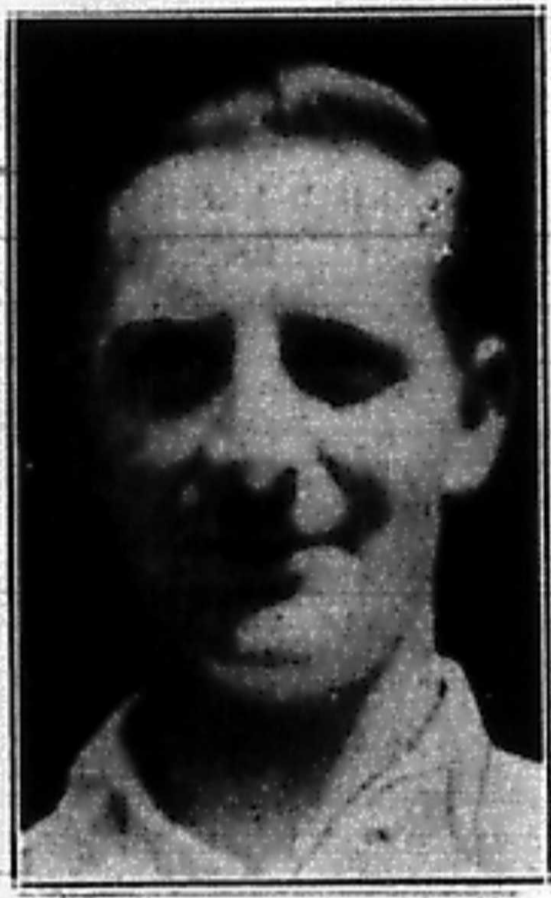


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PAYS DEATH PENALTY



GORDON BLISS

Gordon Bliss Pays Penalty Of Death Today

Is Hanged at 12.30 This Morning for Murder of Mildred Johnson

Displaying no outward signs of fear, apparently emotionally unaffected, Gordon Bliss of Fort William, walked a slow tread from the death cell, about forty-five feet, to the permanent scaffold at the Port Arthur district jail at 12.30 o'clock midnight and expiated the murder of Mildred Susan Johnson, Fort William telephone operator.

Bliss, with his arms pinioned behind his back, was led from the cell to take up a position beside Archdeacon C. W. Balfour of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Fort William, his spiritual adviser, and near to police and officials of the district judiciary, when the walk to the scaffold was commenced. Erect, the condemned man looked straight ahead. Only once did his glance waver in an upward direction as he took his place on the floor of the trap above which a rope, the instrument of execution, was suspended.

TRAP IS SPRUNG

Hangman Samuel Edwards quickly strapped Bliss' legs, then adjusted a black cowl over his head, to be followed by the noose, drawn taut.

As the churchman was in the midst of a prayer, Edwards sprang the trap.

Bliss said nothing as he stood on the trap, nor did he leave any signed statement. Ten minutes after his body hurtled below an aperture in the corridor floor, he was pronounced dead by Dr. W. W. Smith, jail physician.

Following customary procedure, a coroner's jury, which had been summoned to the jail, commenced an official inquest. Dr. Charles Powell, district coroner, conducted the inquiry. Twenty-two witnesses, including jail guards, members of the Port Arthur City Police and the Ontario Provincial Police and the jail surgeon gave evidence of having witnessed the execution.

JUDGMENT CARRIED OUT

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that Gordon Bliss came to his death by the carrying out of judgment of death pronounced by a court. Immediately following return of the verdict, Bliss' body was released to relatives for burial on authority of an order-in-council.

Gordon Bliss spent his last earthly hours with Archdeacon Balfour, who had constantly visited him since his trial in October. Sunday he took his last farewell of his relatives.

His trial at the Fall Assizes in October, when his plea of guilty of the charge of murder was accepted by Mr. Justice Nicol Jeffrey, set a precedent in criminal court procedure in Canada. It was the first time in this country that a trial judge had accepted such a plea, but in doing so Justice Jeffrey warned Bliss of the consequences, stating there could be but one result. The evidence in the case was

Continued on Page Ten

Legislature To Open Jan. 19

Early Session Necessitated by

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FORT WILLIAM MAYOR



DR. B. C. HARDIMAN

Hardiman Wins At Fort William

Has Almost Double the Vote of Nearest Competitor, J. A. Speers

Gaining almost double the total votes of his nearest competitor, Dr. B. C. Hardiman last night was elected Mayor of Fort William with 3,086 votes out of a total vote in the four-cornered mayoralty field of 6,730. Alderman James A. Speers trailed with 1,648, and in third place was former Alderman J. E. Arnold with 1,436. John R. Pattison, Labor representative in the contest, was given only 560 votes. Dr. Hardiman amassed large majorities in three out of the four wards and at no time after the first report was his lead approached.

Yesterday's voting, which was termed by many to be "full of surprises," will also result in the appearance as aldermen of four new men, including retiring Mayor R. B. Pow, who headed the aldermanic poll in Ward Three after serving four consecutive years as chief magistrate; John Gurney, retired railway man of West Fort William, and S. S. Orstad, who is new to municipal politics.

NEWCOMERS WIN

Elections for six seats on the Board of Education saw Roy S. Kirkup and Frank A. Blatchford enter the municipal field for the first time and gain seats while four members seeking re-election were successful. Mr. Kirkup, with 2,289 votes, headed the poll while Blatchford was in fourth position with 1,787. Members re-elected were Hugh Parslow, Robert Carson, I. D. Evans and Mrs. Nellie Howard.

John H. Irwin was returned to serve a three-year term on the Fort William Hydro-Electric Commission by a large majority over J. J. Spooner. In the

Kidnapper Hunt Is at Standstill

Hopes Increase for Safe Return of Charles Mattson at Tacoma

By Associated Press

TACOMA, Wash., Jan. 5.—Hopes for the safe return of kidnapped Charles Mattson increased today even as the hunt for his kidnapper came to an absolute standstill.

The hopeful tone was born of three developments; Dr. W. W. Mattson's request that officers stop hunting for the abductor of his 10-year-old son; another "Ann to Mabel" advertisement indicating establishment of contact; and frequent visits to the Mattson home of men mentioned as possible contact men.

All law enforcement agencies settled down to a "hands off" policy, pending Charles' release. Dr. Mattson kept silent on negotiations, payment of \$28,000 demanded ransom and when he thought Charles might be freed.

He was known to be definitely relieved law enforcement agencies had ceased work until his son's safety was assured. Reports by those close to the Mattsons that important developments were impending bore out rising hopes previously expressed by observers.

Actions of the kidnapper when he entered the house led to a first impression he was criminally insane or possibly a narcotic addict. This theory was subsequently discarded because of the extreme caution displayed and methods used by the kidnapper.

EXTEND DEADLINE FOR BUYING AUTO LICENSES

By Canadian Press

TORONTO, Jan. 5.—Deadline for obtaining 1937 motor car licenses and drivers' permits has been extended to Monday, January 18, it was announced yesterday after a meeting of the Ontario Cabinet.

Owners of commercial vehicles and trailers were given until Monday, February 15, to purchase their licenses, while the due date for public commercial vehicle fees was set at March 31.

ASK WOMEN AND CHILDREN BE MOVED FROM MADRID

By Associated Press

MADRID, Jan. 5.—Defence junta officials pleaded today for women, children and the aged to be hurried from Madrid to places of safety after insur-

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