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VOL. XV, NO. 142. PRINCE RUPERT, B.C., THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1925 Yesterday's Circulation 1575 Street Sales 488 PRICE FIVE CENTS.

## AMUNDSEN REACHES SPITZBERGEN SAFELY

### GILLIS MURDER HORRORS TOLD BY WITNESS AT BAKER AND SOWASH TRIAL

#### Horrors of Gillis Murder on Schooner Beryl G. Recounted by Witness Stromkins to Court

VICTORIA, June 18.—Taking the stand in the trial yesterday afternoon of Owen Baker and Harry Sowash, charged with the murder of Captain Gillis and his son on the schooner Beryl G. last September, Paul Stromkins, the star witness for the crown, piled horror upon horror in the recital of the slaying. So gruesome were the events described by Stromkins, whose boat was used in the hi-jacking of the Gillis craft, that he broke down repeatedly while giving evidence. Twice he collapsed and once he was overcome by a flood of hysterical tears and sobbing.

Stromkins declared that Baker ripped open the bodies of Gillis and his son with a knife so that they would sink after being thrown overboard from the deck of the Beryl G.

When he came to this part of the evidence the witness collapsed; "Oh, my God," he exclaimed, whimpering.

Cross-examined later on this point by counsel for Baker, Stromkins again collapsed, sobbing violently. "Get away from me. You are worse than Baker, asking me all these questions," he shouted at counsel.

Additional testimony offered by Stromkins was to the effect that immediately after the alleged murders had taken place Charles Morrison, the third member of the hi-jacking party now held in Seattle fighting extradition to B.C., had said to witness, as they stood on the deck of Stromkins' boat: "The cold blooded murderers."

Stromkins occupied the stand all afternoon and part of the evening and his testimony was unshaken by cross-examination.

Further referring to hospital finances, President Campbell stated that the matter had been taken up recently with Hon. William Sloan, provincial secretary, with a view to having assistance from that direction.

#### CARS COLLIDE FATAL RESULTS

One Man Killed and Five Seriously Hurt as Result of Trolley Accident Near London, Ont.

LONDON, Ont., June 18.—One man is dead, five lie injured in hospital and scores of others are less seriously hurt as a result of a midnight crash on a suburban railroad. A disconnected trolley caused one car to stop and, while it was in darkness, another car, speeding on its last trip to the city, rounded a curve and crashed into it. Both cars were crowded to capacity.

#### LAUREL WHALEN OFF DOCK AND ADMIRAL SEBREE GOING UP

The floating cannery Laurel Whalen, which has been undergoing cleaning and painting at the dry dock, came off this morning and it is expected that the American steamer Admiral Sebree, which is to have propeller repairs will be taken up about 4 o'clock this afternoon.

#### STEVE DONOGHUE WON RACE AT ASCOT TODAY

ASCOT, June 18.—A. B. Walker's Santorb, ridden by the crack English jockey, Steve Donoghue, won the Ascot gold cup today. Agha Khan's Salmon Trout came second and Lord Astor's St. German third. Six horses ran.

#### SCHOONER AFIRE HEcate STRAITS BEING REPAIRED

The Canadian halibut schooner Ternan, Capt. N. Pederson, caught fire in Hecate Straits yesterday while proceeding to the halibut banks and returned here with a dry dock and, it is expected, will get away for the banks again this evening. Damage was not serious and nobody was hurt.

#### ITALIAN MONEY IS AT NEW LOW LEVEL

In Spite of the Announcement That Mussolini is Ready to Open War Debt Negotiations

NEW YORK, June 18.—While Washington reports stated that Premier Mussolini had officially notified Britain and United States that Italy was ready to open war debt negotiations, the Italian lira today established a new low level on the New York market.

#### Arrests Made in Connection with Kidnapping of Chinese House Boy Janet Smith Case

VANCOUVER, June 18.—On a warrant charging kidnaping of Wong Foon Sing, Chinese houseboy, now in custody on a murder charge in connection with the death of Janet Smith, O. B. V. Robinson, manager of the Canadian Detective Bureau there was arrested last evening by provincial police.

The officers, acting on a search warrant, took possession of the large safe and piles of books and papers found in Robinson's office and removed them to provincial police headquarters.

Prior to the arrest of Robinson, another man named Verity W. Norton was taken into custody.

It is understood that summonses have been applied for implicating several well known persons in connection with the alleged kidnaping.

Many Involved Besides the arrest of Oscar B. V. Robinson, V. W. Norton was arrested in the state of Washington yesterday and brought back while warrants are issued for K. W. Wrighton, who is now said to be in California and who is believed to have been the driver of the abduction car, and William Robinson and his son, Oscar.

Norton and Robinson were remanded for eight days and are now at Okalla.

Summonses, connected with the same charge, were sought by the crown from Magistrate McQueen of Point Grey against David Paterson, president of the Scottish societies; John Murdoch, Point Grey chief of police; H. P. McCraney and H. O. McDonald, Point Grey police commissioners; A. S. Matthews, former official of the Scottish societies; J. S. Cowper, editor of the Weekly Tribune, and Sergeant P. Kirkham of the Point Grey police.

It was disclosed that Wong was held captive at 3443 Twenty Fifth Avenue, West Point Grey, in a house rented through agents to parties who later returned the key and disappeared. Detectives visited the place and found, bored through the floor, holes which had evidently been used to secure the chains which were fastened to the Chinaman.

#### Raold Amundsen and Party Returned Today from North Pole Flight to Spitzbergen

NEW YORK, June 18.—The North American Newspaper Alliance today announced that Raold Amundsen had returned to Spitzbergen from his North Pole flight. Vernon Prentice, brother-in-law of Lincoln Ellsworth, commander of the expedition, stated that he had received word that all six members of the expedition had arrived safely. The two planes left Spitzbergen on May 22 from King's Bay, Spitzbergen Island, and the ship was told to wait six weeks for him.

#### Wong Foon Sing Declares Was Hanged by Captors

Tells of Treatment Received while Held in Captivity after being Kidnapped

VANCOUVER, June 18.—The Vancouver Sun this morning publishes what is said to be "Wong Foon Sing's own story of his abduction" in which the statement is made that the Chinaman was actually hanged by abductors after repeated unsuccessful efforts to force him to tell the circumstances under which Janet Smith met her death and the incidents preceding the tragedy.

According to the story, the Chinaman described the incidents from March 29 until he was released on May 1. Wong was unable to say where he was held but he described the circuitous route of the automobile ride after being seized by three masked men. He believed he was kept within the boundaries of the municipality of Point Grey all the time.

Threatened With Revolver Describing the treatment received, the Chinaman claims he was threatened with a revolver several times after being put in chains and finally, after fourteen days' inquisition was taken to an upper floor of the detention place where he saw a rough scaffold hanging from a beam while above was a rope with a noose.

Again being asked to tell all he knew, the Chinaman claims he informed his keepers that he knew nothing, whereupon they put him on the chair, fixed the rope over his head and again offered him the chance to confess. Failing to secure the confession, the Chinaman declared that one man pulled the chair from under him and he lost consciousness, remembering nothing more until revived by a man he described as a doctor. After this it is presumed the captors gave up efforts and after a time released him.

#### Big Tourist Party here on Wednesday Express Surprise at Conditions in the North

Prince Rupert proved very interesting to the 129 members of the Gottfried-Krueger Association and their families of Newark, New Jersey, who were in town yesterday aboard the steamer Princess Mary, Capt. A. H. Rippon, on their way to Alaska on an eight day cruise.

The Krueger Association is a political-social club and one of the most prominent members of the party was Dr. C. F. Kraemer, metropolitan port commissioner of Newark, who is taking the opportunity afforded by the tour to make an official inspection of Pacific coast harbors and ports. Naturally enough, he was interested to see the development that is going on in Prince Rupert—the newest seaport on the Pacific coast and one with a most roseate future.

The Itinerary The party has already had an extended tour through the United States and at Seattle it was taken in charge by the B.C. Coast Steamship Service of the Canadian Pacific Railway for the trip to Alaska. The party will visit Lake Bennett and on its (continued on page six)

#### Urges Development of Railway and Port and Defends Elevator Here

President of Board of Trade writes to Ottawa Journal setting forth Industrial Position and Refuting Fallacies

The president of the Board of Trade, G. W. Nickerson, has sent the following letter to the Ottawa Journal in answer to criticisms of the elevator expenditure here: After reading the arguments advanced by those sponsoring the vote for the Prince Rupert elevator, I am not surprised at the abundance of criticism raised in the House, and by the press. Failure on the part of those who should have furnished the information prompts me to offer, through the courtesy of your paper, some facts which I believe justify its construction.

All of those who spoke in opposition, stressed the fact that there is an additional two hundred miles of haul to Prince Rupert as compared with Vancouver, but the government speakers neglected to inform the House that by reason of superior grades and curves (in spite of the longer haul) a train of equal size can be pulled from Jasper to this port as cheaply as to Vancouver, and this notwithstanding that our westbound tonnage was only about one twentieth as against Vancouver. By reference to the monthly statistical reports, issued by the Canadian National system, these figures can be verified. Further, probably 70 per cent of the west-bound traffic on the Vancouver division goes for export, while ours was practically entirely for local consumption.

It is regrettable that those who spoke in favor of the elevator failed to quote eastbound traffic data. While I have not been able to get the figures from official sources, according to figures quoted by Sir Henry Drayton, the total freight tonnage, originating in British Columbia, handled by the Canadian National system in 1924, amounted to 496,727 tons, and from figures obtained locally, it appears that of this amount approximately two hundred thousand tons originated in the Prince Rupert division bound east. It is reasonable to assume that the Vancouver division should have produced at least one hundred thousand tons of westbound freight, therefore, it follows that our eastbound traffic was greater than that of the southern division.

We also sent out about thirteen thousand tons in express shipments, which is a much greater revenue producer than freight, consequently it is a fair assumption that our passenger train came closer to meeting expenses than that on the Vancouver division, which is truly a wonderful showing.

Half Originated Here It is worthy of note that out of 4,182,579 tons of freight originating in British Columbia, handled by all railways, the Canadian National got only 496,727 tons, of which nearly half originated in this division. The people of Canada must realize that approximately \$100,000,000 of their money is invested in that portion of the Canadian National system from Jasper to Prince Rupert. Notwithstanding our limited population, the figures available show that we have been able to produce, from the resources along this line, more tonnage than has (continued on page two)

#### FALSE CREEK HAS ANOTHER BLAZE

Arbuthnot Mill and Auto Top Plant in Flames This Afternoon

(Special to Daily News) VANCOUVER, June 18.—A general fire alarm was sounded this afternoon from False Creek where the Arbuthnot mill and auto top plants are in flames.

#### BODY WAS FOUND SHOT THROUGH HEAD

VICTORIA, June 18.—Louis Ebert Baker, found shot through the head at his home here last night with a revolver lying beside the body.

#### CIVIL SERVICE SALARIES UP

Large Sum Set Aside for Increases: B.C. Gets Good Appropriations at Ottawa

OTTAWA, June 18.—In the supplementary estimates brought down yesterday in the House of Commons by Hon. James Robb, acting minister of finance, the largest amount was one of \$1,297,340 providing for salaries, reclassifications and increases in the civil service, including an amount required to cover the provision of the recent order in council revising the salaries of the lower grades. British Columbia received \$221,200 for public buildings, the second largest of the amounts awarded to the different provinces for this purpose. She also was given the fourth largest award for harbors and rivers, the amount being \$175,650.

#### BROTHER USMAR GIVEN 5 YEARS

Convicted of Manslaughter in Connection with Scalding of Boy at Orphanage

MONTREAL, June 18.—Rene Devleschouwer, known in religious life as Brother Usmar, was convicted of manslaughter in connection with the fatal scalding of Hector Galarneau, aged 8, at the orphanage of Puerbeau last January and was this morning sentenced to five years imprisonment.

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