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THE DAILY NEWS

PRINCE RUPERT - BRITISH COLUMBIA

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News of the Mines

AROUND PRINCE RUPERT

Premier Building for Permanence—Rich Silver Strike on Ruby Silver—Developing Marmot Engineer

Though there have been reports that the property is close to being worked out, the whole operation at the Premier mine, according to reports reaching the city, points even to greater permanency. In place of the buildings that were destroyed by fire a few months ago, larger and better structures have been rushed to completion. Two buildings have been erected to take the place of the four old ones, the new ones being 87 to 110 feet with steam heating and hot and cold water throughout. The new mess hall is one of the finest in British Columbia and has all modern appendages. In the same building is a large gymnasium and library. No. 1 camp, which has always been the headquarters of the mine, is now being dismantled and the whole moved down the hill to Camp. 4 where the old bunkhouse is being converted into offices etc. A new hospital and other buildings are also being erected at Camp 4.

A fine strike of ruby ore, vying with any ore of this kind ever previously seen at Stewart, has been made on the Ruby Silver on Upper Bear River which is being developed under the direction of A. W. Payne Le Sueur. Fine samples which have reached Stewart are said to be representative of nine feet of the vein from which they were taken. A big copper lead has been traced by a series of trenches and the vein has been uncovered in one place to over thirty-six feet in width, carrying quartz with excellent values in gold and silver. In the upper showing values are in copper, gold and silver of commercial grade. Many tons of the high grade ore are reported to be in sight for immediate shipment. The result of this year's development is said to place the property in an outstanding position. A block of treasury stock is already under option to English capital, the proceeds of which will provide adequate capital to place a crew of miners at continuous work to hasten production.

G. H. Bunn, manager of the Marmot Engineer at Stewart, has started a crew to work on the silver-lead lead, which is about 1000 feet higher up the hill than the camp, where the machinery is going in to develop the big copper showings. The silver-lead lead carries good values and will be easily developed. Mr. Bunn started a tunnel on it in the course of doing his assessment work, which he drove 15 feet. This is to be continued into the hill, following the lead and gaining a depth of 300 feet with 100 feet of tunnel. In the meantime a foundation is being graded for the compressor plant near the camp, which will develop the copper lead upon which most of his work has hitherto been done. The old prospect tunnel may likely be abandoned and a new working tunnel driven in approximately the same location.

EVIDENCE IN RIVARD CASE

CROWN WITNESSES TELL WHAT THEY KNOW OF SHOOTING AT STEWART NEW YEAR'S EVE

IT WAS DRUNKEN PARTY

EVIDENCE SAYS THAT ACCUSED WAS DRIVEN TO SHOOTING BY THE MEN VISITING HIM

In the case at the Supreme Court Assizes here in which Henri Rivard is charged with the murder of William Ritchie at Stewart on New Year's Eve with the exception of one witness, all crown evidence was in when the court adjourned yesterday afternoon at 4.55. While there were some marked variations on certain details, the story of the circumstances attending the killing of William Ritchie was generally corroborated by crown witnesses, most of whom, by their own admissions, were more or less under the influence of liquor on the occasion of their celebration of the advent of the New Year. It was the contention of the crown, through its evidence, that Rivard had shot Ritchie, following a brawl in his place, as he was about to leave the premises. That it was not Ritchie but another member of the party and a crown witness, Paddy O'Donnell, to whom accused had mainly taken exception that hectic morning was also suggested. One of the witnesses swore that Rivard had said, as he stood over the body immediately after the killing: "You boys drove me to it." There were evidently no witnesses who actually saw the shooting.

Provincial Constable Potterton of Stewart was again on the stand when court reassembled yesterday afternoon. After some objection by A. M. Johnson, K.C., crown counsel, he was allowed to reply to a question by Gordon Wismer, defence counsel, as to the character of Paddy O'Donnell. Potterton stated that he knew O'Donnell as a drinker, and not so much as a fighter. He knew O'Donnell had been a football player. O'Donnell had been in Stewart four months and had worked a small portion of that time, witness stated. While witness would not say that O'Donnell spent the most of his time drinking, he would say that he would drink whenever he could get liquor.

DRUNKEN BRAWL

Fred Thorpe, machine miner, was one of the party which visited Rivard's place that night. Eight of them went to Rivard's about midnight, were treated by Rivard to drinks and then went away and came back to Rivard's about 2.15. Rivard "set up" the drinks again. Rivard appeared to be perfectly sober although the rest of the party had had some six or seven drinks and some of them were showing the effects. It seemed that Rivard took exception to O'Donnell and said he was going to put him out. O'Donnell started for Rivard and one of them held him back. There was a general melee and O'Donnell went to the floor. Accused then seemed to get very excited and said: "I will put the whole bunch of you out." Then he went out and came back with a rifle. Meantime, witness and O'Donnell were going down the steps and they met Rivard who swung the rifle at O'Donnell. When they had got further down the stairs, Rivard aimed the rifle at O'Donnell who said: "If you do that, Henri, you will be sorry." Witness declared that he had heard the rifle click. Soon after they got outside, they heard a shot. Ritchie had been with the party all evening and had drunk as much as the rest. He was very quiet, however, and did not show much effect of liquor and did not say very much. It was 12 or 15 minutes after Rivard had ordered them out that he heard the shot, witness said. Other members of the party came down after them, stated witness. One of the party had gone back to get O'Donnell's coat, vest and hat which had been left behind. This was before the shot was heard.

INSULTING NAMES

Under cross examination witness stated that he knew of no trouble between Rivard and Ritchie. They were apparparently on friendly terms. Witness admitted that O'Donnell had said to Rivard "You are only bluffing. You would not shoot." O'Donnell had also called Rivard insulting names such as "you French s—of a b—" and a four flusher." Witness was endeavoring to get O'Donnell out though he, apparently, wanted to stay. There was a danger, witness admitted, of the stove in Rivard's place being knocked over in the melee and the building burned down.

Edward Ladel testified that it was he who went back to get O'Donnell's coat, hat and vest. He saw Rivard pointing the rifle down the stairs and had said, "For God's sake, don't shoot." He (witness) assured Rivard that he would take O'Donnell out and see that he did not come back. He heard the shot. Under cross-examination, witness said that he did not think the door was locked when they went to Rivard's place. He had not seen a stove in the big room.

Patrick O'Donnell claimed that he was pretty sober and not quarrelsome when he went to Rivard's place the night of the tragedy. Witness described the furniture of the room in detail, this including a heater. He (witness) was taking a pinch of sugar from a package on the table when Rivard came in and said: "What are you doing there?" Witness replied: "Nothing, just taking a pinch of sugar." Accused had then said: "Get out of here, you s—of a b—" and had hit witness with his right hand. A tussle followed and Rivard, witness said, later hit him on the head with a bottle. Then, again, as they were going down the steps, accused appeared with the rifle at the top of the stairs and said "Get out of here, you s— of a b—, before I shoot." "Go ahead and shoot," witness said he replied, "you will be sorrier than I." Accused swung the gun and hit him (witness) on the back of the head. O'Donnel swore. Witness admitted that he was in a fighting mood by the time he had been hit twice by accused. He, however, left the building. Witness told of a dispite he and Rivard had had some time previous when he had gone to Rivard's to "bum" a drink and was told "you will get no drink here unless you have the money. Get out, you s— of a b—." The next day, witness said, accused had apologized for this abuse and, subsequently, their mutual feelings were apparently of the best.

DENIES MALICE

Under cross-examination, O'Donnell maintained that Rivard had hit him on the head with the bottle. Jim McDonald had not banged his head against the wall in the scuffle. Witness denied that he had discussed the case with Jerry Mulvihill, stating that "if my evidence can hang Rivard, he will hang." He had not called accused insulting names but he had dared him to shoot him. He had not wanted to stay at Rivard's but wanted to get out. Witness said he was outside the place when he heard the shot.

Donald Hugh McLeod stated that he was with the party which visited Rivard's at 2.15 a.m. He had been drinking but he was not drunk. He told of Rivard coming out with the gun stating "I am the boss of this house." When "Boston" (Thorpe) and Paddy were going down the stairs, accused put the gun to his shoulder and he, witness, heard it click. Then Rivard went back to his room with the gun. Later, witness swore, while he was in another room, smoking a cigarette, he heard the gun go off. He went to the door and saw Bill Ritchie stretched on the floor. Henri was in the hallway but there was no rifle in his hands. Witness and Ed. Casey examined the body. Rivard inquired, "Is he dead?" Ed. Casey replied: "Yes, he is shot through the heart." Then Rivard said: "You boys drove me to it." Jim McDonald and Bill Bosence were still in the big room. Sam McMurchie was with witness and Casey, the remaining members of the party having already gone. Witness went for the police officer with whom he returned. He could not recall what Rivard had said to the officer.

Under cross-examination, McLeod reiterated that he had not heard Rivard tell the policeman it was an accident. He was sure Rivard had not said "You boys were the cause of this accident." Rivard had said, "Jesus Christ, you boys drove me to it." Witness told defence counsel he was 25 years of age.

MEMORY THAT CLEAR

The memory of the next witness, Will Bosence, was not very clear although he remembered being in a melee. He had had about fifteen drinks that night and was pretty drunk.

Edward Casey, a withered 71-year old resident of Stewart for eleven years, was tendered for cross-examination. To Mr. Wismer, he denied having thrown the gun out of back door or window into the snow. The only time he ever saw the gun was in the courtroom. He had never told Sam Deschamps that he had thrown the gun away. He had not any knowledge of having ever seen Deschamps. Mr. Justice Gregory inquired how many more witnesses there would be. Mr. Johnson said there would be one more crown witness and Mr. Wismer said there would be two or three defence witnesses. Counsel stated they expected the case could be finished today.

Court adjourned at 4.55 until 10.30 this morning.

The accused evinced considerable though somewhat monchalent interest throughout the proceedings. At times he showed certain signs of nervousness. At other times he smiled from an evidently merrier countenance. A well known man in northern mining camps, and probably about fifty years of age, he was nattily attired in a blue serge suit with white stiff collar and spotless handkerchief peeping from its pocket. At the opening of the trial, he shook hands with his counsel and had a final earnest consultation with Mr. Wismer. He scanned each juror over as the selection was being made, showing considerable interest in this. During the taking of evidence, the accused made notes in the dock and handed these to his lawyer. They evidently contained suggestions as to certain questions that should be asked. Rivard has been in jail since January 1.

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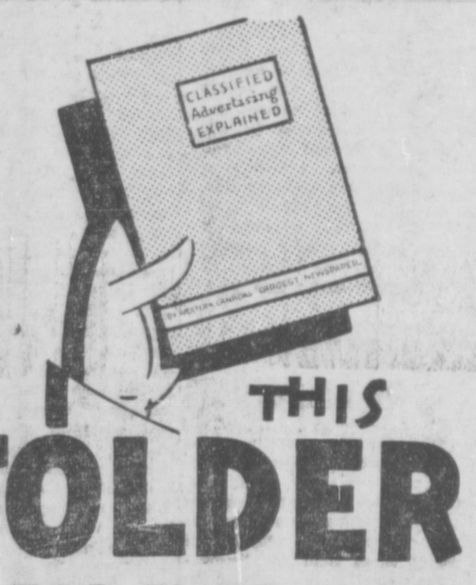
Dated May 28, 1928.



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