

Royal North-West Mounted Police,

Ref. No. Regina District

Town Station Detachment,
May 18th 1914.

CRIME REPORT, Re..

John Cojocari, Nicolai Cojocari and Mordari Puscar, MANSLAUGHTER.

In compliance with instructions from the Officer Commanding, Regina District, on the 14th inst., Sergt Hall proceeded to Avonlea to investigate the above case. Upon arrival at Avonlea I interviewed Ex-Constable Hammond, who was stationed at Avonlea at the time of this case first being reported, but could not obtain any further information, other than that contained in his original Crime Report. From remarks he made to me, it was apparent that he had not taken any interest in the case from the beginning, stating, "It's a good thing that Peicu did get what was coming to him." I then ^{proceeded} to locate some of the foreigners who were present at the farm of John Krancuk, where the fight had taken place on the 28th of August 1913, and after considerable difficulty located several of them. It appears that the Cojocari's are members, in fact, leaders of a certain element of the Roumanian's residing in that district, who are from time to time causing considerable trouble. During a conversation with Konstantine Poff, of Sec. 4 Tshp. 10 Rge 23 W. of 2nd Mer. was informed that the Cojocari brothers were from the same village that he came from and he has heard on several occasions that they were in trouble previous to coming to this country. He states as follows:-

Sec. 4-10-23 W. of 2nd. Mer.
Post Office Truax, Sask., May 14" 14

Konstantine Poff states:-

"I remember the 28th day of August 1913. On the 29th day
"of August, I heard of the trouble at John Krancuk's farm on
"14-10-23. I knew John and Nicolai Cojocari in my native
"country, LITENI, SUCSAWA, BUCOVINA, AUSTRIA. It is eight years
"ago since I knew them in my native country. About five years
"ago the Cojocari brothers left their native country to come
"to Canada.
"ADDRESS, Police Official, Sandarie Casarine, Litene, Sacsawa,
"Bucovina, Austria.

(Signed) Kristintine Poff.

The following several statements are copies of statements given by several witnesses, original copies of which I respectfully attach herewith.

Sec 24-10-24 West of 2nd Mer.
Dahinda Post Office,

Mrs. Eva Hancu, states:-

"I remember the 28th day of August 1913. I was at John
"Krancuk's farm with my husband. We arrived there about 3:00
"P.M. I saw John Peicu there. I saw John and Nick Cojocari
"there. I saw Mordari Puscar there also. There were several
"other men there also. All the men had been drinking a little
"I saw John and Nick Cojocari and Mordari Puscar and John
"Puscar in back of John Krancuk's shack. The Cojocari Bros.
"and John Peicu were fighting. I saw John Peicu with a
"piece of pipe in his hand before he fell down. I saw John
"Cojocari with the pipe in his right hand before I saw
"John Peicu fall down. All the three men were striking at
"John Peicu. I saw John Peicu fall straight back on his back

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Cojocari et.al. Manslaughter.

"to the ground. When John Peicu fall on the ground, the
 "three men fall on top of him, and Puscar caught hold of hi
 "his hair and pulled his head around. John and Nick
 "Cojocari was kicking John Peicu with their feet, when he
 "was lying on the ground, and every time they kicked him
 "they would make a noise in their throat (A noise so as to
 "sort of emphasize the force of the kicking) I ran into
 "the house when I saw this because I was afraid he was
 "being hurt bad. I did not see John Peicu, again that day.
 "Just before ther arrived at the place where the fighting
 "took place, I saw John Peicu wakking backward, with the
 "pipe in his hand, and John Cojocari following him up.
 "Peicu was striking toward Cojocari as he walked backward.
 "Then Nick Cojocari went and took hold of John Peicu, from
 "the back, while John Cojocari took the pipe from John Peicu
 "hand. I did not see John Peicu strike any of them with the
 "pipe. A very short time after, Mordari Puscar went up and
 "then the three men were striking John Peicu until he fell
 "to the ground. These three men were the only ones fighting
 "John Peicu till he fell down.

Witness,

J.B. Hall, Sergt.

(Signed) Eva Hancu.

John Ursu states as follows:- N.E. Sec 32-9-24 W of 2nd.

"I remember the 28th day of August last. I went to John
 "Krancuk's farm with my wife. We arrived there about 2:00
 "P.M. I saw John Peicu there. I also saw John and Nick
 "Cojocari there, and Mordari Puscar. There were also several
 "other men there. During the afternoon we were having a
 "good time, there was dancing going on and there was beer.
 "I did not see any alcohol to drink. I saw some fighting in
 "back of the house. John Peicu and John Cojocari were fight-
 "ing. I saw John Peicu walking backward, and John Cojocari
 "was following him up. I did not see anything in John Peicu's
 "hand at that time. I thought there was going to be some
 "trouble. I did not see anything more because I drove away,
 "just at that time to go to my home. The fight occurred ~~the~~
 "about 7:00 or 8:00 P.M.

(Signed) John Ursu.

Witness:- J.B. Hall, Sergt,

Eli Hancu states:-

"I arrived at John Krancuk's farm about 12:00 o'clock, noon,
 "on the 21th of August 1913 and was there during the aftern
 "noon that day. I saw John Peicu there and during the day
 "about 7:00 P.M. John Peicu and John Cojocari had some
 "trouble. John Peicu had a piece of pipe. He pulled it from
 "out of his pocket and shook it at Cojocari to protect
 "himself, when Cojocari was following him up. I saw John
 "Cojocari take the pipe from John Peicu and punch him. Nick
 "Cojocari also took hold of John Peicu and fight him lots.
 "While the Cojocari's and John Peicu were fighting,
 "Gavrila Cracium went to them and said thats enough and
 "John Cojocari struck him over the hand with the pipe.
 "Then Modari Puscar go and he fight John Peicu with his
 "fist, and when John Peicu fall on the ground, Mordari Puser
 "kick him two or three times. John Cojocari and Nick
 "Cojocari also kick John Peicu and fall on top of him.
 "I saw Nick Cojocari pick up big stone with both hands and
 "strike John Peicu, on the belly. The stone would weigh

about

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"30 pounds. None of the men were very drunk. Then they took
 "John Peicu away to Nick Peicu's stable. About 9:30 or
 "10.00 o'clock I saw John Peicu in Nick's stable and he
 "very sick, and cannot go home. He was making a noise
 "like he suffer and very sick. Nick Cojocari hold John
 "Peicu and John Cojocari strike him with the pipe. John
 "Peicu was bleeding from the nose. Nick Cojocari also
 "take up big stone and strike John Peicu on the belly.
 "Both the Cojocari kick John Peicu many times with feet.

Witness:- J.B.Hall, Sergt. (Signed) Elie Henku.

Toda Peicu states:-

1946 Quebec St., Regina Sask.,
 May 17th 1914.

I remember the 28th day of August last and was at John
 "Krancuk's. John Krancuk have his baby baptised that day
 "I got to my brothers farm near John Krancuk's farm from
 "Truax about 10:00 o'clock that morning. We had some spirit
 "and some beer to drink at John Krancuk's house.
 "There was lot other man there that day, and all the men
 "also some of the women have some to drink. Nick and John
 "Cojocari also Modari Puscar there. I was at Nick's,
 "(my brother's) place when the ~~fight~~ fight go on. I got
 "to John Krancuk's place after the fight all over. I no
 "see the fight. I saw my brother John when he sick after
 "the fight. He was laying sick in Nick's stable. I hear
 "him make noise and I know he hurt bad.

Witness:- J.B.Hall, Sergt. (Signed) Toda Peicu.

Mihai Sahancek (Mike Chuc) states:-

1752 Wallace St., Regina Sask.,
 May 17th 1914.

"I rememamber the 28th day of August 1913. I went to
 "John Krancuk's farm about 4:00 P.M. There were about
 "fifteen people there. John Krancuk have his baby
 "baptised that day and invited those people to his place
 "to have a good time. I see John and Nick Cojocari there.
 "John Cojocari take pipe away from John Peicu and hit him
 "two or three times. Nick Cojocari he punch John Peicu
 "also. John Cojocari punch John Peicu. Then I see John
 "Peicu fall on ground. Then John and Nick Cojocari kick
 "John Peicu when he on ground. Nick Cojocari take big
 "stone and pick up, and throw on John Peicu. I no like
 "to see any more, I go away, home. They kick John Peicu
 "lots of times. All other man drunk, me no drunk any-
 "that day.

Witness:- J.B.Hall, Sergt. (Signed) Michiel Sahancek.

Other Roumanian's that were at the Krancuk farm on
 the day that the fight took place have been questioned but
 they all claim to have not seen the fight. From the circum-
 stances surrounding the case it appears that there are
 some of the people afraid to give evidence against the
 Cojocari outfit for fear of being molested themselves on
 some future time, referring to being burnt out like
 Kristintina Poff was burnt out some time ago in that distret.

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There is also some talk of the Cojocari outfit leaving the country, if fact they were trying to get out last fall after having been up before the court at Weyburn but owing to not having any money could not get out. Nick Peicu, brother of the deceased John Peicu has informed me that they have been inquiring if the case would be brought against them again. I respectfully submit that if any further action is to be taken against these parties that Constable Well, be instructed to keep watch and exercise the greatest vigilance as I am inclined to think they will leave if they become aware of any further action being taken by the police.

Dan Fluter who gave evidence at the Coroners inquest is very much inclined to favor the Cojocari outfit, there-~~fore~~ fore would not give any information during my interview with him on the 13th inst. Zarahari Augurian also another witness at the Coroner's Inquest has gone back to his native country.

John Barsu who also gave evidence at the Coroner's Inquest ~~has~~ died at Montréal as a result of injuries received in a factory accident which occurred during last winter.

Both the Cojocari's are living on their respective farms in the Dahinda District and Mordari Puscar is at present working for one Donnison, fourteen miles north of Regina on or near Winnipeg Street.

The Officer Commanding,
Regina District,
R.N.W.M. Police.

W. D. Doughton

Det/Sergt.