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MAN AMOK.

Palm Island Tragedy

Story at Inquiry.

TOWNSVILLE (Q.), Thursday.

AT the resumption of the magisterial inquiry into the Palm Island tragedy this morning, before Mr. G. A. Cameron, P.M., Dr. Charles Maitland-Pattison gave a graphic account of the shooting.

The inquiry is into the death of Robert Curry, who ran amok and blew up two children, Edna and Robert Curry, and shot Dr. and Mrs. Maitland-Pattison, before he himself was shot by an aborigine.

"Mrs. Pattison and I retired on the night before the tragedy at 11 o'clock," said Pattison in evidence. "I was awakened shortly before 1 a.m. by a rifle shot, which came from the front verandah, and smashed the jug and basin on the washstand. I jumped out of bed, and heard another report, and felt a stinging pain. I fell, and in a semi-conscious condition became aware that Curry was standing straddle-legged over me. He was bootless, and the muzzle of his rifle was within three or four inches of my face.

"I did not move an inch, and presently Curry laughed and gave me a couple of kicks and moved away. More shots rang out in quick succession, and then Curry jumped over the verandah and disappeared."

Wife Dressed Wounds.

Ten minutes later, said Pattison, he heard his wife moaning, and as he could not move, because of his wounds, his wife crawled over to him and dressed them. Next day he was removed to hospital.

Inspector Loch: Did you at any time instruct one of the aborigines to shoot Curry where Curry shot you?

Pattison said he had no recollection of having used the words. His relations with Curry were absolutely friendly up to last Christmas, when a difference occurred, and Curry assaulted him.

up to last Christmas, when a difference occurred, and Curry assaulted him. As a result a magisterial inquiry was held at Palm Island about a week before the tragedy.

Cross-examined by Mr. K. Ownly (for Curry's family), witness denied arming the natives, or instructing them to shoot Curry.

After Mrs. Pattison had given evidence the inquiry was adjourned.