

MORASH'S DEATH.

An Inquest Being Held On the Body by Coroner G. J. McNally.

MRS. MORASH AND DR. BRIDGES ON THE STAND.

Evidence Rather Conflicting on Some Important Points.

The enquiry into the cause of the death of Private Charles Morash, of the R. C. R., was commenced by Coroner G. J. McNally and a jury on Saturday afternoon. The testimony of two witnesses was taken after which a postponement was made until this afternoon.

Dr. J. W. Bridges.

Surgeon of the R. C. R., testified that he was called to see Private Morash at 9.30 a. m. on the 26th. Found him with his head on his hands over a washstand, and a large pool of blood. Placed him on his back and made an examination of the wound. A bullet had entered beneath his chin, blackening and scorching the flesh. It penetrated the left side of the tongue knocked out one or two teeth on left side, penetrated bone to left orbit, lacerated left eyeball, penetrated left lobe of brain, and made its exit through the skull about an inch back of the forehead. The skull was raised and shattered and the patient was bleeding from brain, orbit and mouth, and was also spitting blood. A cartridge shell was taken from a rifle found in the room and handed to witness. The room where the shooting took place was about 12 x 10 feet. Morash said nothing to witness. D. Vanwart assisted in binding up the wounds. Found a bullet hole in the centre of the ceiling. Deceased was in his shirt and trousers. Thought the shooting took place ten or fifteen minutes before witness arrived. The patient was removed to the Victoria hospital and afterwards transferred to the military hospital, where his wounds were again attended to. He lived until 10.30 o'clock on Friday night, when he died from the effects of the wounds.

To a jury witness said he asked Morash for an explanation, and he said the shooting was accidental. He did not hesitate or equivocate in making the answer. He said he put the cartridge in the rifle to shoot a gull—thought he was rambling when he said that. Witness knew Morash to be a drinking man, and had since the shooting heard that he was addicted to the morphine habit. He had his boots on when witness was called in after the shooting. He was a prisoner at large at the time, and had broken out of barracks the night before to go to his home. He had the reputation of being an excitable fellow when drinking. Thought it possible for him to shoot himself while cleaning the rifle. Cartridges are not usually issued to the men, but can be obtained or held from rifle practice.

Mrs. Mattie Morash,

widow of the deceased, testified that her husband had complained of cramps on the morning of the 26th, otherwise was as well as usual. When he came home on the night previous witness thought he had been drinking. He had been drinking on the previous Saturday, but attended to his duties. He got up about six o'clock on the morning of the shooting and left the house for a short time. He said he did not feel well and ate no breakfast. He cleaned up part of his things for parade before breakfast. He did not say anything about going to the hospital, but thought he would fall out from the parade if he felt bad. Witness was in the kitchen by the table when the gun was discharged. Was in the bedroom three or four minutes before this, when the deceased said he would have to hurry as it was nearly parade time. The door between the kitchen and bedroom was partially open when the shooting took place. The last time witness saw deceased before the shooting he was near the window with a cloth in his hand, polishing the rifle. He asked me if I knew where the new pull-through was, as he did not want to use the old one, and I replied that I did not. Did not find the new pull-through, so if any was used it was the old one. Deceased was partly leaning against the wall near the window and partly down when I entered the room, after the shot had been fired. The rifle was lying on the floor in front of him. I said "Oh Charles," and ran for help, being alone in the house at the time. Witness then went

to the door and called in some of the neighbors, telling them there was an accident. Mr. Smith the blacksmith, was one of those to respond. Witness entered the bedroom in advance of him. Met her husband near the bedroom door, and said, "Charles, Come lie down." He then came into the next room and laid down on a sofa. He was bleeding badly at the time, and moaning. I asked him how it happened, and he said, "I don't know, I was cleaning it." He then got up and went out to the sink in the kitchen, bleeding all the time. Thought he was in the kitchen when Doctors Bridges and Vanwart came. They examined him and said he would have to go to the hospital. The deceased cleaned his rifle every morning before parade. The week before he said he had a good mind to shoot some dogs. He afterwards took the rifle and went to the door to shoot cats, but witness dissuaded him. Witness did not know the rifle was loaded at the time. Thought deceased had some cartridges which he brought home from camp last fall. While in the hospital deceased told her the shooting was an accident, and she firmly believed his statement to be true. Am positive he was in his stocking feet when the shooting took place. Her husband was near the window when he fell, and the cleaning implements for the rifle were near him. She knew he was a prisoner at large at the time. He ate no breakfast on Tuesday morning, which was unusual for him. Had no family troubles on that morning, and deceased was in a good natured mood.

This concluded the witness' evidence and the enquiry was adjourned until this afternoon.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH.

Verdict of the Coroner's Jury in the Bruce Wheary Case.

The inquest over the body of the colored boy, Bruce Wheary, commenced by Coroner McNally, on Friday was finished at noon today, when the jury after due deliberation, returned the following as their verdict:

We, the undersigned jurors, summoned to enquire into the death of James Bruce Wheary, unanimously agree that the said James Wheary came to his death through opium poisoning, unwillingly administered as follows:

The deceased James Bruce Wheary, had been suffering from dysentery; that his grandmother, Margaret Ann Wheary as a medicine remedy, had administered what she supposed to be a dose of an extract of wild strawberry, said extract of wild strawberry having been taken from a bottle containing the drugs of opium; the original bottle containing said extract of wild strawberry, having some two months previously become accidentally broken the said extract of wild strawberry, was at that time removed to the bottle in which were the remains of the drugs of opium.

That the said drugs of opium became concentrated with the said Extract of Wild Strawberry to a sufficient degree as to cause the death of the said James Bruce Wheary, to whom said Extract of Wild Strawberry had been administered on Thursday, the 28th day of May, 1903.

(Sgd) C. A. Tupper, Foreman.
Wm. Cooper
D. E. Crowe
Fred Crowley
W. H. McGinn
G. W. McEwen
Alonzo Staples

WITH MILITARY HONORS.

Remains of the Late Private Morash Interred in the Rural Cemetery.

The remains of the late Private Charles Morash of the Royal Regiment, who met a tragic death here last week, were buried in the rural cemetery on Sunday morning with military honors. An impressive funeral service was conducted in the barracks yard at nine o'clock by Rev. Dr. Roberts in the presence of the officers and men of the corps, the band rendering appropriate selections. The remains were borne to their last resting place on a Maxim gun carriage, draped with the Union Jack, and drawn by a detachment of the late comrades of the deceased. A firing party of thirteen men, in command of Sergt. Miles, with arms reversed, led the solemn procession, and next came the band, playing the funeral march. The officers and staff sergeants and sergeants of the corps and the brother and widow of the deceased were the chief mourners.

The route of the procession was by way of Queen and Smythe streets and Government Lane, and the sidewalks on both sides for a good portion of the distance were thronged with people.

After the remains had been lowered into the grave the buglers of the corps sounded the "posts," the customary three volleys were fired into the air by the firing party and all was over. Undertaker John G. Adams had charge of the arrangements.

Genuine Castoria always bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Castoria, she kept her health.

LOST.

Lost by the subscriber, on one of the city streets yesterday, a large sized silver lated hat band, belonging to a horse. Finder will confer a favor by leaving the same with
GEORGE W. ADAMS,
Undertaker.

Ft'on, May 30th, 1903—d21

NOTICE.

Tenders for Stone and Brick in the old Deaf and Dumb Institution on the Bedford property, (so called), will be received at the Department of Public Works, Fredericton, until MONDAY, June 1st, 1903.

C. H. LABILLOIS,
Chief Commissioner.

May 20—d11

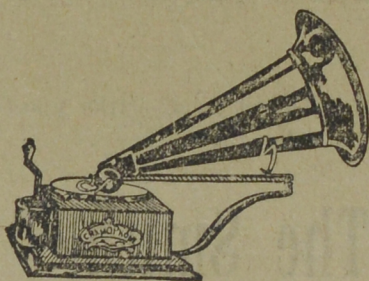
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