

Priest Must Stand Trial for Death of Half Brother

Montreal Grand Jury Returns Charge Against Abbe Delorme in Case That Has Stirred Canada.

Montreal, June 2.—Abbe O. Adelard Delorme must stand trial for the murder of his half brother, Raoul, an Ottawa university student, in this city last January.

This was decided today when the grand jury of Kings Bench court which has been considering the case this week, returned a true bill.

As soon as the jurors made their report Justice Monet, set the trial for Friday, June 9. The court intimated that the Roman Catholic church had disavowed the defendant to its clerical status.

Wearing a semi-lay attire, the accused idled away his time while awaiting the jury's report by chatting with his guard. At noon a car with a bouquet of flowers tied to the hood, called to take him to lunch.

Climax Sensational.

Seldom has a criminal case aroused greater interest throughout the Dominion. The arrest of Father Delorme in February on a formal complaint charging him with murdering his half brother, supplied a climax said to be unequalled in the annals of Canadian criminal procedure.

Suspicion had hovered about the priest almost from the hour the body of his 24-year-old half-brother, with six bullet holes in the head, was found frozen stiff in the snow in

January. The wrists were tied behind the back. The head was wrapped in blood-soaked napkins and a piece of quilt over which the tails of the overcoat had been drawn and pinned to the chest. In the pockets were two letters addressed to the young man, through which identification was made. This later was verified by the priest, who visited the morgue and identified the body.

Body Cold.

Investigation showed the body was cold when placed where it was found, as the snow under it had not thawed. The police subjected Father Delorme to a grilling examination which, they said later, tended to strengthen their belief that he was withholding valuable information.

Asked why he was not actively engaged in parish work, the priest replied that he had received special dispensation permitting him to employ all of his time administering the estate of his father, valued at \$165,000, most of which had been left to the murdered youth.

Questioned further about the financial affairs of the victim, the priest is alleged to have admitted that he induced the boy to take out a life insurance policy of \$25,000, seven days before his death. The priest paid the first premium, saying he did so to start Raoul saving money.

Celebrates Mass at Funeral.

The policy was made payable to the heirs and assigns of the insured.

Father Delorme celebrated requiem mass on the occasion of the student's funeral and subsequently announced that he had deposited \$10,000 in a Montreal bank which he would pay to the person bringing about the arrest and conviction of those responsible for his half brother's death. He also stated that he would demand a public execution of the murderer.

Meanwhile, the police had un-

earthed a wealth of evidence which they construed as bearing heavily against the abbe. This included a blood-soaked cap, picked up several miles from the spot where the body was found, and identified as belonging to Raoul.

Blood stains also were found on the priest's automobile, which he said were from a cut he received while changing a tire. An automatic pistol belonging to the priest was found to require bullets of a peculiar type. Several bullets of this same character, the authorities claim, were extracted from the student's skull.

Warrant Issued.

The climax came February 14 when a will was found deposited in the office of a Montreal attorney. This document named Father Delorme as the sole heir to all the testator's property, including his insurance. The coroner immediately issued a warrant for the priest.

Mt. Pleasant Youths Take Church Collection

Fremont, Neb., June 2.—(Special Telegram.)—Three boys, ranging in age from 16 to 18, taken from a train bound for the west coast, confessed to police here that they robbed the collection box of the Presbyterian church at their home, Mount Pleasant, Ia., getting about \$30 in cash. They are Emmett Wilford, Leslie Coan and James Hatcher.

A grilling followed the discovery of a woman's purse on young Wilford, resulting in the confession that they had fled from home following the plundering of the church collection. In explanation of the many dimes and nickels, the boys attempted fake a crap game story, but communication with the chief of police at Mount Pleasant confirmed their later confession.

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