

CHRISTMAS EVE'S TRAGEDY.

Full Report of the Evidence Taken at the Coroner's Inquest, Yesterday.

Whelan Committed for Trial—How He Conducted Himself at the Enquiry.

David Findlay Fee's tragic death was the topic that monopolized conversation all Christmas day, and expressions of sincerest sorrow were heard on every hand. "Dave" Fee was so well-known and so popular that everyone seemed to feel a personal interest in his loss, entirely apart from that which the tragic circumstances in connection with his death would naturally create.

Dr. Morrison, the coroner, having read the list of jurors summoned, swore them in as follows: J. M. Cramp, foreman; T. J. Burnes, W. Munis, Richard Hall, Henry Jocky, and Percival R. Brown.

The first witness called was Supt. Sheppard, who said: "On Wednesday night last, December 24, I was on duty in the corridor of St. Andrew's cathedral, situated on the north side of View street. About eight minutes to 12 p.m. I heard a shot fired, which seemed to be about the corner of Blanchard and View. I at once went over to the southwest corner of the streets mentioned. There I saw David F. Fee, Jr., lying on the sidewalk, all appearance dead. He had a large gunshot wound in the chest, which must have caused his death. I had the deceased moved to Philharmonic hall.

The Deputy Attorney-General (who watched the examination for the Crown)—It was a very wet night; raining all the time. I have seen Whelan working about the church as a laborer.

I saw the man go down the street and turn towards one of those little houses; couldn't tell whether he was walking or running. Found an umbrella on the sidewalk, which I handed to Supt. Sheppard. Told Supt. Sheppard that a man had shot the deceased. Then went for a doctor; I did not help to carry the deceased to Philharmonic hall. Saw him after he had been carried there. Did not see the wound that was inflicted. After going for the doctor met Supt. Sheppard in the hall and went with him to try and point out the house into which the man went. Did not have a good view of the man that did the shooting. Do not know Whelan.

The prisoner—You were with the man that fired the shot. Did not notice anyone when we were going from the hall to the church. Neither of us made any remark to the man before he addressed us. When the shot was fired Fee was nearer the man.

Prisoner—Did you not have a fish horn in your hand that you were blowing?

Prisoner—Well, a trumpet then; and he was blowing it. I don't remember the blowing; Dave had a horn.

Prisoner—Did you go to the Cathedral?

Prisoner—And came back again?

Prisoner—Didn't either one of you have a fish horn; I don't say you were blowing it?

Prisoner—I had none; Dave had a child's trumpet he had worn around his neck all evening.

Prisoner—Well, a trumpet then; and he was blowing it. I don't remember the blowing; Dave had a horn.

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barrelled shotgun; the one produced might be it. He stood by the gun up to the corner. Then he said: "I had to do it to save myself." I told him the best thing he could do was to go down to the police station and give himself up. He said: "All right; put on your hat, and come down with me. I did so. He said he would like to see Mr. Harbottle, and get his advice. We went down to the Monarch saloon, and found Mr. Harbottle there. I told Mr. Harbottle that "Larry says he has hurt somebody," and asked him what he best to do. He said: "Take him to my place, and I'll see him. I will be down after you. He said he would go, and see if anyone was hurt. Took prisoner to Mr. Harbottle's house and then went to my house, where I was arrested. Have been in the city lock-up ever since. I don't know what I was doing.

To the Deputy Attorney-General—Whelan was working as night watchman that night. I believe it was his first night in that capacity.

To the prisoner—You came to my house about 10 o'clock and asked for a few blank cartridges. I don't remember a couple there with nothing in them but powder. All the loaded cartridges I had given away. I gave him the only two in the bag. Prisoner said he wanted to fool the fellows that came around playing cards.

To a juror—I gave the prisoner two cartridges; told him "there's nothing in them but powder." I did not think there was. I gave him the bag and he took the cartridges out himself.

To the Deputy Attorney-General—I don't know whether it would be necessary for a watchman to go across the street from the building to the lock-up.

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range of possibility. He then enquired if any shot had been extracted from the wound. None of the witnesses could testify to this point, but the Superintendent of Police claimed that it was unnecessary to call medical evidence; he had testified as to cause of death.

The jury decided not to insist upon having any further information, and retired to consider their verdict, with which they returned in a few minutes. It was as follows:

"We the coroner's jury empaneled to investigate the cause of the death of David F. Fee, on the night of the 24th day of December, 1890, and from the evidence that the deceased came to his death by a wound from a shot-gun fired by Lawrence Whelan, and do concur with the evidence of Whelan, and do concur with the evidence of Whelan for trial."

Deferred Business Disposed of at Last Night's Meeting—No Meeting Next Wednesday.

The City Council met in adjourned session, last evening, with His Worship Mayor Grant in the chair, and the following aldermen present: Messrs. Kelly, Harrison, Vignias, Wilson, McKillop, Smith, Robertson and Holland.

The following communications were read and acted upon: From Drake, Jackson and Helmcken, petition for Amherst Crescent—calling the attention of the Council to the injunction against turning sewage into the Johnson street ravine.

The communication was received and filed. From Patmore Walls gave notice of appeal from the order of the water commissioner, with power to act.

The Mayor stated that the contract stipulated for a certain percentage to be retained till the pipe should be proved satisfactory, and he had been kept back by the water commissioner.

A communication from Wilfrid Jones was read, claiming an overcharge in his water bill, and a request for a refund.

A communication from A. C. Ready, deputy provincial secretary, stated that the matter had been referred to the Finance committee with power to act.

A communication from D. Oppenheimer, mayor of Vancouver, sent a request that the council should grant \$200 towards making up the deficiency of the exhibition lately held at Toronto.

Ald. Wilson moved that Dallas road, reported that they had no power to remit the fine of \$60 imposed on Messrs. Prior & Co. for alleged violation of the building by-laws.

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give the inspector liberty to use his discretion and then passed.

The members of the Council were invited to meet the committee on the new market building Wednesday next at 2 p.m. for the purpose of looking over the plans submitted.

The Council then adjourned till Friday evening next at 8 p.m.

How the Floods Arose and the Harm They Did.

As early as Dec. 11, the elements were at work about the headwaters of Cowichan River, preparing material, as it were, for the fearful devastation to be wrought a week later at the mouth of the same river.

Cowichan Lake, a beautiful sheet of water, 21 miles in length, and varying from two to three miles in width, gives rise to the river of the same name. This river, after a course of 25 miles, enters the Gulf of Georgia at Cowichan harbor.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, and on the Friday and Saturday following, rain fell at the lake, and the surrounding mountains gradually received a mantle of snow.

Sunday morning, the 14th, two inches of snow lay at the lake level. During that day and night the snow continued to fall at intervals.

Monday, the wind, which had before come from the north-west, veered round to the south-west, and a warm heavy rain fall was the result. In twelve hours not a vestige of snow was to be seen about the lake or upon the mountain tops.

All day Tuesday the rain fell in torrents. Sometimes during the day an occurrence took place which was probably not witnessed by any human being. This is supposed to have been a cloud-burst, that took place about four miles down the road from the lake. A slide of land, broken timber three feet in diameter, with smaller stones, fell by the roots, and rocks, all together, a slide of destruction, twenty feet in height and about fifty yards in extent, directly over the road.

Two freight trains coming to the lake from Duncan, reached this obstruction about a trail around the landside, and were impossible to return with loaded wagons. The freight, consisting mostly of Christmas goods, intended to gladden the hearts of our community, was unloaded and placed with care in the hollow butt of a tree, which is now in safety through the continued storm.

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An Agreement Reached LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Pallinette returned to London in highest official statement of the going conference has been made, and it to glean any information from parties attending in regard to its independent telegrams from Bologna that from private intimations, the Pallinette conference was during the period of the meeting. The same authority states basis of agreement will be the retirement of Pallinette and the resignation of McGarrah, a member probably Dr. Kenny, or James O'Brien, who looked much more serious than upon his arrival. The same authority states basis of agreement will be the retirement of Pallinette and the resignation of McGarrah, a member probably Dr. Kenny, or James O'Brien, who looked much more serious than upon his arrival.

The Papacy—Interesting Actual Discovery—More To For The Armenian. LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Pallinette returned to London in highest official statement of the going conference has been made, and it to glean any information from parties attending in regard to its independent telegrams from Bologna that from private intimations, the Pallinette conference was during the period of the meeting. The same authority states basis of agreement will be the retirement of Pallinette and the resignation of McGarrah, a member probably Dr. Kenny, or James O'Brien, who looked much more serious than upon his arrival.

Mysterious Preparations LONDON, Dec. 31.—Berlin dispatches that Germany claims to have discovered a means of preventing the spread of cholera. The discovery is said to be a result of a long and arduous search. The method is said to be a result of a long and arduous search. The discovery is said to be a result of a long and arduous search.

Two Distinguished Fools VIENNA, Dec. 31.—Count England, ambassador of Austria to Great Britain, and his wife, were the victims of a humorous and amusing episode. The incident occurred at a dinner party given by the ambassador.

He Will Be There. LONDON, Dec. 31.—Gladstone is expected to be present at the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which will be held in London next month.

An Italian Will Be Pope. LONDON, Dec. 31.—A Roman says French speculations as to the possibility of a Frenchman being elected Pope are groundless. The present prospect of a vacancy in the papal chair is not expected to be filled by an Italian.

Unfortunate Assassinations. LONDON, Dec. 31.—Terrible scenes were witnessed at the funeral of the late Emperor of the Ottoman Empire, Sultan Abdul Hamid II. The ceremony was attended by a large number of dignitaries and officials.