

IN THE COURT OF OYER & TERMINER & GENERAL GAOL
DELIVERY.

VANCOUVER FALL ASSIZES.

(Before The Honorable Mr. Justice Morrison.)

Vancouver, B. C.

Oct. 30th, 1914.

REX VS MEWA SINGH. (Murder.)

A. D. Taylor, Esq., K. C. for the Crown.

E. M. N. Woods, Esq., for the Accused.

MRS. DALTON. SWORN AS INTERPRETER.

PROCEEDINGS AT TRIAL.

Jury of twelve duly empanelled, and A. H. Chambers, Jr.
chosen as foreman.

Indictment read to the accused.

INTERpreter: Yes, he says, I am guilty, I am on my oath, I am
guilty.

Court: Mr. Woods.

Mr. Woods: That is the plea; I don't think you can accept a
plea of guilty.

Mr. Taylor: I don't think that plea should be accepted; I
think a plea of not guilty should be entered.

Court: I thought Mr. Woods would instruct him. Enter a plea of
not guilty.

(Mr. Taylor addressed the court in opening.)

W. A. CAMPBELL. SWORN. DIRECT EXAMINATION BY
MR. TAYLOR.

Q: Mr. Campbell, where do you live, in Vancouver? A: Yes, sir.

Q: How long have you lived here? A: Ten years.

Q: What is your occupation? A: Carpenter.

Q: Do you recollect the morning of the 21st of October?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Were you in this Court House, this building, on that morning?

A: I was.

Q: What was the occasion of your being here? A: I was sitting in the witness room -

Q: Had you been subpoenaed as a witness in any case?

A: No, I came here with my brother-in-law, Frank Lee, in the Lee and Crossier case.

Q: And you were in the male witness room? A: Yes.

Q: Just about opposite this door to this room? A: Yes.

Q: Tell where you were? A: I was seated at the northwest corner of the table in the male witness room, and I had been reading a pamphlet, and a clerk came in to get the witnesses' names for the day, and I was just sitting there, and looking out through the door opposite me.

Q: What did you see, or hear? A: Well, the deceased man was standing with his back up against the wall there at the side of the door.

Q: That would be the right hand side of the door as you go in?

A: Yes, as you go into the witness room.

Q: With his back towards the wall? A: Yes.

Q: That is the deceased, Hopkinson? A: Yes.

Q: What happened? A: The accused -

Q: That is this man here? A: Yes.

Q: You recognise him? A: I recognize the man. He came up the corridor, and as he came up the corridor, he had both hands

in his pockets.

Q: You say you were in the room, did he come sufficiently along the corridor for you to see him? A: He was in full view.

Q: And you recognized this as the man? A: Yes.

Q: Tell his lordship and the jury as you saw this man, what was he doing? A: He pulled his hand out of his pocket, and took one step toward the deceased, and started firing.

Court: What did you say, he took his hand out of his pocket, and what then? A: He started firing. The deceased stepped out, and started to grapple with him.

Mr. Taylor: Q: Was that after a shot had been fired? A: There was a shot, or two, fired.

Q: Before the deceased - ? A: Before the deceased stepped out, and they started to grapple, and I would say about the third shot he went down to his knees, and then got up -

Q: That is the deceased Hopkinson went down on his knees?

A: Yes, he went down on his knees, and he got up, and the accused started to hammer him over the head with a revolver, and he dropped this revolver, or rather, it fell, that is the one in his left hand, it dropped out of his hand - the one in his right hand, I should say, dropped to the floor.

Q: By the time he dropped that revolver, how many shots had occurred? A: I would say about three shots; - three or four shots; there was a slight pause in the firing, ^{and} that is when he changed the revolver out of his left hand into his right hand. The deceased then went to the floor, and he still kept firing.

Q: The deceased fell to the floor, and the accused still kept firing? A: Yes.

Q: How many shots in all did you hear, can you tell us?

A: I would say six or seven shots, around about there.

Q: Did you come out of the room? A: I came out of the room.

Q: And in what position was the deceased Hopkinson when you came out of the room? A: He was lying with his head this way, up the corridor.

Q: With his head near the wall? A: Just about two feet outside the door.

Q: About two feet outside the door? A: Yes, he laid about two feet back from the door into the witness room.

Q: With his feet which way? A: That way.

Q: So he was lying from north to south, practically? A: Yes his head was this way, and his feet this way.

Q: Yes, north and south. While you were there did anyone come up to the accused, or, first of all, what became of the accused, as far as you know? A: As soon as the firing ceased, he disappeared.

Q: What did you do, did you see anyone take hold of the Hindoo? A: No, I didn't see that.

Q: You remained in the witness room? A: I remained in the witness room.

Q: And were there other people in the witness room, too?

A: Yes.

Q: What did the other people in that room do? A: I couldn't say; I, for myself, shouted for to shut the door.

Q: Was the door shut? A: The door was closed.

Q: The door was closed then? A: Yes.

Mr. Woods: No questions.

(Witness aside.)

JAMES McCANN. SWORN. DIRECT EXAMINATION BY
MR. TAYLOR.

Q: Mr. McCann, you are the head janitor of the court house here?

A: Yes.

Court: How about the accused, can he understand what the evidence has been?

Mr. Woods: It did occur to me. He does understand a little English. I want to waive the interpreting of the Evidence. It will save a great deal of time. I meant to say that at the start.

Q: You are the head janitor here, Mr. McCann? A: Yes.

Q: And have been with the Government for a great number of years?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you remember the morning of October 21st? A: Yes.

Q: Did anything special occur that morning? A: Yes.

Q: What time? A: About 10.12 I went out of the front door on the porch of the building.

Q: That is on what I would call the main floor? A: Yes.

Q: What attracted your attention? A: I was talking to Mr. Stewart, the foreman of the Grand Jury, and there was a shot, and then another shot, and I said, "What is that?"

Q: Never mind saying what you said. In consequence of that, what did you do? A: There were several more shots, and Detectives Crew and Samstrum were coming up the steps at the time, and I ran, and they ran after me, and I got down the stairs, and was looking up, and saw a number of Hindus coming down, and I said to Detectives Crew and Samstrum, "Grab them."

Q: Never mind telling us what you said, tell us what you did.

A: I ran up the stairs into this corridor.

Q: What did you find when you got to this corridor?

A: I saw a Hindoo with two revolvers standing over a form lying on the floor, I ran down -

Q: Just about where was this body lying on the floor?

A The head was at the west side of the door, and his feet was out towards the south, lying north and south, practically.

Q: And the Hindoo, how far was he standing? A: The Hindoo was just about a foot from his feet.

Q: Can you recognize that Hindoo? A: The man in the box is the Hindoo.

Q: And you say he had a revolver in each hand? A: Yes.

Q: What did you do? A: I grabbed him by the left arm. The man seemed to be dazed, but as soon as I grabbed him he swung around with his right arm, and pointed the revolver at me, struck me in the breast. I immediately knocked it down, and took the revolver from him, and he ~~handed it to me~~ handed to me the blue steel gun that was in his right hand.

Q: Do not answer this just yet, but as he handed you over the revolver, did he say anything to you? A: He said, "I shoot, I go station."

Q: And this is the man? A: This is the man.

Q: Would you recognize these revolvers again? A: I would.

Mr. Taylor: There are some cartridges in these revolvers. I would like some one now, in the presence of the court, to empty them. They were just taken as they were. First of all, you say he had two guns? A: Yes, he had two guns.

Q: Did you notice the calibre of the guns when you took them from him? A: 32.

Q: From where you are, can you recognize those as the style of guns?

Court: Go round.

A: I have them marked. This is the one I took out of his left hand, and this is the one that I took out of his right.

Q: The blue steel one, as you call it that he had in his left hand at the time you say he told you -

A: "I shoot."

Mr. Taylor: Now, will you please empty them?

(Guns emptied by one of the Provincial Police.)

Q: You recognize those as the guns? A: Yes.

Q: Did you keep hold of the prisoner? A: I took him along the hall and Mr. Goodman, the elevator man came up, and he took hold of his one arm, and I took the other, and took him downstairs, and we met Detective McDonald, and said, "Here, take him."

Q: That is, down to the cells below? A: No, we turned him over to him on the next floor.

Q: Did you recognize the body that was lying on the floor?

A: I did.

Q: Who was it? A: Inspector Hopkinson.

Q: Was he dead when you first took the gun from the Hindoo?

A: No.

Q: As you left with Goodman to take the Hindoo away, was anybody there beside Hopkinson? A: No, I didn't see anybody at the time.

Q: When you next saw Hopkinson's body, in what condition was the body? A: He was lying on his back, and there were two or three around him; I couldn't say who they were.

Q: Did you actually see Hopkinson's body after he was dead?

A: Yes.

Q: It was still lying there? A: Yes, I came right upstairs after

handing the Hindoo over.

Court: And you found the deceased in what condition? A: Lying on his back.

Court: And was he alive? A: Yes; he died in about three minutes.

The doctors were there, Dr. Smith, and Dr. Gourlay, I think.

Mr. Woods: No questions.

(Witness aside.)

DR. JOSEPH ARTHUR SMITH. SWORN. DIRECT EXAMINATION
BY MR. TAYLOR.

Q: Dr. Smith, you are, I understand, attached to the staff of the Vancouver General Hospital? A: Yes, sir.

Q: Do you remember the morning of the 21st of October? A: I do.

Q: Were you in this court house, this building, that morning?

A: I was.

Q: What time did you come here? A: I arrived about ten minutes past ten.

Q: Were you attending as a witness? A: I was attending as a witness in the -

Q: You were called before the Grand Jury? A: Yes.

Q: Do you know Inspector Hopkinson? A: I have seen him at the hospital in connection with the Bela Singh Murder case.

Q: Just tell us if you saw Mr. Hopkinson anywhere about that morning? A: Yes.

Q: Where did you see him? A: About two minutes after I arrived.

Q: Where did you see Mr. Hopkinson? A: Lying on his back in the corridor, just outside this door.

Q: In the corridor, just outside this door we are looking at?

A: Yes, lying parallel with it, with his head slightly towards the male witness room door.

Q: In what condition was he ? A: You might just say he was gasping, taking a breath every minute or two. I think he only took five breaths in the whole time I saw him.

Q: Did you stay beside him while he was taking these breaths?

A: Yes.

Q: How soon did he die? A: I would say from four to five minutes.

Q: So you were beside him as he died? A: Yes, sir.

Q: I presume you notified the coroner in the ordinary course?

A: Yes, I notified Dr. Jeffs.

Q: And you did not take any part in the post mortem examination?

A: No I did not see the Post mortem.

Q: That was done by Dr. Curtis? A: Yes, Dr. Curtis.

Mr. Woods: No questions.

(Witness aside.)

DR. GEORGE F. CURTIS. SWORN. DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. TAYLOR.

Q: Dr. Curtis, you are a duly qualified medical practitioner residing and practising in the city of Vancouver? A: I am.

Q: And for a number of years, you have performed post mortem examinations for the city? A: I have.

Q: Many hundreds, I presume? A: Yes.

Q: Did you know the late William C. Hopkinson? A: I did.

Q: I understand he was connected with the Immigration Department?

A: He was.

Q: Did you perform a post mortem examination of his body?

A: I did.

Q: Whereabouts? A: At the Dominion Undertaking Morgue on 9th Avenue.

Q: In Vancouver? A: In the city of Vancouver.

Court: When? A: On the 21st day of October, last.

Mr. Taylor: What time of the day? A: Shortly after midday.

Q: Will you please tell his lordship and the jury the result of that examination of the body of William C. Hopkinson?

A: I found that death had been caused by hemorrhage and shock following bullet wounds.

Q: You might say how many bullet wounds did you find? A: Four. One which had passed through, and which I did not find, the other three bullets I found.

Q: You found a bullet wound which had penetrated the body, and gone -,? A: Through.

Q: And you found three other wounds? A: The bullets of which I found.

Q: You found the bullets? A: Yes.

Q: You might describe these wounds, Dr.? A: The one was on the lower left thigh, the bullet had entered on the inner side, and escaped on the outside side.

Q: That would be practically a superficial wound? A: Yes, it would be a wound from which the patient might recover.

Another of the wounds which was not serious had entered in the back on the left side, and penetrated to the front part of the body, still slightly to the side. That, I extracted.

That, in itself was not a serious wound. Another wound had entered the lower part of the chest wall on the right, just about the 6th rib, penetrating the chest it had passed the lung on the right side, through the heart, and I recovered the bullet on the left side of the chest wall in the muscles, about the third rib. Another bullet -

Q: Keeping to that for a moment, what have you to say as to the dangerous character of that wound? A: That was sufficient to cause death.

Q: What was the next bullet wound you found? A: The next was in the back on the right side. That had penetrated the chest, passed through the lung on the right side, and on the left it was imbedded in the chest on the left side.

Q: What have you to say as to the dangerous character of that wound? A: That in itself, was sufficient to cause death.

Q: Would you recognize the bullets you extracted? A: I would.

Q: Are these the bullets you extracted? A: Those are they.

Q: These are the ones? A: Yes, still in the same paper I wrapped them up ~~xxx~~ in.

Q: Still in the same paper you wrapped them in after extracting them from the body of Hopkinson? A: Yes.

Mr. Taylor: I will put in the two revolvers as exhibits 1 and 2 respectively, and I will put in the three bullets as one exhibit, exhibit 3.

Q: From your knowledge can you tell us the ~~xx~~ calibre of the gun? A: A 32.

Q: What about the organs of the body? A: I examined all the remaining organs of the body, and found them normal.

Q: Then you have no hesitation in stating that the death of Hopkinson was caused by these bullets? A: None whatever.

Mr. Woods: No questions.

(Witness aside.)

PAUL CALDWELL. SWORN. DIRECT EXAMINATION BY
MR. TAYLOR.

Q: Mr. Caldwell, what is your occupation? A: Motor mechanic.

Q: And you live in Vancouver? A: In Kerrisdale.

Q: How long have you lived in this vicinity? A: ~~A~~ Shortly under four years.

Q: Were you in the court house, this building, on the morning of the 21st of October? A: I was.

Q: What brought you here? A: I was a witness on another case.

Q: Did you see anything occur in the corridor ~~at~~ here that morning? A: I was a little anxious to see how our case was getting on the day before, and I was in the doorway of the witness room.

Q: That is the male witness room nearly opposite this door?

A: Yes, and I was standing at the mat at the door.

Q: What time was that? A: About ten minutes after ten.

Q: What attracted your attention? A: I turned my back from a friend who was standing on my right, that friend was Mr. Hopkinson, ~~to~~ look at the Grand Jury room, and I heard two shots behind me, and at that I turned around and saw this man, this Hindoo, with a gun in each hand.

Q: Can you recognize the Hindoo? A: Yes, this is the man, ~~xxx~~
The

Q: /accused is the man you saw? A: Yes.

Q: Just state what was he doing? A: He was shooting right into Hopkinson.

Court: You saw him shooting? A: Yes, right into him.

Mr. Taylor: Where was Hopkinson standing? A: He was standing right against the door edge.

Q: That is, at the right hand side of the door jamb? A: Yes.

Q: Where was the prisoner from him? A: The prisoner was right on the opposite side of the corridor.

Court: How far away? A: May be two yards.

Mr. Taylor: How many shots did you hear fired? A: Well, sir, I thought there was about seven or eight shots.

Q: What did you do when you heard these shots? A: I turned around and seen the Hindoo man shooting these shots, and I thought he was crazy, and I made my way to shelter into the Grand Jury room.

Q: You went into the Grand Jury room? A: Yes.

Q: Did you see Hopkinson's body after? A: Yes, when I seen him he was lying on the floor.

Q: Whereabouts? A: Right near the door of the same room, with his head on the mat, and body lying across the middle of the corridor.

Q: Was Hopkinson dead then? A: No, he was not quite dead, he was groaning and moaning.

Q: Were you there when he died? A: Yes, I was there when he died.

Mr. Woods: No questions.

(Witness aside.)

Mr. Taylor: My lord, there are a number of other witnesses whose names are on the indictment, but I think we have established the shooting, and the cause of death, and my learned friend has not seen fit to cross examine any of the witnesses who have gone on the stand. It is not necessary for me to proceed with any other witnesses. If my learned friend wants to cross examine any of the witnesses whose names are on the indictment, they are in attendance, and he can do so.

Mr. Woods: I think my friend understands I do not wish to cross examine any of the Crown's witnesses.

Mr. Taylor: I simply make that statement that they are here, if you wish to cross examine.

(Mr. Woods addressed the court in opening.)

DEFENSE.

HEWA SINGH. SWORN. (Through the Interpreter on his own Bible) DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. WOODS.

Q What is your name? A: Hewa Singh.

Q: When did you come to the Province? A: I have been eight years here.

Q: Is he a married man? A: No, I am not married.

Q: And where is his home in India? A: The District of Amiritza.

Q: In the Punjab? A: Yes, the Punjab.

Q: He knew Mr. Hopkinson, did he? A: Yes, I knew him.

Q: To shorten matters, I simply want him, now, to tell - I will not ask him any more questions - to say what he wishes to say to the court, and to the jury. A: He says, I would like to say this on my oath, in front of you all as gentlemen and Christian and married people and everything, I wish to tell the truth, if you are to decide whether it was a right action my killing Hopkinson, you are at liberty to do so now.

Court: Tell him if he wants to make a statement to make it.

A: He says Mr. Woods, that statement that I gave before, I go by that statement. I have told you what statement I have made, and if there is anything else, ask me, and I will tell you.

Mr. Woods: Tell him I want him to repeat that statement again; I have his statement here.

A: He says, I have told you the truth in that statement, please read that out.

Court: Is it his desire to make a statement, or is it at your request?

Mr. Woods: He was desirous of making a statement this morning. What I have ~~xxx~~ here he has told in the presence of the court interpreter, and in the presence of a stenographer. He has made a statement that I have before me.

Court: He seems to be satisfied with your telling the jury.

Mr. Woods: That might be read out.

Court: He doesn't seem anxious to repeat it.

Mr. Woods: It will save time, that is all. I have it here.

Court: You had better read it.

Mr. Taylor: Pardon me, a moment, was Mrs. Dalton the interpreter?

Mr. Woods: Yes, it was Mrs. Dalton.

Interpreter: He made the statement.

Court: Yes. You may sit down, Mrs. Dalton, for the time being.

Mr. Woods: Shall the Registrar read it, or shall I?

Mr. Taylor: You had better read it as counsel.

MR. Woods: "First put down about my property -

Court: Gentlemen of the Jury, do you understand this is the statement of the prisoner that Mr. Woods is reading to you.

I don't know what it is, but you understand he is reading it for the prisoner.

Mr. Woods: "First put down about my property, and whatever the money is, and Mr. Woods will get that money from me. I have some lots, and I wish them to be given to my brother. I do not wish to employ any barrister to defend me in this case that is going on. That is my whole wish. Will it do me any good to have a lawyer? If it will, then, I will have Mr. Woods to defend me in this case, and do your best for me.

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My name is Mewa Singh. Up till to-day I have been a man that has always had my prayers, a God-fearing man. There are no words in my language to express the sorrow and troubles and worries I have had to put up with here in Vancouver.

All of us living Sikhs, when we go to the Sikh Temple, it is with the object of saying our prayers, but these others have gone to ruin us altogether, and others going into the temple, and firing there, destroyed the goodness of the temple spoiled it by having them shooting, and the man being killed there. In the temple that day that the shooting was done by Bela Singh, that day the police caught hold of me, and tightened me up, and said, "Did you do the shooting too," and then when they caught hold of Bela Singh, Bela Singh said, "Why, I have done the shooting in the temple; Mr. Reid and Mr. Hopkinson are well aware of it, they know why I have done the shooting." At the time that Bela Singh did that shooting we were saying prayers that anybody hearing them would have warmed their hearts together, and come to God with hearing those words, and Bela Singh, first of all shot Bhag Singh, and he has two little children, without thought Bela Singh killed him, and leaving these two little infants without a mother. Bhag Singh had no wife, just the two little children. Seeing that badness done there, the killing of the innocent people has burned into my heart.

We, as soldier men, have to swear on the Sikh Bible, which is held in great respect, and the Gratha Sahba (that is his Bible) is wrapped up in valuable silks to keep it sacred. It is precious, and of great value, and we treat it in that respectful way. Before
Bela

Singh did the shooting in the temple two or three hundred of our Sikhs would go to that temple. Since then they have fallen off, and they have no respect for it, and ten men do not go there now.

All this trouble and all this shooting, Mr. Reid and Mr. Hopkinson are responsible for, and I shot Mr. Hopkinson out of honor and principle to my fellow men, and for my religion. I could not bear to see these troubles going on any longer.

You, as Christians, would you think there was any more good left in your church if you saw people shot down, and killed in it, and you would not put up with it, because it would be bringing yourselves to a Nation that is dead, to tolerate such conduct, and it is better for a Sikh to die than to bring such disgrace and ill-treatment in the temple. It is far better to die than to live.

I, for my own self, have always said I did not want a barrister, and I do not expect any justice. I know I have shot Mr. Hopkinson, and I will have to die, but it is for the others that the case will be properly represented, and to help all the others, and show this treatment to the public, and bring it in front of them. There is no justice issued out to us by the judges, nor the police, nor any of them, and that is why I am giving my life to show this matter up. I understand God's ways, and am a God-fearing man. I say my prayers for an hour in the morning, and half an hour at night. When I know that this wrong has been done, I cannot expect God to bless me if my prayers were not accepted. I know my prayers have been accepted, and God knows between the right and the wrong. In our prayers it says that we must see right done. We cannot shut our eyes,

and see wrong done.

Let our best judges and barristers fathom this out, why Mr. Hopkinson has been shot, and get at the end of this trouble. They are always doing evil before us. The other men may go and drink, and do whatever they like, and go to the Immigration, and are accepted as right. We, that are God-fearing, and say our prayers, are being crushed, and dragged down. I cannot, as a God-fearing man, look on at that any longer.

In Sumas I had a case against me, and I got a pistol, and the Immigration men caught me, and I was taken in front of the Judge, and was fined \$58. After that case was dismissed, they brought another case against me, saying that I had brought the fire arms from one country to the other, and at that time Bela Singh, Hopkinson and Reid went there. When I was locked up at Sumas, they took me out of the gaol, and Hopkinson, Mr. Reid and Bela Singh said, " You have got to say that these pistols were for Bhag Singh, Balwant Singh, and Harnan." When they took me out of gaol Mr. Reid, Mr. Hopkinson and Bela Singh said to me, " I will get you off free if you say that Bhag Singh, Balwant Singh and Harnan have given you these pistols to give to Mr. Raheim." I turned around and told them, " You can cut me into little bits, but I will not tell that lie for you." Bela Singh said this to me, but the others, Reid and Hopkinson, told Bela to say it to me. First of all the three said it, and then Bela Singh kept on saying it to me. First of all, the three followed me around for days, and afterwards only Bela Singh. Mr. Hopkinson said to me again, " I am all powerful

here; I can get you right off if you make that statement."
"I told Mr.Hopkinson, " I cannot, I am a God-fearing man,
I may be cut into little pieces, but I cannot say that."
Then Bela Singh said to me, " Give Mr.Hopkinson some
dollars, and get it settled." I said, " I will give you
the dollars, but a lie I will not tell. I do not mind
paying the money, but lies I will not tell. " The case
where I was charged they had it put aside, and dismissed.
I paid \$40. to Bela Singh. Mr.Hopkinson was present.

They told me the whole case is settled. There
will be nothing more about it. I do not know if they had
really settled this case or not, but I got a letter from
the Ottawa Government. After my case was all dismissed
from there, one day, Bela Singh took me down to the
Immigration Office. He took me inside, and Mr.Hopkinson
was present. Mr.Hopkinson started writing a letter, and
he turned round, and asked me to tell him where I came
from, my father's name, my village, and everything. Mr.
Hopkinson and Bela Singh were present in the office. I
told them all this, and they wrote it down. Mr.Hopkinson
said, " Do you not remamber I got you off five years
gaol the other day. Now, you tell me the names of the
men that are against the Government; they said, " You
know them, give out their names, and tell us." I told
him I did not know who is with the Government, or against
the Government. I can give you no information. Then again
they said to me in that office Mr.Hopkinson, and Bela
Singh, to say that those pistols that I had at Sumas
were given to me by Bhag Singh, Balwant Singh and Harman
to give to Mr.Raheim, and then we will be your

friends. "No," I said, "I have given you the dollars before, and now again you tighten me up, and want me to tell lies. I cannot give innocent men away, and get them punished by making false statements." Then they said to me, "If you will not make this statement, then you are no friend of ours, we cannot make any more friendship with you." Then Mr. Hopkinson went and brought another man who was a white man. I cannot say if he was a barrister, or who he was, but Mr. Hopkinson brought him there. Mr. Hopkinson took the letter that had been written first, the truthful letter, and tore it up, before he went out to call this strange man in he destroyed the proper letter with the truth in it, and then when he brought the other man he started to write down another statement; I do not know who he was, whether he was an Immigration barrister, or who he was. Mr. Hopkinson and Bela Singh kept on saying, "We got you off five years, cannot you make this statement for us," and I still refused, and said, "No," but I told him exactly how I went to Sumas, and what happened at Sumas, and I made no wrong statements. For some lot that we had in Seattle, that is what we went for, and I told the truth in that statement. I cannot tell you any more why we went there, only for this lot.

Then they kept talking in English, which I do not understand, I neither read nor write it. Mr. Hopkinson said to me, "Cannot you give us some of the names; do not be afraid. Put down Raheim's name, or anyone. Do not be afraid, I will help you through."

Mr. Hopkinson said "When you went to Sumas was Raheim

heim at the Sikh Temple, or not, cannot you tell us that?" I said, "I don't know." Mr. Hopkinson again reminded me by saying, "I have got you off five years about those pistols, and you cannot do this little thing for me. Come along, and make this false statement, do not be afraid." Then Bela Singh turned to Mr. Hopkinson, and said, "Mr. Hopkinson, this is a God-fearing man, who says his prayers. Do not make him tell any lies." After they wrote the letter I would not sign it, or have anything to do with it, and Bela Singh and I went out to my home. This is the whole story, it stops here.

Then the letter came to me from Ottawa; I went to the post office, and they told me, "Go and get Mr. Hopkinson, and you can get this letter. If Mr. Hopkinson signs this letter, you will get it, otherwise you cannot." And I went off to get Mr. Hopkinson, to the Immigration. When I met Mr. Hopkinson we talked, and Mr. Hopkinson said, "You are a witness of Bela Singh," when we were going along to the post office, Mr. Hopkinson said to me on the way from there, "now, you are going to give evidence about Bela Singh. You turn around, and give evidence on this side, in favor of Bela Singh, otherwise it will be bad for you. You will go the same road that Bhag Singh and Badden Singh have gone," and threatened me. On the way from the post office he said this to me. I said, "Mr. Hopkinson, after taking money from me, and threatening me, and getting me to write all these things, who do you tell me I will be killed like Bhag Singh, and Badden Singh, what are things coming to, and then you write that letter which you knew was not true, and you take dollars

from me, and then you want me to give evidence now in favor of Bela Singh, and threaten my life." Mr. Hopkinson said to me, "I am all-powerful in this Vancouver." Then he said at the post office, after the letter was opened, it was found to be about the pistols, etc., and it was handed to me, and they opened the letter, and read that it was about the pistols, and in that letter I was exonerated, there was no more case against me. Mr. Hopkinson went to the Immigration, and I went home.

All night long it haunted me that here I am a man that says my prayers and those men harrassed me like this with these wrong statements, and trying to disgrace me, and bring me into trouble. I kept this in my heart all that night, and could not sleep with thinking that this disgrace should follow me about. Why should Mr. Hopkinson bring me down to this disgrace. Then two or three days after I was going along Hasting Street; there I met Baboo Singh. I said "Good morning" to him, and asked him how he was. Baboo Singh said to me, "Which side are you going to give evidence, our side, or their side." I said to him, "I don't know just now, I will see at the time." Then from the other side of the street Gurdit Singh was coming. Gurdit's Singh's village is Bilga. When Gurdit Singh was coming Baboo Singh used bad language to Gurdit Singh, and said, "I am going to ask Mewa Singh in front of Gurdit Singh, and see if he will say on which side he is going to give evidence," to get me to say in Gurdit Singh's presence. Then again when Gurdit Singh was there, he asked me which side I was going to speak for, I turned

around, and said, "I will tell the truth I saw in the temple and nothing else." Gurdit Singh told me to tell the truth, and say whatever I saw in the Sikh temple. Do not go behind the truth. Baboo Singh turned around and said to Gurdit Singh, "You go to the court, and tell the truth. Mewa Singh will say whatever we want him to, because we have the power over him." Then Baboo Singh started using abusive language to Bhag Singh, the man that was dead. He said, "We have killed him," and he abused his little girl. Then Gurdit Singh told Baboo Singh, "Do not abuse Bhag Singh; do not abuse the dead man," Baboo Singh said, "Yes, I will. " Those two men abused themselves among each other; they both used bad language. Then Baboo Singh hit Gurdit Singh in the face. When I saw them fighting I divided them, and said, "Brothers, do not fight," and I told Gurdit Singh to go home. When Baboo Singh hit Gurdit Singh, he hit him with a stick on the head. Then they went away, after the fight was over, and Baboo Singh came near me, and threatened me there, and said, "If you do not give evidence on our side, you will have to be fixed." At that time Seren Singh was there too. Baboo Singh kept on swearing at me, and using bad language but I never said anything back to him. Again Baboo Singh said, "We are all powerful in Vancouver. We can do what we like to you. I alone have the Immigration Department behind me. I can fix you. You can do nothing, I am all-powerful, I have you all fixed."

After leaving Baboo Singh, I began to take all this

to heart, and began to think, it cannot go on. This went deep into my heart. Then when I went to the police court I gave the true evidence. Then I walked about Vancouver kind of frightened after giving the evidence. Then again I was alone, and met Baboo Singh. He asked me, "Brother, where are you going?" Baboo Singh said, "What work do you do?" I said, "I live away, and do some work," and Baboo Singh said, "If you walk about Vancouver we will kill you, but I will show you you cannot, we will kill you." I took all this deeply to heart, I thought I must do something. I then thought it better to die, I will die like a man straight. These people have disgraced us altogether; They think we are nothing. Sikhs are nothing; there is nothing of us left, we are walked on. There is no judge listens to us. These four men are all powerful. No one can do anything here except Bela Singh, Baboo Singh, Mr. Reid and Mr. Hopkinson. That is why I have killed Mr. Hopkinson and I have sacrificed my own life.

Hopkinson was a deceiver, both to the Government on one side, and to us Sikhs on the other, and was a blood sucker. He catches hold of two or three on one side, and two or three on the other, and uses them as the tools in front of the Government. Anyone that could pay Hopkinson properly he would manage to get off. He would do the Government, bring new men right in here, and say those are old men that have been here before. He used to take \$100 from each of the new men. He used to take from both the Government side, and from our side. The Government listened

to Hopkinson, and never paid any attention to us. We are poor, only coolie men, and whatever Hopkinson said was law. The Government listened to him completely. Everyone knows that Hopkinson did these underhand things, and it must be brought to light. The European public must be aware of the fact that Hopkinson draws money from us poor native men. In the Vancouver public there are a few who are Christian men, who have received us with the proper spirit, the other have treated us like dogs.

For two months I have gone with Bela Singh, and saw Mr. Hopkinson doing all these underhand things, taking money, etc. After going with Bela Singh, then my eyes were opened. I could not believe before that Hopkinson used to do these things, but now I know it is a fact. I have never, and no one in the world has known what underhand bad dealings have gone on in Vancouver, and without anyone's help or suggestion from anyone, I alone killed Mr. Hopkinson.

Any meetings that we ever had in the Sikh Temple were in the bottom storey, and there we always talked about not having been allowed to have our wives here, but that was never talked of in the top storey where the shooting was done. That shooting disgraced the temple. Mr. Hopkinson has brought us all these cases, and trouble, and has taken the money to the Government, and left us almost without bread, and all this has been through Mr. Hopkinson. After seeing all this, that is why I shot Mr. Hopkinson. It is to show the Vancouver Public the truth of this matter, and of our sufferings, and Mr. Reid, and Bela Singh, and Baboo

Singh; there is no use the Vancouver public listening to Mr. Reid and Baboo Singh any longer. If they listen to them there can be no justice done to us, and in the cause of justice I wish this exposed, and the Sikhs helped. If they listen to Baboo Singh, and Mr. Reid, the trouble will go on. That is why I have given Mr. Hopkinson's life, and am going to give my own, and the trouble will never end while the Government and police will listen to these tales from Mr. Reid and Baboo Singh, and this is my wish, that I, Mewa Singh, wish this thing cleared up.

I would like four Christian clerfymen to talk to me, and I will show them from my holy book that the action I have taken to right this great wrong is in that book, because I am a God-fearing man, and it is with that view I have taken the right action, and I would like to talk to four Christian Clergymen, and I will read to them out of the Gratha Sahba, and show them how it is the wrong has been done. I must get rid of a sinner that does wicked things like that, to save the rest of the community from trouble, that is why the deed has been done. I have always read three sentences in the morning from the Gratha Sahba, and two in the evening, not ever to tell a lie, and it was for the Gratha Sahba (God's Son) I did this. I could not bear to see the wrong done. That is why I have lost myself to save this wrong. I am a lonely man, I have no wife. I have not got the Immigration Department behind me, nor the Committee behind me, and I have sacrificed myself for this good cause."

Mr. Woods : I have no more to say.

Interpreter: He says he would like to see Bhag Singh's little daughter.

Court: Not now; he cannot see her now.

Mr. Woods: He has been pressing that on me for the last four or five days, and it seems to me later it could be done.

Interpreter: He says he would like to make some statement after seeing that little child. If she is here close, can he see her?

Mr. Woods: I am instructed she is here; I am entirely in your lordship's hands.

Court: What relevancy would it have ?

Mr Woods: It is simply a request, and I pointed out that he could not see her at the present time. He has been asking me to do that, and I did not see how it could be done, as it is so unusual, but I told him later on I would see. She is the daughter of the unfortunate man who was killed in the Sikh Temple.

Court: Was the man who was killed in the temple a friend of his?

Mr. Woods: I think so.

Court: Mrs. Dalton: would you tell him that after this trial is over, whichever way it goes, he will have ample time, or opportunity of seeing this girl, will that satisfy him?

Interpreter: He says he wishes to add some little bit to that statement that you have read out, and he wants that little girl here to show something that he has to say about it, may he be allowed?

Court: I think, Mr. Taylor, having regard to that statement.

Mr. Taylor:.. I am not raising any objection, my lord.

Court: Where is the girl?

(The girl could not be found.)

Interpreter: He says, all right, he will make it without her. He says that he would like to point out two or three things in the Sikh Bible, he would like to read them out.

Court: It is not necessary.

Interpreter: He will say it without the Bible.

(Accused makes a statement.)

Interpreter: He says, what I have sung out just now is that the treatment I have received here, and all the under-hand dealings that have gone on was as bad as if the Mohammedans had ruled us in India, and I have given my life now thinking it a right action. He says that Bagh Singh has left a little daughter motherless and fatherless. All this killing down in the Sikh Temple is a disgrace. Please see that something is done. Never before has a shot been fired in the Sikh Temple, or desecration or dishonor brought on the Sikhs as has been done here. He says all this trouble has been because of Mr. Reid and Mr. Hopkinson, and they were the cause of the shooting in the Sikh Temple. I have given my life for this cause.

Court: Tell him he need not repeat that. He has said it before.

Interpreter: I am naturally a truthful man, I am neither a drunkard, nor do I spoke, nor do anything wrong.

Court: Tell him his statement has been read, and it covers all that.

Mr. Taylor: I wish to ask the witness two or three questions.

He has gone into the box, and I am entitled to cross-examine him.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. TAYLOR.

Q: I understand you to say there were two charges against you at Sumas? A: Yes.

Q: And one of them was withdrawn at the request of Mr. Hopkinson? A: Yes, by Mr. Hopkinson.

Q: And you subsequently - would you mind standing up, Mr. Ladner - do you know that gentleman? A: Yes.

Q: And you subsequently went to that gentleman, and in English expressed your thanks to Mr. Hopkinson for his kindness to you, isn't that right? A: Mr. Hopkinson told me to come along with him, and say this thing actually to Mr. Ladner.

Q: He did express to this gentleman his thanks to Mr. Hopkinson? A: Yes.

MR. TAYLOR: All right, we will leave it that way.

MR. WOODS: I have nothing more to say.

MR. TAYLOR: Under the circumstances, I will not address the Jury.

THE COURT:- Gentlemen of the Jury: The prisoner stands charged with having murdered Inspector Hopkinson. Murder is defined by the Code in this way: Culpable Homicide is murder if the offender means to cause the death of the person killed. If the offender means to cause to the person killed any bodily injury, which is known to the offender to be likely to cause death, and is reckless whether death ensues or not. If the offender means to cause death, or, being so reckless as aforesaid, means to cause such bodily injury, as aforesaid, to one person, and by accident or mistake kills another person, though he does not mean to so injure the person killed. That sub-section has perhaps not much bearing on this case but I read it so as to show it is not justified. If the offender for any unlawful object does an act which he knows, or ought to have known, to be likely

to cause death, and thereby kills any person, though he may have desired that his object be effected without hurting anyone.

Gentlemen on the evidence that you have heard there is no doubt that the prisoner killed Hopkinson. Then it is for you to say whether that killing or homicide, amounted to murder. On the evidence as you have heard it, it is very simple. If you believe the evidence for the Crown of course the crime of murder was committed on that occasion. ~~Of course~~ ^{It} is a principle of our Criminal Law that there must, ^{be} as an essential ingredient in criminal offences, ~~be~~ some blame worthy condition of mind, not only ~~be~~ the act of killing but also a criminal intention, that is, a purpose or determination with which the act is done. An act to become criminal when a certain result follows must be preceded by circumstances which justify you in finding the prisoner had the power to realize the consequences of his act, that had he had due regard to his surroundings he would have expected the consequences which followed. In other words, every man is presumed to intend the natural consequences of his conduct.

You may consider your verdict.

MR. TAYLOR: I think it would be well, if your lordship would allow me, to suggest it, you should tell the jury the difference between murder and manslaughter.

THE COURT: It is only necessary, Mr. Taylor, when there is any dispute as to what actually occurred.

In this case, Gentlemen, I personally ~~do~~ not think it ~~was~~ necessary for me to take up your time in referring to manslaughter.

I have read to you the circumstances under which Culpable Homicide is Murder. Culpable Homicide not amounting to murder is manslaughter. Now in order that culpable homicide shall not amount to murder, but be merely manslaughter, the following conditions

are necessary.

The slayer must not have meant to cause death. He said here he did intend to shoot him.

If in the doing of the act which has occasioned death, the offender's intention was to cause any bodily injury to anyone, the bodily injury intended must not be such as the offender knew to be likely to cause death. He had two revolvers loaded not two yards from this man, and he fired shots - more than one - the doctor gave us evidence as to four of them.

If the act by which the killing has been done was an act done for an unlawful object, it must not have been such an act as the offender knew, or ought to have known, to be likely to cause death. He knew, or ought to have known, that shooting within that short range with a loaded weapon would cause death. Gentlemen if you think that was the condition of affairs then it was not the crime of murder, but you heard him state what he did. It is for you to say, taking into consideration his actions, what credence you can give to that very long statement which has been read to you, and the subsequent statement made in the box. Of course what occurred in the Temple does not seem to me to be any sufficient reason for him to go and kill Inspector Hopkinson whatever his justification might be for thinking Hopkinson, as he says, desecrated the Temple. I shall not say anything more.

Jury retired at 12.20

Jury returned at 12.30

CLERK: Gentlemen of the Jury, have you agreed upon your verdict? Do you find the prisoner at the bar guilty of the offence for which he stands indicted or not guilty.

FOREMAN: Guilty.

CLERK: Gentlemen of the Jury, hearken to your verdict as the Court

records it. You find the prisoner at the bar guilty, and so say you all?

JURY: So say we all.

THE COURT: Ask him if he has anything to say why sentence of the Court should not be passed upon him.

THE INTERPRETER: He says "All I have got to say is be merciful to me. I have done it in a good cause. I do not feel I have done it for a wicked cause."

THE COURT: Tell him it is beyond my power ^{to do anything} but to pass the sentence which the law attaches to a crime of this kind.

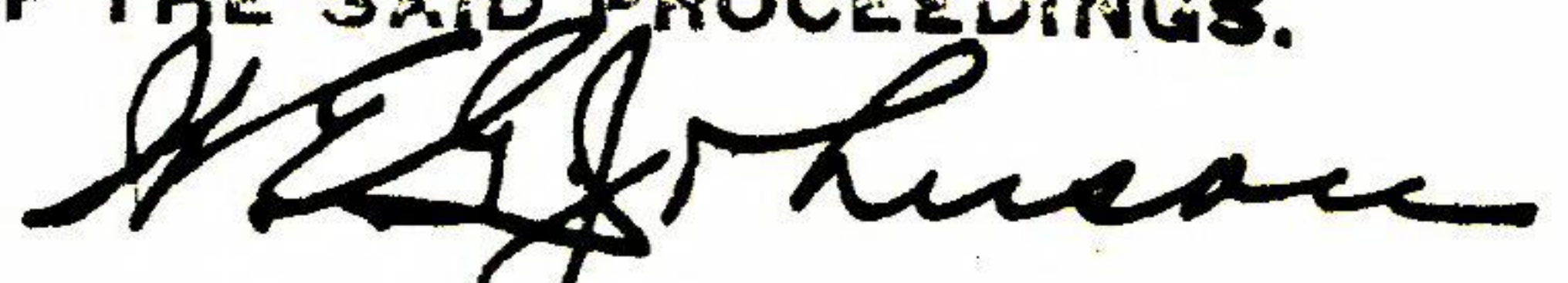
THE INTERPRETER: He says "I have nothing further to say."

THE COURT: The sentence of the Court is that you be taken to the prison whence you came and there on Monday, the eleventh day of January, 1915, you be hanged by the neck until you are dead.

(Concluded.)

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING
TO BE A TRUE & ACCURATE REPORT
OF THE SAID PROCEEDINGS.



DEPUTY OFFICIAL STENOGRAPHER