PROVO LETTER.

Story of the Westwater Killing.—Captain Davis on Trial.—Other Notes.

Special Correspondence of the News.

PROVO, Dec. 19.—Captain W. E. Davis, charged with killing three men at Westwater, Grand county, a short distance from the Colorado line, on August 24th, 1892, is now on trial in the First District court. The reported facts of the killing, briefly told, are as follows: Captain Davis missed some honey and butter from his house and he thought an attempt had been made to burn him out. He made investigation and came to the conclusion that Charles C. Brock and his men, with whom he was not on the best of terms, and who owned a sort of combined dugout and cabin about four and a half miles from his place, were the guilty parties. Early on the morning of August 24th, taking with him his nearest neighbor, Frank Grant, he went to the Brock place. As they approached, clubs, stones and other missiles greeted them. Wm. Miller was the first man to show himself. He was at the window. A ball from the captain's gun was planted in his forehead, square between the eyes, and lodged in the brain. Strange to say the man lived for twenty-four hours. Chas. Dusel showed himself at the door. A second ball from the same source caught him on the cheek, producing instant death. The captain and Grant then started away. About fifty yards from the house they met Brock, who had been out on the ranch. He had a pair of hobbles in his hand with which he struck at Davis. A third shot entered his left side, clipping the lower point of his heart and causing his immediate death. The captain went to the nearest telegraph office, laconically telegraphed to his brother-in-law at Grand Junction that he had met the Brock outfit and as a result wanted three plain cheap coffins; and then he gave himself up. A coroner's jury returned a verdict of justifiable homicide, and Davis was allowed to go, but he was subsequently arrested.

Davis is a large, powerful man of muscular build. His hair is dark, slightly tinged with gray. He was a sharpshooter during the war. His present trial is not for the murder of the three men, but only of Brock. Messrs. Zane and King are prosecuting and Messrs. H. P. Henderson and Thurman and Sutherland are defending. The jury was empaneled on Saturday last as follows: Jacob Winch, Joseph Kelly, C. H. Karren, William Elliott, James Sanderson, Simon Beck, Edward Candland, T. E. Fleming, James Clark, Joseph Gerber, C. F. Watkins and C. E. Fletcher.

Retta Thurston, aged 19, a hired girl in the family of Joseph Whitely, a B. Y. Academy professor, has been arrested for stealing a gold watch valued at $150. Mrs. Whitely's suspicions were first aroused by discovering some of her choice perfume in possession of the girl. An examination of the girl's trunk revealed the watch and other articles. When the complaint was read to her in Justice Gash's court, the girl sobbed most bitterly, and fell on her knees and begged forgiveness most penitently of Mr. Whitely. The case was continued until the 21st ult., when it is expected her father, who resides in Emery county, will be present. She was allowed to go on her own recognizance, in company with an aged lady friend until that time. A plea of guilty will probably be made, and if the father requests it, sentence suspended during good behavior.

E. S. Cowley, the flash night clerk of the Hotel Roberts, was brought before Commissioner Dudley on Saturday last on the charge of battering Miss Ollie Gash. A change of venue was taken to Justice Booth's court, where a jury of six was empaneled and the case tried. It turned out to be nothing more than a giddy lovers' quarrel over a letter, of which Miss Gash had read a part to Cowley, but refused to read the balance, and which he had attempted to gain possession of, and in doing so had torn her coat pocket. Mr. Gash, stepfather of the young lady, is very much opposed to Cowley paying any attentions to the girl, and has, in fact, several times warned him away.

Arrangements have been made by the Tabernacle choir for a social reunion at Bosbard's hall on Wednesday evening, Dec. 28th. Invitations are extended not only to all the present members of the choir, but to all who have been members in the past. The following ladies and gentlemen have been appointed a committee on arrangements: J. R. Boshard, H. S. Tyne, Wm. Buckley, Miss Teenie Johnson, Mrs. J. L. Clayton and Miss Polly Watkins.

The Ladies' Utah County World's Fair Association convenes this morning at the meeting house in this city.

Mrs. Eliza Allen, mother of David R. Allen, of Salt Lake City, is in the city visiting her daughter, Mrs. Hackett.

THE DAVIS CASE UNDER WAY.

PROVO, Dec. 20.—The W. E. Davis murder case is the chief topic of interest in the Garden city. Yesterday morning John M. Zane made the opening statement for the prosecution in the case. He stated that the prosecution would labor under a disadvantage, inasmuch as Frank R. [Grant,] the prosecuting witness, and the only eye witness of the tragedy, was hostile to the prosecution. Under the common law, the prosecution could not do otherwise than put him on the stand. The facts as the prosecution expected to prove them to be were presented,—very similar to the statement above presented in the NEWS, except that the prosecution was almost wholly on the part of the defendant.

Frank R. Grant was the first witness. He testified that on Tuesday evening, August 23rd, at the request of Davis, he went with him from Davis' place at Westwater to Brock's place, a distance by rail of four and a half miles. After looking about the place they returned to Davis' place. At four o'clock on the morning of the 24th they arose and again went to Brock's. Davis had a 45 Colt's revolver and witness had a 44 Winchester rifle, but the rifle was left on the road as Davis said Brock and his men might suspect that they had come to make trouble. Witness understood that Davis simply wanted to make some investigations in regard to some honey which he suspected Brock and his men had stolen from his place. On arriving at Brock's, Brock was seen to leave the cabin for the pasture, with a bridle in his hand. While witness remained on the hill behind the house Davis went down to talk with the men; Dusel was in front of the house building a fire. Words ensued between Dusel and Davis, and he saw Dusel strike at Davis with a club. Davis then fired over Dusel's head. A second shot was fired by Miller from the cabin. Davis then lowered his revolver and shot Dusel in the cheek, killing him instantly. He then rushed to the door and shot Miller in the forehead. Witness ran down the hill as quickly as possible. Davis said, "My God! aint this awful?" "What are you going to do?" asked witness. "I have done enough," replied Davis, "I'm going home." They started out, and when 324 feet from the cabin met Brock on horseback, leading a second horse. "Are you heeled?" asked Davis. "I am always heeled for such s— of b— as you," replied Brock. "Get off your horse, I want to talk to you," was the request of Davis, but Brock declined, saying, "I never get off for such s— of b— as you." He then struck at Davis with a pair of chain hobbles, at the same time trying to run him down with his pony. Davis seized the pony by the bridle. Brock managed to get away with his horse. He made a circle and started for the house, exclaiming, "If I get to the house, I'll kill you." As he came on Davis fired twice, and Brock fell from his horse, near Davis' feet. Davis and witness then rode away and notified the people. A coroner's inquest was held and a verdict of justifiable homicide returned. Witness was considered hostile by the prosecution and was closely cross-examined by Mr. Zane, but did not deviate from a straight story.

Dr. Bull, of Grand Junction, offered some expert testimony concerning the wounds. He thought from the powder marks that Dusel and Miller had been shot at a distance of from four to six feet. Miller died on the Friday morning after the shooting. He was unconscious during the interim. He had seen two wounds on Brock's body; one was between the fifth and sixth ribs, half-way between the side and back. Judging from the ragged nature of the wound, it was the point of exit. The other wound was to the side and back of the head.

H. H. Jacobs had heard the shots fired from the opposite side of the river. One of the shots was different from the others. It sounded as though made by a smaller gun or from a house. Witness had acted as coroner, and also one of the jury who had signed the verdict of justifiable homicide. He had never expressed his opinion as to the guilt or innocence of Davis. He had seen a rifle by the side of Miller and had emptied it, but had found no empty shells either in the magazine or on the floor. Witness had been told that his life was in danger because he was a witness in the case. He had heard of Davis inquiring for him; and Davis had also asked what kind of tobacco witness used.

CITY COUNCIL.

The city council held a session last night. Among the business transacted are the following items:

Christian Rosengreen, of Pleasant Grove, asked that the city reimburse him to the extent of $150 for a valuable horse he had lost in crossing the city race near the mouth of Provo canyon. Referred to the committee on claims.

The committee on streets and alleys recommended that the services of the city teamster be dispensed with. Adopted.

The committee on police and city prison recommended that the services of Silas Allred, special policeman, be dispensed with. Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Maiben, the matter of further cutting down the police force was referred to the committee on police and city prison. The expenses of the city have recently been rather heavy and these moves are for the purpose of retrenchment. The reform comes none to soon.

The matter of the width of Center street from A street to the lake was referred to the committee on streets and alleys.

NOTES.

Mrs. Hannah McCord died on Sunday evening of dropsy. The funeral services will be held today.

Z. T. Crawford and family have tired of Utah, and depart today for their old home at Kearney, Nebraska.

Rev. S. G. Adams, of Salt Lake City, held a revival meeting at the Baptist church last night.

Clerk Halliday has issued a marriage license to Charles D. Johnson and Augusta E. Beckstrom of Spanish Fork.

The ladies of the B. Y. Academy give a grand leap year ball at the Opera House on Wednesday evening, December 21st.

We are all going to see After Dark next Saturday night.

CRIBBING CORN.

Advantages of Doing This Early—Shucking from the Shock.

Corn, if reasonably dry, can be put in the cribs measurably early in the fall, especially if proper care is taken to provide good ventilation. There is no advantage in leaving it out in the fall any longer than is strictly necessary; in fact, in leaving it out there is always more or less risk of loss that could be avoided with the corn in the crib. Of course, if put in the cribs damp, and especially if insufficient ventilation is provided, it will heat and spoil, and care must be taken to avoid this.

Shucking corn is better from the shock. As the stalks stand in the field it is not a hard job, if done while the weather is good, as it often is in the fall and early winter. But after it gets cold, and especially if stormy, it often becomes quite a serious task. Where there is considerable shock corn to shuck out a good plan is to have one of the corn cutters and huskers that will shock the corn as it is fed through and at the same time cut the fodder ready for feeding. These of course save considerable labor, besides putting the feed in a much better shape for feeding out.

There are a number of these machines on the market now and they have been sufficiently tested to show that they can be relied upon to do the work. With the corn in the crib a considerable saving can readily be made, and all that can be saved helps to increase the profits.

When the corn is dry all reasonable care should be taken to crib early; in nearly all cases it is safer in the crib than in the field, while the work can be done more economically and to a better advantage [illegible] than later. I find that corn can be cribbed earlier than many suppose, and especially fodder corn that has been cut in good season and put up in good shocks. It dries out very rapidly unless the weather is unusually wet, when of course the work will be delayed.

The plan of a Prairie Farmer correspondent—quoted above—is to shuck out the fodder first, for two reasons. It is usually dryer, and if delayed until bad weather sets in the work is more disagreeable than to shuck what is left standing. Then the fodder can be hauled up and ranked near where it is to be fed out. It will keep in a much better condition than if left in the field, and this of course is a saving, and in nearly all cases by the time the fodder is out of the way the rest of the corn is dry enough to crib.

Agricultural News.

Slaughter houses in Scotland are finished with apparatus for stunning cattle by electricity.

Sweet potato flour warranted to keep in any climate is now promised. It is to be made from the kiln dried chips by a patented process.

Insect Life notes the spread of the horntly, reports being cited of its recent appearance in different counties of Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Texas, Massachusetts, Ohio, Iowa and Florida.

It is reported from the Indiana station that mowing wheat in spring to check rankness of growth shortened the stems, retarded the ripening and considerably reduced the yields of both grain and straw.

The total crop of oats in Canada is estimated at 85,000,000 bushels, against 80,000,000 last year.

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3.—It is devoted to the interests of the Latter-day Saints, and has, from its inception, valiantly defended their rights and advocated the principles in which they believe; and every Latter-day Saint should therefore feel under obligations to do his part in helping to sustain it.

4.—It is not published for speculation, and never has been, but for the good which it is capable of accomplishing; the profits, if any there be derived from it, being devoted to extending its sphere of usefulness and benefiting the community.

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