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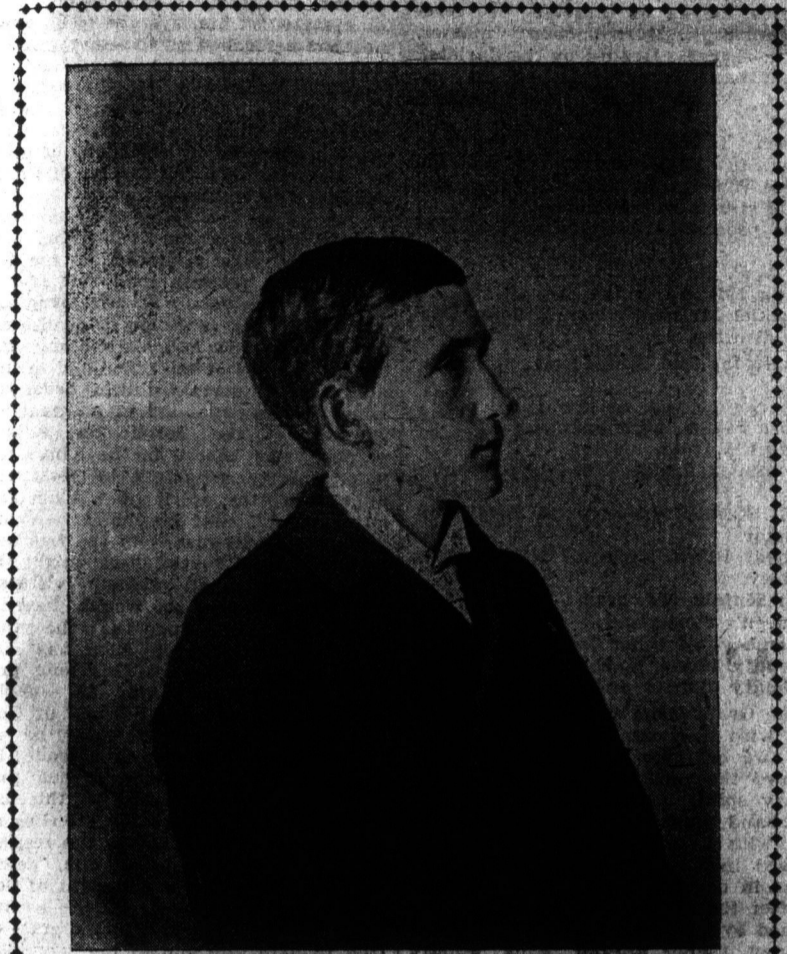
ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1902.

NO 65.

HIGGINS THE MURDERER

Goodspeed, His Pal, Turns King's Evidence and Confesses.

How William Doherty Was Done to Death—Terrible Revelation of St. John Youthful Depravity



FRANK HIGGINS, AGED 16, MURDERER OF DOHERTY.

With round chubby face just visible over the top of the coroner's desk, with steady childlike eyes looking straight ahead, without a quiver in the boyish crease of his forehead, Frederick William Goodspeed, aged fourteen, sat at the inquest last night and told quietly and unemotionally of his share in a deed of horror incomprehensible.

The inquest only lasted a little over an hour, and the evidence of the chief witness consumed less than half of that. Yet in that brief time the mystery of the murder of William Doherty was fully solved, and a revelation made of youthful depravity so cruel, so atrocious, so utterly beyond the comprehension of the average mind, that the crowd of men in attendance shivered uneasily; some whistled, some gasped, and each looked at his neighbor with eyes of frightened misgiving.

That man or even a boy might be a fit of anger, or for vengeance, or for gain, kill another, with repeated pistol shots is understandable. But how, in the peace of a pleasant summer afternoon, a youth in the middle of his teens—a quiet child—could entice a friend, a chum, a constant companion, away to a quiet tree-shaded place, and there with premeditated malice not only murder him, but in face of persons, and with repeated pistol shots, and each looking at his neighbor with eyes of frightened misgiving.

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force an entrance broke the strained quietness of the court with irritating clatter that caused the coroner to raise his head and threaten to clear the place. Mrs. Goodspeed, the mother of the younger prisoner, nervous and pale, with eyes red from much weeping, sat at the outer end of the table. Her hands peered in at the large windows.

The room was close and stuffy. No air seemed to come in the wide opened windows, whence in moments of stillness the sound of gently pattering rain drops outside could be heard. Men packed closely beyond the possibility of motion.

GASPED FOR BREATH.

and unheeded perspiration ran down their faces in streams. The steady, unflinching questions of coroner or of counsel, the results of turned aspects of power and the monotony of the witness as they gave testimony fitted perfectly into the setting. The occasional shuffle of feet as cramped spectators changed position, the scraping of periodical attempts for entrance by the crowd outside and paces the creak of a disturbed and loosely hung stove-pipe started one like a sudden explosion.

HEARD FOUR SHOTS GO OFF.

Willie hollered, "My God, Higgy you've shot me!"

"That's the way you've shot me!" Frank cried, and then he ran up the hill and Frank chased him up. When they got up on top of the little hill Frank raised his arm to hit Willie with the revolver. Willie snatched the revolver out of Frank's hand and tried to hit him with it. Then he sank down on his back and said, "Go away and get a doctor. So help me God, I'll swear it was an accident. I went to run into the park when Frank pointed the revolver at me and said, 'If you don't take a hand in this I'll shoot you right here!'"

WITH THE BUTT OF THE REVOLVER.

He was lying on his side with his shoulder on the ground. Then he put his hand to his head and groaned once and fell back. He didn't move after that. He helped Frank gather some sticks and grass, and he picked up some stones and threw them on him and buried him up."

"What time do you think this was?" asked three o'clock as near as I can tell. Then we came out in by the footpath till it widened out to a road, and went down past the refreshment house to the park entrance. Goodspeed and I went on the same steps to the Marsh creek by Sandy Point and threw the revolver in the creek."

THE REVOLVER IN THE CREEK.

Then we came along the track home, and I left Frank at the foot of Charlotte street. He went to his house. In answer to questions regarding any previous threats by Higgins, the witness said: "About three or four weeks ago, I saw something about going to Doherty out of the way. He said to me one day: 'Say, do you like Willie Doherty?'"

HE TOOK THE STAND.

As he took the stand the spectators, knowing that something was coming, crowded closer. As his story unfolded their faces tightened intently, and as in boyish words he repeated the horrible details of the murder, the horror of it swept into their hearts and they leaned closer, with eyes staring out as if they saw the deed they were hearing of, breaths came quick and sharp as they drew the necking air of the court room in through distended nostrils. When he told of the shots treacherously fired from behind by Higgins, the pitiful pleadings of the dying boy, and of the blow aimed on his defenceless head by his savage murderer, men gasped sobbingly and muttered, "My God, my God!"

ATTRACTED HUNDREDS TO THE INQUEST.

In the county court room.

The proceedings began only a few minutes after seven o'clock. Coroner Berryman, with the attorney general, who was watching the case for the crown, sat at the high desk at the end of the room. Chief of Police Clark sat directly below, and around the table fronting the desk were reporters and counsel. A. Geo. Blair, Jr., and Hon. H. A. McKinnon appeared for the crown, Dr. Mullin, K. C., for Frank Higgins, and Scott E. Morrill for Fred Goodspeed.

STORY OF THE MURDER.

Just as he began, Scott E. Morrill arose and announced that he appeared as Goodspeed's counsel, but would offer no objection or protest to the fullest enquiry, or to anything that would tend to reveal the truth of the matter.

"I remember Friday, the first of August," said Goodspeed, "I had my dinner home that day, as usual, about half past twelve or a quarter to one. After dinner I went to the old burying ground and met Clifford King, Harry Kelly, William Doherty and Frank Higgins. I had known Willie Doherty a year and a half and Higgins about the same time. I didn't know the other boys so well."

ASKED US TO GO TO THE PARK FOR A FEED OF BERRIES.

"Did you see Doherty reading anything while you were in the cemetery?" asked the coroner.

"Yes, he was reading an old paper. I don't know what it was. When I went away I think he left it there. I don't think Higgins took it out to the park with him. We went right down Brussels street to Gilbert's Lane."

In previous testimony John Baird had sworn to seeing the boys on the same and said Doherty had asked him for a cigarette. Goodspeed was asked if he remembered this incident.

"I remember it," he said, "but I don't remember about the cigarette. As we were going by the following asked us if there was a sports fellow like you went to be able to get a girl out there easy. This was right by the Davenport school. The fellow talking to us had on a kind of a blue suit and a straw hat. Then we went up the road marked 'Park Entrance' to the bear house, where we stopped about the usual time leaving there, we went down the hill by the road leading to Dave Connolly's farm. We went over the hill, picking berries as we went down. The only climb over one fence, and that was by Dave Connolly's place. We came around as if going into the park again. I was walking ahead with Doherty picking berries. I was close to him, and he was walking a little behind me. We were walking up the hill with Frank Higgins behind us."

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\$11.50 Suits	Now \$9.50	\$10.00 Suits	Now \$8.00
\$9.50 Suits	Now \$7.50	\$8.50 Suits	Now \$6.50

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He did not think they were necessary. He spoke briefly of the circumstances attending the crime and the discovery of the body, and told of suspicious incidents attending the identification of the body by the two boys. Last Monday when the inquest adjourned there was no clue to the murderers, but during the next two or three days the police authorities had stated the matter to the bottom, with the result that arrests could have been made on Wednesday night. The work redoubled greatly to the credit of the chief of the department, to Deputy Jenkins and to Detective Killen. If the jury could accept the evidence of Goodspeed respecting the crime, there should be no doubt in their minds, regarding their verdict. He would leave the case with them, satisfied that they would truly decide. If they believed Goodspeed, they must find Frank Higgins guilty of, wilful and malicious murder. He treated with the jury whether they should include Goodspeed as an accessory to the fact.

SOLVED THE MYSTERY.

In a way that showed that St. John need not call for outside aid no matter how great the case. The St. John police had shown themselves under most trying circumstances as being capable of successfully coping with any emergency. The coroner's words of commendation for the chief and his assistants were not without effect. Their work in the case is deserving of every praise and all three were heartily congratulated at their successful last night.

ST. JOHN, AUG. 11, 1902.

The jury, unswayed in opinion by the cause of the death of William Doherty of the city and county of St. John, and by the evidence adduced that on the first day of August instant, at 3 o'clock p. m. or thereabouts at the old military road, so called, in the city and county aforesaid, the said William Doherty came to his death by being shot and killed by a revolver in the hands of Frank Higgins of the city and county aforesaid, and that the said William Doherty was shot and killed by the said Frank Higgins, and that the said Frank Higgins shot and killed the said William Doherty against the peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, his crown and his dignity.

Just before Fred Goodspeed was taken back to jail his grief-stricken mother was called and questioned regarding the revolver said to have been thrown in the creek. The witness referred to by Goodspeed had not been procured. He had endeavored to get a diver, but had not yet been successful. The water there was muddy and

the bottom soft, so he did not wish to run the risk of disturbing things by search without proper implements.

Attorney General Fugatey informally spoke to the jury regarding the startling evidence of Goodspeed. While the crown accepted it as true, still if Higgins desired to take the stand in his own behalf, he would be allowed, though not compelled to do so, if he thought not compelled to do so, if he would advise his client to make no statement.

The coroner announced that he had had 24 witnesses ready to testify that night, but after what had been heard

allowed a brief interview with her son in the guard room of the police station. A sister and her husband were also present. There was only time for a few words and, amidst of grief, they were all comforted. There were no upbraiding or reproachings. With sobs she clasped the boy and kissed him again and again. "Oh, I'm so glad you could get home," she said. "I knew you couldn't have come, but you've come, and you're home again in a little while."

Mr. Mullin said that at this stage he would advise his client to make no statement.

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