

JURY SOON FREES JOHN E. JOHNSON

Prisoner's Wife Goes on Stand and Tells Story That Clears Him.

TRIAL IS ONE OF SHORTEST

Sulaw Country in Western Lane County is Scene of Tragedy, Husband Shoots Man He Meets Running From His Home.

EUGENE, Or., Dec. 9.—(Special).—After one of the shortest murder trials in this county, the jury this evening after one hour, returned a verdict of not guilty in the case of John E. Johnson in the accused of killing E. Prindle in the Sulaw country several months ago.

The principal feature of today's trial was the testimony of Mrs. Johnson, whose story, though straight-forward, was calculated to favor her husband. Only once during the ordeal did she show her composure. Her remarks were directed to the jury. The accused appeared red in the face and nervous, but his facial expression remained the same throughout the trial.

Mrs. Johnson's story in part was: "I was at home all day Sunday, except when I visited one of the neighbors in the afternoon. I had returned and after having prepared supper, I was standing in the porch with Benny (her small son). About 9 o'clock Prindle came along and stopped and talked at the gate. He talked for a long while.

Visitor Asks for Water. "Then he asked for a drink of water and I asked him into the house. Supper was ready. I gave Benny his supper, undressed him and put him to bed. Mr. Prindle was still there when I did that. He stayed and we talked. He asked me if my husband was coming home. I told him that I expected him that night. My husband had been at the logging camp."

After some interruptions, the prosecuting attorney asked her what Mr. Prindle talked about. "He was telling me about the Sunday school and the revival meetings in the Sulaw country. He said he was going away in a few days. After I had put my son to bed, we talked for a little while and I mentioned that it was getting late. He said that he thought so, too."

Then the woman told how he tried to carry her bodily upstairs. She continued: "He took me by the arm and led me upstairs. He said that he had a letter for me. I went upstairs and he said that he had a letter for me. I went upstairs and he said that he had a letter for me."

Husband Shoots to Scare. "Partly through force he got me half way upstairs. I pleaded and begged with him. I don't know how long he held me at the gate. He ran and a moment later I heard a shot. Then my husband came in. He asked me who I was talking to. I said that I was talking to Mr. Prindle. He said that he did not know that Prindle was that kind of a man, and that he went outside and came back and said: "Oh, Rose, I've shot him. That I went outside and we saw that Prindle was dead. My husband exclaimed: "Oh, my God! I have killed him!"

"He ran toward the house and grabbed the gun, saying: "I've killed him and now I'm going to kill myself!" "I struggled with him and took the gun away. Then he telephoned to the neighbors. Pretty soon the people came. Mrs. Johnson was the last witness and the arguments were short.

SOLDIERS SENT TO PRISON Severe Sentences Imposed for Stealing and Desertion.

VANCOUVER BARRACKS, Wash., Dec. 9.—(Special).—Three soldiers having charge of a shipment of horses from Fort Yellowstone, Wyo., stole five sacks of oats intended for feed for the animals and sold them, pocketing the proceeds. The government caught them and now the three soldiers will have to serve a term of one year each in Alcatraz. In addition, they were discharged dishonorably from the army. The soldiers found guilty of this crime are: Charles J. Kincaid, Troop G; Francis C. Sillery, Troop E; and George R. Rick, Troop F, all of the Fifth Cavalry.

FRATS FROWN ON PLEDGES Faculty of University and Many Leading Societies Agree.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, Dec. 9.—Upon recommendation from the faculty there will be no more fraternities of high school students who have not yet graduated from their schools. The action was precipitated by a long leading "frats" themselves, believing that co-operation should exist between the university and the high schools.

HOPE SLIGHT FOR CORBIN Hunter Believed to Have Perished in Mountain Snows.

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 9.—Unless E. E. Corbin, the lost Boone banker, has found an isolated cabin in the Targhee National Forest that spreads over the Teton Mountains, the unfortunate elk hunter is engulfed in heavy snows in an almost boundless country and has probably perished. He disappeared two weeks ago last Saturday, while on the trail of big game, and since then no word or news of any character has been received from him.

SINGLE TAXERS TO PRESS CAMPAIGN

Home From New York Conference, Mr. U'Ren Says Advocates Are Pleased.

ISSUE WILL COME IN 1912

People of Oregon Will Be Expected to Pay Greater Proportion of Cost of Own "Education," but Fels Will Help.

BILLION MARK IS NEAR

TAXABLE VALUATION OF OREGON INCREASED \$130,000,000. Total is About \$225,000,000. Multnomah County's Report Showing \$277,029,995.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 9.—(Special).—According to the nearest estimate, the taxable valuation of Oregon for 1910 will be \$225,000,000, an increase of \$130,000,000 over the assessed valuation of 1909, which was \$95,000,000.

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YET OFFICIALS DO NOT THINK WOMAN WAS MURDERED. Discrepancy in Story of Self-Confessed Slayer Leads Them to Believe She Was Hit by Train.

MEDFORD, Or., Dec. 9.—(Special).—Although a blood-stained hammer was found today near the railroad track where Mrs. Ellis was found Wednesday morning, exactly at E. L. Brooks, of Bismarck, described it when he voluntarily confessed last night to murdering the woman, local authorities think that Brooks is deceived and that Mrs. Ellis was killed by a train. This theory was contained in a verdict by the coroner's jury and no one doubted it until Brooks announced at the trial that he had killed Mrs. Ellis when she refused to give him \$50 cents.

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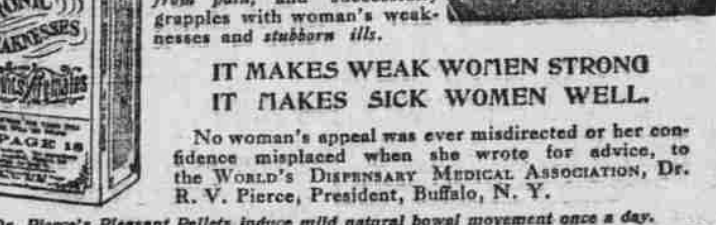
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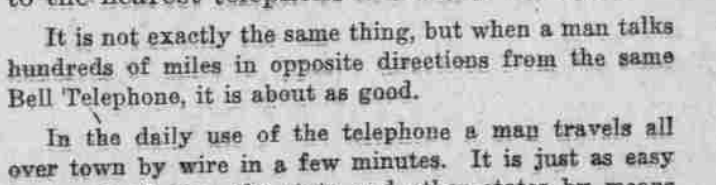


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