

Frederick

How H. R. Cummings

HARTLAND ADVERTISER.

VOL. I.

HARTLAND, N. B., TUESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 1898.

SPECIAL. No. 51

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We have made arrangements to get for our subscribers a valuable set of premiums, and are able to offer them almost free of cost.

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THE TUCKER MURDER.

THE PRELIMINARY TRIAL.

LOOKS HARD FOR TWO WOMEN.

The examination of Annie L. Canovan began Friday. S. B. Appleby appears for the Crown, and Wendall P. Jones for the prisoner.

Mrs. Mary Tucker was the first witness. For some time past Minnie had been taking some kind of medicine, which she mixed with her tea. When she (witness) asked her what it was she was taking, she was told to mind her own business. Deceased had made threats about doing away with herself. Canovan was working at a neighbor's, and his wife had been at Tucker's for a couple of days. She only visited them two or three times in the past six months. That morning the prisoner and deceased seemed to be on very good terms. It was only from hearsay that she learned that there was bad feeling between them, and that the prisoner was jealous of deceased's relation to her husband. Deceased was very bright and well in the early morning. She was sorry to say that it was impossible to believe anything that she said. Witness was out when the deceased was taken ill. When she came in she (deceased) was in convulsions. She called old man Tucker to call the neighbors, and when he could not do it she sent the prisoner to notify Canovan, who was at Mrs. Brewer's. She did not know how deceased came to her death. "I was not God," remarked the prisoner, "nor a witch." The prisoner threw the cup from which deceased had been drinking into the stove, being afraid that the baby would get it. She did everything she could after death, washed the body and sent to Glassville for a coffin. She knew of deceased going to Bath on Saturday. She said she had some bills to pay. She came back, bringing some molasses and other things and a pair of shoes for the baby.

Dr. Ross of Florenceville was on the stand for a long time. He made a post-mortem, assisted by Drs. Somerville, Welch and Cumming. There was no signs of chronic disease. The stomach was taken out and sent away. Deceased was pregnant about two months. To Mr. Appleby he said that there was nothing in the appearance of deceased to lead one to believe that she died from natural causes.

After lunch the next witness was Dr. Cummings, the coroner in the case. He said: The house consisted of one room, about 12 by 16. Mrs. Tucker and Mrs. Canovan said that deceased died suddenly. She had been mixing some dose and after drinking that, died. Mrs. Tucker went to a trunk and brought out a tin box, saying it contained the same stuff that Minnie

had been drinking. Witness here produced the box. He meant to take that and the stomach to St. John for analysis.

Caroline Brewer—I live in Glassville. The Tuckers live between two and three miles from my home. The deceased was the same as one of our family. She made it her home at my place for the past six years. On the 19th she came to my house and stayed till the 25th. She had been to Martin's where the father of her child was. She went to her father's about one o'clock on snow shoes, saying that she wanted to see if her father had any wood. Deceased came to my place about a week before Christmas crying. I asked what was the matter. She said Annie had threatened to poison her and her husband. I said, "Minnie, keep Annie from you." The next time she was at my house she said she had a quarrel with her sister. Next time I saw her she was dead. Mrs. Canovan asked me if there was anything the matter with Minnie when she left the house. I said no. I knew of jealousy between the prisoner and deceased. Minnie was to have been married in two months to a neighbor, John Rowley.

To Mr. Jones, deceased said that Mrs. Canovan told her to her face she would poison her.

Dr. Somerville said: I recognize the prisoner, whom I first saw on the 22nd of January. She came to the door and asked if I was home. My wife let her in and she followed her into the house. I was at dinner. I went to my office in about ten minutes. She came in and asked for some poison for foxes, saying she had three or four dozen hens and had lost all but three or four by foxes. She said she was living alone with a little boy, her husband having gone to the woods. I don't remember whether she asked particularly for strychnine. I advised her to keep it out of the way, and warned her about children. I gave her a drachm of strychnine. She paid me forty cents for it. Then she put it in her pocket and drew out a package and showed me a powder. I told her she had better burn it up or throw it away. The bottle I gave her was in the original package.

To Mr. Jones—Strychnine is sold in my vicinity for poisoning foxes, and I was not surprised at it being called for. There were several calls for it before I got it in. She gave me her name as Mrs. Canovan.

When Patrick Conovan was put on the stand defendant's counsel objected to his giving evidence unless he clearly understood that he was not compelled to.

The magistrate decided to take the evidence, noting Mr. Jones objection.

Witness said: The prisoner is my wife. We were married five years ago and live about two miles from the Tucker place in the house of Carralls. I lived with Mrs. Tucker all last winter, and

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