

DEATH OF YOUNG RUSSIAN

WAS DUE TO ACCIDENT IS OPINION OF CORONER'S JURY.

Recommended That Fuses in All Plants be Covered—Believed John Novick Touched Fuses While Making His Way Out of Tannery in Dark.

"We are of the opinion that the deceased came to his death by accident. We are, however, of the opinion that all fuses in all plants should be covered."

The above verdict was rendered on Monday night by a jury empanelled by Coroner Dr. D. E. Muddell to enquire into the circumstances surrounding the tragic death of John Novick, the young Russian, at the tannery of A. Davis & Son, Ltd., early on Sunday morning. H. Jennings was foreman of the jury. J. L. Whiting, R.C., was present, representing the Davis Company, and D. A. Givens appeared on behalf of the city.

Constable Marshall Armstrong, who was the first witness, told about word being received at the police station about a man having been found dead at the tannery. He went to the tannery in company with Constable Robt. Sargeant. He said the deceased was lying on his back on the floor, and that blood was flowing from his head. The body was about three feet from

where the electric wires were located on a post. Dr. E. J. Gardiner submitted a report on the post-mortem examination held on the body. He said the examination showed no sign of disease. There was a scar on the left index finger, which had apparently been caused from a burn. There was no other evidence of burns on the body. He could not say what had been the direct cause of death.

W. Chagman, bookkeeper at the tannery, produced the time card of the deceased. It showed that he had started to work at 6.48 a.m. Saturday and quit at 5.10 p.m., when he was paid \$7.59 for thirty hours' work. A few minutes after being off duty he came to the witness and said he had marked his time card wrong. This was the last witness seen of the deceased.

In answer to a question put by Mr. Whiting, witness said that the factory inspector had visited the plant in April, 1915. Witness produced the report given by the inspector. In this report no complaint had been made about the character of the electrical work at the plant. No recommendations had been made regarding the electrical department.

Elmer Davis, vice-president of the company, stated that the company generated its own electricity for power purposes. The generating set had been installed about a year. This was in accordance to the report of the inspector. He explained that there was a starting box for a motor on the

post near which the body of the young Russian was found. The maximum voltage of the generator was 550 volts. Witness stated that the company had received no complaints about the electrical department not being properly protected. Deceased's work did not take him near the starting box at the time he met death nor any other time during that day. His job was in one of the other tan rooms.

Asked for a reason why the deceased should have gone into the room where he met death, witness said that the supposition was that he had gone there to change his working clothes. The witness also explained, on being asked by Mr. Given, that the lighting system at the plant had no connection with the city's plant.

William Adamson, the night watchman, who found the body, said he had been on this job three weeks. He told of having made a visit through the different departments Saturday night, after he went on duty at five o'clock. He did not notice any of the men working, and he threw off the lights at 6.20 o'clock.

Worked With Deceased. William Adamson stated he was a laborer, and had been employed with the deceased. He said deceased left him at six minutes to six o'clock on Saturday night, and he did not see him again. He appeared to be in his usual good health all day Saturday.

It was reported to the Coroner that deceased had been working at the plant since Nov. 14th.

James Halliday said he had installed the motor referred to in the fall of 1914, and had made some connections with the generator. The starting box he had installed was of the regular type of boxes used by many of the factories. He knew of a number of the same kind installed in the city. Up till a year and a half ago it was the custom to leave the fuses exposed, but since that time orders had been given to have them enclosed in a steel box, as the fuses were regarded as dangerous. A voltage up to 650 had never been regarded as dangerous, but in this present case conditions might have made it dangerous. The floor might have been wet, and as deceased was wearing hobnail boots, this might have formed a connection. When the starting box had been installed it was regarded as perfectly safe. The same conditions prevailed in one-half of the factories in Ontario. No definite orders had been given stating that a change must be made. At the present time, however, an order from the Hydro-Electric Commission stated that the fuses must be covered. When witness installed this box he asked the local inspector if he would be required to report on the work at the tannery. The inspector stated that up till that time, he had not been called upon to inspect a private plant, but that he believed that it was the intention to do so in the course of a few months.

Questioned by Mr. Whiting, Mr. Davis stated that the company had never been informed that the fuses must be protected. The company had no idea whatever that they were dangerous. Had the company had the slightest idea that there was danger they certainly would have been protected.

Mr. Halliday said that he had visited the plant on Sunday and found the conditions as regards the starting box practically the same as when he made the installation.

Remarks of Coroner. This concluded the evidence, and Coroner Muddell gave a summing up of the case. He said that when deceased was found, he had his overcoat on. The supposition was that when he was about to leave the plant he found all the lights turned off and that in making his way out of the building he put out his hands to feel his way and accidentally touched the fuses. The fact that his finger had been charred, indicated this. It was his opinion that deceased was unconscious at the time he was attacked by the rats.

Further, the Coroner could not see where any person was to blame, and put the case down as a most unfortunate accident. It had been shown that no order had ever been given for the company to have the fuses covered.

LECTURE ON "WAR CARTOONS."

Given in Convocation Hall by Prof. J. F. Macdonald.

Prof. J. F. Macdonald gave a very interesting lecture on "War Cartoons" in Convocation Hall Monday evening. The professor used a stereopticon and threw many slides on the screen, showing the value of cartoons from an artistic stand-point and also their educational value. The professor opened the entertainment with a short address on the history of cartoons generally and how they had affected at different times the life of a nation. He has a splendid collection that justified a much larger attendance than was present on Monday evening. The proceeds were for the Red Cross Society. G. M. Macdonald, K.C., presided at the meeting.

Lecture on Russia.

Prof. Sage gave a very interesting lecture in the Y. W. C. A. parlors on Monday evening on "Modern Russia." The speaker showed that this great part of the earth's surface was practically undeveloped and contained eight million square miles. He took up every phase of the nation's life, and dealt at length on the geographical, political and historical story of Russia.

Funeral of Mrs. M. Smith. The funeral of the late Mrs. Melville Smith took place on Tuesday morning from 28 Frontenac street to St. James' church, where a service was held by Rev. T. W. Savary. The pallbearers were: R. Partridge, V. Green, G. Sargeant, H. Sargeant, W. Smith and W. Noonan.

Promoted to Rank of Captain. Lieut. "Jack" Stagg, of the 4th Canadian Battalion, who is home on sick leave as a result of being wounded at the front, received word on Monday to the effect that he had been promoted to the rank of captain. His promotion dates from July 1st.

THEIR CHRISTMAS PASTORAL

ONE ISSUED BY BISHOPS OF ONTARIO AND KINGSTON.

It is Not Mockery to Send Forth Message of Good Cheer at This Time of the Year.

The Bishop of Ontario and the Bishop of Kingston have issued the following Christmas pastoral to the clergy and laity in the Diocese of Ontario:

"Once more it is our privilege to send you our Christmas greeting. The clouds of war still hang heavily over us. Sorrow and mourning are still abroad. Ever more plainly is heard throughout our land the voice of Rachel weeping for her children, and refusing to be comforted because they are not. Is it then a mockery to send forth a message of good cheer at such a time? Thank God it is not; for however dense the gloom of sadness, one light can pierce through it, the light of the world, at the commemoration of Whose birth we bid you rejoice. In Him lies our only ground for hope that good will shall prevail over strife, and love and peace reign in place of hatred and war. Pray then with all your heart and soul for the heaven-born Prince of Peace" at this coming Christmas-tide that before this holy season comes around once more this awful conflict may have ceased.

"Further, just because at this time which ought to be so happy, there are throughout the length and breadth of the empire numberless mourners for some young life taken from them by this cruel war, our hearts should go out in loving sympathy and special acts of kindness to all who in any way need our help. For this is the festival of divine love incarnate, to whom our best offerings of love are due. As chiefest of these, be sure to offer yourselves, your souls and bodies in the holy eucharist to Him who was, as at this time, born to be your Saviour. Follow that up by special acts of love and generosity and kindness to others, and then indeed your Christmas will be a happy one, for you will win God's blessing, bestowed upon all who strive to imitate Him who 'went about doing good.' We pray that each and all of you may have a happy and blessed Christmas."

MAY COMPLETE IT

Boldt Castle May Be Opened Next Summer.

It is believed that the Boldt castle at Alexandria Bay will be completed next summer and the opinion is expressed that some way may be found to carry out the intention of the late George C. Boldt to make of the palatial home a summer White House. Before his death Mr. Boldt had expressed a desire that congress secure the island property as a permanent summer home of the chief executive of the country. Strong efforts throughout the country had been secured in backing the enterprise.

The castle was practically completed five or six years ago when Mrs. Boldt died. On that day a telegram was sent to the workmen on the island telling them to stop work and since then the castle has been done.

The Boldt home on the island continued to be used by the family and additions to it may be completed next summer. It is said along the river that the children of Mr. Boldt, George C. Boldt, Jr., and Mrs. Graham Miles have been desirous for years that the castle itself be completed and opened.

Mr. Boldt himself favored the transfer of the property to congress.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMED

To Further Work of Boys' Work Committee in the City.

On Monday evening a meeting was held in the Y.M.C.A. parlors of those interested in the Boys' Work Association which has been in conference here. A. Shaw presided and W. R. Cook gave a splendid address on what has been done by the association. It was decided to form an advisory committee for the work in Kingston, with representatives of every unit of the organization. The members of the committee present elected: Rev. G. S. Glendinning as president; J. K. Carroll, vice-president; and Frank L. Newman, secretary.

A four-weeks' course in the Canadian Standard Efficiency Test is to be started here with classes every Monday evening at the Y. M. C. A. building, and as many as possible will be persuaded to take this course.

The older the pessimist grows the less faith he has in himself.

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The thousands of testimonials we have received during the past twenty-five years prove that Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup is an excellent remedy for all coughs and colds, so see that you get "Dr. Wood's" when you ask for it. It is put up in a yellow wrapper, three pine trees the trade mark, price 25c and 50c, at all dealers. Manufactured only by The T. Millburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

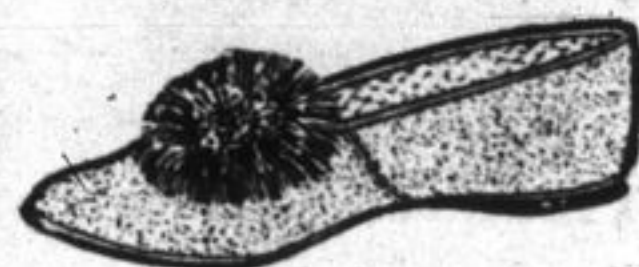
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