

THIRD CHAPTER IN THE HUDSON TRIAL.

When it became generally known Saturday that the jury had rendered a verdict of acquittal in the case against Mr. Aleck Hudson, there was considerable excitement and much indignation expressed by many citizens. This feeling increased until it culminated in a call being made in our city dailies Sunday morning for the citizens of Shreveport to assemble at the court house Monday night, and give an expression of their opinion regarding the action of the jury.

Pursuant to this call, a large concourse of whites and negroes assembled at the place named, and contrary to the usual custom, the room was taxed to hold them by the time the hour for assembling had been tolled off by the town clock.

The whites who met there were a representative body of men, drawn from the various walks and vocations of social and business life. There was a determined calmness about the whole affair, which bespoke a firm resolution to carry out the project aimed at.

The meeting was called to order by Captain Peter Youree, who nominated Mayor R. T. Vinson for chairman. Mr. W. W. Battle was then chosen secretary, and the meeting was ready for the business for which it had assembled. As a matter of fact Mr. C. W. Crane stated its mission is a neat speech which was lucid and effective.

Mr. R. T. Cole moved that a committee on resolutions be appointed. The chair named Messrs. V. Grosjean, P. Youree and S. Levy, Jr.

But such meetings never do their work by halves, and the resolutions were all ready, having been prepared in advance to save any hitch or failure. Mr. Grosjean was selected to present them to the meeting, which he did in a voice which was distinct and well modulated. The following is their expression:

"We, as citizens, vegetating the law, have assembled in the court house, in mass meeting, to protest, solemnly and dispassionately, against the verdict rendered by the jury which acquitted on Friday, September 23, Alex Hudson, indicted and tried for the murder of Rufus Taylor, colored, on September 8, 1892, at the intersection of Texas street and the levee.

From the evidence and the circumstances attending the homicide, the crime was deliberate and cold blooded, without a single mitigating circumstance to justify a deed revolting to the sense of all good citizens and which even the lawless beyond the borders of civilization would regard as a wanton and a cruel assassination.

The crime was committed in broad daylight in the presence of a number of citizens, whose evidence before the court and jury was direct and uncontradicted.

There seems to have been only one point of contention. A witness for the State affirmed that the fatal blow was dealt with the right hand, and a witness for the defendant testified the fatal stab was struck with the left hand.

The State's record of guilt was complete and established beyond all reasonable doubt against the accused. It matters little by which hand the fatal stab was inflicted; it is undisputed that the accused, Alex Hudson, is responsible for the killing, and he alone was indicted by the grand jury and brought to trial for the murder of Rufus Taylor, a colored boy 19 years old.

Viewed calmly and dispassionately only one reasonable conclusion can be reached. Considering the evidence submitted on behalf of the State and for the defendant, Alex Hudson, it is manifest the jury failed to respond to the law and the evidence, and in reaching their verdict of "not guilty" have disregarded the law, stilled justice, degenerated a solemn trial into a farce and brought the jury system into contempt. The verdict of the jury is an incentive to crime; it condones the criminal, which we, as conservative and law-abiding citizens, repudiate and condemn as outrageous and in violation of every principle of equity and justice.

To every man life is dear and sacred, and the hod carrier and common laborer, as well as the millionaire, must be protected in life and property by the enforcement of the law, impartially and fearlessly administered.

If juries are to permit their friends

ships or mandlin sentimentality to bias their judgment or influence them in the discharge of their solemn obligation, what security can there be for the inoffense and law-abiding citizens against the onslaught of the bully or the murderously inclined, armed with a knife or pistol or any deadly weapon?

As citizens, we protest against the verdict which accorded Alexander Hudson his liberty in defiance and contempt of law, and condemn the jurors who must be held responsible for the failure to discharge their solemn duty to society.

Under the circumstances we can only protest against the outrage, and, while recording our disapproval of the verdict, and as a rebuke we adopt unanimously the following resolutions:

Resolved, that in the sense of this meeting of citizens that the jurors, J. D. Slaughter, J. B. McMahon, Riley Williams, C. F. Birmingham, J. F. Compton, John A. Cox, C. C. Carroll, Charles Hamlin, E. T. Chastine, J. R. Burnside, F. B. Bounds, W. I. Templeman, who served on the Aleck Hudson trial, having failed to do their duty under the law, the jury commissioners for Caddo parish are respectfully but earnestly requested and urged to never again draw their names for jury service.

Resolved, that it is also the sense of this meeting that the same jurors named should be excluded by the court if ever summoned for duty as talesmen."

The resolutions having been read, were duly offered, put to the house and adopted almost without a dissenting voice.

Having accomplished its purpose, the meeting quietly adjourned.

THE CITIZENS MEETING MONDAY NIGHT.

Monday night witnessed a scene of unusual occurrence in the city of Shreveport. This was a mass meeting of citizens, who assembled at the court house, for the purpose of repudiating the action of the jury in acquitting Aleck Hudson, charged with the murder of Rufus Taylor, on the 8th inst.

This meeting adopted strong resolutions, so strong that we fear that it was a mistake which will react to the parish's detriment in the future.

The meeting was inaugurated and dominated by white men, among whom were a majority of the leading men of the town, but at the same time all must admit that a very large concourse of negroes were in attendance, who rejoiced and gloated over the strong denunciation of white men. After the meeting was over several were heard to remark, "we have got the white people where we want them," or something similar.

The Progress has no words of excuse for Aleck Hudson. His mode of living and that of the editor of this paper are at total variance, but we think he, and not the jury, should have furnished the substance of these resolutions, which should likewise have included the names of every other man who is violating the same moral law.

That mass meeting while composed of honorable, honest men, seems to have forgotten one important factor in a criminal case sufficient for a verdict of conviction, and that is, the State must make out its case. This, we think it did not do. We do not wish to be understood as charging any one with a dereliction of duty, far from it. This is not the only thing to which a failure in this direction may be attributed; but it may be, frequently is, due to untangibility in the story of witnesses of the affair.

From the moment that juries in a criminal case are drawn to the close of the judge's charge, they are reminded and impressed with the fact that the State must prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt; and we respectfully submit, from a seven years continual experience in the hearing and noting of testimony, that no man can successfully judge of the truth, sincerity and consistency of a witness's story, unless he can be close enough to watch the actions and demeanor of that witness in relating it. And there is still a further test, which is his conduct under the fire of cross examination.

From those competent to know, we heard that the State had not made out a case, as strongly as the public had been led to believe it could. That while the majority believed and still do, THE PROGRESS with them, that Aleck Hudson killed this man with-

SEVENTH ANNUAL LOUISIANA STATE FAIR

—AND—

Shreveport : : Exposition

—TO BE HELD AT—

Shreveport, La., Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, '92

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out sufficient provocation to justify an acquittal, still the District Attorney could not establish this fact even to his own satisfaction.

No charge of monetary, social or political corruption has, to our knowledge, been even hinted at against the jury or any member of the body, on the contrary, we believe they are all men of good repute.

This being true, it seems to us unjust, that such condemnatory resolutions should be passed against them, the aim being, as far as the power of that committee could go, to forever deprive them of the rights of citizenship, practically so at any rate.

It is not the intention of THE PROGRESS to be harshly critical, because it knows that the promoters and participators were actuated by notions of good citizenship, but we think that sober reflection will teach them that it will now be a difficult matter for a man charged with similar crime in this parish, to obtain a fair and impartial trial, unless the rule of law is reversed, and the defendant is able to establish his innocence instead of the State his guilt.

In conclusion we ask our good citizens to weigh this matter well; think over the size and conditions of our mixed population, deliberate on the spirit of the Force Bill and its intended effect, take into consideration its passage and the inflamed spirit of those whom it will tend to elevate, then consider the work of Monday night and tell an anxious people, what will the harvest be?

We are sorry to learn that our friend, Mr. Robert Gilliam lost his store at Willow Bend, by fire Monday night. His loss will be quite heavy, but with his proverbial pluck and energy, he will immediately rebuild and start anew.

REPUBLICAN NOMINATION. The Republicans of the fourth Congressional district have made Judge R. J. Looney their nominee for Congress.

Judge Looney is a gentleman of unquestionable ability, a lawyer of good standing, legally and otherwise at our bar, and for his party would make a good representative.

Personally he and THE PROGRESS are friends, but he leans just a little too much radicalward, for us to desire him to win, even though matters were so shaped that his party should have a chance of success. The race, however, will be between the Democrat and the People's party man, though Judge Looney is very popular with his party, as he deserves to be.

For the St. Louis Fair, to be held October 3 to 8, the Texas and Pacific railway will sell excursion tickets at one fare for the round trip, selling October 1 to 7 inclusive, good to return to and including October 11.

For the Alliance Picnic at Stone-wall, La., on October 8, the Texas and Pacific railway will sell excursion tickets at one fare for the round trip.

WILL BE CLOSED TO-DAY AT 12. Bids for all privileges at the Fair will be closed at 12 o'clock to-day. Those interested will do well to note it.

Read our wonderful premium offers.

LOCAL MARKET.

[This report is carefully corrected up to Friday of each week, from the most reliable sources.]

Cotton Market. SHREVEPORT, La., September 29—Cotton closed steady. Ordinary..... Nom'l Good ordinary..... Nom Low middling..... 6 1/2 Middling..... 6 3/4 Good middling..... 7 1/2 World's Visible Supply— This year..... 2,578,234 Last year..... 1,881,368 Increase..... 696,866

Provisions. Bacon—Firm 9 1/2 Dry Salt Meats—Steady at 8 1/2 boxed. Breakfast Bacon—11 1/2 by the box. Hams—11 c. Lard—6@8 1/2 c.

Breadstuffs. Flour—Steady; family, \$3.85; extra fancy, \$4.00; patents, \$4.50; sacks 10c per bbl. less. Cornmeal—Steady, \$2.90; sacks 10c per bbl. less.

Coffee and Tea. Coffee—Firm; fair, 17c; medium grade 18c; better, 19 1/2 c. Tea—Fair 40c; good, 50@60c; fine, 75@85c; finest, \$1@1.25 per lb. by chest.

Sugar and Molasses. Sugar—Steady; yellow clarified, 5 1/2 c; white clarified, none; granulated, 5 1/2 c. Molasses—Common, 23c; prime open kettle, none; choice reboiled, 35c.

Essentials. Onions—\$1.15@1.20 per bushel. Beans—Navy, 4 1/2 @ 4 3/4 c per lb. Potatoes—Eating, 85c per bu.

Bagging and Ties. Bagging—2 lbs, 7 1/2 c; 1 1/2 lbs, 7c. Twine—For baling purposes, 10 per lb. by the bale. Iron Ties—\$1.25

Grain and Feedstuffs. Corn—Firm; white, seed, none; mixed, Sacked, 60c per bu. Hay—Timothy, \$16.50; prairie, 8.00@11.00. Oats—Firm; Texas, 37c; Western, none. Rye—\$1.00. Barley—\$1.00. Bran—95c. Ground Mixed Feed—\$1.40 per 100 lbs. Chopped Corn—\$1.25 per 100 lbs.

Fruits and Nuts. Almonds—18c per lb. Brazil Nuts—5 1/2 c per lb. Dried Fruit—Apples, 8@9c; evaporated, 10 1/2 @ 11 1/2 c. Filberts—12c per lb. Lemons—47.75 per box. Peanuts—Hand-picked, red, raw, 4@6c; white, 5@6c; roasted, 10 higher on all grades. Pecans—12@15c per lb. Walnuts—10c per lb. Raisins—New stock, \$2.25 per box.

Chickens, Eggs, Butter. Grown chickens, per doz., \$2.00@2.25 Grown young chickens..... 2.00@2.25 Eggs, per doz..... 15 Butter, country, per lb..... 15@ 20

Hides and Wool. Dry tint hides, per lb..... 5 1/2 Damaged..... 3 1/2 Dry salted..... 4 Bull..... 4 Goat..... 2 Green..... 2 1/2 Wet salted..... 3 1/2 Deer skins..... 20 Goat skins..... 20@25 Sheep skins..... 15@20 Wax, good bright..... 25 Spring, clean and unwashed..... 18@20 Burry and black..... 10@15 Tallow, in barrels..... 8

If you want to be a true American citizen, you must know how to cast your vote. You can not do this and read only one side of the question. The Battle Flag is a People's party paper and believes that neither of the old parties will reform because they deny the need of reform. Send \$1.00 to J. A. Tetts at Robeline, and get the battle flag one year.

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