

THE CHIEF
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What has become of the Good Roads association?

Sir Thomas Lipton has declared his intention of again challenging for the America's cup. Such perseverance as Sir Shomas has shown deserves success.

The football season at the universities has opened and from now until after the holidays football will occupy the principal place in the news columns of the dailies.

It will be news to many persons that Nebraska is teeming with peat bogs, and that if the right kind of efforts were put forth the coal trust would soon be knocked in the head, at least so far as Nebraska is concerned. Peat is the principal fuel of Ireland, Holland and other European countries, and as it is much cheaper than coal it would be a godsend to the trust-ridden people of the west.

Thomas Quiggle of Rosemont, republican candidate for clerk of the district court, is in every way well qualified to fill the position to which he aspires. Mr. Quiggle is at present postmaster at Rosemont, and, coming from a neighborhood which has not been represented at the county seat for a long time, there is no reason why he should not receive the solid vote of his party at the November election.

To the residents of the south part of the county Ed Amack needs no introduction, but to those who live in the north half of the county a few words will not come amiss. Ed was born in Iowa thirty-six years ago, and came to Webster county in October, 1886, and has resided here ever since. He was married in this county, but had the misfortune to lose his wife about two years ago. His daughter, the only child born to this union, has lived in Iowa with relatives since the death of her mother. Personally, Ed is very popular among his acquaintances and is admired for his courage and other manly qualities, which well fit him for the office of sheriff. He has always been a staunch republican and should receive the hearty support of every republican in the county, as he undoubtedly will.

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"TOM" MADISON'S CAREER IS ENDED

Dead Body of Triple Murderer Found Wednesday.

A Half-Empty Box of Rat Poison and a Bullet-Hole in His Head Indicate the Manner in Which He Ended His Own Life.

On Wednesday the search for Tom Madison (or "Madson," as the name is spelled on his clothing), the man who murdered Mrs. Elizabeth Payne and her daughter and granddaughter, Mrs. Eda Williamson and Miss Mattie Williamson, three weeks ago last Tuesday night, came to an abrupt termination by the finding of his dead body in a draw on the farm of Mike Vavricka, about seven miles due north from Red Cloud.

About 9 o'clock Wednesday morning Irving Harpan, 17 years of age, who was mowing hay on the James Emigh place, just across the section line to the south of the Vavricka farm, noticed his dog acting in a peculiar manner. After making another round of the field young Harpan noticed a terrible stench, coming from the north, and followed his dog into the draw to investigate the matter. Lying in a shallow hole near the top of the bank of the draw he found the dead body of a man in the last stages of decomposition.

Coroner T. R. Hall of Cowles was immediately notified, but it was after 1 o'clock before the news reached Red Cloud.

Several parties from Red Cloud, including Sheriff McArthur and representatives of the newspapers, immediately started for the scene of the discovery of the corpse.

All the indications lead to the belief that Madison came to his death by his own hand, having been rendered desperate by the close pursuit of the officers and the thought of the terrible punishment he would receive should he fall into the hands of the infuriated neighbors of the murdered women. Near the body was found a half-empty box of "Lightning Rat Exterminator," while beneath the body was lying a six-shot, 32 caliber revolver of the Wadsworth Forehand pattern, model of 1901. One chamber of the revolver was empty. The only plausible theory is that Madison first took the poison, and when the convulsions following the taking of the poison came on he used the revolver to end his agony. He had apparently placed the muzzle of the revolver beneath his chin on the right side and fired, the bullet emerging from his head just in front of the left ear. His vest and shirt were saturated with blood, and the earth beneath his head was also blood-stained, showing that he had not moved after firing the fatal shot.

From the very first there was little or no doubt that the body was that of Tom Madison, although the features were so black and decomposed that their complete identification was impossible.

The first person to make a positive identification of the body was J. W. Corbett, who lives in the neighborhood where the three women were assassinated. Mr. Corbett identified the double-breasted vest and brown hat found on the corpse as articles of clothing he had many times seen worn by Madison. Next he identified the prominent, uneven teeth and low, retreating forehead and Roman nose of the dead man as resembling those of Madison.

Identification was not complete, however, until the clothing had been cut from the corpse and closely examined. Upon the inside pocket of the coat, which was of dark material, was found a photograph of a Circassian girl which Madison had purchased at the Sells & Downs show in this city. In the lining of the same pocket was a label bearing the name of the makers of the clothing, M. Born & Co., Chicago, and on the label was written in ink the name "T. Madson." The coat belonged to a suit which Madison

had purchased from the Cowden-Kaley Clothing Co. of this city. In another pocket of the coat was a sample of green dress goods, while in still another pocket were found a number of 32-caliber cartridges. In a pocket of the trousers which he wore beneath his overalls was found a plug of chewing tobacco from which only a small portion had been used. Mr. Harrington identified the plug of tobacco as the one he had given to Madison.

The clothing found on the corpse tallied in nearly every respect with the descriptions of that worn by Tom Madison. A dark tailor-made coat, dark pants with a fine light stripe, a black and white check double-breasted vest, brown hat, a new leather belt branded "Perfection," nearly new summer underclothing, blue overalls striped with white, light green socks with a white stripe encircling them, and fairly new shoes.

The badly decomposed condition of the body made it almost impossible to be moved without falling to pieces, and indicated that Madison had been dead several days. It was two weeks today that Madison was tracked to the edge of a cornfield within a few yards of where his body was found, after which all trace of him was lost. He undoubtedly ended his life that night.

The corpse was a sickening sight to look upon. The flesh had turned black, both hands had been eaten off by coyotes or wolves, and the entire body was teeming with maggots and insects. When the clothing was removed from the body both arms hung only by shreds of skin.

Undertaker Muniz, who has been in the business for fifteen years, said the corpse was in the worst condition of any he had ever handled.

The spot where the body was found is on Mike Vavricka's farm, southeast quarter of section 25, Batin township, within a few yards of the south section line and about 200 yards east from the main road running due north from Red Cloud.

Many suggestions as to the disposition of the body were advanced, the one meeting with most favor being that it should be burned where it lay. Both the coroner and sheriff objected to this and it was finally brought to Red Cloud. The condition of the body was such that it could not be kept for any length of time, and as no one appeared to claim it, the corpse was taken to the poor farm Wednesday night and buried. There were no services, and no tears were shed.

The coroner's jury, composed of J. P. Hale, Oscar Boyce, Robert Adamson, James McBride, Albert Thompson and John D. Storey, after examining the corpse and hearing the evidence, handed in the following verdict:

STATE OF NEBRASKA,
WEBSTER COUNTY.

At an inquisition held at the southwest quarter of section 25, township 3 north, range 11 west, in Webster county, on the 30th day of September, 1903, by me, coroner of said county, upon the body of Tom Madison, lying dead, by the jurors, whose names are hereunto subscribed, the said jurors upon their oaths do say that he came to his death by his own hand, by taking poison and then by a gunshot killed himself.

Tom Madison's Black Record.

Tom Madison, the fiend in human form, for whom the officers and citizens of two states have been searching for over two weeks, is dead at last. If half the stories told of him are true, he was certainly a very dangerous person to be at liberty. The story of his crimes committed in Missouri is as revolting as the crime he committed in Kansas. One story, which comes from a reliable source, is that Madison, in a fit of drunken confidence, told an



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