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IT IS STILL A MYSTERY

WHERE FULTON BEVERLY PROCURED THE DEADLY POISON

That Aided Him in His Purpose to End His Life—The Evidence at the Final Inquiry Brings out Many Facts That Caused Some Speculation.

When Fulton Beverly took strychnine the dose was enough to kill half a dozen men.

That was the substance of the evidence of the analyst when the inquest was resumed on Wednesday, the first day of June.

More than ordinary interest centered in the adjourned inquiry because the provincial secretary, as chairman of the asylum, was present and there was a natural anxiety on the part of those officials directly connected with the management of the main institution to present as good a showing as possible.

On the other hand, while the asylum authorities wished to be freed from all blame the friends and relatives of Mr. Beverly did not wish any suspicion to rest upon them that the poison had been taken to him with their knowledge. So the inquiry became in this way a very broad one and any and all facts bearing on the case or that would be likely to bear upon the case were brought out.

The jurors who had been selected seemed to be no less anxious than any of the others to get at some solution of where the poison came from and who took it to Mr. Beverly and their questions were searching and pertinent. One of them particularly seemed imbued with the idea that the Lunatic asylum was managed contrary to the rules laid down and his questions aimed in that direction.

The evidence of the first witness, Dr. Scammell, simply concerned the post mortem and was not important. But Mr. Best the analyst gave some facts that were at once startling and convincing. He said half a grain of strychnine was a fatal dose and yet he found in those portions of the body submitted to him for examination two grains and three pennyweights. Of this one and one eighth grain was in the liver. When asked about how large a dose Mr. Beverly took he was not able to give a definite answer but said that there must have been considerable more poison absorbed in the blood and other parts of the body. The poison was not strychnine but sulphate of strychnine which is if anything more deadly than plain strychnine and more soluble in water.

Among the other witnesses were George Beverly, the son of the deceased, Dr. H. B. Nase, his son-in-law and Mr. J. Fraser Gregory, his nephew. All of these related many facts and incidents that had not come out and the jurors submitted each to a searching cross-examination.

George Beverly told his story first, and, in brief, it was to the effect that the last time he had seen his father was on the Thursday preceding his death. He used to see him as often as two or three times a week and always took him something when he did go. He modified this statement later and said that for two or three weeks before he died he had not taken his father anything. The coroner and jurymen had a natural curiosity about the contents of the parcels he took and he said they consisted of ice cream, cake, candy, fruit etc., just what he thought his father would like.

Now at the outset of the inquest there was considerable stress laid upon the examination of parcels and the evidence of Superintendent Hetherington was to the effect that all parcels brought into the institution were examined before they were handed over to patients. This bit of testimony was quite fresh in the minds of one or two of the jurors and they began to cross question to whether the parcels he brought were examined. They were not, he said, nor was a keeper present when he gave them to his father. He took them in openly and the keeper may have examined them when he left. This brought out the fact that the keeper was not absent from his duties but was in attendance in the ward and in a position to overlook anything that went on and examine anything that was left for the patients.

Then the driving question came up, and the witness stated that he had had his father out several times, but never since the winter. When he did go with him he took him to the store and to the house, but he never allowed him out of his sight. Even when in his own house he would keep his eyes upon him.

"But you wouldn't keep your eyes upon

him all the time, would you?" interjected the Hon. Mr. Tweedie.

"Oh yes, I would," was the quick reply. And then he gave his reasons for this watchfulness. It appears that before, Mr. Beverly's mind was thought to be unbalanced he created suspicion in the minds of those about him in the store by taking a razor with him to the top flight where he was discovered fixing it to a handle so that it could be used more readily. Then again he was caught secreting a revolver in the store and these things, together with his talk and actions, gave his friends reason to think that he contemplated suicide.

There was a spoon upon the table that the deceased had evidently used to stir the poison in the small glass marmalade jar from which he drank it. This witness identified as belonging to the house. He said that he never knew of any poison being in the house or store and never knew of his father using it for rats. He might have done so without his knowledge but he knew nothing of any such thing being in the house. More than that his father had never spoken of poison while he had spoken frequently of committing suicide.

It was after he developed this tendency that the transfer of the business was made to him (George.) One of the jurors was inquisitive about the transfer and wanted to know the conditions and the considerations. The witness said that there were no conditions and at this point Mr. Fraser Gregory interposed and asked if there was not a verbal agreement between him Mr. Renicke and George that in the event of his father improving that he should have a half interest in the business.

"No," said George, "I did not understand it in that way but I told father that if he got better he could have the whole thing back again."

The consideration connected with the transfer of the business was a matter the witness did not care to go into. No doubt this was natural but one of the jurors rather urged a reply and Mr. Fraser Gregory asked him to tell the whole story. But the witness thought a reply was not necessary and the question was not pressed.

Mr. Gregory brought up the matter of the black pocket book which it was said Mr. Gregory had sent for and which had been sent to him. The witness said that it was not a black pocket book but a small black account book that he sent for but which was not sent to him. This was only a few days before his death.

One of the jurors reminded the coroner that the memorandum left by Mr. Beverly had not been shown to the witness and both it and the letter to his wife were produced. The witness had no hesitation in identifying both of them readily as in his father's handwriting though he thought the scrawl about where he got the poison must have been written after he took the fatal dose.

Under Mr. Gregory's cross examination—if it might be so termed—the fact was brought out that Mr. Beverly had the use of the telephone in the institution and that he did use it. The witness said he had talked with him over the telephone and then Mr. Gregory fixed the location of the telephone as in the doctor's office which adjoins the medicine room. There was no evidence however that there was not a keeper with Mr. Beverly.

The story of Mr. Beverly's departure for Fredericton and his subsequent journey to Providence was than told. It was shown that he took plenty of baggage to Fredericton, several trunks and some boxes, containing clothing and other personal property. But the change to the capital did not do him the benefit his friends thought it would, and even while there he made one or two attempts upon his life. No doubt this was the reason that his friends determined to have further advice upon his condition and the journey to Providence was made. He was accompanied at that time by his son George and Chist Clark. One trunk of clothing was taken with him, and when he returned and entered the institution here the same trunk came with him.

Coroner Kenny here interrupted the witness and Mr. Gregory, stating that he did not see what bearing this could possibly have on the case.

Mr. Gregory's reply was to the effect that while this evidence might not bear upon the matter directly it surely had an indirect bearing since they were trying to discover where the poison came from. As a relative and representing relatives he wanted all the facts to come out and

the blame placed on the proper parties. He addressed the provincial secretary in this fashion and Mr. Tweedie advised the coroner for the sake of all concerned that the inquiry should be as broad and searching as possible. The institution was a public one and should have nothing to conceal. If anything had been done that should not have been done he wanted to know it and the blame placed upon the right shoulders.

After this Mr. Gregory referred to the transfer again and urged George to state the consideration. He would not do so but said Mr. M. B. Dixon drew the deed and that his father had to be urged to execute it and after that carried it about in his pocket for some time before he could be prevailed upon to deliver it.

The son in law of the deceased, Dr. H. B. Nase spoke of his visits to him and of his actions and conduct. He too had taken him parcels and they were not examined. This brought about a sharp examination from Jurymen Collins who seemed impressed with the idea that the rules of the institution were not carried by this action or lack of action on the part of the authorities. This led to some conversation between the juror and Mr. Tweedie who seemed to think that while there was a rule calling for the examination of parcels still it was not intended to apply daily to people who were well known like the persons who went to see Mr. Beverly and especially when they stated what they were taking to Mr. Beverly. Still he encouraged the jurymen to ask questions. That was a part of their duty and something might occur to them which would possibly be overlooked by the coroner and himself.

Dr. Nase told a good deal about the suicidal tendency of the deceased. He had noticed his strangeness first shortly after his second marriage, which was early in the summer of 1896. Latterly he spoke to him almost every time he saw him about how much better it would be for all concerned if he was out of the world. He had often heard him say that he wished he was dead. These remarks were especially frequent while he was in the asylum. The fact that he would probably have to remain all his life there worried him greatly and he spoke of the long years he would have to spend in such a place. It he lived to the ordinary age of people it might be thirty years before death came. Perhaps the most important statement made by this witness was that when he visited Mr. Beverly on the first Sunday in May he stated to him that he had no means of doing away with himself. He had understood that while he was in the asylum he had tried to use a picture cord for this purpose.

One of the jurors asked some questions about insurance and Dr. Nase stated that Mr. Beverly had an endowment policy—for what amount he did not state—which had seven years to run yet. It was in favor of his son and daughter. Speaking again of his suicidal tendencies he said that the deceased asked frequently for a revolver and wanted one brought over to him. At Mr. Gregory's suggestion he spoke of the preparation he and his wife had made to have her father to dinner on the Sunday he killed himself. His wife had told her father about her wish to have him and he had said then that he never would go to the city again. It was arranged that Mr. Gregory should drive him over and just about the time he and Mr. Beverly were expected to arrive word came that the latter was dead.

Mr. Fraser Gregory, a nephew of the deceased, was sworn after this and told what he knew of the circumstances connected with the affair. In the first place he stated that he had never given him anything whatsoever, excepting a business card since he had been in the asylum. His evidence was very precise and to the point. He had the deceased out three times for a drive and was at the door for the fourth time when he learned he was dying. He spoke of the caution given him by Dr. Hetherington about driving with Mr. Beverly, not to let him out of his sight and to always keep a close watch upon him. After this he described the drives and where he took the deceased. He never would consent to take him to his shop or to his house but on two occasions he took him to a friend's residence where he met his wife and remained about twenty minutes. Then again he drove him down to the beach and while there they were invited by the caretaker of the club house known as Sain's Rest to enter. When in the house his eye

was off Mr. Beverly for a moment and he heard the fall of cutlery he saw Mr. Beverly with a knife in his hands. This he removed and at the same time searched his pockets but did not say anything at the time until they were on the return. Mr. Beverly, he said, never spoke to him of suicide, probably because he was in fear of him for when he did make an attempt in Fredericton he gave him such a dressing down that he was alarmed. He remembered telling him that if there was going to be any killing done he would do it himself.

He too examined the handwriting of the memo. and letter and while he was not sure of the writing upon the scrap of paper there was no doubt that he wrote the letter "I have read that letter" said Mr. Gregory "and there is nothing in it to indicate that Mr. Beverly thought of suicide when he wrote it, two or three hours before he committed the deed."

"How is it that you cannot recognize the writing upon this memo?" asked a jurymen "his son had no difficulty in doing so."

"That may be his writing but I would not like to swear to it was the reply. I think George was over confident about it."

Then it was shown that while Mr. Gregory was well acquainted with Mr. Beverly's handwriting, George from his constant association with him in the store was probably better acquainted with all kinds of his writing.

"Have you any idea, any suspicion, Mr. Gregory, where Mr. Beverly got the poison?"

"I haven't the remotest idea of where he procured the poison" was the reply.

Then one of the jurors asked Mr. Gregory if he thought that Mr. Beverly would have kept that poison about him ever since he was in the institution or since he was under surveillance and not have used it before.

Of course the witness could not give anything more than an opinion but this and his reply was in effect that it would be a natural presumption to think that anyone who wanted to commit suicide would choose the easiest way. Poison may have been repugnant to Mr. Beverly and yet one would naturally think it preferable to hanging. If he had to make a choice he would take the poison.

Speaking of the events that led up to the transfer of the business Mr. Gregory said that Mr. Beverly had always given his son George to understand that when he reached his majority he would be a partner in the business, and when he said that, as he often did, he used to remark in his own fashion that the firm would not be F. Beverly & Son but Geo. Beverly & Father. At any rate George was led to believe by his father that he would be a partner on his 21st birthday. But Mr. Beverly got married again and he changed his mind about the partnership. Perhaps he was not satisfied with George's attention to business but whatever was the reason he failed to carry out the understanding. It was after this that George went to New York with the idea of starting out on his own hook. The witness was not sure that he had a situation there but at any rate in a short time he returned and went to work again in the shop. Then last fall he (the witness) was summoned to a meeting of Mr. Beverly's friends to consult what was best to be done under the circumstances. His mind was affected and it was concluded to transfer the business to his son George upon the condition that when his father regained his health he should restore it to him. He believed that verbal agreement was binding upon George. The transfer was made after much hesitation on the part of Mr. Beverly who delayed the execution of the deed and its delivery when it was executed. After that Mr. Beverly became a clerk in the store. Before this he had complained that business was bad, and that while he had always been able to pay his bills he feared the day might come when he would not.

After this Mr. Beverly went to Fredericton and while there sent him a power of attorney here to transact his private business which he was quite competent to give at that time.

The keeper who had Mr. Beverly in charge was submitted to a long examination but told nothing new. He went over the story of Mr. Beverly's death and of the watch he kept upon him. The keeper was a grave elderly man, one of the sort to make a good official and he gave prompt answers to all of the questions.

CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE.

AN ENTIRELY NEW ROLE.

IT WASN'T ADVERTISED BUT IT CAUSED A SENSATION.

How Mr. W. S. Harkins and two Friends Surprised the People in the Vicinity of the Lunatic Asylum—A Carlton Man Thought They Were Escaped Insanates.

Those who live in the vicinity of a lunatic asylum never have to go very far for excitement. They usually find all they want right at hand, and if the scares which are constantly occurring, are sometimes false alarms, it only gives a zest to life that those living in other localities can never experience. Several times of late years escapes have been made by the inmates and then the Lancaster citizens had a bona fide sensation.

They had one last week but it could hardly be called bona fide, though it was intensely exciting while it lasted. When the news spread abroad that three of the most violent male patients in the institution had escaped general confusion reigned. Mothers hurriedly gathered up their brood, counted them, securely fastened their doors and windows, and waited; men gave frightened glances over their shoulders as they hastened through their work, and everywhere there was consternation.

When the facts became known a day or two later the laugh was turned against three St. John men—or properly speaking two St. John men—for the third, while well known here, is only a yearly visitor—and is none other than the jolly goodnatured W. S. Harkins, or "Bill" as he is familiarly known.

He, in company with Dr. Walker, and Dr. McIntosh paid a visit to the asylum one afternoon this week; and as it has a habit of doing when one is in congenial society, the time flew quickly by.

Suddenly it occurred to one of the party that if they wished to catch a certain trip of the ferry boat they would have to do some hustling. Dr. Hetherington came to the rescue with a suggestion that they take a short cut across the fields, and so with a hurried good-by to the superintendent, the three professional men started. They made pretty good time and were running along at a lively gait when a high fence interposed.

"Up with that settee and we'll be able to climb the fence all right," shouted one of the men, and forthwith the garden seat was brought into requisition and in a trice the party had resumed its journey ferrywards.

There was nothing exciting in all this, of course, and the little incident would never have been heard of again, if a Carleton man hadn't happened along that way just about the time the men began climbing the fence. When the first one leaped over he stopped short in his walk, the second appearance paralyzed him completely, and when the third man bounded down to join his companions, a desperate fear lent wings to his feet, and he turned and fled, warning all whom he met that the lunatics were escaping in a body. Like the story of the three black crows this one grew and grew until by night it was boldly asserted that not a guard, nurse, or physician was left in the asylum, and that having finished their deadly work the inmates had scattered around everywhere. Meanwhile the St. John men had caught the boat and arrived in the city wholly unconscious of the sensation their escapade had caused on the other side.

A New Fashion in Shirts.

It may have been because those who saw it were so terribly behind the times that their ignorance as to the very latest in summer shirts caused them to cast remarks at the wearer of a bright red linen bosom and high collar on Sunday last. The young man it is said, is a pioneer in fashions onward march and had threatened he would "set the town guessing" when he started out on his heroic errand of dressy enlightenment. And truly was his prophecy fulfilled. Everybody who saw his countenance and the shade of his shirt stood in the reflection of his linen aghast. No it was not a minstrel troupe "end man" nor a circus advance agent but one of our real, live young citizen tailors who resides in North End.

A Splendid Herd of Ayrshires.

That splendid herd of Ayrshires, twenty four in number, which have been in quarantine for 90 days were billed to start to the farm of their millionaire owner, W. W. Olgive yesterday. They have increased the herd by eighteen calves since their arrival. All of them won prizes in Scotland and the herd is the finest that ever came to Canada.