

FARMERS QUARREL AND ONE IS KILLED

Bad Feeling Causes Shooting When Neighbors Meet in Road Near Proebstel.

SELF-DEFENSE PLEA MADE

Slayer Gives Up and Testifies at Inquest—Both Men Armed at Time and Victim Made Threat, Declares Prisoner.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—Bad feeling said to have existed between the neighbors led to the killing this morning of P. A. Larson, 62 years old, by Clarence Wesley Spires, 48, at the two met in the road east of Proebstel. Both men were armed.

At an inquest conducted by Coroner Limber later in the day Spires testified that he had shot in self-defense. Three shots hit Larson, one in the back as he started to run after receiving the first load in the breast.

After the killing Spires started to run but was stopped by Spires who took him to meet Coroner Limber, who took him to Deputy Sheriff George Johnson, to whom he surrendered.

At the inquest it was brought out that Larson, on his way to his chores at the Johnson farm, beyond the Spires ranch, had taken a single-barrel shotgun to protect himself against the Spires dog. The shell he placed in his pocket.

Spires started for the day to tend his traps and was armed with a pump gun. He said at the inquest that when he met Larson at 8:30 o'clock he asked what he was hunting.

"I'm hunting for such fellows as you are," Spires said Larson replied. "I have testified at the inquest that when I saw Larson, all taking effect. The two had frequent quarrels, it is said. Their farms adjoined.

Larson leaves a widow and two children. Spires has a wife and six children. Spires is in the County Jail and will be held for trial in the Superior court. Larson's body will be taken Kelo for burial.

MORATORIUM IS FEARED

Canadian Financiers Ask Application to Interest Only.

CITY MAY HELP ARMEN

Proposed Charter Provides Municipal Landings at Visalia.

SIERKS MUST PROVE GUILT

(Continued From First Page.) ties would not use steam in making the investigation.

BANK CHANGE ADVOCATED

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—Amendment of the Washington banking laws to allow banks to take stock in the Federal Reserve Bank is recommended by State Bank Examiner Hanson in a report for submission to the Legislature. The present laws prohibit a state bank from holding stock in any other banking institution.

PHILOMATH STORE LOOTED.

PHILOMATH, Or., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—Johnson & Co.'s store here was entered by burglars Sunday night and the money left in the till and considerable dry goods were stolen. This is the second time the Johnson store has been looted. Last summer burglars entered the store through an upper window and took \$400 worth of clothing.

authorities make the investigation presented the following letter to the Board: "A few days since Rev. MacLaren, chaplain of the State Prison, came to the hospital and requested to see John G. H. Sierks a patient at this hospital, which privilege was granted him. In the course of his interview with the patient he became convinced that Sierks was guilty of the crime for which one Pender was convicted and is now serving sentence in the Oregon State Prison.

PROSECUTOR HAS DOUBT

DISTRICT ATTORNEY TONGUE ATTACKS SIERKS' STORY. Official Who Tried Pender Recalls That Accused Man Testified That Lamp in His Tent Was Lighted All Night.

HILLSBORO, Or., Jan. 5.—(Special.)

—District Attorney Tongue, who prosecuted James Arthur Pender in both trials on the charge of murdering Mrs. Daisy Wehrman and her little son, when asked today about John Sierks' confession of the crime, said that Pender had been given a fair and impartial trial in both instances.

Mr. Tongue declared that when he first saw Sierks in the morning he did not conform to what he believed was reasonable or just to the defendant he at all times discounted it and apprised Pender's attorneys of the situation. Mr. Tongue talked this morning with Louie Schmidt, for whom Sierks worked from July until in December in 1911. Schmidt said Sierks had never been on the place and that it would have been impossible for Sierks to have left at 7:30 o'clock in the evening and returned at 4 o'clock in the morning, as Sierks confesses, without the family's knowledge, as Sierks roomed in the same building.

When Pender was on trial Mrs. Pender testified that she had married Pender at Reno, Nevada, and that her maiden name was Fonda Turner. The state introduced the record from Reno showing that on the same date Pender had married at Reno a woman known as Mary A. Perry. The defense made no attempt to explain this discrepancy, says Mr. Tongue, and the state was in a position to place in evidence the divorce papers filed by Mary Perry Pender in Silver Bow County, Montana. The divorce complaint alleged that Pender had attacked his wife with a butcher knife and had cut her arm, reports Mr. Tongue. The complaint was filed October 5, 1910, and the divorce was granted December 12, 1910, Pender being in default.

Mr. Tongue says he is familiar with every foot of country in Louie Schmidt's ranch and has been over the territory leading to Burlington, and has been at the Wehrman homestead twice. He declares that no speck of steel was found on the speck in question was stolen below Houlton, and that there was no train service from Burlington to Valle Vista. Mr. Tongue says that he doubts the whole story of Sierks and believes that the idiot has been imposed upon.

Mr. Tongue says that Pender testified that on the night of the murder he had a light in his tent the entire night. This, he says, does not fit with Sierks' story about visiting Pender's ranch and also does not fit with the fact that Sierks could have made the trip he says he did from the Schmidt ranch, six miles from Hillsboro, to the Wehrman cabin, and return, within eight hours.

BROTHERS OF J. K. WHITED LAY DEATH TO FOUL PLAY.

Cash and Traveler's Checks Missing. Analysis to Be Made for Poison When New Evidence Bobs Up.

BAKER, Or., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—Circuit Judge Anderson today ordered that the body of James K. Whited, pioneer settler of Columbia County, who was found dead at Muskogee, Okla., October 22, be exhumed and analyzed for poison. This action was taken on petition of Thomas J. Whited, who with another brother of the dead man, George M. Whited, has discovered sufficient evidence to warrant burial at Unity in this county. The court ordered that the body be exhumed by Earl G. West, County Coroner, in the presence of Dr. Carl G. Patterson, County Health Officer, and that portions be sent to Dr. O. A. Binswanger, Portland, for chemical analysis.

It was found that the body had been robbed of every cent of money, as well as of \$200 in traveler's checks. These checks have not yet been returned to the bank for payment. Mr. Whited was known to have between \$300 and \$400 prior to his death. The fact that the money was gone and that he was not given to squandering it, and that he gave the first clew. The pockets were rifled, even the pocket-knife being taken, but his watch was overlooked.

The brothers then obtained the aid of detectives. It was found that four hours after Mr. Whited's death a man called at the station at Muskogee and had left Mr. Whited's suitcase, remarking that if he did not return for it that it should be left there.

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PISTOL LOOKED FOR SUSAN SIERKS

Authorities Await Recovery of Gun Before Accepting Murder Confession.

WEHRMAN DISCUSSES CASE

Husband of Woman Slain Declares Many Points of Idiot's Story Are Convincing—Search of Scene Is Assented.

Authorities say if John G. H. Sierks, who confessed murdering Mrs. Wehrman and her child, can show where he buried the .32-caliber revolver with which he says Mrs. Wehrman shot at him, or support his confession with other substantial evidence, he will be believed.

District Attorney W. B. Dillard, of Columbia County, is expected to reach Portland this morning to confer with Roscoe P. Hurst, attorney for the Prisoners' Aid Society of Oregon, over obtaining the consent of the state authorities to have Sierks taken to the scene of the crime.

Many statements have been picked in Sierks' story by those who aided in the prosecution of Pender.

The part of the confession assailed principally is Sierks' assertion that he went from the Louis Schmidt farm near Hillsboro, to Valle Vista station, took an electric car to Burlington, stole a speechee and ran it to Parsons station, where he walked to the Wehrman cabin and after the crime returned on the midnight electric train to Valle Vista and walked back to the farm, arriving at 4 o'clock.

No electric cars were run on the date mentioned at 6 P. M. between the stations named, say officials of the railway company. That Sierks stole a speechee at Burlington also is denied, the report being that there was no speechee at Burlington.

"Sierks' story more about the case than he would unless he actually did it or else the case has been pounded into him," said Frank Wehrman, husband of the murdered woman, yesterday. "For one thing, my wife's revolver, a .32-caliber Hopkins & Allen weapon, has never been found. Sierks may have buried it in the garden as he says, but if he can dig it up, in my presence, then that will be substantial evidence that he tells the truth."

Pistol Thought to Be "Plant." "One gun was found in the garden, that is true, but it was not ours. That was a .32-caliber Colt and it had evidently been buried but a short time and was found two years after the murder. The number had been hammered so that it could not be made out, and it was evidently a 'plant.' It was dug up only a day before Pender was sentenced and the divorce was granted December 12, 1910, Pender being in default.

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ATTACK ON LAW LOST

Supreme Court Holds Complainant Not Injured. PLAINTIFF NOT QUALIFIED

In Instituting Action Against Blue Sky Law, Holds Tribunal, W. B. McKinney Fails to Show Where He Is Overtaxed.

CLUB WAITERS ARE GUILTY

Joe Harris and Frank Moore Admit Liquor Sales at Friars' Resort.

RID STOMACH OF GASES, SOURNESS, AND INDIGESTION

"Pape's Diapepsin" Ends All Stomach Distress in Five Minutes.

"SERVICE BUREAU" READY

New Department to Investigate Complaints Against Public Utilities.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 5.—(Special.)—A "service bureau" was announced yesterday by Chairman C. A. Reynolds, of the Public Service Commission, a new department under the commission. Engineers will be appointed for each of the main geographical divisions of the state, with respective headquarters at Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma, to devote their time exclusively to investigating complaints against service of public utility corporations, as well as regarding rates. Cities heretofore have claimed exclusive jurisdiction in regard to service, though admitting the commission's superiority in regard to rate regulation.

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A Tremendous Six-Days' Clearance to Make Room for New Departments

A Disposal of High-Grade Furniture

1/2 Our Stock at 1/2 Price

An Apology

In anticipation of a greatly increased business during this Clearance of high-grade Furniture at one-half price, extra furniture salesmen were engaged to properly serve those who came. But so great was the response to our announcement that even with the assistance of extra salespeople we were unable to handle the crowd and many left without receiving attention. To these we extend our sincere apology and trust they will again find it convenient to shop here while this great sale is in progress. We respectfully request that those who can do their shopping in the morning—more time and better service can be given you then. You can shop in a more pleasant and comfortable way.

Mail Orders Promptly Filled. All orders bought by mail will be carefully packed and shipped to you. Good condition guaranteed to your freight station.

The Greatest Furniture Sale Portland Has Ever Known. USE YOUR CREDIT. THIRD & YAMHILL. A Sale of Momentous Importance to Furnishers of Homes.

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California HOTELS AND RESORTS. TEMPERATURES AT LEADING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA RESORTS FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 26, 1914.

Hotel Virginia. "Close to the rhythmic surf." Most Superly Situated Hotel in the Southland.

Hotel Clark. "Close to the rhythmic surf." Most Superly Situated Hotel in the Southland.

HOTEL SUTTER. SUTTER AND KEARNEY STS. SAN FRANCISCO. European Plan \$1.50 a Day Up.

ARLINGTON HOTEL. SANTA BARBARA. Situated in the beautiful Mission City.