little thrill out of it.

formation.

several days old.

way to Colborough.

"Number 17, sir."

"You should have watched that,"

"Right! If you hear my whistle come

That "rush" was provided by the Su-

"Of all the cock-eyed idiots," he

in number 17-at least not the one we

want. I suppose you made no effort

"Oh yes, superintendent. We asked

several people. There was no mistake

"I know that. But there is about the

individual. You've brought me here on

a wild-goose chase, and that's all there

"But young Withers went upstairs,"

"And out by the fire-escape." lament-

Thornton apologized. "We both saw

ed his superior. "Heavens! Can you

wonder at it?" He stared at them re-

sentfully. "You look to me exactly like

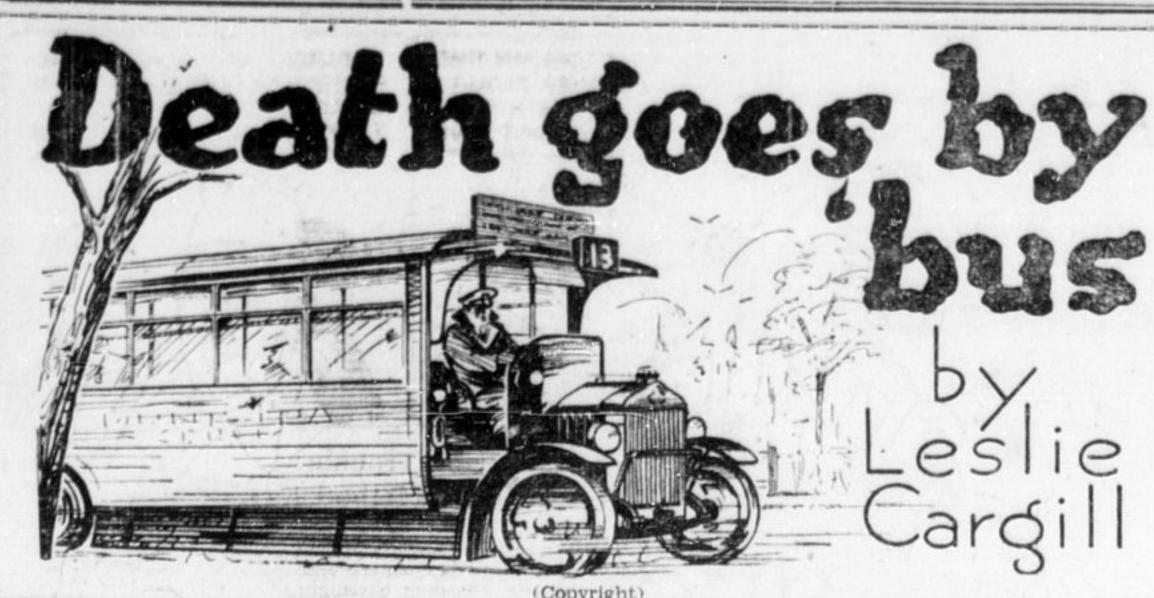
a couple of slops. One glance and all

the crooks for miles around get under

up the trail again." said Brownlaw.

to verify the identity.'

about the name."



Travelling from Colborough to Neth- | Maxley smiled a superior smile. "Neat accompanied by Jeremy Withers, look- to visit one of the guests. Yes, it was | "How the devil did you get here?" trouble and back-fires several times, real mysteries out on paper." Under cover of one of these explosions "Don't be too sure. One of these Superintendent. "I'm risking my job tity cards opened useful sources of ina male passenger is shot with a pistol. days I'll tell you what 'X' equals."

tragedy are: CARTER, the driver.

WITHERS, the conductor

was killed.

problems, crosswords and the like. JERRY TUCKLEY, a schoolboy.

admits to having been in gaol. GREGOR GARDOPOULOS, a Levan- tor's story was true.

tine importer of dried fruits.

his wife aged spinster.

From the beginning Sharpe takes a taken the life of Caleb Wainwright.

roads in a police car, comes upon the written report. case. He is a traffic specialist, unfa- Withers in bad." miliar with serious crime. Impressed For, according to the information, tion of passengers, and to make sugges- the coppice. the search of the dead man's pockets to do with the crime," observed Mr.

alongside the road. He and Matthews other gun could duplicate them." and a police doctor, who has arrived, Mr. Sharpe did not dispute it. "I when they come upon the body of a right," he concluded. man. There is obvious evidence that he | "Then it must be Withers. There is gating the passengers.

The inquest discloses that the suicide was JOHN WINSLOW, a default- out the truth before it is too late. ing bank clerk, wanted by the police. wonder how many victims have been He was not connected with the murder, sacrificed to the idol of scientific juris-He, the mysterious "missing" passenger prudence?" happened to be on the bus, and, realiz- "Now, sir, that isn't fair. Young Wit- hand into his pocket and brought out a him." suicide in a state of panic.

Superintendent MAXLEY, who is now in charge of the case, Sharpe contrives detailed to visit the Levantine mer- cides to run away." chant. In the interview, Gardopoulos | "By the 'murderer' you mean Withers | tified by "Anton, Place Verte." admits that he knew Wainwright, who of course. Personally I don't think he'll was an Australian. His story is that do anything desperate." with the proposal. Consequently, Wain- given to bring him in." wright followed him to Colborough and boarded the bus after him; but they

commercial traveller is tested and ing he will be detained."

Suspicion, however, moves swiftly to sion?" tives of fear.

#### (Now Read On) CHAPTER XI (Continued) "IF 'A' MURDERS 'B'---?"

man busied himself with a sheet of "Go on!"

conclusions. Harry Carter was wiped chance that we should accept it as being Instead of that Withers had blown off. So were the farming couple and left after the tragedy. When the sub- it down like a heap of cards. Patiently the boy. But there still remained Ag- terfuge was uncovered he spun his story and carefully they would have to start atha Hanson, Huntley Young, John on the spur of the moment. Does that all over again from the very founda-Smith and Jeremy Withers. One of hang together?" them was guilty. Which? There were "Perfectly," admitted Maxley. "Witfar too many unresolvable symbols to hers couldn't think up a better excuse arrive at the final answer.

paper, stowed it away, and looked up the same one when his back is to the place as conductor had been filled by a dent Maxley.

Another puzzle sir?" he asked. 'A' murders 'B' and so on.' "

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erton, a country bus develops engine if I may say so. But you can't work ing very sorry for himself.

Those on the bus at the time of the "Come into the department when we

ter method than fiddling about with clously.

tric little man whose dominating in- revolver. He saw the finger-prints criminal." terest in life is solving puzzles—chess materialize under a succession of pow- "Don't get excited, young man. Prob- Wainwright was bumped off?" ders, watched them compared with ably the difficult angles will be straigh- "It was. And he's in records too. "What rendezvous?" those of Jeremy Withers, and shared tened out in a few minutes. This is We'd better ring up the chief and see | "Dear me, how you do persist with JOHN SMITH, who, when interrogated, the general satisfaction when it was your revolver?" discovered that one part of the conduc- | "Yes, it is, I told you that when it | Maxley certainly did. It was what he | kept to-night with Mr. Smith.

HUNTLEY YOUNG, a commercial tra- let. its peculiarities being charted one any ammunition?" by one. Withers may have been unable Mr. and Mrs. WYLLIE, a farmer and to acquire bullets, but the police had packet I had abroad. But that was used ceiving the message they were on their on it being rook to rook . . . " no such difficulty . A shot was fired into AGATHA HANSON, a dour middle- a dummy, and this was afterwards

keen interest in the occurrence, and he | Microscopes, calipers, photographs | wright?" has a vague impression that there was and other scientific apparatus were brought into use. Finally the findings Sergeant MATTHEWS, patrolling the were complete. Maxley received the This was the last thing in the world he Maxley remarked, "in case he became

by Morrison Sharpe's grasp of the situ- which was beyond dispute, the fatal ation, he allows the puzzle solver to sit bullet had been fired from the Belgian by him during the road-side interroga- revolver which had been picked up in the real facts. My own gun was the up with a rush."

Among the contents is a fine diamond Morrison Sharpe sturdily

"But look at there bullets," remon-Before the bus leaves the point at strated the Superintendent, almost pitiwhich the shooting occurs, Sharpe sug- ful in his defence of the official findings. gests a search in the coppice running "Mark for mark they are twins. No up that night."

has died from cyanide poisoning. The an admission of possession and subsedoctor considers the man committed quent disposal. Men have been sent suicide while Matthews was interro- to the gallows on far less circumstantial

"Lots of them. Sometimes you find

ing that he would be interrogated by hers has told us he bought the revolver vicious little handful of blue steel. Bethe police, slipped away and committed on the Continent. Dozens are smuggled side the weapon that had previously in every year in a similar way. I was been under examination it was prac-Inquiries now turn to GARDO- very dubious about that yarn of getting tically impossible to tell one from the POULOS. Although discouraged by rid of it because he had the wind-up." Jother. Both bore the same trade mark "So was I."

to attach himself to the police officers, simple now . . . unless the murderer de- the agent's name "Jules Lefitte, Rue du

"Under arrest?" The story told by Huntley Young the there is enough information forthcom-

proves to be false, but the man cannot | "Presumably my presence would be thought of that!" out of order on that interesting occa-

Withers, the bus conductor. A revolver "Absolutely impossible," said the Su- "What made you loan it to him?" he is found near the scene of the crime in perintendent, shocked at the very idea. Went on inexorably. circumstances suggesting that he is the Mr. Sharpe did not seem taken aback. owner. He admits that he is, and that "Well, it can't be helped,"he said regret- yourself," he snapped. "I'm fed up with he threw away the weapon from mo- fully. "I might have saved you making all this. Not another word will you get a fool of yourself."

paper, covering it with queer words, "Merely this. Withers did buy a re- an-hour later saw him walking out of figures and symbols. They were under- volver, of sorts, in Belgium last year, the police station a free man, much to standable only to himself. Resolving a But not this one. After the murder he the disappointment of Superintendent murder into a mathematical equation is found the fatal one stuffed down be- Maxley, who had felt sure that only a a nice little hobby, but hardly a pract tween the back of a chair and the seat, few extra bricks had been required to Being scared, it kept it on one side until complete the edifice he had been so However, he did arrive at certain the search was resumed, taking his carefully erecting.

for himself." Mr. Sharpe carefully folded up his "Unless I'm mistaken he'll recount find that he had been left behind. His into the quizzical eyes of Superinten- wall. Even confirmed prevaricators fall relief hand, and there was no doubt a back on strict accuracy as a last re- lot of scandalous talk already going

"Yes, rather a novel one. It goes If | He was going to point the moral | Reporting at the office, it seemed that

the detectives.

"Sit still, Mr. Sharpe," invited the the visitors' book. Production of iden-

but-but-"

So, for the first time, a layman was "I'm suppose to be on duty and two of law?"

was picked up in the woods."

"Not a single round . . . except a small | Matthews, and ten minutes after re-

up almost immediately. "Then you would be surprised to placed alongside the missile that had know that this particular weapon was watchers were waiting at the Golden the one used to shoot Caleb Wain- Lion. Withers was still upstairs. It

"Not a bit." any other exit, except the fire escape. It was Maxley who got the shock. expected to hear. Indirectly he noticed suspicious that you were hanging about. stationary bus and takes charge of the "This," he pronounced, puts young the ironic smile on the face of Morrison Wait here while I go and look round. Sharpe. What room did you say Smith occu-

"Don't trifle," the superintendent nied?" snapped.

"Far from it. I'm going to tell you! dead spit of this fellow. Wouldn't you tions. He permits Sharpe also to see | "And I still say he hadn't anything have gone all over goosey if you'd perintendent, who came downstairs two found the second one poked away in the at a time, almost before the others reaticket box?" "Where?"

> "The box where we keep the spares, noyed, a fact that was amply demon-I found it there when I went to check strated when he opened his mouth. "Why didn't you report it?"

Withers scowled. "And get told off have hardly begun to look for footprints haven't the least doubt but that you're for being a liar. Who'd have believed "Anybody, so long as you produced

> your own revolver. "That was out of my possession at the time. I'd given it to somebody."

"Who?" Withers remained obstinately silent. "Come along, man! Without it your defence is pretty thin."

"Oh, I've got it." With a dramatic gesture the young man plunged his and were the products of the same fac-"There you are then. The case is tory. But the first was inscribed with Bois." and the other was simply iden-

"You must say where it was on the day of the murder," pressed Maxley. For Wainwright wanted to sell him stolen | "We shall see. Anyway I'm taking nearly an hour he kept harping on that goods but he would have nothing to do no chances. Orders have already been string until the wretched youngster was Apparently nobody had looked beyond "Out side with the officer," explained

unable to stand out any longer. "If you must know," he snarled, "it desk Maxley took another glance. When | "So, it's like that? Well, here goes "Not exactly. Technically it is for was John Smith—the man who was sit- he joined the group it was difficult to I'll give you the straight griffing the purpose of making a statement. If ting just behnd Mr. Sharpe on the bus." tell whether anger or disgust was his I'll give you the straight griffin. "Whew-ew!" whistled the little puz- uppermost emotion. "You poor mutts," zle-solver involuntarily. "I hadn't

???Iufilupu. imrentfr'm uh RHTE Maxley silenced him with a look.

Jeremy Withers flared up. "Ask him out of me. Put me in the cells if you

life, but I'm not talking." "Sounds harsh, doesn't it. Truth of- | And neither persuasion nor those ten does. If you were to ask me I could half-threats which are supposed to be On the way to Netherton the little submit a thesis worth consideration." outside the rules of evidence would move him from this decision. Half-

### CHAPTER XII TRACKING MR. SMITH

Jeremy Withers was not surprised to round the neighbourhood.

when two plain clothes men came in the clerks were regarding him suspic-

"So, they've let him out," whispered I one bright young typist to her companion. "Isn't he lucky?"

"It's an old trick," said the other girl sagely. "When the evidence isn't enough they give them rope to hang them-

Curiously enough this rather obvious device hadn't occurred to Jeremy. He was unaware that two plain-clothes men were shadowing him from the moment Maxley said "You may go."

A more observant individual might have recognized the shadows from what they were. Ancient jokes have handed down the tradition of heavy-fcoted deectives and one might have thought

that this would have resuled in the he snarled. "There are two other disappearance of the typical sleuth. Smiths in this hotel-and one of them Departures from type are rare. is John William and the other plain

These two earnest watchers were each "J." attired in loosely-cut blue-serge suits "Then our man is still upstairs after and sported bowler hats. Their feet all!" were encased in square-toed boots with- "Unless he's gone down that escape. out toe-caps. Half Netherton knew that Better cut round, one of you, and keep

Jeremy Withers was being followed by all eyes on it. The rest of us will sit the police and the populace got their down and watch the stairs. To while away the weary hours, and to cool my Leaving the bus company's office, temper a drink is indicated. Better Jeremy wandered about for some time take a quick one yourself Brownlaw. doing nothing in particular. Punctually bafore you get outside . . . " at six o'clock he went into the Fleur de | One drink led to two and then to a

Lys and drank one half-pint of mild third. Shortly before 9.30 Jeremy Witbeer. When the 6.10 bus left for Col- hers came down. With him was the borought he was on board. So were familiar John Smith, and somebody relse, whose presence caused Maxley to At the town he went into the Golden start all over again on the forceful vo-Lion. Waiting about five minutes, the cabulary he had already drawn on to officers followed him. He was not in good effect that evening.

the bar, and the smoke room was empty | "Well met!" exclaimed Mr. Morrison except for a couple of regular customers. Sharpe genially. "I think you had bet-According to an observant page their ter have another drink. It still wants quarry had gone upstairs, presumably half-an-hour to closing time."

possible for the pair to have a look at | "Oh I live just round the corner." "Pah!"

"Dropped in for drink and a chat with some old acquaintances." "You'd like to prove I'm mistaken for Running a finger down the list of "Mr. Smith, eh? And Mr. Withers. arrive, sir, and I'll show you a much bet- once," retorted the little man mali- names the detective halted at an entry Didn't that strike you as rather indis-

"What is the meaning of this?" Jers- | "John Smith," he repeated. "Does | "Not at all. Your men were keeping CALEB WAINWRIGHT, the Man who Thank you, I accept with pleasure." my . Withers was saying indignantly that convey anything to you, Brown- an eye on our young friend so I didn't see why I shouldn't do something of the MORRISON SHARPE, a mildly eccen- present when tests were made with the your men yank me away as if I was a "It does. Wasn't that the name of kind for myself. Now the easiest way one of the passengers on the bus when to do that was to go straight to the rendezvous . . . "

if he wants to come in on this himself." your questioning! The one that Withers

had half expected, though not quite so "This is getting beyond a joke, sir. Then came the measuring of the bul- "According to you there was never quickly." Ordering a car to be sent How did you know about the arrangeround immediately he found Sergeant | ment?'

> "Simple chess movement. I figured "Crook to crook," snarled Maxley, impatiently.

Brownlaw and Thornton the detailed "As you like." A waiter brought beer. They sipped it slowly. Smith and Witwould be impossible for him to leave by hers were standing some distance away looking on apprehensively. The Superintendent beckoned and they advanced with a show of hesitation.

Thornton was feeling in an inside pocket, and Mr. Sharpe wondered if that was where the handcuffs were kept. Matthews sat bolt upright, alert for further instructions.

eyes were on the clock. "What," he asked, "Will you two gentlemen have Mr. Sharpe winked. He, at any rate lized he had reached the top. From his knew that the heavy barrage prepara-

"Ah!" breathed Maxley heavily. His

expression they judged him to be anpostponed. The Superintendent was not sure of his ground. wound up, after a catalogue effort of choice quality, "that isn't John Smith

hotel. Coincident, as it seemed, the armistice concluded. "Let us go up to your room for a

little chat," Maxley suggested. crowded with all you let. Suppose big- riea of the North should be strongly feet, for one, stays outside. That'll give us more breathing space. He had resorted to that impudent method of verbal attack which is often a potent weapon in the hands of the professional

The rest of them crowded into the little apartment. Smith sat on the edge of the bed. Matthews was by the door Maxley perched on a dressing chest, and shortly present the road-building pro- coronation of King George VI and sharpe took possession of the only chair which was not nearly as comfortable as the North drives persistently and in- from 200 to 500 members of the Ameri-

"Tell them exactly as you explained to me," he advised. "If there's trouble "Then we'd better get busy and pick brewing, you'll do better by taking the skimming and keeping out of the worst "Too late to-night. By the way, did of it."

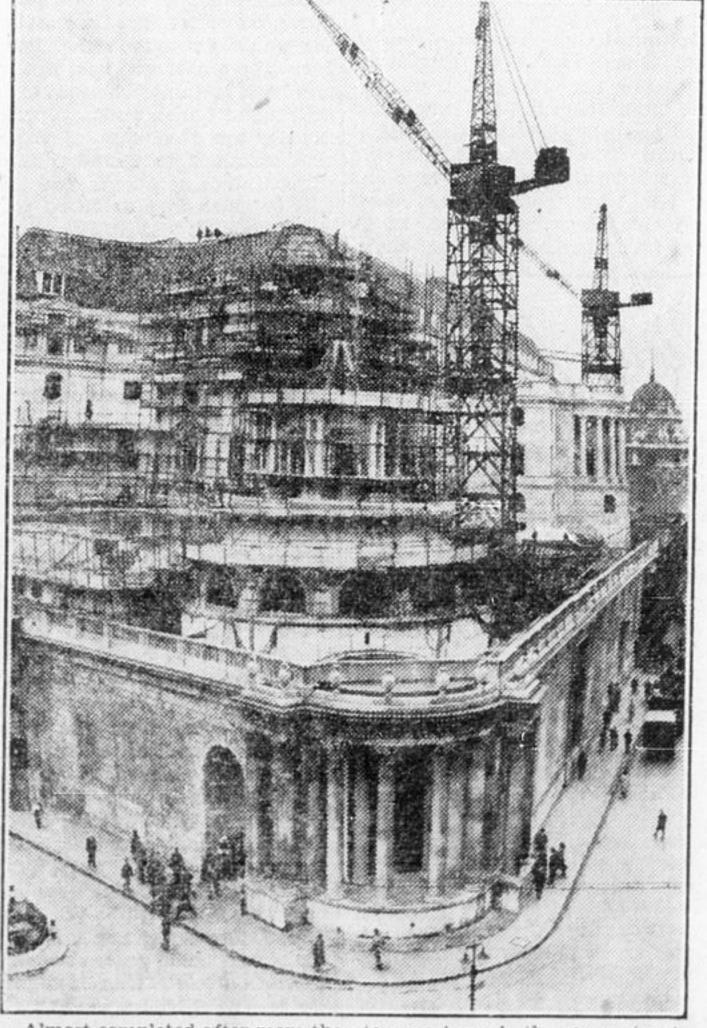
that register show any other interest- Smith nedded. "All right. Where's Withers, though?'

"John Smith." Strolling over to the Maxley.

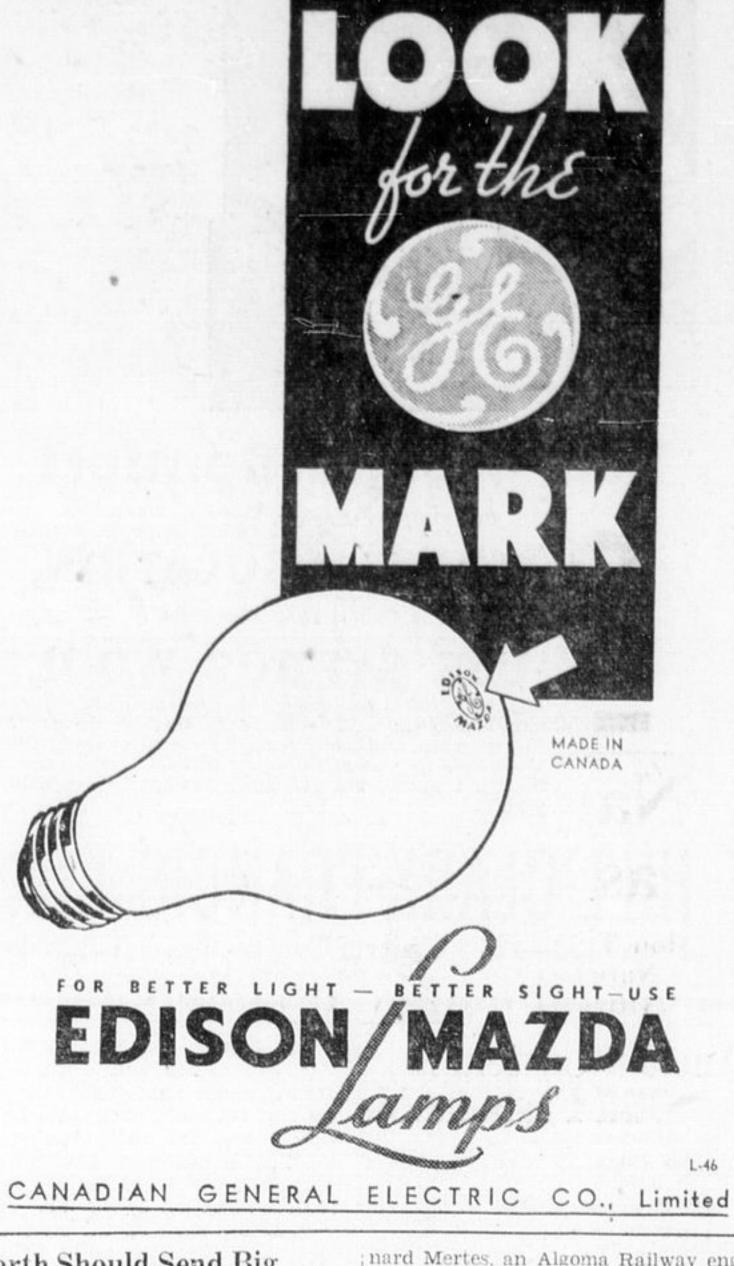
(To Be Continued)

### BUILT TO STAND A THOUSAND YEARS

criminal.



Almost completed after more than ten year's work, the re-constructed Bank of England, repository of the nation's gold, will stand for at least 1,000 years. It will be virtually impregnable and the strongest building in the British Empire. So strong are the fifty vaults in the bank that it has been estimated 100 cracksmen would take a full year to penetrate them, even if there were no guards and alarms, and the latter are amazing. Above is a general picture of the Bank of England during the re-construction.



### North Should Send Big Delegation to Toronto

(From North Bay Nugget) Northern Ontario should take a prominent part in the deliberations of the Ontario Good Roads Association at Torento, February 24 and 25.

T. J. Mahony, secretary of the assoclation, speaking of preparations for the meet which is expected to attract tory to an invincible attack had been 600 delegates from all parts of the pro- the left breast. As the woman slumped vince, stated that for the first time in to the ground, MacPherson turned the many years contributions to the pro- gun on himself and shot himself twice Ten o'clock chimed, and shouts of gramme will come from members of the in the chest. He fell dead a few feet 'Drink up, please" echoed through the Ontario government, municipal repre- from his victim. sentatives, engineers and road building

The great need of Northern Ontario about two ounces of sulphuric acid is modern, durable roadways and too which it was learned he had obtained John Smith nodded. "By all means. much stress cannot be laid on the ne- Saturday. A whisky bottle, three-quarthough it is going to be a bit over- cessity for early remedial action. The ters full, was also found. advanced before the Good Roads Asso- not yet set a date for the inquest. ciation, many of whose members last year gained some knowledge of the LARGE ATTENDANCE AT THE handicap this section of the province suffers because of poor routes of travel.

The Toronto conference offers an exceptional opportunity to again get the various American organizations will be North's case before Southern Ontario invited to attend the ceremonies at and the government. The Cabinet will Fort William in connection with the gramme for the current year and unless | Queen Elizabeth. It is expected that telligently it is probable that the ap- can Legion will attend the celebration. propriation of Northern Ontario reads will prove disappointing.

Hon. W. A. McQuesten, minister of highways, will discuss future plans before the conference. It is believed he is sympathetic towards the North but he will require considerable public support to embark on what he considers the northern part of the province needs immediately.

The Good Roads Association can do much to induce the government to be considerate and generous, but they will not be inclined to go the limit unless the North sends a strong representation to advance its cause.

# Tragedy at Sault Ste. Marie

killed himself.

Mich., the woman's brother.

children, the eldest 11 years old. Ber- body types.

nard Mertes, an Algoma Railway engineer, was at Michipicoten.

Mrs. Mertes met MacPherson in the hall where an altercation ensued, police said. The man produced a weapon described as a home-made potato-masher and attempted to strike her. Mrs. Mertes fled screaming, followed by Mac-

As Mrs. Mertes reached the doorstep of her nearest neighbour, MacPherson drew a revolver and shot her twice in

Police said search of the dead man's clothing revealed a bottle containing

Dr. A. S. McCaig, coroner, said he had

## FORT WILLIAM CORONATION

Between 500 and 1,000 delegates of

### New Dodge Inaugurates New Era in Automobiles

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