

yet been determined upon. The local combine is confident that the government will have to get its ice from them and to pay their price. It such is the outcome it will demonstrate the weakness of the government in dealing with a combine in a manner that will not be lost upon other combines.

No verdict ever given by a Washington coroner's jury gave more general satisfaction than that which found Colonel Fred C. Ainsworth, U. S. A., Contract r Daut, Supt. Covert and Engineer Sasse guilty of criminal neglect and consequently of manslaughter in causing the death of twenty-three men in Ford's old theater. The accused have given bail—\$10,000 each, and their cases have gone to the grand jury, which is now in session. If true bills are found against them they cannot be tried until the fall term of the criminal court. The army court of inquiry appointed by Secretary Lamont will not begin its work until the grand jury shall have disposed of Colonel Ainsworth's case. Whatever may be the result of the action of the grand jury Colonel Ainsworth will retain his rank in the army and continue to draw his salary until tried by a courtmartial and dropped from the army. The President can suspend him from his position as chief of the records and pension division, and will probably do so if the grand jury brings in a true bill of manslaughter—many think that he should have done so as soon as the verdict of the coroner's jury was rendered—but he cannot deprive him of his rank in the army; only a courtmartial can do that.

The death of Senator Stanford was a great shock to his warm personal friends in Washington, although they knew that his health was bad. Mr. Stanford was hardly a statesman, but he was something rarer and better—a rich man whose heart and pocketbook were always open to his fellow man who had been less successful.

The presence of a delegation of Louisiana sugar planters, headed by two democratic Congressmen, in Washington and the object of their visit recalls a famous saying of the late General Hancock—"The tariff is largely a local question." The gentlemen are here to demand that sugar shall be protected in the new tariff bill to the extent of one and one-half or two cents a pound, if the bounty be abolished. It is believed that one of the hardest fights that will occur over the new tariff bill will be that on the sugar clause. That a tariff on sugar is unpopular with the masses is apparent to every close observer, but money has got to be raised somehow and it may be that the \$40,000,000 or \$50,000,000 which a tariff on sugar would put in the treasury each year may outweigh the opposition of the masses with a majority of Congress. On the other hand it should not be forgotten that the votes of the individuals of the aforesaid masses make and unmake congressmen, and this influence is not often openly ignored, although it is often secretly and sneakily turned down by those who lack the "aud" to do so publicly. It is rumored that a strong lobby backed by wealthy men who are opposed to an income tax is to be here when Congress meets for the purpose of laying the proposed tariff on sugar against the proposed tax on incomes.

HORRIBLE SHOOTING.

One of the most dreadful cases of youthful homicide in the history of this Territory was being inquired into by Coroner Taylor today. The investigation was brought about through the killing of Clyde, the five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Robertson of Farmers ward, near Eleventh South street on Saturday evening last. Four boys, Harry and Carl, Hammond and Heber and George Gaylor, lads ranging from twelve to fifteen years were taken into custody by Chief Paul and turned over to Sheriff McQueen and are now in the county jail, not under arrest particularly, but being held pending an inquiry as to who is responsible for Clyde's death.

It is said that these boys are given to worrying smaller children and causing a good deal of trouble generally. On Saturday the quartette went over Jordan shooting, Harry carrying his father's double barreled shot gun.

In the evening after the boys returned little Clyde was shot while standing on a box while looking over his father's fence. No one so far as known saw the shooting, but suspicion pointed to Harry Hammond as being the guilty one. He denies emphatically, however, that he had anything to do with it.

The inquiry commenced at 11 o'clock. Attorney Whittemore appearing for the accused boys and Lawyers Ferguson and Free for Mr. Robertson, who is determined to sift the matter to the bottom.

The body lay in a back room at Skewes's undertaking establishment in the presence of the jury. The breast and arms of the boy were perforated with shots, the NEWS reporter counting eighty-eight distinct holes. The story is best told by the various witnesses as follows:

SEEN WITH THE GUN.

Mrs. Whitting, who resides on Eleventh South street, between State and East Temple, testified having seen three or four small boys pass by her place some time in the afternoon, between three and six o'clock. They had but one gun. The lad who carried the fowling piece wore a straw hat. Witness was very much shocked at seeing so small a boy handling a gun. She was not sure that she could identify the boy, but believed she could in case he had not changed his clothing.

A DELAY OCCURRED.

Assistant County Attorney Elchnor at this time telephoned from the City Hall to the effect that he would like to be present during the investigation and the inquiry was interrupted pending his arrival. On reaching the scene of inquiry Mr. Elchnor announced that the county would make the most searching investigation possible.

MR. WHIPPLE'S NARROW ESCAPE.

Henry E. Whipple, a carpenter, testified that he was stooping over picking up a board at 4.15 o'clock, when he heard a shot fired and also heard the whistling of shot a few inches above his head. He dropped the board he had picked up and looking around he heard a little girl cry out, "They have killed our little brother." "I

sprang towards her and saw her dragging her little brother and I poked him up and carried him towards his home. Within a very short distance of it his form became rigid and stiff. He then gasped and immediately expired. I laid him on the grass and started to find out who had done the shooting. I met Mrs. Gaylor and said Clyde Robinson had been shot. I saw an old man standing in Whiting's lot and inquired of him who did the shooting. He was a foreigner and couldn't understand.

THE GUN BROUGHT BACK.

"I was misrepresented by the Tribune. I did not see the boys running as reported. Saw Harry Hammond first and asked him if he had a gun and he replied that his father had. Some old gentleman went with Harry Hammond to his father's house—less than a block away—and brought back the gun and a peck of cartridges. The gun was sent for on account of Mrs. Gaylor telling me that she had seen four boys, one of them carrying a gun, run towards the Hammond residence. I asked both of the Hammond boys and both of the Gaylor boys who did the shooting, and they all replied they didn't know; that they were half a block away."

SAW CLYDE FALL.

Miss Ora Speuce, a sister-in-law of Mr. Whipple, testified that she saw Clyde climb half way up the fence and look over; he had been standing there but a few seconds when she heard a shot and saw Clyde fall; did not see who did the shooting.

SAW THE BOYS RUNNING AWAY.

C. Sum Nichols testified that he heard the shooting; he was lying on the bed up stairs; he immediately put on his shoes and rushed down and out and saw two of the Gaylor boys and one of the Hammond boys running directly away from the scene of the shooting. Neither of these three lads had a gun. "I interrogated George Gaylor, the largest boy, and he disclaimed all knowledge of the shooting, he said he had heard the shot fired, however. I asked him where he was and who was with him. He said that his brother and the two Hammond boys and himself were down near Mr. Dunford's about six hundred feet away at the time. He took me down and showed me the shot and I called his attention to the impossibility of his statement being true. After that he was evasive in all of his answers as were all of the others."

A BRIGHT LITTLE WITNESS.

Vinzie Ross, a little brown haired tot of six years, said she saw Harry and Carl Hammond and George and Heber Gaylor in Mr. Whiting's lot. Harry Hammond had a gun. She heard the shot and saw Clyde fall off the fence after which she became frightened and ran home. Before that she was in Mrs. Robertson's yard playing with Clyde and his little baby sister.

"Why were you frightened?" she was asked.

"Well, Clyde fell off the fence close to me and mamma was away from home, that was why," promptly responded the child.