SIFTON MURDER TRIAL.

Walter Herbert's Sensational Story of the Crime.

Walter Herbert's confession of the part he took in the murder of Joseph Sifton on June 30, 1900, is one of the most cold-blooded in the annals of crime in Canada. When he was called as a witness at the trial in London last week he came into the court room neatly attired, and smilingly took the stand. He was living at Gerald Sifton's on June 30, 1900, he said, the day Joseph Sifton met his death. On the morning of that day he went to Joseph Sifton's place with Gerald, at the latter's request.

"What did you go there for?"

"As a witness. Gerald Sifton asked me to go there as a witness, if anything should occur connected with the doing away with his father. He told me he had laid out to do away with him. The first time he told me of it was that morning. He said he would give me $1,000 to act as a witness, if anything should happen to his father, if the thing was done"

"If what thing was done?" asked Mr. Riddell.

"If he did away with his father. He wanted me as a witness for him if anyone should come along and say it was foul play. He said that morning he laid out to go down and put up a track for a hay-fork, and when his father would be working on it he would knock him out of the end of the barn where the hole was."

STORY OF THE CRIME.

Herbert then told how he had accompanied Gerald to Joseph Sifton's, after first ascertaining that the old man had not married Mary McFarlane.

"Gerald went into the house," continued Herbert, "and told me to drive to the barn, which I did. Gerald came out with an axe in one hand and a coil of rope over his shoulder. The rope was to fix the track for the hay-fork. He told me to bring up the wrenches and hammer to fix the track, and I brought them up into the loft. There was a ladder up to the loft, and a trap-door at the top. Gerald emptied the tools from the bag and took the hammer in his hand, throwing the rope into the mow. He handed me the axe. 'Now,' he says, 'you stay right here, and when the governor comes up you hit him with it, and if you don't it will be all up with you." Then he went to the end of the barn and crawled along the beams and knocked off some boards, and when the governor came up I hit him on the side of the head with the axe, on the right ear. Then I caught him by the collar of the coat. Then Gerald came over and said, 'You old ——, I'll learn you to try and fool me.'

"He got the axe and hit him three or four blows on the top of the head. Joseph Sifton tumbled back and his feet and legs caught in the ladder, and his body hung there. Gerald told me to pull him out. I did so, and Gerald pulled him up and hit him three or four more blows. Then he said, 'Come on,' and I took him by the legs and he by the head and threw him into the mow. Gerald wiped the axe on a bunch of hay and hit him three or four times on the head. Then Gerald took him to the end and threw him out of the opening he had made."

HERBERT HIT FIRST.

"Who struck the first blow?"

"It was me. I was standing on the south side of the hole, and Joseph Sifton was standing on the ladder. When I hit him his head went to one side. Gerald Sifton came from the end of the barn and took the axe. There was blood all over Joseph Sifton's head. I helped lift him over the beams and throw him out. Gerald threw the axe after him. When he was on the ground Gerald told me to put his feet out more to the west and I did so. Gerald called to me, "Take the axe and hit him some more, because if he comes to there will be —— to pay." I hit him twice. Then Gerald told me to put the axe down beside the body, and I did so. Then I went to the barn door and saw Mary McFarlane. I told Gerald, and he told me to tell her that the governor had fallen out the end of the barn, and nearly killed himself. I did so, and she said, 'Oh, is it done?' And I said, 'Don't say that, Mary.' Gerald told me to go over to Mr. Sinclair, and tell him, and I told him and Mr. Decker that the governor had fallen out of the barn. I went to Canon Richardson's and told Mrs. Richardson and the hired girl the same story."

After telling of Gerald Sifton's movements after the crime, Herbert said:—"The morning of the arrest Gerald Sifton told me not to be afraid, that he had everything fixed. He had been down town to see the lawyers, and told me to keep up a good spirit. He did not know at that time that I had told the whole story."

Herbert stood Mr. Johnston's cross-examination well, and retired from the witness stand with his story practically unshaken.

Mr. Johnston kept up the cross-examination. He has, from Dr. McNeill and others, got information to show that Joseph Sifton was a rash, impetuous man. Dr. McNeill said that, a few months prior to his death, he had treated him for an accident, the old man having fallen from a windmill. He was repeatedly having falls of this kind. But the greatest triumph of the defence was gained when Dr. McNeill distinctly stated that he was still of the same opinion regarding the death of Joseph Sifton as when he gave the burial certificate.

"What caused the change of opinion which you had in July and August?"

"The will partly, and the way people talked; but, considering all these circumstances now, I adhere to the opinion I held when I granted the certificate."

THE CHANGE OF FRONT

by the doctor came as a surprise, and the impression on those present could not help but be noted.

Mary McFarlane, the servant girl on the Sifton farm, was asked if Joseph Sifton had not been warned of danger from his son. The defence objected, and the judge sustained the opposition. She proceeded to give some important evidence regarding the will and what Sifton had told her about a will. She said that repeatedly Gerald Sifton and his wife had urged her not to marry the old man Sifton. The complete evidence of Mary McFarlane, as given to Mr. Riddell, differed little from that given before. She told of her relations with Joseph Sifton and the appearance of the old man after the accident. She said that Gerald Sifton had offered her $1,000 on her wedding day, and promised that she should live with them until that time. To Mr. Johnston, however, she explained that this offer was made while Joseph Sifton was lying dead in the house, and she and all were crying. Under the circumstances, and because she was treated as one of the family and about to become a mother, she did not consider this very unreasonable.

GERALD UTTERED THREATS

Mrs. Huldah McFarlane, mother of Mary McFarlane, said she had objected to the marriage on account of Joseph Sifton's age. She asked Gerald to call at Rev. Mr. Cooper's and see if they had been married, and Gerald said he would, and if his father had not been married he would put him so he would not be married that day.

On cross-examination Mrs. McFarlane admitted that her memory would not recall the exact words of the conversations that had taken place about the time of the tragedy. Mr. Johnston submitted the witness to a long cross-examination, but did not get any evidence of material value.

Rev. Mr. Cooper said he had an appointment to marry Joseph Sifton and Mary McFarlane at 5 o'clock on that afternoon of June 30, the day Joseph Sifton died. Mr. Cooper's evidence took up some time, but brought forth little that was new.

JAMES MORDEN'S EVIDENCE

James Morden told how Gerald Sifton had asked him to help do away with his father. First, Gerald proposed that they hit him on the head with a club as he passed on the road. Then witness said Gerald proposed to jump into the house at night and choke his father and hang the body in the barn. Gerald said he was going over the next morning to put up a track for a hay fork, and he would find the body and say it was suicide. Witness refused, and although a thousand dollars was offered he still declined to have anything to do with the thing. He asked Gerald why, knowing he was a friend of Joseph Sifton, the project should be broached to him, and Gerald said it was for that reason, no one would suspect him. Then Gerald said he would see Martin Morden, a brother of witness', and asked for his address, which witness gave.

Mr. Johnston's cross-examination has not succeeded in weakening the story told by Morden.

MORDEN'S EVIDENCE.

Martin Morden said that Gerald Sifton had come to his house in London at one o'clock on the morning of the day of the tragedy and bluntly asked him to assist in killing his father. Morden refused. Sifton said that if he would help with the hay fork to be put up next day they could entrap the old man. Morden still refused. "Then I'll have to tackle it alone," said Sifton, and taking a bottle from his pocket with a crystal like liquid in it, he continued, "If it can't be done one way it can in another."

GERALD SIFTON TOLD MORDEN

after the death of his father that he had decided not to do what he had intended. Later he said that he had offered to give $1,000 to James and Edgar Morden to keep quiet, but Edgar wanted a 50-acre farm to keep him quiet.

In the cross-examination of the man the threat of the defence to prove a conspiracy was again faintly brought up. Morden said that he, Edgar and James had, after a long conference, decided to send Martin to deal with Sifton regarding the purchase of the will. "I was to tell Sifton any old thing." Then Edgar Morden and witness were talking in the Sifton barn

OVERHEARD BY EPH. BATHURST

It was of Ephraim Bathurst that Mr. Johnston wanted to prove a conspiracy, when objection was raised. But Mr. Johnston has only indicated a conspiracy so far, and has made no attempt to prove it.

The will left one-third to Gerald Sifton, one-third to Mary McFarlane and one-third to the dead man's two brothers. Martin Morden said that Gerald Sifton had been the first to inform him of the disgrace of Mary MacFarlane, his fiancee, but that had not troubled him, and he turned in that night and slept and was up in the morning as though nothing had happened. He had never gone to Mary MacFarlane to learn whether or not the statement made by Sifton was true.

Before Morden had concluded Mr. Riddell asked Morden if there was any conspiracy. Morden said there was not, that he had nothing to gain in the trial, and that he was willing to tell the truth.

Robert Robertson, a police constable of London, corroborated a bit of Morden's evidence. He had seen Gerald Sifton on the night when Morden says he was looking for him. Sifton had enquired of him for the house where Morden boarded.

DOCTORS ON THE STAND.

Dr. Jento, of London, stated that though the wounds received by the late Joseph Sifton were not inconsistent with a fall, yet the fact that the body was turned over made the fall theory rather untenable.

The evidence of Herbert has, in one instance, done the Crown much harm. Mr. Riddell asked Dr. Jento an opinion on the supposition that Herbert had exaggerated the force of the blows when he said a dozen were dealt by Gerald Sifton upon the head of his father with an axe as hard as a man splitting wood, and what the effect of less forceful blows would be?

His Lordship would not admit the question.

Dr. Jento admitted to Mr. Johnston that blows like those described would produce many fractures of the skull.

Dr. Jento further stated that in the conference of the physicians for the Crown there had been differences. Doctors for the defence would not be talking nonsense if they concluded that all the wounds were produced by the fall. He admitted to Mr. Johnston that twelve or fourteen hard blows with an axe would smash the skull, but to Mr. Riddell said that taking all the facts as he had them he thought that Herbert's story was possibly true. Dr. McLarty, of St. Thomas, said that the story that the wounds were the result of repeated blows was much more tenable than from a fall. He did not believe that a man who had received such injuries could have moved afterwards. Mr. Sinker, a neighbor, stated that when he examined the body immediately after it fell he saw a mark on the left side of the neck below the ear. It was about the length of the back part of an axe.

Dr. Eccles, of London, said that practice had taught him that there were so many exceptions to every rule that he hesitated to make a positive statement on any formed theory. If Joseph Sifton were lying on his side, as described by Mary McFarlane, he would incline to the theory of blows; if on the back, as Sinker described, never.

ONE-THIRD ESCAPED.

Filipinos Surprise Company of U. S. Soldiers.

A despatch from Manila says:—A disastrous fight between United States troops and insurgents occurred on Saturday in the island of Samar, near Balargiga. A large body of insurgents attacked Company "C" 9th Infantry, only 24 members of the company escaping.

All the others are reported to have been killed. The company was at breakfast when attacked, and made a determined resistance, but the overwhelming numbers of the insurgents compelled them to retreat. Of the survivors who have arrived at Bassey, 11 are wounded.

According to the latest returns the strength of the company was 72. The survivors include Captain Thos. W. Connell; First Lieut. Edward Bumpus, and Dr. R. S. Griswold, surgeon.

Capt. Edwin V. Bookmiller, of the Ninth Infantry, reports that General Hughes is assembling a force to attack the insurgents.

The insurgents captured all the stores and ammunition of the company, and all the rifles except 26.

BOTHA REPULSED.

Attacked Two Forts on the Zululand Border.

A despatch from London says:—Under date of Friday, General Kitchener reports that a Boer force stated to be under the command of General Botha, attacked forts Itali and Prospect, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

All is quiet on the Natal border.

Lieut. Miers, accompanied by some South African Constabulary, went out on Sept. 25 to meet three Boers who were coming in with a white flag. After a short conversation, the Boers shot and killed Lieut. Miers and galloped away. The scene of the affair is placed near Riversdraal.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese, &c in the Leading Markets.

Toronto, Oct. 1.—Wheat—The feeling in local wheat circles is rather easier to-day. There were sales of old white at 67½ to 68c, low freights and of new at 65c high, and at 66 to 66½c low freights. No. 1 spring is nominal at 68 to 69c east, to millers. No. 1 Manitoba hard sold at 80c, and No. 2 at 78c, grinding in transit; No. 1 Northern at 78c, g.i.t. From Toronto and west 2c lower.

Oats—The market is easier, with sales of No. 2 white at 34¾ to 35c for export on low freights.

Peas—The market is steady, with sales of No. 2 at 71½c, middle freight.

Barley—The market is firm. No. 1 quoted at 52c, No. 2 at 49 to 50c; No. 3 extra at 48c, and feed at 45c.

Corn—Market steady, with No. 2 Canadian yellow quoted at 54½ to 55c west.

Rye—The market is quiet, with sales at 49c, middle freight.

Flour—The market is quiet. Ninety per cent. patents held at $2.65 west, in buyers' bags, with $2.62 bid. Locally and for Lower Province trade choice straight rollers, $3.10 to $3.25. Hungarian patents $4, bags included, at Toronto, and strong bakers' $3.75.

Oatmeal—Unchanged. Car lots on track here, $3.75 in bags, and $3.85 in wood. Broken lots 30c per bbl extra.

Millfeed.—Bran is firm at $13.50 to $14 north and west, city millers sell at $14.50. Shorts, $16.50 here, and $17 outside.

DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Receipts continue good, with an over-supply of poor qualities. Prices generally steady. We quote:—Selected dairy, tubs, 16 to 17c; choice 1-lb rolls, 18c; second grades, in rolls, tubs, and pails, 13 to 14c; bakers' 12½ to 13c. Creamery solids unchanged at 20c, and prints, 21 to 22c.

Eggs—Market is firm. We quote:—Strictly new laid, 14½ to 15c; ordinary fresh candled, 12½ to 13c; seconds, 9 to 10c.

Cheese—The demand is better and prices firm. We quote—Finest, 10¼ to 10½c; seconds, 9½ to 10c.

HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

Dressed hogs firm at $9.50 to $9.80. Hog products unchanged and firm. We quote—Bacon, long, clear, sells at 12c in ton and case lots. Pork—Mess, $21 to $21.50; do, short cut, $22.

Smoked meats—Hams, 13½ to 14½c; breakfast bacon, 15 to 16c; rolls, 12½c; backs, 15½ to 16c, and shoulders, 11½ to 12c.

Lard—The market continues firm. We quote:—Tierces, 11½c; tubs, 11¾c; pails, 12c.

THE STREET MARKET.

The receipts of grain to-day were smaller. Wheat about steady, with sales of 500 bushels at 73½c for old white and red, and at 60 and 72c for new, the former for sprouted wheat. Barley easier, 1,000 bushels selling at 48 to 55c. Oats also easier, 400 bushels selling at 38 to 39c for new. Rye sold at 54c for one load.

Hay unchanged, 25 loads selling at $10 to $12 a ton. Straw nominal at $10 to $10.50. Dressed hogs, $9.50 to $9.80.

Following is the range of quotations:—

Wheat, old white ...	$ 0.73½	$ 0.00
Wheat, red ...	0.73	0.73½
Wheat, new, red and and white ...	0.60	0.72
Wheat, spring, old..	0.70	0.72
Wheat, goose ...	0.66	0.66½
Oats, new ...	0.38	0.39
Barley ...	0.48	0.55
Peas ...	0.67	0.00
Rye ...	0.54	0.00
Hay, per ton ...	10.00	12.00
Straw, per ton ...	10.00	10.50
Dressed Hogs ...	9.50	9.80
Butter, in lb. rolls..	0.17	0.20
Butter, creamery ...	0.20	0.25
Chickens, per pair...	0.40	0.60
Ducks, per pair ...	0.60	0.85
Turkeys, per lb...	0.11	0.14
Geese, per lb...	0.07	0.08½
Eggs, new laid ...	0.15	0.17
Eggs, held, per doz.	0.12	0.14
Apples, barrel ...	1.50	2.50
Potatoes, bag ...	0.75	0.90
Tomatoes, bush ...	0.40	0.50
Tomatoes, basket ..	0.15	0.20
Cabbage, dozen ...	0.25	0.35
Cauliflower, doz...	0.40	1.25
Celery, dozen ...	0.40	0.50
Beef, forequarters ..	4.50	6.00
Beef, hindquarters .	7.50	9.00
Beef, medium, carcase ...	5.00	6.50
Beef, choice ...	7.00	7.25
Lamb ...	7.50	8.50
Mutton ...	6.00	7.00
Veal, choice ...	7.50	9.00

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, Oct. 1.—Flour—Good demand. Wheat—Spring, little doing; No. 1 Northern, old, 77c; do., new, 74c; winter, firm; No. 2 red, 75c; No. 1 white, 76c. Corn—Steady; No. 2 yellow, 62½c; No. 3 do., 62¼c. No. 2 corn, 62c; No. 3 do, 61¾c; Oats—Firm; No. 2 white, 40¼c; No. 3 do., 39¾ to 40c, and No. 2 mixed, 38c; No. 3 do., 37½c. Barley,—61 to 63c for choice to fancy. Rye—No. 2, in store, 56c. Canal freights higher; wheat 3¾c, corn, 3½c, oats, 2½c, to New York.

Minneapolis, Oct. 1.—Wheat—Cash, 68¾c; December, 67½ to 67¾c; May, 70¾c; on track, No. 1 hard, 71¾c; No. 1 Northern, 68¾c; No. 2 Northern, 66¼c. Flour and bran—Unchanged.

Toledo, Oct. 1.—Wheat—Cash and September, 72¾c; December, 73¾c; May, 76½c. Corn—Cash and September, 59c; December, 58¾c; May, 60c. Oats—Cash and September, 37¼c; December, 37¾c. Rye—54½c. Clover seed—Firm; cash, October, and December, $5.22½; March, $5.30. Oil—Unchanged.

Detroit, Oct. 1.—Wheat—Closed—No. 1 white, cash, 73c; No. 2 red cash and September, 72½c; October 72¾c; December, 73¾c.

St. Louis, Oct. 1.—Wheat—Closed—Cash and September, 70½c; December, 71½c.

Milwaukee, Oct. 1.—Closed:—Wheat—No. 1 Northern, 70 to 70½c; No. 2 do., 68 to 69c; December, 70¼ to 70⅜c. Rye—Steady; No. 1, 54½ to 55c. Barley—Steady; No. 2, 60c; sample, 45 to 58c. Corn—December, 58⅜c.

Duluth, Oct. 1.—Close:—Wheat—Cash, No. 1 hard, 70⅞c; No. 2 Northern, 65⅜c; No. 1 Northern, 67⅞c; September, 67⅞c; October, 67⅞c; December, 68⅜c; May, 72⅞c. Oats—36¼ to 36½c. Corn—57¼c.

LIVE STOCK TRADE.

Toronto, Oct. 1.—Trade was fair at the cattle market to-day, with prices practically unchanged from Tuesday's quotations. There was a pretty heavy run, 70 loads being delivered during the morning, and later in the day 22 loads of Northwest cattle, consigned to Whaley & Macdonald, were delivered. For to-day's market there were 1,000 head of cattle, 1,393 sheep and lambs, 687 hogs, and 60 calves. Export cattle sold at $4.60 to $4.85, a load or two fetching $5. Good butcher cattle still find a ready market at prices from $3.75 to $4.50 for picked lots. Sheep and lambs were unchanged. Hogs steady at $7.37½.

Export cattle, choice...	$4.70	$4.80
Butchers' cattle pick'd	3.00	4.50
Butchers' cattle, med...	3.00	3.00
Bulls, export, heavy ...	4.00	4.00
Feeders, heavy...	3.75	4.00
Feeders, light...	3.25	3.50
Stockers, 400 to 800lb	2.75	3.25
Butchers' cattle, choice	4.00	4.10
Butchers' cattle, good.	3.60	3.75
Butchers' common, cwt	3.00	3.25
do off-colors & heifers	2.00	2.50
Butchers' bulls...	2.50	3.00
Light stock bulls, cwt.	2.00	3.00
Milch cows...	30.00	35.00
Sheep, exp. ewes, cwt..	3.25	3.35
do bucks...	2.50	3.00
Sheep, butchers', each.	3.50	4.00
Lambs, each...	2.50	3.50
do per cwt...	3.75	4.00
Calves, per head...	2.00	8.00
Hogs, choice, cwt...	7.25	7.37½
Hogs, light, cwt...	6.50	0.00

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK.

Montreal, Oct. 1.—The receipts of live stock at the East End Abattoir this morning were: 500 head of cattle, 50 calves, 200 sheep, 150 lambs. There was a good attendance of buyers, and the following prices were well maintained:—Cattle—Choice sold at from 4¼ to 4¾c per lb; good sold at from 3¾ to 4¼c per lb; lower grade from 2½ to 3½c per lb. Calves were sold from $2 to $10 each. Sheep brought from 3 to 3½c per lb. Lambs were sold from 3½ to 4½c per lb. Hogs brought from 6 to 7c per lb.

TERRIBLE DISASTER.

Scores of People Killed by Powder Explosion.

A despatch from Rome says:—An explosion occurred on Sunday in the powder department of the arsenal at Cosenza owing to the carelessness of the armorers. It started a destructive fire, and all the surrounding houses are now in flames. The admiral in command has sent all the available marines from the department of Tarento to assist in fighting the fire. The inhabitants are terrorized and are abandoning the town, and no assistance can therefore be looked for from them. It is believed that over fifty persons have been killed or wounded. A despatch sent late to-night to the Minister of Marine says that the disaster is of the gravest character.

SMALLPOX REAPPEARS.

District North of Lake Huron Again Visited.

Smallpox, which it was thought was thoroughly under control, has made its appearance in Little Current, Howland Township, Manitoulin Island. The first case developed about September 1, but was not diagnosed as smallpox at once, owing to its appearance in a very mild form. Some of those who took the disease first recovered, and were going about their usual occupations without any quarantine precautions being taken.

The Provincial Health Department has ordered that all cases and suspects be quarantined, that vaccination be generally enforced, and other precautions taken.

BOERS LOSE HEAVILY.

Severe Fighting in Zululand Reported by Lord Kitchener.

A despatch from London says:—Gen. Kitchener telegraphs to the War Office that Gen. Bruce Hamilton has inflicted heavy losses on the Boers at Itala, Zululand. The enemy attacked in force. He is now pursuing them.