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WITCHCRAFT CASE BEFORE COURT TODAY

INDIAN WOMAN ADMITS SHE CAUSED DEATH OF LAD: THREE ACQUITTED

Liard River Indian Witchcraft Case Is Heard Today in Assize Court by Judge and Local Jury

Four men and woman charged with murdering tribesman in far north by leaving him bound and exposed

THREE ARE ACQUITTED BY COURT

Woman named Edie admits tying lad up and later trying to revive him

Certainly no stranger and perhaps never a more sensational case has ever been presented in a Canadian court than that which opened at the Supreme Court Assizes here this morning at 10 o'clock when Big Alex, Dan Loot, Jim Loot, Glem Loot and a woman, Edie, were arraigned on charges of murder in connection with the death at Thirty Mile Bar, Liard River, in March 1923, of Atol, otherwise known as Moccasin. The Grand Jury yesterday afternoon brought in a true bill against all the accused who, like the man alleged to have been murdered, are members of a nomadic tribe of Cassiar Indians. Of a very stolid appearance and unable to speak a single word of English, the men and woman accused still did not seem to realize the seriousness of the charge against them and the penalty they may have to pay if they are found guilty. Their stay of nearly a year at Okalla Prison seems to have had little effect upon them, although there has been some change in their general appearance, perhaps through now being better clothed, since they were in Prince Rupert last fall on their way south. After the jury that will decide whether or not they are guilty of murder was empanelled, the taking of evidence was commenced and the case is still proceeding this afternoon, most of the evidence through the mouth of a woman interpreter who, together with the witnesses, had to be brought out this summer from the remote northern regions. The prosecution is being conducted by L. W. Patmore and E. F. Jones, city solicitor, is acting on behalf of the accused.

Besides the native witnesses, evidence is being given in connection with the case by Inspector T. V. Sandys-Wunsch, R.C.M.P., who committed the accused for trial in the Liard River district last fall after having headed a detachment consisting of Constables Neville and Martin which investigated the alleged murder, traced the supposed perpetrators of the crime and finally brought them to civilization, the journey taking almost three months and 2,500 miles being covered by the officers in its course.

In the native evidence is unfolded a story of witchcraft as still practised by the Indians in the remote northern section of the province. The murdered man was suspected of bewitching another native, Loot, an old tribesman and parent of the accused woman and her brothers. A council was held and, so the story runs, it was decided that Atol must die. Accordingly he was tied up by hand and feet and left to perish on the ice of the Liard River. It is said that the Indians of the north tie up those suspected of practising witchcraft in this manner until the spirits depart. In this case, it being winter, the unfortunate man died after six days' exposure. He was then cut down and buried the body being discovered by the Mounted

(continued on page six)

OBJECTIONS TO POOLEY LEADER

Proposal to Bring Back Bowser to Victoria or Possibly H. H. Stevens

(Special to Daily News)

VICTORIA, Aug. 20—The question of provincial leadership of the Conservative party is one that is once more being discussed. R. H. Pooley has not been a success and cannot ever enthuse the rank and file. W. J. Bowser never led his party to victory but he was a strong leader and many of his admirers would like to see him back at the head of the party.

In view of the possibility that H. H. Stevens may be defeated in the federal contest, if opposed by G. G. McGeer, there is a possibility of Mr. Stevens later being secured for the leadership. The one thing sure is that Conservatives will not be satisfied to continue long under Pooley leadership.

ONTARIO MINES BREAK RECORDS

Net Profits of $1,250,000 Being Realized Monthly by Gold and Silver Properties

TIMMINS, Ont., Aug. 20.—Aggregate net profits of $1,250,000 are being realized every month in the gold and silver mines of Northern Ontario. This is the best on record thus far in the history of mining in this province.

EXPLORATION SHIP ANCHORED AT ETAH

Canadian Vessel Had Not Been Heard From For Thirty Days

ARLINGTON, Ills., Aug. 20.—The Canadian exploration ship, which has not been heard of for thirty days and the whereabouts of which was unknown, is safe at anchor in Etah Harbor, Greenland, according to a wireless message received from the MacMillan ship Bowdoin.

VOYAGEUR COMING FOR OVERHAUL IN LOCAL DRY DOCK

The Canadian Government Merchant Marine steamer Canadian Voyageur is expected to arrive Monday bringing some cargo for this port and as soon as this is discharged she will go into drydock for cleaning and painting.

NEARLY FIFTY MILLION FEET LOGS SCALED

So Far This Year Total for District is 48,863,909 Board Feet

The total measurement of logs scaled since the beginning of the year is 48,863,909 board feet in addition to a large quantity of poles, piles and railway ties.

For the month of July the total was 12,220,201 board feet which was made up as follows:

Douglas Fir	403,669
Red Cedar	2,523,340
Coast Spruce	4,427,742
Hemlock	3,042,087
Balsam	1,210,395
Jackpine	5,823
Cypress	391
Interior Spruce	572,188
Cottonwood	34,566

Railway ties are measured individually and pulpwood fence posts and shingle bolts by the cord, and piles are lineal feet. Detail follows:

Poles	69,550
Hemlock Piles	12,120
Cedar Piles	86,280
Cordwood	298
Shingle Bolts	30
Pine Ties	9,375
Fence Posts	105
Pulpwood	146

GOLD PAN IS PAYING CREEK

Whiting River Reports Exaggerated But Prospectors in Other Parts of Cassiar Get Results

SEATTLE, Aug. 20.—A special despatch to the Post Intelligencer from Telegraph Creek says reports of gold strikes in the vicinity of Shesley at the head of the Whiting River district have been greatly exaggerated. The prospectors who went in there have found nothing worth mentioning. Elsewhere, however, prospectors are meeting with better results.

The despatch says that great excitement reigns throughout Cassiar mining district as the result of recent developments on Gold Pan Creek. It is now admitted that Gold Pan will prove a pay creek and that it may rival Dease Creek as a producer of gold.

VICTORIA HAS NEW MYSTERY

Hydroplane Missing Draws Attention to Probable Smuggling Operations

VICTORIA, Aug. 20—The mysterious disappearance of a hydroplane reported to have capsized at dusk Tuesday near Discovery Island resulted in the suggestion that the island was being used as a base for smuggling liquor and narcotics into the United States, according to information in the hands of the provincial police.

Residents in the vicinity have noticed two large airplanes making regular trips to and from the islands for more than two months past.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are investigating the case.

Discovery Island is close to Victoria, just across a narrow strait from Oak Bay and about three miles from that place. Many of the houses in Oak Bay overlook the islands and people from their windows can see planes or ships approach or leave any of the islands of the group. Chatham Island, the second largest of the group, is an Indian Reserve while at the north end of Discovery is a lighthouse with a resident lightkeeper.

BIRTH.

A daughter was born to Mr and Mrs. Robert Nelson of Metlakatla, at the Prince Rupert General Hospital this morning

Lieut. D. Burke, Ottawa boy, is shown on the ranges at Bisley, where he again competed against the empire's best shots.

Natal Road Foreman Shot Dead by Rancher of District who also Wounded 2 or 3 Men Tuesday

FERNIE, Aug. 20.—George Whiting, the government road foreman, who was shot and slightly wounded in the shoulder in Tuesday's shooting affray at Elk Prairie when Jesse Mansfield, a rancher, shot up the road gang, was shot and killed by Mansfield yesterday afternoon from an ambush.

Whiting was travelling by car with his son from Natal to his home and was just half a mile from home when, passing through a wild bush district, Mansfield emerged from hiding and shot him dead.

Mansfield's hiding place was passed several times during Tuesday night and Wednesday by police, but he made no attempt to molest them, apparently awaiting the opportunity to attack members of the road gang against which he had a grudge.

Mansfield's hiding place was surrounded and last night he was taken into custody by Constable Smith of the Provincial Police, who, although covered by Mansfield's rifle, talked him into surrendering. He was taken to Fernie under escort and is now in jail awaiting a preliminary hearing.

FERNIE, Aug. 20. — Jessie Mansfield, alleged slayer of Geo. Whiting, was formally remanded for eight days when he appeared in court this morning charged with having shot Frank Norstrom with intent to kill and murdering Whiting.

McGEER LIKELY TO OPPOSE STEVENS VANCOUVER CENTRE

VANCOUVER, Aug. 20. The Sun states this morning that G. G. McGeer, K.C., who is acting for the provincial Government in fighting the freight rates case for this province, is likely to be the unanimous choice of the Liberals of Vancouver Centre to oppose Hon. H. H. Stevens in the forthcoming Dominion general election.

Mr. McGeer is not new to politics, he having been in the provincial House for one term.

BOYS' BAND IS STARTED

Bandmaster Has Been Engaged For Six Months and Practices Under Way

At the luncheon of the Rotary Club this afternoon Colonel L. W. Nicholls, who has been instrumental in organizing a boys' band, announced that a bandmaster had been appointed for a period of six months, the salary being guaranteed by the Rotary Club. Practices had already commenced and were being held in the basement of the churches until permanent quarters were ready.

Letters had been sent to fraternal and other organizations in the city asking for co-operation and two had already promised to purchase one instrument each, while the Elks were giving a dance, the proceeds to go to the fund. Several other organizations were considering the matter.

Mr. Nicholls then produced some dance tickets and promptly sold about twenty to members of the organization.

SLIGHT DROP FISH PRICES

No Canadian Boats in Port and One Holds Over Catch Until Tomorrow

No Canadian fishing boats were in today and Americans that sold got lower prices than have been paid for some little time. The Lansing with 14,000 pounds found no bidder and decided to hold over until tomorrow's sale. The Alten, with 62,000 pounds, will deliver her catch at Ketchikan. Following were the sales:

Tahoma, 10,000, at 10.10c and 5c to Booth Fisheries.

Prosperity, 23,000, at 9.80c and 5c to Allin Fisheries.

Alten, 62,000, at 9.50c and 5c to Royal Fish Co.

Hi Gill, 14,000, at 9.90c and 5c to Booth Fisheries.

Gladstone, 20,000, at 9.50c and 5c to Cold Storage.

Hazel H., 18,000, at 10c and 5c to Cold Storage.

Lansing, 14,000, holding over.

TUG IMBRECARIA IS ASHORE AT VICTORIA

VICTORIA, Aug. 20.—Tug Imbrecaria is ashore at Ten Mile Point near here in a serious condition. The tug's wireless failed before particulars of the accident could be received.

MANY FATALITIES

OTTAWA, Aug. 20. — Five drownings, two deaths from automobile accidents were the budget of fatalities in Eastern Canada yesterday.

Three-Year-Old Son, of Liard River Indian Mother Charged with Murder, Loves Policemen

The three year old son of Edie, principal in the Liard River murder case now being tried at the Assize Court here, has become quite a pet with provincial police officers during his stay of the last year in Okalla Prison with his mother. "Billy," as he is nick-named, has, in fact, formed such a strong affection for Sergeant "Bob" Owen that he cries when the custodian of the natives leaves him and he seems to even prefer the company of the officer to that his mother.

He is a bright child and speaks English as well as any white child of his age. Little does he realize, however, the serious charge to which his mother is being called to answer and the consequence that may follow if she cannot answer to it satisfactorily.

Little "Billy," however, has one failing and that unusual in a child of his years. He is a cigarette smoker having apparently been encouraged in the habit by his mother since he reached civilization. Asked what his mother gives him he says "baccy" while he pleads for the weed that may be in use in any persons who are around him.

NO UNIVERSITY CLASS IN CITY

School Board at Meeting Yesterday Decides Against Reopening Grade at High School

There is to be no university class at the High School. The school board at a meeting held yesterday decided not to reopen the senior matriculation class in this city, giving the same reasons that were given personally, the smallness of the class and the need of money.

At a recent meeting of the board, a delegation was present asking that the class be continued and stating that the conditions had changed since the board came to its previous decision. Now there were eight pupils who would attend. The board decided to give the matter consideration.

Chairman Orme announced this morning that the board felt the need of economy in school matters and decided that there was no material change in the local situation sufficient to warrant a change in policy. It had been announced last Christmas that the class would be discontinued and final action on it was taken at a meeting a couple of months ago.

CHARGED WITH HAVING BROUGHT STOLEN BOAT TO CANADA FROM NORTH

Charged with bringing stolen goods into Canada from Alaska, Alex Gallagher was arrested in the city yesterday afternoon by City Constable Alex Macdonald at the request of the provincial police. It is alleged that Gallagher brought a gasboat belonging to the estate of the late Fred Dorey of Hyder to Prince Rupert and then to Alice Arm. The accused claims that the boat belonged to him. A preliminary trial is being arranged.

Advertise in the Daily News

CHINESE BOLSHEVIST LEADER IS MURDERED

Liu Chung Hoi, Finance Minister in Canton Government, Assassinated

HONG KONG, Aug. 20. — Liu Chung Hoi, finance minister in the Canton government, has been assassinated. He was one of the leaders of the Bolshevist element in the government and was closely associated with Moscow.

STOCK MARKET

	Bid	Asked
Dunwell	1.60	1.80
Hazelton	.01¼	.03¾
L. and L.	.29	
Premier	2.09	2.15
Porter Idaho	.18	.22
Silvercrest	.17	
Surf Inlet	.05¼	.06
Terminus	.48	
B.C. Silver	1.20	
Daly Alaska		.24
Indian	.04	.06
Marmot Metals		.15
Rufus		.18
Granby	13.00	
Selkirk	.04	.04½
Howe Sound	20.00	
Gladstone	.24½	26
Bayview	.05	.09½