

TRIAL OF GREEN GRAVELLY

Murderer of Charles Thomas Before the District Court.

HOW THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED.

It Originated Over a Game of "Craps"—One Shot was Sufficient to Do the Work—Other Lincoln News Notes.

LINCOLN, Neb., Sept. 26.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The trial of Green S. Gravelly for the murder of Charles Thomas commenced in district court before Judge Tibbitts this morning. The entire forenoon was taken up with the work of securing a jury, and the work was finally satisfactorily completed after forty taxmen had been examined.

Testimony of the Witnesses. The witnesses examined by the state this afternoon were Ben Cornwell, W. N. Cornwell, Bob Mix and Dick Johnson, all colored men. W. N. Cornwell's testimony was to the effect that at the time of the shooting he was in the saloon below. Upon hearing the row of shots he ran up and saw his brother trying to shove Gravelly out of the door. Gravelly had a gun in his hand and the witness ordered him to drop it. Gravelly dropped the gun to his side and then raised it quickly and fired, when Thomas reeled. The witness stepped up and asked him if he was hurt. Thomas made no reply, but fell to the floor and died.

Ben Cornwell was the man over whose shoulder Gravelly fired the fatal shot. He testified substantially that he saw Thomas enter the billiard room, walk up to Gravelly and say: "You're a sucker, who drew the gun on my woman, ain't you?" Gravelly replied: "You keep off of me, Thomas, or words to that effect. Gravelly got up, and as Thomas advanced toward him the witness stepped between them, saying that they must not fight in the house, at the same time pushing Gravelly against the door case. Gravelly fired over his shoulder. The testimony of the other witnesses was simply corroborative. The examination of the witnesses proceeded very tediously. Attorney Lamb cross-examined all of the witnesses very minutely.

One Witness Missing. One witness whose testimony would be valuable to the defense seems to be missing. He is Pete Johnson, and it is claimed that he is the man who took the pair of brass knuckles from the hand of Thomas after the latter had been killed. At the preliminary examination last spring all of the witnesses testified positively to the fact that when Thomas entered the billiard hall during his altercation with Gravelly he wore a pair of brass knuckles. Two of the witnesses also swore that Pete Johnson also removed the knuckles after Thomas had been killed. Johnson has disappeared and is said to be out of the state. During the progress of the trial the jury was informed that the court would not issue a subpoena for the witness.

The crime for which Gravelly is being tried was committed in the billiard room over which Johnson was in charge on Saturday night, August 15. The shooting created considerable excitement and the comment was perhaps more general from the fact that it was the second murder committed in the city that week, the shooting of C. E. Montgomery having taken place but two days before.

Quarrelled Over a Game of Craps. The shooting was the direct outgrowth of a quarrel over a game of "craps," in which Gravelly had threatened to take the life of Clara Thomas, the wife of his victim. Gravelly and a companion had gone to the Thomas residence the night before the shooting and engaged in a game of "craps" with Mrs. Thomas. He won several dollars from her, whereupon she commenced quarrel. Gravelly drew a revolver and threatened to kill her. After her husband had returned Mrs. Thomas told the story. The following morning Gravelly was seated in the billiard room over the saloon referred to when Charles Thomas entered, evidently in search of him. Thomas had a pair of brass knuckles on his right hand, and was known to be a desperate man. Walking up to Gravelly he exclaimed: "You're the man who pulled a gun on my woman, you black nigger." Gravelly denied the imputation and warned Thomas to leave him alone. Thomas advanced toward him and he heaved away, all the time ordering Thomas to keep away.

When near the center of the room Gravelly pulled a revolver from his pocket, but before he attempted to fire the proprietor of the place stepped between the two men and tried to push Gravelly out of the door. Gravelly reached the threshold he reached over the proprietor's head and fired a shot at Thomas, who was leaning over the corner of a billiard table three or four feet away.

Died Where He Fell. But one shot was fired. Thomas fell to the floor and was dead when the bystanders reached him. He died without a word. As Gravelly fled he was pursued by the police down the stairs and disappeared in the darkness. At the coroner's inquest it was found that the bullet struck the fleshy part of Thomas' right shoulder and, passing through the pectoral muscles and under the collar bone severed the jugular vein. The bullet then struck the spinal column, and bounded back and lodged in the right side of the neck. The first breath drawn by the wounded man filled the pleural cavity with blood.

The officers at once began to scour the city in search of the murderer but, he successfully eluded all their efforts. Sunday afternoon, when he was found secured under a pile of hay in the loft of Huribut's barn at 7th and D streets. He was taken to the Police Jail Water on Tuesday afternoon, May 31, and by that official bound over to the district court. Dan Cashlan, the colored coachman in the employ of Huribut, was arrested and charged with aiding in the escape of a man known to have committed a murder. Cashlan was also held on a second charge, but was released on bail. Several weeks ago he was arrested on the charge of burglary but was afterwards discharged for lack of evidence to convict. He is being tried with Gravelly.

Gossip at the State House. Alexander Schiagel chief draughtsman in the office of commissioner of public lands and buildings, has just completed two indexed diagrams of the state field notes, which will be of great value to the department. The field notes comprise upwards of 100 volumes and they are now for the first time completely indexed. Some of the volumes were compiled fifty years ago and in many of their contents they are in excellent condition. Mr. Schiagel has been connected with the state land department since 1867 and naturally takes pride in the records of his career.

The secretaries of the State Board of Transportation are today sending out urgent requests to the railroad managers of the state to hurry up the annual reports which they are required to make to the board. Three roads have already complied, but the others have not, and the work of compiling up the next annual report is being delayed by the neglect of the others.

The case of W. J. Hester against R. A. Moore has been filed with the clerk of the supreme court. It came from Douglas county.

Another case filed in the supreme court today was that of W. I. Carson against Cassie A. Stevens, from Fillmore county.

Senator Governor Pearson called upon Governor Boyd this morning. The supreme court will sit again tomorrow. Renewed Activity in Railroad Centers. Vice President Parkin and W. K. McFarland, superintendent of construction, of the Rock Island are back in Lincoln today giving their personal attention to the details of construction of the new line through the city. Excuse W. O'Leary was today notified that his bid for the erection of the new pas-

SOME SHORT ON FRESH AIR

Heating and Ventilating Plants Put Into the City Schools Prove Failure.

RESULTS OF A QUIET INVESTIGATION

Chairman Smyth Turns in an Interesting Report—Contractors Must Give Bonds With Local Sureties—The Board Wants Its Money Back.

After waiting for nearly an hour last night and telephoning for several absent members the Board of Education finally secured a quorum and took up the business of the regular bi-monthly session.

The committee on judiciary reported that Messrs. Holbrook & Kane had submitted a bond signed by L. Gould & Co. and Max Brothers, Chicago, as sureties for the fulfillment of the contract for the heating apparatus for the Hartman, Central and Walnut Hill buildings. The sureties were foreign and the committee therefore referred the matter to the board for final disposition. The report was accepted but no action was taken at that moment upon the matter.

The same committee reported upon the delinquent special taxes upon the High school, to which the city treasurer recently called attention. The committee advised the board not to pay the taxes and let the matter go to the courts for settlement; adopted.

The board took up the Walnut Hill plumbing question and instructed the superintendent of buildings to make necessary changes and repairs to insure the comfort and health of the pupils and teachers.

Mr. Smyth, from the committee on heating and ventilation, reported upon the new contract with the Warren company, which was awarded the contract for furnishing the heating and ventilating apparatus for the new building. Mr. Smyth said that the test which had been made showed that the minute was the best of the apparatus in use in the school system.

In testing the Smees system at the Kellom school the committee found that the air was changed every six minutes. The test at the school showed the Holbrook system furnished over 2,000 cubic feet of fresh air per hour for each pupil. In this connection it is necessary to remark that the test at the Walnut Hill school appears to be all right, but the closets that have been constructed on the second floor of the building in bad shape. This defect will be corrected at once. The committee asked for another week to complete the investigation of the different systems and the report will be made.

Must Give Local Sureties. Mr. Euclid Martin scared up a fox in the shape of a motion to notify Mr. Holbrook that the board would require local sureties on his bond. Mr. Martin said that the fox had drifted along from week to week. Holbrook had completed one job, the Walnut Hill, and had been drawing money on it, and he had had time to get a new fox. The fox would cause Mr. Holbrook to awaken to the actual demands of the board with regard to bonds.

Mr. Martin's motion was adopted. Mr. Corryell wanted the board to give the Walnut Hill building sanitation another try. He offered to have the superintendent of buildings to make a careful investigation and report at the next meeting. He read a communication bearing on the subject from Mr. Somers and the resolution was adopted.

The board allowed claims on estimates amounting to over \$5,000 to Richard Smith, W. W. Maca and E. H. Mahoney & Co. Mr. Powell and Mr. Weber indulged in an oratorical lecture on the subject of a portion of the Dodge school grounds. Mr. Powell pleaded for the adoption of the resolution for the purchase of the grounds for the poor children of the Third ward, who scarcely ever caught a glimpse of green sward, but Major Weber interrupted by growling: "Children's funds are good enough for other schools and cladders is good enough for the Dodge school."

Mr. Powell's resolution died with the caucus it might have planted around the Dodge school. Wants Its Money Back. Mr. Powell was not discouraged. He pulled another resolution from his pocket. It met the favor of the board and was adopted for making a demand upon the city council for the return to the board of the \$30,415 paid out of the school fund for the erection of the city hall. The resolution declared that the contract entered into by and between the city council and Board of Education at the time the board agreed to pay this money into the city hall fund had never been fulfilled on the part of the city council. It demanded that the money be returned to the board.

The committee on teachers recommended the election of the following eighth grade teachers: Mary D. Ballentine, Clara Elder, Nellie Bennett, Emma Carney, Mary Sauer, Susan Evers, Emma Whitley, E. B. Leighty, Martha S. Powell, Clara Duvall, Virginia Kennedy, Mattie Evans and Ella A. Carlisle. Adopted.

At the close of the meeting Mr. J. J. Points handed in his resignation as a member of the Board of Education. It was accepted with regret by seven members of the board, but as it requires eight to make a quorum Mr. Points is not yet out of the board.

After the adjournment Mr. Points said that he had made up his mind to resign on account of the fact that he was running for the legislature and his time would be fully occupied in his professional work and in political hustling between now and November 3. His term of office in the Board of Education will expire in December and he thought it would be advisable to step out now and enter the campaign without any official weights hanging to him.

Be sure and use Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for your children while teething. 25 cents a bottle. The Nemaha County Squabble. "The harmonious convention which the Bar held about in Auburn on Saturday is by no means according to the facts," said Mr. C. P. Edwards, an attorney at Nemaha county. "There was a row in the county convention which will come very near de-

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LINCOLN'S PRIVATE CAR.

Strange History of a Retired Relic of the War.

A passenger coach with a history and half as many patriotic associations as any building in the city is to be seen in the Lincoln Pacific railroad yards at North Platte Neb. The car was built for and used by President Lincoln during the war. It seems strange and inexplicable that the car, rendered historic by association with the martyred president, should be allowed to decay. Efforts should be made to secure and preserve it.

After the death of President Lincoln his remains were taken from Washington to Springfield, Ill., in the car. Shortly thereafter it was taken to the Wood's Fair, at Omaha, Va., in 1869, by J. H. Lawson, master car repairer, expressly for President Lincoln, who used it on the Orange & Alexandria railroad, in the "front" during the war.

The car was clad with iron on the inside of the frame and padded on the iron with hair. It was built on a four-wheeled car on platform, opening into a passageway extending the entire length of the car; from this passageway doors opened into each of the twelve compartments. The car was much larger than the others, furnished with two sofas and chairs; the smaller rooms were provided with sofas, the beds of all form beds both above and below. The coat of arms of each state in the union at that time was painted on the windows of the car. The car was considered very heavy and was mounted on four four-wheeled trucks.

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