

The Great Scandal.

The manner in which the cases against Chief of Police Sheets and his associates have been conducted is a disgrace to the prosecuting officers and no great credit to the judiciary. An exceedingly grave crime was committed. The chief of police and his first assistants are implicated in the crime. The evidence against the chief and his associates is so strong that no reasonable doubt exists as to their guilt. The evidence against them is so conclusive that their only hope of escaping conviction is in preventing the case ever being tried before a jury. So far the prosecution has shown itself to be imbecile and worse. The machinery of justice, the courts included, have to say the least behaved very peculiarly.

A grave crime was committed, an extensive robbery, a crime which affects the safety of the life and property of every citizen. The perpetrators of that crime, so far, have gone unwhipped of justice and the apparent intention of those charged with the administration of the law is that they shall escape the consequences of their misdeeds. Mr. Sheets, the chief of police, the man above all others whose duty it is to protect the lives and the property of the people was and is charged with being a party to the robbery in question. He had a preliminary hearing and was discharged by the judge; although most people thought the evidence against him was almost strong enough to warrant conviction, the judge apparently thought there was not even probable cause to hold him for trial. Probable cause is all that is necessary to hold a person for trial.

The same proceedings in a slightly different form were started again. A preliminary hearing was had before another judge who had some conception of the law and the proprieties and Mr. Sheets was botnd over to the district court for trial.

The case came up in the district court before the judge who in the first instance refused to hold Mr. Sheets for trial. On a mere technicality, the indictment, or information or whatever it may be called was quashed and the case was supposed to be dismissed. The prosecution feeling or simulating the feeling that at least substantial justice had not been done in dismissing the case, took appeal to the supreme court from the ruling of the judge of the district court.

When the case came up in the supreme court it was found that the district judge or the district attorney had not properly made, or caused to be made the record of the proceedings and the conclusion. No order of dismissal had been entered and therefore the appeal had no

standing in the supreme court and there was nothing left for the attorney general to do but ask for a dismissal of the appeal. Thus on another technicality, the prosecution was knocked out again.

That a crime, a most serious crime, was committed there is no doubt. The defendant, Sheets, was charged with complicity in that crime. He ought to have had a fair trial in open court before a jury of his peers if such can be found. The courts instead of taking cognizance of manufactured technicalities should have, at least, put no obstacles in the way of substantial justice. It is a cause celebre, a case in which all the people are vitally interested, a case involving the safety of the lives and property of the people. The legal machinery instead of facilitating the ends of justice has impeded it. It's a scandal.

It's a case of which the governor of the state should take cognizance. It is within his jurisdiction to review the conduct of all state officers, judges included. His duty, as we see it, is to step in, dismiss all the attorneys for the prosecution, have others employed at the expense of the state, call in a judge from some other district not affected by local abnormal conditions and have the case tried on its merits freed from politics and all other extraneous considerations.

The case against Sheets, to use a vulgar expression, has been "all balled up" and if records so far made stand, it is questionable whether the prosecution can ever get it into court or not. In this dilemma we feel like helping out the cause of good and honest government and with that end in view make and publish the following assertions believing them to be true:

The two young Scotchmen, the McWhirter brothers, were robbed of \$10,000 in Salt Lake City. Chief of police Sheets, and other members of the police force were parties not only to that robbery but to others. Chief of Police Sheets received pecuniary benefit from the robbery and so did some members of the city council; in other words they received a part of the spoils. The actual robbers were under the protection of the chief of police and he helped them to escape and has not only done nothing towards bringing them to justice, but has shielded them and used his influence to prevent their capture and punishment, all because he and as indicated before, members of the city council were participants in the spoils.

The prosecution has so far failed to get the case into court although the organs of the thugs have pretended that Sheets and his co-conspirators were aching for a speedy trial.

Now as the imbecile prosecution can't

get it into court, let the defense try. If what we have just stated is not true, Mr. Sheets has an excellent case against Truth for criminal libel. We invite him to institute such proceedings as he may think proper. We will welcome it and assure him we will prove everything we have stated, and a good deal more. The prosecution in this case is feeble. We always like to help out the weak.

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R. B. Whittemore, a brother of C. O. Whittemore, general attorney for the San Pedro road, arrived in Goldfield during the early part of last week and seriously contemplates locating here in business. Whittemore is one of the most successful insurance men in Salt Lake City, and is interested in mining matters also. He stated to the Review that he liked the looks of the place and thought it a good spot in which to accumulate a lot of money for future use. He made the Grimshaw his home while here.—Goldfield Review.

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It's about time a certain ex-chief justice of the state of Utah was being called to some mining camp on important legal business and soon thereafter a corporation of mining brokers should, according to time honored custom, have some wonderfully cheap mining stock for sale, said stock being highly recommended by the ex-chief justice, mining expert, etc., etc.

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The strike of the construction gang of the telephone companies does not seem to amount to much. Business with the companies is going just the same as if there was no strike. The strike at this time was evidently a mistake. Mr. Lynn, the leader of the men, appears to be an unsafe man to follow.

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Truth stated several months ago that Joe Cottle would succeed James Sabine Jr. as superintendent of the county infirmary. The change will take place about June 1. Mr. Cottle is very competent and well fitted for the place. From a political standpoint he is entitled to recognition,—always an ardent republican and a good worker.

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The great scandal which is known as the Sheets case, is approaching a climax. Sheets is more of an incident, a tool if you will, than anything else. There are others much worse than Sheets in this case, but they keep in the back ground.

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Judging from pictures of the lawyers engaged in the prosecution of Haywood, Pettibone et al for the murder of ex-Governor Steunenberg, one should not be surprised to find any of them defendants in any old case.

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Judge Bartch wants a fee of \$1000 for his services in the Bradley case. Some people have got more nerve than brains or sense.

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VIOLA ALLEN
In "Twelfth Night."

Truth is in receipt of a pictorial postal card from Frank J. Hewlett of the Hewlett Bros. company, from Nagasaki, Japan. Mr. Hewlett is making a pleasure trip to Japan and the Orient generally and is having the time of his life.

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On May 30th, Saltair, Lagoon and the resorts generally will have their formal opening. There will be no scarcity of water at Saltair this season. The Lagoon is looking prettier than ever.

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The Cullen Hotel, the new Cullen is strictly first class. Ben Heywood, proprietor. Ben is first class in everything he does.

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John E. Hansen, managing editor of the Deseret News has entered really fashionable circles. Appendicitis, hospital, operation, doing well.

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Attorney W. R. Hutchinson is at Blackfoot, Idaho, trying some drainage suits in the courts there.