

## EAST FREMANTLE SHOOTING

### Injured Woman's Story

#### HITCHCOCK COMMITTED

Details of the sensational shooting affray at East Fremantle on March 2 were given at the Fremantle Police Court today when Harold William Hitchcock, a lumper, was charged with having shot at his wife with intent to kill.

Mr. F. G. Unmack appeared for the accused, and Sergeant Gallagher conducted the case for the prosecution.

#### THREAT IN A BAR.

William James Hughes, bootmaker, carrying on business in George-street, East Fremantle, said that on March 2, about 4.30 p.m., Hitchcock came into his shop and invited witness to a drink. After refusing several times he eventually went with the accused to the Royal George Hotel, where they had three drinks. Hitchcock asked him whether he knew a Jack Brown, and added: "I hear he is carrying on with my wife." Hitchcock further said he understood that Brown was to visit Mrs. Hitchcock that night, and he intended to answer the door himself. Thrusting his hand into his hip pocket, Hitchcock added: "I am going to give him this," producing a revolver. Hitchcock purchased a bottle of stout, which they drank together in witness' shop, after which Hitchcock left, saying he would be back in a few minutes.

#### "I HAVE SHOT MY WIFE."

Soon afterwards witness heard the report of a revolver shot and a child's scream. Two minutes later Hitchcock came into the shop with a revolver in his hand and said: "I have shot my wife; I have shot her dead." Hitchcock then pointed the revolver at his own head, but witness grabbed at it. In the struggle for possession of the weapon the revolver was discharged, the bullet entering the floor close to witness' feet. Hitchcock was eventually pacified and he passed the revolver over to witness, after which he began to cry and said

he passed the revolver over to witness, after which he began to cry and said he was sorry for what he had done. Mrs. Hitchcock occupied the house next door to witness' home.

#### "THE BRUTE SHOT ME."

Frank M'Caughey, railway employe, said that as he emerged from a hair-dresser's shop in George-street, East Fremantle, at about 5.30 p.m., he saw a woman staggering across the street with blood pouring from her mouth. He assisted her to a nearby house, where he rendered first-aid. The woman said "The brute shot me."

#### INJURIES DESCRIBED.

Dr. F. H. U. Baker, S.R.M.O. at Fremantle Hospital, gave evidence that Mrs. Hitchcock was brought to the hospital suffering from a gunshot wound in the face and throat. The bullet, which had pierced the cheek and lodged in the back of the throat, was extracted next morning. The woman's life was not in danger.

#### MRS. HITCHCOCKS STORY.

Lucy Jean Cleo Hitchcock was then called. Mr. Unmack drew the attention of the Bench (Mr. H. J. Craig, R.M., and Mr. F. E. Gibson, J.P.) to the fact that Mrs. Hitchcock was not obliged to give evidence against her husband.

The law on the point having been explained to her by the R.M., Mrs. Hitchcock elected to give evidence. She said that on March 2 she occupied a house at 85 George-street, Fremantle. She obtained a separation order against her husband in June last. There were five children, whose ages ranged from twelve months to seven years. Her husband paid her regularly £3 per week until November last, when he returned home and remained for about six weeks. Then he packed his belongings and said he was going back to his previous lodgings.

On March 2 she met her husband by appointment, when he told her he was not going to give her any money in the future. She proceeded to the Courthouse, followed by her husband. After leaving the Courthouse her husband put his hand in his hip pocket and produced a revolver saying: "I have a good mind to do for you now, you —." She asked him for some money to get the

asked him for some money to get the children's tea, and he gave her £1. She returned to her home, and at 5 o'clock her husband came there and asked who was the man who had left the house on the previous Sunday morning. Witness replied "Jack Brown," at which her husband said, producing the revolver, "Oh, was it? I'll fix you," and fired immediately. She felt a stinging sensation in the mouth and ran into the street.

In cross-examination by Mr. Unmack, witness said that on the day of the shooting she made a certain admission to her husband which implicated Brown.

Constable Duperouzel gave evidence of arrest. A man named Hughes handed him a revolver, which contained two empty cartridge shells and three live cartridges. Accused said he was sorry for what he had done, but wished it had been a man named Brown.

Accused, who reserved his defence, was committed for trial. Bail was refused.

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