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EVIDENCE IN INDIAN CASE

Port Essington Indians Quarrel and One Uses Axe on the Other

CONFLICTING STORIES

Domestic difficulties and a long standing grievance between the attacker and the attacked played a part in the case according to evidence that was presented yesterday afternoon in the trial of Arthur Stewart of Port Essington who was put on trial on two counts of unlawfully wounding David (Peg Leg) Douglas at Port Essington on April 21 last. The counts were, first, wounding with intent to murder and, second, with intent to do grievous bodily harm. The case was the last on the docket of the present assize court session. It was commenced at 3:30 yesterday afternoon and was still proceeding this morning. L. W. Patmore acted for the crown and Milton Gonzales for the defence.

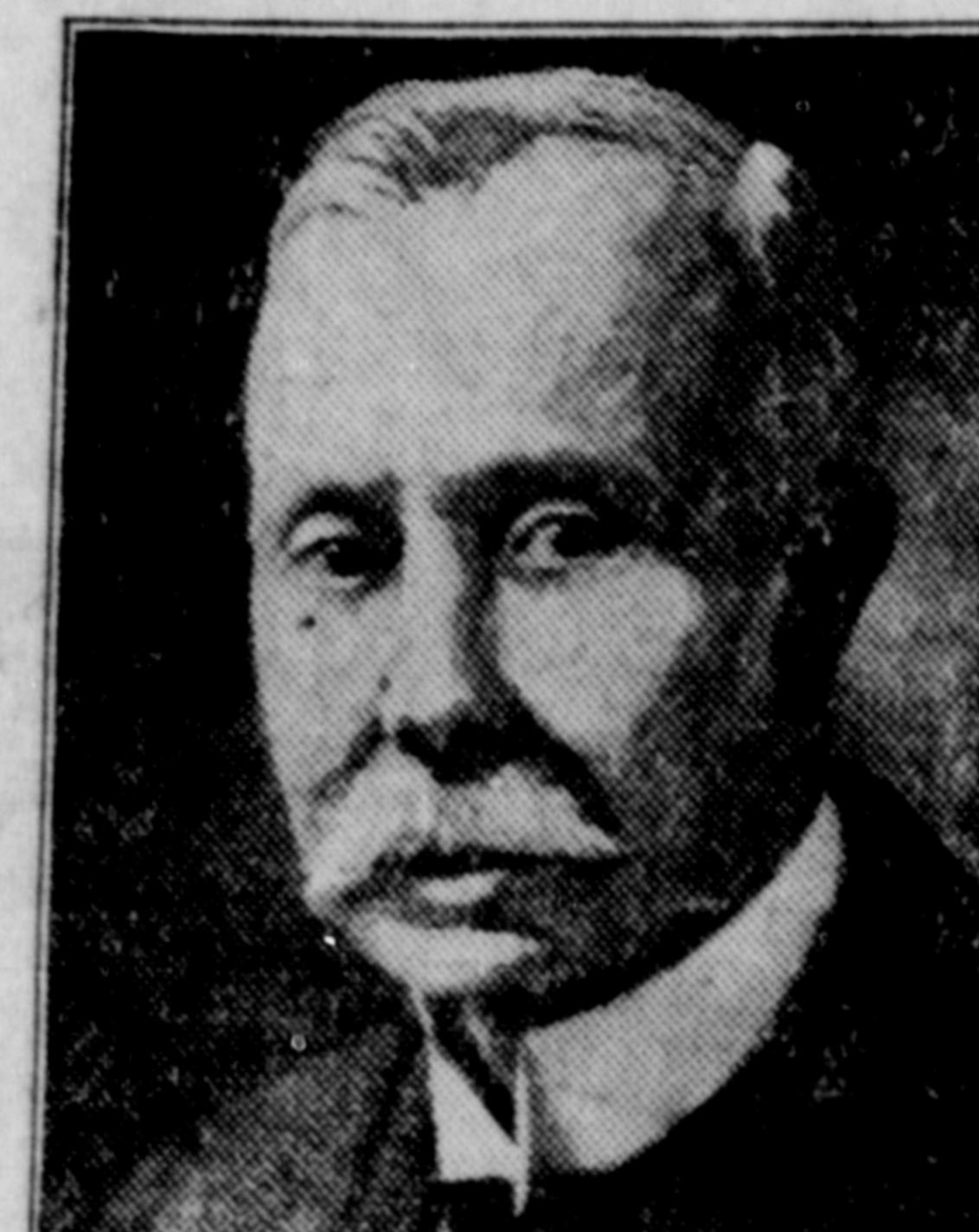
The following jury was empanelled after the accused had pleaded not guilty: R. E. Benson (foreman), J. Harris, J. E. Dyer, Howard Steen, J. J. Gillis, G. W. Rudderham, W. H. Sherman, F. C. Gilhuly, J. Naylor, H. F. Glasssey, S. Wood and A. T. Parkin. The defence challenged M. McArthur, F. W. Wesch and J. W. Exley and the crown stood aside. W. H. Montgomery and R. G. Cunningham.

Crown's Case

In outlining the case for the crown, Mr. Patmore stated that the evidence would show that there had been bad blood between Stewart and Douglas. When he was wounded, Douglas was bailing out a canoe that had been made by him but which had been used by the accused. Accused came along a high sidewalk above the beach and asked Douglas if he was going to use the canoe to which Douglas ans-

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"Fruit-a-tives" bring relief from Chronic Constipation



MR. FRED LUDLOW

"For a great many years, I was a martyr to Constipation and Indigestion; nothing I tried ever did me any good. I was induced to try "Fruit-a-tives" and they brought relief with the first tablet; and by taking this splendid medicine at regular intervals, I suffer no more. I CAN NOW EAT ANYTHING WITHOUT FEELING THE SLIGHTEST PAIN OR DISCOMFORT AFTERWARDS."

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wered in the affirmative. Accused went away and returned with a light axe in his hand. Douglas saw him coming and shouted out in fear. Accused struck him on the head with the axe and he was knocked down, becoming unconscious. As Douglas was struggling to his feet, Stewart renewed the attack with the axe and knocked him down again. The first blow, it would be shown, resulted in Douglas losing an eye.

David Douglas was the first witness. He spoke through an interpreter, G. P. Ryan. Witness said he had been born in Port Essington and knew accused for twenty years. He then proceeded to give an account of the attack that had been made on him on the day in question. The canoe he (witness) had built himself for Moses Peak, but the latter had not paid for it. He had not sold or given it to anybody but he and accused had been using it together. As a result of the attack, accused had lost the sight of an eye. Both eyes had been in good condition before. Witness also said that he had a wooden leg.

Long Standing Trouble
Further examined, witness said that Stewart and he had first had trouble in 1914. He had endeavored to stop a row between accused and Mrs. Stewart and accused had threatened to strike him with a sledge hammer. Somebody had taken

LAND ACT.

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JAMES FIELDING STRANG, Name of Applicant, dated May 12th, 1925.

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Laconia June 26, 29, 30, 31, 1925

Athenia June 19, July 17, 29

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THE DAILY NEWS

the sledge hammer away from accused. Late in the season of 1924, accused had charged witness with mixing up with his (accused's) wife. Just prior to the assault in question, accused had again threatened to strike him with an axe but the axe had been taken away from him by Herbert Robertson. This occurred in accused's house when accused had returned from a trip and found him sleeping there.

Mr. Gonzales conducted a lengthy cross-examination of Douglas in the course of which it was attempted to show improper relations between witness and accused's wife. Witness admitted on several occasions living at Stewart's house. He said he had been encouraged by both Mr. and Mrs. Stewart. There were letters between Mrs. Stewart and witness — one of which was apparently intercepted by Stewart. Witness denied that he had at any time threatened to kill Stewart. On the day in question, witness jokingly told accused that he could not use the canoe any more. He thought accused had taken it in a joking way but to his surprise he came back with an axe and attacked him.

Doctor's Evidence
Testifying as to nature of the wounds, sustained by Douglas who had arrived in the city for treatment on the day of the assault, Dr. L. W. Kergin said that he had an injured eye, his nose was broken and he had two or three bruises on his left hip. The sight of the left eye was gone. The injuries had been caused by some semi-sharp instrument, more likely the blade of an axe than the butt.

Under cross examination by Mr. Gonzales, Dr. Kergin said that Douglas' wounds, in the absence of infection, could not have been described as endangering his life. However, it was in a dangerous locality and an inch further would have entered the brain. It would not take a heavy swing of the axe to cause the injuries Douglas had sustained.

Court adjourned at 5:45 until 10 o'clock this morning.

Gave Up Axe
Mary Wesley, sister of the wounded man, was the first witness this morning. She arrived on the scene of the alleged assault shortly after it occurred. Douglas was lying down bleeding and accused had the axe in his hand. Witness' mother was given the axe by accused.

John Wesley swore that he saw Stewart strike Douglas the second time with the axe as Douglas, with his face bleeding, was attempting to rise from the ground. He struck him on the lower part of the back.

Constable R. Gibson told of accused having given himself up. Accused told the officer that it was the first time he had been in trouble and he was sorry. Witness said he had heard of trouble between Stewart and Douglas over Stewart's wife. Accused himself had reported it. Under cross-examination, the witness said that accused had been a good type of Indian. He was religious and, rather than aggressive, was inclined the other way. He had been surprised when he learned he had got in such trouble.

Defence Outlined
In outlining the case for the defence, Mr. Gonzales said he would endeavor to show that accused had on several occasions found his wife and Douglas together under suspicious circumstances. He had complained to the police about Douglas. When accused had attempted to remonstrate with Douglas, the latter had used bad language and picked up a club. At no time did accused attempt violence against Douglas. Accused, when Douglas had insisted that he was going to take the canoe that belonged to accused's son, had taken an axe with a view to smashing it up. Douglas had obtained his injury when he had got between Stewart and the canoe as accused was about to put this intention into effect.

Previous to this, accused had put the situation as regarded his wife and Douglas before the Indian Agent and was expecting a visit from the Dominion constable to look into the affair.

Moses Feak was the first witness for the defence. He declared that he had given the boat in question to Moses Stewart, accused's son.

Moses Stewart, son of accused, in giving evidence, largely bore out the story as outlined by Mr. Gonzales. There had been words between Stewart and Douglas

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over witness' mother. The culminating incident was when Douglas drove accused out of his own house.

Told Own Story
Arthur Stewart, the accused, told his story in a courageous and ready manner and was very clear in relating the incidents. He went at some length into the association under compromising circumstances of his wife and Douglas. Just after the death of Douglas' mother and the day before the funeral, Douglas came to a Salvation Army meeting to repent, accused told the officer to drop it altogether.

But again this year, accused testified, his wife and Douglas had resumed their association. He came to Prince Rupert to see the Indian Agent and had been promised that Constable Watkinson would investigate. In the meantime, he had moved out of his own house when Douglas had refused to go. He had decided to leave the matter to the law.

Wanted Smash Canoe
Relating to Douglas' wounding, accused said that he had gone to the canoe in order to smash it up if Douglas refused to give it over to him. He asked Douglas to do so three times but Douglas had refused. Finally accused said "Keep out of my way, Dave. I am going to smash the canoe." When he was lowering the axe, Douglas rushed in and was hit. Accused had not intended to hit him. Douglas fell down and accused said he did not hit him again.

Under cross-examination, accused said that he was afraid of Douglas in a fight even if he was a one-legged man. The judge asked accused why he had not gone to a policeman over the boat. Did he not think his conduct with the axe was dangerous under the circumstances? Asked by Mr. Patmore why he had not gone to the law with the matter of the boat just as he had in connection with the relations of his wife and Douglas, accused said "It was too early in the morning to take the case to the law."

Following the addresses of counsel and the charge of His Lordship, the jury retired at 1 o'clock this afternoon to consider its verdict.

DICK'S CALCULATION
Father—You are too young, my dear, to marry and leave a good home.

Daughter—But, papa, Richard says that won't be necessary.

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LAND ACT.

Notice of Intention to