

Ingersoll Chronicle Account of the Elliott Feud



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HUNTING FOR TROUBLE.

A Gang of Young Men Find it.

THREE OF THEM SHOT.

One Fatally—They Undertake to Run a Farmer Out of his Premises—But the Farmer was Loaded up the Other Way—He Shoots into the Crowd, Hitting Them—The Two "Holders of the Fort" Arrested and Committed for Trial—Some of the Besiegers Skip Out.

A shooting affray occurred at Elliott's cheese factory on the first concession of West Zorra and six miles north of here on Monday night by which one man may lose his life and two more were injured. The whole affair is the result of a family quarrel.

Ed. Elliott, a son in law of Sam, and living in town got up a load of roughs during the night and drove out to the factory intending to

steps and staggered and fell.

The story the tenants tell is that the besiegers fired off shot guns and revolvers first, through the windows of the building and in the air. They were simply acting in self defence and were protecting their own property.

THE CAUSE OF THE FIGHT.

For a number of years past Samuel Elliott who owned the factory, had been getting deeper and deeper into financial troubles. His brother James, in the fall of '87 offered to mortgage his property and loan Samuel enough to tide him over, provided Samuel would give him security for the amount. This was done solely in a spirit of helping and things even went so far as to have the loan negotiated when another brother, Thomas, stepped in and said that unless he was secured also for an old claim he held against Samuel he would fight the thing. James was not agreeable and the deal was off. Then Thomas persuades Samuel to go to Woodstock and assign to the Sheriff as interm assignee. The creditors met and appointed Wm. Ewart assignee. The property was realized upon and a dividend of 20 per cent. declared in June. James bought in the cheese factory and still wishing to act liberally gave Mrs. S. Elliott a lease of it until Dec. 21, '88. In the mean time James sold the factory to James

EVICT JAS. ELLIOTT

who was in possession. The gang was composed of Haunz and Jas. Noe, Jack McGinnis, Pussy Chambers, Dunc. O'Hanley, W. Murray and P. Crotty. This force was augmented upon arrival by two sons of Samuel Elliott. Ed. Elliott was chosen leader and well primed up the merry load started on the way for a little fun and a sleigh ride. But, alas, the homecoming was not so merry as the ride out. They arrived on the scene of action and immediately commenced operations. The windows were smashed in and the doors pounded with cordwood. The inmates Jas. Elliott, his son Jas R. and A. Forbis a man working for Geo. Raymond made up their minds that things had gone about far enough so

OPENED FIRE

with revolvers and quickly drove the besiegers off. The following were found to be wounded:

Wm. Murray shot in the groin, fatal.

Percy Crotty a finger shot off.

Jack McGinnis, a leg grazed.

Murray was picked up and carried into S. Elliott's house and a messenger dispatched to Embro for Dr. Adams. After about an hour's wait the doctor arrived. Murray was found to be in a bad condition and after doing all possible, Dr. Adams

advised his immediate transport home. A bed was improvised in the sleigh and the drive home was accomplished through a blinding snow storm from the north-west with the thermometer down to zero. Upon arrival Dr. Dickson was called in and he found Murray wild with pain. He gave him powders to relieve this and probed for nearly half an hour for the bullet but was unsuccessful. He states the case is a very critical one. He unsuccessfully probed for the bullet during the afternoon.

WHAT THE EVICTERS SAY.

The story told by those of the evicting party who will talk is to the effect that they went out more for the fun of the thing than anything else and it is probable this is correct as none but E. Elliott could have any possible feeling with one party or the other. They also state they were not armed and that the inmates opened fire first through the door and when they were going away Murray was shot. Murray carried the lantern and was walking away when someone opened the door and seeing the light fired at the carrier and shot him in the groin. This won't hold water for the bullet entered from the front and if he was walking away it would have hit him in the back. Murray walked about ten or twenty steps and staggered and fell.

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time James sold the factory to James Ireland, maker at the West Oxford factory, and covenanted to give possession by the 1st of March. It seems the law reads that even if a lease has expired, notice to quit has to be served before the lessee can be ejected. This notice it was impossible to serve as Mrs. Elliott was always kept out of the way. Things kept getting worse right along until Monday the 11th when James drove to the factory, found the door open, went in and took peaceable possession. This made Sam'l mad and all manner of means were tried to get him out. One of his sons went down and tried to eject him by force. James quietly showed a revolver and he desisted. The windows were broken and doors smashed. The floor was raised up and a stove upset in the hope that it would set fire to the building and so the war has been going on until it culminated in the fight of Monday night.

The building is now nearly a total wreck and bullet marks are all around. It is the general opinion that the inmates were perfectly justified in shooting.

The friends of Samuel, however, state that James had no right on the premises and was not justified as he was defending property in dispute. Be this as it may the parties who went out are certainly in a bad box. We learn that two or three have skipped out. It is surprising why these young men should have allowed themselves to be mixed up in such an affair. The majority of them are sons of respectable parents with comfortable homes and it should be a wholesome lesson to them for the future. It is one result of drinking and idleness.

LATER.

Yesterday forenoon Jas. Elliott came into town and gave himself up to the authorities. A warrant was issued for the arrest of James R. Elliott. Warrants had also been issued from the County Magistrate at Woodstock for the three. Constables Cable and Capron, however, got the start of the two men who held the others and secured their man first.

THE WEST ZORRA AFFAIR.

The Leader of the Attacking Gang is Arrested.

James Brady, esq, by order of F. R. Ball, Q.C., has taken the ante mortem statement of young Murray, who was shot at the West Zorra cheese factory fight. Murray is still alive, but Dr. Dickson, who is attending him, has not much hope of his recovery. He was shot through the abdomen and it is possible that some of the intestines may have been cut by the ball. It is also possible that the ball penetrated the spine. Murray, the unfortunate young man, was a brother of Miss Murray, employed at John White & Co.'s, and is also a relative of Mr. J. Mc Kay, book-keeper at D. Richards'.

Edward Elliott, who led the attacking gang, was arrested yesterday morning and admitted to bail.

THE LAST SCENES.

The Elliott Rioting Cases Come Up for Trial.

At the assizes last week the case of Queen vs. Elliott et al came up and the prisoners Frederick Elliott, Arthur Elliott, Edwin Elliott, James Nee and John Nee, were arraigned and tried on the charge of riotous conduct, arising out of the cheese factory dispute. They were all found guilty and after being severely censured by the Judge were bound over to keep the peace for a year.

Mr. Ball appeared for the Crown and Merend and McDonald for the prisoners.

The next criminal case was the Queen vs. James Elliott and James R. Elliott, for shooting with intent to kill at one William Murray, the case arising out of the same dispute as the former one.

The witnesses called by the Crown in this

THE SHOOTING CASE.

The Accused Committed for Trial—Bail Accepted—The Bullet in Murray Found.

The West Zorra shooting case came up at the police court on Friday, at one o'clock according to adjournment. Mr. J. C. Hegler, appeared for the plaintiff, while Mr. Thomas Wells acted for the defence. Mr. Wells consented to allow the evidence given to stand, and nothing further was given.

The Magistrate therefore committed the accused for trial and they were bound over to appear at the next court of competent jurisdiction. Bail was accepted in the sum of \$500 each, and two substantial sureties for \$500 each. Crotty and McGinnis were bound over to appear as witnesses.

The bullet in Murray was probed for on Saturday, and on Sunday Dr. Dickson thought to remove it, but on investigation failed to locate it. On Tuesday night it passed from the bowels. It is thought that the bullet had lodged in the wall of the bowels and in probing for it had pushed it into the bowels, thus accounting for the failure in finding it. Should inflammation not set in the probabilities are that Murray will recover, though it will be several days before he will be out of danger.

THE TRIAL.

Jas. Elliott and Jas. R. Elliott appeared before the police magistrate this morning, the chief of police prosecuting for the crown. Mr. J. C. Hegler appeared for the defendants. The first witness was Percy Crotty, who said as follows:—Met John Nee that night and he asked if I would like to go into the country as Ed Elliott wanted a couple of men to take possession of a cheese factory which he said belonged to him; called at Samuel Elliott's and had some cake and cider. Ed Elliott, the two young Elliotts and Murray went down before us; when we got there they were making an attack on the door. Some one inside said to go away or they would shoot them; Murray said, "Fire and be G—d—and we will fire back;" someone inside fired and then the firing continued for some time on both sides. When it commenced those outside moved back from the door and Elliott went up and got a lantern. Murray fired and I think one of the young Elliotts had a revolver in his hand. Then they resumed the attack. Murray was shot while half way through the boiler room with a lantern in one hand and a revolver in the other. We had whiskey with us furnished by E. Elliott. The crowd was pretty drunk and was so before we left town. Elliott promised us \$1 each and all the whiskey we could

drink and John Noe told me this. We rapped at T. Elliott's door and they asked "who is it." S Elliott replied "the boys from Ingersoll." It looked as if we were expected. The old lady said you will not have any trouble in hoisting them out. Murray fired through the windows from the outside at the people inside. Noe was upstairs throwing wood down on top of those in the factory. I was wounded in the hand. I think Jack McGinnis shot me. It was done while taking the revolver away from Murray who was running around and firing everywhere. McGinnis said this ends the shooting with this, and he snapped it a couple of times and it went off and shot me. The people inside told us two or three times they would commence operations if we did not go away. From what was going on outside the parties inside must have feared violence. I am quite satisfied we got all we deserved.

John McGinnis was called and corroborated the evidence of the previous witness. Said he did not know what they were going out for, but E. Elliott said were going to have some fun.

The magistrate said that on the evidence he could do nothing but commit the prisoners for trial at the spring assizes, though he did not doubt but that they would be acquitted.

the prisoners.

In the suit of Elliott vs. Elliott, which was brought by the plaintiff James Elliott, to recover possession of the farm and cheese factory in East Zorra, judgment was obtained by the plaintiff with costs, and an order was issued by the Judge for immediate possession of the premises.