

# FINDS OFFICER OF 41ST GUILTY OF MURDER

After Hearing Evidence for 7 Hours Coroner's Jury Reaches Decision in Five Minutes.

## LETTER TO ORDERLY CAUSES SENSATION.

Witness Says Prisoner Admitted Crime and Forced Him to Help Remove the Body.

London, Dec. 20.—(Gazette cable)—Wilful murder was the verdict of the coroner's jury against Lieut. George Coderre, of Sherbrooke, Que., of the 41st Battalion, in respect to the death of Sergt. O'Connell, of the 9th Mounted Rifles. After hearing the evidence for seven hours, a decision was reached in five minutes.

Lieut. Coderre, who is already in custody, sat beside his lawyer all day, and received the verdict without the least emotion. Still wearing khaki, he followed the proceedings with close interest, and showed impatience when difficulties arose because of an interpreter.

Although the testimony of Orderly Lance Corporal Desjardins, provided a sensation in the matter, the climax was reached today, when a letter written to him by Coderre in prison was read. This was in French, with but little punctuation, and a translation was given the court. Addressing the orderly as "Joe," the writer said that the crime had been discovered, that some one saw the orderly strike the deceased, and that he, Coderre, would save him if it cost \$5,000.

"While I was upstairs shuffling between you two commenced. He struck you, and you wanted your revenge. You struck him in a bad place, and seeing you stunned him, you finished him. As you have been seen to strike him, it is no use trying to put it on me."

The writer further urged Joe to

make a written admission that he committed the deed, promising to provide legal defence, and look after his wife.

The letter was naturally retained by the police when handed to them, resulting in the release of the two orderlies held under guard until a few days ago.

Says Prisoner Told Him He Killed a Man

Keller, the servant of Major Hughes was on the stand for two and a half hours. Unable to read or write, and speaking little English, he was interpreted, but the Anglo-French lady sitting failed to understand one point, whereupon Major Begis, of Winnipeg, assistant provost marshal, acted. Keller did not see the crime, but was

bullied into helping to remove the body. He saw Coderre alight in a motor with the deceased. While they were in the parlor, witness fed the hens in the yard. He was asked by Coderre for a drink before this, and the latter took a bottle of whiskey and two glasses. After an interval of ten minutes, witness re-entered the kitchen. Coderre came from the parlor, and said "Don't speak, Joe, I've just killed a man." (No Paries Pas Jos, Je Viens de tuer un homme). I killed that man because there was only him that saw me kill Assomer, a man I was afraid to pass a court martial.

The last sentence was very obscure, and caused the substitution of the Canadian interpreter, but Major Begis rendered it with the same result. Beyond this, Keller said Coderre asked for a towel and water, and told him to scrub the floor, and covered the bloodstains.

A fellow orderly, Desjardins, came into the house, and Coderre made them go down to the cellar to help him. Seeing the body at the foot of the stairs, they recoiled, and Desjardins refused to do anything. Keller later brought the blankets from his bed, on Coderre's order, and with him carried the body to the stable, where the latter bound it up with wire. Coderre also gave a leaded hunting crop to the witness and told him to burn it. This was found by the police half consumed. Keller was also given a bloody carving knife produced, to clean.

Lance Corporal Leandre Desjardins, the second orderly, corroborated the story, both orderlies explaining their failure to report the affair until next morning on the ground of fear of Coderre, who took supper in the house, as usual, with the officers.

Among other witnesses important evidence was given by Quartermaster Sergt. Alphonse Martin, of the 9th Rifles, who at the request of Coderre, sent a packing case, 4 feet by 3 deep, to the house.

Major Hughes, of the 41st, caused the arrest of Coderre in camp. The medical evidence showed the throat slashed from ear to ear, and the fractured skull, with forty-five wounds in the head and face.

The excess indicates a possible line of defence.

# BRITISH TROOPS HARASS TURKS IN MESOPOTAMIA

(Continued from page 1) In the morning four of our bombing aeroplanes, escorted by seven machines, with rapid fire, dropped six shells of 165 calibre and twenty shells of 90 calibre. They reached their objective.

The Belgian official communication reads: "Last night and today were marked by violent artillery actions. Our batteries inflicted heavy damage on the post at Denton and the enemy camp at Eissen. The enemy replied by shelling various villages on the rear of our lines.

"The Allied troops continue the organization of the lines of defense at Saloniik. "Expeditionary corps of the Dardanelles: On December 19 our artillery took part in an attack carried out with success by the British troops against the Turkish trenches at the extreme west of the Gallipoli peninsula.

"In conformity with a plan agreed to by the Allied general staffs, the British commander has decided to assign to another trench the troops which had landed at Cape Suvla, and which occupied, on the northern part of the Gallipoli peninsula, a position, the strategic value of which was found to have diminished by reason of the new developments in the eastern operations. The embarkation of the troops, with their equipment, was effected under the best conditions, without being interfered with by the Turks.

Forty-four Aerial Combats in a Day London, Dec. 20.—The British official statement made public tonight says: "Opposite the southern and center positions of the line we bombarded several parts of the enemy's trenches. Hostile artillery heavily shelled Ypres and St. Jean this afternoon. It was active against our front line and the support trenches, southeast of Ypres, during the day.

"We replied by shelling the enemy's front line trenches along Zonnebeke, Sandvoorde, Cheluvet and Tenbrell. "Early today the enemy made a bombing attack near the quarries northwest of Hullich. The attack was repulsed.

"Yesterday there was considerable activity by the enemy's aeroplanes. They attempted to prevent our reconnaissance machines carrying out their work, but the attempts were unsuccessful. During the day there were forty-four combats in the air, two enemy aeroplanes being fallen within the enemy's line, and others driven down in a damaged condition. One of our machines is missing.

Teutons Balked in Macedonia. Paris, Dec. 20.—The lull in the Macedonia campaign is explained by a Temps correspondent at Salonika as being due not only to political considerations but to the fact that it is extremely difficult for the Germans and their allies to move forward their heavy artillery. The French and British, on retreating, destroyed the railroad, along the Vardar river, blowing up bridges and tunnels and removing the rails. The railroad from Strouza also was rendered useless by the British who retreated from Dolran.

As impossible, so far as taxation of imports is concerned. Provisions, raw materials and many other articles may be expected to rise in price after the war, and if the present tariff were continued it would lead to an artificial increase of prices for Germany, which would undermine the capability of the German industry to compete in the world market.

"Therefore the interest of consumers and producers," the Vorwaerts concludes, "demand abolition of these import taxes after the war, which would reduce Germany's income considerably; and therefore the time has come for the government to declare what course it is steering."

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Dec. 20.—The Liberal conference called by Sir Wilfrid Laurier in session all day in the commodious private quarters of the leader of the opposition in the House of Commons. It was decided to establish a permanent advisory body of fifty members to be known as the National Liberal Committee. Sub-committees were appointed, each to deal with a specific subject such as finance, immigration and the treatment of returned soldiers, technical education, etc. They will report tomorrow.

Tonight Sir Wilfrid entertained the delegates at a private dinner at the Chateau Laurier. No statement was issued tonight but it was intimated that there was a "general exchange of views" upon the political situation. It is understood, however, that the question of the extension of the parliamentary term was discussed and the suggestion made that the extension should not be for a year as already offered by the government, but for only eight months in view of Premier Asquith's announcement that the term of the British parliament would be eight months rather than for a year as previously contemplated. Any dispute between the two parties as to how soon the opening of the session the extension bill should be passed is likely to be left to the Liberal members of the House of Commons and Senate.

The whole object of the conference evidently in the first place was to relieve Sir Wilfrid of much of the responsibility which he has borne and which naturally would greatly increase under the new conditions which have come with the war and have brought the delegates here today, who are new problems of vital importance. In

the second place, to bring the leaders of the party into closer touch with the party throughout the country through the establishment of a permanent advisory committee of fifty members, and thirdly, to enable the party to decide upon their ground and prepare themselves for any eventuality of the coming session.

The committee of fifty will include the delegates here today, who are about twenty more from the Maritime Provinces and the west. The committee will include all ranks, senators, M. P.'s, M. P. P.'s, editors and other laymen, and it is to be representative of all the provinces. The committee would meet probably once or twice a year.

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# HOW THE IMPERIAL STARTS CHRISTMAS WEEK

Pagan, Turk or Christian Gentleman—Whom Will She Marry? 'THE RUGMAKER'S DAUGHTER'

Enthralling Romance of Constantinople, Featuring MAUD ALLEN, FAVORITE DANCER OF ROYALTY

PATHEB WEEKLY. Horatio Bottomley (John Bull) on Stump. Paris Fashion Review. Soldier Weddings in France. Gun Practice in Boston. Tornado's Havoc in Kansas. Movies of Confirmed Criminals. Introductory Chapter of "Paradise of the South American Traveler."

Henry Kelly, Baritone, Will Sing the Prologue from "I Pagliacci" Wed.—Carter Dehaven, Emiline Comedian, in "The College Orphan."

that rank made by General Currie to the British war office last April.

Lieut.-Col. Guthrie returned from Ottawa today, having gone to the capital to report to Major-General Sir Sam Hughes, and to offer his services to return to the firing line again. His physical condition has not improved sufficiently, however, for him to go on active service at present, and during the next few months he is to act as a special recruiting officer in the maritime provinces.

Ottawa authorities were anxious to have Col. Guthrie become director of recruiting for the three maritime provinces, but his health made it impossible for him to take up this work and he will now assist in organizing work as well as speaking at many of the principal points where rallies are held. He will work under the general officer commanding the 6th divisional area and will go to Halifax in a few days to consult with Major-General Beagon.

Lieut.-Col. Guthrie was recommended for promotion to rank of Lieut.-Col. on April 23rd during the battle of Ypres by General Currie, and his appointment will eventually date from the time and be for gallantry on field.

Through some error, however, the recommendation did not go through Sir John French's office until April 29th. At the time it was not thought that error would be of sufficient importance to make necessary a change, but on May 25th Lieut.-Col. Guthrie was wounded four days before the thirty day period which the British war office regulations require to elapse before recommendations can be effective. If the recommendation had gone through with its original date the thirty day period would have expired several days before he was wounded.

The matter has since been taken up with the war office by General Currie and is now about settled.

While at Ottawa Col. Guthrie and Lieut.-Col. C. J. Mersereau whose promotion is about to be announced, were entertained last evening at the Rideau Club on Thursday by Sir Sam Hughes, and Lieut.-Col. Guthrie and Warden H. A. Smith, of York county, were entertained at the Rideau Club on Friday at luncheon by Hon. J. Douglas Hays, minister of marine and fisheries. Lieut.-Col. Mersereau expects to return to the First Canadian division, but will probably not be fit before the spring.

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**UNIQUE CHRISTMAS WEEK**  
MONDAY - TUESDAY

**RELIANCE "FATHER AND SON" THREE PARTS**

**MUTUAL WEEKLY** A News Record of Live Happenings All the World Over

**STORY OF A MAN WHO DID WRONG BUT REPENTED AND MADE GOOD** LYRIC TUES.-WED.

4-PART MUTUAL MASTER PICTURE

**"A YANKEE FROM THE WEST"**

FEATURING BEAUTIFUL SIGNE AUVEN AND CLEVER WALLACE RIDE

**VAUDEVILLE—THE KNICKERBOCKER TRIO**  
ONE LADY AND TWO G'N'LEMEN Singing Act

**MATINEE TODAY 2.30 OPERA HOUSE TONIGHT 8.20**

**THE PARISIAN GIRLS IN A BIG SHOW "Follies of the Past"**

MAINEE EVERY DAY Nights 10c, 20c, 30c. Matinee 10c, 20c, 25c.

Opening Christmas Day **W. S. Harkins Players** "BETTER THAN EVER"

Xmas Matinee—"OUR WIVES"—A Splendid Laughing Holiday Bill  
Xmas Night—"A SPY IN THE HOUSE" SEATS ON SALE TODAY.

**Floral Beauty For Christmas-Tide**

The bright, fresh beauty of Flowers at Christmas speak eloquently of Festal Joy, bringing, as well, the needed touch of color to home and church adornments, for which we offer a vast profusion of Choice Cut Flowers and Potted Plants.

For home and other social functions, we have provided a wealth of Christmas Wreathing in Holly Boxwood, Prepared Oak, Sprays of Lycopodium and Polished Ivy.

**As a Yule-Tide Remembrance**  
a box of Dainty Cut Flowers, with Delicate Foliage, expresses appropriately the sentiment of the giver. For variety of bloom, for Flowers that keep longest, you'll make no mistake in placing your order with

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# CHRISTMAS NEWS

Welcomed by Men Everywhere The Happy Thought Gift

**Safety Razors**

GILLETTE \$5.00 to \$9.00  
AUTO-STRAP \$5.00  
ROMILETTE \$1.50 and \$2.50  
DUCADO \$1.00  
STAR \$1.00

**TWINPLEX SAFETY RAZOR STROPPER \$4.00**

**Razors**

Prices \$1.10 to \$2.25

**Shaving Brushes**

BOKERS AND RUBBERSET  
Prices 25 cts. to \$3.00

SWING RAZOR STROPS 40 cts. to \$2.50  
RAZOR HONES 40 cts. to \$1.50

**Emerson & Fisher, Ltd.**

# Socialist Paper Warns Berlin Gov't to Call a Halt in High Financing

Time to Pause and Find Out How Interest on War Debts Are to be Met, the Vorwaerts Says.

Amsterdam, Dec. 20, via London.—Reviewing the recent speech on Germany's financial condition, which Dr. Karl Helfferich, secretary of the treasury, made before the Reichstag, the Socialist newspaper Vorwaerts of Berlin, asserts the time has come for the German government and the Reichstag to indicate in what way the money necessary for payment of interest on the nations gigantic war debts, and to provide for their redemption, is to be raised. It says: "With the new war credit of 10,000,000,000 marks, the German war debt reaches 40,000,000,000 marks, which, according to Dr. Helfferich, should last until the end of March. Interest on 40,000,000,000 marks amounts to 2,000,000,000 marks annually, and for redemption, which is necessary in order to maintain the credit of the empire, another 500,000,000 marks is needed."

The Vorwaerts considers it essential that the empire's income be more than doubled to meet these obligations, and the current expenses. Before the war, it says, the financial state of Germany was a source of anxiety to the government. In 1909 taxation was increased by 500,000,000 marks, but the budget did not balance. In 1913 the government adopted the extraordinary measure of taxing wealth and levying a non-recurrent contribution for armament, in order to cover the deficit.

Maintenance of the existing financial situation, the Vorwaerts continues

Special to The Standard. Fredericton, Dec. 20.—It is now Lieut.-Col. Percy A. Guthrie. Official appointment of the former commanding officer of the 10th Battalion of the First Canadian Contingent has been made by the Canadian Military Department a final settlement of the recommendation for his promotion to

# NATIONAL LIBERAL COMMITTEE

HAS BEEN MADE L.T.-COL. GUTHRIE

Temporary Promotion for Gallant Fredericton Officer by Militia Department Pending Action by War-Office.

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# LLOYD

NOT READY TO REPORT ON DERBY'S SCHEME

Classification of Recruits too gigantic a task to complete in time for yesterday's Session of Commons.

London, Dec. 20.—The eagerly awaited figures on the East of Derby's recruiting scheme will not be available tomorrow, as expected.

Premier Asquith explained to the House of Commons this afternoon that the complexity of the task, and the enormous difficulty of classifying the figures, made it impossible to complete the work last week, but the Earl of Derby hoped to send in the general report tonight.

The cabinet had decided, the Premier added, that in these circumstances a no-confidence statement could be made to the Commons tomorrow, but he hoped to make it before adjournment.

Invited in the House of Commons, this evening, to prevent others from following the example of some Britishers who recently transferred their capital and business offices to New York, thus escaping British taxation, Chancellor of the Exchequer McKenna remarked that his attention had been called to the circumstances, but that he was not prepared to act, as was suggested.

WILL LOOK AFTER MUNITIONS CONTRACTS

New York, Dec. 20.—Major General W. J. Ellershaw, of the Royal Field Artillery, arrived here today on the steamer St. Paul.

General Ellershaw said he was sent here to look after munitions contracts, and he will remain here for an indefinite stay. He added that he expected to go to Canada in about ten days.

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WATCHES. Waltham, Elgin, Hamilton, Decca at prices ranging from \$4 to \$125. Would not a fine Howard Watch be more highly appreciated than He needs a new watch. Get him  
WRIST WATCHES. In Swiss, Waltham, Elgin and N.  
BRACELET WATCHES. Gold Filled and Solid Gold, \$11.  
LAVALLIERES AND PENDANTS. Gold Filled, Pearl Set Brooches, a particularly Bar Pins, Solid Gold, Gold Filled and Enamel.  
Bracelets, Fobs, Chains, Lockets, Links.  
Gifts will be held until wanted on pa

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