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THE INQUEST PROCEEDING.

Provincial Constable McNeill Tells of His Conversations With the Late Mrs. Roberts.

Postmaster Collinson Enters a Denial of the Constable's Report.

The Coroner's inquiry into the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Roberts, of Plumper Pass, Mayne Island, was resumed at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon, Coroner Walkem of Nanaimo presiding, and Coroner Hasell of Victoria occupying a seat with him on the bench. The jury being re-sworn, again visited the undertaking establishment for the purpose of viewing the body, and when the court opened for the hearing of evidence Superintendent Hussey announced that the witnesses from Mayne Island being in attendance, the case could be taken up from the beginning. Mr. H. Dallas Helmcken asked and obtained permission to appear in W. T. Collinson's behalf.

Provincial Constable William McNeill, at present stationed at Mayne Island, was the first witness called. He identified the body viewed by the jury as that of Elizabeth Roberts, of late residing with W. T. Collinson at Plumper Pass, and continued: The last conversation I had with the deceased was on January 2 last. She was then in W. T. Collinson's residence at the Pass. I called to speak to her with regard to a complaint she had previously made to me; she had informed me that she believed Collinson and his boys were robbing her of her jewelry and money. She said they had broken open her trunk and were robbing her. She requested me to watch them. William Robson, J. P., was present with me at the interview referred to on the 2nd of January. During the conversation, Mrs. Roberts complained to me that Mr. Collinson had given her liquor to drink with something very bitter in it. Then she added, "No—not exactly bitter—something like acid; I can't just describe it." She said "I've never been the same since." During the conversation she would burst out crying as if in distress, and she said she could not help crying. Mr. Robson asked her how often she had been given this drink by Collinson, and she replied that she could remember three times distinctly that she had noticed the presence of this peculiar acid taste in her drink, and she promised that the next time she was given it she would save it for me. She then requested me to find out if her money was all right, as she had signed papers for Collinson which he had said were the post office returns (he being postmaster) but which she had since had doubts in regard to. She said that she did not know what the papers she signed were, as Collinson held his hand over the body of the documents and made her sign her name at the bottom. She had signed, she said, "Mrs. Elizabeth Roberts," and a few days later Collinson returned with the paper and told her the signature wasn't right as she hadn't signed her full name. She had then signed "Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Roberts." She was then afraid, she said, that there was something wrong with her money as it had been banked in the name of Mrs. Elizabeth Anne Roberts. I advised her to come in to Victoria and look into her affairs and she replied: "How can I; he won't let me; he"—meaning Collinson—"won't let me out of his sight." Samuel Collinson, a son of W. T. Collinson, coming in then, the conversation terminated. I did not go there again until the night of the 27th of January, when I received a message at about 9:30 o'clock that I was wanted at the Pass as Mrs. Roberts was very bad. I arrived at Plumper Pass at 11 o'clock or thereabouts and remained until the following morning, when Mrs. Roberts' death was reported to me by Mr. William Robson, proprietor of the Mayne Island house. On Monday, the 28th of January, I saw the dead body of Mrs. Roberts and helped W. T. Collinson and Mrs. Robson to put it in the coffin. This was at Mr. Collinson's house. I then reported the circumstances of the case to Superintendent Hussey. Mrs. Robers was ill for some time. W. T. Collinson told me that the old lady was sick abed and he was going to get rid of her and get another housekeeper. He was evidently in earnest, for he spoke of having written to a Mrs. Pitmore, of Union or Comox, to come and act as his housekeeper. From the common talk of his (Collinson) having poisoned Mrs. Roberts, I considered it my duty to report all the circumstances to the Superintendent of Police. I should have been remiss in my duty had I not done so.

To the Coroner: The deceased was an habitual drunkard. She complained to me of Collinson having frequently used dreadful language to her. I never noticed any marks of violence on Mrs. Roberts' face, but I have often seen her drunk. She was usually in that condition. When the conversation of January 2 took place she was not exactly sober, evidently in a low, depressed state from drink. She was not hysterical, and spoke clearly and rationally.

Constable McNeill's report to Superintendent Hussey was here read and put in, and the direct examination closed.

Cross-examined by Mr. Helmcken, the officer said that it was early in December when Mrs. Roberts complained to him that she was being robbed of her money and jewelry. She was not exactly sober at the time, and consequently he did not "take as much stock" in the robbery story as he otherwise might have. He did not believe it implicitly, nor did he disbelieve it; he determined to watch and see if there was anything in it. He accordingly kept close watch, but did not hear of any jewelry being offered for sale or put aboard any of the steamers calling at the Pass. When he called to see Mrs. Roberts on January 2, Collinson was in Victoria. Referring to his report to Superintendent Hussey, he explained that part of the information was obtained from Mr. Robson, part from Mrs. Robson, part from Collinson, part from Mr. Pike, and part being known to himself from conversations with Mrs. Roberts—he knew that Mrs. Roberts had told Collinson about the call on January 2, and would not be surprised to learn that she had told him that he (witness) had asked her dreadful questions as to Collinson's habitual abuse of her, nor would he be surprised to learn that Mrs. Roberts had said he (McNeill) offered to look into her affairs for her when he was in Victoria. He did not find out anything about the jewelry, but was not yet through his investigations. When he went to the Pass on the night of the 27th of January, he did not go to Mr. Collinson's because neither Mr. Collinson nor Mrs. Roberts had sent for him. He went, as was his habit, to the Mayne Island house, and remained there by Mr. Robson's request, while the latter went over to Collinson's. Returning Mr. Robson said that the old woman was very low and could not live through the night.

To the Jury: No liquor is sold at the Mayne Island house. Collinson supplied Mrs. Roberts with her liquor, getting it in bulk from Victoria. I believe Mrs. Roberts was paid $20 per month, but do not know whether or not her wages were paid regularly. I heard that Mrs. Roberts had no medical attention; the nearest doctors were at Victoria or Westminster. A doctor could have been more readily obtained from Westminster, as the steamers made better connection that way. Collinson told me the deceased had frequent vomiting fits.

Dr. O. M. Jones deposed to having made a *post mortem* examination of the body of a woman between 40 and 50 years of age apparently, and which was said to be the body of one Elizabeth Roberts. The body was well nourished and there were no signs or marks of violence; nor was there anything worthy of special note in the external appearance of the body. The entire skin had a waxy appearance, and the expression of the face and eyes was natural. The upper part of the brain showed signs of former meningitis, but in the brain itself there was nothing more of note. Both lungs, as well as the brain, were perfectly healthy; the heart was large and showed no trace of any disease whatever. The liver was pale yellow and immensely large, weighing exactly six pounds. Spleen, kidneys, stomach, intestines, etc., were all carefully examined, but witness found nothing to warrant a conclusion in regard to the cause of death, not knowing the history of the case. It was evident from the appearance of the liver and other organs that the deceased had been an excessive eater and drinker. In view of the fact that suspicions of poisoning had been raised, witness considered an analysis of the contents of the stomach and intestines absolutely necessary, and had accordingly given all such contents, in sealed jars, to the public analyst.

The Coroner: Would it be possible for you, from a casual view of the body, without removing the clothing, to state the cause of death?

Witness: Most assuredly not; especially not when, as I say, I cannot do so after performing a thorough *post mortem* examination. There was no heart disease of any kind (this to Supt. Hussey).

Dr. Richard Morrison, sworn, said: I did not know the deceased, Elizabeth Roberts, previous to her death. On the 30th of last month, January, 1894, Mr. W. T. Collinson called at my office and asked me to go and see the body of one Elizabeth Roberts at Mr. Story's undertaking rooms. I asked him if he had had a medical man attend the woman previous to her death, and he replied "no." I went to the undertaker's undertaking room and examined the body, and he returned with me to my office. I did not remove the clothing, but I examined the face and the eyes, and looked at the body and returned to my office. I asked him what she complained of and how she felt previous to death, and from what he stated I formed my diagnosis that death was caused by heart failure. He (Collinson) stated that her illness continued about seven weeks previous to death. Now, gentlemen of the jury, the last time you were gathered here, some remarks were made in reference—

Coroner Walkem (sharply)—Now stop! What are you going to say?

The witness replied that he merely wished to explain in regard to the certificate of death which he had issued, and he was then permitted to continue. He said: The last time you were here, gentlemen of the jury, some remarks were made in regard to my having given a certificate of death, though not having attended the patient. I can assure you, gentlemen of the jury, this occurs every day in this city, and all the doctors in practice do it. They know of it, and all the undertakers know it. In Chinatown nearly every day there is a death, no doctor having been in attendance, and the undertaker sees a doctor and takes him down to have a look at the body and gets a certificate of death from him, and I don't think it right or—

Coroner Walkem: Then all I have to say, Dr. Morrison, is that if such a state of affairs exists as you have described, I blush for my profession! Any professional man who for the sake of a paltry fee will make out a certificate of death, not knowing the facts thoroughly, is a disgrace to his profession. It was and is your duty, sir, (this to Dr. Morrison) to report the matter to the authorities. I cannot believe that a brother medical man can debase himself as you say all the practitioners of Victoria do. Your story is outrageous—it is monstrous! That every medical man of Victoria at the dictation of whatever undertaker comes to him, is prepared to sell his word for a fee! I cannot sit here and listen to such a story. You are only making a bad matter much worse by your attack upon the medical men. For God's sake don't so far forget yourself as to attack those who have the misfortune to be your brethren in the medical profession. I may be excused for a little warmth—the insult to the profession is too much. What did Collinson say in excuse for not providing the woman with medical attention?

Dr. Morrison: Collinson said she did not wish medical attention; it was from what he said that I arrived at the cause of death. I then gave him the certificate. That's all I wish to say about it. Collinson said she had a complication of diseases. The usual fee for a certificate of death is $5; Collinson gave me $2 50, and said he would give me the other $2 50 again.

To Superintendent Hussey: I certified that death was caused by cardiac disease or heart failure.

To jurors: The undertaker did not call on me for the certificate of death in this case; Mr. Collinson called at my office. I think Mr. Story was in the next room when I made my examination of the body; I didn't give it a thorough overhauling; I didn't make no post mortem. I looked at the eyes, which were open, but I depended almost entirely on what Mr. Collinson told me. I asked him the symptoms of heart disease and he ran over them exactly; he's a very intelligent man as you will notice as soon as he gets into the witness box. I have heard of certificates of death being given as I say; the undertakers can tell you all about it. I can't give names and dates; it's not for me to do. The cases of the Chinamen are the only ones I know of. Of course there are many cases of the kind that I know of; I have said there are. I'm not here to say who issued the certificates; you can easily find that out at the registry office.

Superintendent Hussey: The people of the registry office fail to find any certificate such as Dr. Morrison has issued and signed by any other medical man, in a search extending over the records of three years.

Dr. Morrison remarked that he had nothing to do with this, and the inquest was then adjourned until Tuesday at 10 o'clock.

The coroner's inquiry into the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Roberts, late of Plumper Pass, was continued Tuesday, Coroner Walkem presiding and there being a numerous attendance of spectators during the progress of the examination. Until the noon adjournment, Dr. Campbell, of Honolulu, occupied a seat on the bench, the guest of the coroner.

William M. Robson, J. P., testified to having accompanied Constable McNeill to Mrs. Roberts' on the 2nd January, when the conversation referred to in the officer's testimony took place. He corroborated the evidence previously taken in reference to acid given Mrs. Roberts in her drinks. Went to see Mrs. Roberts, both before and after the 2nd January, but knew of no reason to suspect foul play except Mrs. Roberts' statement. Had known Collinson for about fourteen years; was on good terms with Collinson, McNeill and everybody else. The call of the 2nd January was made at his (Robson's) suggestion; at that time he had not heard anything of her complaint that Collinson and his sons had robbed her. McNeill, on the occasion referred to, took no active part in the conversation, and did not refer to the robbery matter. Witness acknowledged that it was he who sent the message asking McNeill to come to the Pass on the night of Mrs. Roberts' death; he thought it was well for the officer to be there. Some of the information contained in the constable's report to Superintendent Hussey he (Robson) supplied, though he did not know at the time that it was to be used in a report. McNeill subsequently informed him that he had reported on the case to headquarters. Nothing was said in the neighborhood in regard to the poisoning until the inquest was ordered; witness only referred to Mrs. Roberts' statement that she had been given acid in her drinks in conversation with McNeill and with the elder members of his own family. It was correct that Collinson would not send for a doctor when requested both by Mr. Pike and by witness; and it was also correct that he had had nothing to do with the will. Collinson had said with regard to this latter matter that "it was best he" (Robson) "shouldn't be in it at all." Witness had not known that McNeill had been asked to have Mrs. Roberts' death investigated. During the latter part of Mrs. Roberts' illness she was too weak to converse, though she could speak. The information that Collinson abused Mrs. Roberts while she was ill in bed was given McNeill by witness; it was Mrs. Roberts' own statement. Everyone at the Pass knew that Mr. Murcheson, J. P., prepared the will—he copied it from the draft made by Mr. Collinson. Witness saw both the draft and the will itself; in fact he read the draft while Mr. Murcheson copied it. Did not tell McNeill about the will; this information was common property. Did not know that Mrs. Roberts had any previous will; in fact inclined to the belief that the will drafted by Collinson and copied by Mr. Murcheson was the first and only will.

To the jury—Could not repeat the contents of the will; it gave $391 to Collinson, but to the best of witness' recollection said nothing in regard to the disposition of personal effects. Of course, Collinson getting the money was naturally contingent upon the death of the woman. Had he (Robson) been in Collinson's place, he would have considered it his duty to send for a doctor whether he was a beneficiary under the will or not. Collinson said when spoken to on the subject that she would not see a doctor; did not ask Mrs. Roberts or hear anyone else ask her if she wanted a doctor. Mrs. Roberts stated that she signed what Collinson told her were his post office returns; that was about two years ago. She asked witness if it was necessary for her to sign the post office returns, and said that Collinson had held his hand over the document and would not let her see what she was signing. Mrs. Roberts did not get her liquor at the Mayne Island house; it was supplied to her by Collinson, who sent to Victoria for it. Whiskey was necessary for Mrs. Roberts' existence; she lived on it. Witness had himself asked Collinson to get liquor for her. Did not know what arrangement there was between Collinson and Mrs. Roberts. The will was witnessed by Mr. Murcheson and by Mr. Cullison, another resident of the Pass.

Mrs. Robson, wife of the former witness, said that she had been slightly acquainted with the late Mrs. Roberts, having visited her occasionally at Mr. Collinson's residence at Plumper Pass. On the Thursday before her death, witness spent several hours with the deceased, Mr. Collinson seeing her home as it was by that time pretty dark. Collinson, in reply to Mr. Robson's inquiry as to how the old lady was, said that she was not so well and he was afraid he would have to get things fixed for her as she was not going to last long. The next morning witness again went to see the sick woman, and washed and dressed her, she being in need of such attention. She then said that during the night Collinson had given her a very nasty drink. In Mrs. Roberts' presence witness requested Collinson to get a doctor, and she (deceased) heard him reply that he couldn't afford it, as it would cost $50. Mrs. Roberts made no remark. Remaining until evening, witness returned to her home, and again went to see Mrs. Roberts the following morning, when she insisted on giving the sick woman some medicine. Collinson objected, but the patient was given some castor oil, which she seemed to require. In the evening Collinson asked witness to go over again, as the old lady was very much worse; she did so, and remained with the patient until her death, at 20 minutes to 6 in the morning. Her nourishment during the last day of her illness consisted of a couple of cupfuls of milk with some whiskey that Collinson put in it. On the Friday she had a little beef-tea—probably half a dozen tablespoonfuls—and perhaps another cupful of milk. Could not say whether there was whiskey in this milk, as Collinson took it in to her. Witness did not remain during either Thursday or Friday night. On Saturday Collinson gave her some port wine and water. She had no nourishment during Saturday night. Witness noticed at the time of her visits that the woman was receiving very little nourishment; she seemed weak—she was too weak to sit up in bed on Friday when her clothing was changed. Mrs. Roberts made no charges against anyone to the witness, nor did she say anything in reference to Collinson refusing to send for a doctor. She was not sensible when approaching death, though she appreciated the fact that she was going to die. Witness had heard Mrs. Roberts say that she had $300 in a box by her bedside and also had money in Green, Worlock & Co.'s bank in Victoria. On Friday, Mrs. Roberts said she was waiting for Mr. Murcheson to come in, in order to sign her will. She said nothing in regard to the disposal of her property. There were two little phials on the dressing table in the death chamber; they were labelled "poison," and one contained a liquid of some sort, the other being empty. Mr. Shotbolt's label was on the one bottle. There were no other bottles in the room that attracted attention. Mrs. Roberts' room was papered in yellow and other colors. Witness could not say whether or not there was any green in the wall paper. After Mrs. Roberts' death the room was locked up by Collinson's direction—the door was locked and the window shut down. On Monday morning the door was sealed, but by whose suggestion witness did not know—she could not say whether or not the window was sealed or whose seals were placed on the door. It was only during the last year or so that it was said that Mrs. Roberts was a confirmed drunkard; Collinson supplied her with liquor, but the witness could not say whether or not the drink habit was contracted by her after coming to the Pass. She said nothing in regard to receiving medicine or that Collinson was giving her any medicine. Collinson made no remark in regard to treating the case himself.

Cross-examined by Mr. Helmcken, witness said she was acquainted with Constable McNeill and had told him of some misdeeds of Collinson as reported by Mrs. Roberts. On the Thursday, Mrs. Roberts complained that Collinson had abused her while she was ill, and the statement was repeated to Constable McNeill on the Sunday when the death occurred. Witness had had no conversation with her husband in regard to Mrs. Roberts, nor had she been told of the conversation which McNeill and her husband had with Mrs. Roberts on January 2. Witness told Constable McNeill of what Mrs. Roberts said on the Friday about the acid given her by Collinson, but did not speak to her husband about the matter. Could not say that Mrs. Roberts was continually under the influence of liquor. Rev. Father Van Goethem called on the Wednesday previous to Mrs. Roberts' death. Was not present when the will was signed as Mr. Murcheson asked her to leave the room; would not have remained anyway; had no curiosity in regard to the contents of the will. To the best of witness' knowledge, Mrs. Roberts knew what she was doing when the will was signed.

Finlay Murcheson, J.P., of Galiano Island, had known the late Mrs. Roberts for about two years, during which time she had been employed as housekeeper by Postmaster Collinson. A few days previous to the death of Mrs. Roberts, on January 26, was sent for by Collinson, who said Mrs. Roberts wanted him to put her affairs in order. Mrs. Robson was there when witness arrived nursing the deceased very attentively, but withdrew by request. Mrs. Roberts, in Mrs. Robson's momentary absence, said that she didn't want Mrs. Robson present when she was discussing her private affairs. Mr. Collinson said he didn't like to tell the lady to leave, so witness did so and she willingly withdrew. Mrs. Roberts said that she wished to have a will drawn up leaving everything to Mr. Collinson, as he had been good and kind to her. She said she had $390 in Green, Worlock & Co.'s bank and $90 in cash in the house. The will was drawn up almost immediately by witness, and signed and attested by witness and a plasterer named Cullison, who with witness was named as executor. The will was subsequently given to Mr. Helmcken for safe keeping. Witness locked and sealed the door and window on Saturday last. All Mrs. Roberts' property was made over to Collinson; at the time of making the will Mrs. Roberts was more rational than witness had ever seen her before. Saw her quite frequently, probably once a week—whenever he went to the post-office. Could only speak of her habits from hearsay. Collinson said nothing in particular about the woman's illness, more than than that she was being fed entirely on milk; Mrs. Robson said at the time the will was drawn that the woman was dying. Did not know that Mrs. Roberts was ill until Mr. Collinson's note was received; heard of Mrs. Roberts' death on the day she died, but did not seal the door or window until Saturday. On second thought it was on the Monday, the day after the death, that the door and window were sealed in the presence of witnesses. The seals were marked with Mr. Robson's gold ring. Did not notice any bottles in the room, though they might have been there and escaped notice. The will (here produced by Mr. Helmcken) was identified by witness as the instrument prepared by him and signed by Elizabeth Roberts. Witness explained that the will was written at Mrs. Roberts' dictation, and continued that Collinson by request furnished a pencil draft of the first few lines. The will was written word for word as Mrs. Roberts dictated it. No search was made for the money supposed to be in the room; the room was sealed without any investigation of its contents.

To Mr. Helmcken—The will is in my own handwriting. I did not copy it from Mr. Collinson's draft at all. After drawing up the will I read it over to Mrs. Roberts and she said it was all right, and she then affixed her signature in the presence of myself and Mr. Collinson. I saw Mr. Robson the day the will was drawn. It was the original will Mr. Robson read while I made a copy for Mr. Collinson's use—to take to Victoria with him. I would not give him the original will. I cannot remember just what Collinson suggested to me; as near as I can remember he just said start it, "I, Elizabeth Roberts, being of sound mind." I could see she was of sound mind, though I did not ask her if she was. After drawing up the will, as I was leaving, she called me back and asked me "who's going to keep the will." I said, "who do you want to keep it?" She said, "I want you to keep it." I said, "all right." I have often noticed the effects of drink on her, though I cannot say I have ever seen her drunk. It was the 28th January that I sealed the door and window; the body was still in the house, but had been removed from the room in which the death had occurred. I sealed the room because I was responsible for its contents and I wanted to make sure there would be no trouble. There was sufficient money in the house, so I was informed, to have paid for a doctor had one been called.

W. T. Collinson, postmaster at Plumper Pass, after being cautioned in regard to any statement he might make, was sworn, and deposed as follows: Mrs. Roberts came to my place as housekeeper on November 13, 1891, at a wage of $10 per month; the agreement was that she was simply to look after the house, not to do any hard work. She was quite ill when she came, from the effects of drink. She recovered and picked up her strength to a certain extent. She would be governed by nothing but opportunity in the matter of drink. I had to restrict her; being addicted to drink, she required a stimulant. She never had a meal without liquor of some kind; she generally had milk with something in it at her meals. If she did not have liquor the consequences were serious; she got shaky and nervous, and was much troubled with palpitation of the heart. Having a little drink she kept her usual health, which was not of the best. I decreased the amount of her stimulants by degrees in the hope of breaking her off. She frequently had bad spells, the cold weather made her quite delicate, sometimes taking to her bed. She was very sensitive to cold. This continued along until about September last, when she began to get weaker and have longer spells of sickness with fewer well days. She was at that time drinking about half a pint of old rye whiskey every 24 hours; she could not get along with less. When she first came to my place she had three or four drinks a day—about a tablespoonful and a half to a drink. She had been drinking a bottle a day when she came. I couldn't exactly say what she started on, but I was tapering her down. The ill spells continued until some time in November, when she fell in her room one night against a chair or something and injured her right side, and I then called in Mrs. Robson. I asked Mrs. Roberts if she wouldn't come in to town and go to St. Joseph's. She said she would not; that she wasn't seriously hurt enough, and she would not go to the hospital anyway. She apparently recovered from this in a few days when she was up again—she would be up two or three days and then forced back to her bed again. She was never an energetic woman. About the middle of January she commenced to complain again—of lassitude and weariness, not any pain at all. I then suggested that she come to Victoria for medical attendance, and said I would come with her, but she would not listen to me and became quite indignant when I pressed the matter. She said she knew best what was good for her and was not going to be ruled by anybody. She then grew weaker, and had shorter spells up and longer spells in bed. She had not as much desire for whiskey as formerly, and her appetite for food, never good, also fell away. I again urged her to come to St. Joseph's for medical treatment, and told her I should be obliged to take her there, when she said I might put her out of the house, but I had no more power over her afterwards; that she wasn't going to St. Joseph's and she wasn't going to be taken there. As Mrs. Robson had been waiting on her at intervals I asked Mrs. Robson if she would kindly come in and see her whenever she had time. Mrs. Robson was very kind and attentive to her during the days, and latterly I sat up with her during part of the nights, in case she should want anything. She complained of no pain—only weariness. She wasn't taking much nourishment—only a little beef tea that Mrs. Robson brought her. She also drank about a pint of milk a day—it was her principal food. There was very little whiskey in it. On Tuesday she asked me to send for Mr. Murcheson, as she wanted to put her affairs in order. She knew Mr. Murcheson and had confidence in the old man. I suggested Mr. Robson, as he was nearer and also a J.P., but she wouldn't have him. I put off sending for Mr. Murcheson until Friday, and during this time she continued to grow weaker. On Friday morning she said I must send for Mr. Murcheson—that I wasn't treating her right; so I sent for him at daylight on the 26th. When he came I showed him into the room and said "here's Mr. Murcheson, now arrange any business you have with him." I then went out about my affairs; Mrs. Robson was in the house at the time. When I came in with a stick of wood for the dining-room fire, I met Mr. Murcheson, who asked me if I knew anything about making a will—how to start it. I said I knew very little about it, but took the pencil and wrote less than two lines of how the will should start; if I recollect right I wrote "I, Elizabeth Roberts, of Plumper Pass, being of sound mind, do give and bequeath." I stopped there. I didn't want to have anything to do with the matter. I didn't know anything about Mrs. Roberts' affairs, or that she had anything to bequeath. I then returned to my work, when some one asked where Mr. Cullison was. I said he was down on the wharf and somebody called him. I afterwards saw him in the house in conversation with Murcheson, and I have an idea that he next asked me if I had any large envelopes. I gave him one. Mr. Murcheson waited for his mail and then went home. About noon, Mrs. Robson suggested that we give Mrs. Roberts castor oil as she was suffering from constipation. I said she could have it if she desired; she had castor oil of her own there and was in the habit of taking it. The giving of the oil was put off till next day, when, Mrs. Robson insisting, it was administered. Up to this time Mrs. Roberts had not felt a pain. A second dose, also light, was given at 5 o'clock. The next day Mrs. Roberts asked for a little port wine, and I got a bottle for her from the steamer, as well as some oranges she asked for. There was very little port wine used, I think. Mrs. Robson remained that evening (Saturday) until between 6 and 7, when she went home after asking me to call her should Mrs. Roberts get worse. About 8 o'clock Mrs. Roberts complained of griping pain and told me I had better get Mrs. Robson over. I went over and got Mrs. Robson immediately. As Mrs. Roberts was suffering severe pain I, a little later, called in Mrs. Cullison and Mrs. Jack to see what could be done. The patient being a lady I could not assist much myself. I was only in the room once after this before Mrs. Roberts died. Then they came upstairs and told me that it was all over. I left the rest for the women neighbors to arrange. We had a consultation in regard to a coffin and on Sunday I sent by Captain Rudlin for one, which Mr. Story sent down. I was anxious to get the body down Monday, as if it was further delayed it would not come till Thursday. The coffin was received Monday, and the body put into it, and on Monday night the coffin was taken on the steamer Louise and I accompanied it to Victoria. I left the coffin on the steamer until Tuesday morning, when I went and saw Mr. Story and told him the corpse was there and he had better get it up to his rooms. I then went to find a medical man to get a certificate, which Mr. Story told me—and which I knew—was necessary. I intended to go to Dr. Milne, but meeting Dr. Morrison casually on the street I told him my errand and what I was looking for—a medical man to look at the body. I wanted to comply with the law and Mr. Story's request. Dr. Morrison asked me where the corpse was and I told him it had not yet reached the undertaker's rooms, but I would let him know when it was brought up. I did not ask him anything about fees or anything else. When the corpse reached Story's I notified Dr. Morrison and he accompanied me to the undertaker's room to view it. He looked at the body superficially and asked me several questions. He asked me what the symptoms were, had she any pain, how long she had been ill and how she had died. I told him that formerly Mrs. Roberts had complained of palpitation of the heart, but latterly had not complained of any particular pain. Mrs. Roberts had in fact told me that Dr. Milne had treated her for heart trouble during the summer before she came to my place. The doctor came to the conclusion that it was a general break-down and said he might make it almost any organic disease, so he thought he would make it cardiac disease. I then accompanied Dr. Morrison as far as the Pritchard house, and as we were parting there I said: "Doctor, what's your fee for this?" He said "five dollars." I said "here's $2 50—what change I have—I'll owe you $2 50." I subsequently called at Dr. Morrison's office and obtained the certificate. I did not know any other forms of law to be complied with. I afterwards went across the bay to tell some friends of Mrs. Roberts' about her death, and subsequently arranged for the funeral, which took place on Tuesday between 3 and 4 o'clock. I expected to pay for three hacks which I ordered. There were five there. I then returned to the Pass, and did not know of the disinterment until I got a summons from Mr. Hoosen to attend this inquest. I was served as I was bringing the mail up from the boat. I heard nothing of trouble in the matter at the Pass; it took me by complete surprise. Mrs. Robson on Monday or Tuesday suggested that there ought to be a doctor. This was in the post office, not in the presence of Mrs. Roberts. Mrs. Robson made no such request in Mrs. Roberts' presence. No one else suggested to me that I send for a doctor. It is not true that I said I would not send for a doctor, as it would cost $50 to bring one down from Westminster; I did say that it would cost $50 and probably be a fruitless errand, as Mrs. Roberts would not receive him. Mrs. Roberts was very stubborn and determined on the point. If she had been willing to see a medical man, she certainly would have had one. Mr. Pike did not, to my knowledge, request me to send for a doctor. There was nothing ever given Mrs. Roberts in her drink by me or any one else, to my knowledge, at any time. The only acid she ever got was fruit acid—in oranges. I have never given Mrs. Roberts medicine of any kind at any time, with the exception of the castor oil; she knew a great deal about medicine herself, and said she knew best what was good for her. When I returned home from Victoria on January 3, she told me McNeill and Robson had called during my absence, and McNeill had asked her dreadful things. I said did you call McNeill here or anything, and she said no. She said Robson didn't ask her anything; I don't know whether he was present when the questions were asked. I asked her to explain the nature of the dreadful things, but she would not; she would only sob and cry. She said that when McNeill was leaving he said to her: "Beware of Collinson; he will put something in your liquor and poison you." She also told this to Mr. Cain, who is now in charge of the post office. She said Mr. Robson had said nothing to her. She was perfectly sober and I had no reason to disbelieve her. Both Mr. Robson and Mr. McNeill had been to my house, both singly and on one occasion together. I am very thankful to you, Dr. Walkem, for the opportunity of setting the affairs straight. The statements contained in McNeill's report are altogether false.

To Mr. Hussey: I have no poison whatever on my premises. There was some opium linament of Mrs. Roberts' in her room, that my son got for her at Shotbolt's. She had it for rheumatism. I have never purchased or had any poison since Mrs. Roberts came to live with me. She had been gradually sinking for two or three months; I don't think I had any right to force a doctor on her if she didn't want one. I tried once keeping her twenty-four hours without liquor and it very nearly killed her. I did not send for a doctor; I wish I had now; I do not know anything whatever about Mrs. Roberts' affairs; I paid her funeral expenses myself. I once banked $90 for her at Green, Worlock & Co. and paid her her wages otherwise in cash. I advised the executors to seal the room; I don't expect to profit anything by Mrs. Roberts after I have paid all my expenses.

To the Jury—I suggested to Mr. Murcheson that he seal up the rooms; I did not know Mrs. Roberts was an inebriate when I engaged her. I kept her on more out of charity than in anything else. I tried to discourage her drinking. I could not say how much whiskey Mrs. Roberts drank; I did not charge her for whisky at all. I was not aware that Mrs. Roberts had any money in the bank. I sent the money down by O. T. Stone to be banked for her and he brought back a deposit receipt. The room was sealed the day of death. I did not tell anyone that I was going to change my housekeeper nor did I contemplate doing so. I swear positively that Mrs. Roberts never asked for a doctor; I was willing to get anything for her. She was an English woman and bright and well informed; I thought a great deal of her. I am on good terms with everybody at Plumper Pass, and hold malice against none.

George Simon, clerk in the Land Registry office, Victoria, was sworn and produced the original certificate of death, signed by Richard Morrison, M.D., given in at the Land Registry office, January 30, 1894, certifying that he (Dr. Morrison) examined Mrs. Elizabeth Roberts, apparently aged 54 years, on the 30th of January, 1894, and that she died on the 28th of January, 1894, at Plumper Pass, the cause of death being "cardiac disiase," and that the disease continued about seven weeks.

To the Coroner: No other certificate similar to that of Dr. Morrison has ever come under my notice. I am not aware that the practice is common that medical men furnish similar certificates. A search was made in our office but no such certificate could be found. This form of certificate is only for use by the medical man in attendance before death, but to meet the case the word "attended" has been scored out, and the word "examined" inserted. I am familiar with the law in regard to the registration of deaths. There is a penalty attached to the issuing of a fraudulent certificate of death.

The Coroner briefly commented upon the loose manner in which the registration act had been drawn and which made statistics as to health absolutely useless

Thomas Story, undertaker, said that when W. T. Collinson came with the body he said he was going to see Dr. Morrison and get a certificate of death. Would not swear that he did not tell Collinson he would have to get such certificate. Had frequently seen certificates similar to that issued by Dr. Morrison and received them from other medical men of the city. When asked to mention them he would name Dr. Duncan. On second thought he would not swear that the cause of death was given in these certificates, which were generally for Chinamen; it was merely certified that death had not resulted from any contagious disease.

The court here adjourned until the 19th instant, when the public analyst will report the result of his examination.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—When shown John Johnson's challenge yesterday, in which the record breaker invites a contest with Zimmerman, Walter Sanger or any other bicycle rider in the world, Arthur Zimmerman said: "I am perfectly willing to meet Johnson in a race or a series of races for a trophy and the championship. Johnson states that he is willing to race at my home or on any track that may be mutually agreed upon. That will suit me. I will race him on either the Freehold or the Ashbury Park track at such time as may be mutually agreed upon. As regards the nature of the trophy to be presented to the winner, I will leave that to Johnson. The date and other details can be arranged later."