

THE OFFER TO BRIBE

A Full Statement From One of the Parties.

WHAT CHICKEN'S ATTORNEY DID.
That \$2,000 Offer to Suppress Testimony in the Crocker Case—Huggins's Letter.

JOHN CARSON, Utah Co., Wyoming, Sept. 25, 1905.

To the Editor:
In the Tenth district court, Evanston, Wyoming, at 7 o'clock a. m., Sheriff Ward notified Judge Hayford that the jury had arrived at a verdict, and at 8 a. m. the jury filed into the court room, and on being asked by the court if they had agreed upon a verdict, they answered in the affirmative, and thereupon handed to the judge the verdict, which reads as follows:

"State of Wyoming, county of Utah, in the district court, state of Wyoming vs. Edwin S. Crocker. Verdict: The jury empaneled in the above cause, do find the above named defendant, Edwin S. Crocker, guilty of murder in the first degree. Signed, H. M. Lewis, foreman."

The defendant retained his counsel and demurred during the reading of the verdict. Mrs. Harvey Booth was present in court to hear the verdict, which, when read, elicited her deep sympathy and the court room in tears.

As a certain headed "Alibi" party, "Huggins" has been circulating in Utah, and has been seen by several persons having been offered by Mr. Arthur Butler to Mr. L. N. Huggins, for the purpose of suppressing evidence in the case of Crocker, and Judge Calkins, for the defense, demanded the right to question each juror as to whether they had seen or heard of the accused in question. Some of these acknowledged having heard of some persons being accused, but none of them had served at their verdict, whereas the judge made a motion that the jury be discharged, but the motion was overruled. Here is Huggins's letter:

EDWIN HUGGINS FOR REFERENCE.

About February 1, 1905, I suggested the idea to Sheriff Ward of a plan by which we could get E. S. Crocker to testify against himself. My suggestion was accepted and I wrote Mr. Crocker a letter and told him to meet me at my office and to bring with him a statement on which I had something to communicate that would be of importance to him. In the event that he accepted my suggestion I would, by the evidence that I was in possession of, have Mr. Crocker to commit himself, and I would agree to this proposition and advised him to carry it out, promising him \$2,000. He was then charged that I should write him my letter and he was to bring it to me on the evening of the 15th of February. In accordance with our plan, Sheriff Wardman sent me a letter about the 15th, and I received it in a bedroom immediately after the verdict with the money, which I placed in a position where he could see and hear and he could see.

Shortly after 8 p. m. the next day, I looked into the door and saw Arthur W. Butler, the solicitor of E. S. Crocker. I assigned him to a chair that had been previously placed in a position near the bedroom door, within about five feet of Sheriff Ward and when he had finished his statement, I received my note to Mr. Crocker and Mr. Crocker thought it was better that he should be heard. "I thought to bring shadowed every move he makes." I then told Mr. Butler that I was sorry Mr. Crocker did not come himself for my business with him was of such a nature that I could only transmit it with Crocker himself. Mr. Butler said he was Mr. Crocker's legal representative and lawyer, and that any business I did with him would be the same as though I did it with Mr. Crocker.

Finally I consented to go ahead with Mr. Butler. I told him that my business with Mr. Crocker was in relation to the killing of Mr. Booth. He said he thought so. I told him I was interested in suppressing evidence in the case of Crocker. He said "I have the whole business in a nutshell." We then had some talk about the details of the killing of Booth. I told Butler I expected him and his staff to be in the city on the 15th of February. I referred to Mr. Crocker teaching my children in the Sunday school. At this point Mr. Butler was overjoyed that he should hear of me.

When Mr. Butler asked me what evidence I had against Crocker, I told him that I did not care to state it at all until I knew the position they were going to take, but would state that I could prove that Crocker and Booth were both in the barn at or about the time that they were killed. I told him that I knew more, but at present would not state it. Butler then asked me if I saw Crocker at the killing, and I said, "Thank God, I did not see Crocker at the job."

I then said to Mr. Butler, Arthur, you know there is \$2,000 offered for the man who did the killing and I would money very badly, but on account of your and Crocker's family I do not want to give him over. There is already one family destroyed and I cannot bring myself to do in destroying another one. I further said I was there in the barn on the one hand, Arthur, what is there on the other hand and what my really take a trip East? I told him that Ward and his detective were after me to give me information from me, but that I thought myself equal to the whole thing. Butler at this said he knew they would not work me if I did not want them.

Butler then asked how much I wanted to quiet the whole business. I told him that in respect of my friends and other reasons I would take \$7,000. Butler said that all right and I would take it. Arthur, I can let the whole reward by giving him \$2,000. I said \$2,000, all for me. He only asked me if I was a doctor and that they would give

that amount, but said they were not prepared that evening as they had to take the money. He said Crocker had not got the money, but we can get it to Ogdin, as I may have to get to Ogdin to raise it. I don't suppose a day or two will make any difference with you, give us a chance to raise the money and we will be all right, say day a later tomorrow.

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THE POLITICAL FIELD.

The Republican Parade and Meeting of the Big Parties. A visit to the respective headquarters of the two big political parties, gives positive proof of increasing earnestness and business activity on their part. Should this condition become more pronounced than it is now, and the indications are that it will, the strain before election day will be a terrible one.

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