

## CHARLES THIEDE HANGED.

Thiede has gone to his doom. He has given life for life. He has satisfied the fullest demands of earthly law.

His execution took place in an enclosure at the rear of the Salt Lake County jail Friday forenoon. He mounted the scaffold erect as an arrow. His face was pale and his step steady, though his voice faltered when he proclaimed his innocence.

It was 10:39 when he ascended the stone steps leading from the basement of the jail into the altitudinous enclosure in which he was to yield up his life. Sheriff Hardy led the way while deputies surrounded the prisoner on every side. Thiede's eyes sparkled and he did his utmost to look cheerful. There were the faintest indications of a smile as he glanced at the crowd about him but the muscles of his face relaxed and every sign of approaching cheer gave way to an expression of grave concern the instant his eye detected the fatal noose that hung limp and loose from the gallows under which he walked. It was then he stepped on to a nine-inch improvised platform, threw back his head, drew a long breath and declared his innocence for the last time of the crime for which he was about to swing. A moment more and the mechanical part of the execution was over and he was in the throes of death. Fourteen minutes elapsed from the time of the fatal drop until Dr. Wright, the county physician, and Dr. Bower, who each held a wrist of the dying man in their hands, pronounced him dead.

It was believed that the terrible jerk into the air of the body by the 425 pound weight would have broken Thiede's neck but it did not do so and for a time he continued to breathe regularly and his pulse to beat normally. Then by degrees the evidences of life became less and less distinct, until the last spark had fled. An examination showed that death was due to strangulation. It was certain, said the doctors, that unconsciousness came instantly with the drop of the weight, and that the victim of the noose experienced no pain whatever.

Rev. Gillman of the Methodist church, who for some time past was the murderer's spiritual adviser, witnessed the execution, though he performed no rite or offered no public prayer in his behalf. Such ministrations as he bestowed were given in the cell during the morning hours away from the view of the curious crowd. It is stated that Thiede found more comfort in the words of advice and consolation that were given him by the Christian Scientists; a number of whom spent a goodly portion of last night with him.

Thiede ate no breakfast. First a cup of coffee and then a glass of milk with a quantity of liquor constituted the only stimulants given to him. He lost little time in making preparations for his fate. One of the first tasks he performed was the penning of a document in which he asserted in strong language that he was guiltless of the terrible offense that had brought him under the shadow of death. Immediately on its completion

he asked Sheriff Hardy to grant him a respite of thirty minutes. It was the sheriff's expressed intention to perform the execution immediately after 10 o'clock as he was opposed to any delay. But as the request made by the doomed man was the last he could accede to he readily yielded. During that period Thiede penned a statement in which he positively denied that he had at any time or to any person ever confessed that he was guilty.

The place in which the execution occurred was a board affair 24x24 feet in area and 16 feet high. At the time of the fatal drop it contained a little more than half a hundred persons, all men. They were composed of sheriffs, police, attorneys, physicians and representatives of the daily newspapers. The crowd on the outside was a motley and morbid one numbering thousands. Men and boys, women and children, old and young aligned themselves on the south and west sides of the block upon which the hanging occurred and were only kept from clambering over the fences and rushing on the premises by delegations of deputy sheriffs and police. Every shade tree, barn and building in the vicinity afforded a lodging place near their tops for climbing youngsters who vainly hoped that by reason of their commanding positions they would be able to peer down into the board and canvas walled death trap.

It should be said to the credit of Sheriff Hardy that the execution was very quietly and successfully carried out. Every statement regarding it that he had confidentially given to the representatives of the press the last few days was fully realized. He said he proposed to make it expeditious and effectual without unnecessary scenes of horror, and he kept his word to the letter.

## STATE EXAMINERS DECIDES.

Attorney General Bishop has transmitted the following opinion to the State auditor on the payment of the salary of the assessors and collectors:

Hon. Morgan Richards Jr., Salt Lake City:

Dear Sir:—I have before me your favor of the 4th inst., asking to be advised upon the following: "Where the offices of assessor and collector are combined upon one person, and county warrants have been issued in payment of such services as one salary, is the State liable for one-half of the amount?"

Section 9, page 367 of the laws of Utah of 1896 provides "one-half of the salary of assessor, county attorney and treasurer shall be borne by the State and paid as provided by law." Under this law there can be no question of the liability of the State to pay one-half of the salary of the assessor. In section 166 of the county government bill, page 571, laws of 1896, is pointed out the method by which such payment shall be made. From this it will be observed that the county treasurer and county auditor of each county shall prepare in duplicate, and verify under oath a full and complete itemized statement of all warrants drawn for salaries of the county attorney, county treasurer and county assessor. One of these statements shall be transmitted to the State auditor, and if found correct he shall draw his warrant in favor of the county treasurer upon the State treasurer for one-half of the whole amount of said

warrants, including any warrants which may have been drawn by the county, in favor of the county assessor.

The question to be determined, however, is in cases where some other office is combined with that of assessor, whether the State is liable for one-half of the salary paid for the combined office. Section 11 of the salary bill, page 368, of the Laws of 1896, provides what salary shall be paid to persons discharging the duties of more than one office. "Whenever the board of county commissioners, at the regular September session, prior to any general election, shall so order and enter said order on their journal, any two or more county offices which do not conflict so far as their duties are concerned, may be combined, and one person elected to fill the office thus combined. In which case the salary of the person discharging the duties of both or of the said offices shall be fixed, at not exceeding the highest salary paid to either or any of said officers whose offices are so combined, in addition to an amount not exceeding one-half of the salary fixed for the other officer when only two offices are combined, or when more than two such offices are combined, in addition to such highest salary, one-third of the combined salaries of such other officers." It may be assumed that the county commissioners have taken these provisions into consideration in determining the compensation to be paid to the person discharging the duties of the combined offices of assessor and collector, leaving the only question to be settled as to what portion of the said salary so fixed shall be paid by the state.

The latter part of section 11 supra provides: "If the office of assessor, treasurer or prosecuting attorney shall be combined with another office, the state shall pay an equitable proportion of the whole salary, to be fixed by the state board of examiners which shall, in no case, be less than one-third of the amount of the salary fixed for such office of assessor, treasurer or prosecuting attorney prior to the same being combined with another office. Under the law, it is clearly apparent that the Legislature did not intend that the State should be liable for one-half of the salary paid to either of those officers (assessor, treasurer or prosecuting attorney), when the same officer was discharging the duties of another office combined therewith, and in cases of this kind, without attempting to define just what portion the State should be liable for, the whole matter has been vested in the State board of examiners under certain limitations as to the minimum amount of the State's liability. I am, therefore, of opinion that the question as to how much or what proportion should be borne by the State in this and similar questions should be referred to the State board of examiners for its consideration and action thereon. I have the honor to be, very respectfully yours,

A. C. BISHOP,  
Attorney General.

## AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Bulletin No. 43 of the Utah Experiment Station has recently been issued. This bulletin reports (1) dairy herd records for 1894-95; (2) winterfeeding experiments with dairy cows; (3) some suggestions on the building and equipment of factories. The following conclusions are drawn by the writer, F. B. Linfield, from the record of the dairy herd of the Station, which constitutes the first section of the bulletin:

1. It would appear that among our common cows, we have those which