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Customary Rates
(About 6500 words)
EQMM Contest

too much "conclusion"
have almost nothing
Dexter himself needed -
Had had not clear need shown to "mystery" for

Windy -
village officer too late
and too long
Baker hills would help

like fast-facts
too much "a bit"
"may tell" - but
need more evidence

CITIZEN'S KEY

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If Patrolman Michael Dexter had not ^{known} ~~for some reason~~,
~~which never will be known~~, decided to try the steam beer at Finley's
~~that night~~, instead of partaking of his customary ^{evening} refreshment at
O'Toole's, it would have been merely burglary instead of murder --
another burglary of a rather annoying sort, but nothing to call
down the wrath which it did. And it might easily have wound up in a
musty file of unsolved cases which went up, ~~in smoke~~ years later, in
the big fire of 1906. As it was, it became a minor sensation, and
it gave the material wherewith to confound the critics who held
that Detective Sergeant McNeill spent too much time drawing little
maps and diagrams.

At any rate, it was ^{around} ~~shortly after~~ 11 o'clock on that
foggy July night that Patrolman Dexter, of ~~the~~ Old City Hall Station,
wiped his lips on the back of his hand, hitched up his belt, and
strode out of the side door of Finley's into Union Street -- after
a swiftly expert reconnaissance to assure himself that the rounds-
man was not lurking thereabout. Departmental regulations ^{in the general}
and the roundsman in particular, frowned upon steam beer ^{duty}
hours, but ^{slightly} old Michael had yet to be caught. Seeing that ^{the coast was}
