

HOMICIDE WAS JUSTIFIABLE DECLARES SPRACKLIN JURY SELF-DEFENCE THE VERDICT

Smith, in Whose Arms Trumble Died, Declares Victim Had No Gun, But Doctors Testify That He Told Them to the Contrary Shortly After Trumble's Death—Spracklin Again Gives His Version of the Tragedy—Other Witnesses Heard

THE VERDICT.

WINDSOR, Ont., Nov. 9.—"We your coroner's jury find that Beverly Trumble came to his death from a bullet fired from an automatic pistol, by J. O. L. Spracklin, license inspector, in self-defence, about 8.50 a.m., on November 6, 1920, at the Chappell House in the town of Sandwich."

WINDSOR, Ont., Nov. 9.—Justifiable homicide was the verdict returned by the coroner's jury conducting the inquest into the death of Beverly Trumble, who was shot by Rev. J. O. L. Spracklin, pastor-license inspector, at the Chappell House at 1.30 o'clock Saturday morning.

Crowds which packed the courtroom in the Sandwich town hall to witness the verdict, and when the verdict was announced dispersed without making any demonstration, which every effort had been made by the heavy police guard in attendance to anticipate.

The inquest opened on Saturday and was adjourned until last night, owing to the absence of E. Smith, one of the material witnesses in the case, who was present at the shooting in whose arms Trumble died.

Five witnesses were heard. They were Mrs. Ernest Deslippe, E. Smith and Harold Larke, all of whom were at the Chappell House on the night of the shooting, and Doctors Beasley and Mills, who were called to attend the dead man's injury.

The most startling feature of the evidence was the statement of the two doctors that Smith had told them on the morning of the death of Trumble that the dead man had a gun and that he had flourished it in the faces of the inspectors. This was in direct contradiction of Smith's testimony that he did not see Trumble with a gun, and that so far as he knew, he did not have a gun.

Smith was pressed upon this point by Mr. Spracklin's attorney, R. L. Bracklin, and he reiterated his statement that Trumble had no gun, and went so far as to say that if the two doctors swore that he told them on the morning of the tragedy that Trumble did have a revolver, he would still maintain that he had not said it.

Did Not See Trumble's Gun.

Mrs. Deslippe, of 175 Elm avenue, Windsor, wife of Ernest Deslippe, the man who was found in a battered condition outside the Chappell House on the morning of the shooting, stated that she had been in the hotel when Trumble was shot. She testified that she had been in the private apartments of the proprietor in company with Mrs. William Morton, of Detroit. She told of the appearance at the door of the room of the license inspectors, but claimed that she had entered the private living room at the time the shot was fired.

She told of meeting Mrs. Trumble as she passed through the door and gave the impression that the wife of the dead man was starting towards the door as the shot was fired. Pressed upon this point, she replied that she was not quite clear upon it, and Mr. Bracklin did not pursue the point any further.

Asked whether Trumble had a gun she replied that she did not see him with one. She was slowly questioned upon this point, but maintained that as far as she could recollect he had no gun. She stated that two of the license inspectors appeared at the door leading from the apartment to the hall and that Mr. Spracklin stood in the kitchen doorway. Her evidence in this particular varied from that of Smith, who was positive that there were no inspectors at the door leading to the hall when he entered the private dining room,

where the fatal shot was fired. The evidence of Larke did not vary materially from that of the other witnesses who were present at the Chappell House on Saturday morning and who were not in the private dining room when the shooting occurred.

Spracklin Again Questioned.

Mr. Spracklin was questioned upon several points in the evidence he gave Saturday night by W. H. Furlong, attorney for Mrs. Trumble. He was asked if he saw what became of the gun which Trumble was alleged to have after the fatal shot had been fired. He replied that he felt the gun pressing against the pit of his stomach and heard Trumble say: "God damn you, Spracklin, I'm going to shoot you," after which he fired and Trumble fell backwards toward the door of the private living room.

When all the evidence had been heard, the coroner, Dr. Labelle, addressed the jury briefly. He stated that this was the saddest inquest he had been his lot to conduct since his appointment to the office of coroner. He felt that the tragedy which occurred at the Chappell House Saturday morning was of a nature that stirred the provinces of Ontario and he was of the opinion that it had resulted from bootlegging activities, which had been carried on along the border and which had placed a stigma upon the name of the county of Essex.

He believed that Mr. Spracklin was worthy of commendation for the campaign which he had been carrying on against this evil.

Leaves it to the Jury.

"Many of us, perhaps," said the coroner, "have not done as much as we might have towards assisting in the enforcement of the Ontario Temperance Act, which is the law of the land, no matter what our personal opinions of it may be. Whether Mr. Spracklin was justified in shooting as he did is a question which you must decide, and which I must leave with you. I will not attempt to outline your duties from the legal standpoint, but will leave that to the crown attorney, Mr. Rodd."

Mr. Rodd, in instructing the jury, impressed upon the members, the solemn duty which rested upon them and urged them to dissociate themselves from prejudice, from personal feelings, from the influence exerted by friends or the people in the room, and to consider only the facts of the case as adduced in the evidence presented to them.

The crowd was cleared from the courtroom while the jury deliberated. Outside the county building the people thronged the street and awaited the finding with the keenest interest.

Showed Signs of Strain.

Mr. Spracklin, his father and several of his friends awaited the verdict in the court room. For the first time since the hearing, the pastor-inspector exhibited signs which showed that the strain under which he had been laboring since the occurrence of Saturday morning was beginning to tell upon him.

He conversed with those about him upon several points in the evidence which struck him as of interest, and stated that he believed in looking for the worst, as it was better to be pleasantly surprised than disappointed.

When the jury filed in after being absent from the room a full hour, the expression upon the face of the clergyman showed traces of nervousness which he had not exhibited during his most trying moments upon the witness stand.

When the coroner read the verdict he turned to his father and putting his arms about his neck, said: "It is all right, dad. It would have been

all right anyway, even if they had returned a different verdict, as I would have been acquitted in the end."

Mr. Spracklin shook hands with his attorney, Mr. Bracklin, and with the friends who crowded about him and as part of the crowd began to file back into the room, he asked the officers to keep a close watch upon those who entered.

Crown Attorney Rodd instructed Gordon Pillon, chief constable of the town, to disperse the crowd in front of the courthouse and to clear the streets of people, and the officers carried out these instructions without difficulty, the crowd showing no inclination to remain after the result of the inquest had been announced.

Distinguished Visitors at Yesterday's Rotary

Principal Dyde, Rev. Dr. Graham, Major Menzies and Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Esmond Among the Guests at Luncheon

Yesterday's weekly luncheon of the Belleville Rotary Club was a scene of great animation with the largest audience that has yet been recorded. Over fifty members and guests surrounded the tables and jollity and good-fellowship reigned.

No less than seven new members were introduced by President Guss Porter as follows: Leon Walmesley, Bert Findlay, Spencer Clarke, Walter Patterson, Sid Fisher, Ed. Baker and Jack McFee.

Rev. Dr. Baker, under his new role of Rotarian "Ed" Baker, seemed altogether pleased to get away from the formality and dignity of theology and the higher branches of learning.

Principal Dyde, head of Queen's Theological College, Kingston, was altogether pleased with the good-fellowship so well illustrated by Rotary. There was something approaching a scandal in the denominational rivalries of the Christian church. The cogs in the Rotary wheel were all alike. That was why the cogs operated with others and the wheel went around. An educated man was one who adjusted himself and got along with other people.

Major Menzies of Ottawa, said one of the lessons learned overseas was to forget the divisions that kept men apart. He believed Rotary would help promote the spirit of union.

Rev. Dr. Graham, educational secretary of the Methodist church remarked that the only organizations he belonged to were "human nature and the Methodist church." The Rotary club, he was pleased to know, strongly backed up educational progress. Rotarians would help to put into our education system all those forty ideals of truth and beauty and altruism and service.

Mr. H. V. Esmond, playwright and distinguished actor, of London, England, who was in the city to present his play, "The Law Divine," on being called upon gave an inspiring rendition to Tenyson's immortal ballad of the British fleet, "The Revenge." Mr. Esmond received an ovation on resuming his seat.

Breeding of Skunks is Suggested

As a Means of Stabilizing the "Depressed Fur Market."

WASHINGTON, Nov. 9.—Breeding of skunks as a means of stabilizing the "depressed fur market" is the latest suggestion of the Department of Agriculture.

Despite all the harsh things that have been said about this lowly animal, the department describes him as "the best wild animal friend the farmer has." The skunk the announcement says, can be used for destroying mice, grasshoppers, crickets, and white grubs, at the same time furnishing the farmer from \$50 to \$100 worth of fur a year.

All that is required of the farmer, the circular says, is that he "respect the animal's den, keep his poultry in skunkproof yards, kill an old horse for them every fall, and be careful when he meets them in the evening."

FUR DEALER FINED.

A detective discovered an Eganville fur dealer with contraband goods in his possession. A charge was laid before Police Magistrate Matheson and the offender pleading guilty was fined \$300 and costs.

Talk of the Town And of the Country

WANTED IN COBOURG

A stranger named George Turner was picked up by Sergt. Naphin and Constable Evans this morning and held on information from Cobourg, where he is wanted.

COINS FROM CORNER STONE

This morning the corner stone in the old Taylor House now being remodelled as a garage was removed and some coins were recovered by Mr. Fred Keegan. One is a half penny, bank token of the Bank of Upper Canada dated 1854 and the other is marked "Token, Ua Son, Montreal," and on the reverse "Agriculture Commerce, Bas Canada."

BOYS COMMITTED

Crown Attorney Carner and Children's Aid Inspector Ruston were in Millbrook yesterday at the hearing in a charge of breaking and entering, preferred against two boys nine years of age. The youngsters were committed for trial and were brought to the shelter for safekeeping.

HAY BURNED.

Mr. A. McKenzie, of Turiff, North Hastings, suffered a severe loss this week when a spark from a threshing machine set fire to two stacks of hay destroying them.

B.O.T.A. FINE

A young man named G. Wickett was fined \$200.00 and costs in police court this morning for having liquor in a place other than his usual place of residence, Mayor Riggs and ex-Mayor Walmesley occupied the bench.

FIRST SNOW FALL OF SEASON.

The first snow fall of the season in the Marston district occurred on Monday morning, but it did not amount to much and melted as quickly as it fell. The weather continues remarkably mild for the season of the year. There has not been a time this year when the ground remained frozen through the day. Last year we had severe weather in October, says the Marston Herald.

AT OTTAWA WINTER FAIR.

The Ottawa Winter Fair Board is making a special effort to encourage the sheep industry in Ontario and Quebec. Not only are the usual prizes offered in the various classes, but an attempt is being made to encourage entries. A special class has been made for exhibitors from Carleton, Dundas, Glengarry, Stormont, Leeds, Prescott, Grenville, Lanark, Russell, Renfrew, Pontiac, Wright, Ottawa, Labelle and Argenteuil. Exhibitors from these counties may enter in their own class as well as the open classes. The prizes for dressed wethers and lambs are particularly attractive. In addition to the regular prizes the live stock branch has donated special prizes for best three yearling wethers, three yearling lambs and three yearling ewes. The usual prizes for finished lambs have also been augmented by special prizes donated by the live stock branch for pens of three yearling wethers, pen for three lambs, pen of ten yearling wethers and pen of ten lambs.

NEW CULVERT UNDER RAILWAY

The C.N.R. has a crew of men at work rebuilding and greatly enlarging the culvert immediately to the west of the C.N.R.-C.P.R. railway bridge. The construction of a larger exit for the water at this point is calculated to greatly relieve any flood condition that may arise from spring freshets. The work of driving piles for the support of the superstructure was started yesterday.

TOWN DECLINED OFFER.

For some time past the municipality of Deseronto, through Mayor Malley, has been trying to get control of the C. N. R. dock which is crumbling and decaying. Efforts were made to have the C.N.R. lease the dock to the town at a nominal rental of \$1 per year and then having the dock the town intended to persuade the Department of Public Works to fulfil their promise to repair it. During the past week two C.N.R. officials took up the question with the mayor. A letter followed from Vice-President Hungerford, who said the C.N.R. would lease the dock in its present condition to the town for \$50 a year—the town to repair it and assume any obligation the dock might create in damages or through damage while under lease. The council declined.

FIGHT OVER LIGHT SYSTEM.

A fight has developed at Carleton Place between the corporation and

G. A. Burgess, who operates an electric power plant, and who now threatens to erect poles and wires on the streets of the town. When hydro entered the town Mr. Burgess' distribution system was purchased by the municipality. He now claims the right to build another system, but is being fought by the town.

MEDAL MAY BE PRESENTED.

It is rumored that at the next regular meeting of the Cobourg Curling Club one of the junior members will be presented with a medal for saving the life of one of the old time curlers who missed the wharf when landing at Rice Lake. At the same time a petition will be sent to the Dominion government asking them to extend the wharf further out in the lake.

LEFT FOR CONVENTION.

Mr. MacKenzie Robertson left yesterday for Chicago to attend the annual meeting of the American Association of Creamery Butter Manufacturers which is being held at the La Salle Hotel, Chicago.

PRESENTED WITH A GOLD HEADED CANE.

On the eve of his departure for Belleville, Mr. A. B. Collins was presented with a gold headed-cane by a few of his friends in Tweed and vicinity. Mr. J. H. Clare, reeve of Hungerford, acted as chairman, and the presentation was made by Mr. Jno. J. Quinn.

Among those present were Messrs. F. J. Black, Wm. O'Keefe, J. D. Taylor and Dr. Kindred who expressed their regret at losing such an estimable citizen. Mr. Collins gratefully acknowledged the gift and thanked his friends for their loyal support during his residence here.

Mrs. Collins was also remembered and on Thursday evening was made the recipient of a beautiful reading lamp. The presentation was made at a farewell dinner given in her honor by Mrs. Felix Rashotte.

CHINAMEN ARE ARRESTED.

Three Chinamen, with their Canadian guide, who gives the name of Eddie Becker, Montreal, are under arrest at Ogdensburg as a result of a recent attempt to enter the United States illegally. The Chinamen with their guide are said to have boarded a N.Y.C. train at Norwood, N.Y. They were arrested at Carthage, N.Y., on information furnished by members of the train crew. The quartette are now held at Ogdensburg for deportation proceedings.

SERVED IN WAR.

William Evans, Belleville's new police constable succeeding Mr. Blake Vaneper, who is now with the G.T.R. constabulary, served four and a half years in His Majesty's forces. He is a native of England. The last six or seven months he has spent in farming in this vicinity.

STORY OF TEA PLANT.

A very interesting booklet has been issued for general distribution by the Salada Tea Company, "A Story of the Tea Plant." It gives an account of the earliest knowledge of the plant in Asia. It is interesting to note that tea did not find its way into Europe. In 1657 the first tea house was established in London. The booklet explains the cultivation of the plant, methods of drying, rolling and shipment.

BOAT UPSET—OCCUPANTS THROWN INTO THE WATER.

On Saturday evening Vernon Brown, son of Rev. A. L. and Mrs. Brown and Winston Gordon, both of Tweed, went out for a sail. When about the middle of the lake a squall struck the craft and it capsized. The boys, who are both expert swimmers, clung to the overturned boat, but could not succeed in righting it, and they drifted to Stoco village. Gordon collapsed after getting to shore, and was carried to Mr. Trudeau's residence, where he was made as comfortable as possible and a doctor summoned. Young Brown was also nearly exhausted, and it was some time before he was able to return to his home. We are pleased to say that both boys are around again apparently none the worse for their involuntary bath.

FARMS BOUGHT AND SOLD.

Mr. Harvey Wallace has sold his fine hundred-acre farm in the 5th of Thurlow near Gilead, for the very satisfactory price of \$10,000, to Mr. William Emerson. The latter will take possession in March next. Mr. Wallace has purchased another farm of 200 acres, three miles to the west of Fort Hope on the Provincial highway, from Mr. John Walker and will move there in March. The price paid was \$12,500 which is considered a bargain as the farm is one of the best in the County of Durham. It is all work-land and gently slopes to the south. Mr. Wallace is having a sale of his farm stock and implements on Dec. 7, as he purchased the stock and implements of Mr. Walker.

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Edgar Judge Die in His 90th Ye

Veteran Grate Broker Came to Canada From England 65 Years Ago

For many years resident in Montreal and closely associated with its commercial, religious and political affairs, Mr. Edgar Judge, senior partner of the Judge Grain Co., Board of Trade Building, and vice-president of the Judge-Jones Milling Co. Ltd., of Belleville, Ont., passed away on Saturday night at the residence of his son, Rev. E. J. Judge, rector of St. Matthew's Church, 26 Macdonald avenue, Notre Dame de Grace, Mr. Judge, who was in his 90th year, had a very active career and, although he had well passed the four-score mark, was until recently following his usual business routine. He had, however, not been in the best of health during the summer and a fortnight ago was confined to his home by the illness which culminated in his death.

MR. EDGAR JUDGE WAS BORN IN

Bedfordshire, England, on July 20th, 1831 and was educated in England. He came to Montreal in 1855 and began business as a clerk in a commission house, shortly afterwards entering the firm of Oliver Gibbs & Co., as junior partner. Prior to his starting business on his own account in Montreal, in 1870, he was interested in the publication at Toronto of The Echo and Protestant Episcopal Recorder, at that time organ of the Anglican Church in Ontario. After returning to Montreal he was for a time editor of The Saturday Reader and Trade Review. For many years he was a prominent member of the Montreal Board of Trade serving both on the council and as treasurer, and of the Montreal Corn Exchange, of which body he was at one time president. At one time he was president of the Young Men's Reform Club, but in 1891 he disagreed with the Liberal party on its policy of commercial union with the United States. He took a prominent part in the movement to promote good government in civic affairs and was an official of the Citizen's League and the Good Government Association. In 1882 he served as an ensign of sedentary militia. Throughout his life Mr. Judge was a devout member of the Church of England and has on many occasions been a delegate to the synod. At the time of his death he was member of the permanent committee of the synod and was vice-president of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College.

MR. JUDGE WAS TWICE MARRIED, BOTH

wives predeceasing him. The first was Elizabeth Ann Porter, of Hayes, England, who died in 1888, and the second Catalina, daughter of Dr. Lewis, of Illinois, at one time surgeon in the British Army at Jamaica. He had two sons by the first marriage, Rev. E. P. Judge, rector of St. Matthew's Church and Ralph Ernest, in business in Minneapolis, Minn. The funeral was held from his late residence, 26 Macdonald avenue, on Tuesday at one p.m., the service taking place in the Church of St. James the Apostle at two o'clock.

THE BUSINESS OF THE JUDGE GRAIN

Company will be carried on as heretofore by the surviving partners, George B. Jones and H. G. Wilkinson, under the active management of the latter.

MR. ANGUS BUCHANAN WAS IN TRENTON

last evening addressing the Methodist Young People of that town.

LAI D TO REST

LATE C. F. CHISHOLM

All that was mortal of Charles Fraser Chisholm was laid to rest on Monday afternoon in Belleville cemetery. Funeral was held at his late home in Sidney, the remains being taken to the Methodist church at Wallbridge where Rev. Mr. Wallace conducted an impressive service assisted by Rev. Mr. McMullen and Rev. L. M. Sharpe. The church was filled with friends of the deceased. Many beautiful floral tributes had been given. The bearers were Messrs. C. J. Massey, M. Keho, J. Phillips, S. Nicholson, J. Hinchcliffe and P. J. Bird.

LATE MAZEL E. MBRIDE

The funeral of the late Miss Hazel Emma McBride took place this morning from the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. McBride, Charles Street. Mr. George Perry conducted an impressive service, assisted by Mr. Horns. The obsequies were largely attended. The bearers were Messrs. E. W. Barragar, H. Shaze, W. Canning, R. Brockhurst, J. Robin and C. W. Bowen. Interment was made in Belleville cemetery. Many beautiful floral tributes had been received from friends of the deceased and the family.

OAK HILLS.

Mrs. Jack Cook, who has been on the sick list is improving.

Mrs. Frank Saries spent last week in Foxboro.

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Stapley, a son.

Mrs. R. Marshall, of Parry Sound, who has been visiting relatives in this vicinity, spent last week with friends in Tweed.

Miss Mary Pritchett has whooping cough.

Mrs. R. Warden visited her daughter, Mrs. C. Y. Bailey on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Wannamaker spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fitchett, Holloway.

Miss Gertrude Keegan, of Belleville, spent the week-end with her parents here.

Mrs. Phil Carr and family visited her mother, Mrs. S. Stapley one day last week.

BURNED WITH LYE.

The two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Buchsahl, who reside near Millbridge, North Hastings was badly burned about the face and neck when she attempted to drink Gilleit's lys from a can which she had picked up. It seems the mother had been using the lys and had just turned her back when the unfortunate accident occurred. There is little hope held out for the recovery of the little tot's sight.

76 BIRTHS IN OSHAWA IN TWO MONTHS.

Seventy-six births in two months is the record scored by the stark in Oshawa. Vital statistics show that in October there were 38 births with the same number for the month of September. Both months are record ones in that town. On the other hand the death rate for October was unusually high, being 21, as compared with ten for the previous month. Eleven entered in the vitalist state of matrimony.

David Kelly, aged 35, of Simcoe, was killed by a ram while attending to a sick sheep.

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