

# 'NOTHING TO SAY' SAYS VERMILYEA BEFORE SENTENCE

(Continued from page one)

### Justice's Words

Just previous to the passing of sentence, Justice Jeffrey addressed the prisoner as follows:

"Vermilyea, after a fair trial and a long consideration of your case by the jury, they have found you guilty. It would serve no good purpose for me to say anything to you about the nature of the act which you committed. If at the present time you feel no remorse for the commission of the crime, no words of mine can make you appreciate it.

"I do earnestly beseech you to seek the consolation that your religion affords you. It was developed in evidence that you were a good father; you cared for your children and looked after their spiritual welfare. You can ask forgiveness for your sins, and forgiveness will not be denied you."

### Court Room Filled

With every available seat in the court room filled long before the opening today, hundreds of curious onlookers milled about the front steps of the court house. Some had arrived early, waiting since 6:15 a.m. for the doors to open. Special guards under the direction of Sheriff J. D. O'Flynn, found difficulty in stemming the crush and keeping the corridors clear. In the spectators' rows when finally admitted, many women knitted patiently waiting for proceedings to open.

Vermilyea, in the same chocolate-brown tweed suit, with his close cropped iron-grey hair neatly slicked entered as he has entered for the past eleven days of the trial, more composed appearing than the three Provincial Police guards who precede and trail him closely. He entered the prisoner's dock, glanced around at the curious crowd, then seated himself on the air cushion and lolled back at ease, arms on the dock railing.

### 'Just Like a Drama'

A hush fell over the court room as the prisoner toyed with a match end of a bit of wood, cleaning his will kept nails. Last evening as he re-entered the court room he had been more talkative. As he entered the lighted room last night he had remarked in an audible voice which clearly carried to the spectators: "Just like a drama". Today he was apparently not in the mood for talking.

Mr. Justice Jeffrey entered the court room at ten-thirty. He mounted the bench and sat quietly for a moment, rustling some papers. Vermilyea sat down easily as court was officially opened, arms on the railing.

### Convicted Man's Inquiry

"Harold Vermilyea, stand up," ordered Justice Jeffrey.

The prisoner stood erect, placed both hands on the railing and faced the court.

"Have you anything to say?"

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preceded and followed by the three Provincial police guards, was hurried through the court room through the large door, down the stairway to the same double cell in the same block in the south wing which he will occupy until the date set for the execution.

From this time on, careful guard will be kept over the prisoner, it was stated today by Governor G. French of the County Gaol. Since the verdict of the jury had been delivered late last evening, a special guard has been placed in the same cell with Vermilyea and will be assisted by another guard just outside the door.

### Appetite Seems Good

Vermilyea has shown little loss of appetite. Even though laboring under the stress of the final verdict of guilty, early this morning, at six-thirty o'clock he arose, took the first of the day's airing and shortly before seven o'clock a breakfast of bread, milk and porridge, was given him. He ate well, apparently undisturbed. Throughout the night his sleep has been untroubled and during the earlier part of the night had evidenced a desire to chat with his guards. Conversation with the

templated would be made by chief defence counsel, Col. R. H. Greer, K.C., Toronto who so capably conducted the trial since its beginning. He has been assisted by Mr. C. A. Payne, K.C. of this city.

### Continent-Wide Interest

No case in local annals has ever exercised so great interest as this trial on account of the prominence of the victim and the accused, of their relationship, the accusation of the crown that a man had crossed the continent from the Pacific Coast and after the commission of the crime fled by taxicab, train and plane to his California home at which he arrived in little over forty hours after the attack. The interest was accentuated by the rapidity with which the police secured and followed the clue to the west coast and secured the arrest. There was the added interest of the insanity defence, and many other factors including of course the nature of the attack, which shocked the entire province. The interest in the case was continent-wide.

### Officials Praised

appearance at his home two days later he was arrested for the Belleville police by Chief Loch of Ontario, California. Vermilyea waived extradition and came to Canada to stand trial. He arrived here on Sunday, October 31, and was remanded on the charge of murder. After several remands he was given a preliminary hearing which lasted for a number of weeks, the sittings of the police court being held on Saturdays for the convenience of defence counsel, Col. Greer. Vermilyea was committed for trial.

### Train, Train and Plane

It was not established in the trial how Vermilyea came to Canada, but it is presumed by the crown, he came by train as he left Ontario, California on September 25th. Evidence was produced that he was in Toronto on Sunday, September 30th. The crown charged he visited Belleville by night by taxicab on October 1st and October 4th and that on the latter visit he murderously attacked his mother whom, the crown charged he escorted from the house, where she lived to go to the home of her daughter. The crown's contention was that the departure from Belleville to California was by taxicab, to Toronto and to Hamilton, thence by train to Chicago, then to Glendale by airplane, from Glendale to Los Angeles by taxicab and thence in his own car to his home in Ontario, California.

In the nature of the return as charged the trial was one of the most remarkable in Ontario annals of crime.

The trial was the longest criminal trial in Ontario as well as in Hastings County.

The defence set up a not guilty plea and also a secondary defence of insanity.

### His Early Life

Vermilyea born in Tharlow four miles from Belleville spent his early days in that township, attending school, then he attended college here for some years, thence he went to the University of Toronto, graduating in a general course in 1907 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He had a slight impediment in his speech and attended a school for correction of this defect. Then he took a course in business accounting. In school and college he had played a part in sport as a boxer and runner and won a championship in boxing at Varsity. Some years after graduation he went to the Pacific coast to British Columbia, then down the coast to California and at one time was living near the Mexican boundary. He finally settled at Ontario, California. He was married and had a daughter and son. He engaged in the orange plantation business and was a salesman up to a year or so ago. Five years ago he had divorced his wife.

He was last here in 1923 shortly after the death of his father in connection with the probate of his will.

Vermilyea is a well built man weighing about one hundred and sixty pounds and has carried a name as a good dresser.

### His Reaction

During the trial his reaction has not been marked as he has generally sat with his head slightly bowed and looking away from the jury.

A large number of witnesses were brought from the coast and at points along the trip which the crown evidence charged he took on his return trip as well as a number of Toronto hotel employees and

four-year-old brother, also said Belleville assisted Sidney, deceased who those w "Jesus" "Abide were gr Earl W) Albert and Sa The covered made li

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