

# POOR DOCUMENT M C 2 0 3 5

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN. N. B., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1920

## STORY OF FIGHT TO DEATH ON ROOF

Details of Encounter of New  
York Policeman and Negro  
on Top of Five-Story Building.

The despatches the other day told briefly a story which the New York Times amplified as follows:

Persons occupying upper floor apartments in the Great Northern Hotel and neighboring apartment houses were held breathless, thrilled and horrified by turns, for twenty minutes yesterday afternoon as they watched a fight for life between a policeman and his prisoner on the roof of 989 Sixth Avenue, at Fifty-sixth street.

Both, they saw, were struggling for possession of the policeman's pistol. The battle twice was carried to the roof's edge, and it seemed inevitable that both would pitch headlong to the yard six floors below.

By a great effort the policeman maneuvered his opponent back to the centre of the roof, and while the struggle was hidden from view by a chimney, the many witnesses heard a shot. Then the tussle was renewed near the edge, and it seemed back and forth for fully five minutes. The policeman, handicapped, it was evident, by a heavy raincoat, apparently was getting the worst of it. His assailant gradually pushed him nearer the edge.

Then a man in a sailor's uniform ran across from the roof of 102 West Fifty-sixth street and by sheer strength dragged both combatants to the centre of the stage. The "sailor" struck the civilian with a wooden club, apparently with no effect. The policeman, his balance recovered and still retaining his pistol, dashed after his antagonist as the latter attempted to flee through the roof door of 989 Sixth Avenue. Here there was another clash, and when the policeman attempted to club his prisoner with the butt end of his pistol the man grasped the butt, and for a moment had the "drop." But he couldn't grasp the trigger.

**Shot Through the Heart.**

A quick movement by the policeman brought him into possession of the business end of the weapon. He fired and his man dropped into a basket of newly washed clothes, a bullet through his heart.

The policeman was Martin Gill of the West Forty-seventh Street Station, who served in France as a member of Company A, 16th Infantry. He received the Médaille Militaire and the Croix de Guerre from France and won the Distinguished Service Cross for gallant work at the head of his company during the fighting at Launoy St. George.

His prisoner, who was killed instantly, was identified as Robert Cotin, a West Indian negro of 282 West Fifty-second Street, a dishwasher in a restaurant in Sixth Avenue near Fifty-seventh Street. He came to the United States several months ago.

Gill was standing at Sixth Avenue and West Fifty-sixth Street at 1.10 o'clock when a young white woman approached him and declared she had been insulted by a "Spaniard," who disappeared through the doorway of 989 Sixth Avenue as she approached the policeman. Gill asked the woman how he could identify the man, and the young woman supplied an accurate description even to the gray soft shirt the man wore. When Gill entered the building he saw Cotin standing on the stairs.

"He had a look of terror in his eyes," Gill said as he told the story when Dr. Charles Norris, the Chief Medical Examiner, arrived at the scene. "He ran

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up the stairs and I followed him to the roof. I found the door admitting to the roof slammed shut and when I opened it the man now dead lay at my feet. I fell down the stairs. I guess I had slipped over my raincoat in some way.

"I went up again and pushed the door open, at the same time reaching for my gun—we don't carry nightsticks now until the night tour.

**Clinched on the Roof.**

"When I pushed the roof door open a second time I ducked quickly to avoid a second rush and we clinched. The man seemed to be possessed of the strength of a maniac. I intended to hit him on the head with the gun, for resisting arrest, but when he nearly took the pistol away from me I had to fight to save my own life. We nearly fell off the roof twice.

It was James McQueeny of 102 West Fifty-sixth Street, garbed in a sailor's white duck uniform, who went to the aid of the policeman. McQueeny explained he was a bookkeeper and that he occasionally wore the uniform about the house.

"I was told of the fight on the roof and got there just in time to save both from falling off the slippery roof. Both Gill's legs were hanging off into space and his two overcoats had fallen in the yard," McQueeny said. "He did not want to shoot the man and had attempted to club him with the pistol. Finally he had to shoot to save his own life."

Dr. Norris and Dr. Benjamin Schwarz, Assistant Medical Examiner, who examined Cotin's body, said that the man had been shot twice, the first bullet having grazed his chest. Five minutes after the shooting, witnesses said, between the first and second shot.

Dr. Norris said that a superficial examination indicated that Cotin was de-

mented. The body remained on the roof of 989 Sixth Avenue for several hours, while members of the Homicide Squad took the testimony of witnesses. The woman who made the complaint to Gill could not be found and up to a late hour last night she had not reported at the West Forty-seventh street station.

Mrs. Priscilla Collier, a negro, of 326 West Fifty-second street, identified Cotin's body. Mrs. Collier said that Cotin had taken a room at 326 West Fifty-second street two weeks ago upon his arrival from Santo Domingo. He could speak no English, she said. Through an employment agency to which she referred him Cotin recently obtained a place as a dishwasher.

Gill was paroled in the custody of the captain of the West Forty-seventh street station house.

Several weeks ago Gill rescued Mrs. Irene Lavior Miller, a writer, who attempted to drown herself in Central Park lake after she had torn up her marriage license. Gill at that time had a post in West Fifty-ninth street. Two weeks ago he rescued Mrs. Elmer Brown, wife of a Danbury, Conn., banker, when she evaded her nurse and jumped off a foot-bridge into Central Park lake.

Gill's war feat was performed on Oct. 15, 1918, when he took command of his company after his lieutenant was shot and killed. Single-handed he captured a number of Germans. He was cited and decorated.

**POLICE EVICTED.**  
New York, Oct. 15.—Even the police are evicted by the landlord. The owner of a building in West 138th street which houses a station, refused to renew the lease, saying he was losing money on the property. So the police had to move.

## OLD KENTUCKY -MAKES BIG HIT AT QUEEN SQUARE

The large audience at the Queen Square Theatre last night saw the best show of the present season. The Young Adams Company certainly gave an excellent performance. Scenery and effects were excellent. The show made a big hit and will draw crowded houses. All scenes were well handled and the characters exceptionally well done. See in Old Kentucky Friday and Saturday at the Queen Square Theatre. A big play well done.

**MAKES BRIDE'S DRESS.**  
London, Eng., Oct. 15.—A one-legged ex-soldier was married at Nelson. His bride and the bridesmaid wore dresses and hats that he made himself. The bridegroom is now a clerk in a cotton mill.

**Sixty-six Would Wed One Man.**  
Preston, Eng., Oct. 15.—Sixty-six applications for the post have been received to the plea of an Alberta farmer to find him a wife. One of the women wrote that she expected her husband to get up and beat milk for the baby during the night; another wanted to be waited on hand and foot and her hair to be combed every night; another said she was very much domesticated and fond of cigarettes.

## THOUSAND MILES BY BOAT AND SLED

Ex-Constable Who Has Been  
16 Months in Arctic Ar-  
rives at Timmins.

Timmins, Oct. 15.—Ex-Constable Carl Eyre, formerly of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who acted as marine engineer of the forty-foot gasoline boat "Lady Borden," and who has spent the past sixteen months in the Arctic, has arrived here. He traveled over one thousand miles from Cape Fullerton on the west shore of Hudson Bay, and the journey occupied three and one half months.

The party, of which Ex-Constable Eyre was a member, left Cape Fullerton on June 11, traveling in a whale boat on a sled and drawn by dogs. Port Churchill was not reached until August 12. At the latter place they were joined by Sergeant and Mrs. E. H. L. Thompson, who had been wrecked 94 miles south of that point and who had been compelled to walk over 100 miles, living on berries and a meagre ration. The trip then continued to Le Pas by boat and gasoline speeder.

Much loose ice in Hudson Bay delayed the party on the trip which is usually made in a little over one month.

**WOMEN BECOME MINISTERS.**  
New York, Oct. 15.—After a rigid examination, before fourteen ministers, Mrs. Clemmie Ellis White and Mrs. May Lindsey Haight were ordained into the ministry at the West Side Mission. Mrs. White has been superintendent of the mission for many years.

## MASHER IN NEW YORK GETS DRUBBING

Girl Changes Subway Trans, Adminis-  
tering Poetic Justice the While.

New York, Oct. 15.—"Just let me handle this fellow myself. I know his kind," commanded Miss Dora Greiner, twenty, attractive and determined, as she took Elias Stone, twenty-seven, by the ear and slapped him unmercifully, to the delight of passengers on a north-bound evening Broadway train.

She left her place of employment at No. 80 Maiden L. late in the afternoon and took an uptown train at Wall street, she said. She was her tranquil self until the train reached 96th street. There, says she, Stone boarded the train and promptly tried to engage her in conversation.

Miss Greiner arose quickly and swung with her right fist. Stone protested, but the girl went through the motions of a trained pugilist. Stone leaped through the door, Miss Greiner in hot pursuit.

A second train rumbled in. Stone jumped on, and so did Miss Greiner. Another tussle ensued, and continued until the train reached the 168th street station. Here Miss Greiner dragged Stone out of the train by the ear into the street.

The quickly gathering crowd offered assistance. Miss Greiner spun it until Policeman Kilguff of the West 177th Street Station came along. Stone was arrested and sent to the Men's Night Court. There he was held without bail for examination. He denied the girl's story.

"Nothing at all," Miss Greiner assured reporters when they asked her about the incident. "Hope this teaches some of the mashers a lesson."

## MICHIGAN FARMER KILLS CHILDREN

Chloroforms and Buries His  
Little Daughters — Ther  
Makes Confession.

Lansing, Mich., Oct. 15.—Earl Roop, a farmer living near here, has confessed according to Sheriff Silbert, that he chloroformed his two daughters, aged two and three years, and buried their bodies in the bed of the Red Cedar river a short distance from his home.

The two girls, the sheriff said, had been in the fields with Roop. In the evening the farmer returned to his home and assured his wife, who was ill and in bed with her six-day-old son, that the girls were safe, and would be home soon.

A few hours later he started for the sheriff's office at Mason, where he surrendered and made the alleged confession.

After Roop had told his story Sheriff Silbert went to the river, led by Roop and uncovered the bodies.

Dependancy, according to the alleged confession, was the motive for the crime. Roop is being held on a charge of murder.

**DECLINE IN PRICES.**

A decline in the price of butter and beef was reported in the Montreal market yesterday. In New York selling agents for well known lines of muslins announced that drastic price cuts would be made today. One line will be cut from \$8 to 20 cents a yard, and another from \$1 to 19 cents.



## The First Days of OAK HALL'S Stupendous Store-Wide MARK-DOWN SALE

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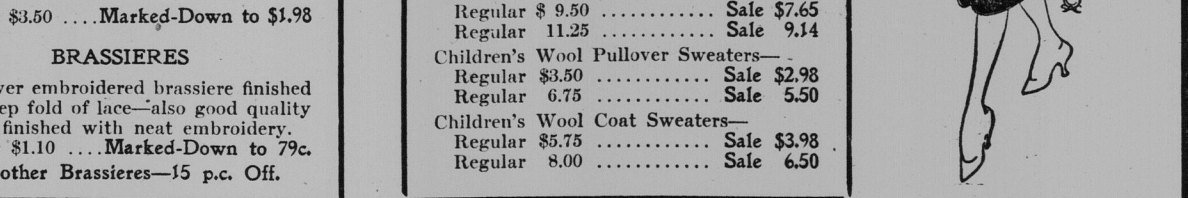
EVERYTHING IN MEN'S FURNISHINGS REDUCED		MEN'S HATS		MEN'S HOSIERY	
Neckwear, Mufflers, Handkerchiefs, Braces, Belts, Shirts, Gloves, Underwear, Sweaters, etc. Also Trunks, Club Bags, Suit Cases.		Regular \$8.50 and \$7.00 hats ..... \$3.95 Grey, Green, Brown, Slate—broken sizes only, a bargain for the right men. Brook-de-luxe, regular \$9 ..... Sale \$7.89 Mallory, regular \$10.50, \$11.50 ..... Sale \$5.98 Stetson, regular \$12 ..... Sale \$9.95 Borsalino, regular \$11 ..... Sale \$9.98 All Velours and all caps reduced.		\$1.00 Black Cashmere Socks ..... Sale 69c \$1.25 White Cashmere Socks ..... Sale 94c 45c Black Worsted Socks ..... Sale 59c \$2.00 Heather Cashmere Socks ..... Sale \$1.59 50c Heavy Wool Socks ..... Sale 37c Entire Stock of Hosiery reduced.	

MEN'S SWEATERS		MEN'S UNDERWEAR		MEN'S FALL SUITS AND TOP COATS		MEN'S WINTER OVERCOATS	
Cost Sweaters, military collar, heather shade, regular \$3 ..... Sale \$2.29 Cost Sweater, either military or shawl collar, Heather Grey, Brown, green trim, regular \$4.75 ..... Sale \$3.98 Heavy Coat Sweaters, shawl collar, Navy, Brown, Maroon, regular \$9.00 ..... Sale \$6.08		Heavy Ribbed Shirts and Drawers, Regular \$3.75 ..... Sale \$2.48 Regular \$4.00 ..... Sale \$2.12 Fine Ribbed Combinations, Regular \$5.00 ..... Sale \$2.97 Regular \$4.50 ..... Sale \$3.62 Regular \$4.00 ..... Sale \$3.10		Drastically Marked-Down. Young Men's Single and Double Breasted Suits, Business Men's Semi-Conservative Suits, Men's Standard Three Button Suits, all in Fancy Cheviots, English Tweeds, imported Worsteds and all wool Saxony. Fall Topcoats in Slip-on, Trench, Chesterfield, Form-Fitting and Raglan styles. Reg. Sale Reg. Sale \$25 ..... \$19.98 \$45 ..... \$33.20 30 ..... 24.65 50 ..... 42.35 35 ..... 28.95 55 ..... 44.95 40 ..... 34.20 60 ..... 49.80		Double Breasted Trench Styles, Form-Fitters, Standard Double Breasted Ulsters, Chesterfields, in Grey, Brown and Heather Mixtures, Brushed Wool, plain and fancy overcoats. English Meltons in medium, light and dark grey. Imported English Frieze. Reg. Sale Reg. Sale \$25 ..... \$21.30 \$40 ..... \$34.60 28 ..... 23.85 45 ..... 38.20 30 ..... 24.95 50 ..... 43.65 35 ..... 29.65 60 ..... 51.30	

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