

TO HANG THURSDAY MAY 2

'NOTHING TO SAY' SAYS VERMILYEA BEFORE SENTENCE

Assize Judge Urges Condemned Man to Pray For Forgiveness

SPECTATORS EARLY

Special Guard is Placed Upon Prisoner by Gaol Governor

Harold W. Vermilyea was sentenced to be hanged today, on May 2, next by Mr. Justice Nicol Jeffrey at 10.43 o'clock this morning when he appeared for sentence after being found guilty by a jury late last evening for the hatchet slaying of his aged mother in this city on the night of October 4 last.

The stoic calm and unconcern that marked Vermilyea during the past eleven days of his trial here was still evident today as he stood before the judge and accepted the death sentence. Only a rubbing of hands together and a shifting of them from pocket to pocket as the court addressed him, betrayed a slight nervousness apparently felt.

Walks Quickly Out

"I have nothing to say," he replied in a clear voice as he stood up and answered the question directed at him by Justice Jeffrey. Vermilyea's usual slightly ashen pallor lightened as he addressed the court. At the end of the sentence, in the hushed silence that followed, he grabbed the air cushion constantly carried by him into court, turned swiftly and was hurried out of the room under close guard, to his own cell where he will be quartered until the day of execution. On the orders of Governor French, a special guard will be posted in the cell with him from now until the final day.

Sleeps Untroubled

Vermilyea entered court today rested by a sound and untroubled sleep during the night. He had breakfasted heartily upon the same breakfast served other prisoners in the jail, a breakfast of porridge, milk and bread. His meals from now on will be better than the usual fare.

In passing sentence this morning upon the former Ontario, California Fruit Exchange employee and born resident of this county, Justice Jeffrey said:

The Sentence

"The sentence of the court upon you, Harold Vermilyea, is that you be taken from here to the place from which you came and kept

Jury Rejects Plea of Insanity; Guilt Verdict is Found by Jury; Longest Trial in Hastings Ends

Son of Woman Slain by Hatchet Hears Apparently Unmoved Verdict Condemning Him as Matricide

JUDGE PRAISES JURY'S LOYALTY

No Mercy Recommended in Finding of Jury—Defence Polls Jury on Guilt and Insanity—Sentence Deferred Till This Morning at 10.30

Harold W. Vermilyea was last night found guilty of the murder of his 76-year-old mother, Mrs. Aurelia Vermilyea, on the night of October 4th, last with a hatchet. Sentence was deferred until ten-thirty o'clock this morning by Mr. Justice Nicol Jeffrey.

The death sentence under the law is automatic.

Vermilyea's counsel had set up a second line of defence besides the not guilty plea, namely insanity. But the jury found the man not insane at the time of the commission of the crime. The jury's verdict was the single word "guilty." When the presiding judge at the Assize Court received the verdict, he said to Mr. C. A. Payne, K.C., defence counsel, "You know what this means."

The jury had gone out a few minutes after four o'clock, and about four-twenty was called back for instruction on a few matters which had been brought to the attention of the judge of the assize by the chief counsel for defence, Col. R. H. Greer, K.C. About four-thirty the jury again retired, this time not to emerge from their deliberation room until they had reached a verdict.

Some had thought a verdict likely after two hours but the time wore slowly away. The evening meal of sandwiches and coffee was taken into the jurors. The time dragged on. In the court room crowded with spectators, many of them women, there was a lively hum of conversation as usual in a crowd of several hundred persons. Newspapers were being read, people were moving about.

Shortly after nine o'clock there was a little excitement near the jury room door. Usually the jury when about to enter gives a knock on the door which is audible throughout the courtroom. The sound was not heard by many but the guard inquiring and learning what the jury wished to convey, had the Assistant Sheriff, Mr. Geo. Stokes notified, who left the courtroom to enter the judge's chamber. He came out shortly and it was evident that the jury was ready to report.

on the question of insanity.

"Have you anything to say, Mr. Urquhart?" asked the court of the crown prosecutor.

Mr. Urquhart said it was unusual but he offered no objection.

The question was asked of the jurors: "Do you find the accused when he committed this act was not insane?" The twelve jurors agreed that the accused was not insane as they were polled.

Vermilyea Did Not Look at Jury

Vermilyea did not look at the jury. He had perhaps a little more color than usual.

"Anything further, Mr. Payne?" asked Mr. Justice Jeffrey.

"Nothing, my lord."

"Mr. Urquhart," said the judge. "I move the sentence of the court," the crown said.

The court said: "There are certain matters I would like to discuss with you, Mr. Payne before passing sentence and I will adjourn the court until half past ten Tuesday morning."

Judge's Gratitude

A tribute to the jury was voiced by Mr. Justice Jeffrey. "Gentlemen of the jury, now you have disposed

CONDEMNED



HAROLD W. VERMILYEA,

who last night was found guilty of the hatchet murder of his mother, after deliberating four and a half hours.

DOUGLAS WOOD OF NAPANEE, INJURED

Sustained Severe Scalp Wounds, When Hit by Car

Douglas Wood, Napanee, sustained severe scalp injuries, when struck by a hit and run driver three miles west of Napanee on Highway No. 2 about 7.10 p.m. last evening. Wood was picked up in an unconscious condition and rushed to the Kingston General Hospital by Provincial Constable Fred Barrett of Napanee. Wood's scalp sustained a five inch cut from the forehead back and he was bleeding profusely, when picked up.

A police cordon was thrown over the surrounding district when a description of the hit and run car was given the police. Later two Toronto motorists, driving a motor car similar to the one alleged to have hit Wood, were apprehended by the local O.P.P. The men were held by the police over night on suspicion, but further check-up by Constables Barrett and Jillings, O.P.P. of Napanee, revealed that these men could not have been the ones implicated and they were allowed their liberty today.

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED MISSIONARIES BEGUN

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