

\$1500 For Miss Gladys Meredith

Cross Examination of Miss Meredith was thorough but not severe. Complete Evidence as Presented at Sensational Trial in Simcoe—Girl Subjected to two Examinations but Spoke Highly of Dr. Ashton on the Witness Stand.

M. Godfrey's Address. Mr. Godfrey for the plaintiff, Gladys Meredith recited the circumstances of the case. She was a young English girl who had come to Canada to work in the mill to help her widowed mother and her brothers and sisters. She had been wrongfully charged as the mother of an infant found in the river. Detective Chapman and Constable Boylan went to the factory where she worked and in full view of her associates took her out of that building. They told her that there were rumors connecting her with the maternity of that child and that she had put her offspring in the river. They also said that she had threatened suicide and must go to the police station. Then they took her between them to see Chief Slemin on board the car. They sat one on each side of her and thus she was taken to the police station. There she was told that she had been the mother of a child and placed in the river. The chief persisted that she must be examined by a doctor. That little girl only eighteen years of age. She knew nothing of law or authority. The aunt arrived to find the girl arrested. Slemin declared that the girl had to be examined. The aunt replied "Shame, was that to be," and Slemin said yes. Dr. Ashton was phoned and the girl was examined without her consent. She was never told that she need not submit. She was under that examination for fifteen or twenty minutes. Then the aunt was told that a further examination was necessary. Detective Chapman took them to the office for that examination, and Dr. Palmer, not a defendant in the action acted with him. Both doctors' examination declared that Miss Meredith could not have been the mother of the dead child, and later a certificate was given to that effect. The charge was first, false arrest and assault and second for conspiracy. The defence would claim that the plaintiff and her aunt asked for an examination. What did they know, that was true, about the law, and why were they not told the law, and the girl asked or was she told she must go to the police station. Did she ask for a personal examination or was she told that such would be the case. His Lordship would tell them in his charge that a person could lay hands upon any one without justice or excuse. If they found for the plaintiff, he asked for such damages as the indignity of Miss Meredith warranted.

she came to Canada to help her widowed mother, who had four other children. The mother had only recently rejoined her in Brantford. Miss Meredith went on to relate how Officers Chapman and Boylan took her from her work in the mill at Slingsby's about 4.30 one afternoon. She was summoned from the presence of all the other employees in the mill room, and had to accompany the officers to the police station on the street car. When she arrived at the police station she was confronted with the chief who immediately began to make inquiries. At first, related Miss Meredith, he told me that a baby had been found in the canal, and he said I was charged with the offence and that I was the mother. That I denied. Then I went into the other room. There were several policemen walking up and down. My aunt was in Chief Slemin's office. It was about 4.30 o'clock when I was taken from the mill. My aunt sat in the room for about an hour. Then Dr. Ashton came in and they took me up to a room and Chapman went out, leaving me with Dr. Ashton, and he told me to undress, and I did so. Did he ask for your permission? No. Did you at any time give your consent? No. Continuing, the girl said. Then he undid my clothes and examined me. The plaintiff then gave in detail the examination by Dr. Ashton. Continuing, she stated that she had afterwards dressed and gone downstairs. She was detained until 8.30. Then Dr. Ashton and Dr. Palmer examined her again in the same way, hurting her, she claimed. Afterwards, when I got dressed, they told me I was free of the charge, said the girl. Two or three days afterwards she received a certificate from Dr. Ashton. This certificate was placed in evidence. It stated that, having examined Gladys Meredith, Dr. Ashton who signed it, stated that she could not possibly have been a mother. Why did you go to the station with Boylan and Chapman? she was asked. I thought I was under arrest and had to go, she replied. Cross Examination M. Lally McCarthy then cross-examined the plaintiff. She said Assistant Superintendent Clark of the Slingsby company had asked her very quietly to go out as there were two gentlemen who wanted to see her in the private office. She was asked then if she had ever said or if she had ever attempted to do so. That she had then denied. Mr. McCarthy then asked the plaintiff if she ever said she would commit suicide. The plaintiff replied that she might have said something as a joke. Then what did they ask you? They asked me if I had ever attempted suicide or threatened to attempt suicide. I replied no. What then? They asked me about the baby which was found in the river and I had a suspicion, and I told them I had heard about it around the mill. Did they say anything else? No. Just those two things, the attempt at suicide and the baby found in the river? Yes. Nothing more. Not a word? No. To both questions you answered no? Yes. And when they told me the chief wanted me they said it was just a matter of investigating. They told me they had heard rumors about me, and that was the reason they were investigating. (Continued on Page 7)

AT 20 MINUTES TO FOUR, JURY RETURNS AND FOREMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD REACHED A VERDICT OF \$1,500 FOR MISS MEREDITH, DEFENDANTS TO PAY COST OF ACTION, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PLAINTIFF'S COUNSEL FEES, WHICH SHOULD PAY. THE JUDGE TOLD THEM THEY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH COSTS AND ORDERED THEM BACK TO ROOM AGAIN. AT 4 O'CLOCK THE JURY RETURNED AND AWARDED \$1,500 DAMAGES AGAINST THE FOUR DEFENDANTS, WHO MUST PAY ALL COSTS. THE JUDGE ACCEPTED THE VERDICT.

"PRETTY THIN STORY" REMARKED JUDGE LATCHFORD TO DEFENCE

(From Courier Staff Correspondent) SIMCOE, April 16.—When the jury retired Mr. McCarthy, for the defendants, spoke for a long while, taking exception to the address of the judge, which he claimed to have been more on behalf of the plaintiff than the plea of Miss Meredith's counsel himself. "Not fair or judicial," was what Mr. McCarthy had to say of the charge. "Pretty thin story," was one of his Lordship's comments, and "There is nothing in that," was another. Mr. McCarthy took up as much time with his objections as he did with his address to the jury. From his tone there is probability of an appeal.

ADDRESSES OF COUNSEL AND JUDGE

GODFREY CALLS THEM SLEUTHS Counsel For Plaintiff Opens Up Clever Address at 11 O'clock.

Impossible Phases of Some of Defence Testimony, He Says.

(From Courier Staff Correspondent) SIMCOE, April 16.—Mr. Godfrey denied that he had abandoned his case in any way. His learned friend had declared that the four men must stand or fall together. They didn't have to take the law from him, but from his Lordship. We say that there was a continuity of actions which took advantage of the youth and the ignorance of this girl and it is to be placed on the shoulders of all of them. It is an important question, no doubt about that. A committee of Brantford citizens was back of this girl in saying that such methods as the police and a coroner in that city used in November last would not be tolerated. The kernel of the whole matter was the liberty of the subject and the sacred rights of a woman. He had no quarrel with the police. As such, like lawyers and doctors, they were a necessary evil, but when police anywhere became arbitrary and unfair it was time to bring them up with a short turn. The police had a right to enforce the law, but the police had the right to see that the said enforcement did not endanger the liberty of the innocent. Two sleuths were deputed to clear up the mystery of an unfortunate child, and they worked hard on the case. That was quite proper, but it was claimed for the plaintiff that in their zeal they had exceeded every duty. He contended that there was duty. (Continued on Page 7)

JUDGE CHARGES AGAINST DEFENCE His Honor's Summing Up Was Stronger than Counsel For Plaintiff.

Inherent Right of Liberty at Stake in the Case Said Judge.

(From Courier Staff Correspondent) SIMCOE, April 16.—Extracts from the judge's charge. It is a case of very considerable importance, because it affects the inherent right of liberty. The plaintiff is a young girl of 18, a stolid girl, not of a very high order of intelligence, but capable of doing her work. No matter what her station in life, she has the same rights as any other girl—as your daughter, or any daughter—to have her person protected. There are three officers in this case, Slemin, Chapman and Boylan, and the Chief has had very large experience both in Toronto and Brantford. Then there is Dr. Ashton, a man of proved medical ability. What are you asked to determine? That the defendants maliciously arrested the plaintiff, (Continued on Page 7)

DEFENCE SAYS NO CONSPIRACY Mr. McCarthy Says It's a Hard Job to Have Four Men

All Conspiring Together To Do An Injustice to a Girl.

(From Courier Staff Correspondent) SIMCOE, April 16.—Mr. McCarthy, in addressing the jury, said that four people were jointly charged with arrest, imprisonment and assault. The action was embarrassing and hard to undertake. Four men were charged with causing Gladys Meredith to be arrested, had her imprisoned and then assaulted. Either all four conspired together or they did not. There should have been separate charges, but now the effect was a deliberate conspiracy against four. He submitted that the evidence utterly failed to show that the four men got together and planned the entire outcome. They could not deal with the matter individually. There was the one question, Did these four men conspire together to do a wrongful action, if there was one? He dwelt on the duty of a coroner to make necessary inquiries regarding the discovery of any body, and, very properly, he asked for police aid, and Dr. Ashton instructed the constable to go to the Holmedale and talk with women over the back fences to see what he could ascertain. That end of the quest failed, but on a street car a man told Boylan that there was a girl in the Holmedale upon whom suspicion had been cast. He said his wife knew of the rumors. Boylan made inquiries, and that was his duty, and found out the man's name was (Continued on Page 7)

Only Question of Amount Was General Opinion In Regard to Outcome of Trial

(Special to the Courier) SIMCOE, April 16.—"You're a liar!" These words, which hurtled through the circumambient air of the court room at the Meredith versus Slemin et al trial in the court house proved one of many episodes in this sensational case. So did the action of his Lordship on the geit who parted with the evidence at time of wiring is all in, and the main feature has been the extreme case of oath against oath. Of course, that happens in all cases, but seldom to such a marked extent as in this instance. The two counsel, Messrs. Godfrey and McCarthy, have been fighting well and hard, but we don't seem to be growing any B. B. Oslers or Justin McCarthys these days. Miss Meredith throughout the evidence has sat among a group of English friends, and manifestly takes a keen interest in all that is said. Some questions were asked that are unprintable, but counsel on both sides exercised the utmost possible delicacy in this regard, and women did not hesitate to sit throughout the enquiry, nor should they. The judge has impressed everybody with his clear-headedness, and more than once put questions which ended a wrangle between witnesses and the cross-examiners. The temperature of the court room was insufferably hot, and those present received a Turkish bath, with several encores and all without pay. The general impression, right or wrong, is that there will be only one verdict—that the amount is the sole question; that is, if the somewhat involved pleadings do not intervene. How officers of the law and a coroner can be charged with a conspiracy in regard to what they deemed public duty is somewhat of a problem to the ignorant layman. Also how Dr. Ashton can be charged with false arrest and imprisonment. However, lawyers know these things better than we ordinary mortals. REVILLE.

Evidence was all Completed at 9.50 Last Night—Judge Latchford Interferes During Examination of Witnesses with Pertinent Questions—Officers Boylan and Chapman on the Defence, also Chief Slemin.

Constable Boylan. Con. Able Thomas Boylan who is now truant officer for Brantford, but who accompanied Detective Chapman to the Slingsby Mill to interview Gladys Meredith, was the first witness. He stated that he had been a member of the Brantford police force for over sixteen years. The body of an infant, he related, was found in the Grand River in October last. He was put in charge of an inquest under Dr. Ashton. He was also instructed to make a complete and full investigation in the neighborhood, where the body was found. "What was your information?" asked counsel. "On November 2 Detective Chapman and myself were in the Holmedale district after information, and we were talking to the ladies over the back fences. No; nothing except when we got on a car a man told us that there was a certain girl in the locality that we should have looked up. He did not give us her name but said that his wife knew. You didn't know his name at the time? Yes, sir. You did later? Yes. Next day, it was a man named Marlatt, who lived on West Mill street. On Monday evening Nov. 4th I saw Mrs Marlatt. Does she live near the mill? Yes, sir. Was she alone? I looked at the rear door and I think some one went out as I went in. It was quite dark and I wouldn't swear to that. You saw Mrs Marlatt? Yes, and I told her who I was, and mentioned what her husband had said and requested further information. She hesitated but finally said the girl's name was Gladys, though she didn't know her surname. She added that she worked at the Slingsby mill. She said that she had been sent out, also that she had been off work and had threatened to drown herself. Did she say anybody else could state a like thing? Yes, Mrs. Archer, and the latter, when seen added that Gladys had been turned out of her boarding house. I reported to Chief Slemin and Detective Chapman, and myself were told to go to the mill. Continuing, witness said he went to the mill and asked for Mrs. Archer. We got her name from Mrs. Marlatt. She was asked if she had heard rumors about Gladys, and she said the fact that she had heard the rumors in the mill. We called on her because Mrs. Marlatt had stated that she could tell the same story as she had. Mrs. Archer repeated the same story as Mrs. Marlatt. We asked for the superintendents, Messrs. Clark and Vary, and asked if they could tell by the books if Miss Meredith had been off work for any length of time. They replied that she was on piece work and that she could perhaps be away and then make up. When you asked for the girl were any objections raised by any one? No, sir. When you saw the girl, did you tell her of the rumors about her that Mrs. Marlatt and Mrs. Archer had told? Did you give her those two names? No. Did she ask for them? No. She denied all the charges? Yes, as to intending to commit suicide, but explained that she had been locked out one night because her uncle thought she had got home too late. We were not satisfied and asked her to go and see Chief Slemin. She said "Yes." Was she calm? Yes. Didn't seem to worry over rumors? No, sir, she said she would go.

Did she ask for anything? Just for her coat. She also asked to see her aunt and change her clothes. We said "Certainly." Did she ask to see her aunt? I don't remember. She says she did. Well, perhaps she did. How did you depart? Myself with the girl, Chapman stepped behind to chat with a man. I went in the house with Miss Meredith. We tried to find the aunt, but she was not home and nobody knew her whereabouts. He made the remark that Gladys would be back inside of an hour. They then took the car. How did you sit? It is a long car, and I sat at the far end, the girl about the centre, and Chapman stood on the rear platform. There were three other passengers. I saw the girl had no money and gave her ten cents. Miss Meredith said you paid your own fare. That's not right. The police don't pay fares. Ever talk to the motorman? Yes, last week. The motorman approached me and said he was to be a witness. He related the positions on the car just exactly as I have told you. At the police station Miss Meredith was taken to the office and was given a chair. We reported to the chief who asked her, to go to his office which she did. Flustered? No. Perfectly cool? Yes, sir. The four of us were in the Chief's room together, chief asked the usual questions. Then he told of the rumors in the Holmedale that she had been stout and been off work and had threatened to commit suicide. She denied everything and explained how she had come to get turned out of her boarding house. The chief asked her if she had heard of the child's body in the river, and she replied "Yes." He asked if she had any cause to threaten suicide, she said "No." You think there is anything the matter with me, call a doctor and have me examined? What did the chief reply? He said—that is a private matter of your own and if there is any examination it will have to be at your own request. Just then the aunt arrived. Myself and the girl went out, and she saw him alone. As far as you are concerned was there any arrest of Miss Meredith? No, sir. Her name put in the book? No, sir. He was there when Dr. Ashton came in; in fact he phoned him to come. He asked what was the matter? Witness replied that a girl was waiting to be examined. Judge—Is that all you told him? Yes, sir. You swear to that. Yes, sir; that was all. Mr. McCarthy—Tell the doctor who she was? I don't remember. Mr. Godfrey cross-examined Boylan, said: I have done a good deal of detective work. This matter was put in my hands by Dr. Ashton. How about the man in the car? Well he talked and then went to see his wife (laughter). Yes, sir. Did you make inquiry as to where she got her information? She said from rumors in the mill. If you were to find out there was nothing in this case you were going to drop it? Certainly. Ever get on a wrong clue before? Yes, sir. Have you a good memory? Pretty fair. You said Mr. Vary did not give the name of Gladys Meredith. (Continued on Page 10)

GRAND OPERA HOUSE BRANTFORD

Saturday, April 19—By special arrangement with Chas. Frohman, the big London and New York comedy success, "PASSERS BY," by C. Hadson Chambers. The play begins when Peter Waverton, rich and well-born, comes the cabman and the derelict to his apartment, largely for his own entertainment; and then the "Woman" drifts in—the "Woman" who loved Peter and wandered away in the long ago, and next comes the boy, the beautiful boy, living evidence of that love. Come and see how it works out. An all-English company. Prices: 25c to \$1.50. Seats Thursday.

If it Happened it is in "THE COURIER;" If it is in "THE COURIER" it Happened.