were well spoken of as a decent fellow when away from liquor. If it were not for the jury's recommendation I would send you to the penitentiary for a long time."

Evidence at the trial was that Stonechild, who was attached to the 12th district depot in Regina, had done considerable drinking on Aug. 27 and while at a home on the northern outskirts of the city met the Severwright girl. He became more intoxicated while at the home and in a fit of rage beat the girl about the head with his fists, it was said. She died the next morning at a nearby home. Death was attributed to a fracture on the left side of the head and an ensuing hemorrhage which pressed on the brain.

P. G. Hodges, K.C., and E. D. Noonan, K.C., appeared for Stone-child. H. E. Sampson, K.C., represented the Crown.

Indian Affairs. (RG 10, Volume 7469, File 19114-2, Pt. 1).

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