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### EDMUNDSTON MURDER CASE

William St. Pierre Sent Up for Trial On Charge of Murdering Miss Minnie Stevens on the Night of October 11

Edmundston, N.B., Nov. 12—Excitement ran high in this usually quiet community when the hearing of William St. Pierre, charged with the murder of Miss Minnie Stevens on the night of Oct. 11, was resumed. After sessions lasting all day and well into the evening the accused was held for a higher court by Magistrate J. B. Michaud, who educated the investigation. St. Pierre appeared cool and collected during the hearing and exhibited no signs of emotion, even when the garments of the murdered girl were produced in court. The most damaging evidence against the prisoner was given at the evening session by Charles Magoon, a messenger boy, who told of seeing St. Pierre near the scene of the crime on the night in question.

Several tilts took place between Attorney-General Byrne, who conducted the prosecution and A. T. LeBlanc, who appeared for St. Pierre. Max D. Cormier also appeared on behalf of the defendant. Provincial Constable Robert Crawford has been working hard on the case and has secured additional evidence that will be presented to the grand jury. The trial will probably take place next March.

The court room was filled to overflowing when the hearing was resumed in the evening. Alphonse J. Herbert testified he saw St. Pierre on the night of Oct. 11 in front of J. A. Auble's grocery store in Victoria. He was with

Edward Michaud. The latter had his car. Accused got out of the car and talked of baseball matters. St. Pierre had on a navy blue suit. Accused asked witness to take a drink. Witness refused. St. Pierre had a bottle with him. Charles Magoon came along at the time. St. Pierre asked him to have a soda; went with him and had a soda. Finmore and Denney were in the drug store. St. Pierre went in the back room with Mr. York the proprietor. They were in the back room about five minutes, when the witness went out. Saw St. Pierre gave Charles Magoon twenty-five cents. First saw St. Pierre between 8.30 and 9 o'clock.

Charles Magoon, fourteen years old, was the next witness. Counsel LeBlanc took exception to the fact that the witness sat on the opposite side of the table from the former witness. Witness is a Western Union messenger boy. He knew the accused and also Miss Stevens. He was present when the body was found. He had telegrams to deliver the night of the crime and left the office around 8.15 with the messages. He went towards Victoria Hotel and met St. Pierre near York's drug store. He offered the witness a drink but the witness refused. He said don't tell on me. He then gave the witness twenty-five cents. Witness then went to the Windsor Hotel, then past Victoria Hotel, then over the bridge past cook house, delivered telegram to Mr. Bel-yea, came up Emerson street and went off sidewalk there. He saw St. Pierre who said, "Hello Magoon." He again offered the boy a drink. St. Pierre then handed out a handful of bills and offered them to him. Then offered him twenty-five cents. Witness took it. Witness went on and St. Pierre jumped off the fence and went part way down the hill and sat down. Witness then went back to the top of the hill. He saw St. Pierre go down the hill below the post. He sat down and looked all over the water. He then went down the bank towards the school house. Witness watched him out of sight. Witness then delivered telegram to W. C. Albert. The boy told of his movements the balance of the evening and got home at 10 o'clock.

In the afternoon several witnesses were heard but nothing particularly new was brought out.

C. T. Johnson, manager of the Star Theatre and the dance hall, said St. Pierre and Max Martin rented the hall on the night of the murder. St. Pierre came in about 10.00 p.m. and took the witness by the arm and brought him under a light. He took his hat off and

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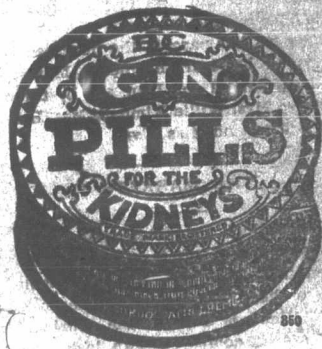


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asked witness how he appeared to go in public. Witness thought he looked all right but said he had been drinking. Prisoner told him he had been in a fight with four men. He asked witness if he had any scratches on his face. St. Pierre had been drinking that night and was also nervous. He was not as smiling as he generally was at dances. Was dressed in a gray suit. The suit was creased and dis-



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not look like one St. Pierre would wear. On cross-examination he said St. Pierre left the dance hall between 12.30 and 1 a.m.

Dennis Martin told of seeing blood spots on the ground at the scene of the crime. He was not there when the body was found.

Leon Gagnon knew St. Pierre and saw him at the dance hall. Talked with him between 10 and 11 o'clock. St. Pierre was in the picture hall and asked witness if he looked well enough to go to the dance. He told him he had a fight with three fellows. He described the fight to the witness and said he got blood on his clothes by holding one of the men's head against his body and punching him. Max Martin came in and he and the accused talked. He did not remember conversation. The prisoner was very warm this night. He did not appear nervous or as if he had been drinking. He acted much the same as usual.

Dr. A. M. Sormany who made the post mortem examination in company with two others gave the result of the autopsy. Clothes of deceased were torn. The hands, head, neck and general parts of the body showed marks of violence. There were marks on

wrist of right hand and index and middle fingers had teeth marks. The neck had finger marks on it as if someone had tried to strangle her. The face was bloated and there was a bruise between the eyes. Blood was flowing from nose, white mouth and lips were facerated on inside, caused by blow on mouth. There was a cut over right ear and bruise over left ear. The frontal bone was fractured. There was water in the lungs. In his opinion death was caused by submergence in water. There was no evidence of disease that would cause death. There had been a violent struggle previous to the drowning. Wounds would have been sufficient to cause death but not immediately. The witness said that three pieces of blood marked terra cotta sewer pipe produced in court would have caused the wounds on the body.

Herbert Albert, a barber, said he met the accused on the night of the crime at the Star Theatre. He went in about 10.30 and met St. Pierre. The latter wanted to know what witness thought of his new suit. He said he had just come back from Green River where he had a fight with three fellows and had to change his clothes. He saw St. Pierre at the barber shop next morning when they talked about the fight again. He saw him on Wednesday and asked him if he had heard about the girl being killed. St. Pierre said it was a shame. The witness said they might think it was he (St. Pierre). The latter said he had not heard anything about it.

Mrs. Henry Lavoie was next sworn. She lives in Emerson street and was at home the night of the tragedy. She retired between 8.30 and 8.45. She heard two or three screams, which appeared to come from Emerson street. The screams appeared to be unnatural. She looked out the window but did not see anything.

Bert Curzon, who conducts a restaurant, heard screams when on his back verandah. He thought someone was in the water. The screams came from across the river. He heard several at short intervals. It was about 9.15.

John Auble testified he heard screams from across the river at about the same time.

Florent Fournier, who knew Miss Stevens by sight, saw her on the night

(Continued on next page)

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