

IMPORTANT READING MATTER SELECTED FROM THE WEEK'S NEWS FOR THE GUARDIAN'S SATURDAY SUBSCRIBERS

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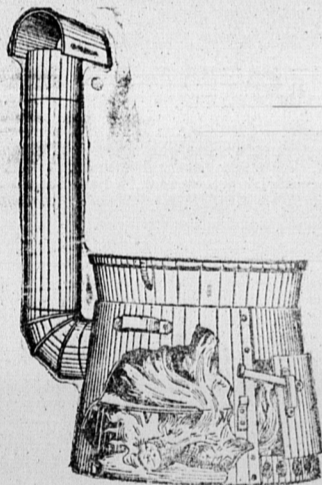
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TUESDAY

The preliminary hearing in the case of Victor Hudson, Stanhope, charged with manslaughter, was continued yesterday morning at eleven o'clock in the City Police Court Room before Stipendiary Magistrate Macdonald.

The case was continued for the Crown by Mr. Martin, who called Dr. Johnson.

Dr. H. D. Johnson (sworn)—I was directed to perform a post-mortem on the body of Johanna Hudson. I did so on October 17th, assisted by Dr. I. J. Yeo, Charlottetown, at the Stanhope Cemetery. The body was examined. Examined the body for marks of violence. Found none. Found discolorations and consider they were all post-mortem. There is no doubt of this. Internal organs, lungs, heart and abdominal cavity were examined. Very little decomposition was found. The lungs were darker than usual and crepitant, that is almost in the condition on they were during life. The kidneys were quite normal. The arteries of the lily were examined and the larger ones were in very good condition. The membrane surrounding the heart was normal, and on opening into the cavity of the membrane there were no adhesions. The heart was pale and flabby and seemed empty. On opening it up this was found to be so, all the chambers being free of blood. Examined the heart itself. The lining was pale, but otherwise appeared normal. As to size, it was not all thickened and was of a natural size for a woman, weighing between eight and nine ounces. There was no trace of hypertrophy of the heart, if any at all it must have been very slight.

The valves on the right side of the heart were in good position and opposed each other properly. When we poured water into the artery it flowed back into the heart. The arterial walls were in good condition. Examined coronary arteries and found them not hardened. There was no evidence of dilatation. The heart was contracted, flabby and totally empty. In my opinion the heart was empty at death. From my examination I would say as my opinion from the general outline and all appearances that death was caused by some action of the nervous system. I would say death took place as a result of some action on the heart through some nerve influence. Strong excitement or a direct blow would cause death by shock, as this seemed to be. The solar plexus is a great nervous centre. Death might result from a blow here without any abrasion. As a result of a blow on the region of the stomach certain nerve fibres are paralyzed. These nerve fibres are those which keep the blood vessels of that region contracted and when paralyzed these vessels at once dilate and as a result the person bleeds into these vessels. Fainting takes place which, combined, causes death. In such a case it is expected to find the heart empty. A sudden scare, violent exercise, the heart beats very fast in these cases and there might be a sudden collapse. I would not suppose from my examination an ordinary quarrel would cause death. I found no traces of any other disease of the heart or vital organs. For her age I found the blood vessels and organs of the deceased in good order.

Cross-examined by Mr. Stewart—I formed no opinion personally. I was told that she had died from a shock. It was getting dark and a lantern was lighted before autopsy began. I don't know Bert Misner. When I called at Mrs. Hudson's I did not tell her that her's was the first place I called at. The request made for time to allow a doctor to represent the accused. I didn't know that this autopsy ought to be performed by daylight, according to the authorities. They were perhaps twenty minutes exhuming the body and about an hour performing the autopsy in the cemetery. There was no fluid in the chest when opened. A flabby heart is not necessarily a sign of dilation. From what I saw I would not think that the heart was flabby during life. I put the water test and found that the water flowed back. If the blood came back during life as the water came back in the test it would indicate regurgitation. I am not prepared to swear that the sight of something repulsive, would cause death in her lifetime from fatty degeneration of the heart. A blow in the pit of the stomach might cause shock. We were not open up the veins to see if there was any trace of bleeding into the vessels. When opened the heart was on the left side between the third and the sixth or seventh ribs.

Court adjourned at one o'clock to meet again at 2.30.

The case was resumed at 2.30. Dr. Ira J. Yeo (sworn) I attended the autopsy on Oct. 14th at Stanhope at Dr. Johnson's request. We found no marks of violence. We opened up the chest and abdominal cavity. Decomposition had not advanced in the interior. Kidneys were healthy. Lungs seemed to be darker than normal with several bleb formations. Body was fairly well nourished. Sclerosis was not decidedly marked. Liver was in healthy condition and the organs of the chest were normal. We found the heart about normal size, somewhat pale, soft and all chambers were absolutely empty. There was no indication of hypertrophy. The valvular action was normal from an eye examination. The four valves were comparatively good. I would say they were not gravely incompetent. One cusp of the mitral valve was somewhat more reddened than usual. The cusps of the aortic valve were in very fair condition. The valves did not show evidence of organic valvular disease. The water

test was applied to show the efficiency or otherwise of the cusps of the valve.

The cusps reacted well; their edges approximated. In my opinion in life there was not very much seriously the matter with the valve. The water leaked through in the test to a slight extent. The test was not made under normal pressure. I did not attach importance to the leakage of water in the test. From the condition of the heart I considered that death was probably due to a condition of shock. An action on the nervous system would cause this. The cause be due to some condition affecting the nerves. This would not mean a diseased condition of the nerves controlling the vessels of the splanchnic area. A blow might affect the nervous system resulting in a shock. A blow in the region of the stomach would leave no mark. Death in my opinion was due to shock caused by some outside condition affecting the nervous system or a blow might do it. There was nothing to indicate that the heart was flabby during life.

Cross-examined by Mr. Stewart—I had no conversation with Hudson. The chamber of the heart seemed to be of a normal size. There was no evidence of a valvular condition to cause dilatation. If heart muscles became fibrous this would not appreciably affect the weight or size of the heart.

The arterial vessels were found to be in fairly good condition. There are four valves in the heart in normal life. The heart was examined in this city after having been removed in its entirety.

To Mr. Martin I do not know of any other man valve but the four great valves referred to.

To Mr. Stewart—I never had the impression the deceased had fatty degeneration of the heart.

Mr. Martin announced that with the evidence of Dr. Yeo he closed the case for the prosecution and the prisoner being asked the usual question pleaded "not guilty."

Mr. Stewart, in opening the case for the defence called on John Ross, John Ross (sworn). I live at Stanhope near Hudson's. Have known Mrs. McMasters for a number of years. I would not believe her on her oath, conscientiously speaking.

Mrs. Sarah J. Hudson (sworn) I live at Stanhope. Am Victor Hudson's mother. I remember Johanna Hudson. Dr. H. D. Johnson came out to our place on the evening of the funeral. He asked if I knew he was the coroner. He said he came straight from own calling there first. On the Saturday before her death she was walking from the shore to her own house with me. She complained of being poorly and stopped two or three times. She said she was short of breath. It is hardly a quarter of a mile and the road is level. I waited for her each time she stopped. I remember the day there was the trouble over the four cattle. The aunts came over three times. Victor was trying to get the cattle separated. Mrs. McMasters and Miss Hudson came after him roaring and dissatisfied. I coaxed them to go home. They went home and later came back with sticks and used most awful language. They took

down the fence two or three times. Victor had a lot of bother with the women. They used to fight among themselves and on every occasion abused me. Things used to be taken from our place and I would later see them on the women.

To Mr. Martin—I saw Victor run at the women. The two women fell. I took keys out of a door in Mrs. McMasters' house also. In a rage, I told Mrs. McLeod I had the money. We have Mrs. McMasters' horse to town today. We have used the horse

through the week. John Ross (recalled) I have seen Mrs. McMasters and Johanna Hudson taking things from Victor Hudson's place. Court adjourned at five o'clock to meet this morning at eleven. WEDNESDAY.

The hearing in the Hudson case was resumed yesterday morning at the police court. A good deal of interest told Mrs. McLeod I had the money. Mr Stewart, continuing the case for

(Continued on page seven.)

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