
THREE GAMEKEEPERS SHOT BY POACHERS.

Early on Saturday morning three gamekeepers named James Grosset, John Fortune, and John M'Dermoid were shot at by a poacher near Edgelaw Reservoir on the Rosebery estate. M'Dermoid, who was shot in one of his arms, was able to walk home. Fortune was shot in the abdomen, and sustained serious injuries. He had to be taken home. Grosset was shot in the back, but not seriously injured. Two men have been apprehended in connection with the affair.

SERIOUS POACHING AFFRAY.—A serious affray between poachers and gamekeepers occurred on Lord Rosebery's estate of Rosebery, near Gorebridge, at an early hour on Saturday morning. One of the estate gamekeepers hearing a shot in a field adjoining his house, proceeded to the vicinity, accompanied by two other keepers. A couple of men were discovered poaching, and on the approach of the keepers they levelled their guns, firing twice on being requested to surrender. Each of the keepers was struck, the shots taking effect respectively in the side, the arm, and the back. The poachers made good their escape. Information of the affray reached the county officials in Edinburgh in the course of Saturday, and the Chief Constable, Captain Munro, and several detectives left at once for Gorebridge. In the course of their investigations the detectives discovered that a miner named William Innes, forty-five years of age, residing at Stobhill, had sustained a serious gunshot wound in the lower jaw, which, he alleged, had been caused by his gun discharging accidentally. Under the direction of the police he was removed to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, where he now lies in a precarious condition. The police continued their inquiry, and a telegram was received in Edinburgh to the effect that a miner named Vickars had been arrested in connection with the affair. The gamekeepers are named John M Dermoid, James Grosset, and John Fortune. Fortune was injured so seriously that he had to remain on the ground until a conveyance was obtained to convey him to his house.

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FATAL POACHING AFFRAY.—Early on Saturday morning, three gamekeepers employed on the Rosebery estate were attacked by two poachers, armed with double-barrelled guns, on a field on the farm of Redside, a few miles south-west of the village of Gorebridge. All three men were shot—one on the right arm, one on the left shoulder, and the third on the left side, the leads penetrating the lower part of the abdomen. The unfortunate men have since been confined to bed, suffering considerable pain. The poachers decamped, but two men, said to be well-known poachers, who are supposed to have committed the outrage, have been apprehended. One of them had to be removed to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, being injured in consequence of a gun having, it is stated, been accidentally discharged in his house near Gorebridge. John Fortune, gamekeeper, died at Rosebery on Tuesday morning from the effects of being shot, along with James Grosset and John M'Dermid, by two poachers on the estate of Rosebery last Saturday. Grosset and M'Dermid are going on favourably. In consequence of Fortune's death the charge to be preferred against William Innes and Robert Vicars, miners, who are in custody, will now be that of night poaching and murder.

A GAMEKEEPER SHOT BY POACHERS.

EARLY on Saturday morning three gamekeepers in the employ of the Earl of Rosebery, named Fortune, Grosset, and John M'Dermid observed two men poaching near Edgelaw Reservoir, on the Rosebery estate. On the gamekeepers approaching the poachers one of them fired, and the contents of his gun lodged in John M'Dermid's arm. The second barrel was directed at John Fortune, and the contents struck his watch in his waistcoat pocket, smashing it to pieces. Some of the shot lodged in Fortune's abdomen, inflicting very serious injuries. The other poacher then first struck James Grosset, who was bending over his comrade, in the back. Grosset, not being so seriously injured as the other two, and seeing that the poachers were re-loading, jumped over a bank, got out of the way, and eventually directed his steps homewards. M'Dermid was also able to walk home, but Fortune was so seriously injured that he had to remain on the ground until a conveyance was procured to take him to his residence. Information of the occurrence was communicated to the police, and on inquiries it was ascertained that a man named Innes, residing at Gorebridge, had been accidentally shot on the same morning, and he was removed by the police to the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. The police have also apprehended another man, named Vickers, in connection with the outrage. After an examination the men were remanded.

THE POACHING AFFRAY AT ROSEBERY.

DEATH OF ANOTHER GAMEKEEPER.

The recent poaching affray on the estate of Rosebery has now assumed a much more serious aspect than was at first anticipated. It will be remembered that on the morning of the 15th December three gamekeepers named James Grosset, John Fortune, and John M'Diarmid while out on the watch for poachers between Grosset's house, situated near the Rosebery mansion, and Edgelaw farm heard shots fired, and went in the direction whence the sounds proceeded. There they found two men armed with guns. The keepers, who had only sticks with them, confronted the poachers, who greeted them with cries of "Stand back" and threats of violence. Almost immediately thereafter one of the poachers, speaking to his companion, said, "Take that — on the left and I'll do for the one on the right." A shot was then fired, which wounded M'Diarmid on the right arm. As Grosset turned to inquire into the nature of M'Diarmid's injury he received a shot on the left shoulder, and almost simultaneously Fortune was wounded by another shot, the charge lodging in the lower part of his abdomen. One of the ruffians then presented his gun at Grosset, but the piece missed fire, and the other poacher then shouted "Load again quick, and don't let that — away."

again quick, and Grosset availing himself of the little delay thus afforded, made off in search of assistance, and getting under cover of the wood reached the farm of Edgelaw. There he found three farm servants, who returned with him to the field where the affray had taken place, and from which the cowardly assailants had by this time fled. On the same forenoon the county police apprehended a miner named William Innes, a well-known poacher, whom Grosset had recognised as one of the two men who had so murderously assaulted them. He was taken from his house at Stobhill, near Gorebridge, where he was apprehended, to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, where it was found that he was suffering from a gunshot wound in the lower jaw. Next morning another miner, named Robert Vicars, was apprehended and shown to Grosset and M'Diarmid, who, it is said, identified him as another of their assailants. In Innes's house, a fowling-piece was found, while a double-barrelled gun was discovered in Vicars' possession. On Tuesday the 18th Fortune died of his wounds, and yesterday M'Diarmid also succumbed to his injuries. Innes and Vicars were yesterday afternoon again examined before the Sheriff at Edinburgh, and committed on a charge of murder.

THE ROSEBERY POACHING AFFRAY.

SENTENCE OF DEATH.

At the High Court of Justiciary, Edinburgh, yesterday, Lord Young on the bench, two miners, named Robert Flockhart Vickers and William Innes, were charged with murder and assault by the discharge of firearms. The accused were alleged, on Saturday, the 15th December last, to have attacked three gamekeepers in the employment of Lord Rosebery, on the estate of Rosebery, in the county of Edinburgh. Two of the keepers, John Fortune and John McDiarmid, died from the wounds they received in the affray. The third keeper, James Grosset, was shot in the back. Both prisoners pleaded "Not guilty." The prosecution was conducted by the Solicitor-General. Evidence was given showing that the attack was deliberately made by the prisoners on the approach of the keepers, who only carried sticks. The prisoners levelled their guns, and McDiarmid fell from a shot by Vickers, and Fortune from a shot by Innes. The keeper Grosset was shot in the back while stooping over McDiarmid. He was levelled at a second time by Innes, but the gun missed fire. As he was retreating, he heard one of the men tell the other to "Load quick, and give him another shot."—The medical evidence showed that 52 pellets had entered Fortune's abdomen, and that 38 had entered McDiarmid's elbow. Fortune's watch was battered in with the pellets. Both men were known poachers.—The jury, after an absence of nearly an hour, returned a verdict of "Guilty" against both men as libelled, by a majority; and Lord Young thereafter passed sentence of death, advising the prisoners not to entertain a hope that the sentence would not be carried out. The execution was fixed to take place on Monday, the 31st March.

The execution articles are too long to post as jpegs, so here are the links to the clippings, via Newspapers.com.

Glasgow Herald, 1 Apr 1884;

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/glasgow-herald-the-execution-of-the-men/148955207/>

Dumfries and Galloway Standard, 2 Apr 1884;

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/dumfries-and-galloway-standard-the-execu/148955887/>

The Reformer, 4 Apr 1884;

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-reformer-the-execution-of-the-men-ha/148952235/>

Here is the O-ed piece, from the Dumfries and Galloway Standard, 2 April 1884;

<https://www.newspapers.com/article/dumfries-and-galloway-standard-op-on-exe/148957017/>