

# TRAGIC SHOOTING AFFRAY AND SUICIDE AT COPPER CLIFF

**Adolphe Hays, a Farmer From Whitefish, Attempts to Take Life of His Wife by Shooting—Failing He Eats Vial of Arsenic, Bottle and Contents, Committing Suicide—Wife Put Up Plucky Fight and Received Bullet in Knee, Intended for her Breast—Affair Occurred in Automobile Trip from Victoria Mines to Copper Cliff.**

A violent death, through suicide, in the Copper Cliff police station, of Otto Hays, or Otto Heinanen, while his wife is in Copper Cliff hospital with a gun shot wound and a bullet in her knee, was the tragic end on Thursday evening of eight months' of wedded life. Hays ended his life by eating a small vial of arsenic, bottle and contents being chewed up in the man's mouth with the same celerity with which only a half an hour before he attempted to shoot his wife.

The shooting occurred near the C.P.R. station at Copper Cliff in an automobile in which they had come from Mond. The trip from Mond had been without incident when Hays whipped out a revolver, but before he discharged the weapon his wife grappled with him knocking his hand downwards, with the result that a bullet intended for her breast landed in the woman's knee. Still grappling, a second bullet went through the man's arm and fell in the automobile. The chauffeur and Henry McKinnon, of Copper Cliff, passing at the moment, overpowered Hays without any more shots being fired. The woman was removed from the automobile to Gegear's bus which was returning from the Soo train, and taken to the hospital, while the chauffeur took Hays to the police station. The bus kept in close proximity to the auto conveying Hays to the police cells, in case of an attempt to escape. Before reaching the police office Hays offered the chauffeur any amount of money (and he had \$195 in cash on him) to turn his car and drive him towards Sudbury. Failing this he drew a small vial from his pocket and put it in his mouth crunching in it to the police station. The chauffeur intimated to the police that he feared that Hays had taken poison. Medical assistance was hastily summonsed. Much of the glass bottle and practically all the contents were swallowed by the man, and he resisted strenuously the administering of antedotes and the insertion of a stomach pump. It required three men to hold him while the doctors endeavored to save his life. He was admitted to the police station at 5.40, and strange to say, it was almost an hour before the effects

of the poison seized him, when slow, prolonged convulsions set in. He died in a series of violent convulsions at 7.40. His mouth and throat was severely cut from crunching and swallowing the glass bottle. The contents of the vial was established as White Arsenic, and Hays is believed to have chewed up about two hundred grains, in addition to the glass container.

Hays was a Finlander, as well as is his wife, who was Mrs. Lipesto, a widow with three children.

They were in Copper Cliff about eight months ago. Hays was more or less known in the district and in recent years has been farming in the vicinity of Whitefish, along the Vermillion River. Previous to her marriage to Hays, Mrs. Lipesto secured a livelihood cleaning offices and stores in Copper Cliff. Upon their marriage Mrs. Hays with her three children moved to the farm. Within the past month she had to appeal to Crown Attorney Miller on account of alleged ill-usage on the part of her husband. Crown Attorney Miller wrote Hays a letter stating that he wanted him to come to Sudbury and see him on the complaint of his wife. Hays did not respond to the Crown Attorney's letter, but instead wrote to his wife to come back to the farm and he would arrange a settlement with her. Skeptical as to the good intentions of her husband, Mrs. Hays returned to the farm, but in company with two Finlanders of whom she sought protection in case of trouble. The expected trouble happened, when Hays offered his wife a cow and two tons of hay and call everything off, which was not satisfactory to her in view of the fact that when they were married she had handed over to her husband approximately \$200 in cash, the savings of several year's hard work scrubbing and washing, besides the household effects with which their home had been furnished. In a scene which ensued Hays stabbed one of the men who had come as Mrs. Hays' guardian. The stabbing not being sufficient Hays went to the house and emerged with a shot gun, at the sight of which Mrs. Hays and her two male guardians took refuge in the bush, with two shots fired after them. They then returned to Copper Cliff.

## PREPARES FOR THE DEED.

In the three weeks interval between this incident and the tragic affair of Thursday evening Hays apparently made every preparation for premeditated murder. He disposed of his farm. From railway tickets on his person he evidently visited the Soo and Sudbury. On Wednesday last Mrs. Hays received a letter to come to Victoria Mines and meet him, which she did Thursday morning. They spend a good portion of Thursday around Victoria Mines, and after four o'clock Thursday afternoon, when Matti Toumi, another Finlander, a miner who came off shift at that time and runs an automobile for hire, arrangements were made with Toumi to take them to Copper Cliff in the car. There were three other Finlanders wanting to make the auto trip to Sudbury but Hays demurred. He wanted the car for himself and his wife and had his way. The trip was made as far as Whitefish where Hays had the car stop at the hotel there for a few minutes. In his evidence before the coroner's jury the chauffeur said it was evident that Hays had been drinking heavily, but the trip was quite without incident, except for one remark which the chauffeur interpreted as the rambling expression of a drunken man, that "he wished the car would run into a pole and kill him, but not his wife." The two passengers occupied the rear seat, while Toumi was at the wheel. When just turning from the Naughton road into Copper Cliff the first intimation of the tragedy that Toumi had was the screaming of the woman and the man and wife in a struggle. The first shot was fired with the car running, but the chauffeur brought his machine to a stop by the time the second bullet was discharged. The woman put up a very plucky fight, and before a third shot could be fired, Henry McKinnon, the grocer, who was passing, and the chauffeur had Hays overpowered. The revolver was a brand new one, of the latest type. Mrs. Hays was removed from the train and conveyed to the hospital as above stated, while Toumi, the chauffeur, took charge of his assassin-passenger

## LOCAL BOYS GET LEASE ON GRAND OPERA HOUSE

**DAN AND DICK McKINNON TAKE OVER SUDBURY THEATRE IN CONNECTION WITH THE REX AND GAYETY THEATRES AT COPPER CLIFF AND CREIGHTON MINE.**

An important development in local theatrical circles is an announcement to-day that Messrs. Dan and Dick McKinnon, of Copper Cliff, will take over the Grand Opera House, on Wednesday next, Sept. 15th. Messrs. McKinnon have the Rex theatre at Copper Cliff and Gayety theatre at Creighton Mine, and have for some time evidenced a desire to secure a theatre in Sudbury. This was made possible in the recent rearrangement of the affairs of The Grand whereby the lease reverted to A. J. Small, of Toronto.

Messrs. McKinnon will doubtless institute the same aggressive policy in Sudbury that has made their two theatres in Copper Cliff and Creighton Mine a complete success. Especially in the conduct of the moving picture programs will this be so. Good pictures and good music, together with courteous treatment, is what will be offered to the patrons from the opening night. With a circle of three theatres the best pictures of course are always available, and in Arthur Childs and his symphony four the best musical combination in the North country will be heard at the Grand nightly. A new standard picture machine has been ordered and will be placed in commission before the opening night. Needed alterations to the picture screen will be effected and when the