

Emily Bat complained that she had been dismissed from her position as teacher at the Sixth ward school, without due notice, and asked that the matter be investigated. Referred to the committee on teachers and school work.

In the matter of raising a fund for a children's building at the World's Fair, Baldwin moved that the teachers be authorized to instruct the children in their rooms that those who wish may pay five cents each to Mrs. Salisbury at a time and place to be named by her. Carried.

Appropriations aggregating \$11,057.42 were made, after which the board adjourned for one week.

PROVO LETTER.

Provo, April 8.—The opening statement for the defense in the Peter Nielson paricide case was made by Mr. Houtz. It was in substance as follows: On the evening of the tragedy defendant left his home at 6:30 o'clock. He traveled north on the street one block west of Main street. On the way he stepped into the Oman saloon and got a cigar and then went into the Oman hotel office, where he remained six or eight minutes. From the hotel he continued his journey to the bank, where he picked up a paper and read for awhile. He went out of the bank and stepped around the building, returning in a minute or two. He remained in the bank until informed by a messenger that his father had been shot. He was very much overcome by the statement, and as he stepped out of the bank, fainted away. The shooting occurred at 7:05, and within two or three minutes of that time defendant was seen at work at the bank. He could not possibly have committed the deed, as from actual test it requires at least ten minutes to walk from Nielson's to the bank. The defendant is subject to heart trouble, and while assisting the deceased after the shooting was taken violently ill, and had to be helped home and to bed. The deceased died in the arms of defendant. The fight with chairs testified to by Miss Zabriskie as having occurred in August, 1890, could not have taken place, as before that time defendant had left for school in Minnesota.

Several witnesses testified that they had seen Nielson in the bank at 7 o'clock and had heard the shot fired within a few minutes of that time. This was followed by some testimony intended to impeach the witness Franson in relation to his testimony of having looked into the gun before the shooting and finding it clean. Several witnesses, relatives of Nielson who had had possession of the gun before the shooting, testified that it was not clean. John R. Twelves and L. Holbrook had made experiments with a rifle and had ascertained that after a rifle had been fired an hour, it could not be determined whether the gun had been fired hours or weeks. Two witnesses had walked rapidly from Nielson's house to the creamery corner (near the bank), and the time required was 11½ minutes.

Witnesses were called to testify to the good reputation of defendant for peace and sobriety with varying re-

sults. All testified that they had heard nothing prior to the shooting detrimental to his character. The question was asked by the prosecution if they had heard anything after the shooting which would cast a reflection on his character. This was objected to by the defense but the objection was overruled. Several of the witnesses had heard of the chair affray, of defendant twice drawing a revolver on his father, school trouble, etc.

Mrs. Nielson, mother of defendant, and widow of deceased, gave her testimony. On the night of the tragedy, at the request of his father, defendant left the house to go to the bank for the purpose of preparing a bank statement. A little later, her husband left the house to go to his mother's, who was ailing. Father and son had not quarrelled during the evening; there had never been any serious trouble between them. The father had occasionally reprimanded his son for some dereliction of duty, but that was all. She had never had any serious trouble with her husband, and they had never talked of getting a divorce. He went off to Denmark once without her knowledge, but that was ten years ago. In cross-examination she denied saying to Sheriff Burns, before her son was arrested, "What are you going to do with my poor Peter?" but she did not entirely deny saying something of that kind, and to her attorney she offered the explanation that she had been informed by her husband that Peter was suspected of the crime.

It is quite probable that some sensational developments will be made in the case today. The attorneys for the defense state that Miss Donaldson, the defendant's affiance will be placed on the stand to testify as to his good character while at school. The lady has been a most interested listener all through the case. The defendant will also be put on the stand. His overshoes will be produced, says one of his attorneys; they have been measured and their length is 11½ inches, while the length of the tracks in the snow was but 9½ inches. To strengthen this statement his foot, which is reported to be 10 inches in length, will be measured in court.

Provo, April 7.—The testimony for the prosecution in the Peter Nielson paricide case concluded yesterday afternoon. Sheriff Burns was the first witness yesterday. In addition to offering corroborative evidence, the sheriff testified to a comparison in weight which he had made between the ball of a cartridge of the 44-70 Winchester rifle of the bank and the ball with which Nielson Sr. had been shot. The former ball weighed 410 grains and the latter 400 grains. The sheriff believed the difference in weight was due to the fact that the latter had struck against the adobe wall and had had several grains rubbed off.

Rasmus Franson had made an examination of the bank rifle several days before the shooting and he had found one side of the sight broken off. The gun was clean. This witness became somewhat muddled under Mr. Thurman's severe cross examination.

Erick Gunderson heard the shot in contradiction to a pistol shot. The shot was fired at 7:17 or 7:18 o'clock.

Miss Eliza Reynolds left home on the night of the shooting at about 7:10. She heard a shot when she had walked about two blocks. She walked on several blocks further, passing the Co-op corner, across the street east from the bank corner, and as she passed she heard someone cross the plank walk to the bank, and a sound as if someone had entered the bank. She did not see any one.

Miss Maggie Zabriskie met Nielson on the night of the shooting, while she was out tick tacking. He was going south. On cross-examination the witness stated that Nielson did not have any gun that she saw.

Samuel Hampshire, a boy of 16, heard the shot fired, and some minutes later he saw someone cross the sidewalk and enter the bank. The boy looked in at the bank window and saw Nielson apparently in the act of taking off his rubbers.

Charlotte Zabriskie, who was a hired girl in the Nielson family in 1893, testified to a fight between father and son in August of that year, when both raised chairs but had been prevented from striking by Mrs. Nielson. A few days after this occurrence defendant told witness that before he would take the insults from his father he had taken in the past, he would kill him.

Some corroborative testimony was offered and the prosecution made the announcement that their case was in.

The consensus of opinion is that the evidence against Nielson is insufficient to convict.

RIVERTON TO THE FRONT.

RIVERTON, Salt Lake county, March 31.—Although lying in a rural district, this place is keeping abreast with the times in improvement and enterprise.

Last December a fine two-story brick school house was completed at a cost of about \$5000. At present there are two schools running, and next year it is thought there will be three.

Last Wednesday night the Riverton Commercial company was organized. The capital was put at \$40,000, \$20,000 to be paid up. A two-story brick building is to be built at a cost of about \$5000. The first floor is to be used for store, warehouse and bank; the second floor for an amusement hall.

A short time since a \$42,000 deal took place here. The chief contractors in the transaction were Messrs. O. N. Douse and Daniel Densley, Jr., the latter having sold sheep to the former totaling the amount above mentioned.

Affairs in the ward are in a prosperous condition. Our bishop is a live, wide-awake man, working in the present and planning for the future; he directs with an almost unerring aim the affairs under his supervision to that elevated plane where progress and true religion meet in friendly embrace.

Cheyenne Leader: Melbourne, the rain maker, has made this city his home for some time past. He thinks this country the best adapted for his rain-making operations that he has yet seen, and while he has not any desire to make any negotiations for supplying Wyoming with a rain supply for the coming season, there is no doubt but he could be induced to take such a contract.