

## Notes on Recent Cases

ON OCTOBER 20th last, Constable Williams, in charge of Rosthern Detachment, Saskatchewan, telephoned the Overseer at Laird requesting that the Village Constable arrest one George White, it being suspected that he was responsible for recent thefts in the district. Constable Williams later patrolled to Laird where he, together with the Village Constable, interrogated White in the village lock-up. The prisoner was requested to turn out his pockets and began to do so, suddenly drawing a revolver which he aimed at Constable Williams, backing him and the Village Constable into a cell and locking the door. Constable Williams, in attempting to draw his revolver, was shot in the face, the bullet entering near the cheekbone and being deflected down and out through the fleshy part of the cheek. Had the bullet struck half an inch higher, the wound would no doubt have proved fatal. White then left the building and it was a matter of fifteen or twenty minutes before the imprisoned men were released. Constable Williams was taken to the Rosthern Hospital and a search immediately commenced for White, who was located during the afternoon by Detective Sergeant DesRosiers and Constable Guthrie, who were searching together near a straw stack on the outskirts of the village. They approached from different angles and when quite near, the fugitive pointed his revolver at Constable Guthrie. He was ordered to drop his gun, but refused to do so, and when it appeared that he was about to shoot at Constable Guthrie, both Guthrie and Detective Sergeant DesRosiers fired, one of the bullets hitting White in the head and fatally wounding him. The coroner's jury returned the following verdict:

"That George White came to his death at 3.40 o'clock on the afternoon of the 20th October, 1936, at the N.W. corner of the straw stack on the premises of Peter Peters in the Village of Laird by a bullet fired by Constable Guthrie at 2.30 p.m. in self defence, said bullet entered forehead, going on through the head."

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A recently concluded investigation concerns the premises of the Saskatchewan Pool Elevator Company at Rama which were broken into, the safe removed from the office and forced open, approximately \$100.00 being taken. At 10 a.m. on the day the crime was committed, a C.N.R. freight train arrived at Rama and the crew were advised of the robbery and requested to notify the police should any transients be noticed boarding it. Accordingly, on arrival of the train at Canora, the police were advised by the freight crew that two men were observed getting on the train at a tank station east of Rama. The men were checked and their names taken, but these proved to be fictitious, it being later ascertained that one was Steve Burtnick, a suspect in a number of breakings; the other, Nick Kotovich. On a search being made the two men were found to be in possession of \$200.00 in cash, and among the articles found on Burtnick was a .25c note, 13 cheaters made of celluloid (these are used to cheat Yale spring locks), a skeleton key, and flashlight. A number of skeleton keys were also found on the ground near where the men were arrested.