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THE DENISON REVIEW

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MURDER AND SUICIDE

HENRY WARN Kills his Son, Fires his Home and all his Possessions and then Perishes Himself in his Burning Barn. Kept would be Rescuers away at the Point of a Revolver. His Charred Remains Found Burned Beyond Recognition. Three Horses, A DOZEN HEAD OF CATTLE, HOGS, CHICKENS, A THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH OF GRAIN AND FIFTEEN HUNDRED IN CASH BURNED TO ASHES. MANY EVIDENCES OF DEMONIC FURY AND ALMOST INSANE CUNNING.

Crawford county's most awful tragedy occurred this morning. Henry Warn a farmer living in Goodrich township six miles north-west of Denison fired all the buildings on his farm destroying every inflammable thing he possessed and his charred remains have been found in the ruins of the barn. Mystery shrouds the whereabouts of William his son a young man twenty-one years of age. He was known to have been at home last night but no one has seen him since the awful tragedy and his remains have not been found. It is easily possible that amongst the burning heaps of debris his charred body may yet be found. The tragedy occurred about 9 o'clock this morning and as usual it is difficult to obtain a concise story of a fearful deed. A number of neighbors saw the smoke and Paul Stensen his son and a son of Otto Timm hastened to the rescue. They beheld the awful sight of the old man running from building to building carrying a pail filled with cobs soaked with kerosene and setting fire to everything as he went. As they approached the place Warn saw them and began shouting that he would kill them if they came nearer and waving his revolver and shooting at them. The would-be rescuers ran for their lives and the maddened man went on with his work of destruction. The first man on the scene after this was C. M. Russell who was soon assisted by Peter Atzen. At this time the house was burning fiercely and nothing could be done to quench the flames. Mr. Russell rushed to the barn to release the horses and stock. He succeeded in releasing about a dozen cows and then he tried to get the horses out. Much to his surprise he found wagons backed up against the doors to prevent the horses from escaping and he was forced to knock out the side of the barn by which time the fire was blazing so hotly that he was able to rescue but one of the tortured beasts. It became apparent that nothing could be done to prevent the holocaust. Every building was ablaze and with the cunning of a fiend, Warn had broken the hydrant of his farm waterworks, so that no water was to be had.

To realize the extent to which the deed was planned it is only necessary to state that not only were wagons backed up against the barn but that coils of wire were stacked up against the hog house to make sure that the hogs perished with the rest. Another freak of the crazy man, for such he must have been, was to remove from the building all the clothing and effects of his daughter, Bertha, who was married on Monday last to a young man named Frederichs. Even her dog was released from the house while two other dogs were left inside to die. The scene of the fire is terrible beyond the telling. In the cattle shed, or rather where once was the cattle shed, there is now but a long line of smoking and distended bodies. The bodies of the horses rise from the debris of the barn and it was here, fallen between the bodies of the horses, that the remains of Henry Warn were found. It is burned beyond recognition. The legs, the arms, the top of the skull are burned away, not a scrap of flesh adheres to the blackened bones. The base of the skull, the ribs and the jaw bone are the only things that tell for a certainty that when the sun rose this morning this was the abode of a human soul. A thorough search is now being made to find some trace of the body of the son William, whom it is supposed was burned in the house. Up to this time nothing has been discovered, however, and it is possible that in some way he escaped destruction. The property destroyed includes a well built, one and a half story house and all furniture save that which belonged to the daughter, Bertha, the barn and three head of horses, water tank, meat house, two cribs containing 2000 bushels of corn, a granary containing several hundred bushels of oats and wheat, cattle sheds and about a dozen head of cattle, the hog house and a number of hogs, a large stack of hay and another of straw, the henery and several dozen chickens, beside a large amount of farm machinery. The loss is estimated at from \$5000 to \$7000.

Mr. Peter Atzen, a near neighbor, and who knew something of the affairs of Warn, tells us that he knew and that others knew that he intended to come to Denison today and make a payment of over \$1500 and that he had the money at his home. Mr. Atzen is inclined to believe that there has been foul play about the matter and that perhaps the men were murdered for the money. This theory can hardly hold, however, if it is true that Warn was seen firing the buildings himself, and this comes from the best of authority. What

motive prompted the deed, whether it was insanity or morose grief, God alone can tell. Warn was not a pleasant man, he was morose and of a bad disposition. The son was subject to fits of insanity and at one time he ran away and was only found after searching parties had been organized. This fact has caused another theory to be advanced, that the son became insane, fired the buildings, killed his father and escaped. Again this theory runs up against the fact that the father was seen by several reliable parties, among whom are Mr. Stensen and Mr. Cal. Drake of Denison, while he was firing the buildings.

Henry Warn was a man between 50 and 60 years of age. His wife died several years ago. He was a German and spoke but little English. He had three children, William, the son who is missing, Bertha, recently married to Frederichs and Mrs. Nic Oldreg, who lives with her husband on section 35, Hanover township. He was fairly well to do as is shown by the large amount of property which he destroyed by his own hand. He was not on good terms with all his neighbors and had warned some of them not to come near his

place. This probably accounts for the apparent indifference and lack of interference. It may well be expected that more of the details and perhaps some solution of the crime may come to light and in that event the Review will keep its readers posted on the most terrible tragedy that has ever occurred in Crawford county. We have just learned that some years ago, Mr. Warn was brutally beaten in a row at a party and that he has never been right in his mind since that time. We also neglected to state that near the body was found the blade of a butcher knife and a revolver. There is some censure over the fact, that Warn was not looked after by the authorities and placed in an asylum where such an awful tragedy could not have occurred. Sheriff Bell, Constable McAhren ex-sheriff Seymour, Attorney Goodwin, Dr. J. J. McWilliams, A. J. Gary and a large number of the neighbors were on the scene this afternoon and every effort will be made to get to the bottom of the mystery. Albert Gary of Denison was the one who found the remains of Warn in the ruins of the barn. This account was hurriedly prepared after a visit to the scene of the tragedy, but it contains all details possible for us to obtain this time.

THE JURY DISAGREES

Charter Oak vs. Lang To be Tried Again.

Points of Law Raised Against Charter Oak Ordinances. Other Court News.

The case of Charter Oak vs. Lang has taken up considerable of the time of the district court and many witnesses were called on both sides. The case grew out of the arrest of Lang for intoxication, following which it is asserted he committed a number of misdemeanors for which he was fined in what the defense claim to have been an excessive amount. There are a number of cases growing out of the same thing, but it is probable that but the one case will be tried at this term of court. During the trial an interesting point was raised by the defense, which if ultimately decided in their favor would mean a great deal not only to Charter Oak but to many other cities of the state. When the plaintiff offered an ordinance in testimony, the defense offered first the general objection as follows: It appears that when the ordinance was passed the regulations as to the recording of the eyes and nays was not observed. This defect was sought to be remedied by a legalizing act passed by the 24th General Assembly. Defense claims that the new code expressly states that all special acts not specifically mentioned in the code are repealed and that therefore this legalizing act and all other legalizing acts not mentioned and re-enacted in the code are null and void. Judge Elwood over-ruled the defense on this objection, but it will probably be one of the grounds of an appeal to the supreme court and should it then be decided in favor of the defense it would cause a

general upheaval in the affairs of dozens of Iowa cities and towns.

The second point raised was that while the preamble of the legalizing act asserted that the defect in the ordinance arose because the eyes and nays were not recorded the curvative part of the act does not mention the recording and therefore the ordinance is still defective. This was also overruled.

It would be another ground for appeal however, should the case be decided in favor of the plaintiff and should the objection be sustained by the Supreme Court it would render inoperative many of the ordinances of Charter Oak. The case was ably conducted on both sides.

The case of Gardner vs. Westbrook was decided in favor of the plaintiff, Gardner, for the full amount asked. This was a case in which Gardner asked for a landlord's lien for the payment of rent. It was contested on the ground that a bill for professional services was included and a counterclaim was made for office rent.

Insurgents Attack Two Towns. Manila, March 1.—A band of 70 armed insurgents raided the town of Suog, where they killed one native and abducted five. At midnight of the same day they attacked the town of Santa Maria, burning 50 houses. The insurgents were repulsed by the Americans, who had one man wounded, one native scout and two civilians were killed. The insurgents retreated to the mountains, closely pursued. Their losses were not learned.

All But the Captain Rescued. London, March 1.—The British steamer Chamois, which was in collision Wednesday near Newark lightship, has arrived in Gravesend in tow. She is considerably damaged and her forepeak is full of water. The vessel with which the Chamois collided was the British steamer Samuel Laing. The latter foundered and her captain was drowned. The rest of her crew are on board the Chamois.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS. Judge Harzell has succeeded in closing the pool rooms at Madison, Ills. George McFadden was given the decision on a foul in the eighth round over Dal Hawkins at San Francisco Thursday. The trial of Jesse B. Davis, a Bellevue hospital nurse, accused of the murder of Louis R. Hilliard, an insane patient, closed Thursday and the jury rendered a verdict of acquittal.

HELD FOR HOLD UP

Albert Doidge Claims He Was Robbed.

Accuses Mart Henry and Jim McCarty of Having Committed the Deed.

Albert Doidge claims that he was robbed of forty dollars in Hedderman's saloon at Arion last Monday and accuses Mart Henry and Jim McCarty of having committed the crime. As near as we can learn it is claimed that Doidge went to Arion last Monday and sold a load of hogs, that he afterwards went to the saloon and spent money freely for liquor treating the defendants in the case and remaining in the saloon until he became somewhat intoxicated. It is then claimed that Henry and McCarty by threats of violence compelled him to let them go through his pockets and that they forcibly took from him the sum of forty dollars. Warrants were issued for the arrest of the parties accused but only one Mart Henry was found and arrested. After a preliminary hearing Henry was bound over to await the action of the grand jury and bond fixed at \$200. This we understand he was able to give without difficulty and the case will come before the jury when it reassembles on March 7th. Henry denies his guilt most emphatically and claims that there is no foundation for the accusation but that probably Doidge became intoxicated, lost his money and wishes some one upon whom to lay the blame. This makes an unprecedented number of criminal cases for this ordinarily law abiding county.

Over 30 bankers from Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois met in Chicago Thursday and took the preliminary steps toward forming an association of country banks. The aggregate capital represented between \$50,000,000 and \$75,000,000.

VOLUME THIRTY.

Yesterday the editor completed volume thirty of his life book. The work is full of errors, some of them more than typographical ones and can be laid to the author and to him alone. The great trouble with editing ones book of life is that no revise proofs are submitted. Just as the great roll of pure paper is fed into the perfecting press in one continuous strip and printed beyond recall so is the record of a life made up, and only the unrelenting counter of time checks off the years. For nearly all of our life we have called Denison our home; we have seen men rise and fall according to their merits. The playmates of long ago have grown to maturity and in many a sober faced man and kindly young matron we see the jolly laughing school-fellow. Denison has been kind and more than kind to all of its children; she has condoned their faults and given them all the reward they have deserved and oftentimes more. We are glad that our lot has been cast in such a pleasant place. We are proud of our city, of its happy homes, its prosperous business conditions and above all of its kindly and brainy men and women. Our friends here have helped and encouraged us, and we feel that we owe them the best that is in us for as many years of life as may be allotted to us. Many of the illusions of a young man are gone even at thirty. The ambition to be great in the eyes of the world changes with even thirty years to a desire to earn a competence, to build up a home and to be at peace with ones fellow men. These are our ambitions and we hope that in the years come we will see them at least partially fulfilled.

James J. Hill has started to grade his railroad from Marcus to Republic, giving that mining district an outlet by way of Spokane. The first work in being done near Cascade City on the United States side. The joint session of the scale committee of the coal miners and operators of Illinois came to an abrupt end Thursday, when the operators refused to longer entertain the demands of the miners' scale.

Rev. F. W. Emerson, pastor of the First Christian church, and Dr. M. R. Mitchell were arrested Thursday on a state warrant, charging them with being accessories in the snatching of the Curtis cold storage plant in North Topeka.

WILL NOT ACCEPT

Mr. Romans Does Not Want Nomination.

Says Leader's Statement that He Will Stand for Governor is Untrue.

The Des Moines Leader of Thursday contained a statement that Mr. J. B. Romans would be presented as the democratic nominee for Governor. On being interviewed by the Review, Mr. Romans said that he had never heard of such a thing. That while still a democrat of the new school in principle, he was out of politics and in business and intended to remain where he was. He said that he had no sympathy with the old democratic party but that he did believe in the doctrines of Bryan and should continue to support the democratic party as long as they represented those principles. He said further that he would not accept the democratic nomination for governor even though sure of election. Mr. Romans was as plain and as emphatic as it could be made and we see no reason to doubt his sincerity. It is certainly an honor to Mr. Romans to be seriously considered as the democratic standard-bearer, and it is a high compliment that both parties should come to our city when they wish a leader. Mr. Romans' statement should effectually set at rest all talk of his candidacy.

Heavy Real Estate Deals. During the past week there have been some large deals in farm land in the county. Claus Kronkhe purchased the farm of Mrs. Maria Bartels for the sum of \$7,680; and Charles Hartwig bought Fred Menke's farm of eighty acres in Goodrich township for \$3600. Forty-five dollars per acre is not such a high price for Crawford county land as it used to be.

RIDDLED WITH BULLET

Indian Desperado Shot to Death by a Sheriff at Holdenville.

Holdenville, I. T., March 1.—John Miller, a full blood Creek Indian was shot to death by a masked band of men. Miller was under arrest in the murder of Herbert McDade. He was arrested yesterday near Wetumpka and brought here pending a hearing before the United States commissioner. The officers, fearing trouble, secretly conveyed their prisoner out of town two or three miles and lodged at the farm house of Robert Stewart. At a little after midnight about 4 armed and masked men forced an entrance into the house, disarmed the guards and began shooting at the prisoner at short range. The prisoner escaped from the house by jumping through a screen door and fled across the yard, clearing a four foot picket fence at one leap, running 300 yards, where he was overtaken and his body filled with lead. More than a dozen bullet holes are to be seen in his body. Miller was a desperado and had committed three cold blooded murders within six months, besides numerous robberies.

TWO DIE IN A WRECK

Three Others Badly Injured and Passenger Train Burned as Result of Collision Near McKeesport, Pa.

Pittsburg, March 1.—Two dead, three badly hurt and a passenger train burned is the result of a head on collision between a passenger train and a local freight on the Pittsburg and Charleston railroad at Coal Valley.

The dead: Frank White, engineer, Milton S. Thompson, mail clerk. The injured: C. Shaver, fireman, badly scalded and bruised; Charles Stroud, baggage-master, bruised and burned; and Michael Kulick, Schoenville, passenger, back hurt.

None of the other passengers were hurt beyond minor cuts and bruises. Immediately after the collision the passenger cars took fire and were destroyed, only one car escaping. The trains in collision were the Uniontown express, south-bound, and the local freight coming toward Pittsburg. The local was standing on a siding delivering freight at the time. For some reason as yet unexplained the express instead of keeping to the main track shot off into the siding and telescoped the other train. All of the victims were on the express train, which carried between 50 and 60 passengers.