

MAY BE SELF-DEFENSE PLEA INSANITY IS ALSO TALKED OF REVOLVER AND THE SHOOTING

Speculation as to What Line Will Be Followed by the Counsel for the Prisoner—Mrs. Scott Sleeps but Little—Does Not Talk Much—Sympathy Around Thorndale Appears To Be in Favor of Mrs. Scott.

There is still a good deal of interest centreing around the probable defense in the case of Mrs. Wesley Scott, accused of the murder of her father-in-law, Wesley Scott, who was shot in the back of the head by her son, George Merryfield, who says he formerly resided in London, Ont., was taken in charge by the police, and is now in a Port Huron hospital under surveillance.

In many quarters it is thought that owing to the treatment the woman had received from the murdered man that the plea will probably be that of self-defense. If this should be the case, the revolver with which the deed was committed will be a material part of the evidence.

Wesley Scott, the husband, says that the revolver had been in the house for a long time. When asked as to why he kept a revolver in the house, he replied that he did so. "You never know when you might need it," he concluded.

The Revolver.
The question of where the revolver was just before the shooting will also be of great importance, since what means Mrs. Scott had to take to get it. If it is proved that the revolver was in the house, it will be a material part of the evidence.

The Theory.
In either case the general opinion is that he could not have been abusing or attempting to abuse Mrs. Scott at the time the shot was fired. Then, too, the body, as it lay had fallen straight back, and the head was more than three feet from the door with the feet stretched away from the door, from which it would seem that the murdered man must have been up-wards of eight or ten feet from the doorway when the shot struck him.

Won't Talk.
High Constable Hughes, who made the investigation immediately after the shooting, said the woman herself is the only one who can tell whether these deductions are correct. Mr. Hughes refuses definitely to give any opinion on the matter, and as far as can be learned, Mrs. Scott has spoken to no one save her lawyer regarding the tragedy since her imprisonment.

Mrs. Scott's Condition.
The physical condition of Mrs. Wesley Scott, who is prisoner in the county jail charged with the murder of Harvey Scott, her father-in-law, has not changed very markedly since she was first brought in. The nervous strain she has undergone, and is still undergoing, following as it

did on a serious illness, has left her very weak. But she shows signs of the nervous shock, it is not in any external manifestation. There is nothing uncontrolled or hysterical about her demeanor. So far she has shown no particular interest in her surroundings, nor does she seem greatly interested in the terrible charge that is standing against her. She is content to sit all day in her cell or in the corridor adjoining, with her hands folded on her lap, doing nothing.

A Model Prisoner.
She has caused no trouble to those in attendance on her, and has hardly spoken a word to answer questions, since she entered the jail. She has shown no particular interest in her surroundings, nor does she seem greatly interested in the terrible charge that is standing against her. She is content to sit all day in her cell or in the corridor adjoining, with her hands folded on her lap, doing nothing.

May Be Insanity Plea.
Dr. McArthur said that he would rather not give any opinion regarding her condition till he had been able to observe it for some days. As there are rumors of temporary insanity, he also has the plea urged on her behalf, the doctor's opinion regarding the woman's present mental condition is naturally of great interest and importance.

Woman Prisoner.
It is many years ago now since a woman was confined in the local jail on this serious charge, and this fact lends an added interest to her case. She is lodged in one of the large, bright cells on the upper floor, the window of which looks out beyond the jail wall to the south. Everything has been done to make her as comfortable as possible under the circumstances, and one of the matrons is in practically constant attendance, as the woman's physical condition demands.

Reports from Thorndale and the vicinity received this morning state that the feeling is running very strongly in favor of the prisoner, but the theory of temporary insanity does not find favor among those who know the circumstances of the case. The prevailing opinion is that she was tortured and threatened and abused so that she couldn't stand it any longer, and only as that condition could be looked upon as insanity, there is any color to the suggestion in the minds of her neighbors.

The funeral of Harvey Scott, who was killed by his daughter-in-law at an early hour on Monday morning, took place this afternoon at 2 o'clock, from his late residence, on 12, con. 6, West Nissouri. The interment took place at the Clipperton Cemetery.

FORMER LONDONER ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

George Merryfield Slashes His Throat and Throws Himself in River.

POLICE TAKE HIM IN

Thinks He Is Being Pursued by a Band of Black Handers—A Strange Case.

Windsor, Sept. 15.—After two desperate attempts to end his life at Marine City, Mich., yesterday, George Merryfield, who says he formerly resided in London, Ont., was taken in charge by the police, and is now in a Port Huron hospital under surveillance.

Merryfield's first attempt was by cutting a huge gash in his throat with a razor. When he found this unsuccessful he made a dash for the river, and threw himself in. Jeremiah Tarte, a bystander, plunged into the water and brought ashore nearly dead from exhaustion. After his wounds were dressed Merryfield was taken to Port Huron.

He believes he is being pursued by a gang of "black handers," and attempted suicide to cheat them of their prey. He is probably insane.

ALL ROADS TO LONDON TODAY

Every Train Coming Into the City Was Crowded With Visitors.

G. T. R. BROUGHT 6,000

P. R. Did Big Business, Also P. R. G. Did Big Business, Also the Traction Line.

London is today the Mecca towards which thousands of people from all parts of Western Ontario are hurrying, and every train and stage and omnibus is crowded to capacity.

Every train carried special coaches, and in many instances special trains were put on to accommodate the crowds.

G. T. R. Brought 6,000. Grand Traction officials state that their line carried fully 5,000 visitors to the fair.

"It's the greatest crowd I ever remember," said a G. T. R. official to the Advertiser. "We had two trains down the Bruce, and they carried fully 1,500 people. At every station they picked up passengers, and when London was reached the trains were crowded only a special from Brantford brought 1,000 people, and the regular train brought nearly as many more. All trains on the Bruce and the through trains carried many hundreds."

The Pere Marquette specials brought in fully 2,000 people from the districts to the south.

3,000 By Traction Line. The Southwestern Traction Company put on a half-hour service, and although the reports were not completed, estimate that they carried fully 3,000 people.

All the C. P. R. morning trains were crowded, and a great many visitors arrived on the early train that reached the fair grounds in good time. The later trains from the east brought in large crowds also. The C. P. R. estimate that they handled fully 2,000 people.

The Michigan Central train brought in another large crowd of fair visitors from districts east and west of St. Thomas.

Stages Busy. In addition to the trains and trolleys, every stage line running into the city did a rushing business, and hundreds of farmers drove in for miles around. Many of the hotel yards are completely filled with vehicles, and dining-rooms and restaurants were at times unable to accommodate those who wanted meals.



MRS. WESLEY SCOTT. Who Is Charged With the Murder of Her Father-in-Law, the Late Harvey Scott. The cut is made from a photo taken many years ago. Mrs. Scott is now aged and careworn.

SOUTH LONDON TAKES LEAD IN POPULATION INCREASE

Also Stands First for New Buildings—City's Census Figures Are Disappointing—Only an Increase of 76—A Loss in No. 2 Ward Is Noted—The Complete Figures.

The population of the city of London lacks almost 500 of the necessary 50,000, the basis of population upon which a vote on Sunday cars will be taken.

Assessment Commissioner Grant has just completed the assessment of the city, and the figures are now made public. The total population of the city at the present time is 49,507. The population in 1908 was 49,431. The net increase for the year was 76.

In every ward there was an increase in population except Ward 2, where there was a decided falling off. So great was the decrease there, in the boardinghouse districts, that it almost nullified the increases in the other wards.

Increase in Assessment. The total increase in assessment during the year amounted to \$839,232, which is considered very fair. It is divided as follows: Land, \$29,050 increase; buildings, \$652,530; business assessment, \$45,699; income, \$51,953. In the increase was distributed as follows: Ward 1, \$255,518; Ward 2, \$217,128; Ward 3, \$117,653; Ward 4, \$248,935.

"The increase in population is disappointing," said Commissioner Grant. "However, considering the great exodus to the Northwest, and the rapid building up of the suburbs, it is not to be wondered at. All these facts are detrimental to the city's growth."

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AYLMER MAN PRAISES THE WESTERN FAIR

Mr. A. A. Leslie Says the Show This Year Excels Anything of the Past.

Mr. A. A. Leslie, manager of the Aylmer Fair, was a visitor at the Western Fair yesterday, and was entertained at luncheon last evening by President Reid and the directors.

He declared that the Fair this year is superior to any yet held in London. "Everything is running smoothly," he stated. "You have a fine class of exhibits, and they are well placed in every department. The attractions before the stand are the best you have ever had. There are more stamined in it than ever before, and it is almost certain to please. It's a good show, and the directors deserve great credit for it."

TORONTO MAN LOST FINGER AT DOG SHOW

Was Petting the Brute When It Seized His Hand.

Mr. James Kenyon, of Toronto, a visitor at the local Dog Show, had his hand badly lacerated yesterday afternoon by a terrier.

One of the foxterriers got out of his collar, and Mr. Kenyon attempted to place the dog in his place. It attacked him, biting his hand very badly. His little finger was fearfully lacerated, and the other portions of his hand considerably torn. Dr. J. E. Campbell cauterized the wounds, and it is not expected that any serious results will accrue from the accident.

CROWDS TO SEE FAIR BUT NO LAWLESSNESS

The Police Report That They Have Had No Trouble Whatever.

The police have had little to do during the fair. The number of arrests have been extremely small, numbering no more than an ordinary day in the city.

Few drunks have been noticed on the streets, and there has been practically no disorder anywhere. On the fair grounds, it has been extremely quiet, and the police have been busy at all to do there.

As for pickpockets, they have been conspicuous by their absence. Not a single case has been reported, and no arrests have been made.

"We are having little trouble," said Chief Williams. "We are after pickpockets, and get them. Consequently, the crooks give us a wide berth. Some objection has been made to our publicity notices, but our answer is, that what more can we do than that? It has been successful, and I see no reason why we should change it."

CHARGES MISREPRESENTATION. Toronto, Ont., Sept. 15.—An action has been begun by Charles Stock, of Ottawa, against Alfred James McPherson, of Stratford, in which the plaintiff claims damages for alleged fraudulent misrepresentations on the sale to him of a one tenth interest of shares in certain Saskatchewan lands comprising altogether 7,840 acres. He also asks to have the agreement set aside and claims a lien on the lands and return of the money paid and interim judgment restraining the defendant from selling or otherwise disposing of the one tenth interest. It was granted this morning by Mr. Justice MacMahon until the 20th instant.

CHAMPION SHORTHORN COW. Owned by Sir William Van Horne and exhibited at the Western Fair. The animal has swept the boards at every show in which it has been exhibited.

FARMERS' DAY AT WESTERN FAIR TREMENDOUS CROWD ON GROUNDS

New Story Saturday

The Advertiser will begin the publication of a new serial story on Saturday. The title is "The Mystery of the Greer," and the author Wm. Le Queux, and English favorite with the reading public. This story has not yet been put into book form or printed on this side of the Atlantic. Mr. Le Queux pronounces it his best mystery story. It has a charming love interest.

MAN SAID HE STOLE A GRIP

And Is Now Trying to Explain the Charge Against Him.

LIKELY A DOPE FIEND

A Few Drunks Took Up a Portion of P. M. Love's Time in Court This Morning.

Police court business was rather slow today, P. M. Love having little to do. His chief worry was concerning the disposal of Peter Brown, or rather Brown-Dowling. A week ago Brown walked into the police station and informed the desk sergeant that he had stolen a grip. No explanation was forthcoming, and he was remanded the next day for a week for sentence. This morning in court he made a very lucid explanation, saying that he lost his grip, and picked up the one in his possession.

Upon examination, he found it was not his, and came to the police station with it. He gave several references as to his previous good character, and one of his former employers stated that he had always been an honest man.

"You certainly have not the appearance of a criminal," said P. M. Love. Brown further explained that he had served for eleven years in the British Army, and had gone through the Boer War campaign. This, he stated, was also the first time he had ever been in any trouble.

Something Wrong.
"Your explanation is very clear, but I cannot understand why you did not tell me that before," said P. M. Love. "I certainly would not have kept you in jail, if that is the real truth in the matter."

"I will remain you for a week. You are not a drinking man, but something is wrong apparently. I will find out in the meantime, and if you tell the truth I will discharge you."

In police court circles it is suspected that he is a "dope" fiend, some of the officers hinting at opiate eating.

An Indian List.
George Morrison, who is on the Indian list, fell off yesterday, and was fined the customary \$10 and costs. He will pay.

Gilbert Writh made his second appearance before P. M. Love in three months on a charge of drunkenness, and paid \$5 for the ride in the police taxi.

A couple of fair visitors imbibed not wisely and too often, but were discharged.

STEAMERS ARRIVED.
Sept. 14.—Reported at New York: Europa, from Naples; Teror, from Naples; Ryndam, from Rotterdam; Estonia, from Libau.

Sept. 14.—Reported at New York: Philadelphia-Carthagenian, from Glasgow; Queenstown—Haverford, from Glasgow; Liverpool-Lustania, from New York; Copenhagen-United States, from New York; Bremen-Kron Prinz Wilhelm, from New York; Havre-Mexico, from New York; Antwerp-Kronland, from New York; Genoa-Princess Irene, from New York.

At Belle Isle—Empress of Ireland, from Liverpool; Canada, from Liverpool; Corsican, from Liverpool. New York, Sept. 15.—Arrived: Steamer Majestic, from Southampton. Montreal, Sept. 15.—Empress of Ireland reported 150 miles east of Belle Isle at 8 last night. Due at Quebec, Friday morning.

New York, Sept. 15.—Arrived: Steamer President Lincoln, from Hamburg; Bella Isle, Nfld., Sept. 15.—Steamer Corsican, Liverpool for Montreal, was 140 miles east at 9 p.m., 14th. Empress of Ireland, Liverpool for Quebec, was 150 miles east at 9 p.m., 14th.

Visitors Have Been Pouring Into Queen's Park From Early This Morning.

WEATHER WAS NOT FAVORABLE

But the Crowd Came Just the Same—Great Day for the Exhibition.

Farmers' Day is attracting throngs of people to the Western Fair. In spite of the fact that the weather was threatening early this morning, many thousands have come to the city, and from present indications the attendance will be the largest in years.

Every train coming to the city brought thousands of visitors, and the majority of them went direct to the grounds. As a result the grounds and buildings were packed with sightseers, and from noon until 3 o'clock, the street railway company was kept extremely busy handling the crowds.

Big Crowd in Stands.
The grandstand is filled to capacity, and from every point of vantage the things are viewing the races and the grandstand attractions. Everything is running very smoothly at the fair grounds, there being few if any complaints concerning the management.

At the directors' meeting last little time is spent in transacting the business, as there are few matters for adjustment. At the meeting today there was nothing of any importance done. Dr. Routledge, chairman of the horse committee, announced that he had appointed two new judges to settle a protest, and the former award had been reaffirmed.

Directors W. McNeil, William Moore and Geo. G. McCormick were appointed a committee to interview the London street railway, relative to the rental of the loop.

Cold Storage Plant.
The suggestion made by Mr. William Moore, that a cold storage plant be installed in connection with the dairy building, was favorably received, but the directors were of the opinion that it was too late to do anything this year, and the matter was referred to next year's board.

Among those present were President W. J. Reid, W. McNeil, Moore, J. W. Jones, Ald. Saunders, Ald. Fitzgerald, Geo. Scatcherd, W. W. Gammage, C. E. Trebilcock, Geo. G. McCormick, W. M. Spencer, Col. Gortshore, Dr. G. A. Routledge, R. A. Carrothers, John Fringle, T. Hardy, Sheriff Col. McEwen, Jas. Murray, Mayor Stevely and others.

Several visitors were entertained at lunch by the directors. The directors are hopeful that if the weather continues fine until Friday there will be a reasonable surplus over the expenses.

KICKED BY A HORSE MAY NOT RECOVER

Kent Country Truck Farmer Meets With a Serious Accident.

(Special to The Advertiser.) Chatham, Sept. 15.—George Hambly, a truck farmer, lies in a serious condition in the General Hospital here, as the result of being kicked by his horse on the market this morning. He had been alighted from his wagon, and while stooping to kick in the back of his head, fracturing the temporal bone.

SUPT. BOWKER TOOK CHARGE LAST NIGHT

Succeeds Mr. A. J. Nixon in the Middle Division of the G. T. R.

Assistant Superintendent C. G. Bowker took charge of the middle division of the Grand Trunk at midnight last night. He arrived in the city yesterday afternoon, and Mr. A. J. Nixon, his predecessor, introduced him to the staff. This morning, Mr. Nixon was at the office cleaning up some unfinished business. He will finish that today, leaving this evening for the east for two weeks' holidays.

"I am familiarizing myself with my work here," said Mr. Bowker. "I have just taken hold, and am getting an idea of the work."

As his predecessor, Mr. Bowker is a large man, clean-shaven, and is a strong man in every particular. He has made marked advancement in railroad work, and is looked upon as one of the rising men on the Grand Trunk. He will remove his family to London shortly.

London Township Fair.
The London Township Fair, which will be held in Ilderton on Friday, Sept. 24, promises to be one of the best ever held in a country place. The entries are coming in rapidly, and the directors are working hard to make the fair a grand success. The special train leaving London at 1:30 o'clock and returning on Friday is a fine chance for the city people to go out and spend an afternoon at the fair.

RAILWAY COMMISSION AFTER U. S. OFFICIALS

Complaints Made That Immigration Officers Are Uncivil to Travellers.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ottawa, Sept. 15.—The Canadian railway commission today made an order directing all railroads in Canada which do not have immigration business to direct their conductors to prevent undue interference with passengers in Canada by United States immigration officials, who are alleged to have been interfering with passengers bound to the United States, but to passengers going from one Canadian point to another. The order directs conductors to report all cases of incivility by American officials on Canadian trains. On behalf of the railways, it was explained that the presence of American officials on trains in Canada, was due to an arrangement, and was designed to prevent loss of time in making examinations at boundary points.

TROLLEY STRUCK BUGGY LADY WAS RUN OVER

Accident to Dr. Waugh's Rig in Which Young Girl Had Narrow Escape.

A young lady, who was driving with Dr. Waugh on Dundas street, between Colborne and Waterloo streets, was thrown from the buggy and run over by the rig this morning shortly after 11 o'clock. She was not badly hurt, and was at once driven to her home. Motorman Conkey stopped the car very quickly.

The lady fell to the pavement with considerable force directly before the wheels, when the horse jumped, had no chance to save herself from being run over. She was not badly hurt, and was at once driven to her home. Motorman Conkey stopped the car very quickly.

HILL STREET MAN BITTEN BY DOG

Levi Judkins Attacked by a Vicious Foxterrier.

Levi Judkins, of 411 Hill street, night watchman at McClary's new foundry, was very severely bitten yesterday by a foxterrier while he was on his way to work. As he was passing, the dog ran up and fastened its teeth deep in his leg. Mr. Judkins managed to free himself from the animal after a short time, and rushed to the office of Dr. Stevenson's office. The wound was found to be a very deep and ugly one, and was at once cauterized. Mr. Judkins will be laid up for some days as a result of the bite. Steps will be taken to see that the dog is destroyed.

GAS EXPLOSION SINGED HIS WHISKERS

A Hamilton Man Has a Marvelous Escape From Death.

Hamilton, Ont., Sept. 15.—Felix O'Neill had a narrow escape from instant death about six o'clock this morning, when his home at the corner of Hunter and John streets, was blown up by natural gas. The gas had been escaping into the dining room from a flexible tube, all night and this morning. O'Neill lighted a match to light the gas at the chandelier. There was a terrific explosion and O'Neill stood in his dining room, while his house tumbled about his ears. One wall was completely blown out, the bricks landing on the lawn of the T. H. and B. station, and others resting in nearby trees. The cornices were badly bent and the other walls are bulging.

O'Neill, despite the fact that he was in the storm centre, escaped with nothing more serious than singed whiskers.

DRY ON MARS.
San Jose, Cal., Sept. 16.—People on the planet Mars, if any live there, breathe an atmosphere which is almost destitute of moisture. This is the conclusion of Director W. W. Campbell, of Lick Observatory, who returned recently from making observations from the summit of Mount Whitney, the highest point in the United States.

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