

Foul Murder of Wm. Ashley

Shot Down in Greenhouse by Thos. Connell, His Aunt's Husband—He Escaped to the Woods.

ALL NIGHT SEARCH BY THE POLICE.

Murderer Located by Officer Hoskins, Fires at the Constable, and Then Attempts His Own Life
—His Wounds Probably Fatal.

After taking the life of his wife's nephew last night, Thomas Connell this morning tried to shoot Officer Hoskins, of the provincial force, and then made an attempt on his own life. He lies today in the Royal Jubilee hospital suffering from self-inflicted wounds, which may possibly prove fatal.

The circumstances attending the crime were tragic in the extreme. The trouble culminating in the murder commenced many months ago—indeed dates almost from the time of Mrs. Ashley's marriage to Connell about a year and a half ago. Matters became more and more aggravated until Connell, through drink and jealousy, had reached a stage where nothing but murder would satisfy his thirst for revenge.

Mrs. Connell (nee Mrs. Ashley) went home last night from the city, where she had been all day in attendance in the retail florist establishment on Broad street, which she conducted in conjunction with the immense business carried on by her on the Esquimalt road. Together with her nephew, William Ashley, upon whom the executive portion of the work connected with the business fell, and Annie Logan, a little girl who assisted in the house work, she took tea, and the three then sat down to read. Half an hour later the young man got up and left the room with the object of attending to the fires in the little engine room near the house, in order that the plants in the greenhouse might not suffer from the coldness of the evening. The other two continued reading.

He had been gone but a few minutes when a shot was heard, but not sharp enough to convince Mrs. Connell and her little companion that it was the report of a pistol. The fears of the older woman were, however, at once aroused, as she was still nervous from the effects of an interview she had had with Connell during the day, in which she says he had made distinct threats against her life. She immediately left the room and as she came out she saw Connell leaving the greenhouse. This at once confirmed her fears and she ran in terror toward the Esquimalt road, along which she saw the headlight of a car approaching. When Motofman Alex. Lucas neared the residence of the Connells he saw a woman standing on the track immediately in front of the car, and making frantic gestures for him to stop it. When he did so she informed him of her fears and they started together toward the house.

In the meantime Connell had gone to the door of the dwelling in search of the real object of his quest—Mrs. Connell. The little Logan girl answered his knock and in answer to his inquiry as to the whereabouts of her mistress told him that she had just gone out. Connell then turned from the door, still with the smoking weapon in his hand, and as he started from the house he saw driver Lucas and Mrs. Connell approaching.

The cowardice of the fellow then manifested itself. He started to run, shouting back at his wife: "I threatened to do it, and I've done it!" He headed in the direction of Esquimalt, while the others, still uncertain as to whether or not a crime had been committed, hurried on to the greenhouse.

After Connell had left the door the little girl ran to the engine room and as she entered it saw the form of the young man lying in the pit in front of the furnace. She cried out, "Oh, what is the matter, Will?" and the reply she received was, "Oh, Annie, I'm shot. Go and get a doctor." The others then arrived and Mr. Lucas laid the form of the dying man out on the floor. A physician was summoned, but life was extinct before Dr. Frank Hall, who had been sent for, arrived. He found that a bullet, about the size of a 44, had entered the right breast above the nipple, inflicting a mortal wound.

Simultaneously with the summoning of a physician, the police had been notified, and Supt. Hussey dispatched Acting Sergeant Murray, with Officers Hoskins and Campbell, to the scene. Chief Langley, of the city force, promptly co-operated with the provincial body, and sent Sergeant Walker with Officers Allen, Perdue, Conlin, Carlow, and Macdonald to the scene. The police were, however, terribly handicapped. Thick, almost impenetrable woods are contiguous to the place in all directions excepting the city side, and the task of searching for the culprit under the circumstances was disheartening. Patrols were at once instituted along the roads, to prevent his escape from the district, and the officers were compelled to wait impatiently for the dawn.

At daybreak Sergeant Murray left the

men and came to the city to report and to receive further orders. During his absence the search was continued, and about nine o'clock Officer Hoskins espied his man behind a haystack in rear of the house where the crime was committed. He was then about twenty-five feet away from the prisoner, who, on seeing the officer approach, opened fire on him, sending a bullet his way, which fortunately, did not take effect. The remaining charge he turned on himself, the bullet entering his left temple. Rev. C. Eensor Sharpe, the chaplain of the Esquimalt forces, was passing at the time and went to Hoskins' assistance, and the fellow was taken into custody.

His wounds were bandaged and he was removed on the tramcar to the city, experiencing no difficulty in walking. Here he was met by Dr. Jones, and Supt. Hussey, still in the possession of his plucky captor, and transferred to a hack, and removed to the Royal Jubilee hospital.

The motive for the crime, according to those acquainted with the family, rests in the refusal of Mrs. Connell to maintain the prisoner in idleness, and the latter's suspicion that the nephew stood between him and the overcoming of his wife's objections.

Mrs. Connell has been a resident of the city for many years, where she is well known as an industrious and frugal woman. Connell is her fourth husband, she having been married previously to Knight, Morris and Ashley. The latter was a market gardener in England, and then entered the service as a marine. Leaving the service, he married and carried on the Ashley hothouses and garden. Shortly before his death he sent to England for the victim, his nephew, William Ashley, whose ability as a florist may be judged by the fact that he was assistant gardener for the Bishop of London at Lambeth Palace. Industrious, quiet and capable, he soon became indispensable about the place, and on the sudden death of his uncle not long after he came to Victoria, the young man took supervision of the practical work of the institution.

Upon the death of Ashley his wife continued the business until a year and a half ago, when she married Connell. The latter was addicted to drink and the two did not live happily together. About a year ago he had him arrested for using threatening language, and for which he stood his trial. Owing to the fact that he was then within a few days of his twenty-one years of service in the R. M. A. and that a conviction would prevent his receiving an honorable discharge and might involve the loss of his pension, the court allowed him to go on a reprimand. About six months ago papers of separation were drawn up between the two. He, however, was impudent to be reinstated, and of late, according to the wife, has repeatedly threatened her.

Yesterday, she states, he visited her shop and spoke in a threatening way, during which he repeatedly put his hand to his hip as if to draw a weapon. He concluded by the remark, "I'll see you once more. If I go you'll go too." She reported the matter to Chief Langley, but the chief did not at that time consider the matter serious enough to warrant the arrest of Connell.

The man has of late lived in Victoria West, where he indulged in dissipation to a considerable extent. It is said that his grudge against young Ashley lay in the refusal of the latter to continue in the business if Connell was given the property or any authority about the place.

Young Ashley was an expert in his business and generally liked.

Mrs. Connell became hysterical after notifying the car employees, and was sent to St. Joseph's hospital by the police. This morning early, however, she reappeared on the scene, and Officer Murray had considerable trouble in inducing her to go into the house of a neighbor.

Connell Will Die.

Reports received from the hospital late this afternoon state that Connell lies in a critical condition, the doctors having failed to locate the bullet. He is said to be sinking fast, and will hardly survive his wounds.

He served in the Royal Irish Constabulary before entering the army, and wears the Egyptian medal, secured in a campaign under Gen. Graburn, and the Burmese medal. He is about fifty years of age.

CONNELL SUCCUMBS.

Thomas Connell, the murderer of William Ashley, died at the Jubilee hospital last night from the effects of a revolver wound inflicted by himself just previous to his capture by Officer Hoskins.

Although the man never regained consciousness after the operation to discover the bullet, sufficient was obtained by Supt. Hussey, while driving in a hack to the hospital with the man, to fasten

the guilt of the murder upon Connell. The latter admitted that he committed the deed, ascribed it to domestic trouble, and expressed remorse for his act. It was very fortunate that the brief statement outlined above was obtained, as upon reaching the hospital he went at once on the operating table and remained, even after the effect of the anesthetics had passed away, in an unconscious condition.

The examination of the man's wounds disclosed a remarkable course taken by the bullet. The pistol had been held to the right temple, but the ball, instead of entering the skull at that point, had followed the cranium around to the forehead, where it entered the head, leaving a large hole. Probing in this was unsuccessful in discovering the whereabouts of the missile. An orifice was then made by the doctors at the other temple to probe, but without avail, and the patient was then so exhausted from loss of blood and the efforts of the surgeons to find the bullet that they were forced to desist. Connell sank steadily until death supervened shortly after midnight.

His funeral will take place on Saturday from Hanna's undertaking parlors. Young Ashley will be buried to-morrow from the Ashley house on Esquimalt road. The funeral will be attended by the S. O. E., of which the unfortunate young man was a member.

The inquest yesterday afternoon developed few additional facts. Mrs. Connell deposed that on the day of the murder Connell had called at her place and asked her if she had reconsidered her decision of the previous Sunday, when she had declined to take him back. Persisting in her refusal, he asked superciliously if she knew what she was doing.

"You had better make your will," he added, "for the lodger won't be there to take over the property after you are gone." The reference was evidently to young Ashley.

On the same night he went to the St. George's Inn, where he had his dinner, and with darkness fell went on to the Ashley house.

That he was intent on dispatching Mrs. Connell before killing himself seems evident from his being found lurking about the place the following morning.

Among those who knew him, Connell did not bear a bad name, and the fact that he wore a good conduct medal points to a good career in the army. He seems to have brooded over real or fanciful wrongs until he reached a mental state where his uppermost thoughts were those of revenge. He was 54 years of age, and a native of Clare, Ireland.

On the lid of the box of cartridges which he carried are scratched the words, "Mary Connell," "charged," and "meet you," with one or two indistinct characters between the last two which look like "ill L." The whole sentence probably was, "Mary Connell, charged till I meet you." The writing is identical as that of Connell's.

A Word to the Weary and Sickly Mother.

Paine's Celery Compound

Will Make You Happy and Healthy.

It Has Given a New Life to Thousands of Ailing Women and Will Do the Same Good Work For You.

The medicine that has given new health and a fresh lease of life to thousands of women in Canada, is surely the kind you stand in need of, dear mother.

If you have been sick, nervous, despondent, have headache, sideache, backache and cannot sleep well, Paine's Celery Compound will give you restful nights, good appetite, freedom from aches and pains, and restore lost strength and vitality.

The most successful family physicians are now freely prescribing Paine's Celery Compound for sleepless, nervous and rundown women. Laura Garland, Crawford street, Toronto, says:

"Your Paine's Celery Compound has most wonderfully improved my health. Before using it my appetite was poor—almost gone; I was also weak and debilitated, and suffered severely from pains in the head. Paine's Celery Compound certainly does all that is claimed for it. I have recommended it to my friends, and they all speak highly of the results received from it. I wish Paine's Celery Compound the success it so richly deserves."

TO ADDRESS CONSTITUENTS.

Ottawa, Nov. 12.—It is understood that Sir Wilfrid Laurier will deliver his first public address since the conclusion of the general election campaign in his constituency, Quebec East, in a few days.

President C. A. Cushing and Manager Atkinson, of the Port Angeles & Eastern railway, are registered at the Driard.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The firm of *Castoria* for Infants and Children, 125 Pitt Street, N.W., are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.

They are manufacturers of the best quality of infants' articles.