

S. C. A.

C. S.

IN THE MATTER OF:

THE KING

- against -

EMILIO PICARIELLO AND FLORENCE
LOSSANDRO COMMITTED TO BE TRIED
AT THE NEXT SITTINGS OF THIS
HONOURABLE COURT AT THE TOWN
OF MACHEOD IN THE PROVINCE OF
ALBERTA FOR THE MURDER OF
CONSTABLE STEPHEN O. LAWSON,
ON OR ABOUT THE 21st DAY OF
SEPTEMBER A. D. 1922.

AFFIDAVIT OF GEORGE SKELING

Service of a copy hereof admitted by me on this
day of *October* A. D. 192*2*

Chas. Farley Harris
Notary

CHARLES FARLEY HARRIS
BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR
Letbridge - Alberta

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ALBERTA

CRIMINAL SIDE

IN THE MATTER OF:

THE KING

- against -

EMILIO PICARIELLO AND FLORENCE LOSSANDRO
COMMITTED TO BE TRIED AT THE NEXT SITTINGS
OF THIS HONOURABLE COURT AT THE TOWN OF
MACLEOD IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA FOR THE
MURDER OF CONSTABLE STEPHON O. LAWSON, ON
OR ABOUT THE 21st DAY OF SEPTEMBER A. D.
1922.

I, George Skelding, of the Town of Macleod,
in the Province of Alberta, Merchant, make oath and say:

1. I have been a resident of the Macleod Judicial District for upwards of thirty-five years. I have been a merchant residing and carrying on business in the Town of Macleod for the past twenty-five years. I know most every prominent resident in the Town of Macleod and in the surrounding country, and have represented the Macleod district during all the past term in the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta.
2. I was well acquainted with the late Constable Stephen O. Lawson and am well acquainted with his family.
3. The deceased Constable Stephen O. Lawson was for a great many years a resident of the Town of Macleod and for many years was constable and chief constable in the Town of Macleod. During the term the said Stephen O. Lawson, served over-seas his position as Chief Constable was kept open for him and upon his return he was re-instated in that position. Subsequently he resigned his office as Chief Constable in the Town of Macleod for the purpose of bettering his position.
4. The widow of the said Stephen O. Lawson is a Macleod girl who and whose family is well known and liked

in the Town of Macleod where she attended public school and where she has lived most of her life. The widow of the said Stephen O. Lawson and family are well known in the district of Macleod and are very popular. The said Stephen O. Lawson was very well known throughout the Macleod District and was popular.

5. Intense felling and excitement was aroused in the Macleod district by the killing or alleged killing of the said Stephen O. Lawson. The Calgary Herald, the Lethbridge Herald and the Calgary Albertan are very largely received and read throughout the Macleod district and the district surrounding it and are the only daily papers received and read to any extent in the district. Many persons throughout this district knew that the accused persons in this matter, especially the man Picariello, was engaged in the list sale of liquor and are commonly known and called bootleggers. To those who did not know the illicit occupation of the accused and particularly Picariello previous to the death of the said Lawson, the said newspapers conveyed that information. The popularity of the deceased Constable and that of his widow coupled with the information that has been so broadcasted throughout the district ~~that~~ the alleged slayer of the said Lawson was a bootlegger and one of the principle bootleggers in the district has caused very great indignation amounting to a feeling of resentment and a desire for revenge in the minds of the people of this district including the settlers about the Town of Macleod and the farming communities of the district of Macleod as well as in the minds of the citizens of Macleod against the said accused two persons and particularly against the accused Picariello and from conversations with the ^{many of} people living in the Town of Macleod as well as with a great many of the settlers in the farming districts around about the Town of Macleod which I have had I do verily

P. J. J.

believe that that feeling is almost universal throughout the district. I have personally discussed this matter in conversation with a great many of the residents of the Town and district and have listened to the opinions expressed by others in the district to other persons and from such remarks ^{addressed to me and} heard by me expressed to other people I do believe that the feeling of resentment and prejudice against the accused persons, especially against the accused Picariello ^{is} ~~are~~ so great, so intense, and so general throughout the Town and district that it is improbable that the accused persons could have ^a fair and impartial trial at Macleod.

6. The prejudice in the Town of Macleod, especially against the person Picariello is so great that the effect of that prejudice would be bound to be conveyed to the minds of strangers brought into the town to serve on a jury panel as in the ordinary way. I mean that if a panel of jurymen consisting of strangers were brought into the Town of Macleod from which to select the jury in the ordinary way for the trial of this matter, the prejudice would be bound to be communicated to the minds of many of such panel, if not all, by proceedings other than which take place in Court.

7. I have no acquaintanceship with either of the accused. I have no knowledge of either of the accused with the exception of that conveyed to me by the newspapers aforesaid and the general reputation of the accused.

SWORN before me at the Town of
Macleod, in the Province of
Alberta, this 7th day of October
A. D. 1922.

Geo Shelding

A. J. Lardner
Commissioner for Oaths in Alberta
My Commission Expires Dec. 31/22

A Commissioner in and for the Province of Alberta.