

Two Violent Deaths Mar Cobalt's Christmas Day

Girl Commits Suicide by Strychnine Poisoning and Man Dies from Drinking Wood Alcohol; Inquest Held Friday Reveals No Definite Cause for Girl's Action

How two tragedies marred the Christmas holiday in Cobalt is told in the following story from the local correspondent of the North Bay Nugget:

"How a 17-year-old girl helped prepare for a Christmas celebration and then went upstairs in her aunt's home and took sufficient strychnine to cause her death in the Mines Hospital less than four hours later, was told to Dr. W. C. Arnold, coroner, of Haileybury, and a jury at an inquest held on Friday afternoon over the body of Eva Guertin, victim of a holiday season tragedy. No motive for the girl's act could be suggested by relatives, although it was stated that she was of a nervous type and given to tears on slight provocation, and the jury returned a verdict of suicide while temporarily under great mental distress.

The police heard of this tragedy only when they went to investigate another Christmas Day death, Sergeant Geo. Delves, of the provincial police force, told the court, and this discovery was not made until some hours after the girl's death, and while the police were at the morgue enquiring into the case of Leonard Kujanpaa, 33-year-old Finn, who died in the hospital from the effects of drinking wood alcohol. An inquest into this death was scheduled for Saturday afternoon but it appeared clear from the enquiries made that Kujanpaa took the stuff under the mistaken idea that it was a sort of corn whiskey. He had been in this country only since last Summer. His wife is in Europe.

Relatives who gave evidence regarding the Guertin girl included her aunt, Mrs. Eva Huard, a sister, Mrs. Jeanette Gagne, and an uncle, Alex. Boucher. None of them know of any reason why the girl should take her own life, and the woman agreed that she had been in good health, although given to fits of nervous depression. The aunt, with whom Miss Guertin had been staying for the past six weeks, said the girl was not liked by an uncle, and while there was some mention made of a man named Morin, a recent acquaintance of the girl's, it was made clear this man had not arrived at the home of Mrs. Huard, 175 Lang Street, until after Miss Guertin had gone upstairs on her fatal mission.

It was when Mrs. Gagne went to tell her sister that Morin had come that she learned Miss Guertin had taken strychnine, which she had found in a bottle containing a quantity of the poison. This stuff, Sergeant Delves said, had been purchased on January 8th, 1929, by Armand Lemay, a former roomer at the Huard home, and he had got the strychnine to poison foxes. When he left, Mrs. Huard swore, the bottle, which originally contained an ounce, had been placed in a punch set, and her niece had been warned not to touch it. Dr. G. A. Schmidt who attended the girl, said she

Goes to India With Viceroy Willingdon



E. C. Mieville, C.M.G., Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, who is going to India with Viscount Willingdon in March, when His Excellency takes over the Viceroyship of India.

had told him she had not known what was in the "brown bottle," and that she had denied having been in any trouble.

Mrs. Huard said the niece had been crying during the afternoon of Christmas Eve, and also, she had been told, while witness was out shopping the same night. On her return, however, the girl was again in good humor, had been down with an uncle to get the Christmas cake, helped to decorate the Christmas tree and had prepared to go to midnight mass. She changed her mind about church, the aunt said, bade the people in the house "good-bye" and went upstairs. Mrs. Gagne followed soon after, and her cry for help when she found her sister, was drowned by the radio. She ran downstairs, met Boucher, who went up at once, only to be told by the girl it was "too late."

Miss Guertin would not take milk offered her at the house, witnesses said, and she was placed in a car and rushed to Dr. Schmidt's office. Here she was given emetics, but subsequently developed convulsions and was sent over to the hospital. She died about half-past three on Christmas morning. Three and a half hours later, Kujanpaa, who had gone blind, succumbed to the effects of the wood alcohol he had taken two days before. The man's condition was not learned until late on Christmas Eve, when he was taken to hospital and Dr. Schmidt called. Information subsequently obtained by the police came from his partner, Y Mannisto, who had been absent from the place where the men had been living when the fatal potion had been taken.

Members of the provincial and local police force spent a considerable part of Christmas Day investigating the circumstances

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Fear Many Lives Lost in Hotel Fire at Cochrane

Proprietor Dies in Heroic Effort to Save Wife and Family as Flames Sweep Queen's Hotel; Ten Known Dead Tuesday and Search May Reveal Many More

At least ten are dead as the result of a fire which swept the Queen's Hotel, Cochrane, in the early hours of Monday morning, and it is feared that when search of the ruins of the building is completed the victims may reach twice that number. The building, which was of brick construction, was completely destroyed and the speed at which the flames eat their way through the entire structure prevented any attempt at rescue when the fire brigade arrived on the scene.

Among the known dead are the proprietor, Charles Palangio, his wife and their four children, ranging in age from two years to 14. The father perished in an heroic attempt to rescue his wife and little sons, after he had succeeded in helping another man to safety, believing that the family had escaped. All had perished before the firemen had arrived on the scene.

From accounts reaching here, the fire had gained great headway before it was discovered, although 15 minutes before it was first seen the town constable had looked into the hotel and found nothing amiss. A large number of men out of work were in the habit of occupying parts of the building, and it is feared that many of these may have lost their lives.

The fire raged from between four and five o'clock in the morning until noon, despite the best efforts of the fire brigade, and it was not till after this that search could be started. The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Palangio and the children were taken from the ruins, together with one or two others, and the work of searching for other victims was proceeding at last reports.

The building stood directly opposite the railway station and it was men engaged in the yards there who first saw the fire. Several other members of the Palangio family, including the father, James Palangio Sr., occupied apartments in the building, but all reached safety except those stated.

It is said that although the building was three storeys in height, there was only one stairway giving egress from the upper floors. Part of the ground floor was occupied by a drug store, which was also destroyed, and a soup kitchen at the rear had been used to furnish meals to the unemployed, many of whom roomed in the hotel, at a reduced rate. James Palangio Sr. operates the only employment office in Cochrane, where the family are old residents.

It is stated that the building had been burned down in 1911, rebuilt and again destroyed in 1916. Following the last conflagration, the basement only was used for a time, later a new

building being erected. A thorough investigation into all the circumstances concerning the latest holocaust is to be made by Magistrate E. R. Tucker, who is also coroner for the district, and it is thought that the Provincial Fire Marshall will be asked to send a representative to the inquest on the victims. Provincial Police took charge of the work of searching the ruins of the building and worked with the firemen in attempting to find the bodies of other possible victims.

Christmas Day Is Date of Lake Freezing Over

Stays Open Later Than Any Fall Since 1923 and Freezes Up in Mild Weather

December 25th, Christmas Day is the date for the ice to form on Lake Temiskaming this year, according to the best judgment possible from this point. This is the latest date for the lake to remain open since 1923, when the ice did not form completely across until December 30th. We have no definite records for the years previous to that, but some of the older residents remember similar occurrences in the earlier years.

For the past two years the freeze-up has taken place on December 8th, in 1926 it was December 4th, the earliest date we have on record, and in 1925 the lake remained open until December 21st. In view of the mild winter weather that the district has experienced so far, it was not expected that the ice would form as early as it did.

The ice formed under rather peculiar circumstances this year, as it was quite mild during the early part of last week. Tuesday afternoon, however, it could be seen that the lake was thickening up and there was no wind. That night a thin layer of ice formed across the wider part of the lake opposite Haileybury and only a comparatively small area of open water could be seen on Wednesday, stretching from Farr's Island towards the wharf here. Thursday morning this had closed in and, although a part of the snow which fell on Xmas Day appeared to meet on the surface of the lake, the ice held and has gradually thickened since that time. It is far from being solid yet, however, and it appears as though it would be later than usual before there will be any possibility of driving across.

Some trampers below Mill Creek on Saturday, in getting water from the lake, found only about one inch of ice near the shore at that point.

Christmas Cheer Fund Helps Forty-Seven Families Here

Number is Greater Than in Past Years, But Sufficient Money is Contributed to Provide for All; Turkey Stag, Rotary Club and I. O. D. E. Large Donors

Mr. Justice Sedgwick



George H. Sedgewick, K.C., who has been appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of Ontario, to fill the vacancy caused by the promotion of Mr. Justice Rose to the position of Chief Justice. Hon. Mr. Justice Sedgewick was born at Musquodibit, Nova Scotia

With sufficient money to provide for all the needy families in town, the committee handling the Christmas Cheer Fund in Haileybury this year packed and distributed a total of 47 baskets. In addition to this two elderly men, whom it has been the custom to remember at the Christmas season, received their usual gifts of pipes, tobacco and one or two other articles.

The number of families where assistance was required is larger than in previous years, but only a comparatively small number. Last year there were over 40.

The committee which handled the fund was chosen from different organizations in town. They got together some weeks previous to the holiday and made their plans, after having ascertained approximately the amount of money that would be available for the work, and as the holiday drew near, arrangements were made for the purchase and distribution of the goods required to make sure that every family in town had plenty of the necessities and some of the luxuries as well. In addition to the amounts subscribed by the three main organizations, individual contributions were invited, but no canvass of the residents of the town was made, as it was considered this was not necessary.

The amount available for the provision of the baskets was \$267, made up as follows: The Knights of Columbus (from the Turkey Stag) \$150; the Rotary Club, \$50; the I.O.D.E. \$25; and from the public contributions, \$42. This was found quite sufficient to cover the cost of the goods purchased and the packing and distributing was all done by volunteers from the different organizations.

The management of Hotel Haileybury provided a room for the packing of the hampers. W. Lemay did the distributing on Wednesday morning and he was assisted in this work by Lieut. Macfarlane of the Salvation Army. The work was well taken care of, there was no overlapping and everything was handled systematically and satisfactorily.

In addition to the work of the Christmas Cheer Fund Committee, the local branch of the Canadian Legion assisted the families of some of the veterans through the means of their shooting matches and in other ways, and it is safe to say that no one in Haileybury missed the Christmas festivities this year.

Lors Carlson is Made Minister in Boys' Parliament

So. Temiskaming Representative Lands in Cabinet at His First Session

Lors Carlson, Haileybury boy who was elected to represent this section of Temiskaming in the Older Boys' Parliament of Ontario, was on Saturday last appointed to the portfolio of Personal Problems by the new Prime Minister, John H. Louman. Mr. Carlson, who is on his first session of the Boys' Parliament, is a well known worker among the younger boys in town and has taken a prominent part in the Tuxis and Trail Ranger movements here for a number of years. He is a student at the Haileybury High School and his friends are all greatly pleased to know that his ability has been recognized in this way.

With Mr. Carlson, as an additional representative of the North Country, is Gordon McKinnon, of Cobalt, who was appointed last week by Rev. Fred Smith, head of the Boys' Work Board in this section. He is one of the ten representatives of the Trail Rangers of the province, chosen to sit in the parliament along with the elected members.

The opening of the Older Boys' Parliament was held on Friday evening last, December 26th, and sessions continued until Wednesday evening of this week.

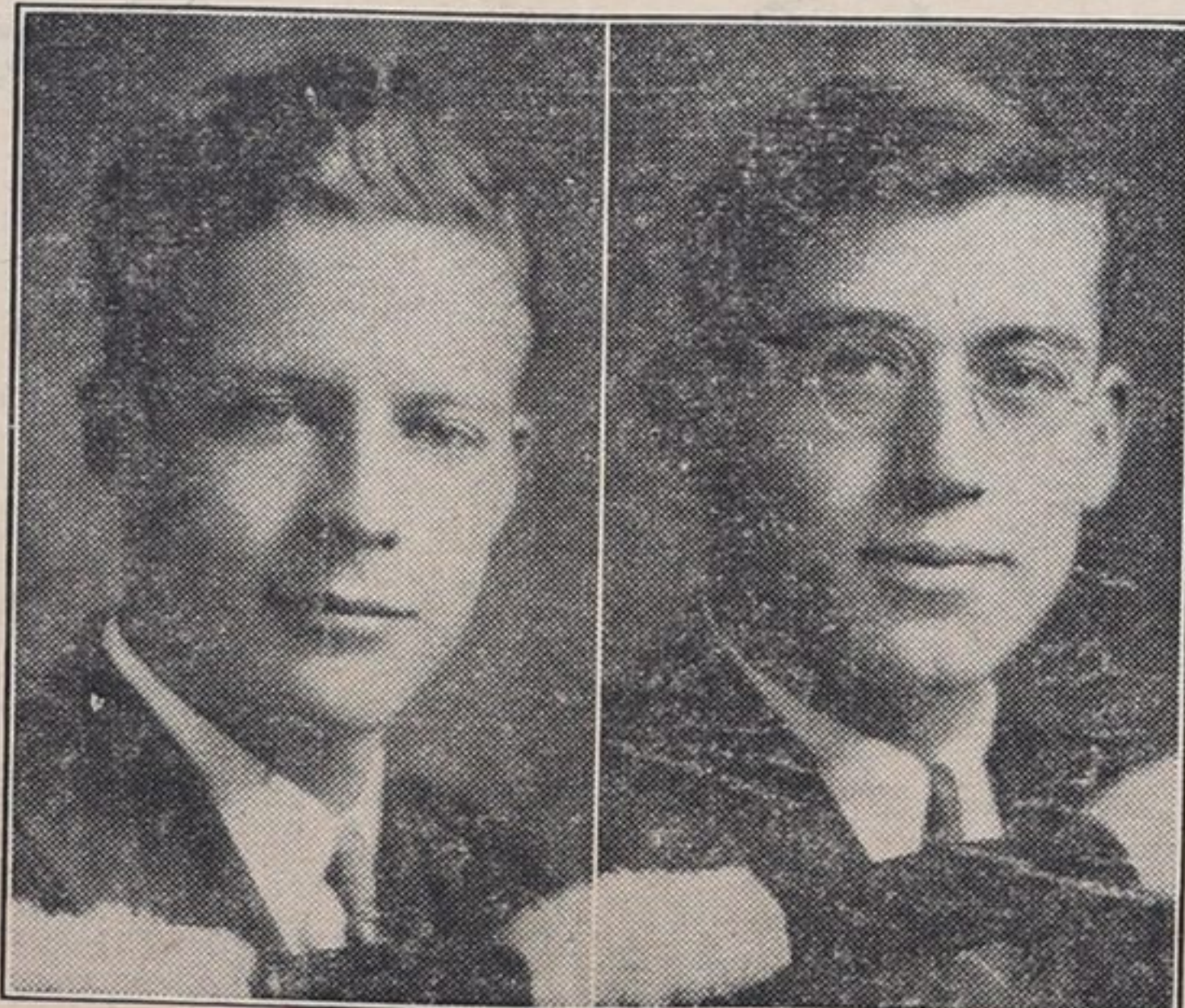
On Saturday the election for the office of Premier was held, when Mr. Louman was chosen after a second ballot had been taken. Donald Buchanan, a student at the University of Toronto, is leader of the Opposition.

The members of the Cabinet as announced by Premier Louman are:

- Minister of Organization—Paul Moore, South Oxford.
- Education—John Hunter, Peterboro.
- "New Citizen"—Wilbur Howard, Toronto.
- Co-Operation—Gordon Fess, North Welland.
- Publicity—Melvin Shepley, of Chatham.
- Personal Problems—Lors Carlson, Haileybury.
- Speaker—Arthur Kerr, Haliburton.
- Deputy Speaker—Ted Leonard, defeated premiership candidate.
- Ministers Without Portfolio—John Houston, Sarnia; and Gerald Palmer, Lanark.

A total of \$12,000 is to be expended during the winter on roads in the Township of Dymond, of which the Ontario Government, the Northern Development Branch and the municipality will each pay one-third.

Two 1931 Ontario Rhodes Scholars



Edward B. Jolliffe (left) and Harold S. Day, fourth year students at Victoria College, University of Toronto, who have been selected Rhodes Scholars for Ontario. Mr. Jolliffe is a son of Rev. C. J. P. Jolliffe of the West China Mission of the United Church of Canada, and was born in China. Mr. Day, who is a candidate for the United Church ministry, is from Brantford, Ont.

A Happy New Year

We wish at this time to offer our thanks for a generous share of your patronage during the past twelve months and wish one and all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

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The Week's Weather

Week ending Dec. 30th, 1930	Max.	Min.
Wednesday	23	13
Thursday	32	18
Friday	32	15
Saturday	28	15
Sunday	28	22
Monday	31	19
Tuesday	29	-6
Total precipitation	.22"	

Northern Ontario—Local snowfalls, fair and colder tonight and Thursday.