

A DOUBLE MURDER AT RODNEY WAS ONLY AVERTED BY MIRACLE

Slayer of Eliza Lowery About to Kill Mrs. Covell When He Was Frightened by a Noise in an Adjoining Room.

Shocking Details of the Murder Related by Intended Victim at the Inquest.

Miss Lowery Made a Brave Fight for Her Life and Honor—Minute Description Secured of the Murderer—Mrs. Covell Could Not Identify Farmer Willis.

"While he was choking me with the intention of killing me, the cat made a noise. I renewed my fight and shouted, 'There's my husband. There's Mr. Covell. Thank God.' My assailant immediately took fright and ran around to the back of the house."

[By Our Own Reporter.]

Such is the statement made by Mrs. Covell, wife of Benjamin Covell, as to how, through the incident of the family cat jumping from a cupboard into a rocking chair, her life was saved, and the disgrace of a double murder was averted. The incident is a tragedy in its own interest. When the terrible fight in which one of the unfortunate old women who occupied the Covell home lost her life was going on, the cat had evidently sought a refuge on top of the old-fashioned cupboard, which forms the chief furnishing of the simple sitting-room and kitchen combined, and when the death battle had been renewed with another quarrel in the next room, the cat, coming down from its place of retreat, jumped into a rocking chair, causing it to rock and to fro, making a noise of which the enfeebled old woman, to whom the prospects of dishonor and a brutal death had given new life, was quick to avail herself, and the cowardly brute, took fright and ran through the fields in his anxiety to put as great distance as possible between himself and the husband of the woman he was seeking to kill.

That the murderer and assaulter of one woman, and the attempted murderer and assaulter of another is no tramp, but is some person well acquainted with the vicinity and the people, is now pretty well agreed by all, and though the coroner and the constables who are working on the case will say little on the subject, it is known that at least two men are under suspicion, and are constantly being shadowed. These men are well known about Rodney village, one of them being known as an all round tough character, while the other has simply a reputation for being quarrelsome, and for drinking more than is good for him. Though only the local constable and St. Thomas police have as yet been working on the case, Provincial Detective Greer it is expected, will take the matter up today, and that an arrest will follow before very many hours is the belief of the majority of the people of Rodney. The motive for the crime was revealed in all its disgusting and abhorrent viciousness by the examination of the physicians, and it is thought that the robbing of the poverty-stricken old woman was but a well-thought-out scheme of the brute to throw a herring across the trail when the inevitable pursuit of the murderer began. With the motive revealed, and with the fact to work on that the man who committed the crime was acquainted with the names of those who lived in the community, as well as with the name of a Mary Taylor, now three years deceased, and for whom he inquired when he entered the Covell home, there does not appear to be any room to doubt that it is only a matter of hours until the criminal is apprehended. The deliberate character of the brute is shown by the fact that he, before entering the Covell home, deliberately and coolly went to a cherry tree which grows close to the fence a couple of hundred yards from the scene of the murder, and cut the limb with which he extinguished the life of Eliza Lowery. By a few people it is thought that the murderer had heard that Mr. Covell was home on Sunday night, and that he may have been under the impression that the husband may have left his wife some money, as would be altogether likely after pay day; but the general belief is that the robbing of the old woman was merely a subterfuge, and that it was done merely to throw suspicion on the commission of the crime onto some outsider, probably a tramp. It is known, too, that a tramp spent the night in the village, but those who saw him say that his description does not at all tally with the description Mrs. Covell gives of her assailant.

In the light of matches which the murderer used in his efforts to locate her when she was hiding under the bed to save her life, Mrs. Covell saw her assailant's face, and she describes him as follows:

"A MAN ANYWHERE BETWEEN 25 AND 40 YEARS OF AGE, CLOSELY SHAVEN, HAIR CROPPED SHORT, THIN POINTED NOSE; IF ANY MUSTACHE, A VERY SMALL ONE, DARK COAT AND VEST; WORE AN OVERCOAT WHEN SHE FIRST SAW HIM OUTSIDE IN THE MOONLIGHT, BUT HAD CAST IT OFF WHEN HE APPEARED IN THE HOUSE; THINKS HE WORE A STIFF HAT, AND WAS VERY ACTIVE AND SUPPLE."

As Eliza Lowery, the murdered woman, struck the murderer a vicious blow on the face with a chair when he was kicking Mrs. Covell, the police are looking for a man with a scar on his face, and this blow of the old woman's may result in the capture of the murderer.

The people of the vicinity are greatly incensed over the outrage and murder of Miss Lowery, and on every hand the opinion is expressed that the exercise of capital punishment is not sufficient for the crime.

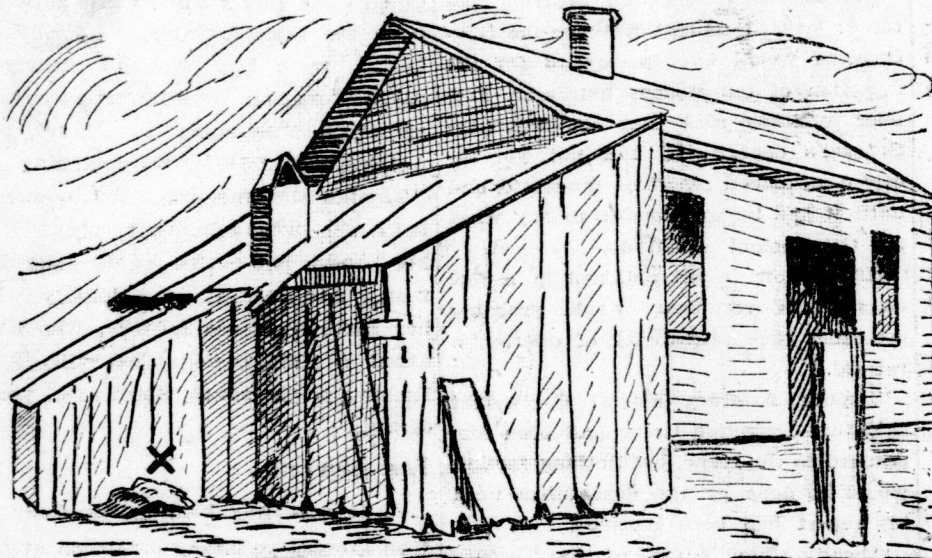
The Scene of the Murder.

The scene of the murder lies about three-quarters of a mile outside the village of Rodney, at a place known to the community at large as Old Rodney Corners, in the township of Aldborough. The house stands back in the yard about 60 feet, with the gable end

not since it was built, 30 or 40 years ago. Inside it is rather poorly furnished, but it bears the imprint of a woman's care in the clean lace curtains and spotless white muslin lambrequins. The chief piece of furniture in the combined sitting-room and kitchen is an old-fashioned cupboard, standing in the southeast corner of the room. On the west side stands a low cook stove, with a very large oven on top. These articles, with several chairs and a rather unique, but somewhat stunted collection of pictures, constitute the furnishing of the room. At the west end of this room runs a partition, dividing off a compartment which is again divided into two bedrooms, the south room being occupied by Mrs. Covell, and the north one by Miss Lowery, the former about 70 years of age and the latter about 68.

Miss Lowery had been in the Covell home for several months, and had been in the habit of spending frequent visits there, though she was in no way related to the family. As Mrs. Covell is an invalid, she was always welcome, and her presence in the house enabled Mr. Covell to earn a livelihood for himself and wife, he being employed with a cement gang who are putting in culverts on the M. C. R.

The night of the murder, Mrs. Covell and Miss Lowery retired, as was their custom, about 9 o'clock. When Mrs.



THE COVELL HOME, NEAR RODNEY. X SHOWS WHERE THE BODY OF MISS LOWERY WAS FOUND.

Covell was in bed a short time she was awakened by someone walking through the house, and cried out:

"Who's there?"

"It's me," said Eliza Lowery. "I'm putting another stick in the stove." Then the aged woman fell asleep, and Mrs. Covell remembers nothing until about midnight, as near as she can gauge the time, she heard some one battering at the door and talking in loud, gruff tones.

Murderer Demands Admittance.

"Open the door," commanded the voice from without, "or I'll do soon open it for you. Open the door, or I'll break it in."

By this time both women were awakened, and they stood shivering in the bedroom of Mrs. Covell, while Miss Lowery had gone when she heard the row outside.

Then Mrs. Covell looked out the window which faces the south, and there in the pale April moonlight, she saw the figure of a man standing on the steps. He saw the curtains move, and coming over to the window, he ordered her to open the door. The women refused, of course, and after several attempts he made a rush at it with his shoulder, and the only protection enjoyed by the defenseless women opened with a crash.

At this time, Mrs. Covell, sick and weak, stood nearest the door, and when the murderer entered he addressed her:

"Your Money or Your Life."

"I know you, Ma Baker," he said. "I knew your husband, Anderson Baker, well when he died." Mrs. Covell was formerly a Mrs. Baker, having married Benjamin Covell about four years ago.

Then catching sight of Miss Lowery standing near the stove, he asked:

"Is that Mary Taylor?"

Mrs. Covell replied, "No, it is Eliza Lowery, but for God's sake do not hurt her."

Mrs. Covell made this plea because of the murderous look on the man's face.

"I want your money or your life," was the brute's reply to the plea, "and more than that."

Mrs. Covell assured him that he could have all the money in the house, but begged him to spare their lives. Then she took from the pocket of a skirt she had slipped on, a purse containing \$1.50, and gave it to him. He swore she had more money, and she found another purse containing about \$1 in silver, and this she also handed to the stranger.

"You've got more than that," he shouted, working himself into a passion, "you've got more and I want it. Give it up."

Mrs. Covell Brutally Beaten.

Then he seized hold of the old woman, Mrs. Covell, and dragged her into the yard. In the moonlight, Eliza Lowery saw him brutally beating and pummeling her friend and benefactor, and though she had stood petrified with fear for several minutes, the sight gave her new courage. She rushed toward the door, picking up a purse, which the murderer had dropped, and she threw it under the table. Then she picked up a chair, which stood in the kitchen, and stepping outside she struck the savage brute a blow on the head. He staggered, for, though 70 years of age, Eliza Lowery was well preserved, and she had strength sufficient to knock him back several feet.

"I'll fix you," said the man, and he left Mrs. Covell and attacked Miss Lowery. He carried a heavy stick in

SS. MARS, MISSING

Believed to Have Foundered With All Hands in Atlantic Gale.

London, April 20.—The German steamer Mars, Capt. Niemann, which sailed from Pensacola, Fla., Feb. 1, bound to Leer, Germany, has been posted at Lloyds as missing. It is probable that the Mars foundered and all hands were lost during one of the terrific storms which swept the North Atlantic in February. The Mars had a crew of about twenty.

COMING TO CANADA

Three More Parties of Emigrants Sail From London.

London, April 19.—Three parties of emigrants left London last night for Canada, 80 young men in connection with the London and Overseas, under the auspices of the East End Fund and Charity Organization Society. The third party of 38 adults and 26 children were sent by the Self-help Emigration Society. The two last parties sailed by the Dominion.

OLIVER UNOPPOSED

Conservatives Decide Not to Contest Election of New Minister.

Winnipeg, Man., April 20.—At the Conservative convention held at Edmonton yesterday, with a large number of delegates present, it was decided not to oppose the election of Hon. Frank Oliver, Dominion Minister of the Interior.

BLIZZARD IN WYOMING

Snowfall wrecks Telegraph Lines and Demoralizes Railroad.

Cheyenne, Wyo., April 20.—Trains arriving in the city report that every telegraph pole for 30 miles east of Cheyenne and many miles south has been leveled by the snow. The Union Pacific has sent out emergency squads of men to restore connections, so that the dispatching of trains may be carried on. The snow is the heaviest ever known here and at several places in the city electric light and telephone poles have been broken off by the weight of wet snow, and lie obstructing the streets.

PROROGATION BY MIDDLE OF JUNE

Lack to Contest at Edmonton Will Shorten Session—Borden Moving to Ottawa.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Ottawa, April 20.—There is talk here that prorogation will be over by the middle of June. Mr. R. L. Borden will leave on the 17th of June for Halifax, and will remove his law library and belongings to Ottawa, where, in the future, he will reside, and practice his profession.

The announcement from Edmonton that there will be no contest there will shorten the session. Hon. H. R. Emmerson has gone to Port Colborne to look over the elevator foundations. He will afterwards visit the Cornwall Canal, returning here on Monday.

Mr. Fielding has gone to New York, and Sir Frederick Borden to Nova Scotia.

D. H. Ross, Canadian commercial agent at Melbourne, writes that a large number of Victorians are selling out, going to British Columbia and Alberta.

LOOKS TO BRITAIN

Uncle Sam Thinks Bond's Retaliation Will Be Nullified.

New York, April 19.—The Tribune publishes the following from Washington: Advice from St. John, Newfoundland, seem to indicate that the Colonial Legislature, under the leadership of Premier Bond, has, by the enactment of retaliatory legislation, rendered doubly difficult the task of those members of the Senate who have hoped ultimately to secure the ratification of the Hay-Bond treaty, after eliminating such amendments as would render it practically nugatory.

No opinion regarding the effect of Newfoundland's recent legislation is expressed at the state department, as it is regarded as certain that the British colonial office will exercise its prerogative to nullify any portion of the legislation which may violate the treaty of 1815. If the St. John dispatches prove accurate, it will become imperative that the British colonial office should exercise its prerogative, as the treaty of 1815 insured to American fishermen the right to take fish off the shores of certain portions of Newfoundland, and, moreover, to land on certain shores of Newfoundland to dry and cure fish.

LOOKS GLOOMY IN BALKANS

Bitter Hatred Between Various Peoples and Turkey Powerless.

Vienna, April 20.—The condition of affairs in the Balkan States is causing much uneasiness in official circles here. The hope of a comparatively peaceful spring, which has previously been expressed, is growing less, and it is declared that the reform work has now been conclusively proved without good or lasting results. In Zagoricham, Province of Koriza, early this month, Greeks fell upon and killed more than 130 Bulgarians, and in Kumanovo, Province of Uskub, Turks have killed several Servians. Thus it is seen that Nationalists and Christians and Mohammedans continue fighting each other, while Turkey seems unable or not desirous of affording protection to the people and stopping the disorders. Formerly there was only the passive resistance of Turkey to contend with, but now the situation has been aggravated by the growing bitter hatred of the various nationalities against each other. There also is a possibility that some of the Balkan States may actively enter the field under the pretense of protecting its subjects.

NO PROTEST FROM JAP HOUSE OVER SHIPS IN KAMRANH BAY

Rojstvensky's Squadron Coaling There But Is Believed To Be Outside Three-Mile Limit.

WILY RUSS ADMIRAL BADLY FOOLED JAPANESE

Tokio, April 20.—5 p.m.—The reply of France to the protest of Japan against the Russian squadron using Kamranh Bay, has not been received in Tokio, but is expected shortly.

The statement that the cabinet and the elder statesmen, after a conference, had forwarded a protest, is incorrect. France was approached through the usual diplomatic channels.

The officials here are not certain whether the Russians are still at Kamranh Bay, although they were reported to be there yesterday.

Later the foreign office gave out a formal denial of the reported protest of Japan, saying in response to many inquiries: "Neither Dr. Motono (the Japanese minister) nor the Japanese Government have made any protest."

Missed Quarry and Deceits.

St. Petersburg, April 20.—5 p.m.—It is claimed here that Admiral Rojstvensky has not overstepped the French rules of neutrality at Kamranh Bay, the coaling and provisioning of the ships occurring outside territorial waters.

Russia has lodged a protest in Paris. The charges of Russia's violation of neutrality, coupled with the revival of the story that Russia intends to send her Black Sea fleet through the Dardanelles, and the report that the British Mediterranean fleet has been sent to the Aegean Sea to head off the Russian fleet, cause extreme irritation. The Associated Press is again authorized to state that Russia has no intention of sending out the Black Sea fleet.

The admiralty officials are quite elated over the receipt of news showing that not a single collier dispatched to the China Sea through the Straits of Sundra, for the purpose of throwing the Japanese off the scent, when Admiral Rojstvensky passed through the Straits of Malacca, fell into the hands of the Japanese. Rojstvensky reached the Straits of Malacca before the colliers arrived at the Straits of Sundra, and the Japanese then withdrew from the latter straits, having missed both the quarry and the decoys. The admiralty is silent as to whether Rojstvensky has left Kamranh Bay.

Nebogoff at Sunda.

New York, April 20.—A dispatch to the American from Paris quotes a St. Petersburg dispatch to the Matin that Vice-Admiral Nebogoff's squadron has reached Sunda Straits on its way to join Rojstvensky in the China Sea.

Saigon, April 20.—Admiral Rojstvensky's fleet is still in Kamranh Bay. The French admiral, Jonquieres, has taken every step to insure neutrality.

St. Petersburg, April 20.—A dispatch from Gushnu Pass says the Russians have discovered a turning movement 80 miles northwest of Kuanchengsu, about 30 miles northeast of Gushnu Pass, by two forces, each of 3,000 Chinese bandits, several thousand Japanese cavalry and 25 guns. Kuanchengsu is identical with Changchun, the extreme right of General Linvitch's main front which extends thence towards Kirin.

KITCHENER WANTS NO INTERFERENCE

Threatens to Resign If Not Given a Voice in the Indian Council.

London, April 20.—The correspondent at Calcutta of the Daily Express learns that friction has arisen between Lord Kitchener, of Khartoum, and Major-Gen. Elles, military member of the Governor-General's Council, whose anomalous position enables him to thwart the commander-in-chief's plans and that Lord Kitchener threatens to resign unless Gen. Elles' duties are restricted to the administrative and spending departments and he (Lord Kitchener) is given a vote in the council or placed in closer relation with the Indian Government.

MAN MANGLED BY MAD STALLION

William McLean, of St. Thomas, May Succumb to Injuries Received.

St. Thomas, April 20.—William McLean, a hostler, was attacked by a stallion in the Duke House barns yesterday afternoon, and bitten and stamped upon, receiving injuries which may prove fatal. One arm was dislocated at the elbow and the flesh of the other torn off and the arm almost pulled out of the socket. He was also cut and bitten on the face and hands. He was removed to the hospital.

FIRE AT OWEN SOUND

Iron Warehouse of Butchart Bros. Completely Destroyed Today.

Owen Sound, April 20.—The iron warehouse of the Butchart Bros. Hardware Company was completely destroyed this morning at 4 o'clock, together with the contents; also the offices of Dr. Hovey, and the bicycle business of B. Greenwood. Mr. Hovey and Mr. Greenwood lost nearly everything. The former had no insurance, and the latter carried only \$500. The building is situated in the rear of the best business block in town and had the wind been blowing at all the whole block would have been destroyed. As it was the case, the house and hardware store of the Butcharts had a narrow escape. Total loss about \$50,000, partly insured.

Budget Debate Wound Up; No Division in the House

Whitney Waxes Grandiloquent Over Conservative Policies.

Opposition Points Out Provincial Asset That Matheson Ignored.

[Special to The Advertiser.] Toronto, April 19.—The budget debate was closed this afternoon, and, as was the case with the speech from the throne, the Opposition suffered the motion to pass without a division. The Premier closed the debate in an hour's speech, in which he resented the advice given by the Opposition leaders, that the new Government should follow in the footsteps of its predecessor, and declared grandiloquently that the Government would follow the path blazed out for it by the people on Jan. 25.

The balance of the afternoon and evening was taken up with the consideration of the estimates, and good progress was made. At the evening sitting an hour was devoted to threshing out the license question, and both the Premier and the Provincial Secretary laid stress on the Government's intention to enforce the law strictly, and impartially.

Tomorrow's sitting will be given up to public bills and orders, and the estimates. At 6 p.m. the House will rise, to reassemble on Monday, May 1.

Assets Matheson Ignored.

Mr. Thompson (Wentworth) continuing his remarks on the budget, contended that the Province had been drawing on its assets in New Ontario, it had converted the proceeds mainly into public buildings, whose value now reached over \$11,000,000. The Provincial Treasurer, he said, in making up his budget, had failed to include and add up correctly some of the Province's most valuable assets. Was it business-like, asked Mr. Thompson, to make such a statement as no business man would compile if presenting a report to his bankers?

The Premier, in rising to close the debate, complimented the Provincial Treasurer, who would be a tower of strength to the Government, and whose grasp of the financial affairs of the Province was deserving of every commendation. All sorts and conditions of men had complimented him upon the position he took, and the Weekly Sun had stated that he had made the true, actual state of the financial position of Ontario clearer than it had ever been made before. If that were so, Col. Matheson had indeed rendered a great service to his Province.

Whitney on Finance.

Mr. Harcourt had made the statement that it would be advisable for the Government to follow in the footsteps of the former administration, and that they would remain in power just as long as they did so. He had also noted (Continued on page 2.)