

with the deceased, was the owner of a .22 rifle, and, upon being questioned, Korkoski stated that on the 21st May he met a young stranger at Schmidt's house, who, after staying the night with Korkoski, had left the following morning.

Meanwhile, on the 27th May, the day before Schmidt's disappearance was reported, a young man named James Whannell, who was staying at an Edmonton hotel, nearly four hundred miles from the scene of the crime, complained to the Edmonton City Police that his money and a shirt had been stolen from his room. As it was observed by the Detectives that Whannell was wearing a shirt identical with the one allegedly stolen, he was closely interrogated and, as a result, confessed his story was a fake, designed to excite the compassion of the hotel-keeper, from whom he hoped to secure a job. As about thirty dollars in silver was found on his person, which he was unable to satisfactorily account for, he was detained and later, when it was discovered that he had stolen this money from a Peace River cafe, he was taken into custody by Members of this Force.

As particulars of the Schmidt murder had by this time reached Divisional Headquarters, the theory was formed, both here and at Peace River, that Whannell was a likely suspect. Upon his photo being sent to Peace River it was found to be the photo of the young stranger who had stayed with Korkoski. Some shirts and a watch found in Whannell's possession were shown to a woman in Edmonton, with whom Schmidt had once lodged, and were positively identified as having been the property of the murdered man, Schmidt.

After giving at first a not unplausible explanation regarding his possession of Schmidt's property, Whannell confessed that he had taken Korkoski's rifle during his absence, gone over to Schmidt's place, and having shot Schmidt, allegedly in self-defence, had then returned the rifle to Korkoski's house without the latter becoming aware that it had ever left the place.

As some doubt was raised as to Whannell's sanity, he was placed under observation for some months in a Mental Hospital, where alienists arrived at the conclusion that he was sane but mentally defective. Despite this, however, he was brought to trial, found guilty, and sentenced to be hanged on the 20th February, 1935.

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Despite the reputation of the West for being wild and woolly, only one Bank hold-up occurred during the year, this being the Bank of Commerce at Hairy Hill. Two men held up the Staff and escaped in a car with nearly Nine Thousand Dollars. As a result of the very good work of the investigators from Edmonton and Vegreville, a portion of the loot was recovered and two men were convicted and sentenced to six years imprisonment for the crime.

Although crimes of violence are still plentiful, the opening up of the country and the spread of education has had its effect on the criminally inclined, who are more and more resorting to guile rather than brawn for the accomplishment of their anti-social purposes.
