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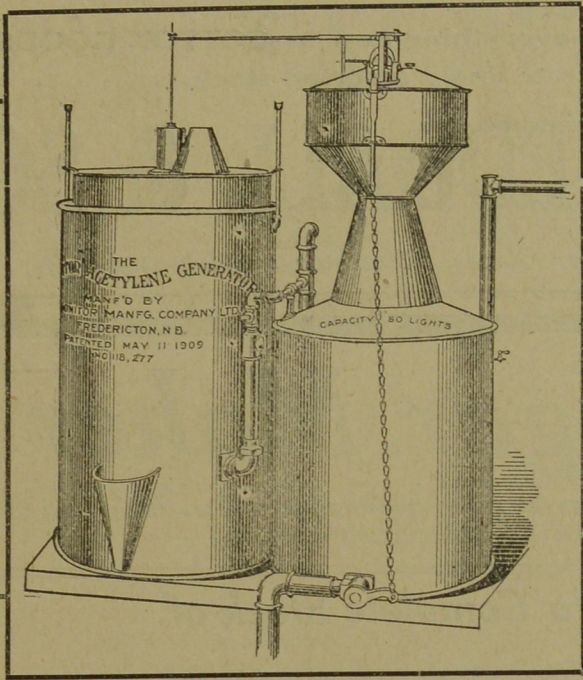
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SUICIDES WHILE IN FIT OF DESPONDENCY, THE VERDICT

Jury in Russ Inquest Bring in Expected Verdict but Strongly Condemn Treating of Civilians in Military Canteens.

The jury empanelled to look into the death of George Albert Russ at Long's Hotel on Monday evening last night brought in a verdict of suicide while in a fit of despondency and added to their verdict a recommendation that the military authorities prohibit the treating system in vogue at the canteen whereby civilians get liquor from soldiers.

The verdict was as follows:—We the undersigned jurors empanelled to look into the death of George Albert Russ find that he came to his death from a revolver shot from his own hand during a fit of despondency at his room in Long's Hotel, City of Fredericton, on March 14th., between the hours of 7 and 8 o'clock p.m.

(Signed) Alonzo Staples, foreman; Geo. H. Clark, Edward A. O'Brien, R. L. Black, A. H. Jewett, A. D. Gunter F. S. Creed.

We the jurors above signed further recommend that the treating system from the canteen of the soldiers' barracks as adduced by the evidence bought out in this case by prohibited by the proper authorities in charge of such military department and especially on the Sabbath Day.

The inquest was conducted by Coroner McEwin the witnesses being examined at Windsor Hall. Eight witnesses were examined. The inquest began at 7.45 and the verdict was brought in at 11.30 the jury deliberating about half an hour.

Dr. A. B. Atherton the first witness stated that he had been called to Long's Hotel shortly before six o'clock to attend Russ who was lying on the bed in his room, insensible and pulseless. There was a bullet wound in the left breast. A revolver loaded in four chambers was on the table. One shell had been discharged. Death took place an hour and a half afterward. The wound caused death the bullet evidently grazing the heart. The injury was probably self-inflicted.

Alex. McM. Staples the next witness stated that Russ came into the hardware store of R. Chestnut & Sons at 3.40 Monday afternoon and asked to be shown revolvers. Russ asked for a 44-calibre. There was none in stock and he finally took a 38-calibre of cheap grade also a box of cartridges. Before leaving the store Russ made some casual remarks. Witness said the revolver in evidence was the same calibre, model and make as that sold by him. Russ was perfectly able to take care of himself but had been drinking. He was a little nervous when paying for the goods and shifted the latter from one pocket to the other.

James Shields of Chatham was next heard. He said he had been in Fredericton two months superintending the steel structural work on the Highway Bridge for the provincial government. He was acquainted with the late Albert Russ. Saw the latter on Friday and also Sunday morning. Had no conversation with him on Sunday. Witness met him on Monday. Russ had said to witness, "I'm fine as silk" and smiled in reply to a question. Did not know that Russ had been drinking between Friday and Monday. At various times had noticed Russ under the influence of liquor. During the days mentioned, Russ was able to take care of himself.

W. W. Russ was the next witness. He stated that he was superintendent at the Hartt Boot & Shoe Factory. He was acquainted with Albert Russ. Saw the latter at Long's Hotel at 6 p.m., Monday. Witness had been

summoned by telephone. Witness described circumstances under which he saw him and identified the revolver. Witness was present when death took place. The deceased had been absent from the factory on Monday only. Did not know if he had been drinking. Witness was at a loss to know why the deed was committed. Deceased was always inclined to look upon the bright side of things. He had not been discharged from the factory.

Carl Smith was called next, said he had resided in Fredericton about four months and was boarding at Long's Hotel. He had known the deceased for two or three years. Russ was drinking on Saturday. Witness saw him on Sunday and Monday. Did not see him at the shoe factory on Monday. At about 5.40 p.m., Monday he saw Russ. Witness came from the factory and tried to get into Russ's room. There was a chair against the door but it slipped aside. Witness talked to him and left room. In a short time he heard a report. He entered Russ's room and asked what was the matter. Russ said "Smithy" and turned over. Witness thought he had been drinking. Noticed his shirt burning and put it out thinking a cigarette had lighted it. Witness left the room and smelt powder. He went back and noticed blood on Russ. He then brought the clerk up and pulled the shirt open and saw where Russ was shot. A doctor and W. W. Russ were summoned. Deceased was not quarrelsome and was not an habitual drunkard. Only hop-beer and root-beer bottles were in the room. His health had been good.

Thomas Rutte was the next witness. He stated he had known the deceased since July last and had worked in the shoe factory with him. He had been in his company within the past week. Did not remember of being with him on Friday night. On Saturday night he had met Russ outside Long's Hotel and went into Woods' place with him. They bought cigarettes and beer. They also went to J. H. Hawthorne's and bought tobacco and from there to the barracks where they played pool and had more beer. They left the barracks at 9.30 and went to Regent street where they parted. At that time, Russ was not under the influence of liquor.

On Sunday witness met Russ again at the barracks. They stayed there until 2.30 p.m. and drank beer. They came back and stayed until 9.30 p.m. Both had friends at the barracks. Russ left first. Witness did not see him again. At that time he was under the influence of stimulants. Sunday night there were three or four other visitors at the barracks. The room in the barracks in which they were was on the second floor. The soldiers paid for the liquor. Witness understands civilians cannot buy in the canteen.

Samuel Bowden, clerk at Long's Hotel was called. He stated that Russ had been drinking during the past week. He had been drinking on Sunday. Witness told of the circumstances surrounding Russ's death, his evidence not differing from that of Smith. Russ was a quiet boarder and did not drink very much.

Arthur Carson was the last witness. He said he was a shoe factory operative and was acquainted with Albert Russ. His evidence did not throw any additional light on the occurrence.

The coroner instructed the jurors that they were to bring in a verdict stating where how and when deceased met his death. The verdict is given above.

N. S. LABOR UNIONS WANT FULL CONTROL

Halifax, March 15.—A bill was introduced in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly this afternoon, at the instance of organized labor in the coal mines and with the endorsement of the Trades and Labor Council's officers of Halifax, providing for compulsory recognition of organized labor in this province.

The bill provides that after passing of this act corporations and all employers of labor shall recognize, as such, any united body of workmen or employees, and every local union existing in this province, having interests in common, and the members of which are employed by any corporation or other employers of labor, and whether said united body of workmen, employees or local unions are connected or affiliated with any organization or association outside the province of Nova Scotia or not.

Such recognition shall be granted by said employers of labor upon the

written request of any such united body of workmen handed to the officers of a corporation or other employers of labor.

When such recognition is asked and granted the corporation or employer shall deal and treat with such united body of workmen, or their representatives, in reference to all matters arising.

Whenever there exists more than one organization of the workmen employed in any particular craft, recognition shall be accorded to the organization having a majority of such employees, such majority to be determined by a referendum vote of all the employees belonging to such unions.

A penalty of \$100 daily for the first thirty days after default of recognition is provided for, and a penalty of \$200 daily thereafter. The amounts to be sued for in a court competent jurisdiction and recovered by any member of the united body of workmen, as an ordinary debt with costs.

For the purposes of this act failure or refusal to recognize is shown to mean that the employers of labor did not within forty-eight hours after receiving a demand for recognition,

GRAND ORANGE LODGE MEETS AT MONCTON

The L. O. A. had a Prosperous Year and Listens to Cheering Reports from its Officers—Large Attendance.

Moncton, N. B., March 15.—The sixty-ninth annual meeting of the Grand Orange Lodge of New Brunswick opened in the Orange hall here this afternoon at 2.30. Some 200 delegates were in attendance from all parts of the province.

Owing to the death of R. W. Grand Master Dr. A. W. MacRae, of St. John, the session was presided over by Acting Grand Master N. J. Smith of Fredericton. Quite a number of past grand officers were present, evidencing that their interest in the grand lodge had lost none of its enthusiasm.

Reports were read by the acting grand master, grand secretary and grand treasurer. These were referred to standing committees appointed to consider the reports.

The report of the grand secretary shows the order to be in a flourishing condition throughout the province. Three new lodges have been instituted during the past year and four have been incorporated. One of the new lodges was at Rockport, Westmorland county. During the year more than 300 new members have been added to the order. Eighty-three have been reinstated, and sixty-five joined by certificate from other jurisdictions. Seventy-seven members have withdrawn by certificate, nine have been expelled and fifty-one have died. There are at present in the province 137 primary lodges, one district lodge, fifteen county lodges and thirteen royal scarlet chapters.

Reference was made by the grand secretary to propagation work done during the past year, also to the magnificent manner in which the provincial grand lodge and subordinate lodges celebrated the "glorious twelfth" in St. John last summer, the demonstration being one of the finest ever seen in that city or province. The statement was also made that the gathering would have been larger but, owing to the railways being unable to accommodate them, many who had intended to participate, were not present.

During the afternoon session an address of welcome to grand lodge was presented by the three city lodges—Nos. 62, 39 and 8—and also from Westmorland county lodge. Both of these addresses were replied to by acting Grand Master Smith.

In view of the recent sad accident on the I. C. R. at Belledune, causing the death of a member of one of the city lodges, the Grand Lodge, by unanimous vote, decided to adjourn for two hours tomorrow afternoon and take part in the procession at the funeral of Robert Geldart, victim of the accident.

At the evening session Mayor Reilly and Ald. Whelpley and Charters, representing the city council, visited the Grand Lodge and presented an address of welcome to the delegates, to which Rev. A. A. Rideout replied.

At the evening session it was ordered that a letter of sympathy be spread upon the minutes and sent to the bereaved relatives of Robert Geldart, I. C. R. brakeman, who passed away yesterday of injuries received at Belledune last Saturday morning.

During the evening a delegation from the Ladies' True Blue Orange Association was admitted and presented an address of welcome, which was fittingly replied to by Rev. B.H. Thomas and David Hipwell.

After consideration of reports and transactions of routine business the lodge adjourned at 11 o'clock till tomorrow morning.

NOVA SCOTIA COAL MINE ON FIRE

Stellarton, N. S., March 15.—The back slope of the Acadia Coal Company's mines at Stellarton is on fire, and the outlook is serious. For some time there has been a fire in an overlying slope, and operations have been going on in the back slope below and parallel with it.

CHICAGO POLICE AFTER BOOKMAKERS

Chicago, Ill., March 15.—Two hundred and forty-one handbooks were raided and twelve hundred persons were arrested by the Chicago police gambling squad in the last six months according to figures gathered yesterday by Chief of Police Steward. Besides the police confiscated several hundred telephones and racing sheets.

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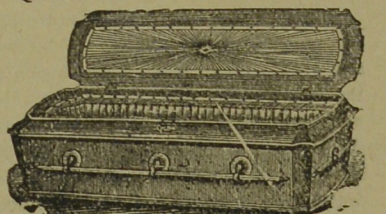
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