

LOOKS LIKE MURDER

Suspicious Circumstances Attending the Death of Isaac Oulton.

AN OLD HERMIT OF DOUGLAS AVENUE, ST. JOHN.

Thos. Gillespie and His Son Held as Witnesses.

(Special to the Daily Herald).
St. John, April 24.—A post mortem examination was held on the body of Isaac Oulton this morning, and the report will be submitted at the inquest this evening.
A spike has been found with blood stains and hairs attached. There are no other developments.

Isaac G. Oulton, the Douglas avenue St. John hermit, was found dead in his bed at his home between 9 and 10 o'clock last night, says the Telegraph, under circumstances extremely grave. The indications point to foul play, for two bad wounds, evidently not self-inflicted, were found on his left temple and over the left eye, while a little later his house was found afire and the body, was partially burned.

The first notice the public got of what Oulton's old home contained, appeared about 10.20 o'clock, when an alarm of fire came in. The North End fire department responding, saw smoke streaming from the doorway of the old house. The door was battered in, and an entrance made to the rear room. The hall was thick with smoke, impeded with rubbish and furniture. Breaking into the rear room the firemen clambered over heaps of odds and ends and discovered Oulton's bed. The old man's body was lying face downward on the mess of bed-clothes. One leg hung over the edge, the other was supported by a chair.

He was turned over and it was immediately ascertained that he was dead. Fire was blazing at the foot of the bed, the bed clothes were commencing to catch, and the old man's trousers were also afire. The fire was stamped and pounded out, a Salvage Corps stretcher was procured, and on this the body was hurried to the Salvage Corps wagon.

When out in the street, in the light of lanterns, the body was a horrible and repelling sight. His blood-smeared face had been covered with an old woollen night-cap. On his feet were a pair of ragged socks. His dark, patched trousers with the coat were commencing to smoulder. From the left hip a piece of cloth had been burned off, disclosing the literally cooked flesh. His arms were slightly bent upwards, the hands near together, the fingers bent. The body was removed to Undertaker Chamberlain's rooms and the remnants of the fire were put out.

The circumstances surrounding the case are mysterious. The last people presumably to see Oulton alive are Thomas Gillespie's family, 50 Elm street. Gillespie is married and is an axe helper in Campbell Bros.' establishment, Smythe street. The house he lives in belonged to Oulton, who has been in the habit of taking his meals at his tenant's home. According to Mr. Gillespie, Oulton had his supper last at his home on Tuesday evening. Yesterday morning, Gillespie states he went to work and knocked off at about 3.30 o'clock p.m.

Oulton had not been to breakfast or dinner and when supper time came he was also missing. Fearing the old man was ailing, Mr. Gillespie had a meal for him put up. This he carried over to Oulton's house and sought to gain admission. The door was locked. There had been a system of signals arranged between Gillespie and Oulton such as so many knocks on the door and these were all practised but unavailingly. This was about 7.45 o'clock. Finding an entrance impossible, Gillespie returned home, and, procuring his son, Thos. Gillespie, jr., and Willie Marshall, went back to the house.

This time they had brought a key. They all proceeded inside and discovered the body of Oulton lying face down on the bed with both legs hanging over the edge. Gillespie lifted one leg, and placed it on a chair. He saw at once that the figure on the bed was a corpse. He and the boys then went outside and locked the door. Gillespie then proceeded to Dr. Roberts' office, notifying him that Oulton was dead. This was five minutes to ten o'clock. The boys had gone home.

Dr. Roberts, as soon as he was informed of the death, informed Gillespie that it would be necessary for him to remain in the office until the police arrived, when all would proceed over to the house.

The police were telephoned for and Gillespie acquiesced in the doctor's request.

In about twenty minutes an alarm of fire came, at which Dr. Roberts and Gillespie reached the street just in time to see the firemen coming around the corner, and dashing up Douglas avenue. Oulton's house is on the right hand side of the avenue, a little two story, ramshackle, advertisement plastered shanty.

Dr. Roberts and Gillespie entered the house with the firemen. Along a passage about 40 feet was a door to the right, which led into a squalid, wretched apartment, which, when the smoke had finally drifted out, was found to be heaped with portions of bed iron, scraps of furniture, clothes, and morsels of almost every ordinary article which one could reasonably hope to accumulate. At the further side of the room a bed (though in name only) supported the motionless form of the hovel's miserable occupant. After the fire had been extinguished a brief examination was made of the body.

It was turned over and then was seen a spectacle which horrified even the most steady nerved and stout-hearted men amongst the firemen and crowd generally. On the left temple, rather high up, was a deep dent in the almost bald skull. Over the left eye was a fearful gash, while the entire cheek was swollen and discolored. Congealed blood hid the depth and extent of the wounds, while from the open mouth issued a gush of blood.

The body when taken to the undertaker, and was viewed by the coroner and Dr. Scammell. Nothing of value was found in the clothes nor was any money found in Oulton's house.

In the meantime Gillespie, his son and the Marshall boy were locked up at the police station to await developments.

In regard to the origin of the fire there is much comment, but no theory volunteered. After Mr. Gillespie with the boys had left their home on Elm street to find out why Oulton would not appear, Mrs. Gillespie anxiously awaited their return. About ten o'clock she left her home to see for herself what was keeping them. At this time Mr. Gillespie was being detained in Dr. Roberts' office and the boys who had gone elsewhere were not met by Mrs. Gillespie.

Passing along Douglas avenue she soon came to the little vacant lot which faces the main street side of Oulton's house. A window from the house looks out on the lot. Through this window Mrs. Gillespie could see flames, and as she ran nearer could see smoke filtering through the crannies and cracks in the old hall door. This door was locked. Mrs. Gillespie alarmed the family next door and about this time Officer Corbett, seeing the fire, sent in an alarm. Thus far there is scarce any tangible reason as to what caused the fire. When Mr. Gillespie, with the boys, visited Oulton's rooms between 8.30 and 10 o'clock, there was no sign of any.

The blaze when discovered, seemed to have started in the vicinity of Oulton's bed, the bottom of which had partly burned away. An old stove was in the room but in this there had been no fire.

One peculiar looking wound which gives rise to the opinion that Oulton had been lying dead for a considerable time, was a gnawing on his little finger. At least it had the appearance of having been chewed by some animal. According to two men, Oulton was last seen alive by them on Monday afternoon. In the city, he was observed to enter the Bank of New Brunswick in the afternoon and again later he was seen wheeling a truck of rubbish along Main street.

From the nature of Oulton's wounds, it seems that they were inflicted by a heavy, blunt instrument.

Old man Oulton has been a resident of St. John beyond the memory of most middle-aged citizens. He was in California in the mining days of '49, and it is generally conceded that if he accumulated wealth it was during his sojourn in the gold fields. For years he petered along living in his old hovel on the avenue. Anything he could pick up which appeared to his liking and which he could get, came eventually into his possession.

While in conversation with a Telegraph reporter at the police station, Gillespie said that he had known Isaac Oulton for about the past 20 years. "He was a man," said Gillespie, "that kept his business very much to himself. I collected the rents from different places for him and they were all of small amounts which I handed over to him. He was a peculiar old man and if he has money it is in a place that you or I don't know." Gillespie said that he did not know anything of Oulton having any money in the bank.

85c. One More Opportunity.
They have just received at Edgcombe's another case of those black sateen skirts, which were such wonderful value at 85c. Don't fail to embrace the opportunity. They will be on sale tomorrow and Saturday.—d.

Medicine Bottles as Gods.

A lady missionary in Burma some time ago gave the following account of how she was the innocent cause of the worship of medicine bottles having been instituted. In one of her tours she came upon a village where cholera was raging. Having with her a quantity of a famous pain killer, she went from house to house administering the remedy to those attacked and left a number of bottles to be used after she had gone.

Returning to the village some months subsequently she was met by the head man of the community, who cheered and delighted her by this intelligence: "Teacher, we have come over to your side. The medicine did us so much good that we have accepted your god."

Overjoyed at this news, she was conducted to the house of her informant, who, opening a room, showed her the pain killer bottles solemnly arranged in a row upon the shelf, and before them the whole company immediately prostrated themselves in worship.

Sugar Cheap.

G. T. Whelpley is still selling 25 pounds of the best fine granulated sugar for one dollar.—d.

FOR SALE OR TO LET.

That self contained and commodious dwelling on Charlotte street just above the school at present owned and occupied by the subscriber. Heated by furnace, has bath room with hot and cold water and all other modern conveniences. Possession given any time after 1st of May next.
JAMES CRANGLE.
Fredericton, Feb. 5.—dtf.

LOANS ON MORTGAGE.

I have been instructed to obtain safe investments in amounts from \$200 to \$5,000, for parties desiring the lowest rates of interest. Easy terms available to right parties. All applications will be promptly passed upon.
ARTHUR E. STAPP, Barrister.
April 12—d&w3mos.

ESTATE NOTICE.

All persons having any claims against the estate of Henry E. Sypher, late of the city of Fredericton, deceased, are requested to file the same duly attested, with Havelock Coy, Barrister-at-Law, of the said City of Fredericton, within three months from this date and all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the said Havelock Coy.
Dated this 31st day of March, A. D., 1902.
JARVIS G. SYPHER,
Sole Executor of the last will and testament of Henry E. Sypher, deceased.
April 2—d&w3 mos.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that the first general meeting of the "Maritime Combination Rack Company, Ltd." will be held at St. Mary's in the County of York, in the Province of New Brunswick, in the office of the McFarlane-Neill Manufacturing Co., on WEDNESDAY, the thirtieth day of April instant, at four o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of organizing the said Company, the election of Directors and the transaction of such other business as may be legally brought before the meeting.
Dated April 12th, 1902.

JOHN PALMER,
JAS. S. NEILL,
A. J. GREGORY,
EDWARD MOORE,
T. SHERMAN PETERS,
GEO. ARMSTRONG,
R. S. R. MURRAY,
R. W. McLELLAN,
FREDERICK A. JONES,
WM. G. CLARK,
Provisional Directors.

April 14—d&f

MEN WANTED.

The undersigned wants men to work on his Prince Edward Island Railway contract. Parties wishing to go will be furnished a free passage to the work, providing they remain or three months.

For information apply to
THOMAS NILES,
Fredericton Steam Laundry,
or by letter addressed to
WILLARD KITCHEN,
Orwell, P. E. I.

March 5—dlmow6wks

COMING

ATTRACTION.

.. THE ..

Westminister Abbey Choir

Assisted by

MADAME MARIE HOOTEN,

.. AT THE ..

Opera House, APRIL 28th

Tickets on sale at McMurray's Book Store.

Carpets, Linoleums, Oilcloths, etc.



.. AT ..

TENNANT, DAVIES & CLARKE'S

If you are after unequalled values in Carpets, Oilcloths, Linoleums, Rugs, Mats and Mattings you should see our stock for spring 1902. You will be entirely pleased with them. Our assortment is replete with the latest designs and colorings. Tapestry Carpets, Brussels Carpets, Axminster Carpets, Wool Carpets, Hemp Carpets. Floor Oilcloths, Passage Oilcloths, Stair Oilcloths, Inlaid Linoleums, Linoleums. India Mats and Rugs, Axminster Mats and Rugs, Tecumseh Mats and Rugs. English Wool Art Squares, Canadian Wool Art Squares. Stair Pads, Stair Plates, Pole Trimmings and Poles, Lace Curtain, Window Blinds.

DEVER BROS.

Have just opened a very extensive line of

SUNSHADES !

comprising plain and fancy in black and colored, also a large range of childrens' shades.

Dever Bros.

Gents' Umbrellas at all prices.

IF YOU WANT

The Correct Millinery . . .

.. GO TO ..

MISS S. C. KELLY'S

To fill a popular demand for beauty in Millinery we are offering lovely Trimmed Hats in such a prodigal variety as no other establishment in the city has ever shown. Call and see our Sailor Waist Hats. Imported Flowers and Feathers constantly on hand.

Opp. Soldiers' Barracks, Queen St.

Shoe Dressings.

We have a complete assortment of Shoe Dressings for black and colored shoes. Our entire stock of Tan and Chocolate 25c. Dressings, consisting of Whittmore's and Packard's standard makes,

REDUCED TO 15c.

Packard's 10c. Tan and Chocolate Paste in Tins,

REDUCED TO 5c.

LOTTIMER'S

CASH SHOE STORE, 210 Queen St.

TO LET.

The lower flat of the Peppers house, situate near the corner of Regent and Brunswick streets. Possession given 1st May. Apply to
R. W. McLELLAN, Barrister.
April 16—dtf

WANTED.

To rent, with privilege of buying, a farm near Fredericton. Must have good spring water.
FARMER.
Care Herald Office.
April 1.—w2l