

THE RED LODGE PICKET.

J. H. Calderhead
Bailey Block

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COLD LEAD AND COFFINS FOR TWO

A Riotous Red Lodge Finlander and a Desperate Wyoming Horse Thief Defy Constituted Authority and Die With Their Boots On.

While a Coroner's Jury Is Exonerating Under Sheriff Gebo for One Killing Sheriff Potter Shoots and Slays a Fugitive.

Tragedies of the kind that find no counterpart in Carbon county's pages of history were this week written in blood by the omnipotent hand of fate and in their finale two human hearts ceased to throb and two souls went forth from their earthly tabernacles to everlasting life or eternal death. One of these tragedies came as the sequel to a riotous Finnish charivari in this city and the other as the violent termination of a horse-stealing escapade. In the terrible double drama the final scenes fell on the sheriff's office for tragic interpretation. To Under Sheriff William Gebo came the hour which made it necessary for him to kill a fellow being in the lawful discharge of his duties as a sworn officer of the law, and for Sheriff M. W. Potter an occasion of even greater necessity thrust itself in his official pathway.

The first homicide took place just after dark Wednesday night in the section of the city inhabited by the Finland coal miners, the victim being Alex Mattson, a Finn miner, who, accompanied by his brother, arrived from Carbonado, Wash., just a week previous. The killing was the direct outgrowth of a frequently-repeated riotous disturbance in the nature of a charivari indulged in by a crowd of more than a hundred Finn miners, who sought to compel one of their countrymen, just married, to give up \$25 with which the boys could indulge in a little celebration. The charivari was conducted in a boisterous, hilarious, riotous manner and was kept up for four successive nights. After the second seance complaint was made to Mayor Larkin and the city police by both the bridegroom and the proprietor of the Finn boarding house where the young married couple were enjoying their honeymoon. Acting on the instruction of the mayor, Night Policeman J. H. McAllister proceeded to the place where the second night's charivari was being held and ordered the crowd to cease their noisy racket and to disperse. The orders were sullenly obeyed, but the crowd gathered again, in greater volume, the next night. This time City Marshal Paddy Fleming accompanied Policeman McAllister to the scene of the disturbance and arrested three of the ringleaders and put them in the city jail. The crowd followed the officers to the city hall and defiantly demanded the immediate release of the prisoners, accompanying the demand with threats of tearing down the jail if the men were not turned loose. After a long and noisy parley the crowd finally dispersed, without attempting to put their threats into execution, and a little later the three prisoners were given their freedom.

The following day, Wednesday, the Finlanders caused word to be passed around to the effect that they would repeat the charivari that night in spite of and in open defiance of the officers of the law. They posted notices around the city notifying all the unmarried Finns to be on hand to assist in the performance. In observance of the request a much larger crowd than ever collected Wednesday evening and the racket began. The officers, consisting of Under Sheriff Gebo, Policeman McAllister, Marshal Fleming and Mayor Larkin, deputized several of the firemen at the fire hall, and proceeded to the scene. The officers, both permanent and special, pushed in among the big crowd of Finlanders and seized men right and left, securing six of the Finns and putting them in the city jail. While engaged in making the arrests Under Sheriff Gebo was knocked down and was rescued by Marshal Fleming just in time to save him from being kicked into unconsciousness. Gebo got up and the marshal started for the jail with his prisoners, while the under sheriff grabbed another man who later proved to be Andrew Mattson. The fellow showed fight and Gebo pulled his gun and fired a shot into the ground. Mattson suddenly became passive, but as suddenly turned and dealt Gebo a staggering blow. As the under sheriff fell, Mattson, so it is related, topped him and attempted to hit Gebo in the face with his fist, but was prevented from landing the blow. Gebo then reached for his gun and says the fellow got him by the throat. The

next instant a series of four shots rang out in rapid succession on the night air and Mattson yelled with pain as four .38-calibre leaden pellets pierced his body. The wounded man was carried on a stretcher to Dr. Kelley's office, where he lingered until 3 o'clock yesterday morning, when death came to his relief. He was shot through and through three times, the bullets entering the abdomen and coming out of his back. The fourth bullet also entered his abdomen, but lodged somewhere in his anatomy. The four bullets bored frightful holes in his stomach and when stripped of his clothes his abdomen presented the appearance of a sieve.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

It Developed the Fact That Constituted Authority Had Been Openly Defied.
A coroner's jury, consisting of Walter Alderson, Martin Golden, John Weaver, M. C. Coon, F. Frieman, Sanfrid Renland, Richard Rutter, B. E. Vail and R. S. Chapple, was summoned yesterday morning by County Coroner Kelley and an inquest held at the court house.

Night Policeman J. H. McAllister was the first witness called and he testified as follows:

Last Sunday evening the proprietor of the boarding house where the newly-married couple were stopping asked me to put a stop to the charivari. Mayor Larkin instructed me to quell the disturbance. When I arrived at the boarding house I found a crowd of thirty or forty Finlanders there and told them to quit their racket or they would get into trouble. The next evening the boarding house keeper came to me again and said the crowd was disturbing his boarders with another charivari. He wanted the leaders arrested and the mob dispersed, stating that the crowd were determined to force the groom to give up \$25 and intended to keep up the racket until they got it. I and City Marshal Fleming went down there and stopped the noise and cautioned the crowd not to make any further disturbance. On Tuesday night the charivari started again and we arrested three Finlanders and put them in jail. On Wednesday night Under Sheriff Gebo, City Marshal Paddy Fleming, Mayor Larkin and myself, with Terry Fleming, W. J. Deegan, Ed Ricketts, Charles Bronson and Tom Skelly, went to where the charivari was going on and found a big crowd of Finlanders congregated there. There were between seventy-five and one hundred of them and all had pans and things. I arrested two and while I had hold of one of them I saw that a man had Gebo down and was on top of him. I saw Paddy Fleming there and thought two was sufficient, and so I turned and went back and got another man. I started for jail with them and hadn't proceeded more than twenty yards when I heard four shots. I then turned my man over to Charlie Bronson and went back to see where the shooting was. I found Gebo and a Finlander lying in the brush. Gebo was lying on his side and the fellow had him around the neck, and Gebo was hollering for help. I loosened the Finlander's hold of Gebo's neck and dragged the man out. The night before, the crowd threatened to tear the jail down if the three men were not turned loose. When I pulled the man off he said he was shot. He didn't make any resistance. We didn't find any guns on any of the parties arrested. Henry Fridmog came to me in the early part of the evening and told me that there were two notices posted, one on the walk to the mine and the other at the house where the charivari took place. He said they notified the Finns that there would be another charivari that night and that the officers couldn't bother the crowd.

City Marshal Paddy Fleming was the next witness called. He testified that on Tuesday night he was called upon by Mayor Larkin to put a stop to the charivari. McAllister and myself went to where the crowd was and told them to stop the racket. They all quit but three and we arrested those three and put them in the city jail. All the rest of the Finlanders followed us to the jail and told us we would have to let the three men go or they would tear down the

jail. I told them they had better go home, but they wouldn't go, staying around the jail for an hour and a half, saying they were going to take the men out of jail. At last they said that if McAllister and I did not let the prisoners go they would fix us. Sanfrid Renland and J. H. Fridmog told the crowd they had better leave it go and go home. The crowd then dispersed and we let the prisoners loose. The crowd before leaving said they would come around the next night and charivari and Renland and Fridmog told us that we had better look out for ourselves. We were called on again Wednesday night at the fire hall. McAllister came in and said those fellows were down there again and that we would have to go and stop the racket. I said all right and told the rest of the fellows to come on. We found a big crowd with tin pans and pans. Some of them started to run and the rest stood there and didn't quit their racket. We started to arrest them. I told Deegan and Ricketts to take hold of two fellows and I got hold of another. Just then I saw Gebo and a Finlander down in the road. I went over and got hold of the fellow, but he wouldn't quit fighting, so I choked him and bumped his head on the ground. Then I asked him if he would go and he said yes. I started to jail with him and got around the corner when I heard the shots. I turned around then and went back. On arriving there they were just dragging somebody out of the brush. I asked what was the matter and the man said he was shot. I heard on the streets Wednesday that notices were posted informing the Finlanders that there would be another charivari that night.

Charles Bronson testified: I was called on by Mayor Larkin to assist in quelling the charivari disturbance and I went with the officers and others. Wednesday night to the scene of the racket. When I got there Paddy Fleming was on top of a Finlander and McAllister told me to take hold of some of them. I took one man and McAllister turned another man over to me. While I was holding them I heard some shooting and heard someone holler. We then went to the city hall with the prisoners and met Gebo, who said he was going after some cartridges. He said he had been knocked down and kicked in the ribs. We then went back and McAllister and Fleming were standing over the wounded man. Fleming told me to take a man he was holding to jail and I told him he would have to give me a gun first, which he did. There were at least one hundred men in the charivari crowd. I didn't observe any of the crowd make any resistance except the man Gebo had the first scrap with the one that Paddy Fleming was wrestling with when I first saw him. I didn't see anyone knock Gebo down.

Mayor William Larkin testified: A Finlander called on me either Thursday or Friday evening and said there was a gang charivaring a man that boarded at his house; that they demanded \$25 and the man had refused to pay it. He wanted to know if there was any law to stop a gang charivaring. I told him if the crowd came again to call the night watchman. The next evening he called on me again and said the crowd was back there charivaring. I sent him up town to find the night watchman. I didn't hear any more of it until Tuesday evening, when the man and the one they were charivaring came to me and demanded protection. Marshal Fleming and Night Watchman McAllister were standing there. I called Fleming in and told him to arrest the ringleaders of the mob, which they did, but later turned them loose. Wednesday afternoon I was informed that they were coming out to charivari again and that they would be heeled for the officers if they came down there. On going to supper I met McAllister in front of Budas' store and Mr. Fridmog came out and told us that the gang was going out again; that posters were up calling on the Finns to turn out. I instructed the night watchman to secure the assistance of as many citizens as was necessary to arrest as many of the mob as possible. About 9:30 o'clock we were in the fire hall when the charivaring started. McAllister and Fleming called on all of us

to assist them in making the arrests. We started at once to where the crowd was and the marshal told us to arrest any of the members of the mob we could catch. McAllister, Fleming and Gebo went to the mob, which scattered. One of them ran into my arms and I held on to him. I saw a scuffle and two men fell to the ground, but couldn't tell who they were until Fleming separated them, when I saw Gebo and a Finlander rush to their feet. I started to jail with my man and stopped at the corner until I thought all the boys that were with us had passed me. I then heard someone cry "Come here" or "here here," couldn't tell which. At the same time three or four shots were fired. McAllister gave his man to Bronson and started to see who was doing the shooting. We went to the fire hall and put the prisoners inside. The shots appeared to be in the brush. I don't think the man that I saw down with Gebo is the man who was subsequently shot. I didn't recognize the voice of the man who said "come here" or "here here." I didn't observe any of the mob with guns. I consider that the disturbance was in the nature of a riot and a resistance to lawful authority. From what I learned on the outside they were to keep it going on purpose to defy the officers.

W. J. Deegan testified: I was called on Wednesday by the officers to assist in quelling a charivari disturbance. I went with them to the scene and when I got there the first thing in particular that attracted my attention was a struggle between two persons on the opposite side of the street, and when I crossed over the parties had all arisen to their feet and Fleming had a man in his charge. The marshal told us to take everybody we could and I caught hold of a man. We then started for the city jail and I heard some shots and we stopped. I went back a short distance and then turned and took my man to the fire hall. I didn't notice any weapons on anybody.

Ed Ricketts testified to having been with the officers who made the arrests and in substance corroborated the testimony given above. He said Marshal Fleming turned a Finlander over to him and that they started for the jail, when he heard some shooting in the brush. He told his prisoner to wait a minute and said: "Somebody was hollering and I said let's go. My prisoner said all right and jerked away from me and jumped over the fence. I said all right over the fence is out, and I leaped the fence too. I met Paddy Fleming and we came up town."

J. H. Fridmog, who is of Norwegian nationality, testified: I understand the Finnish language. The charivari took place at Andrew Pakkala's boarding house, where I am stopping. It began Friday night and the married couple removed two blocks away. Wednesday night after supper I saw McAllister in the store and he said I heard they were going to charivari again tonight, and I said so did I. Mayor Larkin came along and talked with McAllister. I told McAllister that I heard that notices were posted up. Some of the boarders told

(Continued on Second Page.)

JOHN P. ARNOTT, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

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