

BELL'S STORY OF STRANGE CRIME.

Where Parties Killed a Man Who Owed Them a Small Sum and

LONG EVADED DETECTION.

But a Confession of Their Guilt Was Finally Made by One of Them.

Special to the Globe.

BLUNT, S. D., April 28.—The release of F. C. Bennett from the penitentiary at Sioux Falls, Dak., on the 23d inst., recalls to mind one of the most shocking murders ever committed in the territory, that of the late Bell.

Small by James H. Bell, in broad daylight, on Dec. 4, 1884. Small and Bell were young attorneys at Harrod, and on the day of the murder, were on their way to Blunt to attend a case in which Small had sued Bell for a settlement.

Bell drove back and forth until Small came along, and then proposed a settlement, which was accepted. Small was riding a pony, and Bell and Bennett were in a buggy. Small dismounted for the purpose of writing a receipt, and Bell and Bennett got out of the buggy, and Bell turned the horse so that Small could step between the wheels to write.

It was while Small was in the act of writing that Bell took a hatchet from beneath his coat and dealt the fatal blow on the back of Small's head. He repeated his blows until Small had written little better than a mass of jelly. They then put the body in the buggy. Bennett mounted Small's pony and Bell got in the buggy beside his victim, and they drove at a breakneck speed, first in a southeast direction for about a mile, then suddenly changed to a northeast direction, crossing the railroad track, and, as far as they could be seen,

drove at a terrible rate until they reached a piece of breaking out of sight of any houses, where they dug a shallow grave and forced the body into it. It was here that perhaps the most diabolical act of the whole transaction occurred. The body had been thrown in the hole, Small revived enough to be able to raise his head, when Bell whipped out his knife and cut his throat, and then he turned to Pierre and succeeded in selling it to some parties going to the "Hills." On the evening of the same day of the murder, a farmer named Chamberlain came upon a man washing a buggy in a small lake about three miles from the place where the body was buried.

The horse and the buggy cushion was standing against a wheel and the man (it was afterwards ascertained to have been Bell) was washing the cushion and the back of the seat. When he saw the party approaching, he threw the cushion in the buggy, jumped in himself, and laid his hands on the horse, reaching across the board and driving in the blanket of the horse. Later in the day Bell appeared at Blunt, and paid his part of the costs in the case which was to have been tried at Pierre.

They had settled the matter, and he had really owed the young man a dollar.

The next day, in order to have an excuse for the absence of Bell, he paid the expenses of a young man named Parks to go to Huron and enter a case against Small.

The charge was trumped up, and Small was released, and he was deceiving the people as intended, as Bell repeatedly told that he had preferred charges against Small and that he had "skipped."

Small's father, who lived at that time near Onida, Sully county, was to meet his son in Blunt on that day, Dec. 4, 1884, and as he had no one to accompany him, he stayed a few days before he made inquiries, and, as he did not credit the reports that his son had left the country, he naturally followed him.

He followed him to the road between Harrod and Blunt and developed the fact that Small was seen by some persons to pass towards Blunt, and he had no one to accompany him.

It was also learned from a farmer and his son, working about a mile north of the road, that a horseman and some one in a buggy had been seen passing in the direction of the road.

Small's father, in the meantime, Bell had sent the man Bennett to Harrod to pay for the horse out of the country, but he returned about midwinter and it was then determined to put a detective on track of Small and try to get a confession out of him.

The person employed by John Bennett was the same person Bell had employed to lodge a complaint against Small in the case of the murder, and who was by this time as firm in the belief that Small had

been foully dealt with as any one, and who was as willing to aid in bringing Small back to life as justice. Together, during January, 1885, they (Bennett and Parks) traveled from Harrod north along the Missouri to Blomark. Finally, after a long and wearying the whole story out of Bennett, he telegraphed Sheriff George Harris, who put Bell under arrest, and sent him to the penitentiary.

Bennett was brought back he took the others directly to the place where Small's body was buried, and pointed out the spot. William Fitter, a surveyor, threw out the dirt, and in a few seconds the ghostly body was revealed. A coat belonging to Bell, containing several papers, was found around the corpse, as well as other articles belonging to him. This discovery was made during the preliminary hearing of Bell and the articles of clothing were exhibited in the court room. Bell was bound over without bonds, and Bennett, who had now turned state's evidence, was held for trial.

During the trial, in January, 1886, April, the grand jury was still in session, a party of some twenty-four men, from the east end of the county, proceeded to the place where the body was buried, and in the morning, beat in the doors, took Bell out and hung him to a telegraph pole in the yard in front of the court house.

Bennett was sentenced to a term of five years in the penitentiary, the only charge proved against him being that he had aided in the murder.

It is generally thought that he was as guilty as Bell.

THAT TWINE TRUST.

How He Is Attempting to Work the Wheat-Growers of Dakota.

Special to the Globe.

Roscoe, S. D., April 28.—There seems to be some uneasiness in twine binder circles on account of the various protests made by farmers and others against the high price of binding twine.

Even your humble correspondent has received circulars from the agents of these machines, bearing testimony that no "twine trust" exists. Mayor Fitter, of Philadelphia, who has made an immense fortune as a twine manufacturer, and would not object to make another, is certain that no trust exists; so is Harold Lewis, of the "Victoria Cordage works," Philadelphia. So is Benjamin C. Clark, of the Cordage company, Boston, and so are many others of the same ilk. If these gentlemen were disinterested parties, their testimony would have more weight.

A certain poet of the "common people," called Robert Burns, wrote some years ago:

"If sell the warring balance scale,
"This seems right adjusted."

This seems to be as true of human nature to-day as when it was written in days of "long syne." Far be it from me to do the least injury to any legitimate business by word or deed. The inventions and improvements in farm machinery are among the glories of

our nation, and every true American takes pride in them, but in any reform the innocent seem to suffer with the guilty. Whether there is a "twine trust" or not, the fact that there is a heavy duty levied by the government upon the articles of which binding twine is made cannot be denied, and this tax comes directly from the farmers' pocket. It is a duty that the men who pay this unjust tax owe themselves and families to see that it is done away with, and twine sold at a reasonable figure.

If the sale of farm machinery is curtailed this year the manufacturers of these useful implements can ascribe the deficit to the import duty of \$15 per ton upon sisal hemp, and \$25 per ton upon Manila hemp—provided there is no trust—to raise the price. By carefully reading the proceedings of our house of lords last summer and fall, the farmers, and manufacturers of twine binders, will see just where lies the blame for this condition of things. I would modestly suggest that the farmers of the country are so completely need the tax on hemp to replenish them, that our solons remove this tariff on the necessities of working people and transfer it to diamonds and other luxuries necessary to the happiness of our millionaire house of lords and their families.

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VISIONS AT CHAMBERLAIN.

It Expects To Be the Queen City of the Great Missouri Valley.

Special to the Globe.

CHAMBERLAIN, S. D., April 28.—To say that the citizens of Chamberlain are happy would be putting it in the lightest possible way. They are jubilant. The appointment of the Sioux Indian commission is one of the greatest steps in the ladder of Chamberlain's future prosperity. She has put on her fighting armor for the capital in double earnestness now. There is no doubt in the mind of any man here but that they will secure the signatures of the Indians, and that at last the great Sioux reservation that lies between here and the Black Hills will be thrown open to settlement, and in one year from this time the Queen City of the Missouri will be in the exact center of the South Dakota population, and will forever remain so. It is conceded by all that the very best land in this beautiful tract of country lies west of this city, and is most accessible from this point. Fertile valleys, through which are flowing streams of pure water, are found in abundance. Beautiful native groves rear their canopied heads during the summer months, and in the winter the stock in the winter. The wonderful stories of the famous Oklahoma country pale into insignificance when compared with the facts which have long been established concerning

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