

LOOKS SUSPICIOUS

Very Sudden Death of Col Hewitson of Doak Settlement.

HAD BEEN DRINKING HEAVILY IN NEWTON LEE'S DIVE

And Expired While on His way Home in a Carriage.

AN INQUEST TO BE HELD TONIGHT BY CORONER SEERY.

Col. John Hewitson, a well known resident of Doak Settlement came to his death on Saturday evening under sad and rather peculiar circumstances. The affair has created quite a sensation about the city, and all sorts of stories as to the cause of his demise are in circulation. The police have been working upon the case and up to the present time have not made any discoveries which would warrant the belief that the Colonel's death was the result of foul play, though circumstances have been disclosed by them which call for a strict investigation on the part of the higher authorities.

It seems that Colonel Hewitson had the reputation of being a heavy drinker, and when in liquor it was customary for him to spend a good portion of his time at a rather notorious dive on Westmorland street kept by Newton Lee. He put in an appearance at this place on Friday morning, and did not leave until nine o'clock on Saturday evening, when he was carried out unconscious and died very soon afterwards, while being conveyed to his home by a team from Macpherson's stable.

The team was engaged by one John Johnson, a well known character who makes his home at Lees. He visited the stable at nine o'clock, and informed Wellington Gerow, the manager, that Col. Hewitson was at Lee's in an intoxicated condition and that he wanted to get a team to drive him to his home. A horse and buggy was got in readiness, and a colored employe of the stable named Silas McIntyre was detailed to do the driving. Johnson handed over to Mr. Gerow, the price of the team two dollars, and then returned to Lee's accompanied by Mr. Gerow. The latter informs the Herald that when he entered the place he noticed Hewitson lying on a table in a room in rear of the bar and he appeared to be in an unconscious condition. When the team drove up to the door a moment later, he was picked up by Lee, assisted by Johnson, and carried out and placed in the buggy, and McIntyre was instructed to take him to his home at Doak Settlement. Mr. Gerow, after seeing the team off, repaired to his home and did not learn of the Colonel's death until the following morning.

McIntyre, in an interview with the Herald, stated that about all he knew about the matter was that he drove the Colonel from Lee's place to his home, and found him dead when he got there. He does not know for certain whether the man was alive when he placed him in the wagon, but is inclined to think that he was. Hewitson never spoke to him on the way down, and he did not notice anything wrong, other than the effect caused by liquor, until he went to assist him from the buggy. McIntyre seemed to be quite excited over the incident when he returned to the stable, and stated that he would be more careful who he went driving with next time.

Coroner Seery accompanied by Police Sergeant Phillips and City Marshall Roberts visited Doak Settlement, Sunday morning, and after making an examination of the body the coroner decided that an inquest would be necessary. A jury has been empanelled and drove down this afternoon to examine the body.

Lee Interviewed.

Newton Lee was seen at his place of business this morning by a Herald representative and talked very freely regarding the unpleasant affair. He said that Col. Hewitson generally called on him when in town, especially when under the influence of liquor. He dropped in to see him on Thursday of last week, and remained there for a couple of hours. He had evidently been drinking quite heartily, and only remained in the place a short time. He came back on Friday morning, and did not leave until he was taken away in a team by McIntyre on Saturday night. He imbibed considerable liquor, but did not during his stay in the place, eat anything except part of an oyster stew, which Johnson went out and got for him. About three o'clock on Saturday after-

noon he complained of feeling unwell, and a bed was made up for him on a table in the back room. He was made as comfortable as possible, but seemed to grow worse instead of better. Along towards nine o'clock, Mr. Lee says, he became alarmed and thought of calling in a physician, but being afraid that the Colonel would not approve of that, he concluded that the best plan would be to send him home. He then woke the Colonel up and asked if he had not better order a team, to which proposition, he says, the Colonel assented. Mr. Lee is confident that the Colonel was alive when he placed him in the buggy, but thinks that he may have expired soon afterwards.

John Johnson, who holds out at Lee's place, corroborated the story told by Lee, and added that the Colonel gave him the two dollars which he paid for the team. Both men declared themselves willing to go before a coroner's jury and tell all they know of the affair.

It is supposed that the Colonel's death was due to heart failure brought on by excessive drinking. There were no marks of violence found upon the body, but there is a suspicion that he may have been given a dose of knock-out drops or something of that sort at Lee's place. When the Colonel came to town on Thursday he is known to have had about \$50 in his possession, and less than \$10 was found in his pockets on Saturday evening. This circumstance, no doubt to some extent influenced the coroner in his decision to hold an investigation.

The remains were viewed this afternoon by Coroner Seery and a jury, and the coroner has decided to hold an inquest this evening at his office. The jury is composed of R. H. Boone, J. H. Smith, J. C. Harding, D. J. Stockford, Chas. Scully and J. W. Vanjoy.

The late Col. Hewitson was 61 years of age and an Englishman by birth. He was sent out to this country at the time of the Trent affair, in 1861, along with Capt. Thomas McKenzie and ten others to act as drill instructors to the militia. He was for several years, previous to this, a member of the Second Queen's Regiment, and retained his connection with his corps until 1868, when he retired with the rank of sergeant. He made his headquarters at Fredericton and acted as instructor to Capt. Simonds and Capt. Marsh's companies of volunteer militia. Quite frequently he visited Woodstock and Oromocto and instructed volunteer companies at those places, and he also acted as clerk to the adjutant general of New Brunswick. After confederation he assisted in organizing the York Provisional Battalion, and was given command of the same with the rank of major. When the provincial battalion was merged into the 71st in 1869, he retained the command and was granted the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was placed on the retired list in 1871 and was succeeded by Col. John L. Marsh.

Col. Hewitson was regarded as a good drill instructor, and his word of command was faultless, but he did not always employ methods calculated to make him very popular with the timid volunteer of those days. Many persons now prominent in the business and social life of Fredericton, received their first military training at the hands of Col. Hewitson.

The deceased was a prominent member of the Orange association, and was known as a stalwart Britisher. A widow, five sons, one of whom is a member of the Northwest Mounted Police, and three daughters survive him. The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon with services at the Cathedral at 2.30 o'clock. Interment will be made at Forest Hill, Undertaker R. B. Adams officiating.

John D. Burns of Halifax is a guest at the Queen hotel.

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