

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B. MARCH 28, 1902.

VERONICA TRAGEDY A TERRIBLE TALE OF THE SEA

Details of Mutiny and Murder on St. John Vessel Received.

TOLD IN BRITISH COURT.

Brutal Murder of Captain and Several of Crew by Four Seamen—Two Men Shot Down Because They Couldn't Learn Story to Tell Ashore.

The tragic circumstances connected with the death of Captain Alexander Shew, who commanded the British ship Veronica, of St. John (N.B.), and six others of the crew of the same craft, were investigated in the city police court, Liverpool, on March 12, when the magisterial investigation took place before W. J. Stewart, the stipendiary, into the charges of wilful murder against Otto Monson, aged 18 years; Henry Flohr, 19; Gustav Rau, 29, and William Smith, 30, sailors, who formed part of the crew of the vessel on the voyage which ended in such a sensational manner. There was also a charge of setting fire to the ship.

The six deceased members of the crew besides Captain Shew were A. McLeod, first mate; Fred Abrahamson, second mate; and Alexander Bravo, Gus Johansen, Julius Parsonson, and Patrick Moran, able seamen. Mr. Trubshaw conducted the case for the prosecution on behalf of the treasury, and Mr. Clarke appeared for Monson and Flohr. Monson, Flohr and Rau are Germans, and Smith is a Dutchman. Mr. Trubshaw, in opening for the prosecution, said: "I do not propose to offer any evidence against the prisoner, Henry Flohr, and I ask that the charge against him be withdrawn, and that he be discharged."

Smith was accordingly set at liberty. The Disastrous Voyage of the Veronica. Mr. Trubshaw, continuing, said the prisoners were charged with the wilful murder of Captain Alexander Shew; the first mate, McLeod; the second mate, Abrahamson; and able seamen, Bravo, Johansen, Parsonson and Moran, who were members of the British barque Veronica, on the high seas on a voyage between St. John, New Brunswick, and Monte Video, on or about December 7, 1902. The ill-fated barque was of 1,100 tons, and with a cargo of lumber, set out for St. John on October 11, 1902, having on board a crew of 12, comprising those alleged to have been murdered by the three prisoners, Flohr, and a witness named Moses Thomas, who was cook and steward. From the evidence which he proposed to call in would appear that all went well until December 7, and it was evident from the statement of one of the witnesses that at that time a conspiracy was formed by the three prisoners and others to murder certain members of the crew.

The First Three Murders They had previously armed themselves with revolvers. He (Mr. Trubshaw) thought it only right to state that the principal and the ringleader of the whole

lot was the prisoner Gustav Rau. On the 8th of December, between 3 and 4 a. m., Doran was on the forecastle head on the lookout. Rau, Smith and Flohr approached Doran and apparently entered into conversation with him. Rau had in his hand a baying pin, and struck Doran three blows which knocked him senseless. They then placed him and locked him in a locker, and Flohr appeared to have been placed guard over him. Hearing two shots in another part of the ship, however, Flohr rushed forward. Doran then apparently came out of the room somewhat in a senseless condition, and asked for a glass of water. Rau came up, struck him again on the head with the baying pin, and killed him, the body being thrown overboard by Johansen and Flohr. The first mate, McLeod, at that time apparently approached the forecastle-end, where Rau and Smith were standing with loaded revolvers and baying pins. McLeod inquired where Doran was, and Rau then, without saying anything, struck at him; but unfortunately he hit Smith instead, and the mark thus inflicted on Smith's head appeared today. Smith cut, ed out, and with that Rau struck again at McLeod and hit him twice on the head and knocked him insensible. Smith then apparently recovered in the meantime and he and Flohr threw McLeod overboard. Then Rau and Smith appeared to have directed their attention to the second mate, Abrahamson. Both went aft and called to Abrahamson, who was at that time in his cabin. Abrahamson came out, and Rau and Smith between them fired two shots at him.

Rau and Smith apparently followed into the cabin, but the second mate rushed forward right through the dining-room of the captain's cabin shouting: "Oh, Lord, captain, I am shot." That would be spoken to by a witness named Thomas (the cook who heard him utter those words). The prosecution suggested that at the time the captain was not in his cabin, but on the after part of the poop, whilst Julius Parsonson was at the wheel.

Death of the Captain. Rau then directed Flohr to kill Julius with the baying pin; he did not take the iron pin, but a wooden pin; he was acting under the directions of Rau the whole time, and he struck Julius on the head. With that Julius ran to the forecastle end followed by Flohr, and accompanied afterwards by Rau with a revolver in his hand. Apparently they did not carry out their intention of killing him, but secured him at the forecastle end and placed Monson guard over him. Flohr then went off to take charge of the vessel, and he saw the captain standing at the compass. Rau followed with a revolver in one hand and an iron baying pin in the other. The captain fell down towards him, and Rau fired a shot at him with a revolver. The captain fell down the steps and Abrahamson was at that time. Whilst the captain was just going through the door, Rau again shot him.

Struggle in the Forecastle. During all this time Julius Parsonson endeavored to escape from the forecastle end, where it was alleged, Monson struck him with a baying pin and killed him; and with the assistance of one of the others threw him overboard. During all this time the cook and steward, Moses Thomas, was in his cabin, which was on the port side, on the same side as the second mate's cabin. Moses Thomas was asleep. In the middle of the night he was awakened by hearing two shots. Those two shots, said Mr. Trubshaw, would probably be the two shots that killed the second mate, Abrahamson. Thomas also heard someone run across the dining-room shouting "Oh, Lord, captain, I am shot." It would no doubt be Abrahamson who uttered that cry. Thomas then heard Rau shout out: "I have killed the chief officer and the captain; he is apparently under the impression that the shot had done for the captain—and the boat's, and there is no one left now but the cook." Rau went to where the cook was, and threatened to kill him. Thomas immediately closed the port window, and barricading his own room, refused to come out. Rau remained about the cabin for some time, and again threatened him; but he declined to move. Eventually Thomas did

open the door and come out. Four or five yards away from the cabin door he saw Rau with a revolver in his hand pointed towards him. Thomas beseeched him not to kill him, and this appeal was supported by Smith, who said: "Don't kill the cook; he's done nothing." Rau thereupon said his life would be spared on condition that he did everything he was told. He was then ordered to make coffee.

Getting Rid of the Victims. In the galley Thomas saw Alec. Bravo, Gus Johansen, and the prisoners, Monson and Flohr standing round the cabin, where it ultimately turned out that the captain and second mate were confined. After making the coffee, Thomas was taken to the room next to the galley and locked up. On the first day he heard a deal of hammering, and it would appear as though the prisoners were boarding up the port hole round the captain's cabin, so as to prevent the captain from firing out upon them, the impression being, evidently, that the captain had weapons. On the 10th December Rau directed that the captain and second mate should be killed, and he, along with Smith and Monson, armed with revolvers, and a pin armed with the baying pin, took up a position round the cabin. Abrahamson was the first to be let out and he was shot by Rau. This must have happened close to the side of the ship, because he fell overboard, and as he floated past Rau, Monson and Smith fired on him. That was the last that was seen of him. About two hours afterwards the captain was let out of his cabin and he was shot in the temple by Rau, and his body was thrown overboard by Smith and Rau. Later in the evening Thomas was released and ordered to cook supper, and was again informed by Rau that if he heard the prisoners talking to each other he was to be hanged. At this time the only men Thomas saw on the ship were Flohr, Rau, Smith, Monson, Johansen and Bravo. He went out on the 11th December. He was sent to search the cabin, and noticed that it was very much upset.

Oath of Secrecy. There was a quantity of fresh blood on the floor, whilst in the forecastle he discovered a quantity of dry blood. Thomas, in fear of his life, decided to "make up" to the prisoners and remaining members of the crew, and he succeeded in becoming very chummy with them, so much so that they allowed him to be present when they related to one another what had taken place. Before he was allowed to hear this conversation, however, he was made to swear on his knee and swear that he would not divulge anything he had seen or heard. Of course the prisoners had to account for the disappearance of their weapons, and Rau and Smith made up a story which it was arranged that they should all tell when they got picked up. For many days Bravo, Johansen and Thomas were made to repeat the story to the British consul, who directed him to take the men on to Liverpool.

On the voyage to Liverpool, the three prisoners made statements to various members of the crew. Their statements were very contradictory, and they were all contradicted. On arrival in Liverpool the prisoners were arrested. A significant statement was at this time made by the prisoner Rau. Being taken to the district court, Rau told to Police Constable Ingia: "Where is the cook?" The officer replied that he didn't know. Rau said: "So do I, and turning to the other prisoners he said: 'I don't think we are so smart.' The prisoners were then charged and cautioned. Flohr, Monson and Rau made statements. Smith made no statement, and in reply to the charge said: "It is not true." Flohr's statement corroborated Moses Thomas's story up to the point, and it was on that ground that the crown had no objection to asking him to become a witness for the prosecution. Evidence was then called.

Cock Tails of Mutiny Breaking Out. Moses Thomas, a young colored man, said he had been going to sea for the last 10 years, and was a ship's cook and steward. He was a native of Norfolk (Virginia), and he was engaged by the captain Shaw as cook on the barque Veronica.

They sailed from Blox, Mississippi, on the 1st of December, on which day witness turned into his berth between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening. The door of a cabin opened into the dining room. He was awakened in the middle of the night by hearing cries. He heard someone run through the dining room calling out: "Oh, Lord, captain, I am shot." The man went to the forecastle and killed Julius (Parsonson), and threw him overboard. He then went aft, with the intention of killing all those left in the cabin—the captain, second mate and witness. He (Rau) said he struck the captain on the head as he was coming out of the cabin. Just then the second officer came out of the room, and he (Rau) shot him twice.

"On Account of Paddy" Asked by Mr. Trubshaw with respect to a conversation with Rau as to the reason why they had done this, witness said he was told it was "on account of Paddy" (Doran). He was led to understand that the men killed Doran, and that they were afraid of getting into trouble if the others were not killed. Rau told witness that they had intended to kill him (Thomas) also. Witness, however, was allowed to join in the prisoners' conversation, after having sworn not to repeat anything he heard or saw. Rau told him that Paddy (Doran) had been boasting that he was the best sailor on board and the crew had killed him. Shortly afterwards the chief officer (McLeod) came out of his room and asked: "Where is Paddy?" Smith, who was standing by, gave him a sassy answer, whereupon McLeod struck him a blow on the head. He (Rau) then crept up behind and struck McLeod with a baying pin, killing him. Rau said he went to the forecastle and killed Julius (Parsonson), and threw him overboard. He then went aft, with the intention of killing all those left in the cabin—the captain, second mate and witness. He (Rau) said he struck the captain on the head as he was coming out of the cabin. Just then the second officer came out of the room, and he (Rau) shot him twice.

Witness went on to corroborate Mr. Trubshaw's statement as to what ensued. When he was released he was allowed to join in the prisoners' conversation, after having sworn not to repeat anything he heard or saw. Rau told him that Paddy (Doran) had been boasting that he was the best sailor on board and the crew had killed him. Shortly afterwards the chief officer (McLeod) came out of his room and asked: "Where is Paddy?" Smith, who was standing by, gave him a sassy answer, whereupon McLeod struck him a blow on the head. He (Rau) then crept up behind and struck McLeod with a baying pin, killing him. Rau said he went to the forecastle and killed Julius (Parsonson), and threw him overboard. He then went aft, with the intention of killing all those left in the cabin—the captain, second mate and witness. He (Rau) said he struck the captain on the head as he was coming out of the cabin. Just then the second officer came out of the room, and he (Rau) shot him twice.

Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Colds, Croup and Hay Fever. The Veronians, which should last a lifetime, together with a bottle of Cresolene, Sigs, Extra Large of Cresolene and soap. Write for descriptive booklet containing latest tests.

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Thomas, in closing his testimony, related how the Veronica was fired, and how he and the prisoners were picked up and brought to Liverpool by the steamship Brunswick. His worship, having ascertained that the prisoners could speak an understood English, told them they could, if they desired, ask the witness any questions. Mr. Clarke, who represented Monson, said he did not propose at that stage to ask the witness any questions on behalf of his client.

Rau Cross-examines. Rau, when asked if he wished to put any questions to Thomas, said: "Yes; I want to ask him many things." Rau—Yes, you are, the biggest liar I ever came across! Mr. Stewart—You must not say that now. You can tell that to the jury at the assizes. Mr. Stewart—Whether or not he assisted in killing them all makes no difference. Rau—Did you see any revolver on me? Certainly. And you didn't have a revolver? No. Smith was afterwards asked if he had any questions to put to the witness. He rose, and somewhat volubly proceeded to make a statement. His worship pointed out to Smith that he could ask any questions he liked, but he must not make a statement. Smith, proceeding, said he would like to know something about Thomas's character. He (Smith) once asked with the witness before on a three-masted schooner. His worship, realizing that Smith would not confine himself to questions directed at the depositions of Thomas, directed the depositions of Thomas should be read over. This having been done, the three prisoners were remanded for seven days.

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER OPEN SATURDAY. This Will Be the Earliest Opening of Navigation on Record. Quebec, March 26 (Special)—Orders have been issued by J. U. Gregory, governor in chief, to have all light-houses on the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence go into operation April 1. The government steamship Drift is now at King's wharf, taking on coals, and will be ready to sail Saturday. Menier's steamer, Savoy, came out of winter quarters today, and will leave for Anticosti Saturday in the Drift's wake. This is the earliest opening of St. Lawrence navigation on record.

The Baird Company's Wine of Tar, Honey and Wild Cherry. This is our best preparation for Croup, Colds, Whooping Cough, Bronchitis and Hay Fever, and for Public Speakers and Singers. It clears the throat. Large six ounce bottle 35 cts. At all Dealers and Wholesale Druggists. THE BAIRD COMPANY, Limited, Woodstock, N. B.

A Pipeful of "Amber" Plug smoking tobacco will burn 75 minutes. "Tosany" Save the Tag, they are valuable. Coughs, colds, hoarseness, and other throat ailments are quickly relieved by Cresolene tablets, ten cents per box, at all druggists.

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GOOT LAMB BARK OR LUMBAGO? No need of that now. That sort of pain can be knocked out in short order, for Pilon's Nervine, which is five times stronger than any other, reaches the source of suffering, drives out and thus gives relief almost instantly. Not magic, but strength. It gives you a Nervine in this power. You will think it magic, however if you try it, pain goes so quickly. Sold by dealers everywhere, in large 25c. bottles.

Charles Bunker, Ruisagorish. Charles Bunker passed away at his home in Ruisagorish Monday evening. Deceased was 72 years of age and had been sailing for some time. The late Mr. Bunker was well known throughout this county as a most successful farmer and a thoroughly upright and respected man. A widow, three sons and three daughters survive.

Mrs. Patrick McMahon. The death of Mrs. Patrick McMahon occurred at her son's residence Tuesday evening, after a long illness. Deceased was the widow of Patrick McMahon, one son, Michael, and a daughter at home survive.

Captain William H. Leavitt, Formerly of St. John. The friends in St. John of Capt. William H. Leavitt will regret to learn of his death, which occurred at Llandudno, North Wales, on the 24th inst., after a painful illness. Captain Leavitt was the second and last surviving son of the late William Leavitt, an old time merchant and ship owner of this city. He will be remembered by the older men in shipping circles in St. John, having for a number of years sailed from this port in command of large vessels. Some years ago he retired from the sea and settled at Llandudno, where he has since resided.

Miss Elizabeth Stevens. Miss Elizabeth Stevens died at the home of her niece, Mrs. John B. Eagles, Douglass avenue, Wednesday at the age of 91 years. Up to a short time ago she was about the house. She was a sister of Captain John Stevens, a veteran river navigator, who is hale and hearty at the age of 88. Deceased was a daughter of the late Subad Stevens, of South Bay.

Alfred V. Phillips, Formerly of Nova Scotia. Alfred V. Phillips, a well known rancher, who had been farming near Duxton, died at his home March 18, about noon, after an illness of about two weeks. His death was due to peritonitis. The deceased was a brother of Matt Phillips, the well known rancher. He had an extensive acquaintance, having been a roadmaster on the Southern Pacific railroad for many years, and constructed the Raymond branch road. For the past three years he had been ranching. The deceased was a native of Nova Scotia, and was 42 years and eight days old. Besides a wife and two sons, he leaves a brother, Matt Phillips, and two sisters, Mrs. H. Crow and Miss Ida Phillips. He was a Mason, and a member of Dulure lodge, California Paper.

Grover I. Langin, Chipman, Queens Co. Grover I. Langin, the 18-year-old son of Isiah and Abeline Langin, died at the home, Chipman, Queens county, on Wednesday, March 13, of quick consumption. He was a young man of quiet habits, dearly loved in his home, where he will be sadly missed. Only 14 months ago another brother, Orville, just in the prime of life, was taken from his home, and in this added bereavement, the family has the sympathy of all who know them. Father, mother, three sisters and six brothers are left in mourning.—Com.

To Electors of the Parish of Simonds: GLEN SIMMONS—Having been elected by a large majority of the ratepayers of the Parish of Simonds, offer myself as a candidate at the forthcoming municipal election in April next, I take this opportunity of announcing myself as a candidate. If you do me the honor of electing me as your representative, I will do my power to look after the interests of the future. Soliciting your support, I am, Yours truly, JOSEPH W. STACHOWSKI.

Steel Trust Has Something New. Trenton, N. J., March 26—The secretary of state's office received a telephone message this evening from the office of the United States Steel Corporation, saying that another charter would be filed by that company tomorrow morning. No information was given as to its nature.

King Edward to Visit Scotland. London, March 26—It is officially announced tonight that the King, accompanied by Queen Alexandra, will make a visit to Scotland in May.

The damage done over Ulster by the storm of the 27th inst. is almost indescribable. In three different places between Coleraine and Derry the railway line was washed away. The greater portion of the former town was under water, and the factories were idle.

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SEE THAT THE FAC-SIMILE SIGNATURE OF THE WRAPPER OF EVERY BOTTLE OF CASTORIA. Castoria is put up in one-ounce bottles only. It is not sold in bulk. Don't allow anyone to sell you anything else on the plea or promise that it is "just as good" and "will answer every purpose." See that you get C.A.S.T.-O-I-A. The full name is on every wrapper.

OBITUARY. J. D. M. Keator Dead. James Daniel Michael Keator died yesterday at his residence, Nauwagorish. He was one of the oldest and best known residents of Kings county, being about 75 years of age, and practically a life-long resident of the county. He was a son of the late James Keator, and brother to the late Dr. Geo. E. S. Keator. He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Ford, by whom he had one son, Jerome, at present residing in the United States. His second wife, formerly Miss Rhodes, of St. John, survives. Deceased was owner of a valuable farm, was a Conservative, and a consistent member of the Church of England. He also served as parish chorister. nephews are J. Gillies and Frederick M. Keator, of this city.

ABSOLUTE SECURITY. Genuine Carter's Little Liver Pills. Most Best Signature of Dr. J. C. Carter. For HEADACHE, FOR DIZZINESS, FOR BRUISES, FOR TORPID LIVER, FOR CONSTIPATION, FOR SALLOW SKIN, FOR THE COMPLEXION. PURELY VEGETABLE. CHERRY BRAND. CURE SICK HEADACHE. INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY.

On and after SUNDAY, October 13, 1902, trains will run daily (Sunday excepted), as follows: TRAINS LEAVE ST. JOHN. No. 2—Express for Halifax and Campbellton. . . . . 5.35 No. 4—Mixed, for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou. . . . . 12.15 No. 8—Express for Sussex. . . . . 12.10 No. 12—Express for Quebec and Montreal. . . . . 12.10 No. 10—Express for Halifax and Sydney. . . . . 12.10 TRAINS ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN. No. 3—Express from Halifax and Sydney. . . . . 6.30 No. 7—Express from Sussex. . . . . 9.00 No. 11—Express from Montreal and Quebec. . . . . 12.50 No. 5—Express from Halifax and Pictou. . . . . 12.50 No. 9—Express from Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou. . . . . 12.50 No. 1—Express from Moncton (Saturday only). . . . . 12.30 All trains run by Atlantic Standard Time; 15.00 o'clock is midnight. Office—7, King street, St. John, N. B. Telephone 1054.

To Those Wishing to secure a Commercial or Shorthand & Typewriting Training, the Frederick Business College offers advantages unsurpassed by any other institution in Canada. Attendance larger than ever. Write for catalogue. W. J. OSBORNE, - Principal, Frederick, N. B.

COUNTRY LIFE is getting a new charm for Canadians because of the growing demand for farm products at home and abroad. Things have changed very considerably the last few years, and every department of agriculture has prospered immensely. Thousands of new farms will be started this Spring, and the sale of STEELE, BRIGGS' SEEDS will discount everything in the past. It may seem common place to say that, but there are no better seeds grown, and none more carefully selected. Our whole time and thought and energy is devoted to getting the best, and every possible need of garden and farm has been anticipated. Order through your local dealer, or send us direct. Catalogue free to any address. THE STEELE, BRIGGS SEED CO., LIMITED "Canada's Greatest Seed House" BRANCH STORE WINNIPEG, MAN. TORONTO, ONT.

Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Colds, Croup and Hay Fever. The Veronians, which should last a lifetime, together with a bottle of Cresolene, Sigs, Extra Large of Cresolene and soap. Write for descriptive booklet containing latest tests.

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