

SENSATIONAL DAY IN COURT.

Higgins Takes the Stand in the Doherty Murder Trial

AND SWEARS THAT GOODSPEED DID THE KILLING.

In the St. John murder trial Friday, Frank Higgins took the stand in his own defence and swore that Fred Goodspeed shot and killed Willie Doherty and suggested that they go to the park afterwards and burn the body.

This amazing accusation caused a great sensation, although it had been expected that if the prisoner testified at all he would throw the whole burden on his companion's shoulders.

Higgins got his opportunity and in a most thorough manner he told in detail of seeing Doherty lying on his back with Goodspeed standing beside him with his smoking revolver in his hand. Without hesitation, with no confusion, with glibness, without a falter, a quiver of the lip or a tremor in his voice he recited his ghastly story.

Deliberately he asserted that Goodspeed as Doherty died, cried: "My God, I've shot him and I'll hang for it," and he saw him lift large rocks and with them pound the upturned face of his prostrate, expiring companion.

His testimony, while not wholly unexpected, still produced an impression profoundly startling.

At 3 12 o'clock Higgins took the stand. He seemed quite composed and told his story without a hitch. He did not once hesitate or become confused, he did not stammer or repeat any words, but with great deliberation of manner kept at the story until he told all he had to tell.

His manner of telling it impressed many with the idea that he had repeated it many times before. His method of telling it was after the fashion of reciting something he had learned at school, for later in the afternoon, when requested to repeat certain passages in his testimony, he did so faultlessly and with unembarrassed readiness.

Higgins' testimony was as follows:—

"My name is Frank Higgins, I am the son of Edward Higgins, of 59 St. Patrick street. I am 16 years old and live with my parents. I knew Willie Doherty and know Fred Goodspeed. I remember the first of August and of Fred Goodspeed calling for me at my house about 10.30 o'clock in the morning. We walked together to the old burying ground, staying there until 12 o'clock. I saw Doherty on Sydney street about 11.15 o'clock when he was going to deliver his father's dinner. While Goodspeed and I were together in the graveyard Goodspeed asked me if I had my pistol and said if I had we would go out to the park that afternoon and shoot birds and squirrels. I said I would go. Shortly after noon I came again with my revolver to the graveyard. Here I was joined by Goodspeed and later Doherty came along, also Harry Kelly and Clifford King. I heard Kelly talking to Goodspeed about Boston and later, Kelly seeing my revolver which was showing from my inside coat pocket, said: 'Put it out of that.' I said I couldn't for I'd no other pocket to put it in.

"When Fred Goodspeed had come along he asked me if I had the revolver, I said I had and Goodspeed asked me to let him see it, also asking me for a few cartridges. "He put a few of them in the chambers, then jumped on a tombstone and pointing the revolver at me said:

"Just look at Harry Tracy!"

"Shortly after saying this he returned the revolver to me. Harry Kelly and Cliff King now went away and Goodspeed said: 'Come, let's all go out to park.' We went down Brussels street and out along Gilbert's Lane, where we met John Baird. Doherty asked him for a cigarette, and shortly afterwards he also asked Goodspeed if there were any girls out round the park. Goodspeed replied: 'A sporty chap like you could get a girl easily.'

"We entered the park through the main gate and walked along the road to the bear den. I left Doherty and Goodspeed watching the bears, while I went down the hill picking berries. Doherty and Goodspeed followed me down and we fooled around in this vicinity for about an hour and a half. Then we went along by the foot of the hill and coming to a white house we saw an old man and a boy in a yard. Goodspeed asked them where Dave Connell's house was. From here we kept along in the direction of the house, but soon turned up a big hill. When we got up we were

about a half a mile behind the park and here we all sat down.

"Goodspeed now asked me to let him see my revolver, stating it would be a good thing to shoot crows with out at Black Rock. I handed it to him and he pointed it at me and also at Doherty. Then Doherty asked for it, and he, pointing it at Goodspeed, asked him what he thought of the things in the chamber.

Goodspeed, smiling, said: 'Sure, my father died eating those things.' Doherty then handed back the revolver to Goodspeed, who put it in his pocket.

We now all got up and walked along through the burnt woods and toward Lover's Lane.

As we went along I had to go into the bushes for a short time, and asked Goodspeed and Doherty if they would wait for me at Lover's Lane. They kept on and said they would.

"I had been in the woods but a few moments when I heard four or five shots, and a yell and heard Doherty cry out: 'Help, Higgle, help!' I rushed out of the brush and saw just a short distance away Doherty lying on his back and Goodspeed standing near with the pistol in his hand. As I ran up I could see Doherty's stomach and chest heaving. I asked Goodspeed if he'd shot him and I asked why.

"Goodspeed said: 'Doherty wanted the revolver, but I refused to give it to him. He tried to take it from me and I pointed it not intending to fire. Ding then started off to get a rock—then I fired the four shots at him.'

Continuing, Higgins said: 'I now ran toward Doherty, but he was perfectly quiet. Goodspeed now said: 'Take this d—d pistol—if you had only kept it this thing would never have happened.'

"I told him he could keep it. He now went over to Doherty and put his right hand over his heart and straightening up, said 'my God he is dead and I'll be hung for it!'

"He then with the butt of the revolver hit Doherty on the head several times six times I think. I caught him in my arms, and tried to hold him until he became calm. "Goodspeed now said, 'Look here, Higgle, if you tell on me I'll swear it was you that shot Willie, for the revolver that killed him belongs to you. I got scared at this and promised I would not say anything, at which Goodspeed put the revolver in his pocket. "He now asked me if I'd help bury Doherty, but before anything was done he got a couple of big rocks and with these he pegged at Doherty's head. I called to him to stop but he didn't seem to care. "We now hustled about gathering sticks, poles, rocks and grass and finally covered the body.

"Then I got a piece of paper which I stuck on the tree that stood near the spot the body was found, so that it might, at some time, be found. Then we came into the park, going along Lover's Lane and down to Gilbert's Lane. We crossed the car tracks and kept along between Brunswick and Erin streets.

"Goodspeed now offered me the revolver, but I said I would not touch it—he could keep it. He said he'd chuck it into the creek and I said 'all right.' We then went along to Sandy Bank and he chucked it in. We now went along the track again at the foot of Brunswick street. I left Goodspeed at the corner of Clarence street, while he kept along up the track toward his home on Mecklenburg street. I got my supper and at 7 o'clock met Goodspeed on Union street. He asked me if I would come out to the park and set fire to the body of Doherty. I refused, but he said 'Well, you come out anyway.' I agreed and we walked down Brussels street and into the park, through the regular entrance. We went up hill, passed the refreshment house, along Military Road and out Lover's Lane.

I stopped here and he went along in the path to where the body of Doherty lay. Presently he returned stating to me that Doherty was all right. We came back to town by way of Lover's Lane.

On Monday morning I walked along the Courtenay Bay track and met him again down near the breakwater where he was fishing. We talked a while and he presently, giving his pole to his younger sister or brother, who was there, asked me to go out to the park again. I agreed and we went right up into the park and out Lover's Lane. I didn't go further, although Goodspeed went into the bushes to have a look at the body. He came back shortly and we started in for town.

On Friday morning succeeding the murder Goodspeed asked me if I'd seen in the paper about a fellow seeing us going out Gilbert's lane on Friday afternoon in company of Doherty. 'We'll have to skip,' said he, 'and if you have not got the money I'll help you out.' I said I had money and then he said:

'Look here, if you tell on me I'll swear it was you killed Doherty.' I then said I was willing to skip the town.

Higgins then told of Goodspeed and himself skipping to Vanceboro, where they were arrested and brought back to St. John, and continuing said: "If Goodspeed says I shot Doherty his word is false. I admit I told Alexander I'd fix him, but I did not say I'd fix him 'too.' I admit that once in the tanyard I told Frank Kelly that when Doherty got out of the Collinan scrape I'd get square with him. I said that, for Doherty had been stealing my hypnotic lessons."

The Cross Examination.

Cross examined by Mr McKeown Higgins said: "I knew Doherty four years. I first knew him when he lived on Brussels street. He was then not working. I was going to school. I chummed along with him the last four months. We would take hypnotic lessons. I was teaching him, telling him what to do. We chummed chiefly to get on to the hypnotic lessons. He said he would give me \$5 if I taught him, and did so. I was with him to Brownville Junction from 21st to 26th of May, a fellow named Billy Holm being with us. While at Brownville, Doherty and Holm left me sleeping in a car, and broke into a store. The first I knew of it was when they woke me about 2 o'clock in the morning. We were chased at Mattawamkeag but Holm was not, for he had left us earlier.

"We did not travel beyond Brownville, and my purpose in going there was to get a ride on the train. The others just said they were going for a trip into Maine. From Brownville, we walked back to Mattawamkeag. We got to Brownville in the first place by riding on the blind baggage car. Nearly all the stuff we got at Brownville was brought to St. John. Willie Doherty gave me a watch and chain. While on the trip, Holm had a revolver and Doherty had a pretty big jack knife. They also carried clubs, for they said they wanted them to protect themselves from 'hoboes.' I did not have any weapon.

I began to get chummy with Fred Goodspeed after he returned from Boston, and I knew he had struck his school teacher. I saw Doherty with a revolver several months before Holm was put in penitentiary. I bought my revolver to shoot crows with, out around Black Rock. I bought the revolver in July at the Boston second hand store. I bought cartridges at Hunter's about a week before the murder. I also bought cartridges in Kee & Burgess'. I was not in the habit of carrying the revolver, but remember showing to Harry Alexander in Opera House alley, a revolver belonging to Holm.

(Continued on Second Page.)

Thos. W. Smith left this morning for Forest, Me., to visit his old friend, C. H. Eaton, of that place.

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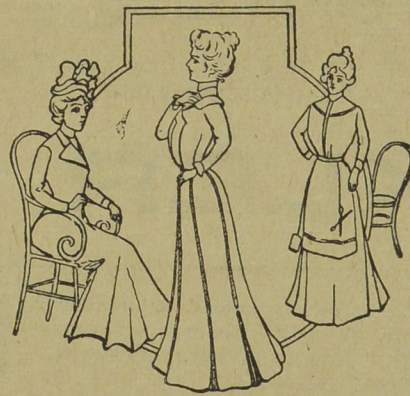
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	Assets.	Surplus.
1893	\$6,453,309.56	\$229,292.86
1894	6,597,336.30	359,783.12
1895	6,797,391.05	435,113.55
1896	7,039,323.43	507,348.19
1897	7,236,555.75	548,321.09
1898	7,544,227.02	574,224.75
1899	7,991,042.63	576,807.50
1900	8,482,038.00	586,040.24
1901	9,013,082.63	607,932.00
	Premium Income.	Total Income.
1893	\$ 964,201.08	\$1,261,930.51
1874	989,552.73	1,296,145.86
1895	1,040,240.77	1,353,713.38
1896	1,107,779.45	1,421,686.70
1897	1,182,965.15	1,525,630.16
1898	1,278,649.29	1,665,430.85
1899	1,444,862.27	1,833,919.16
1900	1,575,176.25	1,959,882.01
1901	1,735,036.06	2,105,141.94
	Notices of Death.	Amount of Insurance in Force.
1893	\$456,000	\$35,914,417
1894	452,628	36,312,041
1895	498,969	36,932,148
1896	418,436	38,086,849
1897	604,811	39,943,575
1898	571,316	42,222,364
1899	600,206	46,054,820
1900	594,110	50,191,853
1901	685,472	52,945,044

From the foregoing tables it will be observed that more than two and one-half million dollars have been added to the Assets during the period outlined, that the Premium Income has increased seven hundred seventy thousand dollars, that the surplus to policy holders has increased nearly three-fold and that over seventeen million dollars more insurance is now in force than at the beginning of the term designated.

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