

LA GRANDE EVENING OBSERVER.

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QUARREL OVER TWO DOLLARS CAUSED MURDER

Webster Kills Chasser on Account of a Difference of \$2 in Settlement--History of the Crime

The bodies of Chas Webster and James Chesser are now in the hands of Coroner Henry at the Henry & Carr undertaking parlors awaiting instruction from the relative relatives to their disposition. The bodies were brought to this city by the Coroner Saturday evening direct from the scene of the double tragedy.

The facts regarding the killing as brought out by the coroner's inquest held Saturday are substantially as follows. Chesser is the foreman at the lumber camp which is situated about 26 miles up the river and owned by the Grande Ronde Lumber Company and for some reason had occasion to discharge Webster. In the settlement of accounts there was a difference of some two dollars in favor of the Company. There was a quarrel in which Webster stated that he would kill Chesser. Chesser replied that he (Webster) could not bluff him. Webster then left and those who heard the quarrel supposed that the matter was at an end and that Webster had left to pack his clothes and would leave the camp without further trouble. In this they were mistaken for he soon returned and drawing a thirty eight caliber automatic Colt's revolver shot Chesser in the head. The bullet entering a little above the hair line and a little to the left of the center of the forehead ranging downward through the neck and into the right shoulder. The bullet has not been discovered and did show any exit. Chesser was cutting wood at the time he was shot in the act of stooping to pick up a stick. As soon as the fatal shot was fired and Chesser dropped Webster remarked that he had killed Chesser and that he was glad of it. He then further stated that he was

going into the brush and that if any one wanted him they could find him there. He then disappeared and in a short time a shot was heard from the direction he had taken. Several persons went to the spot and found his dead body lying on its back with a bullet hole through the head. He had apparently stretched himself out on his back and placing the revolver near his right temple fired the shot which buried him like his victim into eternity.

The bodies were left where they fell and were so found when Coroner Henry and Wm Grant arrived on the scene the following Saturday. The shooting took place Friday noon.

Chesser had been with the Grande Lumber Company for the past three years and Webster had only been in the valley three or four months.

The funeral of James Chesser will take place tomorrow afternoon at the undertaking parlors and the remains of Webster will be sent to his sister at Audubon Iowa in care of the I O O F lodge of that place.

Webster was a member of the I O O F holding his membership with the Meridian Lodge in Idaho. He was a man of about forty five years of age and from all appearances had seen a considerable portion of the hard side of life. From letters found among his effects it was learned that he had a sister living at Audubon, Iowa. She was apprised of the facts of his death and it is thought that the coroner will receive word from her today regarding the disposition of the body.

Chesser seems to be about the same age though a much larger man, and from appearances not of the sort who would resort to the use of a revolver

to settle a dispute. So far as can be discovered he was not a member of any order, though there is among his effects a certificate of membership issued in 1902 by the Lumbermen's Union of Hilgard. There was nothing to show that he was still a member. The only relative which a search through his letters brought to light was a niece in Moscow Idaho. She has been notified of the facts of his killing and the coroner is awaiting instructions from her.

VERDICT OF CORONER'S JURY

Verdict in the case of James Chesser. We, the jury empaneled on inquest proceedings over the body of James Chesser, deceased, find his name to be James Chesser, age about forty five years, and that said James Chesser came to his death by a gun shot wound inflicted by Chas. Webster on the 28th day of October, 1904, at Edmond's logging camp, Starkey, Union County, Oregon.

Signed,
R H Bullis,
M O Combs,
Kyle Charlton,
E E Barnham,
L Patton,
Pat Leahy,
Jurors.

IN CASE OF CHAS. WEBSTER

We, the jury duly empaneled on the inquest over the body of Chas. Webster, deceased, find his name to be Chas. Webster, about thirty two years old; we believe that the said Chas. Webster came to his death by a gun shot wound inflicted by his own hand, and about one half mile east of Edmond's logging camp, Starkey, Union County, Oregon.

Signed,
R H Bullis,
M O Combs,
Kyle Charlton,
E E Barnham,
Pat Leahy,
L Patton,
Jurors.

TESTIMONY OF JAMES BRADY

My name is James Brady, and I reside at Starkey, Oregon. Yesterday, the 28th day of October, 1904, between the hours of twelve and one, I went out to grind an ax, and one of the boys came over to where I was and says to me: "Brady, Chas. Webster drew a gun on James Chesser." I said "What for?" Ans. "I don't know." I said "where is Webster now?" Says he "He is in the bunk house." So I turned around and looked toward the bunk house. I saw Mr. Webster coming out of the bunk house, putting his hand on his hip pocket, drawing a gun,

saying to James Chesser: "I want you to make out my time in full," holding the gun right on him. When I saw him drawing a gun on Chesser, I started toward him. I said: "Webster, look out now what you are doing." He said, "you go to hell." I says, "Webster, reason with me, will you?" and he said "you go back to your work." I kept walking toward him; got up within ten feet of him. I said, "Webster, would you kill a man for \$2?" He said, "Brady, I will reason with you." Mr. Chesser spoke up and said to Webster, "Was you ever fired before?" Ans. "Not in that kind of a way." Chesser says "I have been fired lots of times," and started to laugh at one another. I says "Boys, I'll settle this." Webster said, "All right, Brady, I'll do just as you tell me." I started and turned to go to my work. Chesser said "leave that gun down and I will show you whether you will get away with that bluff or not." I turned and says "boys this is settled now." Webster says "I don't have to leave this gun down." So I started and walked off toward my work then Chesser says "By God I'll show you whether you can get away with this bluff or not." Webster says "I'll just kill you." So then the gun went off. I turned as I heard the flash of the gun, and Chesser was falling over. Webster walked toward him and looked at him after he had fallen, and then started for the bunk house, put on his coat, came outside, went around the bunk house, came into the bunk house, and then came over to where I was. He says "Brady, I killed him, wasn't I right?" I says "You might be in a way." He says "I am going out in the brush, you may find me there."

Signed,
James Brady.

Mukdens New General

Linevitch to Assume Command of the Siberian Corps at Mukden

St Petersburg Oct 31—The arrival of Lieutenant General Linevitch at Mukden to assume command of the Siberian corps is the most interesting item of today's war news. Linevitch is 60 years old and a young man for his years he is immensely popular with the Siberian troops whom he commanded during the Boner war. Operations in Manchuria have again lulled during the past few days and both armies are apparently contenting themselves with partial successes, mostly in outpost engagements. Kurapatkin has received sufficient reinforcements to replace the 15,000 men admitted killed wounded and missing in the battle of Shakhe.

SHERIFF'S LIFE THREATENED

From three different sources in as many days Sheriff Word has received the information that a conspiracy exists to assassinate him on account of the vigor and determination he is showing in suppressing public gambling in Portland.

He learned yesterday morning under circumstances which have caused him to give the matter serious consideration that the intention of the alleged conspirators is to keep a close watch on his movements and shoot him down at a time when those guilty of the crime will be least likely to be detected.

He is specifically informed that the plan which has found most favor among those who, it is declared, would not stop short of bloodshed to remove this one great obstacle to an "open town," is to take advantage of a raid in the Chinese quarter in which he participates and in one of the numerous dark and narrow corridors with which that part of the city is honeycombed, to shoot him in the back. In case the plan should be carried out successfully it is believed, suspicion would fall upon the Chinese.—Oregon Journal.

NEED OUR MEN

China Wants U S Soldiers to Instruct Her Armies and Drill Her Soldiers.

Oregon may furnish soldiers to drill Chinese soldiers. A large number of applications have been filed by members of the guard in response to the recent request for American officers for the Orient. These applications do not necessarily indicate the purpose of any officer to go, nor is the representative of the Chinese army asking for applicants bound to take all desiring to enter the service. All that is being done now is merely preliminary and final selection will be made after some process of elimination or allotment has been put in force.

Officers of the guard state that quite flattering offers have been made if a man cares to leave his homeland and business. The agent in this country says that the Chinese government is willing to pay on the same basis as the United States in times of war. This ranges from \$115 to \$150 for officers ranking from second lieutenant to captain in the infantry and cavalry services, respectively. The limit to which an officer may climb is said to be a general in the Chinese army. Up to this point the American is offered opportunity to rise in the ranks pay continuing on the same basis as in the United States.

Some captains in the guard service

have been informed that they can get captaincies in the Chinese army. First lieutenants and second lieutenants are offered corresponding positions although some of them have been asked to take a rank lower.

All that has been done so far has been filing applications. Several applicants have received notice of their requests being received and assurance for further attention after the matter has been submitted to higher authorities the identity of which is not disclosed. This probably means that the applications will go to China or some board established in this country for further examination into the merit of the military men willing to cross the sea. Many of the local men filing applications merely desire to see what the proposition is and are willing to take this trouble of finding out. Should they be accepted and notified to come to China it is probable that they would be found lingering in America.—Oregon Journal.

ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY SHIPS

San Francisco Oct. 31—The whaling bark California which arrived here today it was in Hakodate at the time the Vladivostok squadron and through the Tanager straits. The captain reports that when Itaki San the young Japanese in command of the Suguo a merchant vessel of 118 tons, saw the Russian vessels he secured two large mines filled with explosives which he fastened to the bow of the Suguo. His intention was to ram one of the Russian battleships but his plan was frustrated by the authorities, who sent a launch and compelled him to return.

Bookies Hit Hard

St Louis, Oct 31—Through the victory of Amberyta owned by J J Whittemberys at 20 to 1 the betting ring lost \$50,000. The horse was backed down at 10 to 1. Some authorities say the bookmakers lost nearly \$200,000.

A Store With A Record

business has increased FIVE FOLD. In other words our business has made a great deal more rapid increase than the town has. There are dozens of reasons for this all of which you will perceive if you begin buying drug store goods of us. In the first place we had a thorough training for pharmacy. In the second place we had exceptional opportunities for learning the practical side of pharmacy in a successful drug store of the highest standing. In the third place we have kept our eyes open and attended to business until we know the demands of the people of this town.

A. T. HILL,
Prescription Druggist La Grande, Ore.

Heavy Team Harness

Is our specialty. We know how to make good harness and we make good harness. Call and see the kind we recommend for logging.

ROBES—The finest assortment of winter robes in the county. We carry everything which should be found in a first class harness store

E. CHRISTOFFERSON
Harness and Saddles
La Grande, Oregon



When Your Boy Needs Clothes

You think too much of your boy and his appearance to say "anything will do," you think too much of your pocket book to waste money on cheap clothing. In the TWENTIETH CENTURY Clothing, which we offer for your close inspection there is nothing slighted but the price. We do not offer you something for nothing, but we will convince you that you can get more value for your money than in any other make of boys clothing.

\$1.50 Boys two piece suits, ages from 8 to 14 at \$1.50. They are values, you will say so if you will come in and see them.

Boys Norfolk suits, belt effect 3 to 12 years at 2 25 3 00, 3 50, 4 00, 5 00 and \$6 00. You can't afford to buy elsewhere till you see our line of boys, youths and men's clothing.

We also have M. Born & Co's line of made to measure samples. We have had fifteen years experience in taking measures and handling tailor made agency business and guarantee a fit. Let us show you our samples. We do not charge express on suits made to measure.

The La Grande Cash Store.