

ARRESTS SURPRISE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DEVELOPMENTS IN BEDFORD MURDER CASE BREAK FASTER THAN WAS EXPECTED.

RESIDENTS OF VILLAGE PUZZLED BY DISCLOSURE

Many Old Residents Claim Never to Have Heard of Alleged Murder—Evidence Seemingly in Conflict—Attorney General's Assistants Leave Capital For Preliminary Hearing.

Special to Times-Republican.

Des Moines, July 12.—Special Counsel C. A. Robbins and State Agent G. A. Brunson, of the attorney general's office, left today for Bedford to take part in the preliminary hearing Tuesday of the four aged men, accused of the murder of a wealthy cattleman forty-seven years ago.

It is thought in Bedford the stranger is a son of Nathaniel Smith's old partner, who is looking after his mother's interests.

The Nathaniel Smith story is inconsistent with the theory that a son of the stockman was killed at the same time the father was murdered.

Light on Dark Murder.

Mr. Bradley was able to throw some light upon the killing of Jonathan Dark at the Collins homestead, a short distance from Kansas City, Mo.

"The oldest Collins girl, married Dark," he said. "The youngest, Maria, who is said to have seen the counterfeit gang in the act of disposing of the cattleman's body, was receiving the attentions of a young man near Siam."

"As I understand it, when the Collins family moved into Missouri, Dark followed them in order to keep this young man from paying attention to Maria."

"There is nothing to it," he said. "What's more, this treasure has never been found. Bates Huntman was digging for it last spring. He wouldn't stop on digging if the chest was unburied twelve years ago, as Anderson claims."

"Anderson is sore. He demanded money and when refused, started this fair. I told his partner didn't have the money, but he wouldn't believe me. That was six weeks ago."

"At that time Anderson told me he was going over to see Huntman and at his share of the \$30,000."

"He ain't got any money," I said. "Yes, he has," said Anderson. "What makes you think so?"

"Well, for one thing, Huntman's got too many fat horses running round his place," he told me.

"If Huntman's got fat horses on his place they belong to somebody else," I said.

"Why, I am sure that money was never found," the old man continued. "As for me, I've got a farm but no money, and if Huntman had any I would think he would put a few dollars on his back to cover his nakedness."

"I know Huntman thinks there's money buried near the spring and has spent lots trying to locate it. I have been told the James boys robbed a bank and cached the swag on the Anderson farm."

"Anderson is a fool. That murder talk is foolish. I know nothing about it."

BEDFORD FOLK ARE PUZZLED.

Events So Sudden and Dramatic That Public Is Dazed.

Bedford, July 12.—Revelations in the so-called murder case here came so quickly many Taylor county people are perplexed and nonplussed, while many do not place much credence in Sam Anderson's version of the affair.

Some of them claim he has gained considerable reputation in the past as a teller of weird tales and believe him a fit successor to the late Baron Munchausen.

None of the prisoners has ever heard of the Collins family, they aver. "Anderson's son did not believe his father's story as to finding the treasure," according to Nathan Dameswood's statement.

"Anderson's son came to me about eight years ago," asserts Nat. "He

said, 'The old man is all worked up over this money business and thinks Doc and Bates Huntman have got it. The old man believes they have made a split and are leaving him out in the cold.'

"Now, what I want you to do is to come with me, and dig at that spot and convince him he is wrong."

The son also told Dameswood his father was getting desperate. He had armed himself with a gun and threatened to use it if he didn't get his share of the money, it was said.

Four years ago Nate Dameswood met Sam Anderson and his relatives at Braddyville. Anderson demanded his share of the money, but was told there was none. "If you could get 25 cents a day for all the time you've been digging after that treasure, you'd be well fixed now and wouldn't have to be howling about your share," was Nate's farewell remark.

The Dameswoods and Scribner claim to have no personal knowledge as to the treasure trove other than furnished by Bates Huntman, who employed all of them as common diggers.

Mysterious Stranger in Case.

During the course of his investigations, Attorney General Robbins has been accompanied by a mysterious stranger, whose identity has been carefully concealed. His companion is a young man.

It is thought in Bedford the stranger is a son of Nathaniel Smith's old partner, who is looking after his mother's interests.

The Nathaniel Smith story is inconsistent with the theory that a son of the stockman was killed at the same time the father was murdered.

It is unmarred, it is improbable that the man was his son unless he was a widower. It is expected to clear up this phase of the affair before the investigation is concluded.

"We are reasonably certain the murdered man was Nathaniel Smith. He was a horse buyer who mysteriously disappeared after departing for the western Iowa. I am not at liberty to tell how we came in possession of this information," says Attorney Bullman.

"Smith was engaged to be married at the time. When nothing more was heard of him and many years had elapsed, his sweetheart married. An old woman, whose place of residence and identity I cannot disclose, received a letter from the sweetheart expressing her belief that Nathaniel Smith was murdered for his money. She said he had a big sum with him on his departure."

James Boys Not Responsible.

Lees Summit, Mo., July 12.—Frank and Jesse James had nothing to do with the killing of the unknown Missouri cattleman and his son near Siam, Iowa, in 1868, Cole Younger, the only surviving member of the James gang of Missouri, said at his home here today.

"The James boys were far from Iowa when the murder was committed. Frank James was in California from 1866 until 1870," said the former bandit.

"The gang never was organized until he returned here in 1870 and Jesse put the idea into his head. Jesse had been here in the meantime and had been doing a little robbing, but he couldn't pull off anything big because he was wounded."

"Frank and Jesse both told me they were never in Iowa except when they

robbed the Corydon bank and that was in the seventies. What's more, it's a joke to think of the James boys having anything like \$30,000, the amount they claim the cattleman lost. I frequently loaned them money in those days and I know they never had more than they could carry in their pockets."

CRUSHED UNDER HAY RACK.

B. C. Cole, of Near Hampton, Killed While Attempting to Stop Team.

Special to Times-Republican.

Hampton, July 12.—B. C. Cole, a member of the milk firm of Kratz & Cole, was killed at the farm here Friday afternoon, when a team of colts attached to a load of hay, ran him down and pulled the load over him.

An assistant was on the load of hay, but unable to hold the team, called Mr. Cole. While attempting to check the team, Mr. Cole was dragged for some distance until they reached some tall grass when his hold was wrenched loose, and he went down and the load of hay was pulled over him.

His assistant at once jumped from the load to the help of his companion, but the latter realized that he was fatally hurt and with a final glance and a goodbye, he passed into unconsciousness, and in a few minutes was beyond earthly aid. Medical assistance was speedily summoned, but to no avail.

Mr. Cole was about 41 years of age, and came here from Fulk City last January. Early in the spring the family moved to the V. J. Kratz place and has been in partnership with Mr. Kratz in the milk business since.

Mr. Cole leaves a wife, two sons, aged 20 and 18, and a daughter, about 9. One child passed away some years ago.

BURGLARY AT DOUGHERTY.

Backer's General Store Robbed—Blood-hounds Fail to Hit Trail.

Special to Times-Republican.

Dougherty, July 12.—The general store of H. E. Backer was burglarized Friday night. The thieves gained entrance by prying open a rear window and successfully escaped after helping themselves freely to jewelry, cigars, shoes and a small sum of money taken from the cash drawer.

It is supposed that the work of notices as the safe was left untouched where \$60 was deposited.

The sheriff at Waterloo was telephoned and he arrived Saturday with bloodhounds, but the dogs were unable to take up the trail owing to the lateness of their arrival.

Building \$6,000 Farm Home.

Special to Times-Republican.

Bearman, July 12.—Edwin McMartin is building a \$6,000 residence on his farm just north of town. He has here only a small shack and with only \$1,500. He now owns 500 acres of Grundy soil, worth \$250 per acre. He is one of our most successful farmers and stock feeders.

Hampton Defeats Aredale.

Special to Times-Republican.

Hampton, July 12.—The local baseball nine defeated the team from Aredale on the home grounds by a score of 4 to 0.

The locals have played fourteen games and lost but two this season.

Southern Iowa Items

Des Moines. Workers for the Associated Charities have found three cases of pellagra among families which have applied to the society for aid.

Davenport. All the onion fields in the Pleasant Valley district are under water and it is estimated that about half the crop will be destroyed as a result of the rain storm Wednesday afternoon. The rainfall was 2.75 inches in less than an hour.

Muscatine. Fighting for the cause of England, Edward Washburne, aged 26, of Muscatine, was killed in France, according to word received by his parents here. Washburne was a soldier of fortune and is believed to have gone to Europe from South America.

Centerville. Five persons were injured when their automobile turned turtle three miles east of here Tuesday night. Mr. C. B. Little has several ribs broken and is internally injured. Robert Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Little and daughter Ruth, were slightly injured.

Hesperia. John Spykerman, living east of town, was injured in a runaway with a disc corn plow. The team became frightened at a passing automobile and Mr. Spykerman was thrown from the seat in front of the disc and was dragged about a quarter of a mile before the horses were stopped.

Burlington. Carl Magnuson, a 17-year-old boy, was knocked down by an auto and his left leg broken in two places. No blame is attached to the car driver. Young Magnuson had stopped to let a car pass and crossing the track found himself in the path of a rapidly approaching machine.

Griswold. The last few days has brought about the appearance of millions upon millions of what is known as the army worm in several fields around Griswold. They have infested the wheat fields of John Baughman, George Senholtz, who live north and east of town. R. G. Mackrell also reports that they are in his fields. Other fields toward Ellis are also being devastated by this plague.

Des Moines. Cupid had a great month of it in this county during June. Court records show 209 marriage licenses were issued. Those receipts for the little love marshals were handed out indiscriminately to all ages and conditions in life.

The youngest bride was 15 years and the oldest 71. The latter married a man of 76. The youngest groom was 16 and he wedded a girl of the same age.

Des Moines. Despondent because she was arrested for intoxication, Margaret Bridget, aged 20, attempted suicide by swallowing twenty grains of bichloride of mercury in the matron's ward of the jail Tuesday night. Others confined in the ward saw the act and screamed. Physicians were called and quick action with the stomach pump probably saved the woman's life. She conceived other tablets in her hair at the time of her arrest.

Clarinda. That the peace movement is rapidly spreading over various sections of the county was demonstrated here when

fifty influential business men of this city sent a joint telegram to President Wilson urging peace. The message, which was signed personally by the fifty business men, reads as follows:

"Murder is never justifiable, even under the guise of national dignity. Keep us out of war." The telegram was forwarded to the president at his summer home at Cornish, N. H.

Davenport. Chauncey Thode aged 25, well known local business man, was killed when he was thrown from an automobile while going at a high rate of speed on the car bonched over a railroad track three miles west of this city.

At the time of the accident Thode was driving in company with a demonstrator, in an automobile which he contemplated purchasing. Deceased was a member of the Henry Thode company, wholesale liquor dealers. He leaves a wife.

Muscatine. An unidentified man was struck by a Milwaukee train Thursday afternoon at Fairport at 3 o'clock and killed instantly. According to stories told by witnesses of the accident the man who was walking along the tracks at the time either did not hear or paid no attention to the repeated whistling of the approaching engine. The engineer put on the brakes in an effort to stop his train, but the speed of the train was not checked sufficiently to prevent the accident. One eye was cut out, and it is apparent that the man's back and neck were broken. The man is unknown at Fairport, and judging from his appearance is a tramp. The inquest was held at the depot in Fairport, and the coroner's jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

College Springs. Holmes Stokesbury, the youngest son of Mrs. Minnie Stokesbury of Red Oak, met with a very serious accident last Monday morning while in Des Moines. He was assisting in remodeling one of the large churches of that city, and accidentally fell from a scaffold twenty-five feet high. He was severely cut and bruised and is suffering from concussion of the brain. The doctors also fear internal injuries. The young man's mother and brother, Arthur, are at his bedside. Holmes was the youngest son of the late Rev. W. Stokesbury, who was pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church of College Springs for five years. After the father's death the family were residents of this place until about two years ago, when they moved to Red Oak. Holmes Stokesbury is a brother of Mrs. J. C. Dowe of this place.

Fairfield. Cupid is creating havoc in the ranks of the rural teachers of Jefferson county and Miss Jane Chidester, county superintendent, has ceased to wonder when a nice looking successful teacher enters her office and says that she don't think she will teach this fall, or when the postman brings the plain white oblong envelope which contains announcement cards of the wedding of some of her best instructors. With the arrival of Wednesday's mail Miss Chidester received notice of the twenty-second wedding out of her ninety-one rural teachers and two weddings have lately occurred in the city schools. If reports are true several more teachers will take life partners before fall and this will not apply for places in the school.

It is reported that the number of weddings among the teachers but thus far this year the record has been broken by several.

FIX STATE TAX LEVY

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETS TO REVIEW AND REVISE WORK OF ASSESSORS.

LOW TAXATIONISTS' INFLUENCE IS SEEN

Reported That in Some Instances Assessors Have Failed to Comply With Law Providing For Assessment on Actual Valuation—Railroad Assessments First Duty of Council.

Special to Times-Republican.

Des Moines, July 12.—The state executive council met this morning to perform its most important duty in relation to the affairs of state. The council members are all here, the governor having just returned from California, and Treasurer Brown having returned from an automobile outing in Wisconsin. The council will be in session practically all of the time for at least two weeks. Its duties may be classified as follows:

As a board of assessors it will first make the assessment of value for taxation purposes of the property of the railroad companies, transportation lines, express, telegraph and telephone companies.

As a board of review the council will review and revise the work of the 3,500 local assessors of the state as reviewed by the township and county boards of review and returned to the state auditor.

As a taxation board the council will compute what the state tax levy shall be on the valuation of property as finally adjusted in order to raise the funds required under legislative appropriations.

Railroad Assessments First.

The first work is that of making the railroad assessments. The representatives of the various railway systems, to the number of about twenty-five, are here for the purpose of presenting to the council such facts as they deem proper regarding their respective properties having relation to assessment purposes. They will be heard one by one, but probably will present no new or startling facts regarding railroad properties. It is a safe guess that the executive council will not make any very radical changes in the valuation of the railroad properties. The council settled practically all of the larger questions of valuation in its memorable session of two years ago when there was added to the valuation of the railroads about \$15,000,000.

The fact that the reports of the railroad companies show an increase in net earnings in Iowa of nearly two and a half million dollars would justify some increase, however, in assessed values.

The work of assessing the telephone and telegraph companies is one which is largely done by the clerical force of the council after general principles have been laid down and this will take several months to complete.

Did Assessors Disregard Law?

The big work of the council at this time will be the review of the work of the assessors and local boards in the matter of fixing actual values of real and personal property throughout the state. The law is now as it has been in the past that the valuation set down in the county books shall be the actual value on the market or in the course of trade. It will be recalled that two years ago when the council undertook to comply with the requirements of this law and did in fact make such an adjustment of values as would give approximately the actual value of property in the state, there was such a storm of protest from the tax payers that for a time it was as if there would be a political revolution. The fact, however, be-

came finally recognized that the council did only its duty under the law. But now, so it is reported, the assessors and the local boards under pressure from the new taxationists have failed to make the assessment in accordance with law. It will again be up to the executive council to decide whether the law means what it says or doesn't. The council this year has the duty of reviewing as to real estate as well as to personal property.

When this work of assessment and adjustment of assessments is completed, the council will compute the levy necessary to meet the requirements of legislative appropriations and make an order as to what the state tax levy will be.

While it has been customary for the council to have the representatives of the corporations before it, there have been on several occasions representatives of the farmers and of the city property owners and these are always welcome by the state officials. No information has been received, however, as to whether they will be heard before the council on these very important matters.

MEET AFTER FIFTY YEARS.

Happy Reunion of Long Separated Brother and Sister at Atlantic.

Special to Times-Republican.

Atlantic, July 12.—There was an impressive scene here yesterday when Samuel A. Musser, of Northwood, and Mrs. Julia Beech, of this city, brother and sister, met after a lapse of nearly fifty years. Mrs. Beech and brother were left alone when children. Mr. Musser went into the civil war and at its close he joined the gold hunters and with horse and pack mule traversed the western gold fields, never at any time joining his sister, who had all these years mourned for him as dead. The scenes of their childhood life are in Page county, and recently Mr. Musser, having prospered, came out of the west to hunt his sister and aid her in her declining years. He went to Yorktown and from there located the farm where the two had lived as children. He found the old home gone and an entirely new set of people. Inquiries regarding Mrs. Beech disclosed that her husband was dead and that she had disappeared. He went to Yorktown and from there located the farm where the two had lived as children. He found the old home gone and an entirely new set of people. Inquiries regarding Mrs. Beech disclosed that her husband was dead and that she had disappeared. He went to Yorktown and from there located the farm where the two had lived as children. He found the old home gone and an entirely new set of people. Inquiries regarding Mrs. Beech disclosed that her husband was dead and that she had disappeared.

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